NEWS UPDATE

AUGUST 2024

Let All Be Happy

" Happiness doesn't result from what we get, but from what we give."

- BEN CARSON



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INTRODUCTION

HISTORY OF M S INTERNATIONAL, INC.

Manu and Rika Shah founded MSI in 1975, in the basement of their home in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. MSI is now the largest importer and distributor in the world of Premium Surfaces including granite, marble, porcelain and ceramic tiles, slate, travertine, limestone and other natural stone products from 37 countries. Most notably, MSI provided the granite for the Vietnam Memorial in DC.

Manu and Rika Shah established Sarva Mangal Family Trust (Sarva Mangal means 'let all be happy' in Sanskrit) over 20 years ago with compassion as their driving force for philanthropy. Manu's vision for SMFT is to act as a catalyst, challenge status quo, nurture passionate change-makers and support leapfrogging ideas that are scalable and sustainable. Today, all members from the Shah family are involved in social impact initiatives that are undertaken by SMFT. Manu supports VOSAP – Voice of Specially Abled People, which has created over 10,000 change makers and rated over 18,000 buildings rated for accessibility. He also supports Lend a hand India, which provides digital vocational training to over 300,000 students in 20,000 schools.

In 2007, Mr. Manu Shah was named Ernst & Young's national Entrepreneur of the Year in the distribution, manufacturing, and security category.

ABOUT SARVA MANGAL FAMILY TRUST

Established in 1994 by the Founders of M S International, Inc. The mission of the Sarva Mangal Family Trust is to improve and strengthen the health, education and theyllness of communities and help them prepare for global jobs of the 21st century. Sarva Mangal is a Sanskrit word which means Goodness to All.

To advance this mission, the Sarva Mangal Family Trust has donated to and is continuing to work with various organizations and programs in health promotion and prevention, assisting victims of domestic violence, empotheyring seniors, entrepreneurship, technological literacy, community activism, and children's education.

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS



SMFT-SUPPORTED NGO PROJECT LIFE HOSTED ANNUAL GALA

On August 18, 2024, SMFT-supported nonprofit Project Life, in partnership with Life Global California, hosted a successful fundraising gala at the Sanatan Dharma Temple in Norwalk, California. With over 250 attendees, the event was part of a national fundraising campaign that has raised over $1 million to support education and women's empowerment initiatives in India, particularly in Gujarat. Key leaders, including BU Patel, Chairman of Life Global California, and Manu Shah, Chief Patron of Life Global, praised the progress of ongoing projects such as the construction of 108 schools and the development of a new Women Empowerment Center in Junagadh. **(Continued on Page 4).**

EVENT – PROJECT LIFE ANNUAL GALA

On August 18, 2024, SMFT-supported nonprofit Project Life, in collaboration with Life Global California, organized a successful fundraising gala at the Sanatan Dharma Temple in Norwalk, California. The event was part of a series of fundraising initiatives, including gatherings in Dallas, Houston, and New Jersey, that collectively raised over $1 million for education and women's empowerment projects in India, particularly in Gujarat.

More than 250 supporters attended the California gala, which featured speeches from key leaders, including BU Patel, Chairman of Life Global California, and Manu Shah, Chief Patron of Life Global. They praised the impact of the initiatives supported by Project Life, including the construction of 108 schools in underserved areas and the expansion of women's empowerment programs. Manu and his wife, Rika Shah, were particularly lauded for their generous contributions toward the development of a new Women Empowerment Center in Junagadh.

In his address, BU Patel highlighted Project Life's accountability and transparency, emphasizing that every donor dollar is maximized to its full potential. Manu Shah reflected on the transformative power of Project Life's efforts, from digital education programs to healthcare initiatives such as Thalassemia testing and blood donation camps.

The event also featured an auction of autographed cricket bats, with notable contributors like Nalini and Harish Solanki and Dr. Himat Tank participating. Funds raised from the auction will support Project Life's continued charitable work, including the goal of building 125 schools by 2025 and empowering an additional 3,000 women by the end of 2026.









NGO IN FOCUS FOR AUGUST'24 – PRATHAM

About the Nonprofit

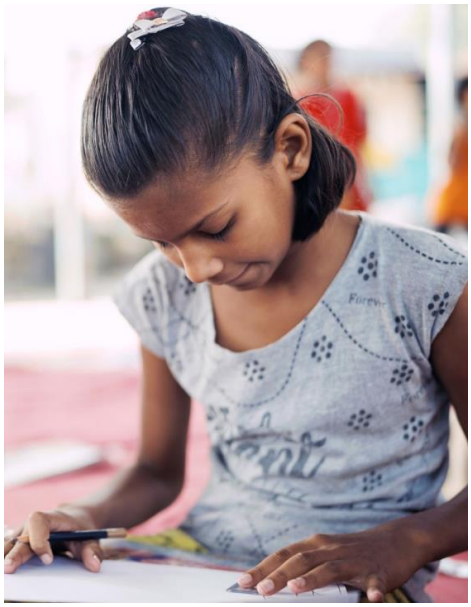
Established in 1995, Pratham is committed to improving the quality of education in India. Through innovative, cost-effective programs and replicable interventions it has reached over 6.3 million children and youth. By working directly with students and collaborating with government systems, Pratham is dedicated to addressing significant gaps in India's education system.





NGO IN FOCUS FOR AUGUST'24 – PRATHAM (Cont.)

About the SMFT Funded Project



Pratham Shah PraDigi Innovation Centre is focused on creating open learning spaces for learners and transforming educational practices. Through an interplay of advanced technology, innovative pedagogy and human interaction, the PraDigi Centre is focused on empowering children, youth, mothers and communities. Different interventions, supported by contextualised and activity-based learning content, are inculcating in learners essential skills for successfully navigating the complexities of the modern world and being prepared for school, work and life.



Project Location/Geography

A nationwide reach: 20,000 villages in 14 states

Recent Project Updates



- **English Learning Program's Angrezi OK Please** is a comprehensive English reading program, Pratham is implementing the English Learning Program for youth and children, focused on reading, comprehension, and speaking. It blends proven pedagogy, AI-driven technology, and human intervention for a seamless learning experience. The program has been successfully scaled up in 3,900+ villages with over 37,000 children and is currently being implemented in **84 communities** across Kanker, Chhattisgarh, during May and June 2024. Tailored for grades 6-8, this 40-day program significantly improved reading skills through phonics-based instruction and engaging activities. The Endline results revealed a strong improvement, with readers at Levels 3 and 4 increasing from 26% to 68%, while Beginners dropped sharply from 28% to just 9%.



- **English ChatterBOT** is a generative AI based tool that can have a conversation with a user and help them practice speaking and comprehension regularly and freely. It was piloted in July 2024 with over 40 participants at our Skilling Centers in Maharashtra, Jharkhand, and West Bengal. This accessible tool will empower youth to build confidence and enhance their conversational skills.



- **Experiment to India Project** is a collaborative effort with Siemens Stiftung, and Siemens India to develop and adapt 40 Open Educational Resources (OERs) in STEM. 25 unique OERs will be developed in English, with 15 translated into Marathi.

- **PraDigi Centre's Creativity Club's partnership with LunARC Mission #2** successfully engaged tribal communities across 9 states and 19 districts in India through the Amplifying Indigenous Voices project. This initiative focused on cultural representation and education, receiving overwhelming participation with over 2,100 submissions.

- **Milestone Tracking Tool** is a component of Pratham's ENABLE Program and PraDigi Centre which is being designed to support early childhood development. In July and August 2024, through comprehensive research and collaboration, they explored available tech-enabled tools aiming to identify and screen for developmental delays. By tracking key milestones, they aim to provide a valuable resource for fostering child growth and well-being and empower parents, caregivers, and educators.



Overall Impact

Over **400,000 children** have engaged through PraDigi Centre's initiatives for enhancing their foundational learning skills and are focused on project based experiential learnings. Additionally, over **230,000 youth** have benefited from digital courses in the work and life domain, and **28,000 youth volunteers** have been instrumental in implementing community-based programs for children. Moreover, the initiatives have empowered over **50,000 mothers** through programs focused on early childhood care and school readiness to prepare their children between the ages 5 -7 with basic literacy and numeracy.



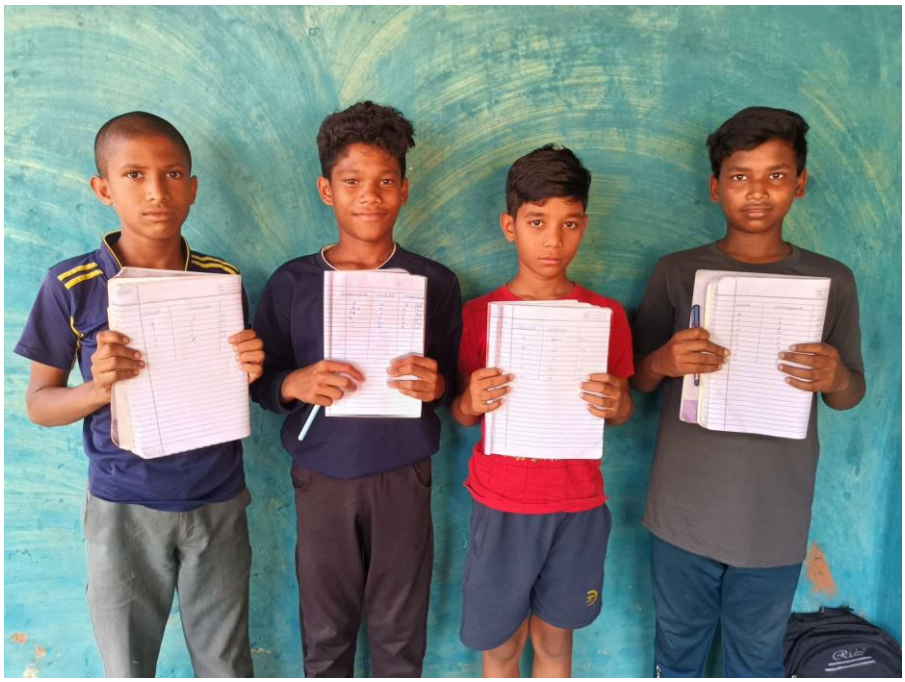


Highlight of the Month



- The **Reading Assessment App** is an AI-enabled tool that transforms children's literacy assessment by evaluating reading levels and providing immediate feedback on mistakes. It uses a Speech Recognition model designed for children's speech, recording their voice while reading, analyzing fluency, and identifying errors based on ASER guidelines (Annual Status of Education Report is a household-based survey that collects information on children's schooling status and basic learning outcomes). This tool has undergone rigorous testing with over 500 children across 7 Indian states, achieving **68% accuracy** for ASER Automatic Level Recognition and **80.1% accuracy** for the Speech Recognition model. These results highlight the tool's potential to effectively assess reading skills and provide valuable insights for educators.

- **PraDigi Centre's Creativity Club's Fitness Project**, in partnership with the Dani Foundation, was launched in July 2024 to promote physical activity and creativity through sports and dance. Implemented across **300 schools** and communities in Maharashtra, Jharkhand, and Chhattisgarh, the project has engaged over **621 community-based fellows**. These trained fellows are now leading sports and dance activities in schools, reaching over **14,000 students** aged 10 to 14. In August, the project completed its initial teacher and fellow training sessions, successfully launching the program in Kurud with **55 teachers** and **108 fellows**. The project is poised to expand its reach to six more locations by the end of September.



In the News

Angrezi-Ok-Please program is being implemented in 86 communities of Kanker district, Chhattisgarh. The program and its impact were covered under a local newspaper.



86 गांव के बच्चें सीखेंगे अंग्रेजी व जिले की माताएं दिलाएंगी दसवीं ओपन बोर्ड की परीक्षा

तरुण छत्तीसगढ़ संवाददाता

कांकेर 3 मई। जिले के चारों ब्लॉक (कांकेर, चारामा, भानुप्रतापपुर, नरहरपुर) के 430 गांव में प्रथम एजूकेशन फाऊंडेशन द्वारा विगत तीन वर्षों से फाउंडेशनल लर्निंग कार्यक्रम संचालित है। जिसका मुख्य उद्देश्य स्वस्थ की कर बच्चों की शिक्षा गुणवत्ता सुधार करना व शिक्षा के प्रति लोगों को जागरूक कर जवाबदारी से अवगत कराना हैं।

वर्तमान सत्र 2024 में समर कैंप के दौरान चयनित 86 गांव में कक्षा 6वी से 8वी के बच्चों को पायलेट कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत श्वहलस्थुस॥ ह्य क्षस्थ्स्थ (ह्वक) 40 दिन में अंग्रेजी पढ़ना व बोलना सीखाने वाले हैं जिसके लिए प्रथम के कार्यकर्ताओं को मुंबई के ट्रेनर द्वारा आनलाईन वर्चुअल दो दिवसीय ब्लॉक स्तरीय प्रशिक्षण दिया जा रहा है। जिसमें नेशनल ट्रेनर ईसा शर्मा, राहुल, भाग्यश्री श्रुतिका, विजया, ईशा आदि के द्वारा ट्रेनिंग दिया जा रहा है। ताकि इस वर्ष भी बच्चों को समर कैंप में खेलङ्खेल के माध्यम से इंग्लिश सीखा सकें।

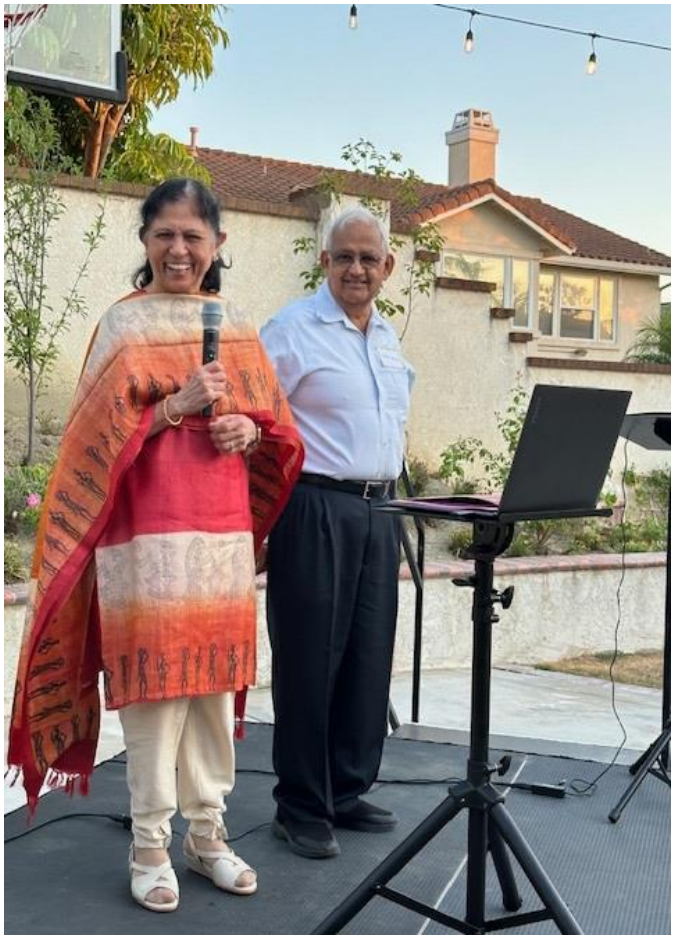


430 गांव में कक्षा 1ली से 3री के बच्चों की माताओं को कमाल फॉर लेडीज (पढ़ाई तिहार) कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत माताओं को अध्यापन कार्य गांव के स्वयंसेवक एवं प्रथम के कार्यकर्ताओं द्वारा किया जाना है। जो कांकेर , चारामा ब्लॉक में इन्ही माताओं को कक्षा 10 वीं ओपन बोर्ड की परीक्षा के लिए निशुल्क तैयारी कराया जाएगा। जिसके लिए दोनों ब्लॉक में 12- 12 क्लस्टर बनाया गया है। लगभग 400 माताओं को सेंटर मे पढ़ाया जाएगा साथ ही रिमोर्ट माध्यम से भी माताओं को जोड़ने का प्रयास किया जा रहा हैं। 430 गांव मे गांव के बेरोजगार युवाओं , माताओं को रोजगार के लिए मोबिलाइज कार्य किया जा रहा हैं। जिन्हे कम्युनिटी बैच एवं कुरूद पेस सेंटर के माध्यम से ट्रेनिंग देकर रोजगार से जोड़ने का प्रयास किया जाएगा।

कक्षा 2री और 3री के ऐसे बच्चे जिसने भाषा और गणित में स्वस्थ की प्राप्ति नहीं की है उन्हें गांव के स्वयंसेवकों द्वारा कमाल गतिविधियों के द्वारा खेल -खेल के माध्यम से पढ़ाया जाएगा।उक्त कार्यक्रम का मार्गदर्शन छत्तीसगढ़ राज्य प्रमुख गौरव शर्मा के मार्गदर्शन से किया जा रहा हैं। उक्त कार्यक्रम की जानकारी कांकेर स्वस्थ कार्यक्रम के समन्वयक तिजेश सिन्हा से प्राप्त हुआ।

On the evening of July 21, 2024, the Southern California chapter of Pratham LA/Orange County hosted a memorable concert in support of the Pratham Education Foundation. This vibrant event aimed to raise awareness and funds for Pratham's vital work in addressing education challenges in India. Pratham, a global non-profit, impacts nearly 9 million children and youth annually through its award-winning, evidence-based programs, providing solutions for schooling and vocational training in partnership with governments, schools, and communities.





The concert, held at the home of Dr. Jayshree and Dr. Mahesh Vyas, chapter presidents of Pratham LA/Orange County, was a joyous celebration of music and community. Prominent philanthropists such as Yogi Patel and Manubhai & Rikaben Shah spoke passionately about their longstanding support for the organization, sharing personal stories on the importance of education and why it remains a cause close to their hearts.

Dr. Jayshree Vyas delivered an inspiring address, encouraging the guests to contribute generously, and her heartfelt words sparked a remarkable response. Special guest Navneet Chugh uplifted the spirits of over 70 attendees with his engaging presence, adding to the evening's success by motivating donations.

The musical performance by talented singers Rythum Shastri and Dr. Vini Gora was undoubtedly the highlight of the night. Their renditions of classic Hindi and Bollywood tunes had guests dancing and enjoying the festive atmosphere.

SUCCESS STORY – **PRATHAM**



Name: Salu Kumari
Location: Chhatisgarh
Project: Angrezi OK Please

Salu Kumari, an 18-year-old from a small village, is the eldest of five sisters. Despite the challenges her family faces, Salu's unwavering determination and boundless energy have always set her apart. She is an extraordinary young woman with many talents, from athletics to dance, and her journey is one of inspiration and hope.

Salu's athletic abilities are remarkable. She can run 100 meters in just 15 seconds, a feat that showcases her speed, discipline, and dedication. Her aspirations, however, extend far beyond the track. Salu dreams of joining the Army, driven by her desire to make her family proud and bring positive change to her community.

Her journey took a pivotal turn when she joined a local fitness program. This program provided Salu with the perfect platform to refine her skills and push herself to new heights. Beyond her own development, she saw an opportunity to give back to her community. Salu began organizing fitness classes for children in her village, teaching them the value of physical fitness and showing them the importance of dedicating at least one hour to play.

But Salu's contributions don't stop there. A natural dancer, she also helps young learners in her community explore their creativity through dance. By sharing her passion and skill, Salu is not only inspiring her peers but also giving the next generation an outlet for self-expression.

Through her hard work, resilience, and leadership, Salu Kumari is transforming her village, one fitness class and dance lesson at a time. Her story is a testament to the power of determination and the impact one individual can have on an entire community. Salu's future is bright, and her legacy of hope and inspiration will continue to shine for years to come.

SUCCESS STORY – **PRATHAM**

Name: Sheetal Kumar Dhruv
Location: Mohdi, Chhattisgarh
Project: Angrezi OK Please

From the quiet village of Mohdi in Chhattisgarh, Sheetal Kumar Dhruv's story is one of unwavering dedication and passion. Growing up in a family with limited financial resources, Sheetal found solace and inspiration in dance. He taught himself by watching popular dance shows like 'Dance India Dance,' fueling a dream to one day become a professional dancer. Despite the obstacles, his passion never wavered.

At a crucial moment in his life, Sheetal made the difficult decision to pause his formal education at ITI in order to support his family. But even during this challenging time, he remained committed to his dream. Sheetal began teaching local children dance, using his talent to inspire and uplift his community, especially the younger generation.

Thanks to the support from a local program, Sheetal now has the opportunity to formally pursue his passion for dance. His journey serves as a testament to the power of perseverance, showcasing how determination and a deep love for what you do can help overcome any challenges. Sheetal's story is a reminder that dreams can indeed be realized, no matter the circumstances.

Today, Sheetal is not only chasing his dreams but also passing on the knowledge and joy of dance to others in his village. His success highlights the transformative power of talent, resilience, and community support. Sheetal Kumar Dhruv is truly a rising star, both on the stage and in life.



SUCCESS STORY – **PRATHAM**

Name: Sahil
Location: Mohdi, Chhattisgarh
Project: Angrezi OK Please

Sahil, a young participant in our Angrezi OK Please program, embarked on his learning journey with only a limited ability to recognize a few letters. His early struggles with reading were evident, but through dedication and active participation in the program, a remarkable transformation began to unfold.

With the support of our program, Sahil made significant progress in his literacy skills. By the time of the Midline 1 assessment, he had advanced to reading compound letters and simple sentences—an extraordinary leap from where he started. This accomplishment was not only reflected in his assessment results but also validated through a personal review, highlighting the real impact of his hard work.

Sahil's journey exemplifies the effectiveness of the Angrezi OK Please program and the power of consistent effort. His story serves as a powerful reminder that with the right support, even the most challenging hurdles can be overcome, opening doors to new opportunities and success.

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