

Annual Report

2022-2023



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ABOUT US

The Kutumb Foundation envisions total community transformation, one young person at a time, through the total development of the individual, via the active creation of creative spaces for exposure through arts-led education. We see a gender sensitive world, with harmonious communities, empowered to face the future head on. We envision a world in which the non-profit sector works together with other social sector organisations, as well as the private sector, in order to foster positive change.

The Kutumb Foundation is a twenty-year-old NGO working for the empowerment of disadvantaged young people across Delhi NCR. We are an arts-led education organisation, dedicated to promoting the total development of the individual by way of building language skills, bridging developmental gaps, and addressing issues of identity; this is accomplished through the creation of creative spaces using the overarching lens of drama. Drama conventions anchor our work in the space of free libraries, storytelling, and literacy programming, capacity building workshops, cultural programming, and sports for development football.





मेरा बेट खो गया है।
मुझे कहीं नहीं मिल रहा है।

2022-2023 PARTNERS

Public Affairs Section, U.S. Department of State, U.S. Embassy

HCL Foundation

Apartment 9

Individual Donors

FINANCIAL STATEMENT ANNEXURE A

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kapil Pandey

President

Manjima Chatterjee

General Secretary

Devyani Kacker

Treasurer

Robins Tharakan

Member

Neha Mahendrakumar Buch

Member

Medha Saxena

Member

Priyadarshini Kacker

Member

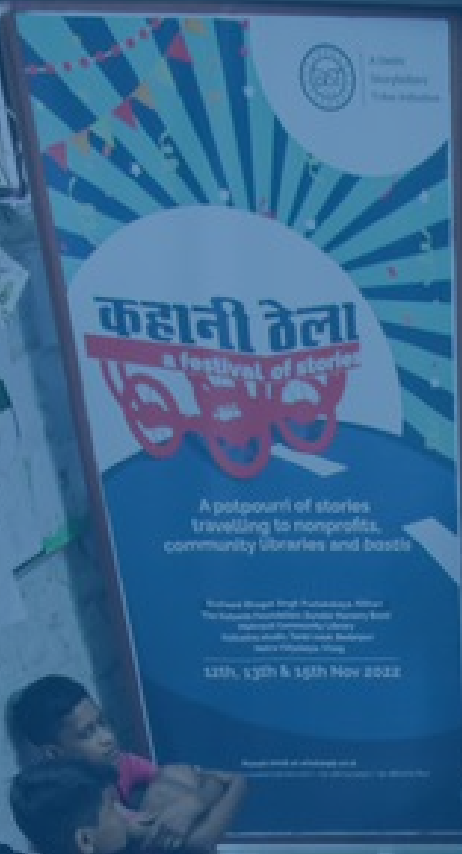
Varsha Srichand Belani

Member

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

The Kutumb Foundation is a not-for-profit organisation registered under Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860, Registration No. S/15761 of 2003. Our Darpan registration is DL/2018/0183745. Our CSR registration is CSR00002098. The Kutumb Foundation is registered under the Foreign Contribution (Donation) Act of 2010 under section 11 (1) of the Act, Registration No. 231661341 (Cultural, Economic, Educational, Social). Donations to 'The Kutumb Foundation' receive tax exemption under Sector 80G (5) (VI) of Income Tax Act, 1961. The Kutumb Foundation has Section 12A registration vide No. AAAAT7607FE20214 under 01-Sub clause (i) of clause (ac) of sub -section (1) of section 12A and Section 80G registration vide no.AAAAT7607FF20214 tax exemption under 11-Clause (i) of first proviso to sub-section (5) of section 80G of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

Please see our [website](#) for domestic and international donor giving options.



ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS





QISSAGADH ACTIVE LIBRARY PROGRAMME

Our Qissagadh Active Library programme uses arts-led library programming to improve students' foundational literacy skills and serves as a safe space for independent research, reading, collaborative learning, and events such as storytelling sessions. Qissagadh started in 2014 as a natural development of Kutumb's original work in the space of literacy and language. Kutumb started working in the Khan Market Labour Camp, teaching youth English, Hindi, and maths in the park; at this time the programme was known as Indradhanush. From there we developed a host of language and literacy learnings that have been deployed in the creation of our Qissagadh Active Library programme. Kutumb operates community libraries in Savda-Ghevra J.J. Resettlement Colony and Sunder Nursery Basti, Nizamuddin. Our head library is located in Sector 7, Noida. Our libraries are open seven days a week and cater to disadvantaged youth of all ages. By Active Library we refer to a safe space where young people can come together for independent research, reading and collaborative learning. Students not only consume knowledge, but also produce their own interpretations and understandings of what they have learned. In this way, we work to address the disparity between disadvantaged young people and those with better material opportunities-in terms of access to books and supportive learning environments.

The catalogue is divided into literacy competency levels (Foundation, Basic, Intermediate and Advanced). Students are able to learn computer basics in an integrated fashion; they use computers to conduct research on topics related to their sessions, write book reviews, conduct independent research, etc. Students develop language skills through structured lessons featuring our library books as part of the Qissebaaz Book Club. This is in line with the government's NEP 2020 goals for addressing foundational literacy skills, as outlined in NIPUN Bharat.

Our curriculum is divided into four quarterly themes:

1. Building Sustainability
2. Embracing Diversity
3. Breaking Stereotypes
4. Exploring Power Dynamics

In addition to serving as a place to read and explore, the libraries serve as centres for film screenings, arts and craft workshops, musical performances, and additional drama engagements. These interventions supplement and enhance our core library programming. This year the project was supported by individual donors and is ongoing.



Dolly is a member of our Sector 7, Noida Qissagadh Active Library. She recently picked up पारो की कहानी (Paro's Story) (written by Sughra Mehdi, illustrated by Subba Ghosh).

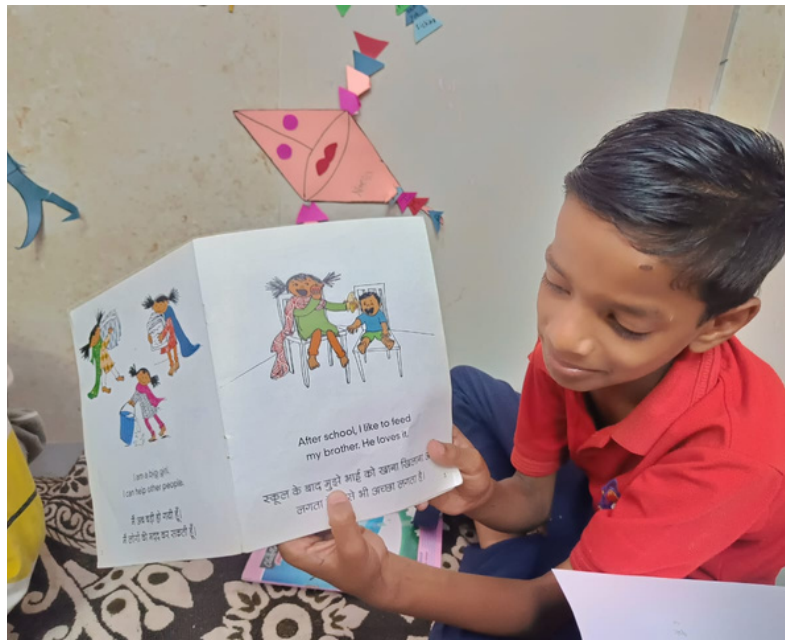
In this story, Paro is suffocated by the constraints of traditional gender roles. In order to break free, she runs away and becomes a rickshaw wala in Banaras. A customer is shocked seeing a woman driving a rikshaw. He goes to her home to confront her. The story ends with Paro's powerful statement to the man, "कान खोल कर सुन लो कि मैं रिक्शा इसलिए चलाती हूँ क्योंकि मुझे रोटी पकाना अच्छा नहीं लगता । मुझे बर्तन धोना अच्छा नहीं लगता। मुझे मर्द की मार खाना अच्छा नहीं लगता । और पारो वही करती है जो उसे अच्छा लगता है।समझे?" ("Listen up. I drive a rickshaw because I don't like cooking. I don't like washing dishes. I don't like being beaten by a man. And Paro does what she likes. Got it?")

As part of our book review process, we ask library members if there is anything they would change in a story or do differently if they were the writer. Dolly decided to continue the story. In her addition, Paro is upset that people would challenge her right to be free and to do what she wants to do, "कोई मुझे चैन से जीने ही नहीं दे रहा। इसमें मेरी क्या गलती है कि मैं रिक्शा चलाती हूँ। क्या किसी लड़की को अपनी मर्जी से जीने का हक नहीं? सबको ये क्यों लगता है की मैंने अपने खानदान आग लगा दी। जबकी बात तो कुछ और ही है। अगर मुझे जो काम पसंद नही तो मैं वो काम क्यों करूँ, मैं इस बात से बिलकुल सहमत नहीं ।" (No one is letting me live in peace. What's wrong with me driving a rickshaw? Doesn't a girl have the right to live the way she wants? Why does everyone think I have destroyed my family? If I don't like a type of work, then why would I do it? I don't agree with this [doing something I don't want to].)

The next day the man who confronted her came to apologize but Paro wasn't interested in his apology or his validation.

Paro went on to get her own house and auto-rickshaw. She wanted bring her mother and father to come live with her in her new home, but she learned they had passed away. Her story ends with Paro dedicating herself to helping orphaned children.







BOOKS-FOR-ALL PROGRAMME

Kutumb is a member of the Free Libraries Network (FLN), which brings together libraries from India and South Asia to offer member libraries access to reading materials, programmes, knowledge resources, and information. As members, we advocate for a free library movement that welcomes all people to the right to read. Kutumb runs aspects of the Books-for-All programme, in which libraries, including those affiliated with FLN, receive curated book collections, librarianship capacity building opportunities and more.

Books-for-All is sustained by book donations from publishers as well as individuals. In 2022-2023, we sent out 102 book boxes with 9,606 books to 47 libraries across India. We also organised and facilitated residential library trainings, workshops, and internships, to help develop the free library movement.

This year the project was supported by individual donors and is ongoing.





DRAMA-IN-EDUCATION SCHOOL INTERVENTION PROGRAMME

The Kutumb Foundation conducted twice weekly drama-in-education classes, exploring the family and community's relationship to the environment through dramatic conventions and theatre, in four Noida government schools, with 120 youth. We worked with students from class III-VIII. We created a series of videos highlighting this process, which can be viewed on our [YouTube channel](#).

Sharings were held in the schools. Sharings focused on highlighting the work that was taking place with school staff. Principals and teachers saw the lesson plans being used, and spoke with the students about what they have been learning. Students shared their work through small skits and performances they had created using various drama conventions. For example, students created a Sound Machine Museum, based on prompts such as jungle, house, playground, and school. The students invited the principal to tour the Museum, and see what each group created. 4 Culminating Sharings were held in the schools. Students shared their work through the Museum of Objects and small performances they had created using drama conventions.

This project was supported by HCL Foundation and concluded in September 2022.

Manish is a VI class student at Composite School Kulesra in Noida. As part of his engagement with our programme he participated in the Power Poster activity. The prompt for the Power Poster activity was to draw a poster of a family at dinner time, with the aim of understanding the family's power dynamic in this specific situation. Manish shares, "The best thing about this activity was that I have to draw and express myself and I loved this. I did not face any problem in creating the drawing because I imagined my family members while drawing – then I could create the scenes of people doing different work in my house. While I was doing this activity, I also started feeling that I am moving through my my house and seeing everyone doing their work. I learned many things about my family by thinking about each member and trying to understand them during the poster making activity. I wondered why I had not noticed before that the work in my house is divided between different members of my family this way. Those who work outside the home do not work at home, and those who work at home do not work outside the home. Vishwas, Kutumb's drama facilitator, shares, "In his drawing Manish tried to show every member of his family and he explored gender roles. During the introduction and discussion of Manish's drawing, he explained that his mother's 'power' is that his mother is cooking food for everyone and if she does not cook, everyone will be hungry."







SQUARE ONE YUVAKENDRA EXPERIMENTAL THEATRE SPACE

Kutumb ran an Experimental Theatre Space in Noida. We trained a group of 50 young people in the fundamentals of theatre and drama. Additionally, we provided 50 youth with psychometric testing and a group of youth and parents met with a career counsellor; outreach took place with over 120 youth in the community. Theatre and drama ensure youth develop the inter-personal skills necessary for leading resilient lives and this contributes directly to future employment opportunities, within the theatre ecosystem and beyond. Multiple Drama Workshops were conducted with facilitators and drama professionals/specialists on the fundamentals of theatre. Through this process, 32 drama internships took place, with various theatre troupes, community theatres, and libraries. This project was supported by HCL Foundation and concluded in March 2023.

"Sakshi has been a part of different workshops and internships in Yuvakendra such as the Lights Workshop by Ankit Pandey, Voice Workshop by Kafeel Jaffrey, internship in the Kala Yuga drama, Live Singing as an intern in Choti Si Ramleela drama, and a performer in the Floral Synthesis drama. Sakshi's participation and performance everywhere is commendable," says the theatre facilitator, Jyoti.

Sakshi shares her experience of the Voice and Speech workshop: "Garvit Bhaiya has taught us many exercises through which we can work on our voice and speech. One important exercise that I found was where we worked on our "श" and "स". Bhaiya gave us a poem in which there were many words which start with "श" and "स" and we had to read it aloud. We read that poem with a pen held in our mouth and this helped us work on issues like stammering.

We also worked on breathing, as we start to gasp while reading or speaking, for that we first wrote what is happening around and then read it fast in one breath. Then we read very slowly too, chewing through each word so that we could read each word and its element clearly and be clear to everyone.

Earlier I was not very regular to Square One, because I had no idea about acting and theatre. I used to think that acting is an easy thing to do. But now I understand how much one must do for acting. I learned a lot. Earlier, I only knew acting through TikTok; then we worked here on Monologues. As I started working on my skills, my interest in theatre increased, and now I feel like I should learn more and keep performing."







JOSH-E-UMANG

Kutumb has organised cultural programming for the public, in conjunction with the American Center New Delhi. Through these performances we highlighted Indian cultural traditions and heritage, and explored connections to the American cultural tradition.

Our overarching goal for the events is to foster the development of bilateral ties, with a specific focus on shared values, using webinars, events, workshops, performances and exhibitions to bring together a diverse audience of attendees and participants. The targeted audience is current members of the American Library as well as potential members from area private schools, underprivileged youth from area non-profits, and cultural, educational and next generation leaders ages 18-40 who aspire to learn more about ACND programming and the United States.

As part of this project, Kutumb organised the DemARTcracy Art Exhibition, held at the American Center New Delhi in July 2022. Artists from all over the country submitted their best works on the theme of democracy. A jury panel comprised of members from the American Center, Kiran Nadar Museum of Art, Arts for Change, Art Fervour, and Kutumb, chose the winners. A total of 13 artists were selected. A range of works were displayed including sculptures, paintings, mixed media, and interactive art.

In November, we held a Drama-in-Education (DiE) panel and workshop. In this workshop, educators learned about avenues for using theatre and drama in the classroom and drama-in-education pedagogy, thereby energizing the classroom. The panel featured Dr. Kevin Cordi from Ohio, as well as Kutumb's Co-Founders and drama-educators, Manjima Chatterjee, and Kapil Pandey.

Additionally, we organised Narrating Perspectives, with Alton Takiyama Chung and Kapil Pandey. They told stories drawn from different American cultural traditions, from their own cultural perspectives. Alton Takiyama Chung is a Japanese-Korean American Storyteller from Hawaiian Islands, who has been adopted into the Gros Ventre Native American Tribe of Montana.

This project is supported by the Public Affairs Section, U.S. Department of State, U.S. Embassy.





Student Vrinda Sharma shared, “As an art enthusiast and politically aware being, I was intrigued to witness the event, and was left in awe of the artworks that people had created!”



Vaishali Sharma, B.El.Ed Student, from Lady Shri Ram College shared: “This [Drama-in-Education] workshop was very insightful for me and my classmates. We were sceptical at first as we do not know much about this convention. Now I feel every student of B.Ed. should make this part of their teacher training experience. We also got to meet primary school teachers. Meeting them and hearing from them was very special. We got many ideas to engage with students. Can we look forward to a second part of this workshop?”





SPORTS FOR CHANGE

Kutumb conducted thrice weekly sessions in two locations, working with 90 players (two teams per school, from three schools). Talent scouting took place in two additional schools, and three additional teams were formed, for a total of 48 additional students, with sessions taking place four times per week. Over the course of this Sports for Development initiative, we focused on fostering gender sensitivity and leadership through our Beyond Football engagement, making use of OVEP (Olympic Values Education Programme).

On National Sports Day a celebration was held with 126 participants, including students, parents, and school staff. School teachers led a warm-up activity with our coaches, and we used the Untie the Knot activity from our OVEP life-skills toolkit to explore fair play and the importance of strategy, teamwork and collective problem solving. Players also demoed their freestyle skills and we held exhibition matches. For Women's Day we organized an OVEP Object Sharing session with 91 participants; youth invited their mothers and/or other significant female family members/role models to participate and attend the session. Students selected objects for the activity that evoked feelings of their mothers and other significant female family members/role models.

This project was supported by HCL Foundation and concluded in March 2023.

Vikram shares: "At the age of 12, I started smoking. I didn't know why I did this. The day I joined The Kutumb Foundation I saw a lot of students who were the same age as I was, but they had their own schedule, their own goals. They were very sincere and were better players than me. Then I also realised if they have their goals and they are better players than me, why can't I be like them? I started thinking about it and it's changed my behaviour towards my daily routine. Because of this I quit smoking. I used to bunk my school previously but now I am regular and never bunk my school. Now I have very good friend in my football team and I am always happy to spend time with these boys.

I got the opportunity to visit other cities to play football; now I have been to Chennai for matches, and I was also a part of the excellence team. I have never thought that one day I'll go outside my city and play football. This is an achievement for me!"

His parents share: "We feel so proud that he is doing great in his studies as well as in football. There are so many changes we have seen in his life after joining the football sessions. Now he always takes our permission before going anywhere. Previously he never came home after his session ended but now he comes home promptly and also he helps us out at home. He would love to travel around the world. We are happy to see how he is fulfilling his dream. I want him to play well in the future and always be in touch with this sport as this game has changed his life."







GOAL OF LIFE

Our Goal of Life programme (GOL) is aimed at building life-skills in disadvantaged children from across Delhi NCR. This programme is one of the Kutumb Foundation's pioneering initiatives. Goal of Life began in 2002; football was seen as a medium to enable under-privileged youth the chance to play together, combining the development of their talent with the inculcation of a sense of unity of purpose and positive harmony in relationships. What began as an inter-NGO football tournament featuring 16 organisations, developed into a football cum cultural festival, with noted past chief guests included Bhaichung Bhutia, Kapil Dev and Stephen Constantine. From there, peer leaders emerged and began holding sessions with disadvantaged young people. All sessions are led by trained community youth and feature an intensive curriculum. Our technical training approach has been developed through a decade of best practices, as well as through support from World1 Sports, one of India's leading sports consultant and player management agencies. Our toolkit uses drama conventions to explore leadership, pluralism, and gender sensitivity, through the framework of the Olympic Values Education Programme (OVEP), an international Sports for Development framework created specifically for adolescents.

Additionally, we have partnered with Coaches Across Continents to integrate sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) trainings as another component of our programming.

Husna is a member of Goal of Life from Sunder Nursery Basti, Nizamuddin. She shares: "I joined Goal of Life one year ago and I love playing football and learning new things in our life-skills activities.

I was very scared when I joined because boys and girls were playing together and some of the boys would call me "Chotu, Chotu [Little One]", but that didn't stop me!

I started playing as a goalkeeper. I played in a tournament in Harkesh Nagar as part of our junior team and I won the Best Goalkeeper Award! I was so happy and got so much support from my teammates and this just increased my confidence!

My family was so proud of me. Earlier my mother didn't want me to play, but now she supports me.

Our life-skills activities also are fun, like Untie the Knot. In this activity we tangle ourselves up by locking our hands together and have to work together to untangle ourselves. We learn a lot in these activities.





TEACHER CAPACITY BUILDING



Vishnu Nagar Shiksha Niketan Kanya Inter College, Khurshed Bagh, Lucknow is managed by a registered body, Vishnu Nagar Shiksha Niketan. The school covers Montessori to Class XII. Class I to XII are government aided and the salaries of teachers are paid by the government. The Montessori section comprises the Montessori, K.G.I and K.G.II. This year, Kutumb has supported teacher capacity building in the Montessori section, with the aim of eventually expanding our core footprint of arts-led learning and drama-based interventions, as well as sports for development programming in the school.





NEXT STEPS

In 2023-2024, Kutumb's aim is to consolidate our programmes and expand and deepen our impact.

We are currently using the takeaways from our Drama-in-Education programme to explore new organisations, schools, and partners with which to run the programme. We have incorporated these learnings into our Qissagadh Active Library programme. In line with NEP 2020 and NIPUN Bharat, our aim is to structure these engagements around arts-led learning, with a specific focus on fostering English and Hindi literacy outcomes with students. To this end, we have continued to develop and revise our curriculum.

Goal of Life continues to expand our work in the space of Sports for Development and to incorporate our takeaways from Sports for Change. We are partnering with Coaches Across Continents and are also working to create a shareable technical training plan and toolkit incorporating our learnings from the past few years.

Additionally, we are working to leverage our existing performance space into an Arts Hub. The Arts Hub will serve as a centre for performances by drama troupes, arts and craft workshops, stand-up performances, drama workshops, and more.

