TRUST

FORGING PARTNERSHIPS

Leading to Increased Reach and Impact



Seb's Projects India
Annual Report
2023 - 2024



A note from Trustees of the Sebastian Hunter Memorial Trust UK



The Sebastian Hunter MEMORIAL TRUST
Creativity, education & leadership.

As we enter the 23rd year since Seb's death and our first small school being built in Senji Mottur, we are continually delighted to see the progress made by the team in India, and the many lives transformed. Having visited the projects ourselves towards the end of 2023, we were particularly struck by the teachers, without whom we would be unable to function. We were also delighted to meet with a group of higher education students who expressed their immense gratitude to be given the opportunity to take their studies further thanks to Seb's. These students are driven to better themselves and provide a more prosperous future for their families. Many of them are first-generation learners who would otherwise have little or no education or job prospects.

We are so grateful to all of those who have generously donated their time and enthusiasm to help our fundraising efforts this year, without your support we would not be able to function. Teamwork really does make the dream work.

- Anna, Laura, James and Adam

From the Director's desk



Seb's Projects India has moved from strength to strength since its inception in 2008. The key to our success has been TRUST - the strong glue that has held us together…be it the communities we serve, the government offices we partner with, the corporate and individual funders who share our vision and passion to make a difference.

The highlight this year being the opportunity to present our schools to Mr.J Kumaragurubaran, the State Secretary of Tamilnadu School Education for reinstating the NRSTC (Non-Residential Special Training Centre) program in all of our schools as it was stopped since Covid in 2019. Following the visit of a team from the State Department who made an enquiry and study of Seb's Projects model of running schools for children in remote communities who do not have access, we were sanctioned the status of NRSTC for all of our 10 schools from June 2024 and the additional responsibility to start a new school in a very remote area in the Jawadhi. We are overwhelmed by the trust they have placed on Seb's Projects model and endorsing the commitment of our team to provide quality education.

To our corporate partners the Corporater and Bharat FIH who have endorsed their trust in our work and partnered us in our Education, Health and Livelihood endeavors has resulted in increased Reach and Impact. We very much value your partnership and hope it was mutually beneficial and we have contributed to achieving your CSR goals as well. As I have always said you have been the wind beneath our wings to do more and to DREAM BIG!

I hope the following pages of the report will help you unravel our efforts to make classroom learning more meaningful and engaging to improve learning outcomes. We are also emphasizing community connections and parent involvement to ensure the ownership and sustainability of all our programs.

Thank you for the trust you have placed in us and for all your support.

EDUCATION

Emphasis on enrollment

Enrolling students in Seb's primary schools in our tribal communities is crucial in ensuring the right of every child to education. We are happy to report every child of school going age in all the villages we have our presence is enrolled and attending school regularly. Heartening to see the parents coming forward to enroll their children in Seb's Schools .

Seb's NRSTC Primary School education

Lays the groundwork for all future learning, providing children with basic literacy and numeracy skills.

Early enrollment ensured that our children start their educational journey at the right age, reducing the chances of them dropping out during Primary schooling.

Our Reach

453 Students

26 Teachers

41 Hamlets



EDUCATION

Emphasis on retaining students in school



Seb's Projects implemented comprehensive strategies and ensured that children not only enroll in schools but also continue their education, leading to a brighter and more prosperous future for them and their communities.





Seb's school uses interactive and child-centered teaching methods and digital learning techniques to make learning interesting and relevant.

EDUCATION

Students learn when there is motivation and it happens when class rooms are meaningful and children are cognitively and emotionally engaged. We need to break away from rote learning. Children need to develop different skill sets in a world that is changing so fast.

Students Engagement

Motivation of students

Cognitively and emotionally engaged

Making the class room a meaningful space for every learner.



Teachers actualy encourage students to engage in a lesson by allowing childern to discuss and solve problems with their peers, as they learn from one another and the learning outcome improves.





Seb's schools children enjoy reading library books.

Teacher training initiatives.



Realizing the importance of student engagement as the key driver to better learning. A series of workshops that can positively impact the learning environment, where the teacher is trained on different techniques and also experience learner engagement for themselves.





EDUCATION

Ennum Ezhuthum Program

Seb's Projects implemented the Tamil Nadu Government program named Ennum Ezhuthum. This program aims to improve the quality of teaching and learning in Primary classes. Seb's school teachers attended specific training to use the Ennum Ezhuthum program materials for classes 1,2, and 3 so that children can read with comprehension and possess basic arithmetic skills.



Challenges faced by middle school students





Mainstreamed students excelling in school

55 Students Mainstreamed

Seb's school tribal children are from marginalized backgrounds, transition into middle school is truly a challenging situation. Middle schools are located farther from home or down in the plains which requires reliable transportation. There is lack of hostel facilities for girl children.

Visit of the Tamil Nadu State Education Department

The State Education Department Chennai deputed their officers to make a special visit to all of Seb's schools to study the need for the NRSTC program in the Jawadhi Hills and its impact. It was an opportunity to show case our model of schools using tribal young people as teachers and placing the school in the heart of remote communities where children had no access to a school in 3 to 5 km radius. We appreciate the effort they had taken to travel to our schools and spend time with our students and teachers.

As a result of their visit the NRSTC program was reinitiated to our credit and we are the only NGO in the State of Tamil Nadu this program has been sanctioned.

We acknowledge the support and this huge partnership with the State and District Education Department and the trust they have placed on us to provide quality education to every child in Jawadhi.









Excursion



Sebs School's grade five students went on an educational tour to the Vandaloor Zoological park, Mahabalipuram (Historical site) and the Marina beach. It was an exciting and memorable experience for children, a fun filled day and an educational exposure.

Parents were pleased and proud that their children had this opportunity.









Parental involvement

We have been focusing on working with the community and parents to ensure that they take ownership of the various initiatives, which is hopefully leading to the sustainability of all our programs. Seb's Projects has made a conscious effort to provide visibility and interact with the district government offices to empower and get the community involved in the decision-making process







Nutrition Program

The Noon Meals Program is an ongoing program aimed at enhancing the nutritional status and overall well-being of students in Seb's tribal schools.

It's also heartening that the children in Seb's working villages are experiencing better health compared to children in other villages, with fewer children reporting sick with fever and cough.

The fact that parents are happy to see their children active, energetic, and showing interest to learn at home after school hours.

This act of sponsoring meals on birthdays not only adds a special touch to the celebrations but also creates a culture of generosity and caring within the community.

With well-fed and healthy children, the education program is running smoothly, and the children are more focused and engaged in their learning.

The high attendance rate of 95 percent is a clear indication of the positive influence.

Snacks made of millets were supplied by women's self-help groups in some of our schools which emphasized the importance of the nutritious value of millets and making it a part of their diet once again at school and in the community.

The sense of community oneness and sharing that has emerged from the education and noon meals program in Seb's is truly heartening. The fact that parents are not only acknowledging the positive impact but also actively participating by sponsoring chicken meals for all children on their own children's birthdays is a clear indication to the success of the program.





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CORPORATER

NUTRITION

Seb's Projects in partnership today reaches out with a **hot meal** to almost

900

people every day

A hot breakfast for 90 patients in CMC Chatram and 25 street children.

A hot nutritious meal and snack is provided to a little over 500 students in Seb's Primary school.

Organised feeding program for 250 boys at Seb's Arni School hostel









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HEALTH

The start of Balwadis in each of our schools which was a dream for a long time. It provided an opportunity for children below the age of 4 to attend a Pre School and also benefit from the nutritional supplements provided by the Integrated Child Development Scheme. It also enabled us to serve another group i.e the young mothers in the community. The transition into regular school was facilitated at the end of the academic year.











HEALTH



The proactive approach of our health workers and teachers in conducting community awareness campaigns and the efforts taken to educate the community was commendable. Played a significant role in the prevention of diseases and in the promotion of better health.

Seb's Projects organized an eye camp, a cholera awareness program, and a general medical camp in collaboration with CMC CHAD and the District Health Department. Eighteen elderly people were diagnosed with cataract and advised surgery. Follow-up and support were given to the patients.





Continued efforts in health education, regular monitoring of water quality, and maintenance of water purification systems helped to maintain better health for the people, which is essential in sustaining the positive impact.

It's very positive to hear that the installation of water purifiers in our villages has had a positive impact on the health of the community.

Access to clean and safe drinking water is crucial to preventing waterborne diseases such as cholera. The fact that the recent outbreak of cholera in Jawadhi Hills did not affect children in Seb's schools or community members is a clear indication of the effectiveness of access to safe and clean drinking water.



SCHOLARSHIP

It was a wonderful event when scholarship students got the opportunity to meet their donors and share their thoughts and experiences. The interactions were incredibly inspiring for both the students and the donors. Seb's Projects was happy to see our student's confidence and joy while they share their experience. Our Scholarship students are performing well in their exams and achieved good ranks.

This year we had several young tribal people approaching for scholarships. Over these years the children who have studied in our Seb's Primary school have finished their schooling and moved to higher education. Seb's Projects is happy to support for their universities studies.



The powerful testimony of Thirumagal from Thandayankottai tribal village who advocated every girl should be given the opportunity to pursue higher education. The impact it had on her life. Her perception as a young woman had changed as a result of the many opportunities that was thrown open to excel in college and most importantly develop social skills. Her enthusiasm was contagious and all the young people in the room endorsed her opinion.



Kalaivani has just completed her first year in diploma nursing. She was presented a certificate of merit for having taken the second rank in the university exams. Being a first generation learner it was a proud moment for her and her family.

Meera another Seb's Tribal School student on graduating with a degree in commerce has succeeded in finding a placement in an IT company in Vellore. She has just been confirmed and looking forward to living her dream. She has gained a lot of self confidence working on a job and managing the pressures of her job. She is a role model to our tribal girls in the Jawadhi.





Sathya secured a job at Sundaram Finance Hospital as a staff nurse. This achievement not only fulfilled her personal aspirations but also broke the cycle of limitations that her underprivileged background might have imposed on her.

CSI Seb's SCHOOL ARNI

Enhance learning experience through Smart Class Room

A Smart classroom with a projector, computer, big screen and audio equipment was set up with access to internet facility. This classroom helps teachers to adopt new teaching techniques to meet the diverse needs of the students and makes learning more engaging and effective for the students. This also allows students to develop their technical skills.



Enriching Music experience

The music band is an extracurricular activity for the Arni school boys and girls. For the first time 5 girls have joined the band. They are taught to play several musical instruments and to read music. The Arni school band is well known in the community and have been invited to play at public events. Several of the students who have finished school and pursued higher education were of the opinion their music talent was very well recognized and appreciated.



KING'S SCHOOL KASAM

A fully equipped and furnished computer room was setup in King's School, Kasam through the generous and thoughtful contribution by Iain and Fiona Allan.The children are delighted and with the upgraded access to these computers and technology, adding to their learning experience.



CORPORATER

Corporater's Corporate Social Responsibilty...

Believes in the power of business to end poverty.

Believe by giving time, resources and energy
it can bring life where life seems lost, Bring light where there is darkness and bring increase where things seem to decrease.

There are many milestones we have achieved with the trust, support and encouragement we have received from Corporater over the years in relation to improving school education, nutrition and health of our tribal communities. Another area they have expanded our horizon was to introduce Seb's Projects to the Focus Business School Training Program - creating tomorrow's entrepreneurs. A course in entrepreneurship and finance to support financial development of individuals and communities. Two of Sebs senior coordinators have undergone the online training.

'We are looking forward to sowing the seeds of entrepreneurship in our tribal communities by conducting short term training programs for Seb's Women's self help groups - to strengthen the existing livelihood programs and to dream big.' - Dominic Savio and Eunice Titus





Visit of Mr. Geir Berge, Head of Corporater Social Impact and Miss. Kari Thu - Organization Support Manager to Seb's school

The new Seb's school in Pulliyamarthur in a remote village in Jawadhi hills was constructed by Corporater this year which has provided a safe learning atmosphere for 35 primary school children.



CORPORATER

The annual day celebration in two of our villages (Seb's school Kupusor and Seb's school Pattikollai) was a vibrant and diverse event, combining cultural performances, educational exhibitions, and community engagement. The visit of our partners from Corporater added a special touch to the occasion, acknowledging their support and contributions.

The involvement of students in cultural performances and the education exhibition reflected a commitment to showcasing local talent and promoting knowledge sharing within the community.





The special highlight of the millet exhibition, where tribal women prepared dishes with millets, is particularly noteworthy. Celebrating the "International Year of Millets" declared by the UN for 2023 demonstrates a commitment to promoting sustainable and nutritious food choices.





A mother sharing the difference that clean drinking water has made to her family and community



Mrs. Kari Thu inaugurating the clean drinking water project

LIVELIHOOD

HONEY

The honey sales have helped tribal children's education initiatives. The allocated profits were used to refund families who take care of children whose parents migrated for work.





MILLETS

Millets machine enriched the dietary pattern of Jawadhi community as more and more people can easily access the machine to dehusk the Millets and make it a part of their diet. Millets has been introduced in our school as part of their meal once a week.







LIVELIHOOD

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Transformation in the lives of Thandayankottai women

Tamarind microfinance enterprise by Thandayankottai SHG

The Jawadhi hills is known for its Tamarind and it is supporting the livelihood of the tribal woman as large amount of tamarind is harvested every season.

It involves a lot of hard work from the date of the buds to the fruiting stage as they have to keep a close watch to protect the tamarind from the monkeys.

Once the tamarind is collected and dried the women spend the whole day over the next couple of weeks and months to hammer ad remove the fibre and the seeds. It is a laborious and back breaking process per day a family can clean about 10 kg of tamarind. Seb's Project wanted to support the women's group in the processing of the tamarind.



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In partnership with Bharath FIH we have introduced the following machinery to facilitate and aid the process.

De huller machine used to dehull the tamarind.
Double wheel deseeding machine
Bulk deseeding machine
Hydraulic cake pressing machine.

The specialised machinery has not only skilled the women but greatly simplified the process and has helped scale up their business.











BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A Big Thank You to our Seb's Advisory Board Members

Seb's Projects Advisory Board Members have played a crucial role to advocate on our behalf, make time to visit our schools and communities and interact with them, to understand first hand the felt needs and help in addressing the challenges we confront from time to time.

Dr. Neema Varghese our dynamic young chairperson associated and involved with Seb's Projects over the years has helped Seb's Projects to collaborate and build strong partnerships with Corporater house. It has given Seb's Projects a push to do more and increase our impact on the ground.

Dr. Devamani Pandian represented Seb's Projects and the community to the Tamil Nadu State Education Department, advocating for the reinstatement of the NRSTC program which was granted for the academic year 2024 - 25 after a lapse of almost 5 years.

Mr. Giridharan works closely with the team to establish goals and objectives. He mobilized resources, both financial and in-kind and organized birthday celebrations for our tribal children providing birthday dresses to children also supplying bags and stationeries to 400 children. He meets with beneficiaries to understand their needs and challenges, visit project sites, interact with community and health evaluate the impact of the programs.

Dr. Mary Matthew met with beneficiaries in the community to understand their needs and challenges.









Volunteer's Page

Meera at Seb's Projects



I studied at the University of Nottingham and graduated as a doctor this year. For my medical elective I chose to visit South India to gain an appreciation of the inequalities in Vellore. Before my visit I ran the London Marathon with a goal of raising 3000 pounds for those who are less fortunate in India. I then donated this money to The Sebastian Hunter Memorial Trust Foundation in Vellore.

Throughout my two weeks, I had the privilege of overseeing and participating in some of the Sebastian Hunter Projects. This experience was eye-opening and deeply impactful as it exposed me to the harsh realities of homelessness, poverty, education, and healthcare in Vellore.





Ovidi Llorente in Seb's



I am writing these lines two days after visiting Seb's Project, a place that has come to mean so much to me. By a beautiful stroke of synchronicity, my visit coincided with the monthly meeting of the teachers from the schools involved in the project—nine schools in total. If I recall correctly, the last time I was here, there were only four schools. Seb's Project has opened doors to so many places where a simple smile can make a world of difference. It has provided me with countless opportunities to bring joy and laughter as a clown, connecting with children and communities that truly need a moment of lightness and joy. Through these experiences, my compassion has blossomed, and I have learned that a smile, though small, can be incredibly powerful. I am profoundly grateful for the teachings and insights I have gained from being part of Seb's Project. These experiences have not only deepened my understanding of the world around me but have also strengthened my faith in the transformative power of kindness and community, which I try to bring in my daily work back in Spain as a theatre artist. As I see Seb's Project continue to grow and expand with new initiatives, my hope and belief in its mission only grow stronger. Thank you for creating this space of love and compassion. Your vision is changing lives, and it is a privilege to witness and be a part of this journey.

Sports Activites











Sebs School Kitchen Garden





Artwork





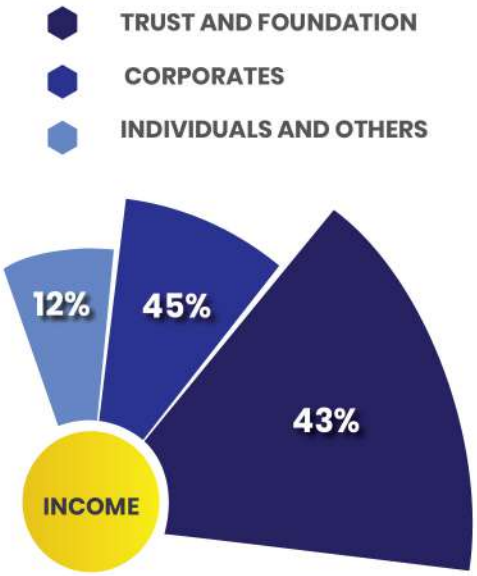
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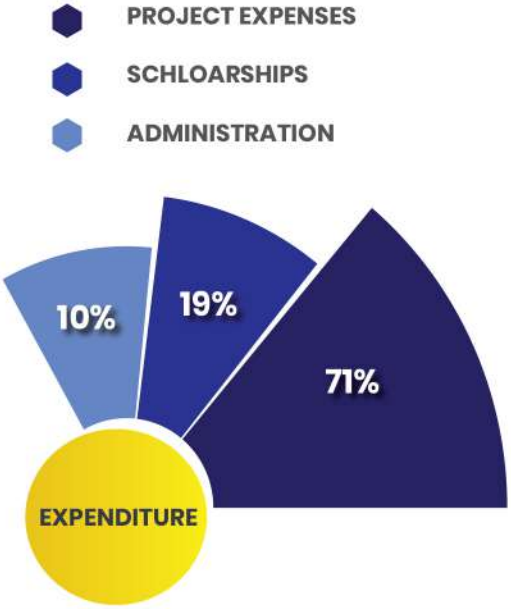
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The District Health Department
The District Forest Department
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CMC
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Geir Berge
Suhaila Aslavi
Rev. Sarah Lloyd
Belgravia Gallery
Laura and Adam Walford
Charles Armstrong
Julie Phillips
Anup and Gerri
East House, Cranleigh School
Brearley family
Angela Willcocks
Jane Thomson
Tash Heyson
Natalie and James Dodsworth
John Hulme
Tharyan Koshi
Sarah Tharyan
Sarah and Jesse
Meera Kumar

Linda Farley and Patrick
Iain and Fiona Allan
Saramma and Ian Sargeant
Jose Kochiyil
Neema and Sheron Koshy
Nisha and John Varghese
Vinod and Asha Nehemiah
Susheela and Deepa koshi
Anney and Nesakumar Joseph
Mary and Kurien Thomas
Dhaya and Selvakumar
Nithya and Ashwatha Naik
Thambu Sudarsanam
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Rita Schabel
Paul Singh
Gabreil Karthik
Bob and Indu Shah
Devamani Pandian and Deepak Selvaraj
Mary and Mohan Mathew
Vellore Educational and Charitable Trust
Sandhya and Sekar Vishwanathan
EVR Electricals
Ruby,Ash,Raftery



Finance





Income : ₹ 1,40,63,166

Expenditure : ₹ 1, 33, 76,913





SEBASTIAN HUNTER MEMORIAL SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT TRUST

No. 6, 10th East Cross Road, Gandhi Nagar, Vellore, 632 006, Tamil Nadu, India.

0091 9843042695

emma.koshi@gmail.com

www.sebsprojectsindia.org