



Green Tara
Foundation



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Director Messages

The girl child is precious at GTF(). It is my dream to empower children and Girl children specifically. Our work is to connect and support the community to become self-reliant and mindful.

I read the following in a friend's website which I like to share,

The attitude of men of looking at women – as a sex doll-and-child-bearing instrument that can be used at any time, as an unquestioning servant doing all kind of work both inside and outside for which she does not have to be paid a farthing, as a cushion that can be beaten up, crushed and even strangled to vent out any kind of anger – has not changed. Society has delegated the girls the responsibility of maintaining the 'honour' of the family, so the girl becomes the victim in case of enmity between families. Strangely a boy from the same family can do anything, irrespective of what the society approves and what it does not.

The society must understand that women are complete human beings who should not be treated as objects to be devoured for satisfying the lust of men. So many activities need to be taken up in order to motivate and empower women, both socially and economically, so that they can raise their voice against all injustice meted out to them and also to gain control over the decisions made within the family as well as in the world outside. We are proud that members of (Women's Groups) who have to struggle day in and day out to earn their living, and those of the (Adolescent's Groups), whose parents happen to be at the lowest rung of the society, have taken up the cudgel to take this movement forward and to carve out a space in this society for women where they can move freely, talk freely, laugh freely without being snubbed.

What I read about violence disturbs me and the resilience I see in girls , gives me the motivation to bring awareness about gender justice in our society. The trainings by GTF therefore aim at Gender Justice and community empowerment.

I am thankful to all of Donors and stake holders for the trust they have placed in Green Tara foundation. We welcome your support as experts, Donors, volunteer and well-wishers Together we can create a sustainable world and protect our earth from degradation

We express our Heart felt Thanks to Our Esteemed Donors without whose collaboration and support GTF could not have achieved her dreams

Karuna Trust UK

Karuna Germany

Smile Foundation Del

Special Thank To

Pune Police

Pune Judiciary

Various School of Pune

Child Right NGO

Women's Group

Community Leaders

Parents of Children

Teacher

Corporate

Volunteers

And well wishes

Staff Of GTF

Vision and Mission

Vision: creating a society where the Dalit Girls and Women are no longer discriminated, oppressed and can be main stream girls just like everyone, establishing a casteless; violence free society where Dalit women will enjoy equal rights and dignity.

Mission: Empower and help Dalit Women and Girls.to help themselves to fight for their rights.

About GTF

Education is both the means as well as the end to a better life: the means because it empowers an individual to earn his/her livelihood and the end because it increases one's awareness on a range of issues – from healthcare to appropriate social behavior to understanding one's rights – and in the process help him/her evolve as a better citizen.

Doubtless, education is the most powerful catalyst for social transformation. But child education cannot be done in isolation. A child will go to school only if the family, particularly the mother, is assured of healthcare and empowered.

Green Tara Foundation believes that unless members of the civil society are involved proactively in the process of development, sustainable change will not happen. Following this model of Civic Driven Change, green Tara Foundation sensitizes and engages the civil society, making it an active partner in all its welfare initiatives.

Green Tara Foundation (GTF) has been working in 4 slums at Pune city covering around 100000 populations since its formation in the year, 2010. Adolescent Girls-Groups have been formed; trainings have been giving on reproductive health, hygiene & their rights, awareness generation for the people that have not been covered under the groups. Major focus of awareness is the admission and retention of girls in school. For enhancing the income of the women and girl-children, vocational training programmer have also been conducting on Tailoring, Computer Operation, Spoken English and placement of the trained girls and women in different concerns in order to protect them from their caste based occupations like, sweeper, scavenger, cobbler, agriculture Laboure's etc. as these occupations are highly derogatory in the society.

Since the overall condition of slums is unhealthy, hence, activities have been initiated for the improvement of slum environment in collaboration with the civic bodies. Besides awareness, services are also being rendered like mobile health clinic.

For prevention of child marriage, awareness programmes are held in association with the authorities like Police, Child Lines etc. Atrocities on girls and women are very much high, therefore, awareness generation on Rights of Dalits and the relevant Laws for the protection of their interest has been organizing in order to make them aware on the special protection act from violence by higher caste and also about the service providers.

Legal Aid Services have been provided. Right now, 5 cases are continuing in court, counselling is going on for 50 cases for their out of court settlement.

Green Tara foundation has formed 25 girls groups and 26 women groups. GTF is continuously trying to build up capacity of these group members.

The most important task of the organisation is the protection Dalit girls and women as the Dalits never come out from their cast based occupations even after their migration to cities from native lands. Dalits girls and women are much more susceptible to the victims of different forms of atrocities as they lack to have support from anyone else in their new unknown settlements in the cities.

During its journey in the preceding 8 years, Green Tara Foundation has brought opportunity to 1315 girls and women for leading a dignified life, get 780 Dalit-children in formal school after getting them prepared and regular follow-up has been continuing and other measures like child marriage, child labourer, atrocities etc. have been taken for reducing dropout rate among them. 72 children have been trained in different vocations like tailoring, computer operation, spoken English etc. A few of them have got service in some concerns and the rest have become self-employed. Marvellous success of the initiatives have made them to come out from their involvement in age-old in-dignified occupations such as scavenging , cobbling, sweeping and roadside shoe repairing and polishing etc. after being settled in cities since they remained illiterate and ignorant due to dominance of upper caste people and proceeding towards a better life at present.

A net work has been developed among them in order to protect their interest from any adverse circumstance so as to provide instant support to them as they face trouble if their identity becomes disclosed at the work place.

Women groups have been constantly fighting against the atrocities being faced by the girls and women both at home and in the community as well. So, they are main strength of GTF.

There are so many Dalit movements in Maharashtra nevertheless, so many incidents related to atrocities on Dalit girls and women and these incidents have been the headlines of Newspapers. Confronting with these adverse situations by the GTF team has made them to beget a team comprising experienced and committed persons.

GTF has also succeeded to develop a healthy relation with the stakeholders like police, Govt. Administration and few Dalit Lawyers etc. Dr.Mune has been awarded ONE HUNDRED WOMEN AWARD, the link is <https://oneworldaction.wordpress.com/100-unseen-powerful-women/public-service/dr-manda-mune/>

Background

In 2007, Dr Mune founded Green Tara Foundation with the help of some friends. After being a medical doctor it was a big change in her life, and the support of her close friends was vital to the project. As a child Dr Mune had to fight for her education and equality. She moved around from relative to relative after her mother died, until gaining a place in a hostel. Dr Mune has first-hand experience with these issues, helping her connect with and support the girls she works with every day. Along with her team of dedicated women, she continues to empower girls from the slums of Vishrantwadi, Pune. In 2007, the first GTF community met under a tree, learning key skills like sewing and button stitching, along with health and nutrition awareness. The location kept changing as there was not a set place to have a meeting. Despite location challenges, the programme got very positive feedback from the girls and soon began to grow and grow. These successes brought the government funding which was vital to the continuation of the project. All the girls who were part of the first GTF community have now grown up.

Our project areas and outreach

- Shanti Nagar
- Rajiv Gandhi Nagar
- Sanjay Park
- Panchasil Nagar
- Ekata Nagar

Our Programmes

Youth development programme

- Personality development
- Communication development
- Basic computer skills
- Spoken English Course
- Sewing course
- Fashion Design
- Beauty, Health and culture

Gender Sensitivity Programme

- Gender awareness for boys
- Adolescent girls programme
- Reproductive health education
- Education Programme
- Support class
- Life Skill Training classes
- Mobile Library Facility

Health Awareness programme

- Nutrition classes
- Basic health and hygiene

Women empowerment programme

- Pre-marriage counselling
- Family concealing
- Gender awareness
- Legal aid and awareness

Girls speak : CASE STUDIES

- Highlight /group photo

Case studies

Amruta Gadhe

Age: 11 years old

Father name: Late Jamati Gadhe

Mother's name: Sangeeta Gadhe

Grandmother's occupation: Househelper

Grandfathers occupation: Watchman

She stays with her grandmother (nani) after her father passed away.

Before joining Green Tara classes, my friends used to tell me to attend at least one session with them but I always used to avoid it. One day after much persuasion I decided to attend one class and it was so interesting. I decided to attend the classes more often. After joining the classes I learnt to read and write. Additionally, I learnt to talk confidently and voice my opinion. Nirmala madam or any other madam would interact with us and explain to us the bad effects of early/child marriage.

We also conducted a street play to explain the ill effects of child marriage in our area. I also learnt that housework is not only limited to girls, even boys can do it and this is nothing to be ashamed of. I was taught that if your relatives are forcing you into child marriage to speak to your mother and if she is helpless then Green Tara Foundation will always be by your side and help you fight against it.

I also educated my family members about throwing garbage in and around the house as it will only lead to spreading of diseases. I also told them that as girls we too have the right to go out and experience life just as boys can because boys and girls have the equal rights to grow and learn.

Pradnya Waghmare

Age: 12 years old

Father's name: Gautam Waghmare

Father's occupation: Construcion worker

Mother's name: Vandana Waghmare

Mother's occupation: Domestic helper

Prior to joining Green Tara classes, I was illiterate and was unable to use language to express myself with confidence. I had very low self-esteem and all my family members including my siblings used to be very unkind to me. One day after insistence from Nimala madam, she made me join Green Tara Foundation tuition classes, following this I have learnt to read and write with confidence. Due to this I am now able to speak out and voice my opinion and rights within the home and community.

During sessions with Green Tara Foundation we have organised a rally advocating cleanliness and prevention of early/child marriage. I now absolutely believe that girls should not be married below the permissible age. I am now so passionate about this subject that I have decided that in the future I want a career that will enable me to educate more girls about the harmful effects of child marriage, help society and raise awareness of women's issues.

Additionally, I have learnt that as girls we too have the right to learn and grow, and this is not something that should be only limited to boys. My parents think that because I am a girl I cannot be educated and become a doctor, now because of Green Tara Foundation I want to change their thinking. I want to prove to them that I am entitled to education and freedom to become and be whatever I want.

Roshni Arun Waghmare

Age: 13 years old

Father's name: Arun Waghmare

Father's occupation: Labourer

Mother's name: Sujata Waghmare

Mother's occupation: Housekeeping

I am an only child to my parents who are both labourers and often work until very late at night. Before joining Green Tara Foundation classes I used to be alone at night, roaming around outside in the community. Nirmala Tai from Green Tara insisted I attended classes but I never was interested. One day a friend of mine told me that the teachers conducting lectures, were very interesting and inspiring. Due to this I decided to attend a class and was in awe by the teachings and the manner in which the class was conducted. It was fun and after her class I took a keen interest in attending future sessions.

After regularly attending classes I have matured a lot and have started being more cautious about my surroundings. I now understand about physical boundaries and am able to speak up if I feel it's inappropriate. I now know if someone tries to physically exploit me that I have to start yelling to ask for help or immediately call 1098 and inform the police.

I have also started spreading awareness amongst my friends about the ill effects of child marriage. If we see any family forcing a girl to get married below permissible age, we go to the family and inform them about the ill effects of it. Following this we will also inform Green Tara Foundation for their support.

I have also learnt the importance of cleanliness and hygiene. I have started to spread awareness about maintaining cleanliness in and around my house. If someone spits on the wall or on the road, I tell them that this will lead to spreading of diseases and eventually many of us may fall ill.

Due to Green Tara Foundation I now understand that girls and boys both have the right to equal education and both have the right to choose any job and should have equal access to career opportunities.

After attending classes regularly, I have become more emotionally mature and stable, I no longer engage in unnecessary quarrels. I am now passionate about empowering and educating myself to become a better and more influential human being.

Sameena Naseen Shaikh

Age: 11 years old

Father's name: Naseer Sheikh

Father's occupation: Rickshaw Driver

Mother's name: Fatima Sheikh

Mother's occupation: Housewife

Brother's occupation: Vehicles
maintenance

I come from a very narrow-minded family where I am not allowed to step outside my house. My brother and my father did not allow me to educate myself. A madam from Green Tara came to my mother and strongly encouraged her to allow me to join the classes. She agreed and today I regularly go to classes despite my grandmother being against it.

After joining the classes I can now read, write and speak with confidence. I now have the courage to stand up for myself by telling my brother that although it may be Indian culture for girls to do all domestic and other work for boys, I will no longer do this and he does not have the right to order me around as I am his equal. I explained to him, that even though I am a girl I have the right to learn and educate myself. Eventually, he agreed and is now very supportive of my education as he can see it is best for my future.

At Green Tara we have been taught about the detrimental effects of child marriage and the existing laws that prohibit it and can help us fight against it. Although my sister was young when she got married, following my sessions with Green Tara I have decided to wait till I am ready and it is permissible for my own marriage.

Additionally, I have taken part in a Green Tara Foundation rally that educates and spreads awareness about environmental cleanliness and the reduction of water and natural resources wastage. I have made my family become more aware of wasting water by turning off taps, stopping the overflowing of water and the importance of keeping our surrounding environment clean and hygienic to reduce spreading illness within our family and community

Swastika Shankar Hande

Age: 12 years old

Father's name: Shankar Hande

Father's occupation: Driver

Mother's name: Sujata Hande

Mother's occupation: Garbage collector

Green Tara has changed my life in such a positive way. I was a very shy girl and used to only stay at home, I was uninterested by education and my future. Following attending a meeting conducted by Green Tara in my slum I had a beautiful and life changing experience.

After the meeting I registered myself for the classes conducted by Green Tara. They were so interactive and have taught me a variety of invaluable things. I have been taught about the detrimental effects of early/child marriage on physical, mental and social wellbeing. I was informed about the laws pertaining to these marriages and how even the police can help you out of a situation like this.

I started attending school regularly and also the meeting conducted by Green Tara. I have learnt the importance of keeping my surrounding environment clean and hygienic to reduce the spreading of bacteria and disease. I have spread this awareness to my family and wider community.

They have also taught me about the importance of education and how girls and boys both have an equal right to get educated and grow in life. Green Tara has helped me grow vastly in life and I am looking forward to becoming more educated, empowered and independent in my future.

Vaishali Rohidas Shinde

Age: 14 years old

Father: Rohidas Shinde

Father's occupation: Garbage collector

Mother: Sheila Shinde

Mother's occupation: Housewife

Siblings: Two sisters and one brother

Before attending Green Tara classes, I was very timid and used to fear talking to anybody. I was very scared to speak to my mother, father and also my elder sister. Both my sisters got married at a very young age and I used to think this was acceptable before engaging with Green Tara Foundation. After learning about the detrimental physical, social and emotional effects of child marriage from Green Tara I regularly spread this among my family and friends. Following this my parents too now object to early marriage and will now take a stand if someone forces their child to get married at an early age

Additionally, surrounding my house there is a lot of waste from shops and rubbish gathered there. Green Tara has educated me on the importance of cleanliness and hygiene in the home and wider community. Also, around my house there are lots of fights, often there are many boys teasing and harassing girls. This used to frighten my very much and because of this fear I stopped attending school and stayed at home.

Post all this I joined Green Tara group classes and I loved it from the very first day. I was spoken to with respect and empathy, here my opinion mattered. I was taught to recognise and deal with my emotions in a healthy and communicative way. I can speak from my heart and feel as though my voice is heard and valued. I felt my confidence grew in heaps and bonds. Due to this I felt so empowered that even at home I could speak my mind and make my own decisions. I was no longer the shy timid girl that I used to be. I voiced my opinions about my rights to be educated and began attending classes regularly. Green Tara has helped me grow to be a better, more confident person and I am very thankful to them for giving me this chance.

Good Practices

Karuna Project

Major Achievements:

Parents are thought process is like girls are not their roti makers in future, so they are reluctant to help girls

Achievements in the past:

The Government officials and politicians have played a vital role in helping to implement the GTF's various projects.

They have invited GTF to a nationwide consultation that aims to create policies that ensure the safety of women and children. Additionally, they have included GTF as an NGO representative from visharantwadi local police station committee for women and girl's safety. Elected politicians also invited GTF to talk on children's abuse in private schools where GTF had not previously worked.

With the support of elected politicians GTF assisted in one of the schools by building 10 toilets where previously there were only two. Following this, GTF has developed an excellent rapport with the school's head mistress and teachers and continues to work alongside them to great success. The school management committee has now included GTF as an SMC member.

We have brought in a lot of intellectuals and foresighted people to help us with the implementation of the project. The police, elected political people and also the mayor have played an important role in motivating the parents and their children. The staff and trustees at Green Tara have also played a huge role in formatting and implementing the policies. Now we have two successful policies that are running without major glitches. Also, overall till date we have seen a beautiful change in the thinking process of parents towards their female children's education.

Marriages of three girls from nomadic communities have been stopped, two out of three girls were from 9th standard and 1 girl was illiterate. The girls group noticed these marriages were taking place, so they informed GTF and GTF met families and did counselling, the parents didn't listen to GTF, so GTF contacted police and the police took in written that the parents won't marry their girls before they complete 18 years of age.

225 girls have been aggressive enough to resist pressure of parents against their basic rights and they demand for their basic rights, which help them complete their education.

Other Projects

Maitri Project

Smile Project:-

Needful Girls

Trainings

- Leadership training for girls
- Police training in POCSO and child rights
- Judiciary training
- Training of other NGOs in prevention of child sexual Abuse.
- Training of Anganwadi teachers

Financial report

GTF And You

GTF working and staff are Financed solely by Donations, in kind contribution.

- ✓ **Donate a sum of money for GTF general fund.**
- ✓ **Donation a sum of Money for a specific purpose or project.**
- ✓ **Sponsor event like summer Camp, children's Day. Women's Day, Senior Citizen's Day.**
- ✓ **Sponsor Equipment GTF Is in Need of.**
- ✓ **Donate working Hours.**
- ✓ **Every donation is Highly welcome and urgently needed.**

Bank Details

Bank Name - Punjab National Bank

Survey no - 164/2-B, Plot No - 36

Adarsh col - 411032

Account Number - 1783000103054712

Account Name - Green Tara foundation

IFSC code - PUNB0178300 MICR code - 411024010

SWIFT Code - PNBIMBBPUC

Please verify Our Bank details before proceding donation

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