



## **Mid-Year Report**

# **Changing The Script of Young People in India**

**April to September 2015**

## The Journey So far...

Dhanraj sold water cans while pursuing his ITI diploma in electronics and communication to pay for his course fees and his father's dialysis bills. Son of a construction worker, Keerthi worked as a newspaper distributor in the morning and salesperson at eateries in the evening so that he could support his family.

Today, both of them are pursuing a year-long community college program in the US with support from the Department of State, US Consulate in India. Both of them are graduates from Dream a Dream's innovative Life Skills Program and are Changing The Script of their lives.

Our Dream Rugby team continues to inspire us. Recently, they won the KRFU Touch Me Not Rugby League for the second consecutive year and 6 of the boys got selected for the Karnataka Rugby Team to represent at the National Tournament. In spite of immense personal challenges, they are using the Life Skills learnt to overcome adversity and succeed in life.

Our Young People are our role models and they inspire us to push on with "Re-Imagine Learning" for every child in India. This year, Dream a Dream is at the last year of its 3-year strategic planning cycle. So the year has been about growth as well as preparing ourselves for the next stage of scale.

While we have been surging ahead on achieving the goals for the year, we have also been laying the foundation for the next phase of growth for the organization. In order to scale the impact of our work to the next level, we are streamlining our data management processes, bringing in a structured learning and development strategy for the development of all our staff, strengthening our financial management systems, investing in building a Research & Development practice and consolidating our brand messaging.

### Key Highlights:

- 5557 young people engaging in After School Life Skills Program
- 3059 young people impacted through Career Connect Program
- 135 Scholarships Awarded
- 278 new teachers / NGO workers trained in our Life Skills Approach impacting over 30,000 young people across 12 Districts
- Over 100,000 young people impacted across Karnataka, Delhi, Mumbai and Gujarat now
- 585 Volunteers engaged clocking over 12,900 hours
- 86 new Mentor Relationships
- 79 Member Dream Team

# What made us Happy!



A 5-year association with Dell International Services continues with a grant of **\$ 207,708** including products to support the Career Connect Program



Ashirvadam Trust, started by Ashok Soota and Davis Karedan supports 15 Dream graduates with Long-Term Scholarships to pursue higher education

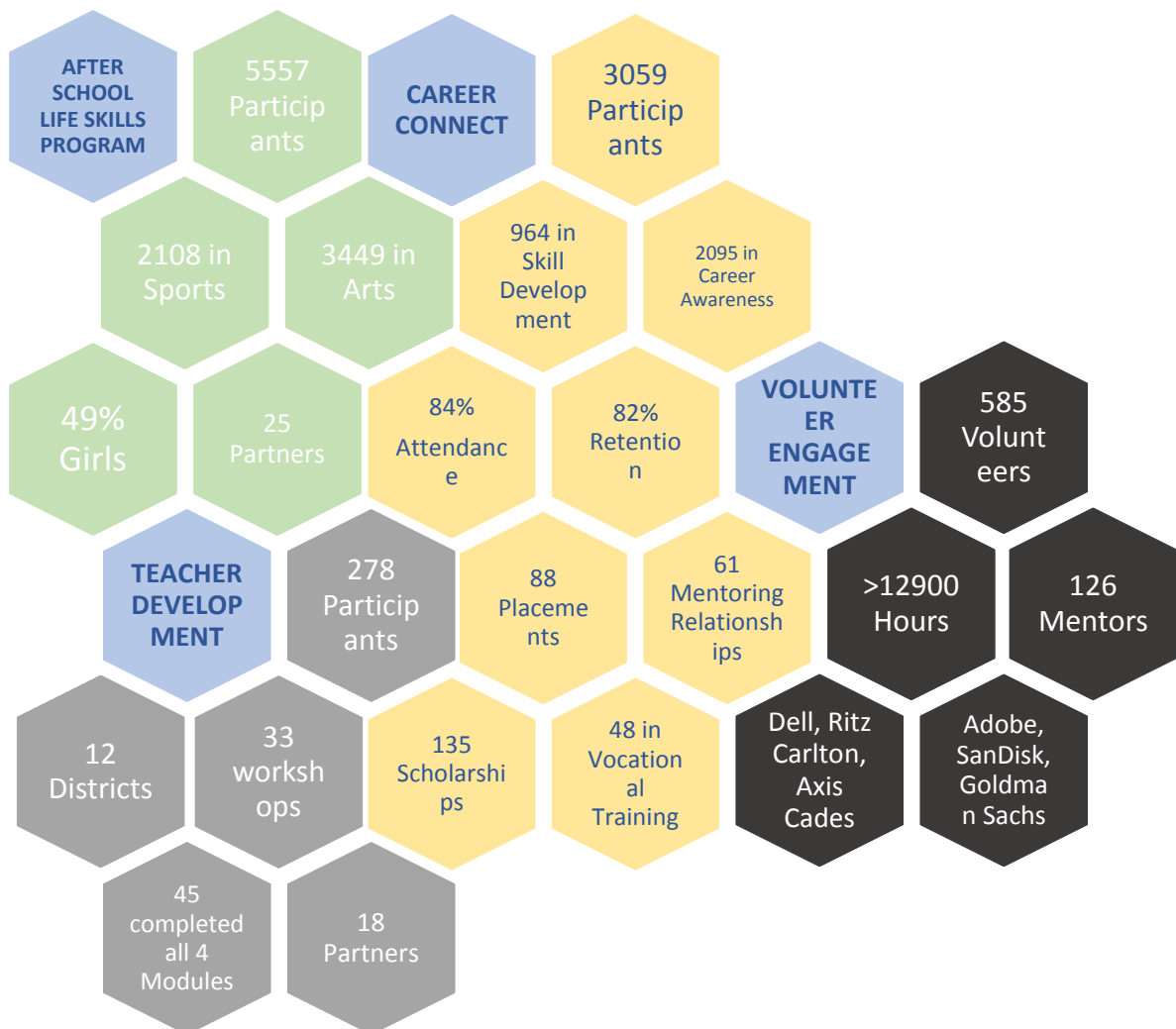


3 employees from SAP engage in a 6-week Probono experience with Dream helping improve our Monitoring Systems and build efficiencies into the partnership management process



US Consul General, Philip A Min visited and addressed young people at Career Connect and advised them to maintain high self-esteem and confidence to deal with the challenges in life

# Program Highlights



# Stephen discovers the Power of Empathy

Stephen is a 13 year old young person, studying in 8th Std. He lives with his parents, elder sister and an elder brother. His father works as a painter & mother is a housemaid. His sister and brother are studying in 1st year Pre-University College. At the time of the story (January 2015) Stephen had been a part of the After School Life Skills Program for 3 years. He is from Annaswamy School, a school run by Annaswamy Mudaliyar which has partnered with Dream a Dream since 2010.

The story is told by Ramesh, Life skills through Sports Facilitator at Dream a Dream.

Stephen's teachers and classmates complain that he is very hyperactive in his class and prone to teasing and disturbing his classmates. I also noticed that Stephen had a lot of energy, was supportive of his friends in crisis and was intelligent. However, when someone disagreed with him, he would react with anger and aggression.

In the Life Skills Approach to learning, we are aware that when children experience neglect or lack of love and care, they are unable to respond to situations with appropriate emotions, what we call – Confused Emotions. When you expect a child to be happy, they may cry, or perhaps start laughing at a very sad time. I understood that this is what Stephen was going through - whenever his friends disagreed with his idea he reacted with anger and started hurting them. However, he continued to seek friends and support them through crisis.

Acceptance is the first step to behaviour change. I could relate some of Stephen's behaviour to my own life experiences as a child. I decided to share my own life experiences. Once, I was taking a session around "Resilience" and used this as an opportunity to share about my own childhood - my anger, my naughtiness, how I got beaten up by my parents & teachers, and why I was not listening to others. This left a deep impact on the group.

A week later at the end of the session, Stephen came to me and said *"Coach I want to talk to you". Yes!!* That was the moment that I was waiting for. He said *"Today I felt very sad because in class I got beaten up by my teacher for being late, I used foul language on one of my friend and also my mother scolded me because I was adamant when she refused something that I asked her."* He continued saying that he always gets scolded by his siblings and parents and that in school nobody listens to him. At home he feels he is ignored by everyone with absolutely no understanding.

As I heard him, I understood more about him. Stephen needed attention, listening and understanding which he was not getting from anyone. This was the reason that Stephen was angry and frustrated (confused emotion). I listened to him completely with my full attention and told him to share freely with me anytime whenever he needs. It was a moment for me to build trust with him so he can come to me any time without hesitation and fear.

Since that day, Stephen is challenging himself to control and manage his anger, trying to share his feelings in group. I continue to support him and this is helping him develop the skills of managing his emotions appropriately. If Stephen continues to receive a safe space filled with care and empathy, I believe he will be able to overcome the damage caused due to neglect and be back on track on the path of normal development.

Today, Stephen proudly shares, *"Every week I come to football session because, I am getting lots of opportunities to learn many skills. In these football sessions I am not only learning football, but we share our feelings and views with each other. I get a lot of freedom to play, and to express myself. The facilitator listens to me, encourages and supports me"*.

# Our Supporters



## Financial Highlights: *EXPENDITURE: APRIL – SEPTEMBER 2015*

Particulars	Amount (INR)	%age
Core Programs	1,36,20,919.00	73%
Operations	32,18,288.00	17%
Fundraising & Communications	14,93,368.00	8%
Capital Assets	3,81,025.00	2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,87,13,600.00</b>	<b>100%</b>

## The Road Ahead

Over the next 6 months we aim to realize our goals of directly impacting 5500 children in the After School Life Skills Program using the mediums of Sports and Creative arts. In the Career Connect Program we are on course to engage over 1600 young people in the age group of 14-19 years in the Skill Development program and provide Career Awareness sessions to 3400 young people. We also aim to empower 1000 teachers/educators/youth workers in integrating and using the Life Skills Approach indirectly impacting over 100,000 children and young people. We aim to have our 2020 strategic direction in place and we are excited to share the same with you. We are also excited to be hosting our 2<sup>nd</sup> Change The Script Conference on 8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> January 2016. You can watch some of the highlights of last year's conference here - <http://dreamadream.org/the-urgency/item/213-change-the-script-2015>

Thank you for your continued support.

## In the News

- Vishal Talreja, CEO shares Dream a Dream's work at TEDx IIM Ahmedabad - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J7TdNUvma\\_0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J7TdNUvma_0)
- Abukar Adan, a summer intern at Dream a Dream, has penned a moving open letter to one of his former teachers - [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/abukar-adan-/an-open-letter-to-the-wom\\_5\\_b\\_7746446.html?ir=India&adsSiteOverride=in](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/abukar-adan-/an-open-letter-to-the-wom_5_b_7746446.html?ir=India&adsSiteOverride=in)
- Two Dream Graduates on a US Scholarship - <http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/bangalore/two-from-city-off-to-us-on-full-scholarship/article7397052.ece?ref=tpnews>
- Dream a Dream receives Global Recognition as a Champion in Learning through Play - <http://businesswireindia.com/news/news-details/dream-dream-receives-global-recognition-as-champion-learning-through-p/43564>
- Vishal Talreja, CEO talks about Dream a Dream's approach at 2015 Lego Idea Conference - <https://vimeo.com/125091675#t=37m55s>
- Teacher Nourished, Not Teacher Proof - [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/christine-nasserghodsi/teacher-nourished-not-tea\\_b\\_7068858.html?utm\\_hp\\_ref=education&ir=Education](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/christine-nasserghodsi/teacher-nourished-not-tea_b_7068858.html?utm_hp_ref=education&ir=Education)



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