

Blossom Projects 2021 Annual Report

Dear Blossom Friends and Supporters,

We're excited to share how far we've come with your support and encouragement! The COVID-19 pandemic hit Kerala [particularly hard](#). Now over two years into the pandemic, we can reflect and share that our students have demonstrated resilience, progress, and success despite the odds, and continue to inspire why we do what we do. Here are some highlights from 2021.



COVID challenges exacerbated for marginalized students

Upon returning to their villages due to COVID, our students struggled to adjust to numerous challenges: the loss of their community of peers and teachers, parents and families losing their jobs, tenuous living situations, and the fear of disease and death. They also had to adjust to a new learning reality—that of online education. A few months into the pandemic, the Kerala Government had switched public, classroom education to an online platform. No allowances were made to address the needs of the vulnerable, marginalized communities our students belong to. Their access to state-run TV programming in villages and remote areas was limited. There was limited internet connectivity or access to smartphones. Many students didn't have electricity in their homes or a dedicated space to focus on learning. Our students were now facing even more of a harsh reality—that of losing their contact with education.



Putting technology in the hands of students

Through the support of Kerala- and US-based supporters, we were able to equip our students with used or new smart phones. It is in times of adversity and crisis, that the true human spirit emerges. Our students formed learning groups on WhatsApp and started studying. We continued our online education from 10 am to 4 pm to follow the state online program. This continued through 2021.

Our student volunteer Veyna Karanth in the US ran a Facebook fundraiser in September 2021 and raised funds for laptops for our students. We are so grateful for her dedication to our cause.

Reopening our hostels in 2021

Many students reached out and asked to return to our hostels. In January 2021 we reopened our hostels and welcomed students back. Both girls and boys stayed in gender-specific hostels and attended online classes with their phones as well as Blossom laptops. We provide reliable internet, good Wi-Fi connectivity, and a warm supportive environment for their success. Students began to thrive again with three nutritious meals a day, meditation, and peer support.

Tailoring our program to the new reality

Our pilot batch of 10+1 students transitioned into their final year of high school. They began to prepare to take their final examination in March/April 2021. In parallel, a cohort of our second batch of 10+1 students began to prepare for their first-year final examination.

Through online teaching, and 1:1 personalized coaching, students prepared diligently for their state examinations. A few highlights:

- Every Sunday, eight teachers met for several hours to evaluate each student's progress, develop a strategy for students' education, and define a learning plan
- Extra coaching in six subjects was conducted through online WhatsApp groups by five teachers
- With the examination approaching, and using all COVID-19 protocols, we transitioned all online classes to in-person instruction

- Typically, July is when we start our new batch of students. Due to the frequent lockdowns and the COVID uncertainty, we decided to pause new admissions until July 2022



Despite all precautions, 13 students in the hostels tested positive. They were shifted to quarantine centers. They all recovered but by then the pandemic again forced us to move our classes online.

Our student's incredible success, despite the odds

We couldn't have asked for more: despite all the pandemic difficulties, all nine students in our first batch of the 10+2 program passed the state exams—a 100% success rate!

We had a small celebration and farewell ceremony in April 2021. Their smiles say it all!

We continued to work with our second batch of 10+2 students with teachers working hard to prepare our students to take their final examinations.



Financial Report for 2021

We raised \$17K in donations during CY2021. Thank you for your support. Here is Blossom Project's financial report as of December 31st, 2021.

Blossom Projects Statement of Activity January - December 2021	
	2021 Total
Donations	
Donations	\$ 17,729
Total Donations	\$ 17,729
Expenditures	
Bank Charges & Fees	\$ 83
Program Expenses	\$ 18,355
Office Supplies & Software	\$ 75
Other Business Expenses	\$ 366
Paypal Service Fees	\$ 84
Total Expenditures	\$ 18,962
Net Operating Revenue	\$ (1,233)
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News from the Board

In August 2021, our Founder Dr. Dayamudra Dennehy retired. We cannot thank her enough for setting the great foundation for the work we do. We wish her well on the next chapter in her service. With her retirement, our previously named non-profit changed its official name from Jai Bhim International to Blossom Projects. We believe this name captures beautifully how our students blossom into confident and engaged learners.

It was also a year of transition for the board. We brought on a new Board Member, Chithra Rajgopalan as the Treasurer. We are lucky to have her on board. In addition, we invited Eric Lopez and Daniel Tuba D'Souza to join us as Strategic Advisors. Starting in August 2021, the Blossom Team went through a series of strategy sessions to revisit, reignite, and inspire us all around our vision and mission. We identified our strategic pillars: education, economic empowerment and entrepreneurship, health literacy and access, and program capacity planning.

We are going full steam in 2022 with reopening our programs to full capacity! And we can't do that without your support and care.

With gratitude,

Pushpinder and Arun

Pushpinder Lubana (Board President) and Arun Boudh (Executive Director)

[Blossom Projects](#), 501(c)3 number #26-3130349

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