About NalandaWay

*Putting Art in Every Classroom*

NalandaWay Foundation uses visual and performing Arts to help children from disadvantaged communities in India. Our endeavor is to improve learning abilities, reinforce positive behavior and help children soar high by enabling them to be creative and express through Arts.

Founded in 2005, NalandaWay has been helping children raise their voices and issues through theatre, visual arts, music, dance, radio and films. This here is a look at all our projects through the years.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No</th>
<th>Projects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>Art in Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td>Art Labs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03</td>
<td>NalandaWay Scholars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04</td>
<td>Project Hope</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05</td>
<td>Art for Well-being</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06</td>
<td>Take It Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07</td>
<td>Ready Joot!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08</td>
<td>Chennai Children’s Choir</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09</td>
<td>Delhi Children’s Choir</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Fundango</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Gutar Goo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Art for Healing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Kannavu Pattarai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Children’s Media Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>“Shout It Out” – Music Album</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Children &amp; Youth Radio Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Art, Arattai, Aarpattam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Theatre Productions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Percussion Band in Ongole</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Youth Speak Summit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Murals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Awards</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Art in Education
Where we make learning a joyful experience

N alandaWay’s Art in Education (AIE) programme empowers teachers to create a joyful learning experience for children. It trains teachers to expand upon the creativity of their students by integrating fine arts, music, drama and theatre exercises in teaching. The programme helps in engaging children better in classrooms, thus reducing absenteeism and drop-out rates. Our Art in Education curriculum has been introduced in more than 150 schools across Chennai, Delhi, Gurugram and Coimbatore, where our mentors work with students from standards I to V.

Numbers for 2019-2020
Classrooms we work in: 963
Teachers we mentor: 904
Students we inspire: 28,353
Art projects our students made: 3,515
Paint brushes we bought: 21,781
Math workbooks we printed: 7,820
Programme started in the year: 2,013

With the help of education experts from around the world we have designed an age appropriate art curriculum that aligns with the state board syllabus. The curriculum consists of Art Cards and Art Projects.

Every term the teachers are expected to facilitate classes using at least five art cards. These Art cards contain instructions, pictures and notes for teachers. We also provide art materials and mentorship to teachers and students.

Children learn by doing. For example first standard students who are learning about parts of a plant - learn to draw the trunk of a tree using the letters Y and V. They then make leaves using finger prints. They also learn about odd and even numbers - “Which branch has odd number of leaves - which branch has even number of leaves?”.

Through art children learn concepts as diverse as concentric circles, Venn diagrams, different type of buildings, aquatic and terrestrial animals, conservation, dialogue writing and much more. The Nalandaway art classes are so popular that kids wait for their mentors to visit them every week so that they can show them what they have done.
NalandaWay Art Labs are a special space for children, dedicated to the study, appreciation and experience of visual and performing arts. Our labs offer specialized courses to children from underprivileged backgrounds who show promise in fine arts, craft, music, dance, drama and media. The Art Labs seek to develop a sense of self and individuality, encourage self-expression and stimulate imagination among children through its arts-based programmes.

Art experiences offer children opportunities to think and feel as they explore, problem solve, express and interpret the world around them. Currently NalandaWay runs six art labs in Chennai, two in Coimbatore and two in Delhi impacting nearly 3,000 children.

At the Art Lab children get the opportunity to:

- Imaginatively explore, express and communicate ideas, feelings and experiences
- Critically reflect upon and find personal meaning by engaging the senses, feelings and imagination
- Develop confidence, communication, collaboration and creativity through arts
- Develop creative talents through spatial, rhythmic, visual and kinaesthetic awareness
- Expand life skills such as conflict resolution, negotiation and teamwork
- Acquire knowledge, skills and learning essential for success in further study of arts
- Participate in intra and inter school competitions, social events and functions and showcase their skills and talent

Numbers
- Number of sessions conducted in 2019-2020: 240
- Photography camps: 2
- Number of collaborative story books created: 5
This programme seeks to provide support to young girls from disadvantaged backgrounds to become confident young women who are emotionally and financially independent, through a long engagement of seven years, through their school and college education.

Process

The programme is designed to ensure multi-dimensional development - i.e. physical, mental, emotional, cognitive and livelihood. This would be through various interventions which would focus on developing their Knowledge, Attitude, Skills & Habits.

Several interactive, inspiring and fun sessions, comprising of art-learning sessions, group activities, inspiring discussions, talks by experts from the field of psychology, art therapy and leadership and community projects are part of the programme. We are mentoring 25 girls each in Chennai, Coimbatore and Delhi.

Our areas of focus would be building

- Resilience
- Empowerment
- Hope
- Inspiration
- Confidence
- Agency to make choices
The programme fosters hope, emotional resilience and joy in rural and urban underprivileged children. The aim is to develop their mental wellbeing and build resilience to effectively face the challenges in their lives. The programme will bring in trained professionals and a custom curriculum that fuses elements of visual and performing arts to bring about a positive transformation in school children in the age group of 5-11.

The programme builds institutional capacity by equipping peers, teachers and school leaders in nurturing the mental wellbeing of children. Parents of these children are oriented to provide an enabling environment at home. Counsellors work with children who need structured intervention and professional help. We tap into the guidelines of National Mental Health Programme and National Rural Health Mission of Tamil Nadu while working closely with the Tamil Nadu School Education Department in implementing this pioneering programme.

**Approach**

Direct engagement through schools and Peer-led community building for preventive mental health. Direct engagement is designed to bring awareness, knowledge, and skills into the Primary classroom for children to understand and secure their mental wellbeing while creating a space for them to bring up and resolve their social-emotional issues. However, in this particular impressionable age-group, adults and the environment play a critical role. Any direct intervention will have to be supported by work with the community in the two spaces that children primarily occupy - home and school - to create safe, nurturing spaces where children feel secure and happy, and their rights and well-being are safeguarded. Peer-led approaches have been successful across the world in varied contexts, with children supporting the learning of other children.

**Numbers from 2019-2020:**
No. of classrooms we have worked in: **136**
Total students we inspired: **3,937**
No. of Annas & Akkas (Standard 7) involved as our co-Facilitators **114** from 25 schools
No. of Teachers we work with: **50**
By the end of March 2020 it was apparent that the schools were not going to reopen anytime soon. The pandemic was causing anxiety, stress and boredom for parents and children who were unable to step outside, meet their friends or expend pent-up energy. The need of the hour were tools that would help parents and children to identify and overcome their fears and stress. Nalandaway published “Art for Wellbeing - A Parent’s Guide” to fill this void. The guides have age-specific art activities that will help children and their caregivers, regulate their emotions and also help them become empathetic. Nalandaway eventually released supporting videos on youtube to go with the activities.

Art for Well-being

Numbers:
- No. of downloads: 3,412
- No. of languages: 10
- No. of videos: 120

Activities included finger painting, making crafts with easily available material at home, journaling, answering questions that help you understand yourself better, music appreciation, reading books available online for free and then doing activities related to that and much more.

The Guides were translated into different languages including English, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Malay, Vietnamese, Italian, French, German and Bahasa Indonesia. Organisations like Viva Foundation in Singapore, included it as a part of their care package that went out to young cancer patients.
March 2020 brought with it Lockdowns and postponement of the 10th Standard board exams in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. In Tamil Nadu, 900,000 students who were to write the state board exams had no clarity about when the exams would be conducted, if at all. Out of these 620,000 students from poorer backgrounds study in government or aided schools.

Facing board exams has always been stressful. The pandemic added to their anxiety. Students were feeling overwhelmed. They were dealing with

- Lack of privacy and space at home
- Disruption in routine
- Anxiety and stress related to academics and low self-esteem
- Making time for themselves and others

The ‘Take It Easy’ project helped these teenagers destress through story and art-based activities. It was designed as a 30-day project that started on May 17th and ended on Jun 16th. Students gave a missed call to 9266617888. Using IVRS technology, an automated call was placed back to their mobile phones and the story of the day was played. Each story was under 6 minutes.

"It felt like they listened to me. They gave useful tips for exams, how to study, and how to write etc. I’ve called and listened to the program again and again - I really enjoyed it. I would have listened to each episode almost five times."

Girl, 15, Perambur

"I learnt a lot through the programme, mind relaxation... I also made notes, under each date, I wrote what was told in that episode. They talked about a lot of things... about child abuse, about helping others in the house, locus of control, about self respect. They also spoke about unity, not to fight with others... I remember this during fights, I feel relaxed."

Boy, 15, Pudukottai

Numbers:
- Total number of calls received during project period: 122,072
- Active Listeners: 32,748
- Voice note received from Children: 6,028

Some of the strategies used to foster mental well-being:

- Sketching
- Doodling
- Goal-Setting
- Writing poems and stories
- Relaxation
- Surya Namaskar
- Doing Random Acts of Kindness
- Journaling
- Positive Affirmations
Ready Joot! seeks to equip young adults with the knowledge and skills necessary for them to develop, orient, adapt and shape their attitudes through specific habits that help them approach higher education with positivity, purpose and passion.

1. **Purpose** is the sense of meaning one derives from engaging in something greater than oneself.

2. **Passion** is a personal pursuit or interest that fills one with joy, giving a sense of flow.

3. **Possibility** is a hopeful outlook towards one’s future that powers both passion and purpose.

The program will prepare them to be independent learners and thinkers while also participating in creative and collaborative efforts as significant contributors to society. Accordingly, the curriculum is designed as an adventure-kit that stocks all the essentials that are necessary for the eager and ambitious scholar to begin their new journey.

**Beneficiaries:**
- Boys: 4,714
- Girls: 5,978
- Total: 10,789 across all 35 districts of TN
Chennai Children’s Choir is a cherished initiative of NalandaWay that has children from the disadvantaged homes in Chennai forming a world class choir.

Our Choir comprises children between the ages 7 to 17. Our journey started in the summer of 2015 when we auditioned over 600 children from 250 government and trust run schools, and selected 60 kids to be part of this exclusive group. Six of our choir kids were visually challenged and two were special needs children. They met every Sunday at the Children’s Club to rehearse with Manjula Ponnapalli and Vedanth Bharadwaj. Since then the Choir has performed at different venues, won many hearts, and have had a video or two go viral.

CCC has successfully presented some experimental and popular compositions with classical and folk styles of Indian Music. The co-directors consciously choose children friendly songs which will bring great joy in learning and respect different musical cultures and philosophies. The repertoire includes 45 songs in different Indian languages by eminent poets with their respective schools of philosophies and thoughts. The popular compositions of Rabindranath Tagore, Subramanya Bharati, Meera Bai, Tyagaraja, Annamayya inspire appreciation of Indian classical music traditions and their beautiful musical nuances.
Delhi Children’s Choir

Delhi Children’s Choir (DCC) was formed in 2018 to replicate the success of Chennai Children’s Choir (CCC). Our experience with CCC confirmed our belief in the transformative power of music. Music by itself can inspire children to reach higher, but practicing and performing together as a group creates a bond and a sense of community that is unmatched.

While DCC was formed in the mould of CCC it has a personality all its own. A large part of their repertoire is inspired by Sufi and Qawwali traditions. Many of the songs refer to the history and heritage of Delhi.

DCC’s Highlights:

- Performed at the inauguration of Ford’s Happy School in Gurugram.
- Released a Music video, a mashup of two movie songs.
- Ilahi Mere and Paranne, that went viral: [https://bit.ly/3huN0il](https://bit.ly/3huN0il)
- I for India online concert: [https://bit.ly/3aYZwV6](https://bit.ly/3aYZwV6)
- Performed at the Arts4Good Forum held at the India Habitat Centre.
- Performed at the American Center during Tarang - Delhi International Queer Theater and Film Festival (DIQTFF)
- Recorded a song for Red FM on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanthi
Fundango

Fundango is a technology led educational service, which overcomes teaching-learning gaps in low resource classrooms through storytelling and creative projects thereby improving foundational learning in children.

The outcome of our year-long pilot study at Tagore Vidyalaya has provided visible insights into the efficacy of the Fundango programme. It is now being implemented in 25 schools across Chennai.

Highlights of the Pilot Study

- 85% of the students were able to make inferences from the text they read
- 40% of students were able to creatively express and reformulate ideas into new structures
- 44% of the students were able to understand and use vocabulary words appropriately
- 70% of the class demonstrated high fluency when it came to speaking and completing full thoughts
- Fundango Device - plays audio/video stories, records learning progress
- Fundango Cloud - stories, lessons, and activities in audio/video for every age, class and subject based on Rhythmic Education pedagogy
- Teacher Notes - Guidelines and lesson scripts to teachers. Courses to enrich subject knowledge
- Workbooks for Children - Stories and creative art projects for children which they would follow along with the stories
- Assessment - activities and assessment tools for test of learning
- Dashboard for Administration - dashboard and intelligent reports on progress, completion of lessons, teacher feedback and rating
Gutar Goo is an early literacy and arts initiative of NalandaWay Foundation with the support of HCL Foundation, piloted in Noida’s Aganwadis. The objective of this programme is to introduce story-telling and art to 3-6 year olds to achieve foundational literacy and numeracy. The program focuses on Physical-Motor Development, Cognitive development, Language and Communication, and Socio-emotional Development.

By introducing children to the arts at an early age, we wish to inculcate a sense of curiosity and develop a child’s interests in the world around them. Our program equips the child to express themselves authentically while also helping them negotiate the world around them. The program caters to children with varied learning styles for example, visual, kinaesthetic, auditory. Art also helps children destress, externalise their feelings, learn to trust their peers and absorb the basics of language and mathematics.

**We Use:**
- Story-telling
- Richly illustrated print materials like flash cards and workbooks
- Art implements like crayons, chalk and paint
- Fundango - a technology-led smart teaching device
- Music, Songs and Rhymes
- Dance and Movement

**To Develop:**
- Language
- Number concepts
- Observational skills
- Positive attitude towards learning
- A joyous and creative learning environment for the children

**So that Children:**
- Have improved listening and speaking skills
- Are more print awareness
- Can use art for meaning - making and early representations of the world
- Are School readiness
Art for Healing

NalandaWay is keen to see that children with developmental disabilities, and children who are ‘at risk’ for conditions such as Developmental Delays, Autism, Mental Retardation, Down’s Syndrome, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADD/ADHD), Cerebral Palsy, and Learning Disabilities (e.g. Dyslexia) get professional intervention services. Without timely support, these children would miss normal growth opportunities which could adversely impact their integration.

At our Art for Healing centre in Velachery, we bring in trained specialists to work with the identified children in a systematic program to address their lags and educational difficulties. The goal of this program is to educate and empower such students to be dignified, independent, contributing members of the mainstream society. We strongly believe that every child has a potential to learn, irrespective of their abilities or socio-economic-cultural background. The program aims to maximize their physical, cognitive, social and emotional development.

Numbers for 2019-2020:
- Locations: 1
- Specialists: 2
- Students: 12
- Occupational Therapy Sessions conducted this year: 149
- Special Ed classes conducted this year: 332
Kannavu Pattarai
A residential workshop for at-risk teens

A ‘workshop of dreams’ in Tamil, Kannavu Pattarai is an inspiring three day residential camp organized for disadvantaged children between the ages of 13-16. Here, students are trained by our facilitators in a variety of applied theatre forms like advanced role-play, improvisation, creative games and exercises, storytelling and other participatory training techniques. The aim of the workshop is to instill self-esteem and a sense of belonging among children from different socio-economic backgrounds through the medium of art.

This would be achieved by providing opportunities to engage in various forms of arts through guided exploration, several interactive, inspiring and fun sessions, comprising of art-learning sessions, group activities, inspiring discussions, talks by experts from the field of psychology, art therapy and leadership, along with screenings and storytelling sessions. It also creates a platform where children have the opportunity to bond with each other, share experiences, engage in discussions and motivate them to learn, aspire and dream.

Some feedback from our workshop

“I have not spoken to these girls before. I never thought I could draw and dance. It was here, that I got to know each one of them and their talents along with mine. Today, all of them are my friends. I realized that writing helps me feel better. We hugged each other after successfully composing our school song. I felt very proud at that moment. Camp helped me forget my fear of getting home in the evening. I laughed a lot and was appreciated for the first time. I will never forget this experience.”

Sivasakthi, CHS Cooks Road

“I am grateful that I attended this camp. I thank the facilitators for helping me out and trusting in me because personally I see the improvement in myself. I also used to think that am dark and never looked good but now am confident that I am much more than how I look outside.”

Aadhaya, CHS Kannamapet

Numbers:
Number of camps we conducted: 45
Participants: 1,125
What if young people and children in our villages and cities had video cameras to document the world as they saw it? What stories would they tell? What could they teach us?

Our children media project was born out of this simple idea. Through a unique journalism program, young people aged 12 to 18 researched, wrote and shot stories, on issues that were important to them for publication in newspapers, television and radio. In the process they learnt new skills, became sensitive to surroundings, raised their self-esteem and developed their potential.

These films were developed along with rural disadvantaged children who were involved in the process of research, story development, acting and assistance during shooting. These workshops also included training in life skills, conversations on gender, goal setting and sexuality.

Over 700 children from Krishnagiri, Dharmapuri, Nagapattinam, Pulicat, Gudiyatham, Trichy, Chennai, Kanyakumari, Patna in Bihar and Srinagar in Jammu & Kashmir were involved in the workshops.

Some of the Short films that were made:

- Still dreams - Tamil, Kannada
- Child trafficking Kalvettu - Tamil
- Child labour Mezhuguvarthee - Tamil
- Menstruation Mug-up Mangamma - Tamil
- Rote learning Nallathor Veenai - Tamil
- Women's rights Vidiyal - Tamil
- Child labour Nizhalum Nijamum - Tamil
- Child labour Oru Iravu - Tamil
- Child sexual abuse Sennakunni - Tamil
- Tsunami rehabilitation Star struck - English - Children dreams

Here’s the youtube playlist with all the short films: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL53698D7BE8A947F3
Girls are Superstars - 12 part television serial on Star Vijay tv

The central component of the campaign was a 12-part daily serial called “Nangathan Superstars” that was telecast on Star Vijay TV. It reached a wide range of audiences around the state. A prime time slot combined with specific online and offline promotion ensured a wide viewership. The serial was telecast at 6:30 pm from Monday to Thursday between 1st and 19th of November 2009. The stories were written by our children’s teams and directed by famous film directors like Revathi, Rohini, Gnani, Viduthalai, Manobala and Naga.

The episodes created a debate and engagement around the issues faced by girls and women. It delivered key messages to change societal attitudes and created a movement around the key message so as to make it sustainable.

Shout It Out - Music Album

Eight songs each capturing issues like child labour, child abuse, child’s aspirations, free-spirit, corruption were conceived and performed by children. The songs were made into music videos by popular film directors and broadcasted on Music channel and Radio.

These projects were supported by Unicef, Worldvision, CII, IVDP, Steria and World Bank.

The films are
Santoshi - https://bit.ly/2JqFkBo

Mobile Media Centre and community screening

Through a grant from Deutsche Bank we set up a mobile media centre that included a van, projector, screen, dvd player, AV equipment, camera and recording equipment, generator and computer with internet access.

A video van was built in the shell of a Toyota Innova and was effectively used in villages, schools and nearby habitations to conducting screenings, as a mobile training center for children in far flung areas, as a resource center for on the field training and for aiding documentation by children on the field.
Bihar Children Radio Project

This project involved working with adolescent girls in the districts of Patna, Gaya, Samastipur and Lakkisarai in Bihar to teach them skills in reporting, interviewing, writing scripts and creating stories on menstruation, sexuality, health and hygiene. Over 60 girls were trained as a part of the programme. There were four workshops every year. The girls were involved in producing 25 minutes radio programme every week for broadcast on All India Radio, Patna. The programme was aired continuously for 60 weeks. This project created wide awareness on the issues faced by adolescent girl in these four districts. The project was supported by PANOS South Asia.

Srinagar Youth Radio Project

This is a radio production project in partnership with the Islamic University of Science and Technology in Awantipura near Srinagar in Jammu & Kashmir State. The project involved training the students of the university and youth from the neighbouring community to learn journalism skills, interviewing, sound production, editing and radio magazine production. They researched issues faced by youth, interviewed the stakeholders and produced 25 minute radio magazines. The show was broadcasted on Radio Kashmir for two years. The project created a wide-spread awareness on issues of conflict, democracy, terrorism, human rights, mental health, education and emotional challenges of the youth. This project was funded by PANOS South Asia.
Art, Arattai, Aarpattam

Children’s Art, Music and Film festival

NalandaWay’s “Art, Arattai, Aarpattam - Children’s Art and Music Festival” is a season for children, their families and teachers - to experience and experiment with art, to express, to challenge, to inspire and have fun together. The festival was supported by UNICEF and other corporate donors.

In the five years (2008 - 2012):

- Over 1,000,000 children participated in the competitions in over 3,200 towns and villages across the state of Tamil Nadu.
- Over 25,000 parents, teachers and children witnessed the concerts, musicals, plays and film festival conducted in 5 cities.
- Millions of adults and children were reached through the medium of short films on television channels.

The purpose of the festival was to take art to a wider circle of children - from marginalised sections of the society as well as the economically well to do sections. The month long festival featured street-theatre performances, Lec-dems by dancers and musicians, workshops on pottery, painting and crafts.

“I am very happy to be part of this festival. It was amazing to interact with the children about Carnatic music. By organising this festival, and introducing them to art, I would say, Nalandaway is giving these children life.” - Bombay Jayshri, Carnatic Singer

“Children learn about Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics in school. They don’t get to learn about Painting, Drawing, Dance and Music. Even if they want to learn, their circumstances don’t allow them to. For such children this is a very good opportunity to learn about what is out there.” - Ilango, Artist

Here are a few videos from the festival:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qIUHMFfGb0

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L3oGfsm6Bu0

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GEqoluVvL4
Government special homes for children, which are run by the Department of Social Defence, Government of Tamil Nadu, house children from broken families, children who have run away from home and other children in similar situations. NalandaWay, in close partnership with the Department and with the support of UNICEF, worked over the last year to use the participatory drama approach to encourage the children to take part in a theatre production. The highlight of this initiative was the theatre production, “Paati Vadai Kaaka Nari”. This play was performed in many locations across Chennai. The second production was “Ali Baba and forty police.”
The Ongole district of Andhra Pradesh is on the national highway and child trafficking for sex is a major issue in the area. NalandaWay identified around 47 children and youth from this area and worked with them over a period of time to train them in folk art and theatre. As the children learned these skills, they were also coached by the trainers/mentors in social consciousness, communication skills, storytelling, drama, dance, music and playing musical instruments in the course of participative workshops. In 2008 they performed along with famous drummer and percussionist, Sivamani at Sir Mutha Venkatasubbarao Auditorium in Chennai. This project was supported by PLAN International.

**Numbers:**
- Number of percussionists trained: 47
- Sessions held: 120
- Performances: 14
Youth Speak Summit
A forum for the young

YSS 2018
Organized by the US Consulate and Nalandaway on Dec 1 and 2, the Youth Speak Summit brought together passionate, socially minded and entrepreneurial 18 to 30 year olds to learn and share things that matter to them. The summit provided an opportunity to network with mentors, experts and fellow change makers. The Summit comprised of talks by inspiring youth icons, discussions on issues, story telling of young change makers, clinics for counselling and workshops. The highlight of the event was a social-entrepreneurship pitch-fest. Top five winners got a chance to be mentored by Ashoka Youth Ventures and a grant of ₹50,000.

Highlights:
• Human Library
• Counselling by Banyan
• Skillshare Garden

YSS 2020
Organized by UNICEF and NalandaWay Foundation on March 6th at the Madras School of Social Work (MSSW), this edition of the Youth Speak Summit focused on empowering young people to raise their voice against child marriage. The panel discussion featured social workers, human rights activists and youth advocates who discussed child marriage and their on-field experience. The summit also featured seven young changemakers who changed their reality by following their passion. In the run up to the summit, a film-making workshop was organized with a view to create short-films about child marriage. At the venue delegates also created posters.

Numbers for 2018:
- Change Makers: 12
- Delegates: 732
- Panel Discussions: 3
- Workshops: 5
- Teams who applied for the Social Entrepreneurship Pitch fest: 71

Numbers for 2020:
- Change Makers: 7
- Delegates: 175
- Panel Discussions: 1
- Workshops: 1
- Number of short films created during the workshop: 5
**Bharati Mural Project**

What better way to celebrate Mahakavi’s 135th birthday than dedicating a wall mural to him? The Bharathiyar mural was painted by children of Olcott Memorial and Lady Nye Schools, who are participants of NalandaWay Foundation’s Art in Education program. As a tribute to the Mahakavi, NalandaWay Foundation collaborated with artist Lotus Head to create a wall mural on Bharati Salai, the road opposite Kannagi statue on Marina beach, where Bharati lived until his death. The mural comprises verses from his poems and quotes along with a dash of artistic imagination.

**Thiruvanmiyur Project**

How much does Chennai love Cricket? Approximately 2,400 square feet worth. The mural featuring MS Dhoni, Virat Kohli and Mithali Raj at the Thiruvanmiyur MRTS railway station was a joint project between Nalandaway, Aravani Art Project, @fever 91.9FM and Freshworks. Children from our Art Labs, transgender people from Aravani Art Project and curious volunteers, all worked side-by-side to complete the project. It was Chennai’s ode to cricket during the 2019 Men’s World Cup.

**Saidapet Mural Project**

Tamil cinema permeates the lives of every Chennaite. From the swankiest of clubs to the neighbourhood Nair kadai, not a day goes without the people of the city talking about their favourite actors, directors, box office collections or gossiping about the latest affair in town. But surprisingly there was no public art that stands as a tribute to the ones who have entertained us for 100 years. All that changed in October 2016 when children from Nalandaway Foundation generously donated their time and skills to create a public art project for DaanUtsav 2016. The children along with one of their favourite art trainer Thangaraj painted the Saidapet railway station with Tamil cinema’s legendary actors Sivaji Ganesan, M G R, Nambiar, Nagesh, Manorama, Padmini, Rajnikanth, Kamal Hassan, Goundamani, Senthil, Revathi and Nayanthara.
Awards

Guidestar Platinum Rating for Transparency

Nalandaway was awarded the prestigious GuideStar India Champion level- Platinum award. Nalandaway joined India’s largest pool of credible NGOs after undergoing a rigorous due diligence process. GuideStar India’s Platinum Certification is the Champion Level Certification indicating that comprehensive transparency, accountability and good governance procedures are adopted by the organization with exemplary level of public disclosure.

Millennium Award for Innovation in Education

NalandaWay won the Millennium Award as one of the top three education innovators in the country. This award is instituted by USAID, FICCI, Govt. of India and UK Aid.

SMERA Ratings for Healthy Performance

SMERA ratings agency, a SIDBI Company graded NalandaWay Foundation under “Healthy performance and sustainability” category.

South Asia Development Marketplace Award by World Bank

The Development Marketplace (DM) Award is a competitive grant program administered by the World Bank. Projects are selected based on innovation, potential for growth, visible benefits, realism and sustainability.

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