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IGNITING
THE PASSION FOR
LEARNING

A Need For Change



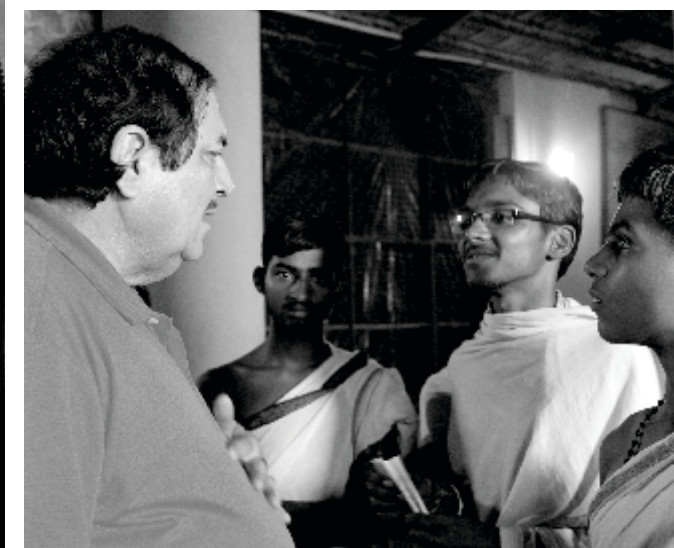
India is a country characterized by contradicting extremes, with giant leaps in technology and business on one side and poverty, lack of infrastructure, apathy and ignorance on the other. While the progress has clearly taken place, it has occurred at the expense of the underprivileged, whose lives represent an endless struggle to make ends meet. A change is urgently required to right these wrongs and to give rise to a future of balanced and inclusive growth that benefits all members of society. Education has the potential to create the foundation for this change, paving the way to a future filled with hope and promise.



Introducing Menda Foundation

Social initiatives have become a necessity in today's global landscape. The time has arrived for people to break out of their comfort zones, for the government machinery to swing into action and for corporate organizations to look beyond expansions and profits. Menda Foundation, established in 1990, represents this much-needed change through its groundbreaking social initiatives.

The Foundation was set up as a charitable trust by the Group Chairman of RMZ Corp, Arjun Menda, who is a philanthropist, closely associated with the Rotary Club in all their Scholarship and Educational activities since 1972.



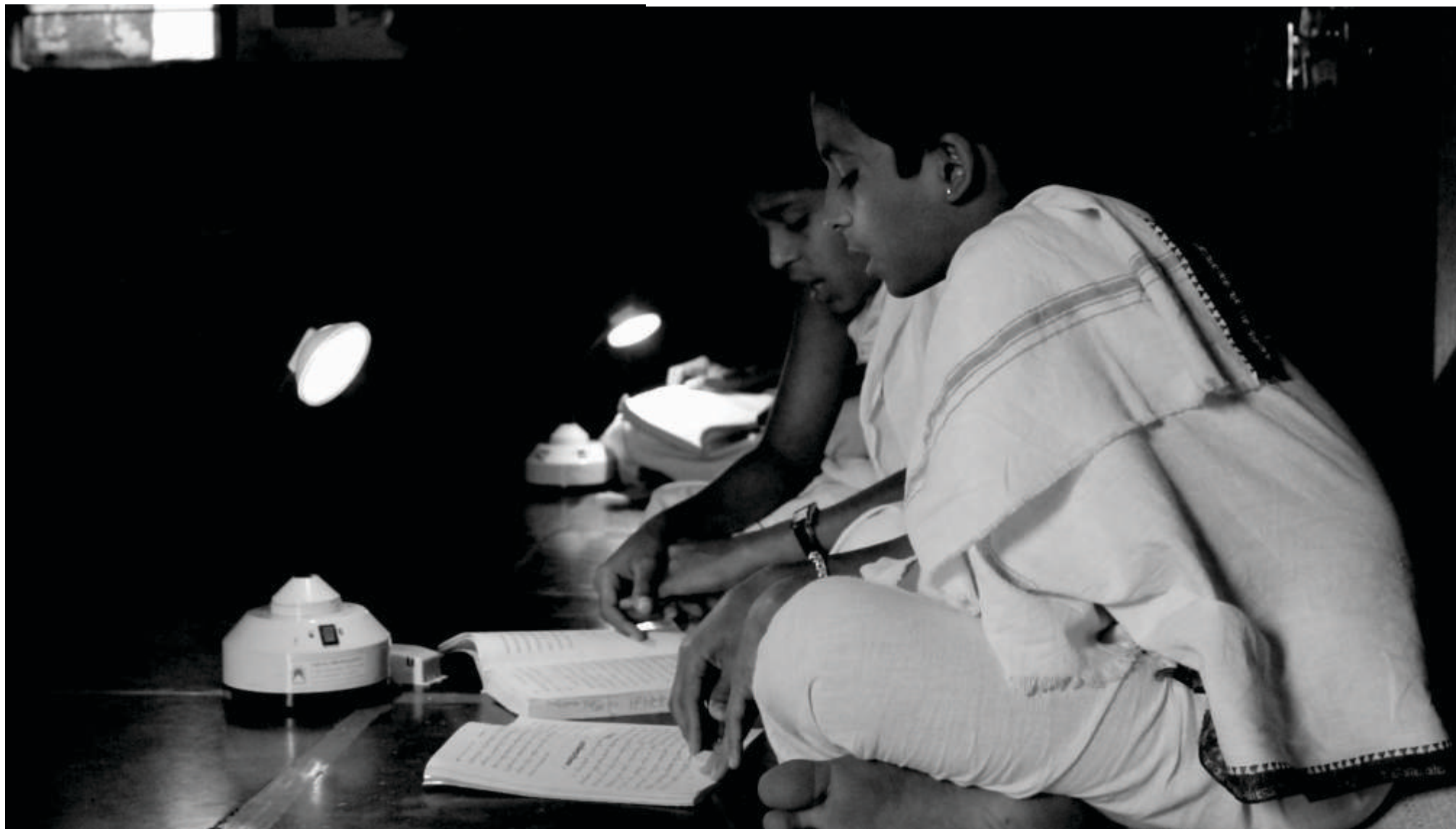
An Unwavering Commitment

Vision

Harnessing the power of education to create a paradigm of positive change in the society

Mission

- Provide scholarships for children from marginalized background
- Equip students with solar solution through Light for Education projects
- Light up hostels and schools by promoting renewable energy sources
- Enhance the learning experience of the rural children through "e-Shala" projects
- Enrich lives of undereducated adults in rural areas through the Adult Literacy Program



Identifying The Obstacles

Central to the issues plaguing the nation is the lack of education, especially in rural areas. While it is the right of every child to receive education, due to the meagre income of families in rural India, this need is often overlooked and the children are expected to help their parents in routine chores and contribute towards the family income.

The Challenges

- Absence of electricity
- Poor infrastructure
- Lack of educational impetus
- Economic compulsions
- Distorted student - teacher ratio

Making A Difference

Menda Foundation's social initiatives are designed to give rise to an environment of hope and equitable progress, with a strong focus on education. The idea is to empower future generations with the help of knowledge, illuminating a future of infinite potential.



The Initiatives



Light for Education

Providing solar-powered LED lamps and cost effective lighting in schools



e-Shala

Providing schools with state of the art LED projectors with monitor and digital content



Hostel Lighting

Providing solar panels that will effectively support the lighting requirements throughout the hostel



Scholarships

Providing financial assistance to deserving underprivileged candidates



Adult Literacy Program

Providing primary education for adults in rural areas



Fitness Park

Equipping municipal parks with outdoor fitness equipments

Light For Education

This innovative model makes use of three components, including a centralized solar charging system, a pocket-sized portable battery and an LED study lamp. The solar charging system is located at the school, where the students can charge the batteries, which in turn power the LED study lamps at the students' homes. A completely charged battery can provide 4 hours of bright light per day for 2 days, thus empowering students to take charge of their education.



Benefits Of The Program

- Provides safe, bright and affordable source of light unlike the extensively used kerosene lamps which emit heat and harmful smoke.
- Helps the families save money spent on kerosene.
- Facilitates improved attendance and academic performance in schools and helps fight child labour.
- One lamp can be utilized by 3 to 4 children to study at home.
- Shared centralized solar charging system makes the project cost effective by reducing the expense of providing individual solar panels for all students.
- The lights will be returned to the school after a student completes his/her education so that more students are benefited.
- Technically the performance of the central system is much better than individual solar panels in portable lantern models especially during rainy season.
- The lamp reduces the health issues caused by smoke and flame of kerosene lamps.

Impact

- Expected to benefit 2 Lakh students by 2018
- Over 50,000 solar lamps have been distributed to the students
- Lighting has been provided for 1500 homes in the villages where the students reside



This initiative is a unique platform, which has brought in different organisations together to provide a complete solution, revolutionizing the delivery of information in the educational context. The program is the result of thorough research and partnerships with various social enterprises. Menda Foundation is the ideation and Funding Partner in this initiative. The program involves systematic selection of under-served schools, implementation of latest LED based digital projector or TV monitor with syllabus-based content in Kannada/English for various subjects. The digital equipment is solar powered to ensure predictability in usage and sustainability of the solution.

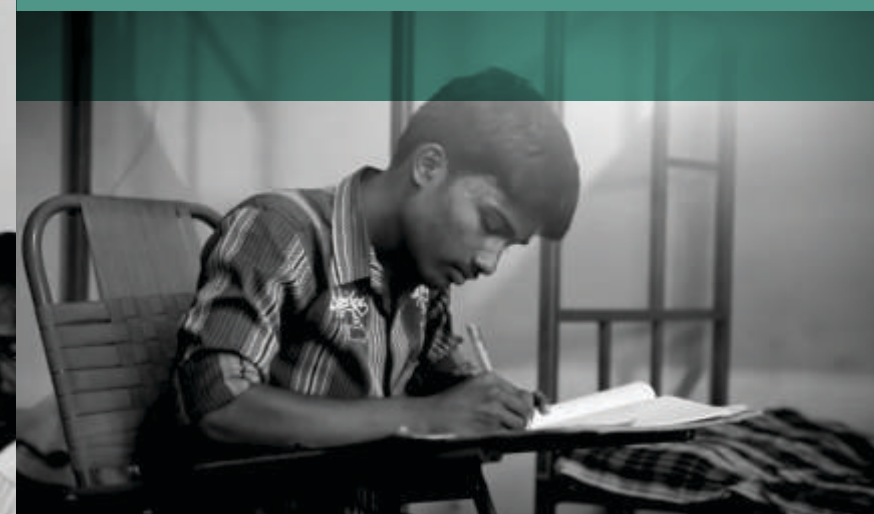


Benefits Of The Program

- Improvement in the quality of classroom teaching.
- Increase in attendance and reduction of drop-outs in schools.
- Learning effectiveness and ability to visualize.
- Better understanding and retention of the subjects.
- Supplementing resource material for teachers facilitates lesson planning.
- Promotion of sustainability through the use of energy efficient solar powered technology.

Impact

- e-Shala kits have been installed in more than 350 schools, benefiting close to 30,000 students



Hostel Lighting

The solar lighting system consists of an array of solar panels, which are installed at the rooftop of the schools/hostels. The panels convert the solar energy and store it in a central battery system, which in turn powers DC lights installed in the study halls, dormitories, kitchens, dining halls and washrooms.



Benefits Of The Program

- Provides a stable source of light for schools and hostels.
- Hostel lighting can cater to a group of students at a time.
- Ensures safety in hostels located in remote areas.
- Enables students to participate in recreational activities using solar lighting system at night.

Impact

- Solar Lamps have been provided to more than 225 hostels
- The Hostel Lighting initiative has benefited over 20,000 students

Scholarships

With the aim of providing equal opportunities for learning, without any compromise to the quality of education, Menda Foundation's Scholarships program is the result of a vision to empower India's youth with knowledge. Menda Foundation has collaborated with different charitable organizations to give scholarships for school, pre-university and university education, to poor and deserving candidates. An assessment is conducted for all applications and the financial support is given to students above 8th grade until they complete their higher education.



Benefits Of The Program

- Ensuring equal learning opportunities for underprivileged children
- Empowering future generations to achieve their academic goals
- Students helped by the Menda Foundation have contributed to the trust for the benefit of future students

Impact

- Approximately 700 scholarships given out each year
- Close to 100 students graduate and are able to join mainstream society

Adult Literacy Program

Along with the e-Shala initiative, Menda Foundation provides an Adult Literacy Program, developed by TCS, to give primary education for adults in the rural areas. The program aims to teach the basics of alphabets and arithmetic, which are indispensable in day to day activities, including farming and business. The program is approved by the Government of India.



Benefits Of The Program

- Basic education for adults living in rural areas
- Development of functional mathematics and alphabet skills
- Scope for application of knowledge in daily activities
- Increased productivity and quality of life through improved social functioning

Impact

- Educating adults in villages during the evening with the help of the e-Shala infrastructure installed in schools



Fitness Park

This initiative is aimed at providing outdoor fitness facilities to help in preventing the predominantly sedentary lifestyle that has become the norm for India's urban population, leading to various ailments. Many outdoor gym facilities and fitness equipments are provided to parks created by the Municipal Corporation. The parks are maintained with the help of walker's group/association.



Benefits Of The Program

- Promoting a healthy lifestyle
- Benefiting individuals who cannot afford gym memberships

A Future Of Possibilities

With the help of social initiatives and partnerships with like-minded organizations, Menda Foundation is continuing on the path towards a brighter future filled with new and exciting possibilities, where every individual has access to quality education, enabling them to achieve their dreams.

