



# JNANA PRABODHINI FOUNDATION

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## **Facebook Fundraisers**

We thank our friends for  
hosting FB fundraisers!

**Aakash Chowkase  
Aditya Kulkarni  
Aditya Purohit  
Amruta Velapure  
Asmita Datar  
Atharva Kousadiakar  
Charuhas Gokhale  
Mahesh Itraj  
Neel Joshi  
Pritesh Pimpale  
Ravi Awate  
Shilpa Vaze Karnik  
Sushant Tongaonkar  
Swaraj Meher  
Vedang Ranade  
Yogesh Dixit**

## **From the President's Desk**

Over the last three months, as COVID-19 related restrictions have eased, and as we slowly adapt to the new normal, we hope you and your family are safe! While the spread of the virus is gradually curtailed in the United States, the pandemic continues to worsen in India. During the height of the pandemic, JPF launched a COVID-19 relief campaign and then a Learn India campaign to combat and mitigate COVID-19 prompted education challenges in India.

Some of these challenges include a loss of financial resources as well as a decrease in the quality of education. JPF continues to launch multiple modules to develop quality educational content and enhance the learning process. We completed the translation of the book 'Chala Prakaalpa Karuya' from Marathi to English, and a webinar for the launch of the book was attended by more than 800 teachers across India. JPF has also raised \$82,000 through the Learn India Campaign, to support the education of 255 students for the current academic year. I invite you to join us with your skills and time and contribute to these projects.

August 9th marked JPF's first anniversary. I would like to thank all the JPF volunteers and well-wishers for their firm and continuous support. With the help of over 100 volunteers, JPF has set up a strong foundation to make a long-term and valuable impact in its field of interest. So let us join our hands and work to bridge communities together.

**Pranav Kulkarni**

President

## Learn India Campaign

The COVID-19 pandemic has severely impacted over 90% of the global student population, and UNESCO estimates that over 32 million students are affected in India. We at JPF launched the “Learn India” campaign on Guru Pournima, July 5th, to financially support the most affected students.

### Special Mention

Congratulations to an anonymous couple on their wedding! They tied knots amidst the pandemic. The couple celebrated the event at a national park in a small gathering. Eliminating all the extravagant ceremonial expenses, the duo donated \$20,000 to the Learn India campaign, setting a new example of socially conscious togetherness. JPF thanks their generous donation, one that will go on to support 58 students in India for one year.

Schools operated by Jnana Prabodhini are located in 5 different locations - in Pune, Nigdi, Shivapur, Harali, and Velhe, and provide education and skill development facilities to students. Many students come from humble financial backgrounds and since the pandemic has aggravated their problems, we decided to support the education of these students for the current academic year. As most schools run by Jnana Prabodhini operate without any government aid, it also helped to sustain these schools without compromising the quality of education.

During the 3-month campaign, we were able to raise a total of \$82,000 to support the education of 255 students for a year. Throughout this campaign, we developed and launched multiple projects and initiatives such as the Beyond Language Barriers program and the Translation Project (Project-Based Learning), that we hope will supplement our efforts to support education in India.

## Program Updates

### Women Leadership

Covid-19 has massively affected the entire scenario for the rural workers. Navadisha project was not an exception for that. Many women relied on daily labor work pre-Covid-19. But now as they lost their jobs they had to look for new opportunities. Many had to stop their existing businesses and faced challenges due to covid-19. In this quarter, Navadisha project has facilitated an easy business-seed-money lending model for these rural women. Approximately Rs. 175,000 were disbursed through this model that went in businesses such as starting a daily tiffin service, sheep and poultry farming, and buying machines for homemade vermicelli (shewai) to start an income after a sudden loss of employment.

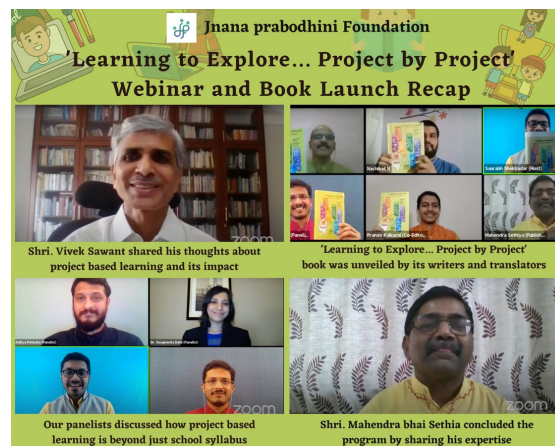
Kavita Renuse was one such lady who used to prepare tiffins to college kids before the lockdown, but since colleges closed she faced almost immediate closure of business, but Navadisha project was a huge help for her in restructuring her business model into a home-run kitchen. At present, her local clientele is approximately 120 people daily, giving her a new avenue for her business.

## Education

JPF is spreading its wings to reach a wider community with various initiatives powered by its volunteers' biggest strength, their talents.

**1. Beyond Language Barriers** Communicating your thoughts and ideas confidently and effectively is key to success in all walks of life. It is often a daunting task to achieve fluency if the language is not your first language. But, with the right guidance and mentorship, this valuable skill can be honed while in school. JPF has partnered with Jnana Prabodhini Nigdi center to improve English communication skills for 7th standard students. A 4-week long pilot program was designed to be highly motivational and engaging while reaching out to the students on a more informal level than a class teacher. A total of 12 volunteers virtually mentored three students each with various activities culminating in a video meeting every week. JPF plans to scale this project up to include more number of students and also bring in a special version for teachers.

**2. Project-Based Learning and Translation** JPF organized its first virtual global event highlighting the importance of Project-Based Learning (PBL) and published 'Learning to Explore ... Project by Project', an English translation of a compendium of articles written in Marathi in the book 'Chala Prkalpa Karuya'. While this event was a huge success and the streaming videos reached thousands of people worldwide, the team is now planning to fan out into multiple directions based on the expertise it has developed. It plans to continue this work by developing an interactive tool for PBL education while also undertaking new translation projects.

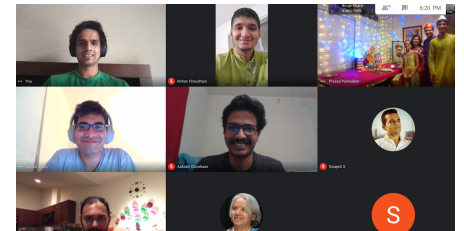
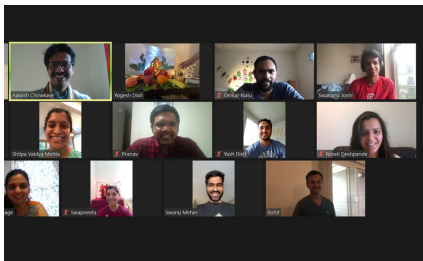


**3. CoViD-19 Knowledge, Attitude and Practices (KAP) in Pune's Urban Slums** JPF has partnered with Carnegie Mellon University, USA to study the impact of a pandemic like CoViD-19 in urban slums in and around Pune. The project, scheduled to start in October, will deploy surveys followed by rigorous data analytics to create a comprehensive policy report complete with geospatial mapping. JPF has partnered with Swaroopwardhini and various other organizations in Pune for laying the groundwork. It is based on a theoretical framework of 'Wisdom of the Crowds' that draws from social psychology, cognitive neuroscience, and behavioral economics. Building upon this valuable experience, JPF plans to develop its own data analytics wing in the future to contribute to policy decisions on organizational, national, and international platforms.

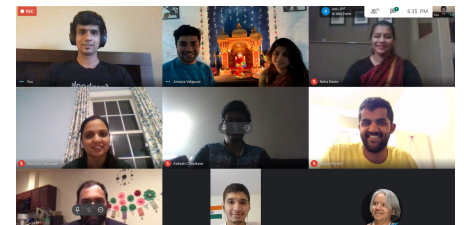
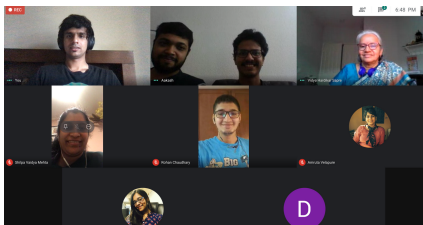
# Jnana Prabodhini Global Network Updates

## Ganeshotsav 2020

Community building is the core spirit of Ganeshotsav. Volunteers participated in various events online everyday for a week ranging from an online treasure hunt game to poetry and song recitals to art performances. This was a great opportunity for over 70 volunteers from different states and time zones to know each other better and express themselves through their talents. On the last (a.k.a. Visarjan) day, Dr. Bhooshan Kelkar, JPF's very own advisory board member, delivered a very personal and insightful account on his motivations of returning back to the motherland.

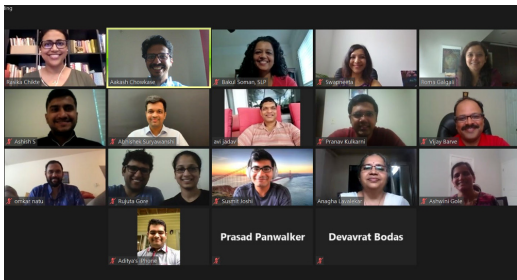


## Ganeshotsav 2020 Day 1-5 And Visarjan

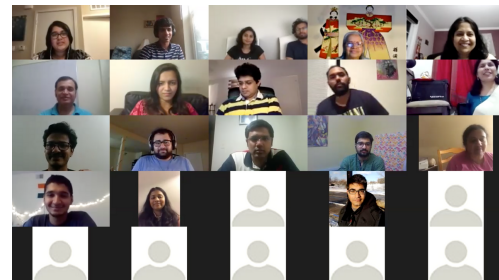


Our members organized three events including one chapter's quarterly meeting, one meet-up, and a workshop. The US South Chapter coordinator Rasika Chikte-Gupta organized a session with Dr. Anagha Lavalekar from JP-Institute of Psychology to connect the chapter members with the institute's work. Organized by Sanyogita Date, the Europe Chapter met with Prof. Mahendra Sethiya to discuss the translation of his book 'Vedh Yashacha'. The translation is almost complete, and the manuscript is currently being proof-read. Shilpa Vaidya-Mehta, coordinator of US-NY/NJ group organized a first-of-its-kind Ganesh Pratishthapana Workshop connecting JP with many new faces. Members from all the chapters have been instrumental in contributing significant time and financial resources for the Learn India Campaign!

During this period, the Chapter coordinator's group met twice on a bimonthly basis to share exciting regional updates as well as meet JP stalwarts – Prof. Mahendra Sethiya and Hon. Yashwantrao Lele. Mahendrabhai guided the coordinator's group about creating systems to accelerate the propagation of our work. Yashwantrao provided his guidance around integrating the concept of 'Vasudhaiv Kutumbkam' in JPF's work.



**JPF South Meet 2020**



**Online Treasure Hunt**

## JPF Recognitions

JPF was recently recognized by Amazon Smile, a donation operation from Amazon that gives a donation when you buy with Amazon Smile. Please consider adding JPF as your chosen NGO when shopping with Amazon Smile.

JPF is a Gold rated non-profit on Guidestar and a 5 star NPO on Great Non Profits, a forum that reviews non-profits.



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