



JNANA PRABODHINI FOUNDATION

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

YEAR 1 ISSUE 2

JULY 2020

Our Mission

Jnana Prabodhini Foundation identifies rural development, education, and women leadership as the areas with the greatest challenges. We promote activities for drought relief, energy sufficiency, healthcare, and women leadership development to fulfill basic needs in rural India.

We also address the need for talent development, skill development, and teacher professional learning programs to enhance the quality of education in India.

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We thank our friends for hosting
FB fundraisers!

Aditya Kulkarni

Jayant Kulkarni

Omkar Natu

Rohan Chaudhary

Sudhanshu Deshpande

From the President's Desk

A little less than a year ago, JPF set out to build a global network of Jnana Prabodhini affiliates. With 12 regional chapters and over 500 members, we hope to connect many more! While we will continue to support our JPF family in these unprecedented times, JPF remains committed to education, rural development, and women leadership. Over the last couple of months, our members have initiated and encouraged numerous projects, from reinforcing access to education during the COVID-19 pandemic to encouraging continued rural woman leadership programs. Along with these initiatives, we are excited to launch the Learn India campaign, which will continue to support the education of 160 students at Jnana Prabodhini schools in Pune, Nigdi, Harali, Shivapur, and Velhe. I appeal to everyone to spread the word, volunteer for, and donate to the Learn India campaign. After all, despite the pandemic, #EducationMustGoOn!

Pranav Kulkarni

President

LEARN INDIA

"Come Join us in helping continue education amidst the pandemic"

The COVID-19 pandemic has severely impacted over 90% of the global student population. Of the roughly **32 million students in India**, most face a financial and technological impediment to tools and infrastructure that are vital for virtual learning. To support the education focused initiatives of Jnana Prabodhini in India, we aspire to raise funds to support **160 most financially affected JP students in 5** different regions. As most of the schools run by Jnana Prabodhini operate **with minimal government grants and aid**, we hope to **sustain schools without compromising education**.

Meet the JPF Advisory Committee

We are excited to introduce our new advisory committee of dedicated and veteran Jnana Prabodhini affiliates and believe that their dynamic vision and combined experience will strengthen JPF. The Advisory committee, chaired by Subhash Deshpande, includes Ashutosh Barmukh and Dr. Bhooshan Kelkar, was established on July 1, 2020 and will serve a two year term.

Subhash Deshpande, fondly known as Subhashrao, has been a leader in the social sector for over 50 years. As the trust secretary of Jnana Prabodhini, Subashrao has driven development, engaged communities, and implemented effective solutions in Jnana Prabodhini's work in rural development, business management and training, social entrepreneurship, and education. By preparing a blueprint for 225 villages, Subashrao has led efforts to empower Indian villages toward self-sustainability. Along with designing projects that promote hygiene and sanitation, Subashrao has also focused on developing women entrepreneurs and mitigating the water crisis in villages near Pune.



Subhash Deshpande

Ashutosh Barmukh, as the Youth Organization Secretary at Jnana Prabodhini Pune, has led the dynamic youth organization with over 1000 members. As an inspiring and visionary leader, Ashutosh has worked with youth of all ages for over 25 years, guiding and galvanizing them into contributing to national development while leading a socially productive life and has. Serving as a liaison officer for Jnana Prabodhini, Ashutosh has developed numerous inter-organization relationships and is leading multiple collaborative projects in the remote and borderline states of India.



Ashutosh Barmukh

Dr. Bhooshan Kelkar is an IIT graduate and earned his Ph.D. in Artificial Intelligence in 1995. After working in a startup in California until 2000, Dr. Kelkar spent 13 exemplary years at IBM, being declared as the "IBM Master Innovator" in 2011 and holds 21 US patents in the field of Artificial Intelligence. Dr. Kelkar left IBM in 2013 to start his firm "Nuflex Talent Solutions", which works in the areas of employability and innovation and aligns with various initiatives of the Jnana Prabodhini Foundation. We are glad to have Dr. Kelkar on JPF's Advisory Board!



Dr. Bhooshan Kelkar

Program Updates

1. Education

Jnana Prabodhini has rapidly adapted to the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, embracing technology and social media to reinforce their curriculum. Jnana Prabodhini continues to develop content and training modules for the e-learning platform DIKSHA and has begun building 'Vikasika', a platform to all-round development for students in Harali.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a severe impact on the Indian economy and has severely affected farmers and migrant workers. JPF has donated \$4000 to Jnana Prabodhini Shivapur and \$8000 to Jnana Prabodhini Harali to support the continued education of 30 students, whose families have been financially impacted by the pandemic. We remain committed to bolstering Jnana Prabodhini's education initiatives, through the Learn India campaign.

2. Rural Development

For the last two decades, Jnana Prabodhini has combatted water scarcity and empowered villages across Maharashtra. Continuing work that was hindered by the lockdown, Jnana Prabodhini has built 2 water storage tanks, each with a capacity of 15,000 liters (~4000 gallons), this year, in the hilly regions of Bhore: one in the village of Durgadi, and another in Abhepuri. By fostering community involvement in Durgadi and developing the focus village of Abhepuri, representatives from Jnana Prabodhini camped in the village, to help villagers build the base of the tank, create a wire, mesh and finish the structural concrete work.



3. Women Leadership

Jnana Prabodhini's efforts have directly benefitted women from the villages of Ambavane, Velhe, Ghisar, and Raidandwadi. JPF has donated \$3000 to the *Navadisha* initiative, which aims to develop rural women as leaders of their communities and \$6000 to the women entrepreneurship program to support over 50 women in becoming successful entrepreneurs. Over the last couple of months, Jnana Prabodhini has trained rural women leaders to use Zoom and Google meetups to inform and promote proper hygiene and sanitation in their communities. To support the economies of these rural regions and with the help of these *Navadisha* leaders, Jnana Prabodhini has created an online order management platform, "Gavran Meva", which has distributed 6734 kg of fresh produce worth \$2700.



4. COVID-19 Relief

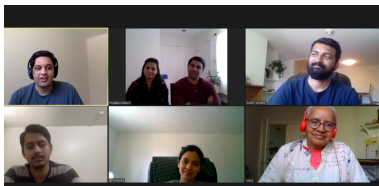
Worldwide lockdowns, to curtail the spread of the novel coronavirus, has led to rapid increases in unemployment. To mitigate the severe economic repercussions of this pandemic, JPF has augmented Jnana Prabodhini's work in Solapur and Harali. JPF has donated \$2000 to assist Jnana Prabodhini, Solapur. While Jnana Prabodhini Solapur has provided 7000 meals to over 370 migrant workers and senior citizens, Jnana Prabodhini Harali has distributed 1160 kits of essential food supplies to low income and migrant families in 60 villages near Osmanabad and Beed.

Along with the monsoon, poor sanitation, high-density settlements, and resource scarcity amplify the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic on low-income regions. Twenty JPF members from around the world are collaborating with other non-profit organizations, Survey Monkey, and Johns Hopkins University to assess the social, psychological, and economic impact of the ongoing pandemic on low-income regions in Pune. The findings from the survey will be summarized using a transparent, open-source geospatial mapping tool as well in a physical report that aims to encourage informed decision-making.

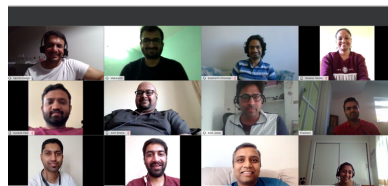
Jnana Prabodhini Global Network Updates

1. Meetups

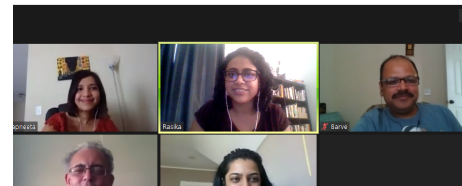
Over 70 members participated in 9 meetings, hosted by regional chapters in Europe, United Kingdom, South California, and the Greater Raleigh Area, NC, throughout the last quarter. The chapter in the Southern US states co-organized a virtual meet with the New England chapter. Small in-person meets, following CDC guidelines were organized in Champaign, IL, and Lafayette, IN.



Southern California



UK



Southern USA



Lafayette



Champaign

2. The Translation Project

Coordinated by Sanyogita Date and Rama Kulkarni, 7 members of the European chapter along with Prof. Prashant Divekar of Jnana Prabodhini translated the “Roop Palatu Shikshanache” booklet from Marathi to English, and have begun translating another book. Furthermore, the European chapter meets once a month to discuss various ongoing projects and interest, ranging from energy economics to 3D printing technology.

3. Job Search & Support

Navigating the job market, especially in these uncertain times, is arduous at best and the JPF networking team is connecting recent graduates and would-be interns to potential employers. Three of our graduate students have either secured a job, an internship, or have received professional mentoring to set up a start-up company, through our network. Every little connection matters and so here is an appeal for you to join our networking initiative and support our fellow Prabodhini members in any possible way. Get involved! Reach out to us on any social platforms.

"JPF has built an active network of professionals across the world. Through the JPFs mailing list, my current manager contacted me and our discussions led to interviews and eventually to my job offer. With fewer jobs as a consequence of this pandemic, I strongly recommend everyone seeking a job/internship to take advantage this platform to augment your professional career. In short, it works!" - **Aditya Purohit**

"I started volunteering at JPF a year ago, and was introduced to the team as well as the local chapters. I was thrilled to network with people of similar interests and educational backgrounds! In one of these meetings, a team member mentioned that he was working at a management consulting firm and could help out with my job search. He referred me to a suitable position and counseled me in developing a competent profile. I am grateful to the entire team for mentoring and making me feel at home." - **Pooja Dalvi**

"By curating a list of people who are looking for employment opportunities, JPF provides an outlet for potential employers to browse through roles JP alumni are exploring. I was able to get in touch with Aditya Purohit, who proved to be a great match for the position we were looking for. In these uncertain times and amidst immigration constraints, many folks are looking for employment opportunities. I urge members to look for potential candidates within our JP network and help them in some way, shape or form." - **Tejas Chaphekar**

"I attended the JPF Midwest meetup in Chicago. Mr. Gireendra Kasmalkar, entrepreneur and a Venture Capitalist in Pune was present for the meeting via Zoom, and he talked about his new ventures. I started a venture of my own this year, and I contacted Mr. Kasmalkar after the meetup for guidance. I was able to connect with potential clients who were part of his network. The JPF network helped in giving my venture a direction." - **Shubham Agnihotri**



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