

**10** glorious years aboard the  
Good Karma Express!



# Annual Report 2021-22

ANGEL XPRESS FOUNDATION  
May 2022



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# Founders speak

This year's cover page really says it all! We have been together, through thick and thin, for ten glorious years! What started as a personal crusade has taken on a life of its own and our tribe has grown by leaps and bounds.

As we look back to that wintry morning ten years ago, where the seeds of AXF were first sown, our faith in our communities, our people, our students and their families stands validated. Compassion, empathy, a desire to build joyful and harmonious neighbourhoods and the passion to bring quality education to all children – these are the qualities that unite us in our purpose.

The past two years have been our most challenging but also transformative. Our students and volunteers are cautiously making their way back to our beloved gardens. However, AXF is not the same organization it was pre-covid. As we continued to grow online through the pandemic years and even brought in new programs, we realised the need to strengthen and build a more robust core team. We are delighted that many of our volunteers and well-wishers have taken on wider responsibilities across several roles and functions. This has been instrumental in bringing in more structure and professionalism to what we do.

As we look ahead to the next ten years, we are confident our base of committed volunteers will have a multiplier effect and help us spread our mission far and wide. We are already seeing the first signs of this as we move beyond local community based centres to establish a nation-wide virtual presence, with volunteers tutoring students across cities and towns.

Many of our students continue their journey by pursuing higher education and seeking employment, forming a growing alumni base who are eager to contribute to their communities. This promises to be a source of strength for all of us at AXF.

Here's to another decade aboard the Good Karma Express!



Anubha Sharma  
*Founder and CEO*

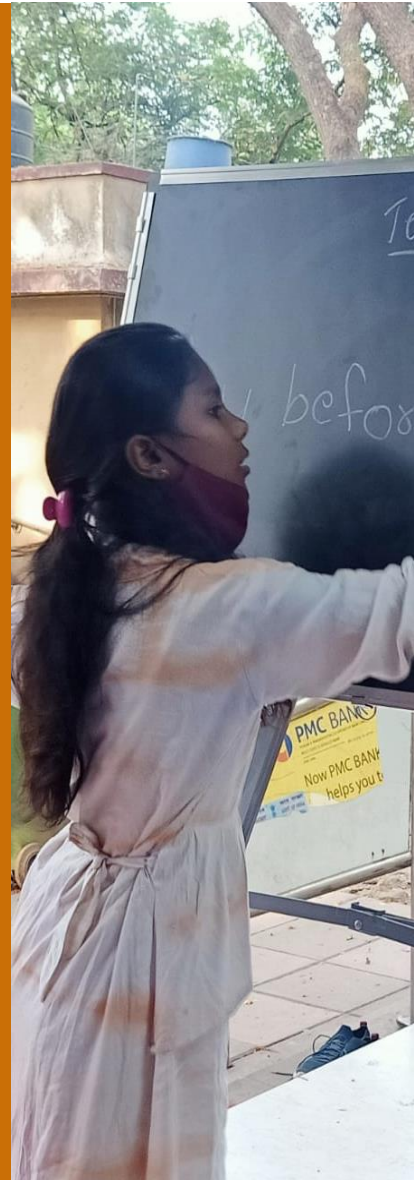


Beenaa Advani  
*Co-founder and COO*

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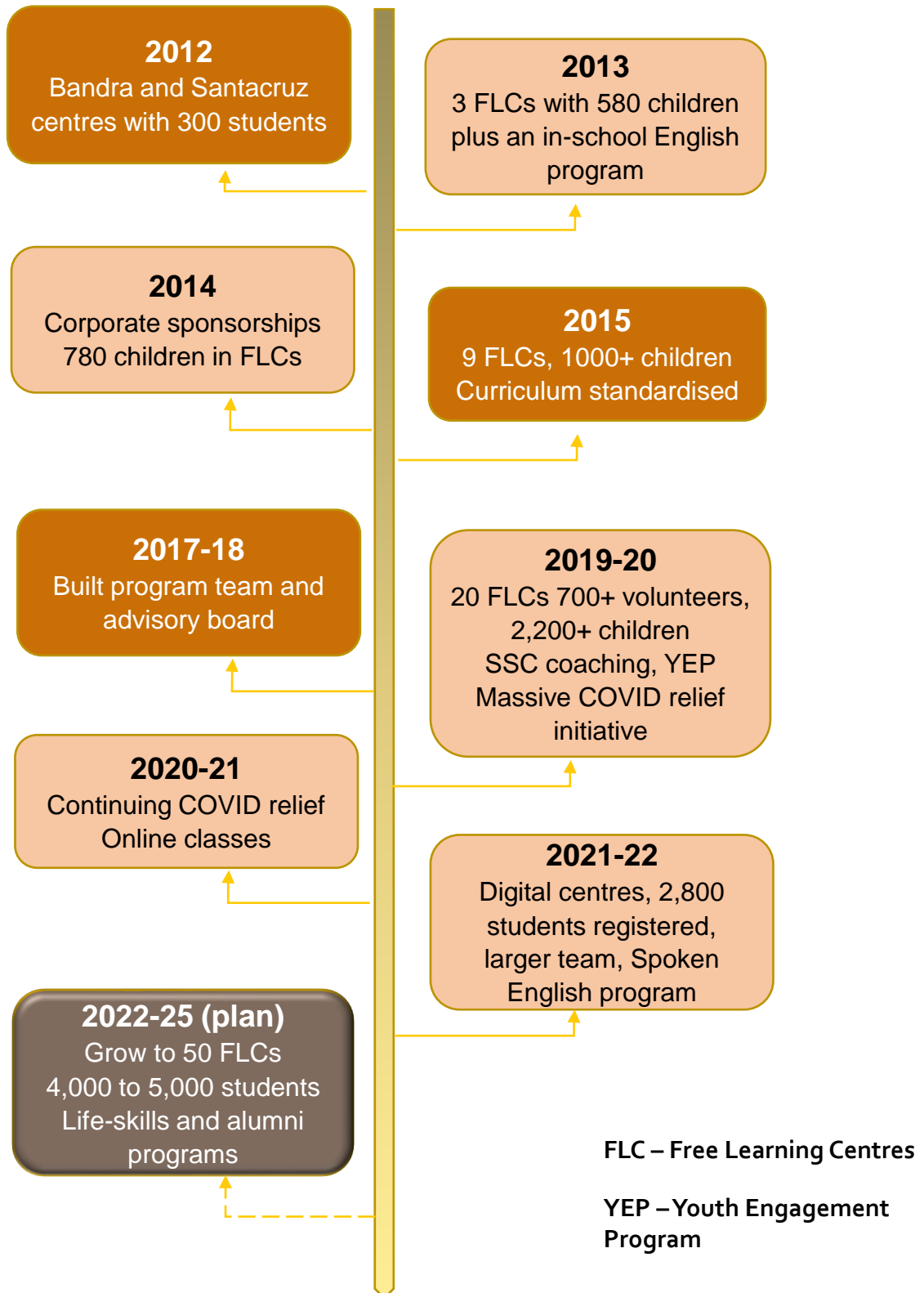
10 glorious years!





# From there to here...

A snapshot of our amazing journey over the past ten years and the way forward.

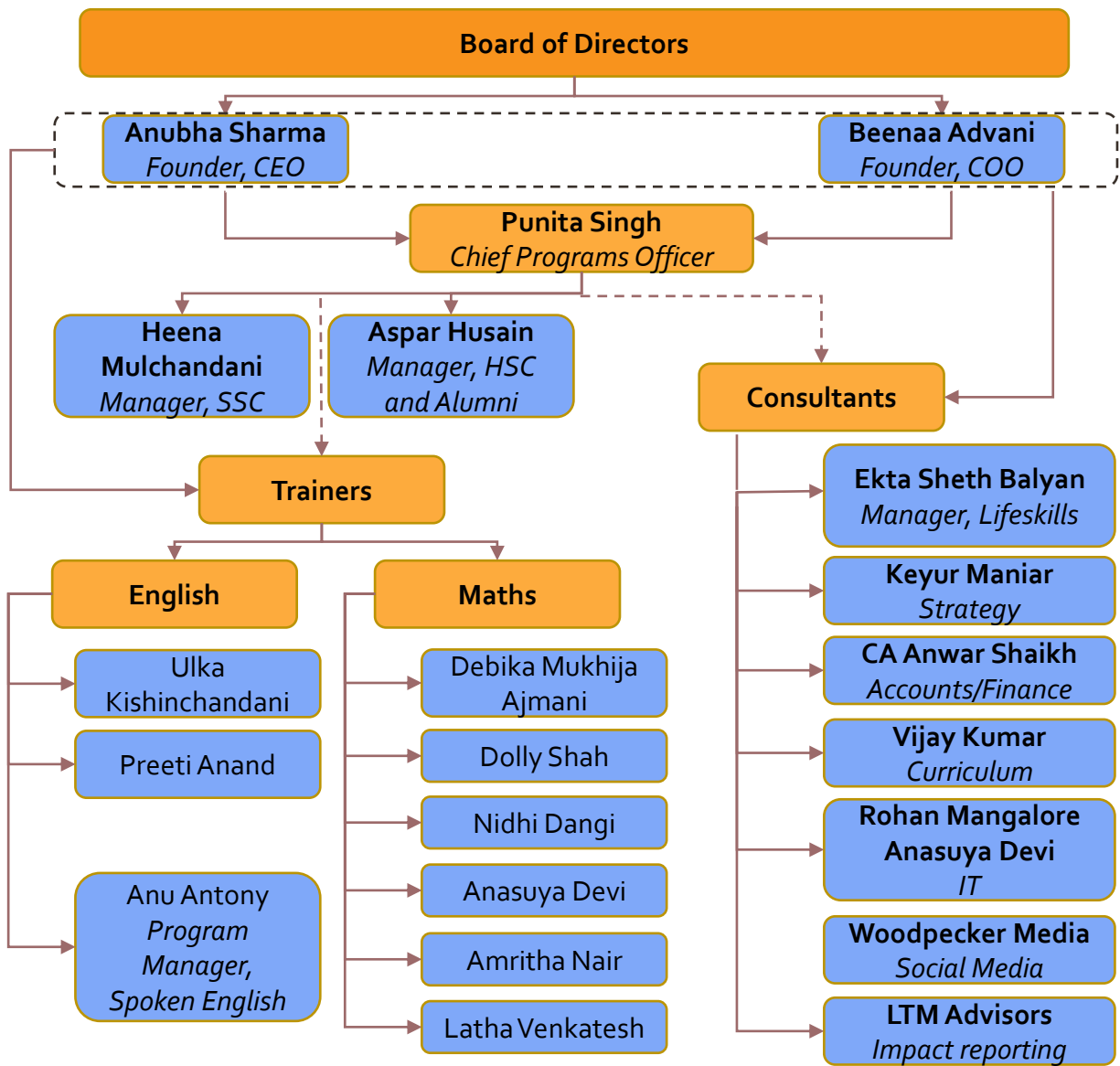




# Behind the scenes

What started as an idea with a small team of volunteers at the Bandra bandstand promenade has now turned into a movement with almost 2,800 registered students and 1,800 registered volunteers across locations in India and overseas.

While our volunteers are the face of our organisation and our primary interface with our students, our 'behind-the-scenes' team has been critical to our cause. From designing our programs to establishing new centres, recruiting and training volunteers and helping manage our data and showcase our efforts to our various stakeholders – they play several roles, often while shouldering teaching responsibilities as volunteers. As we turn 10 this year, we are proud to have built a talented, professional and dedicated **central team** to help us keep the wheels turning smoothly.





# Our secret sauce

One factor that has played a huge part in helping us create a meaningful impact is the support of our growing volunteer base. Being a completely volunteer-driven organization, their dedication and commitment has been and continues to be instrumental in achieving our desired outcomes.

They are our ambassadors, helping us recruit more volunteers by spreading the word. They bring innovation and enthusiasm to what we do and have forged long-lasting bonds with our students and each other, thus building a sense of community within AXF. On the occasion of our tenth anniversary we ran an AXF-wide volunteer survey and received very positive results overall on a fairly big sample.

We focused on understanding various parameters that impact volunteer continuity, satisfaction and advocacy. We are pleased to report that despite moving to an online model, we had very positive results on volunteer satisfaction and advocacy. As we return to physical classes this year, we are seeing some volunteers not being able to continue with us, hence our volunteer continuity ratio is at 71%.

## ***Highlights from our volunteer survey***



## Some memorable milestones

Ten years have flown by and as we look back there have been several moments that stand out for what they represent - inspiration, joy, a deep sense of bonding and pride in our people and our students.

### Where it all began

The Bandra street school project was launched by AXF with a story-telling session for underprivileged children from neighbourhood slums on 30th April 2012. Our first centre at Bandra began with 80 kids, followed shortly by the launch of our Santacruz centre in the same year. Today, AXF touches the lives of over 2,800 students and their families!



### Going for Gold!

An inspiring run by our student Nitesh Jha as part of a nationwide 'fastest Indian' talent hunt saw him reach the finals at Bengaluru after winning Gold at the state event at the University Sports Ground in Kalina in November 2014. Discovering hidden talents in our students and helping them to shine in their own unique way is what inspires us to do what we do every single day.





## Some memorable milestones

### **AXF Day of Grace #2016**

Each year, our AXF Day of Grace provides us the opportunity to bring together our sponsors, donors, volunteers, students and supporters for a joyful evening under the stars at the Bandra Fort Amphitheatre. This is our opportunity to thank each of them for their support and participation in our cause.

The AXF Day of Grace 2016 was a truly memorable one as it was graced by eminent personalities - Sonali Bendre (our charming Chief Guest), Sunita Bhuyan (who gave a mesmerising and soulful performance), Geetu Hinduja (who brought music into the lives of our AXF children). Also present were our corporate sponsors, Board members, supporting NGOs and many of our well-wishers.

This event was a precursor to those that followed in later years, which were graced by guests such as Twinkle Khanna, Sharon Prabhakar and the Indian Ocean band.



### **Back to our roots**

Our first graduation ceremony was held right where it all began – at our first AXF centre! Our long-standing supporter, Sunita Bhuyan graced the occasion with her fantastic musical team and left our students and volunteers spellbound. Our students were also treated by Speaking Minds to a witty speech from Mr Prahlad Kakkar



# Some memorable milestones

## 10 years, 100 leaders

After two challenging years of online learning, online meetings, online assessments and online fatigue, we got back to the physical world with a bang! Our 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Board and team interaction was held in March 2022 in Mumbai.

Over a 100 leaders, most of them educated, urban women stood up to present the brilliant work that they and their teams of volunteers had done during the pandemic. We are grateful that AXF has been the catalyst for so many who have found greater meaning and purpose through the various roles they play here – as volunteers, subject mentors, teachers, trainers, centre heads, program heads, functional heads and more.

The difficulties of the previous two years seemed to fade in the face of their collective power as we looked to the future. With them as partners in our journey, AXF's future is in safe hands.



## Hear from our veterans



**Bijal Gorasia**  
AXF Santacruz RK

*I am an Interior Designer by profession and have been a homemaker since the past 18 years. During one Diwali party, my neighbour generally mentioned about her noble deed of volunteering with AXF at Santacruz RK Centre. I casually went to see the place and instantly fell in love with it and started teaching English to 8th grade kids there since November, 2013. I later taught a more advanced English batch and then moved to teaching Standard 10 students for the last 3 to 4 years. Since the past 2 years, due to covid, the AXF team sincerely made it a great success in online tuitions though it had its own pros and cons. Some difficulties but more opportunities! I do miss the get togethers, trainings and other fun at offline level, but the mere thought of educating capable and deserving kids helps me to go on. Their results are my biggest motivation – to see them going to colleges and pursue further studies. I sincerely request all that teaching these kids is real fun and satisfying. The best part is that one doesn't need any degree or experience, just few hours a week and lots of love, patience and empathy!*

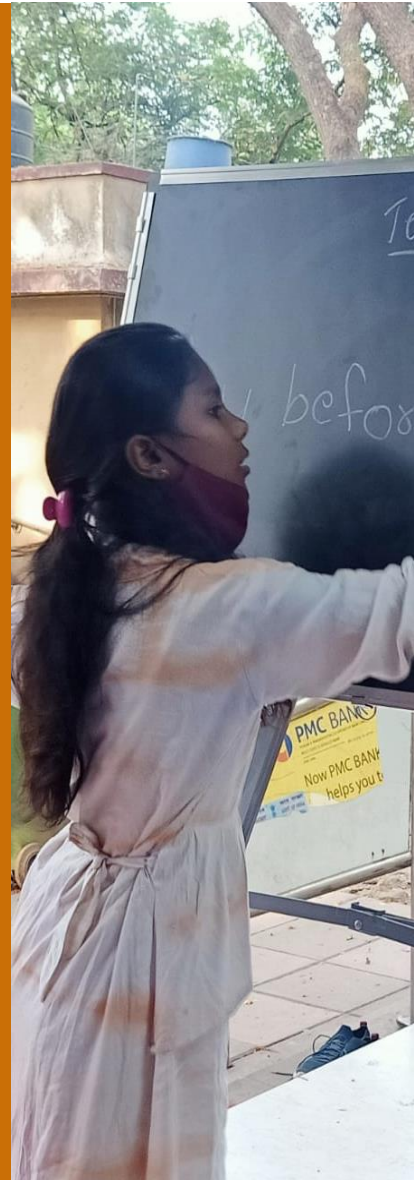
*I first joined AXF as a student in grade 6 and have been with AXF Dosti for almost 5 years. In the last year I had enrolled for the SSC tutoring program at AXF and all the teachers supported me a lot. This helped me to appear for my SSC exams recently. I did not need to take any additional tuitions as what was taught at school and by the AXF teachers was enough to prepare me well. I am confident that I will clear my SSC exams! I want to register with AXF for grade 11 and 12 as well as the teachers give me good attention and support.*



**Priyanka Gupta**  
AXF Dosti



Looking to the future



# Defining our goals

As we grow into a more mature organization, we have defined areas in which we seek to continue making an impact. Our goals are aligned with the UN and national Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These drive the design of programs and activities by our central team, which are delivered across our FLCs.



## Quality Education (our core objective)

- Develop critical thinking, logical reasoning and English skills
- Enhance academic focus and abilities in high school students
- Build career awareness and readiness through mentoring and training



## Gender equality

- Enroll and retain female students and nurture their educational aspirations
- Encourage continued education of girls through scholarship opportunities
- Build awareness on gender related health and safety issues



## Good health and well-being

- Provide a safe and healthy learning space for our students
- Improve nutrition, general health awareness and personal hygiene
- Enhance confidence and socio-emotional development in our students



## Sustainable communities

- Encourage volunteerism as a lifestyle choice
- Bridge the social divide within our neighbourhoods
- Make our cities and communities more inclusive

We are in the process of defining the outcomes and measures that will help assess our progress towards these goals and our longer-term impact on our students, volunteers and communities. In order to do this in a more efficient and robust manner we are also implementing a software-based system to capture relevant information and form the basis of our impact measurement and assessment.

# Continuing programs

The following programs will be offered through our FLCs in the coming academic year. The AXF curriculum is our flagship program that has been offered by our FLCs over the past ten years. Some of the others are relatively newer offerings.



## AXF curriculum

Our flagship program offering tutoring twice a week in English and Mathematics, daily nutritional snack and periodic health checks for students up to grades 7/8/9

## YEP

SSC/HSC coaching, skills development, career readiness and awareness programs for students in grades 9 to 12



## Spoken English Program

Individual or group classes offered online for all students from grade 6 onwards, to improve conversation skills and aid higher education



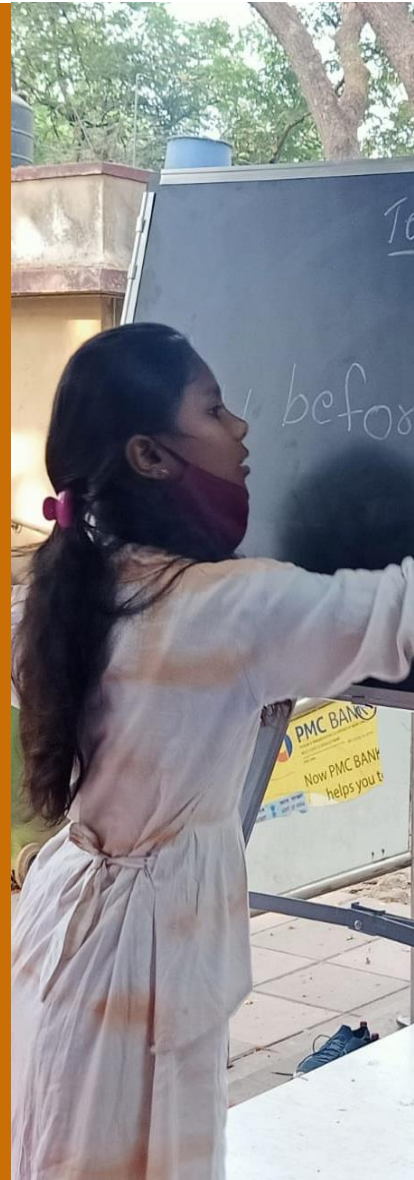
## Life-skills/Extra-curriculars

Program grounded in arts-based therapy to develop self-awareness. Builds personal competencies, empathy, mindfulness and decision-making skills. Extra-curriculars aid all-round development and bring joy!





Overview of academic performance (2021-22)





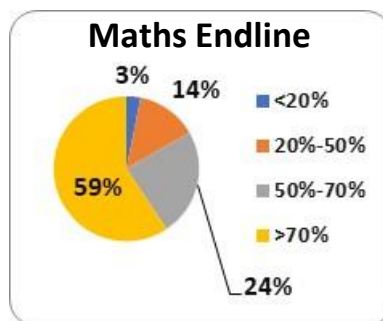
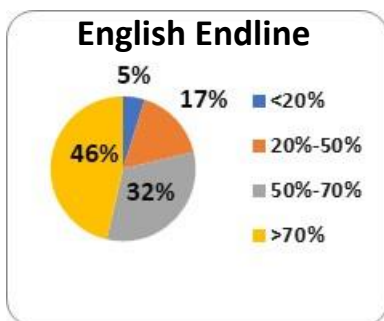
# End-line academic performance

We held our end-line examinations during the month of March 2022 for approximately 1,000 AXF curriculum students (Math and English) as well as over 300 SSC and 150 HSC curriculum students. Most students participated enthusiastically and gave their best efforts to the examination. However, in this academic year several students continued to face significant challenges in attending classes and appearing for assessments. Some of the common issues faced are highlighted below.

- Online school, online tutoring and online AXF classes resulted in scheduling challenges for several students since they had to juggle multiple online commitments. There is online fatigue and many of our students are eager to return to a face-to-face learning format as they enjoy the learning experience in person.
- Once schools re-opened in January 2022 students in senior classes faced tremendous pressure to complete their academic work and appear for multiple school examinations. The changed school timings also presented further scheduling challenges.

These factors resulted in erratic attendance at AXF classes and the end-line assessments which were held online were missed by a fair percentage of students. These students will appear for a baseline test at the beginning of the next academic year in order to assess their abilities. We are hopeful that attendance will revert to normal with schools moving to a regular routine next year.

## AXF curriculum end-line results distribution



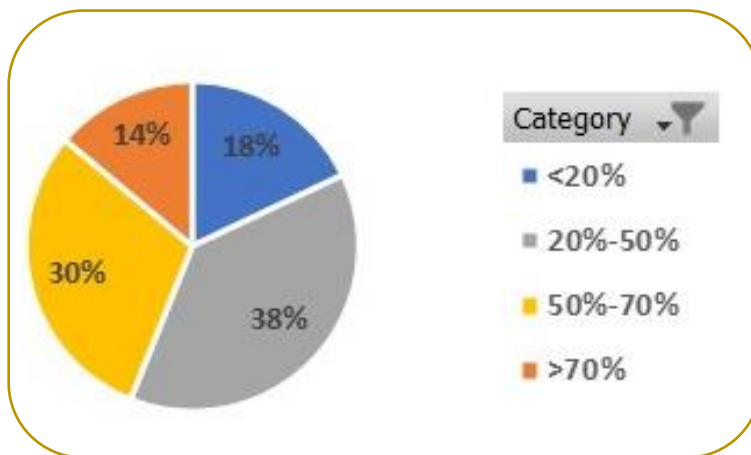
Number of students – marks bracket



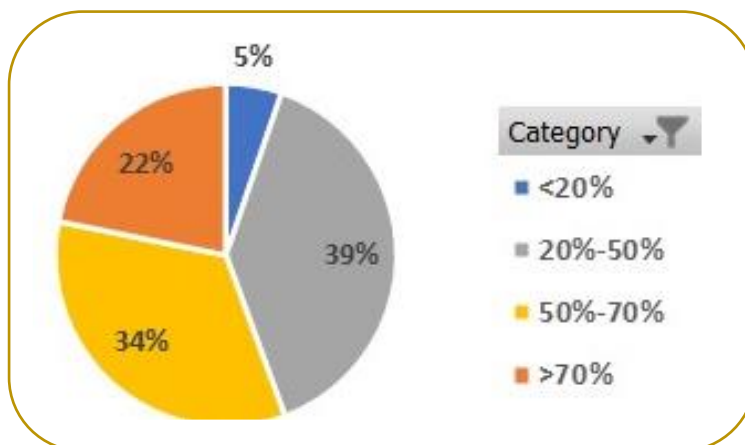
# End-line academic performance

With students coming from English, Hindi and Marathi medium schools, our volunteers stepped up and supported the students in the subjects where there was a need. While Maths and Science were selected by most students, there were other subjects like English, Hindi, Social Studies etc., for which classes were held. Some centers conducted continuous evaluation through tests and students have shown a marked improvement in the grades. However, the centers which were not able to conduct endline exams will track the improvement once the board results are announced.

## SSC curriculum end-line results distribution



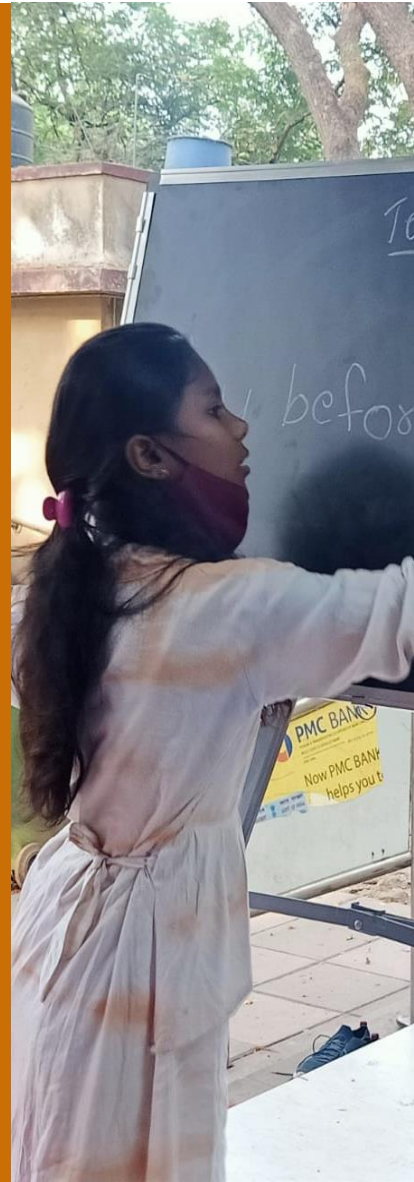
## HSC curriculum end-line results distribution



Number of students – marks bracket



Recent activities @ FLCs



# Activities, celebrations and more!

With a view to enhancing their overall health and well-being and build self-confidence as well as self-awareness in our students we go beyond academics. The extra-curricular activities at our centres include art and crafts, yoga, dance, health check camps, educational and fun outings and distribution of health and hygiene essentials. Here are glimpses of some good times with our students once the pandemic restrictions started easing off.



Grade 9 students of Bombay Scottish School, Mahim conducted vacation camps for the Bandra bandstand children. Memory games, quizzes, quilting, origami and many more party games kept the children engrossed!

Easter was celebrated at the Mulund FLC with face painting and other fun activities. The kids were very happy and excited to be part of the celebrations



# Activities, celebrations and more!



The pandemic situation had restricted outings and field trips for the FLCs. Once the restrictions eased out, the Juhu FLC children had a real treat watching a movie at the PVR cinemas

Grade 9 and Grade 10 AXF students were given an opportunity to attend a career counselling course by The Red Pen. The children received the course well, which gave them insights into future college opportunities



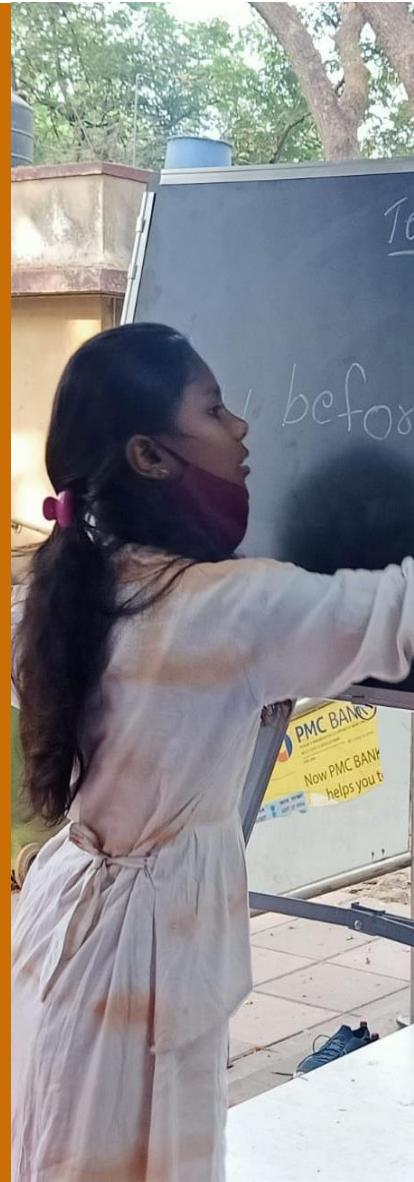
Grade 10 and 12 YEP students at the Dosti FLC were provided with all the support needed for the exams. In addition to online classes, exam prep books for revision were also provided to 20 students.

The FLCs are slowly coming back to an offline mode, which has made both AXF volunteers and students very happy!





A glimpse at life inside  
our FLCs



## Life inside our FLCs

The efforts made, the outcomes achieved and the impact generated over the previous ten years – none of these would have been possible without the enthusiasm of our students and our volunteers. They are the soul of AXF and the ones who breathe life into our FLCs. In celebration of our tenth anniversary, we give you a glimpse into life across our centres through the eyes of volunteers and students. They speak about how AXF has made a difference in their lives and what brings them back to our centres every year.



**Purnima**  
AXF Student since 2 years  
Ghatkopar

*"We are really lucky to have dedicated and loving teachers. I used to be very shy and would not talk to people but the three years with AXF have completely changed me. Now I am a confident girl. My family and I thank AXF from the bottom of our hearts for all what they have done for us during the pandemic. I wish to study well and become an engineer and also want to volunteer with AXF and teach when I grow up"*

*"At AXF, we deal with sweat, tears and breakdowns to unending laughter while building a strong bond with students and each other. While teaching these kids, I have learned so many life lessons, most importantly, how to be patient and content with a smiling face. I feel so privileged to have this opportunity to help and serve these children who are full of positive energy and want to learn. It gives me immense pleasure to do this bit of service to the society through these children where our little effort can bring a huge change in their life."*



**Ruchi Soni**  
Graduate in art and teaching  
Volunteer since 4 years  
Sewri



**Pinky Kumari Mahto**  
AXF Student since 4 years  
Juhu

*"Before joining AXF I was very weak in studies and could hardly understand anything in the school that was taught. Once I joined AXF, the didis explained to us everything so peacefully and in a sweet voice which made me realise that I really liked reading and talking in English. This helped me improve my school grades and also develop my interest in studies. I want to study well and become a doctor"*

## Life inside our FLCs

*"The difference I make is not always visible but it gives me a sense of satisfaction to know that I have done my best. I have realized that teaching these students is tough and a challenge which keeps me going. Impact on a student's academics maybe dismal in some cases but they get an opportunity to dream and set a goal for their future apart from having us volunteers to approach for any assistance or guidance. I always share my role at AXF with as many people as I can so that any interested person can come forward to volunteer."*



**Jyoti Narayan**  
Post graduate in computers  
Volunteer since 3 years  
Romell



**Sushmita Chaudhary**  
AXF Student since 5 years  
Santacruz RK

*"My English and Maths has improved a lot after joining AXF. The teachers are kind and helpful. I have also made a lot of friends in AXF and like studying with them. I have not yet decided what I want to become in future but AXF has a session for us after boards where they will talk about different career opportunities, which I feel will help me to decide. I want AXF to be in my life forever. One day when I become successful it is my wish to give back to AXF and teach the kids studying here like my teachers taught me."*

*"I currently tutor AXF students in Maths and Science. I heard about AXF from my sister and since I love to teach, connected with Heena and joined AXF Colaba. I love AXF and it has given me a lot of confidence. After my son went abroad, I felt a vacuum which AXF has helped fill up. I have a great connection with my students. They are hardworking and if they get the right teacher and the opportunity they can do well. If one loves teaching and is committed then AXF is the place to be. It keeps one engaged and involved with students."*



**Leena Raichura**  
Graduate in Clinical Analysis  
Volunteer since 3 years  
Colaba



**Chandni Kanojia**  
AXF Student since 2 years  
Goregaon

*"AXF helps poor students in their studies. AXF helped us and all students during the pandemic. They distributed ration, mobile phones, laptop, books, stationery etc. The AXF teachers are very hard working and have taught us through the phone during the pandemic. We students learn English, Maths and school's subjects too at AXF. AXF also conducts activity classes for us children and also supports us if we face any problems in life and school studies also."*

## Life inside our FLCs

*"Teaching the students online was a true delight. I tried to make the best use of technology and prepared presentations and quizzes, showed educational videos, to not only supplement education and learning, but also ensure retention. I introduced certain general knowledge concepts relating to environment and society using videos and quizzes. The act of contributing, however little I am able to, in order to see a smile on the children's faces is a truly rewarding experience. Despite their circumstances, there is an ardent willingness to learn and grasp knowledge"*



**Dhruv Thakkar**  
Grade 12 student at JNS  
Volunteer since 1 year  
Amboli



**Preeti Vishwakarma**  
AXF Student since 1 year  
Santacruz BK

*" Before AXF, my performance in school was pretty normal. However, after my short time in AXF I have developed into an above average student and also have bettered my communication skills, relationship within my community and neighborhood. There has been an improvement in my spoken English which makes interacting much simpler and my basic grammar and math concepts have also improved. I have had a good interaction with my volunteer teachers since they are very supportive. I have not decided about my future yet but if I had to choose at the moment, I would want to be a teacher."*

*"Having taught children at an international school for a few years, it has been a privilege of mine, to be a part of the AXF family. AXF's motto to constantly strive for these little ones' benefit, wading through various challenges, has encouraged me to continue this journey. We, at AXF Mulund, strive hard to help our students facing challenges both personally and academically by being compassionate towards them and helping them understand concepts from the grassroots level. We believe this would benefit our students immensely in their schools. I am delighted to spread the good work done by AXF so that, more noble-hearted and like-minded people join hands with us to assist our students in their education"*



**Rekha Nair**  
Math graduate and B.Ed.  
Volunteer since 4 years  
Mulund



## Life inside our FLCs



**Sugriv Sharma**  
YEP Student since 1 year  
Kotak Scholarship awardee  
Malad

*" My journey in AXF started at a time when I was about to lose my chance to go to college. Since I was unable to pay my school fees ,the school didn't give my LC and SSC results. I had filled the Government online admission form and got allotted in Mithibai college, I couldn't proceed without the documents. AXF helped me pay the fees and obtain certificates, and therefore I got my college admission on time. I will work hard and give my best results . The scholarship helped me because my parents had borrowed money for my admission. As I got a scholarship I was able to return the money they have borrowed. My future goal is to be a Company Secretary and I also want to become a CEO of a reputed company."*

*" I joined AXF with the aim of helping the underprivileged children. But now it has become an integral part of my life with valuable lessons learned every day from students and Volunteers. Four years of association with AXF has not only brought immense change in the way we look at life but also in the lives of our students. They are so enthusiastic about studies and learning new things. They have a fire in them to learn and excel ahead but the circumstances pull them back. My prayers for this movement called AXF to continue and touch more and more lives of students and volunteers, a give and take relationship built with lot of positive vibes."*



**Purvi Vasavada**  
Volunteer since 4 years  
Bhakti Park



**Uday Maurya**  
AXF Student since 5 years  
Powai

*"The past 4 years has been a tremendous learning experience for me. Thanks to AXF, I have overcome my fear of speaking in public, in addition to improving my Math skills. AXF has also helped in improving my social interaction skills and behaviour. The teachers at AXF are always ready to listen to our views and ideas and support us in all our endeavours. I have become a more focused and disciplined person. Now that I am in the 9th standard, AXF is helping with my school curriculum. My parents are also very happy as they do not have to pay for tuition classes. The teachers at AXF always cheer us to do more and become a better person. I am glad that I am a student of AXF Powai"*

## Life inside our FLCs

*"The Covid pandemic era was both boon and a bane for all of us but the adverse effects were faced especially by the education industry. It was during this moment the constant struggle of kids who were striving to get right academic direction motivated me to be a part of AXF, which proved to be an excellent choice. AXF as an organisation is outstanding. The strong belief to provide education to kids, dedicated team of centre/group heads itself encourages the volunteers to deliver the best which creates a positive impact on each volunteer. It is a soul satisfying experience when I see my group of kids reading fluently and enjoying their session."*



**Lubdha Ogale**  
PR and advertising professional  
Volunteer since 1 year  
Dosti



**Shweta Goud**  
AXF Student since 8 years  
Andheri East

*"The journey from being a 'shy Shweta' to becoming a 'confident Shweta' has been long and arduous. It's like a movie where there are ups and downs, but I've also achieved a lot despite my difficulties because of AXF. Before joining AXF, I never imagined my life beyond my family but after joining I came across a world, which is full of adventure. The teachers here are friendly and energetic. I am proud of how much I have improved- both in English and in Math and my academics, overall. My dream is to become an IAS officer. I am confident I will achieve it. However, I had no idea how to fulfill that dream. AXF showed a path to follow. I was helped in many different ways- mentally, physically, and emotionally as well. AXF has become my home for the rest of my life. I plan to donate 50% of my salary to the NGO in the future"*

*"As a person, I always want to uplift society and make it a better and fair place and I believe education is one of the main pillars that can help in achieving it. This motivated me to volunteer at AXF. Teaching students here gave me happiness and made me feel content. The eagerness and inquisitiveness of students to learn new things has made me continue this journey. I believe AXF has a very positive impact on the student's academics, their extra curriculums and developing their personality as well. I like to encourage others to volunteer at AXF since by teaching the students, they just won't be educating a child, they are educating the family and are improving the future prospects of that family as well. Is there a better way to give back to community?"*



**Vaibhav Gupta**  
Mechanical Engineer  
Volunteer since 2 years  
Karwe

# Life inside our FLCs

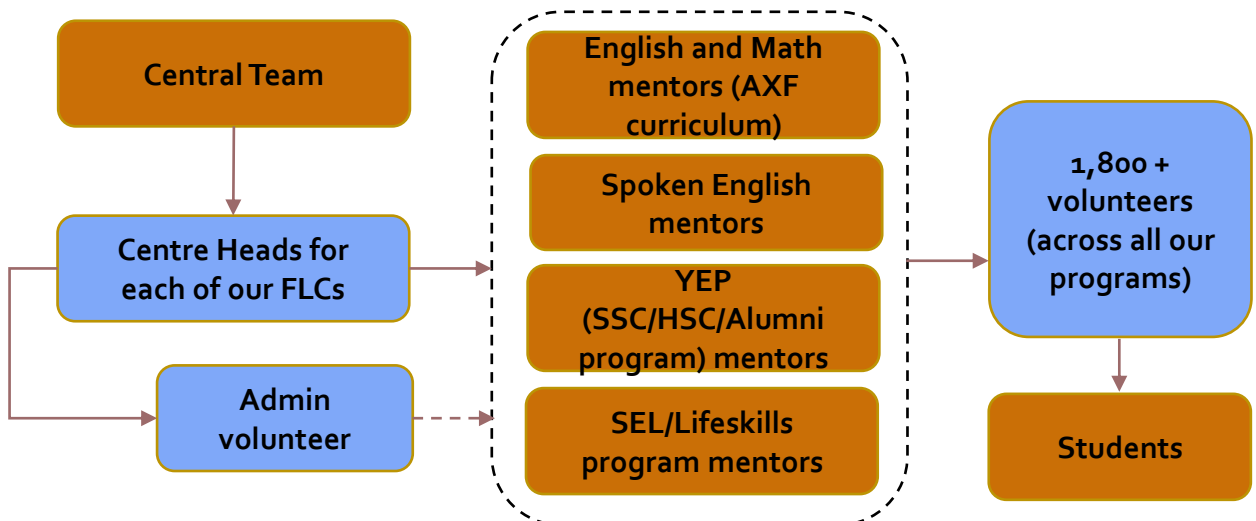


**Khushbu Kumari**  
 AXF Student since 3 years  
 Bandra

*" My older brother Manish encouraged me to join AXF. All of us siblings are currently enrolled with AXF. I am very interested in Geography and learning about new places. I want to become a pilot as I love to travel. I also hope that my ambition will help my family improve their standard of living. My mother feels that I have become more confident and very sincere towards my studies after joining AXF. I have found many motivating volunteers and teachers who push me to excel. Anita teacher is my favorite and I know that Miss Kusum is always there for all the children like a mother figure. I am grateful to AXF for extending support through the tough times these last two years."*

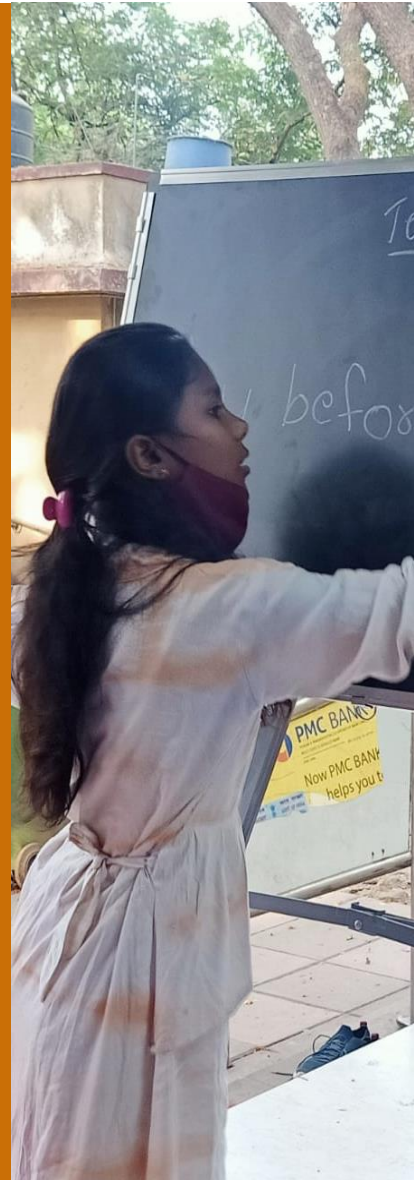
## Our FLC team structure

These student and volunteer experiences would not have been possible without the able guidance and support provided by each centre management team. Every FLC operates within the following structure, which ensures that new volunteers receive the right guidance and direction when they first join us and existing volunteers are able to resolve any difficulties that arise while teaching. We are grateful to our centre heads and subject mentors for their untiring efforts.





Financial overview  
(2021-22)





# Overview of our financial results

The following is an overview of our utilization of funds during the financial year 2021-22. In this year, expenditure incurred towards Covid relief initiatives was lower than in the previous year, resulting in an overall reduction in expenditure. Direct program expenses have however, increased due to resumption of in-person learning at some centres.

Activities	Nature of expenses	Amount in INR	% Of total exp
Free Learning Centres (FLC/central team)	Teachers, centre heads, central coordination and centre management team members	50,83,198	88%
	COVID relief initiatives	46,64,336	
	Volunteer recruitment, training and meetings	17,34,918	
	Curriculum development and assessments	14,75,348	
	Other direct expenses	14,67,744	
Office administration and IT infrastructure (central team)	Finance and office administration teams, IT infrastructure costs	13,31,977	8%
Fundraising (central team)	Personnel costs for central fundraising team, Social media and promotion, Donor/sponsor engagement	6,04,124	4%
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>1,63,61,645</b>	<b>100%</b>

# Contact us

## Find us here

### ***To volunteer for online and/or in-person classes***

Punita Singh

+91 9821822636

[punita.axf@gmail.com](mailto:punita.axf@gmail.com)

### ***To donate funds***

Contact our founders on [angelxpressfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:angelxpressfoundation@gmail.com)  
or click [here](#)

### ***To donate a device***

Devices may be dropped off/couriered to:

Beenaa Advani

601 Satguru Drishti

Khar Pali Road

Khar West

Mumbai 400052

### ***To know more***

Visit our website [www.angelxpress.org](http://www.angelxpress.org)

