



# Project Pandita Year 2020-2021



[www.majhimaitrin.in](http://www.majhimaitrin.in)



**MMCT**

'Majhi Maitrin Charitable Trust' (**MMCT**) came into being in 2002 with the theme 'Self Employment by Cooperation of Women' (**SECOW**) The Trust has been working to change the women's mind set towards financial independence, social security and dignity for more than a decade. Initially, making self employment avenues available to underprivileged women was the prime goal of the Trust. This activity gave the '*maitrins*' financial self reliance and also identity, self-confidence and self-esteem. This change nurtured the will to oppose individual & social injustices.

'Majhi Maitrin' has over the years evolved as a multifaceted, sensitive and socially pro-active organisation.



## **Learning from SECOW**

SECOW is aimed at empowerment of women from unprivileged section of the society. The women, mostly, are barely or not educated at all. A lot of efforts are needed to inculcate habits of good hygiene, benefits of co-operative working & the adjustments necessary for it. Lack of basic education made it difficult for the women to understand calculation of business costs, banking etc. Thereby a need was realised to address the new generation of girls and focus on their education. Sound & strong education is of prime importance to the girls from economically weaker section for their sustenance & progress. They are sure to emerge as able and confident women of tomorrow.



## Launch of 'Project Pandita'

'Project Pandita was launched in the year 2017-18. The MMCT team of 'Project Pandita' consists of experienced teachers, advisors and We observed that most of the girls from schools in rural areas lack basic understanding of Science, Maths, English concepts. Often understanding a question is itself a problem. If the basics are not clear, their interest in studying further decreases and the drop-out rate after 10<sup>th</sup> standard goes up sharply. The girls come from a background of barely or poorly educated parents. The atmosphere is not conducive to education nor do the girls get any guidance about their studies.



## **Project Pandita Goals and Aims**

**Project Pandita was taken up by the Trust in 2017-18 in Rayat Shikshan Sanstha's Kanya Shala, Dehu, a rural school near Pune with the objectives to help the girls**

- To correctly understand and interpret Science, Math, English concepts thereby increasing their interest to study more
- To increase their skill levels in written and spoken communication
- To improve their performance in 10<sup>th</sup> standard board examination in order to enhance their prospects to take up further studies in vocational/professional courses
- To introduce them to various vocational and other career options of higher studies and also to self employment opportunities through visits to other illustrious urban colleges for girls



**Three  
years of  
'Project  
Pandita'**

We adopted different techniques to increase the girls' interest in studying. We focused our tuitions towards clearing the concepts of the subjects. Once the concepts started getting clearer, the girls' interest in learning the subjects increased. Our efforts yielded good results. The girls who could barely read a few words in English could now form simple sentences and have the confidence of speaking in front of the class.

'Project Pandita' has been successfully working for last three years in Sant Jijabai Girl's School, Dehu, near Pune. This year we have been invited by one more school, 'Kanya Shala', at Pimpri-Waghre.



**Three  
years of  
'Project  
Pandita'**

We did not forget our basic goal of all-round development of girl's personality.

- We have started a small library for the girls of English story books which offers them an opportunity of extra curricular reading. This library is managed by girls of 9<sup>th</sup> standard.
- We provide small but nutritional snacks to girls to keep their energy level up, as Pandita classes add to time spent in school.
- We emphasise importance of personal hygiene, through lectures and distribution of items like sanitary napkins etc.



**Results  
Obtained from  
2017-2020**

1. As the basics were understood, the girls became more interested and enthusiastic about studies.
2. They have developed a liking for Science, Maths and English
3. Their reading skills have improved. Now they are able to pronounce and read English texts / story books correctly.
4. As their understanding improved their confidence levels increased. They were ready to apply their minds to put their knowledge to use.
5. Marked improvement in all subjects is seen.





## Online Education

Online education is fast becoming the new Norm, and is just as quickly being adopted by urban students. Most have immediate access to technology as well as fairly techno-savvy parents who are able to adapt and equip their wards towards this new system.

### **But What About Those For Whom These Opportunities Are Out Of Reach?**

Our Below-Poverty-Line (BPL) Students belong to a stratum of the society with zero opportunity or access to technology. Their parents survive on daily wages or work in unorganised sectors and are often illiterate. Technology is a distant dream, a luxury for most.

MMCT Project Pandita has, over three years, empowered these students with confidence and a thirst for knowledge.



## **Current Challenge of e-learning**

Our girls have worked hard, often facing resistance from family, and made huge strides towards a life of dignity and choice. But now, with today's situation, this progress is under serious threat.

We have successfully developed a professional and intuitive online teaching programme to which our students have creditably adapted to it.

A lack of devices has given rise to a new set of concerns. With the inability to connect, we fear a high rate of drop-outs, some even resulting in early marriage at the age of 14-15 or child labour. For those who choose to continue, the gap caused by the current lockdown will put them far behind their peers, resulting in a drop in their confidence levels and, possibly, motivation to study.



## 'Mobilisation to collect 120 Smartphones'

**How you  
can help**

**Our requirement is clear and urgent.**

To get all students on board this system, we need them to have devices, i.e. smart phones. Kindly donate for new smartphones/tablets. We are happy to note that our supporters are donating for mobiles, saying let them study with brand new phones. Let them get full happiness and realisation of the importance of learning this technology. Expenses for internet connection will be borne by the Trust.

## **Donate Generously**



# Visits of 9<sup>th</sup> std girls to St. Mira's College for Girls and Cummins college of Engineering for women





## Videos School Teachers



<https://www.facebook.com/shaila.limaye/videos/2614322595250265/>



<https://www.facebook.com/shaila.limaye/videos/2284375354911659/>



<https://www.facebook.com/shaila.limaye/videos/2269912486357946/>



## Other Activities of MMCT

- Majhi Maitrin Charitable Trust (MMCT) Pune was established in 2002.
- Working for social, educational and economic empowerment of girls & women from underprivileged section of the society
- Some of our other successful projects –
  - SECOW (Self Employment by cooperation of women)
  - Learn and Earn project for 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> standard girls from Hutatma Rajguru Vidyalaya, Hanumannagar, Pune of Rayat Shikshan Sanstha
  - Scholarship scheme for deserving girls from economically weak strata for their school / college / skill development courses
  - NALSA- Main partner In Maharashtra for National Legal Literacy Mission in 2005
  - Nyaya Mangalam – Implemented a project of NALSA in Andhra Pradesh
  - Library- For Senior Citizens and @ Dehu School

Visit:




Website: [www.majhimaitrin.in](http://www.majhimaitrin.in)

FB page: Majhi Maitrin Charitable Trust

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## MMCT TEAM

Name	Role	Background
 Shaila Limaye	Managing Trustee & Project Head	She is a graduate in Arts and is a thorough social worker who strives for the upliftment of underprivileged women. She has been closely associated with Labour movement with proven track record of being a capable organiser
 C. Murli	Trustee	C. Murali is a Mechanical Engineer & did post graduation from IIM-Calcutta in Advanced Strategy Management and vast experience at senior positions in Engineering Industry
 Rohini Moghe	Trustee	Rohini completed her Masters degree in commerce from Bombay University, followed by a post graduate Diploma in Education from Australia. She taught business curriculum related subjects in Indian & international education systems



## PROJECT PANDITA TEAM

Name	Role	Background
 Rekha Kulkarni	Trustee	Rekha has teaching experience of over 15 years. She has completed her masters from Mumbai university, BS degree from the US with early child education as her focus.
 Amita Pandit	Trustee & Subject Head Maths and Science	M.Sc. Microbiology, Teacher at City Pride school. Teaching for scholarship and NTSE examinations. Co-authored books for scholarship and NTSE.
 Hema Ashtaputre	Subject Head English	B.A. B.Ed., with 25 years experience in the field of education. Worked as coordinator & later as Headmistress of a reputed school in Thane. Conducted 'Skills for Adolescence' classes for students. Was part of a team that held workshops for parents in understanding children & creating a trusting relationship with them.





Contact US

We believe that Project Pandita is a worthy cause that will do a great deal of good for many girls and their families. We're excited to partner with you to make this project a reality, leading to substantial benefits in the short, medium, and long term. Should you have any questions, or wish to discuss this project further, please reach out to:

Shaila Limaye at

[shailalimaye7@gmail.com](mailto:shailalimaye7@gmail.com)



**Donate**

You may donate:

Cheque / DD favouring –  
Majhi Maitrin Charitable Trust

OR

RTGS/NEFT to

Account: Majhi Maitrin Charitable Trust

Account No: **20017465856**

Account Type: Savings

Bank: Bank of Maharashtra

Aundh Branch, Pune 411007

IFSC Code: **MAHB0000118**

**Thank You**