

17000 ft Foundation is a Not for Profit Organization setup with a focus to improve lives of people living in very remote villages, in areas that lie isolated and forgotten due to difficulties posed by tough terrain. Our programs focus on improving education, empowering youth and providing better livelihood opportunities for the people of these villages.

*Our mission is to strengthen rural villages, make them more acceptable to the local people and stem the desperate exodus of young families to faraway cities in search of a better life.*

Setup by a husband and wife team, both senior corporate professionals and trekkers who hung up their corporate boots to setup a Social Enterprise, 17000 ft has its roots in high altitude Ladakh, a desolate cold desert in the Himalayan mountainous state of Jammu and Kashmir, India. Situated in altitudes upwards of 9300 ft, with temperatures dropping to -40 degree Celsius and hundreds of tiny remote villages dotting this sparsely populated landscape, the area suffers from isolation, neglect, bare minimum facilities and a centuries old civilization desperate for a better life for their children

### Our Impact in our third year

#### Schools

- Geo-mapping and survey - All 372 schools of Leh District surveyed for quantitative and qualitative analysis
- Adopted for direct interventions - 100 across 45,000 sq. km. of Leh District
- MIS built for each School Library to monitor and assess efficacy of programs (MapMySchool)

#### Library Program:

- Libraries setup – in 100 schools across all 6 Administrative Blocks of Leh District with regular monitoring schedules
- Program reach - 17000 ft Library Program adopted by the Department of Education across all 270 Govt. Schools *Impact – 8,000 children*
- Bhoti@17000ft** – 20 Pratham & Scholastic Publications translated into local Bhoti Language for distribution into 300 schools of Leh – A flagship project for Ladakh with currently no books in the local language for children

#### Teacher Training & Capacity Building

- Residential and in-service training - collaboration with DIET (District Institute of Education and Training, Leh) to train teachers and Head Masters across all Govt. Schools yearly
- Impact – Entire school system across Leh District*

#### Infrastructure Projects

- Classroom Furniture and playgrounds setup – 20 schools

#### “Volunteer Tourism” Projects:

- 150 Volunteers sent to villages to volunteer and spend time in villages completely unused to outsiders

#### Geographical Expansion:

- Discussions for collaboration with Kargil Administration to expand work in their schools

### Partnerships & Collaborations

- Pratham Education Foundation:** We are the J&K Implementation Partner of Pratham, India’s largest NGO working to improve education for underprivileged children, to run its ASER programs.
- Akshara Foundation:** We have partnered with Akshara Foundation for sharing knowledge of their Library Programs, and with its sister concern Karnataka Learning Partnership for technology.
- Dept. Of Education Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Leh & Kargil District:** Our programs are run in collaboration with the Dept. Of Education to be later adopted across the system



## ***Our Projects***

### ***How we work to achieve our goals***

- **MapMySchool@17000ft** - Our Technology Platform that connects remote villages and schools to visiting trekkers and travelers, making them aware of ignored schools on their route, encouraging and enabling them to share, collaborate and reach out to these tiny schools on their trip. A web-based, crowd-sourced platform, it is also the technology backbone of our operations, and the data amassed from this layer helps us plan and execute our various initiatives across the schools.
- **Yountan Project** -Yountan meaning “education” in Ladakhi, is a series of programs focused on improving learning at the remote school. Broadly, our programs involve the setup and maintenance of libraries and reading programs, teacher training in collaboration with the administration, setting up of effective monitoring systems and infrastructure improvement at the remote school.
- **Voluntourist@17000ft** - Structured and organized Volunteer Tourist Programs matching the skills of the committed traveler with the needs of the school, allowing for an increased reach of our own programs, creating tourism spends in many villages and creating a revenue model for 17000 ft to cover back-end costs.

## ***Core Team***

- **Sujata Sahu - Founder Director**
  - Senior Corporate IT Professional who dropped out to become an educator, she is the passion and the vision behind 17000 ft, and holds the Education and Technology Portfolio.
- **Sandeep Sahu- Founder Director**
  - A serial entrepreneur, and a Senior Advertising and BTL professional with extensive knowledge of Ladakh – he heads Strategy and Planning @17000ft
- **Dawa Jora - Director**
  - Deeply involved in various philanthropic initiatives within rural Ladakh, Dawa heads Operations& Logistics at our Ladakh Office
- **Dr. Fiona Miranda - Director**
  - An educator, Fiona focuses on imparting Health Education amongst youth and women. Our Ambassador in Mumbai and Overseas, Fiona actively campaigns in Corporates and Schools to raise awareness and help in Fundraising
- **Luis Miranda – Advisor**
  - Formerly on the board of many Banking and Investment firms, he is involved with many not-for-profits. An ambassador for 17000 ft, Luis advises on Strategic Partnerships and Fundraising.
- **Nalina Suresh - Advisor**
  - A senior Executive Search professional, she helps and ensures the best positioning of 17000 ft and carries the inspiring story of 17000 ft forward.

*More details can be found on our website <http://www.17000ft.org> and our more interactive Facebook Page <http://www.facebook.com/17000ft>*

