



WE ARE CHILDREN OF THE UNIVERSE...

AN IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF DIVI'S INTERVENTION IN HEAL PARADISE SCHOOL

DEEKSHA
CENTRE FOR LEARNING AND ACTION
Hyderabad



Divi's Laboratories Ltd.

**REPORT OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF DIVI'S INTERVENTION IN
HEAL PARADISE SCHOOL**

THOTAPALLI, ANDHRA PRADESH

A CSR INITIATIVE OF DIVI'S

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Report Prepared by

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BACKGROUND

Orphanhood is pervasive and can severely disrupt a child's life. Worldwide, there were more than 200 million orphans in 2012, and this figure has been trending upward. In India the number of orphans increased from 25 million to 31 million between 2006 and 2012, making it the nation with the highest prevalence in absolute numbers (Unicef 2012). Less than half a million of these children are in institutionalised care, so the remaining 30.5 million are left to wander the streets. In addition to the everyday struggle of homelessness, poverty and lack of education, these children are vulnerable to malnutrition, waterborne and vaccine preventable diseases.

Besides, one of the biggest dangers they are facing is the threat of exploitation. It often takes the form of child trafficking, transactional sex or child labour. However, orphaned boys don't fare any better. Living on the streets, they are exposed to the risk of becoming anti-social elements.

CONTEXT

Orphan children living in orphanages are often neglected, experiencing physical, behavioural and emotional distress due to their circumstances. While there are laws and facilities in place, many orphan children continue to be neglected, facing multiple problems which seem to worsen as the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated their existing issues. Adoption is one solution to provide parental care but it is very difficult for various reasons, only a tiny percentage of the orphans are eligible for adoption. In 2020-21, according to Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA), only 3,559 children were eligible for adoption with families. It means that millions of children are left to fend themselves without family and support.

In this context, NGOs are playing a leading role in taking care of orphan and abandoned children. These NGOs become surrogate families, offering love, support and a chance for a brighter future. However, government of India funds only 9% of child care institutions. The tireless efforts of NGOs are transforming lives, giving these children not just the basic necessities but also a sense of belonging and dignity. Health and Education for All is one such organisation formed with a strong belief that every child has a right to have a good

life, thus creating a strong family atmosphere to the orphaned, underprivileged and disadvantaged children. HEAL school is supported entirely by philanthropic well-wishers. Divi's also contributed its part in taking forward HEAL's vision of transforming these deprived children into loving, healthy and confident adults with high moral and ethical values.

DIVI'S CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Divi's Laboratories, a leading manufacturer of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (API) having its headquarters in Hyderabad, India, believes and cares deeply in the Business-Society Ecosystem which forms the basis for its CSR component. Started within a few years of launching its business Divi's has been striving to make a meaningful difference in the lives of the communities around the company and create a positive impact on the society.

Towards this, the Company takes up activities for sustainable growth in the neighbourhood or partner with agencies and provides support for various development activities. Some of the CSR thrust areas are *Promoting Education, Empowering women, Rural development, Preventive health care, Safe drinking water, Animal welfare, Improving the standard of living of the community.*

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

In compliance with the CSR rules and regulations under the Companies Act, Divi's intended to do impact assessment of its support to HEAL under its CSR component. For the purpose, Deeksha, a not-for-profit organisation working on the lines of Child Rights, Adolescence Issues, Health, Livelihoods and Gender Equality has been approached to assess the impact of its contribution to HEAL under its CSR initiatives.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

Impressed with the unconditional and unwavering intervention of HEAL to empower the underprivileged and disadvantaged children by providing quality health and education, Divi's has extended support to build staff quarters in HEAL Paradise campus. Thus, the study intends to understand and assess the utility and impact of the intervention.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE

To understand and analyse the impact of the staff quarters constructed in the residential complex of HEAL Paradise.

METHODOLOGY

The methodology of the assessment study is designed in a participatory mode to gather perceptions of different stakeholders. It included interactions with the staff and the children, semi-structured interview with the head of the organisation and physical observation of the staff quarters.

SAMPLE

Random sampling method and snowball sampling are used to identify the staff and the children for interaction.

FINANCIAL OUTLAY

Divi's has contributed an amount of ₹.2,65,43,404.00 towards construction of staff quarters in the HEAL Paradise.

KEY OBSERVATIONS

The study team has made several observations during its visit to HEAL Paradise and noted significant points while interacting with the CEO and the founder of the organisation. However, the key observations are presented in the following pages:

- ✚ HEAL Paradise is the project of Health and Education for All (HEAL), located at Thotapalli village of Andhra Pradesh, in an eco-friendly campus dedicated for orphan, single parent and destitute children.
- ✚ This 27-acre campus is home for more than 900 total orphans, semi orphans, most underprivileged and uncared-for children from across India. It is designed as a holistic learning centre for these deprived children. In addition, it is a homogenous residential community with staff and volunteers living together with the children.
- ✚ Heal Paradise is also known as Heal School. Established in 1993, this co-education day-cum-boarding school is affiliated to Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), and is independently managed by Health and Education for All.

- ✚ At Heal school, they believe that each child blooms at his or her own pace, they just need to be nurtured with human values and make them global citizens. Therefore, the school follows child centric approach in the teaching learning process.
- ✚ The staff and the management here strive hard to bring holistic development to a child by integrating all subjects and creating a healthy environment. Hence, in addition to curricular, co-curricular and extracurricular activities, all competitions and celebrations are given due importance.
- ✚ The campus houses all required facilities for a holistic education – science and math labs, skill development centres, learning labs, music, sports and games... all part of the learning process, in addition to classroom teaching learning.
- ✚ Life skills education is given importance to enable the children acquire knowledge and skills not only to excel in academics and co-curricular to compete and succeed in the modern world, but also to grow into healthy, confident adults with high moral and ethical values and pursue happiness.
- ✚ Sports and games are given importance for physical fitness and effectively channelise the energies while Yoga, music and dance are seen as significant for mental health and well-being. Therefore, all the children are encouraged to actively engage in these activities. Often, they participate in district and state level competitions only to win medals and trophies, shared the CEO.
- ✚ Heal school children learn concepts and theories through joyful and hands-on training under the mentorship of teachers and volunteers. This learning does not limit to classroom or labs but is a continuous learning that takes place in all the activities that the children participate throughout, may it be in the hostel rooms or in the farm or in the garden or in the dining hall, Satyajji, the founder of the Heal Paradise explained.
- ✚ Computer training centre, library, compost pits, waste management... everything is leading to learning for life. It kindles the inquisitiveness and stimulates the thirst / zeal to explore and invent new knowledge. Elder children are assisting and supporting younger children in this process.
- ✚ There are also children with visual impairment, enthusiastic to learn everything that is possible in the school. They need assistance and guidance to satisfy their desire to acquire knowledge and shine in academics, co-curricular and art forms.

- ✚ The love and affection they receive in the school are the main ingredients for their healthy growth and emotionally balanced personality, felt the study team.
- ✚ Every child is seen supportive and empathetic towards others. While there is encouragement and push from each other, a healthy competition and a passion to excel and reach the top is also observed in the children.
- ✚ Heal believes in creating conducive environment for the children to enable them find the comfort and solace within their teachers and volunteers by building a strong relationship between them. Teachers believe that strong bonds with their students deliver effectiveness in their teaching and this in turn impacts in higher levels of performance success – curricular, non-curricular and extra-curricular; among students. It can also have a lasting impact on the child’s mental and emotional growth.
- ✚ This kind of continued and creative learning requires handholding at every stage to guide the children by clearing their doubts and furthering their learning process in a dynamic way. Thus, the need arises for availability of staff – teaching, non-teaching and volunteers, within the campus all the time.
- ✚ Orphaned children often experience emotional distress due to the loss of parents. Proximity to teachers and regular interactions provides emotional support, a sense of security, and a surrogate parental figure while fostering trust and a positive environment. Sametime, it allows teachers to observe the children closely, identify their intellectual needs and adapt teaching methods that are child centric.
- ✚ Driven by the mission of the Heal Paradise, most of the staff spend their entire time, as required, in the campus. Hence, the need arises for on campus accommodation for the staff. There are about 38 teachers, almost equal number of volunteers and non-teaching staff guiding and nurturing the children as a family.
- ✚ Living in close quarters also allows these staff to serve as positive role models. Students observe their behaviour, work ethics and values that can significantly influence their own growth.
- ✚ Nevertheless, there was no sufficient and suitable stay facility for these teachers till a few years back.
- ✚ Impressed with the inequivalent consummate service of Heal Paradise School towards creating an appropriate space for healthy growth of the underprivileged

children and witnessing the need Divi's also joined the well-wishers' list to do its bit. Responding to the request of the founder, Dr. Koneru Satya Prakash, Divi's has contributed fund from its CSR component to build staff residence.

- ✚ It is observed that Divi's has earlier contributed towards construction of solar powered kitchen and dining hall to meet the requirement of daily food preparation for about 1200 members, each meal time. It is highly appreciated as the drudgery of the kitchen workers has significantly reduced with the facility of the mechanised kitchen.
- ✚ Heal Paradise School required nearly 40 houses to accommodate the staff that needs to reside in the campus. Initially they used to either come from outside or stay in the hostel. But as the number of children grew, the demand for more teachers also grew and the need for additional space arose. Not only this, but also the physical distance required for the teachers from the students to overcome burnout as the children heavily depend on the teachers for emotional support, led to the plan for construction of new buildings.
- ✚ To accommodate all the staff with a decent and comfortable residence and also to use the available space very judiciously, HEAL management decided to construct multi-storied vertical buildings. Accordingly, three blocks of 5 floors with 10 flats in each block were planned and designed to suit to a family of 4 to 5 members.
- ✚ Each of these blocks were funded by different donors. Construction of one block with 10 flats was supported by Divi's while other two blocks were supported by individual philanthropists. Construction is completed, some of the flats are already occupied and the others are in the process of occupation.
- ✚ All these flats are well ventilated and furnished with basic requirements of drawing room and bedroom furniture. These flats have scenic view from the windows and balconies that help the residents relax and reenergise themselves.
- ✚ The idea of creating a sense of community is achieved with these staff residence flats, and the teachers living nearby is fostering a familial atmosphere. Teachers' presence in common areas also encourages socialisation, peer learning and a cohesiveness among the children.
- ✚ There is no hurry nor tension for the teachers to reach back home at a distant place now. They are able to spend much quality time with the children in the school. This

is, in fact, an opportunity for the volunteers and teachers also to spend time to explore their own hidden capacities, abilities, strengths and talents, as shared by a special teacher.

- ✚ The success stories of the Heal School children in sports, art and co-curricular activities along with the academics suggests the healthy and nurturing environment prevailed in the school. The credit goes to the invaluable contribution of the passionate teachers and the volunteers.
- ✚ Education is not just about academics. It encompasses social and emotional growth as well. Caring relationship with teachers can help fill the void left by the absence of biological parents thus helping the child build self. This is visibly evident in the HEAL school.
- ✚ The heartwarming stories of transformation are a testament to the power of compassion. By providing quality education, healthcare, and emotional support, Heal school is nurturing the potential within each child, ensuring that no dream is too big and no aspiration too distant.
- ✚ However, the study team realised that there is a limitation with this proximity, which might blur the line between professional and personal boundaries. Teachers may find it challenging to maintain a balance between their roles as educators and caregivers.
- ✚ Heal school management may explore systems to address negative implications of proximity, viz., teacher burnout, privacy concerns. The emotional demands of caring for orphaned children can be overwhelming, especially with new children, affecting the teachers' teaching efficiency. There may be a struggle within teachers to find personal space and time away from their professional responsibilities.

CONCLUSION

In a country where millions of children find themselves without parental care, the role of NGOs become crucial. The mandate of Child Protection Services (CPS) under the Government of India was to protect these vulnerable children, but the coverage is limited to less than a lakh children per year. In this context, NGOs like the Health and Education for All (HEAL) are working towards building a society where every child can thrive.

Heal Paradise School's passionate work is transforming lives of the orphaned children, by offering love, support and a brighter future. It has become a surrogate family that is creating a sense of belongingness and dignity among the deprived children. The tireless efforts of HEAL for past three decades are supported by many individual philanthropists, well-wishers and Good Samaritans. However, there is a constant requirement for more support with the changing needs and increasing number of children, year after year.

At this point, Divi's contribution towards construction of staff residence building has been a critical support. The HEAL founder and the CEO expressed their gratitude to Divi's for their unconditional support towards meeting the infrastructure needs to provide accommodation to the staff within the HEAL campus. Their constant presence in the campus and the community living feeling has a great impact on the holistic development and the overall well-being of the underprivileged children and shaping them into healthy citizens and contributing members of the society.

PHOTO GALLERY



Pic 1 – Interaction with children in the presence of the CEO and the Founder of HEAL School



Pic 2 - Lateral View of the Staff Residence Building



Pic 3 - Board denoting the donors of the staff residence



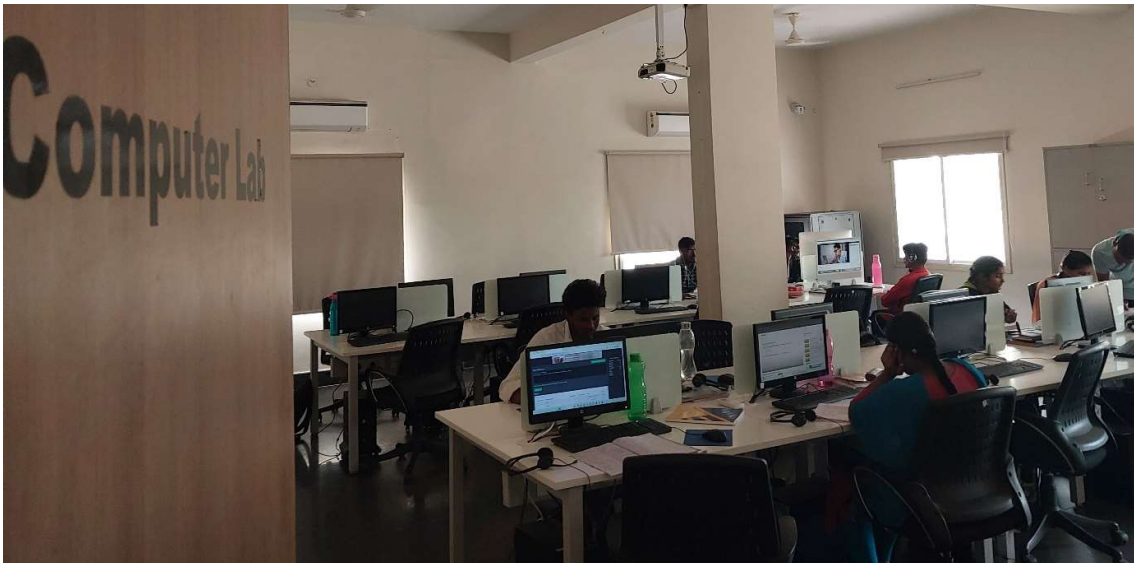
Pic 4 – View of the Bedroom with Balcony



Pic 5 – View of Second Bedroom



Pic 6 - View of Drawing Room



Pic 7 - Computer Lab where students get digital education and computer skills



Pic 8 – Children participating in the track events competitions



Pic 9 – TLM from Waste Material and used for Joyful Learning at Heal School



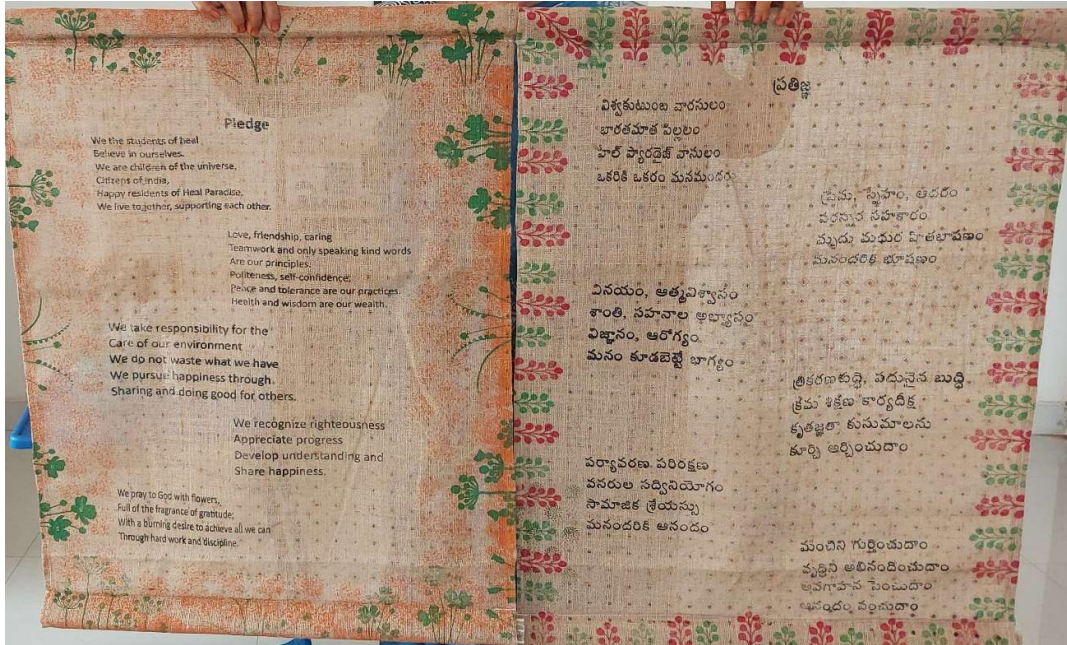
Pic 10 – Solar Kitchen View at Heal School



Pic 11 – Inside View of the Solar Kitchen



Pic 12 - View of Dining Hall



Pic 13 - Pledge of Heal Paradise School

"If a child can't learn the way we teach, maybe we should teach the way they learn."

- Ignacio Estrada

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