



ANNUAL REPORT  
2014-2015

[www.questalliance.net](http://www.questalliance.net)

We reached out to

children,

in grade

of

schools,

trained

teachers

and mobilised

community  
champions.

parents were engaged through the  
Open House and voice messages.

facilitators

supported

students of

years  
of age,  
across

vocational  
training centres.

## QUEST ALLIANCE

Enabling individuals to build self-learning pathways in order to make meaning of their lives.

## OVERVIEW AND HIGHLIGHTS

### ANNUAL REPORT | 2014-2015



It's been 10 years since we started on a journey to provide self learning pathways to India's children and youth. Few would disagree that when given an opportunity, children can learn on their own and youth can find their own direction. Yet, very often our classrooms and beliefs show a very different reality. Changing this and creating new possibilities is at the core of QUEST's existence. The entire ecosystem needs to come together to provide a safe and joyful learning environment.

Collectively, we need to harness the strengths of various stakeholders. We need to do this together and we need to do this now.

*Aakash Sethi*  
Aakash Sethi  
Executive Director

### Celebrating 10 Years of QUEST Alliance

To celebrate our journey and thank everyone instrumental in making this journey a huge success, we organised the QUEST Day in November, at our Bangalore office.

### Expanding Our Reach

We have laid the foundation to expand our reach, to over 250,000 students, 5000 trainers and 1514 learning centres in the coming 3 years.

### We have been Awarded!

We were chosen for The Emerging NGO in Urban Livelihoods Space Award at the ICICI Foundation and CNBC TV18's Inclusive India Awards. We also were the finalist at the IXDA awards for our board game—Career Quest.



### The QUEST Approach

Through knowledge creation, partnerships and capacity building, we aim to transform learning environments in educational institutions. An environment that allows for all stakeholders to perform their individual roles and support each other effectively for deeper and greater impact.



## AREA OF FOCUS EDUCATION

### “STAY, ENGAGE, AND LEARN IN SCHOOL.”

The Education Program at QUEST focuses on creating enriching learning spaces and experiences for children to build their essential skills to become independent thinkers.

Locally known as Anandshala it partners with the Bihar Education Project Council in the district of Samastipur in Bihar. It includes an Early Warning System, an Enrichment Program and a Parent Engagement program. In March 2015 it completed a 4 year Randomized Control Trial working in 113 intervention schools and 107 control schools.

We conducted 17 trainings attended by 514 teachers and headmasters, conducted 315 open houses in which 8272 parents were engaged.

To scale the program, we produced the Anandshala toolkit this year to take our model to 1000 schools which covers the entire school district of Samastipur.

*“I like the energizer poems and I keep on humming them at home too. I share all the school activities at home with my sister and brother.”* Khushboo, a class 5<sup>th</sup> student from Samastipur

*“I never got an opportunity to connect with my daughter's school and her education in this way earlier.”* Sanjeet Mahto, Khushboo's Father

At the Open House he expressed his joy looking at what Khushboo and her friends had created in the enrichment program. He not only asked many questions, but also gave suggestions to make the anand utsav better. He suggested that the event should become a monthly practice and that he now realizes the value in knowing what the children are learning at school.

*“It is a beautiful experience to work in this program. Its essential to know your students and this program gives me an opportunity to know them better.”* Naval Kishor, Upper Middle School Sultanpur, Samastipur



## THE ANANDSHALA TOOLKIT

- 7 posters
- 12 videos
- 2 manuals and
- 1 headmaster journal
- 1 board game

## AREA OF FOCUS EMPLOYABILITY

### “NAVIGATE THE PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL SPACE.”

## QUEST EMPLOYABILITY CURRICULUM

- 300 hours of digital content
- 8 student workbooks
- 10 trainer manuals
- 1 board game

QUEST is a knowledge partner for scalable solutions in the vocational training and youth employability sector. We use content, pedagogy and technology, to drive the delivery of teaching and learning. Through our signature blended learning approach we develop critical life-work skills that are critical for success in the 21st century. We develop self-learning models that are engaging and accessible to a wide audience. Our curriculum includes media elements like games, videos, audio and visuals as well as use of dictionaries for vernacular translations.

We conducted 13 trainings attended by 277 trainers from 136 unique organizations in 21 states of India through 6 network organisations.

### YouthSpark Live, Bangalore

The third YSL event was hosted with Microsoft. The participating youth got an opportunity to explore the Microsoft campus and talk to Microsoft experts and mentors about employability and entrepreneurship. The highlight was an address by Mr. Jean Phillipe Courtois, President of Microsoft International. He spoke about Microsoft's commitment to youth development and the accessibility to Microsoft technologies to help youngsters grow in their jobs and businesses.



*“When I joined the Skills to Succeed course, I knew I wanted to do something different with my life and the course made my dream come true. I learnt English, life skills and computers at the centre. After working in a BPO in Ahmedabad for a while, I am back in my village, teaching English to children in play schools. I feel skilled and confident and am sure this is just the beginning of a bright future.”* Dodhiya Bhumika, an alumni of Skills to Succeed course, Gujarat

*“Over the last year, QUEST has helped AKRSPI train about a thousand rural youth and more than 70% are in good jobs. The focus on participatory training ensures youth remain motivated and make the transition from rural to urban india. The training content is being increasingly contextualised (as always, we can always do more) so it is relevant for rural areas.”* Apoorva Oza, CEO, AKRSPI

**AREA OF FOCUS  
RESEARCH AND  
INNOVATIONS**



Through cutting edge research, knowledge sharing and innovative learning models QUEST is developing strategies and materials to create more compassionate educational systems.

**MASTERCOACH LAUNCH**

A unique blended learning program for facilitators working with youth, to introduce them to new training methods and technology that gives them the professional edge.

**MOBILE APPLICATION LAUNCH**

Skill Up mobile app focuses on building six different life skills for ITI trainees. This was done in partnership with SuperHeros Inc.

**LONGITUDINAL STUDY**

An 18 month study gave relevant insights into the behaviour change during life-work trainings at ITI's and challenges faced by youth after they leave the institutes and enter the world of work.

**TALKS**

We were invited to present our work at leading global and national forums: Solutions for Youth Employment Conference, Istanbul; Digital Learning Circle, Virtual; Microsoft Youth Spark Advisors meeting, Seattle; National Skills conference, Hyderabad; Equip Youth Global Learning event, Johannesburg; Comparative International Education Society conference, Washington DC; Indian Association of Life Skills Education Conference.

*"I am so unbelievably proud of how this organisation has evolved and grown and been such an important force in terms of new thinking, design, educational technology thinking, creative approaches to looking at new, interesting, challenging issues of youth in India."* Awais Sufi, COO, IYF

**PARTNERS**

**OUTREACH PARTNERS**

Aga Khan Rural Support Program (India); Ambuja Cement Foundation; Bihar Education Project Council; Don Bosco Tech Development Alternatives; Institute for Development Education And Learning (IDEAL); Janvikas Saath; Patricks ITI; Loyala ITI; Acharya ITI; Sir MV ITI; PVP ITI; Govt. ITI for Boys; BTL ITI; Hilal ITI; Royal ITI; Pragathi ITI; St. Patricks ITI; Museum Road; Sir MV ITI, Chikkaballapur;

Govt ITI for Boys, Dairy Circle; BTL ITI, Bommasandra; Royal ITI, KGF; Hilal ITI, KGF; Pragathi ITI, Vijayapura; Loyola ITI, Bannerghatta Road; Acharya ITI, Peenya; PVP ITI, Mallathalli; Skills for Progress (SKIP); Functional Vocational Training and Research Society (FVTRS); South India Trust; Aikya; Outreach Human Development and Research Centre; LIFE; Youth4Jobs; Awaz.de

**DONORS**



**THE TEAM  
AT QUEST**

People are at the heart of our organization. Our team is a talented group of 42 professionals from fields of learning, design, management and technology spread across three locations Ahmedabad, Bangalore and Samastipur. We invest significantly in the training and development of our staff to develop them as well-rounded professionals in the sector.

*"What I like about working with QUEST is that I'm able to see the bigger picture here."* Gautam Dey, a member of the QUEST Team



QUEST team at the Annual Planning Meeting 2015

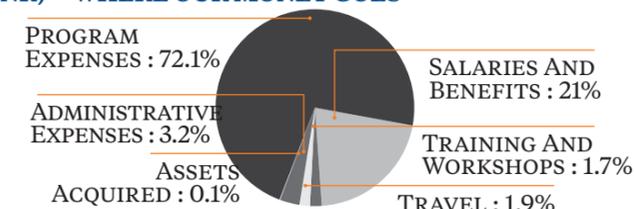
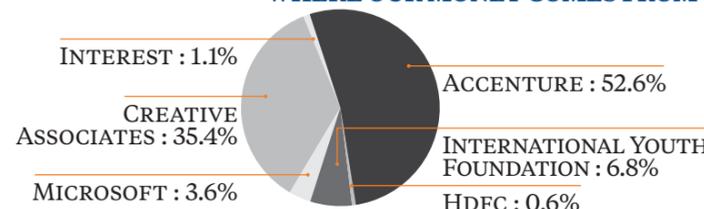
**FINANCES AND  
GOVERNANCE**

The board is responsible for strategy, policy, budget and results. It sees that the organization has long-term plans, approves financial statements and ensures that the organization complies with rules and regulations. In 2014-15, the board met on June 4, 2014, October 20, 2014 and January 21, 2015.

**DETAILS OF THE BOARD**

Aakash Sethi (Male) Executive Director, QUEST Alliance Aashu Calapa (Male) CEO, Live, Love, Laugh Foundation Arvind Lodaya (Male) Brand Consultant Kapil Das (Male) Film Maker Nagesh Alai (Male) Group Chairman, FCB Ulka, India Sanjay Anandaram (Male) Venture Partner with Seed Fund Vikas Goswami (Female) Director, Good & Green, Godrej Industries | None of the board members are related to each other.

**WHERE OUR MONEY COMES FROM (INR) WHERE OUR MONEY GOES**



Figures from: **INCOME (2015 and 2014)**  
 2014-2015 ■ Grants, Donations and Contributions 101,205,652 452,764  
 2013-2014 ■ Transfer from Donor Amount 4,221,161 391,789  
 Bank Interest 720,906 1,270,719  
 Excess of Expenditure over Income 269,329  
 Total 106,417,048 2,115,272

**EXPENDITURE (2015 and 2014)**  
 Program Expenses 101,971,742 181,917  
 Overhead and Administrative Cost 3,309,447 671,817  
 Depreciation 1,135,859 704,938  
 Excess of Income over Expenditure - 5,566,000  
 Total 106,417,048 2,115,272

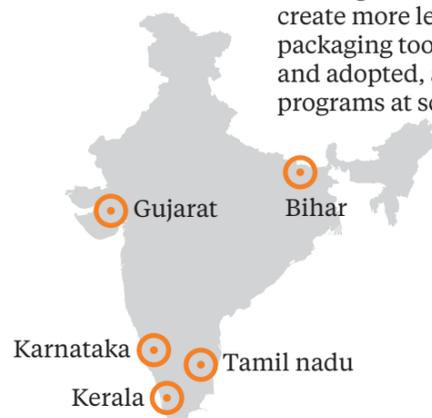
**BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31 MARCH 2015**

Capital Fund 2,292,953 -  
 Corpus Fund 16,364 16,364  
 General Fund 8,244,108 8,513,438  
 Specified Fund 34,280,429 15,708,839  
 Current Liabilities and Provisions 345,070 92,220  
 Total 45,178,925 24,330,861

**ASSETS (2015 and 2014)**  
 Fixed Assets 2,468,095 1,221,759  
 Current Assets 2,965,019 1,566,919  
 Cash and Bank Balance 30,655,418 7,564,245  
 Investments 9,090,393 13,977,937  
 Total 45,178,925 24,330,861

**LOOKING  
AHEAD**

Based on our 10 years of experience, we aim to promote scalable models in the areas of education and employability in the coming years, addressing India's critical needs in reforming the education and vocational training sectors by influencing systems to create more learner centered environments, packaging toolkits that can be widely used and adopted, and by demonstrating programs at scale.



**GET IN TOUCH**  
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We have refreshed our existing identity mark!

Our new identity is fresher and more youthful, the rounded corners and open counters reflect our friendly and accessible personality. While we have kept the blue and orange colours, these have been synergized to work well together. A major change has been the separation of type and symbol, making it more flexible for usage in various applications.

Do look out for our new identity in the coming year on our digital and print collateral!



We developed

new toolkits  
using digital  
learning materials,  
and conducted

434

training  
workshops for

240

unique partners.

We received

12.18

Crores  
in grants,

and spent

72%

on programs,

20%  
on management

and

8%

on  
fundraising.



QUEST designs learning experiences  
that inspire and empower  
learners and educators alike.