

Annual Report | Usthi Foundation | 2014



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Dear Readers,

The news from India and Nepal that makes the headlines in our media tends to be rather negative. However, during our Usthi visits to India and Nepal, we see a very different picture: children in the slums who spend hours in the tuition centres after school, working hard at their homework in order to later give their families a better life; mothers in the tribal area who give their best each day for the survival of their children; former commercial sex workers who, in the professional skills training centre, soak up every word that their teacher utters. They are all aware that education is the key to a better future. It's precisely these strong and courageous women and children that we are able to support with our projects. Helping them is our biggest motivation, which inspires us daily.

We are very pleased that in 2014 we made big steps forward in our Indian projects. The successful completion of the Early Childhood Development Project, as well as its expansion into more villages, the opening of the maternity unit in the Somagiri Tribal Health Centre and the promising start of the Project against Child Abuse in the suburbs of Hyderabad are just examples, but are also important milestones in our local work. In Nepal, we have somewhat reduced our engagement following the successful integration of young people, but are in the process of intensively working on the establishment of a new project.

Here in Switzerland, we have worked hard on the focus and consolidation of our efforts and, as a result, have defined our strategic direction for the next five years. This, together with an increased public presence and closer cooperation with our donors, forms an important basis for a successful future. We are encouraged by the fact that in spite of a slight reduction in donations in comparison with the above-average results of last year, we have again been able to reduce administrative costs and increase project expenditure.

Please help us continue Usthi's 39 year success story in 2015 and, through schooling and vocational training, give needy children and women in India and Nepal the basis for a better future.

Our wholehearted thanks for your wonderful support, trust and solidarity.



With very best wishes,

Judith Schuler
CEO

Simon Widmer
Charman of the Board of Trustees



The Usthi Foundation

Usthi supports underprivileged children and young people in India and Nepal through schooling and professional training, so that they can lead self-determined, financially independent lives. The prerequisite for this is **good health**, which is also supported by Usthi Foundation activities.

Sustainability is an important aim of all Usthi projects, including economic sustainability. Therefore, Usthi places not only great importance on the independence of the beneficiary but also, in the mid-term, on the achievement of the highest possible level of self-financing through the local partner organisation.

Usthi operates **professionally** and with **inclusive approaches**: problems are addressed from

multiple sides simultaneously, so that significant progress can be reached in the community concerned. Thus, in addition to an appropriate support of the beneficiary, projects include prevention and sensitisation work with the target groups and their environment. In order to encourage local acceptance and to aid establishment, the community is strongly involved with the project development.

Usthi is committed to having projects running independently within a given time phase, so that they continue to function under local management and with local financing. This will release resources for the launching of new projects. We wish to deploy our means where we can have the greatest possible influence on the improvement of lives.



Project Overview

Project Focus	Name	Location	Number of Beneficiaries	Number of Employees
Integrative Education Projects	Asha Jyothi	Hyderabad, Telangana	1,174	38
	Project against Child Abuse	Hyderabad, Telangana	3,483	20
	Early Childhood Development Project	Somagiri, Odisha	150	18
	RainbowEnd Home (Orphanage)	Kolkata, West Bengal	7	1
	Professional Integration	Kathmandu, Nepal	25	3
Education	Ananda School (12 levels)	Kolkata, West Bengal	242	29
	Bhastara School (8 levels)	Kolkata, West Bengal	202	16
	Kolar School (12 levels)	Bangalore, Karnataka	557	24
	Penthakata School (12 levels)	Puri, Odisha	423	37
Health	Tribal Health Centre (jungle hospital)	Somagiri, Odisha	133 villages	17
	Somagiri Health Network	Somagiri, Odisha	42 villages	44
	Usthi-Hospital (Social Business Venture)	Bhubaneswar, Odisha		100



Project against Child Abuse

Andhra Pradesh (Telangana since June 2014) is the state in India with the highest incidence of child labour and human trafficking. With the aim of helping to solve this enormous problem, and after a detailed status and needs analysis carried out with those affected and with various interest groups, Usthi launched a new integrative project against human trafficking and abuse of children and adolescents in two areas of the Hyderabad region (Medchal and Balangar) in June 2014. This requires not only the trust and reintegration of those concerned, but also prevention, education and potential jobs for the whole population. Only with an integrative project which improves the social and economic conditions can the lives of future generations be positively influenced.



In practice, the population was informed about the operating methods of the human traffickers and what can be done against them by means of awareness campaigns, which by December 2014 had already reached over 3,000 people - school children, self-help groups as well as the local authorities.



None of the 20 children of commercial sex workers, now living in our two support centres, had ever been to school. They lived mainly on the streets and some had also been abused. When we started, no school wanted to accept them, but in the meantime the school administrators are amazed at their good behaviour and their exceptional school achievements.

The ten abused adolescents who were admitted to the first support centre during the pilot phase in October 2013 have all made a good recovery and successfully completed their vocational training in June 2014. Nine of them have found work and are now financially independent. One young woman is continuing with her studies. A further 20 young people are currently being taken care of in our rehabilitation centres by a care team consisting of psychologists, doctors and other professionals and are completing one of our vocational courses in order to begin a new life.

By the end of 2014, more than 150 victims of abuse, along with young people who hadn't completed their schooling, as well as single mothers had followed courses in our new professional skills training centre in Medchal.

Many single mothers and commercial sex workers cannot afford to send their children to school. Consequently, the children spend the whole day on the streets begging and carrying out small scams and are therefore easy prey for traffickers. In order to prevent this, Usthi is giving 145 children a school education and supports another 150 children in six tuition centres.

In 2014, through local financing, we were able to purchase a piece of land, so that in 2015, the project's activities can be brought together in one location. With this, synergies can be exploited and rental costs reduced. The ground-breaking took place at the beginning of November. The success of this project is already creating interest and a number of organisations have visited in order to learn from it.





Asha Jyothi

Eight years ago, Usthi established the Asha Jyothi programme in Hyderabad, together with a local partner. This has since been continuously expanded and currently the integrative education project consists of a home for orphans, a professional skills training centre for single mothers and young people who haven't completed their school education, a Back-to-School Project, tuition centres and the so-called Social Business Ventures, which provides the sustainable financing of the project.

For 20 girls and 20 boys, with no parents to look after them, the Asha Jyothi Home offers a place to live. The currently 7 to 15-year-old children are successfully attending one of the neighbouring schools. In 2014, 320 children who, due to the financial circumstances of their parents had to leave school early, benefitted from the Back-to-School Project and were able to return to school, sometimes after a break of many months.

Support is also provided in nine tuition centres for children whose parents have no education and therefore are not able to help them with their homework. This improves their chances of passing the important interim examinations at the end

of the school year, to successfully complete their schooling and improve their chances for a better future.

At the Asha Jyothi professional skills training centre we are slowly approaching maximum capacity; the number who completed their training in 2014 compared with the previous year rose by 16%. Altogether, 504 young people and single mothers followed one of the three-month training courses in IT, textile processing, cosmetics/hairdressing, or English language. Once again, 89% of those who completed the courses had either already found a job or had plans to set themselves up independently (very often made possible by micro credit) by the end of the course. Interests from the micro credits, as well as profits from our Social Business Ventures, from a textile production unit and a planned, profit-oriented cosmetics salon, are fully used for the operation of the professional skills training centre. Together with the (very low) course fees paid by the participants, this means that a substantial portion of the operational costs can be covered locally, in spite of the continued expansion of the courses offered.



Perfect manual labour of the Usthi-seamstresses in Hyderabad



Early Childhood Development Project

At the end of 2012, Usthi launched a pilot project for early childhood development in three villages in the tribal area of Somagiri in Odisha, with the aim of giving the children a better start in school and, as a result, bringing about a positive long-term effect on the development of the whole region.

The results of the external evaluation of the pilot project exceeded all expectations. At the end of May 2014, after only 18 months, there were already significant improvements in both their health and their mental development in the 2 to 5-year-olds, for example:

- a marked decrease in worm infections
- a significant decrease in malnourishment
- a reversal in the number of cases of anaemia and malaria
- significant cognitive improvements e.g. improved understanding of quantities
- a marked improvement in motor skills e.g. hopping on one leg

These advances were reached through innovative movement and learning programmes using the format of play groups, carried out by indigenous women from the project villages, who had been trained as social workers by Usthi. In addition, all the village inhabitants were targeted with specific campaigns on the topics of nutrition, hygiene and child-rearing. The completion of the pilot phase brought the outstanding contribution of our Swiss project leader in India to an end.

The strengthening of cooperation with the authorities through the integration of our play groups into the state „Anganwadi System“ and the improvements in the learning conditions of the children kept us busy in the second half of the year. On top of this came the planning for expansion of the project across five more villages, so that November saw the start of the three-month training of new social workers from these villages, supported by a Swiss kindergarten teacher.



RainbowEnd Home in Kolkata

The RainbowEnd Home in Kolkata saw a big change in 2014. From the original 36 orphans and semi-orphans living there, Usthi now only has responsibility for seven girls, two of whom are living with relatives. All the others are now self-sufficient. So, in order to ease the transition to an independent life and at the same time to save costs, the remaining young women moved to a small apartment in April 2014, taking on all the responsibilities: instead of living with a house mother and cook, Surela, Korabi, Tanaya, Ratna and Priti, who are all over 18 years of age, are now looking after themselves in a flat-sharing community. They are responsible for shopping, cleaning and cooking and so, in addition to their professional studies, are learning practical skills for life,

such as handling money and adhering to a household budget.

It goes without saying that they are regularly visited and advised by the employees of our local partner organisation, so that the transition to independence goes as smoothly as possible. Some initial problems have since been overcome and the five Rainbow Girls are enjoying their new style of living.



Sonia Katoon - „Employee of the month“ at the Swissôtel in Kolkata

The 23-year-old Sonia loves her job; as Housekeeping Coordinator in the Swissôtel in Kolkata. She is responsible for seamless coordination between the housekeepers as well as suppliers and repairmen from outside and thus the nerve centre of the hotel. In spite of all the hectic moments and a constantly ringing telephone, Sonia values the ongoing exchange with so many different people, the excellent hotel food and also the opportunity to pose on photos with famous people and stars.

Her happiness overflowed when she was voted “Employee of the Month” in July 2014, just one year after obtaining a permanent position. Her charming smile, as well as her competence and her ability to

remain calm in difficult situations have, without a doubt, contributed. Sonia knows what she wants: a career in hotel management and as a first step, a promotion to a management position.

After the death of her father when she was five years old, Sonia was taken to the RainbowEnd Home as her mother no longer had the means to bring up five children. Although she felt very lonely in the beginning, she now thinks about all the lovely moments in the Home with her „sisters“. They would constantly chatter, laugh, cry, argue and are still today very close to one another. The house mother looked after them in a loving way, taught them fundamental values and also the importance of a good education. After completing school, Sonia studied hotel management for 18 months and then had the chance to participate in a six-month training programme at the Swissôtel.

Professional Integration in Kathmandu

The integration project in Kathmandu, Nepal, has by now supported seven „generations“ of former inhabitants of the orphanage led by our partner organisation on their way to a professional life. Ten young people successfully completed their training in 2014. In spite of a very difficult employment market, half of them have already

found a job and the rest are receiving professional support from the local care team in their search for work.





News from the Usthi Schools

One of the first projects in the almost 40 years of Usthi's history was the building and running of a school to the south of Kolkata, in the village of Usthi. Today we operate four schools, enabling 1,424 children from the poorest backgrounds to have a quality education.

2014 was the year for advanced teacher training at the Ananda School, close to Kolkata. During a six-month period, the teachers improved their knowledge of English with qualified instructors, in addition to their everyday teaching duties. In June, they participated in a one-week workshop on teaching methodology and didactics led by a team of professional Indian teacher trainers.

The Thaddeus School in Bhasara has been extended with a new classroom and also the addition of a library and audio equipment. A highlight of the year, without a doubt, was the great victory of the Bhasara team in the school football tournament in 1,500 km distant Hyderabad. It was the first time that they were able to take part in such a tournament, which is sponsored by a compa-

ny in Singapore. The victory was just one of the highlights in the adventure-filled journey for the 30 children. Many of them had never ridden on a train before or even travelled further than the two hours to Kolkata.

2014 saw the inauguration of the new school laboratory and library at the Penthakata School in Puri, Odisha. And, in addition to the replanting of the school grounds following cyclone Phailin in October 2013, a playground for the youngest children with slide, swings etc. was constructed. In June, in cooperation with the Institute for International Cooperation in Education IZB of the University of Teacher Education Zug, Usthi for the first time sent two trainees each to the schools in Penthakata and Kolar for five weeks. The four students had to deal with Indian English, non-functioning internet, heat and monsoon but learnt a lot about themselves, about teaching and schools in a totally different culture, as well as development cooperation. For the teaching staff and the pupils of the two schools, it was an equally interesting and enriching experience.





Health Care in Somagiri

After eleven months of building work, the new maternity unit at the Usthi Tribal Health Centre in Somagiri was opened in the middle of November amidst much rejoicing. With this extension, which includes an operating theatre, a gap in the medical care of the region has been closed, leading to sustainable medical treatment for women and their new-born babies from over 130 villages. At the same time, the waste disposal management and administration of the hospital has been professionalised and the number of qualified personnel increased.

In 2014, all of the 44 trained health workers from the surrounding villages completed an intensive course in the diagnosis and treatment of malaria

patients, as well as HIV and Aids prevention. Altogether, they treated almost 10,000 inhabitants from their villages for various illnesses, and over 3,000 people were treated by the two doctors from the Tribal Health Centre during their visits to the villages. Together with the almost 16,000 treatments by the doctors at the Tribal Health Centre, the professional personnel and the health workers dealt with more than 28,000 patients in 2014.



Usthi-Hospital in Bhubaneswar

Once again in 2014, the Usthi Hospital in Bhubaneswar offered the inhabitants of this city, with more than a million inhabitants, high quality medical care and treatment at a very affordable price. In addition to the health care of the population, the hospital serves as a mainstay in the self-financing of the Indian partner organisation, for the running of the schools in Penthakata and

Ananda. The targeted doubling of bed capacity and the solving of various infrastructure problems have not progressed as well as expected. We hope, however, to be able to make the necessary decisions during this year.



Finances 2014

Despite a fall in the total donations in 2014, we again managed to achieve our objective of decreasing our administrative costs. The donations dropped by 7% in comparison with 2013. Thanks to the advantageous exchange rate of the Indian rupee and project funds from the previous year on the building of the maternity unit in Somagiri and the pilot project for early childhood development, we were able to increase our engagement in India and Nepal by 5.5% and moreover, to achieve an almost balanced annual result. Usthi closed the year with a loss of CHF 3,491.

The total amount of administrative and fundraising costs for the Usthi Foundation against total

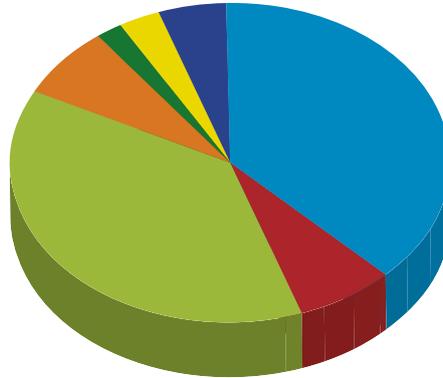
costs amounted to 16.1% and is thus significantly below the 2013 average of organisations with the ZEWO seal of approval. Administrative costs alone lay at 9.9% of the total costs.

The 2014 annual accounts and financial statements comply in full with the provisions of the Swiss GAAP core ARR and ARR 21. They are summarized below for space reasons. The accounts and financial statements were audited by Argo Consilium AG of Zurich, and were approved by the same with no provisions, additions or remarks. The full auditor's report and the full 2013 financial statements can be viewed on the www.usthi.ch website or ordered free of charge.

Balance Sheet 2014	at 31.12.2014	at 31.12.2013
	in CHF	in CHF
ASSETS		
Liquid funds	485,420	535,330
Prepaid expenses and accrued income	4,854	11,277
Total current assets	490,274	546,608
IT facilities	1,200	2,000
Total fixed assets	1,200	2,000
Total assets	491,474	548,608
LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL		
Accounts payable for goods and services	0	1,897
Accrued liabilities	130	0
Total liabilities	130	1,897
Project funds	33,982	85,857
Total tied fund capital	33,982	85,857
Dedicated foundation capital	530,709	530,709
Social fund for employees	30,000	30,000
Balance sheet deficit	-103,347	-99,855
Total organisational capital	457,362	460,853
Total liabilities and capital	491,474	548,608

Source of funds

- Private Donations
- Authorities
- Foundations
- Churches
- Companies
- Clubs and Schools
- Events and Sales



Operating Income Statement 2014	2014 in CHF	2013 in CHF
Donations from private individuals	234,958	206,978
Donations from corporations and public institutions	277,287	345,098
Project-specific donations	311,810	323,133
Other income	3,173	12,383
Total fundraising income	827,228	887,592
Expenditure on projects in India and Nepal	-743,045	-701,876
Total project expenditure	-743,045	-701,846
Personnel costs	-53,940	-68,460
Administrative costs	-33,249	-57,802
Depreciation	-800	-1,299
Total operating expenditure	-87,989	-127,561
Fundraising expense	-54,300	-39,892
Financial expense	-1,672	-1,613
Financial income	4,412	1,677
Net result for the year before changes to funds and capital	-55,366	18,357
Deposits to tied project funds	-286,810	-323,133
Withdrawals from tied project funds	338,685	307,276
Change in balance sheet deficit	3,491	-2,500
Net result for the year after changes to organisational capital	0	0

Organisation of the Usthi Foundation

Board of Trustees:

- **Widmer Simon**, Chairman, Neuheim, since 1999
- **Römer Gallus**, Vice-Chairman, St. Gallenkappel, since 2012
- **Bürki Patrick**, Wetzikon, since 1999
- **Day Silvia**, Meilen, since 2012
- **Dr. Keller Josef**, Rapperswil-Jona, since 2012
- **Knaurek Gabriela**, Rapperswil-Jona, since 1999
- **Thompson Simone**, Zürich, since 2011

Office in Zurich:

- **Schuler Judith**, CEO
- **Ramsauer Martin**, Programm Director
- **Zuber Manuela**, Communications and Administration (40%)
- **Suter Donatella**, Donor Administration and Accounting (honorary)

Employees in India:

- **Seiberth Corinna**, Project Coordinator, Early Childhood Development Project (Dec. 2012 to May 2014)
- **Mösching Eva**, Consultant, Early Childhood Development Project (Sept. to Dec. 2014)

There were no changes in the Board of Trustees or the Management in 2014. In April 2014, all the Board members were re-elected for a period of four years. In addition, the Board decided for the first time to elect a Vice-Chairman. Gallus Römer put himself forward for this position and was unanimously elected.

The Usthi Foundation has as its objective and in

accordance with its Charter, the comprehensive assistance of people in need, irrespective of race, nationality, religion or language. This is in the spirit of the work started in India by the two founders, Edeltrud and Kurt Bürki.

The Usthi Foundation has the ZEWO seal of approval, is tax-exempt and comes under Federal supervision.

A few thoughts from Usthi-Founder Kurt Bürki

Dear Usthi-Family,

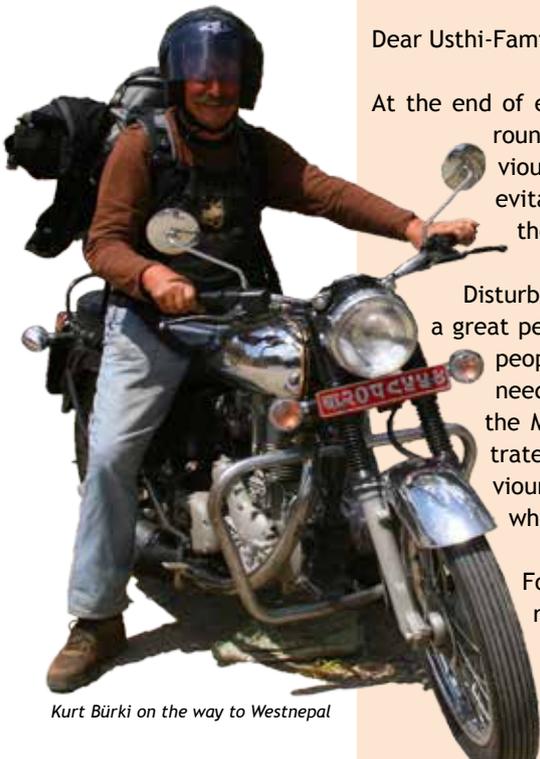
At the end of each year, you all anticipate my round-up and assessment of the previous year. All my sentiments are inevitably influenced by the events of the past few months.

Disturbed by these recent events, I feel a great perplexity about the way in which people call attention to their own needs. The pictures from Syria and the Mediterranean Sea area demonstrate for me incredible human behaviour and terrible suffering for those who are involved.

For a long time, we have been riveted by these events and pictures. I find it depressing when trying to assess the kind of power modern communications

exert. The urgent themes of justice and humanitarian responsibility in our society are something I miss on the media's agenda.

For Usthi, 2014 was a successful year in many respects. The quality of our work was significantly improved and we were able to exercise increased responsibility. Areas where we did not achieve our objectives were mainly determined by situations beyond our control. However, in the areas where we failed to reach our goals through our own shortcomings, we shall be working towards successful solutions in the future. In October and November, some long-serving Usthi friends accompanied me on a journey to India and I was able to show them the fruits of our successful commitments. Looking back, I am motivated by the positive feedback and emotions of those who took part to continue on this path. If this idea appeals to you, I would happily guide you during my next visits to India and Nepal.



Kurt Bürki on the way to Westnepal

For almost 40 years, the Usthi Foundation has been striving to give children from the most socially deprived sections of society a pathway to education and good health. Both are indispensable conditions for a better life. Children and young people are our future. Hardly anyone would deny this; nevertheless, it is a fact that one of the biggest challenges in my work has been to keep this demand on society alive.

My achievement in life is the fact that I have a big family behind me which shares this observation. In all the years of Usthi's history, we have been able to meet our commitments thanks to this Usthi Family.

In addition to the tasks which society deals with every day, we have worked patiently and untiringly towards our goals and have achieved a lot. The 2014 results are the achievement of our young and committed new leadership. As human beings we can always strive for improvement. Relevant issues become the goals we set ourselves for the new year. In this sense we are already working for the new year and the future. The young leadership of the Usthi Foundation has my total trust and makes me very happy.

Thank you for your valuable support,
Kurt Bürki

Heartfelt Thanks

Our work is only possible thanks to your support! Your trust encourages and empowers us to do our best for more than 2,700 Usthi-children in India and Nepal, and to make it possible for them to have a better future.

In addition to the following institutions and organisations, we should also like to warmly thank the innumerable private individuals who have supported us in 2014.

Authorities: Swisslos / Canton of Appenzell Ausserrhoden, Rapperswil-Jona, Wil, Baar, Maur, Meilen, Uznach

Foundations: Aline Andrea Rutz Foundation, Anne Frank Fonds, David Bruderer Foundation, Geschwister Keller Foundation for Orphans, Karl Mayer Foundation, Leopold Bachmann Foundation, Plato Foundation, Foundation Kinderhilfe des Swissair Personals, Symphasis Foundation Zurich, UBS Optimus Foundation

Companies: Aurich Consulting GmbH, Berg-Welt AG, Lidwil Gewerbe AG, Gsell Engineering Plastics AG, Raiffeisenbank am Ricken, Tourasia AG, Wittwer Walter Immobilienberatungen AG

Clubs and Schools: Dorfverein Wagen, Frauen- und Müttergemeinschaft Jona (FMG), Gemeinnütziger Frauenverein Rapperswil-Jona, Rotary Club Schwyz, Rotary Club Zürcher Weinland, Rotary Club Zürich-Zürichberg, Rotary Club Zurzach-Brugg, Rotary Club Linthebene, Verein Solidarität Rämibühl Zürich

Churches: Verwaltung des Kath. Konfessionsteils St. Gallen, Kath. Kirchgemeinde Baar, Ref. Kirchgemeinde Bachs, Evang.-ref. Kirchgemeinde Bülach, Ref. Kirchgemeinde Büsingen, Evang. Kirchgemeinde Dällikon-Dänikon, Kath. Kirchgemeinde Goldingen, Kath. Pfarramt St. Franziskus Kempraten, Ref. Kirchgemeinde Küsnacht, Evang.-ref. Kirchgemeinde Rapperswil-Jona, Kath. Kirche Alt St. Johann, Kath. Kirchgemeinde St. Katharina Zürich, Evang. Kirchgemeinde Uznach, Römisch-Kath. Kirchgemeinde Winterthur, Ref. Kirchgemeinde Zofingen

The proceeds of the Schaffhauser Bettagsaktion 2013 enabled us to open the maternity unit at the Tribal Health Centre in Somagiri, Odisha, in November 2014. A heartfelt thanks to all those who contributed.





Make your mark and help Usthi, too.



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Usthi Foundation

We give children a chance