



**S A H A A R A**  
**CHARITABLE SOCIETY**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2019 - 2020**

**ESTD - 1994**

**GIRIJA MHATRE ENGLISH H**

## OUR STORY

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**M**umbai, to many, is known as the City of Dreams. However, among the economically disadvantaged people, few realise their dreams here, with a vast majority relegated to a nightmarish existence.

The city is the destination for migrants from other poor parts of the nation who arrive here for a better life that eludes most. Some are tricked into the flesh trade, others on account of unfortunate circumstances land up in prisons, while still others face the harsh reality of a slum life.

Sahaara Charitable Society was founded in 1994 by a group of concerned citizens with the vision of Fulfilling Dreams of the Vulnerable and Marginalised in Society. This non-governmental organisation (NGO) empowers the poor to fulfil their dreams in their lifetime!

Over the last 25 years, Sahaara has developed Core Competencies towards:

- Providing Remedial Education to children in red-light districts and government homes
- Providing holistic care through Homes for at-risk kids
- Reintegrating sex workers and prisoners through alternate livelihoods

What started as a simple initiative of a few volunteers has now grown into an organisation with over 60 staff working for seven programmes spread across Mumbai and its surrounding districts. Sahaara is accredited by Credibility Alliance and Guidestar, and its board comprises corporate/NGO leaders and businessmen who are committed towards the transformation of the city.

Sahaara's vision is achieved through these Core Values:

- S – Servant Hearted
- A – Active Teamwork
- H – Honour-based Culture
- A – Aspiring to Excellence
- A – Accountability and Integrity
- R – Relationship-focussed
- A – Appreciating Each Other

## OUR VISION

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**FULLFILLING DREAMS OF THE VULNERABLE AND  
MARGINALIZED IN SOCIETY**

# NOTE FROM THE CEO



Greetings from Sahaara!

Sahaara Charitable Society was founded in 1994 with a vision to fulfil dreams of the vulnerable and marginalized of the city of Mumbai. This year is very special to us as we completed 25 years of carrying out that vision. Our work started when a group of passionate volunteers wanted to make a difference to the lives of street children through education and nutrition interventions a quarter of a century ago and this work among children has never stopped since! Sahaara as of date continues to provide remedial education and holistic care to vulnerable high risk children from red-light districts and government homes and reunite missing children back to their families.

Apart from children – Sahaara beneficiary groups encompasses commercial sex workers, undertrials and released prisoners. Our programmatic interventions are designed to achieve the organization vision to fulfil dreams of all our beneficiaries so that they become positive contributors to society.

This year we have been intentional in making the reintegration piece of our programmatic interventions more effective. The reintegration interventions will involve investments in skill building through vocational skills training, scholarship support for higher education and creation of alternate livelihoods. The organisation is also operationalising the program performance management systems to usher in greater level of accountability and transparency to all of our stakeholders. We are investing into development of our field staff, mid and senior level leadership teams to ensure seamless deliveries of service.

This year Sahaara is enlarging its Children Home capacities by starting the third home for minor girls at Koparkhairane , Navimumbai. I want to take this opportunity once again to thank all our donor partners, government stakeholders, NGO partners, Board and especially our staff – our foot soldiers on the field who play such a key part to bring the vision to fruition.

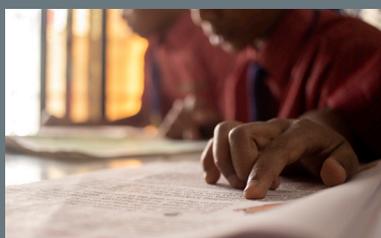
**K Xavier Selvan**

**CEO**

# MAHIMA – Home for boys

## Vision Statement:

To provide a home for vulnerable boys to pursue holistic growth within a family environment, so as to help each one of them fulfil their dreams and thereby become positive contributors to society.



More than 37,000 children live on the streets of Mumbai. Children who live off the street face the risks of verbal, physical and sexual abuse. Many of them do not get the opportunity to go to school and are vulnerable to the evils of child labour and addictions. Sahaara saw this need and began the Mahima Boy's Home. The boys are educated at English medium schools, and actively participate in sports and extra-curricular activities. Mahima is a home for vulnerable boys where they find all-round development within a family environment, so that they reach their full potential and realise their dreams, thereby becoming positive contributors to society.



## MAHIMA STORY

Raju is a kind, gentle, cheerful and helpful 12-year-old boy. Most of the time, he takes his responsibilities seriously and works hard in completing whatever is assigned to him. Born in the red-light area of Bhiwandi where his mother worked as a commercial sex worker (CSW), he was enrolled at the Balwadi and child care center and remained there for most of the time. This is where he got his pre-primary education. However, her meagre earnings were insufficient to take care of Raju. After careful consideration, Raju's case was presented to the CWC Thane and admitted to Mahima Children's Home. Raju was 5 years old when he was admitted. He was observed to be a very smart, bright and a hardworking boy. He got comfortable with the other boys at the home quickly and was loved by all at the home. Even though his mother came out of the trade, she had contracted HIV and didn't want to risk Raju getting infected. Sahaara ensured that Raju and his parents have a healthy relationship with regular phone calls and meetings. He is very good academically and works hard in his studies. He does a wonderful job in leading the other younger boys towards good behaviour. He'll often take initiative in cheerfully lending a helping hand to the staff of the home. He enjoys playing football with the other boys. He also likes singing and wishes to play the drums one day. His parents are grateful to Sahaara for providing support he needed. Raju dreams to become a footballer when he grows up.

\*Name changed to protect identity.

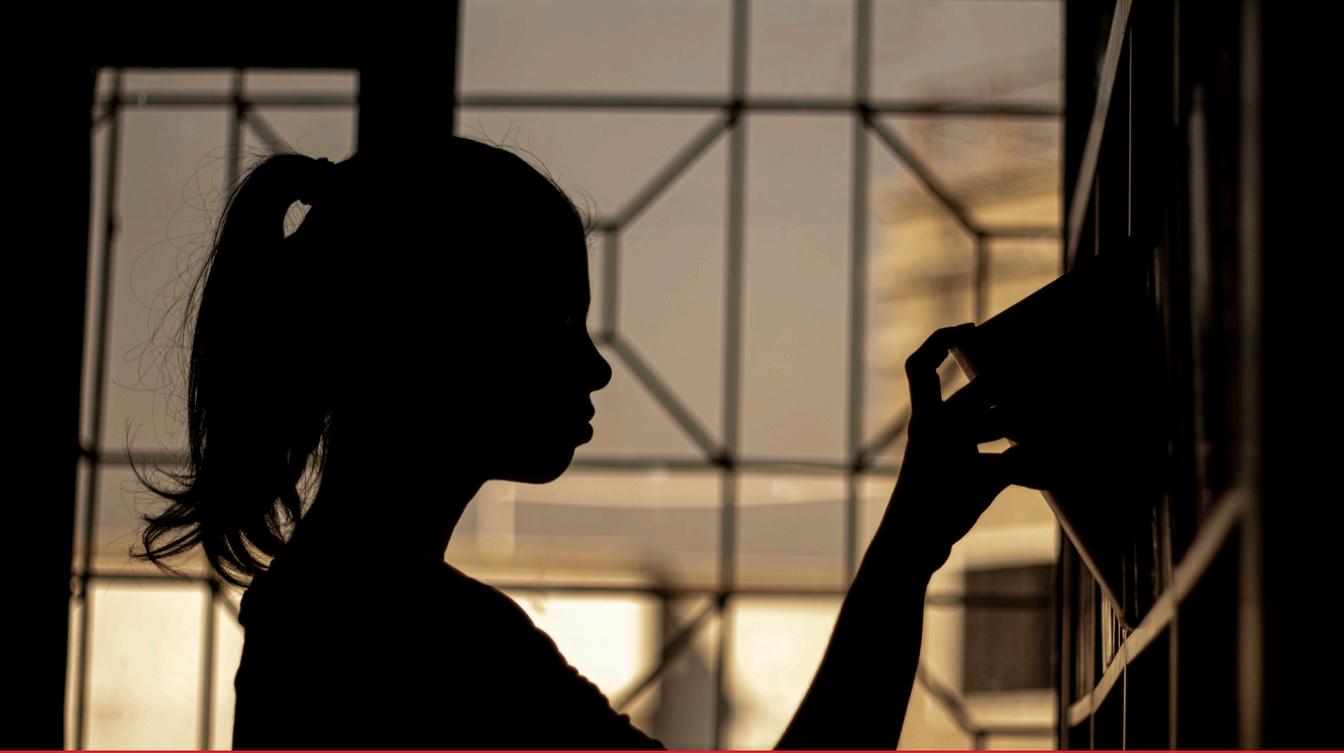
# ANANDALAY – Home for girls

## Vision Statement:

To provide a home for vulnerable girls to pursue holistic growth within a family environment, so as to help each one of them fulfil their dreams and thereby become positive contributors to society.



40% children in India are in need of care and protection. The high level of exposure to abuse and lack of opportunities for children living in high-risk areas poses a threat to their future. In Anandalay, we seek to restore these children to a childhood where they are protected and nurtured in love. It is a home where they receive education, nutrition and accommodation under the committed care of house-parents. Anandalay exists to provide a home for vulnerable girls to pursue holistic growth within a family environment, so as to help each one of them fulfil their dreams and thereby become positive contributors to society.



## ANANDALAY STORY

Sapna is a 13-year-old teen and is a sweet, soft-hearted and loving girl. Born in the red-light area of Ghatkopar in Mumbai, Sapna was left unattended most of the time as her mother worked as a sex worker to sustain the family and stayed out of the home most of the time. She never knew her father. Sapna used to stay at home and take care of her younger brother from a very young age and spent most of the days with the other kids in the locality. She also helped her mother with the basic household chores. Sapna has always been a bright child. She feels safe at the Anandalay Home and is extremely joyful for the privileges she enjoys. She attends one of the best English medium school today. Sapna is excellent in her studies and is a star student in her class. She enjoys reading books and novels. She enjoys learning about life philosophies. She loves learning songs and loves listening to music in her free time. She is excellent in sports and loves playing football. She has represented her school at State Level Football tournaments. She dreams to become successful and look after her mother and brother one day. She wishes to write a book when she grows up.

\*Name change to protect identity

# PRATHAM – Education for Children in Red Light Areas

## Vision Statement:

That children in red light areas gain academic, vocational and life skills leading them to fulfil their dreams and become positive contributors to the society.



Neglect and abuse have been the portion of the children growing up in red light areas. These areas are a harsh place for any child, especially girls, to grow up in. Being victims right from birth, the stigma and lack of equal opportunities along with parental neglect have deprived them of an environment conducive for their development. Sahaara attempts to empower these children by providing early childhood education and remedial education. Project Pratham works to ensure that children in red light areas gain academic, vocational and life skills leading them to fulfil their dreams and become positive contributors to society.



## PRATHAM STORY

Ajay\* lives with his parents and two siblings in a high-risk locality of the Ghatkopar red light area in Mumbai. His mother does odd jobs to provide for the family while his father was diagnosed with cancer a few years ago. Since then, he quit his job and is undergoing treatment. Financially, the family is in bad shape. His mother struggles to provide for the entire family. Sahaara runs an education center for vulnerable children at Ghatkopar in order to impart remedial education, nutrition, life skills, and higher education opportunities to children who otherwise would lack the same. Ajay regularly accompanies his father to the hospital for his treatment. This often results in his absence, tiredness and fatigue whenever he attends the class. He was less focused on his studies and his overall performance was on the decline. Sahaara's teachers regularly counselled the family on the importance of education and consistent attendance. With the counselling and encouragement, he became punctual and displayed better focus on his studies. At the Pratham Program, he receives a healthy meal a day, good quality education and support from his friends and teachers. He is a quiet and a calm child and likes learning English and playing with blocks. He aspires to be a Civil Engineer someday. He was inspired by the skyscrapers in the city of Mumbai.

\*Name changed to protect identity.



## PRAGATI – Education for Children in Government Homes

### Vision Statement:

That children in government homes gain academic, vocational and life skills leading them to fulfil their dreams and become positive contributors to the society.



More than 50% of underprivileged children drop-out of school in Class IX. In Mumbai, there are hundreds of underprivileged children who have been taken out of society and institutionalized. Most of these children lack educational foundations and the quality of education provided in schools does not cater to their specific needs. Project Pragati provides remedial education to these children in order to build their grade level competency. Project Pragati helps children in government homes gain academic, vocational and life skills leading them to fulfil their dreams and become positive contributors to society. Presently we provide quality remedial education to 100 children in the government homes of Mumbai.



## PRAGATI STORY

Gopal\*, a 10-year-old boy comes from a broken family. He used to live with his father, who would beat him regularly. With constant physical abuse, he eventually ran away from home. As he had nowhere to go, he would sleep at public spaces. One day a policeman picked up Gopal from a railway station and brought him to a home for children in need of care and protection. When Gopal attended Sahaara's remedial classes, his ability was gauged with tests. It was observed that he was very slow in his studies and could barely read and showed little interest. He was very mischievous and would fight with his classmates and talk back to his teachers. We began teaching him the phonetic sounds, letters and also enrolled him in our special help class where we provided individual attention in teaching through flash cards, games, craft activities and other innovative means. The teachers then taught class rules and life values through instructions and stories. He learnt to respect his elders, teachers, and those around him. An incentive-based model by the teachers got him to realize that he needs to change his behaviour. He understood that if he behaved well, he would get more stars based on evaluations. The more stars he got, the happier he became. He has begun doing well in his monthly tests and studies. He dreams to become a cricketer one day.

\*Name changed to protect identity.

# PARIVARTAN – Empowering sex workers towards a life of freedom

It is estimated that 16 million women are victims of sex trafficking in India a year. Women who have been deceived and trafficked are shocking examples of modern day slavery. These women are treated as the personal property of individuals and are sold and traded through a network of pimps and brothel owners. Project Parivartan touches the lives of these women through healthcare, community development, vocational training and counseling interventions. Project Parivartan aims that women in red light areas gain freedom through empowerment to fulfil their dreams.



Vision Statement:

That women in red light areas gain freedom through empowerment to fulfil their dreams.



## PARIVARTAN STORY

Geeta had been in the trade for the past 32 years. It was all that she knew! She was trafficked to the Sonapur red-light area, in Mumbai by a trusted friend, under the pretence of better job from her hometown in West Bengal. It was during these long years in the trade Geeta contracted HIV. For Geeta any alternate lifestyle or scope of livelihood was not an option, as she was filled with bitterness and hurt that stemmed from being abused for such long years and being HIV positive. Sahaara staff came to know Geeta when she approached us for an eye infection. The staff helped her with the treatment and in the process won her trust. But it was not until 7 years of walking alongside her and counselling her, that Geeta started recovering of her bitterness and hurt she harboured over the years. She finally learned to embrace her life and decided to give herself a fresh start. In the month Feb 2019 with the help of our reintegration team, Geeta\* started working as a helper in a HIV orphanage home for women. Today she has embraced a life of dignity and lives to serve other women who shares her fate.

\*Name change to protect identity

# DIYA – Work among women and girls in protection homes and rehabilitation centres, in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

## Vision Statement:

That trafficked individuals and those vulnerable become overcomers and agents of prevention in the community.



Project Diya works alongside women and children who have been victims of sex trafficking, domestic violence or have been vulnerable to exploitation in one form or another. Project Diya's strategy is encapsulated in five R's: Rescue, Renew, Reintegrate, Restore and Rebuild. Project Diya has seen numerous women and children overcome the pain and trauma, return to homes and become thriving citizens. Many of these overcomers now work alongside Project Diya, bringing light to those that inhabit the dark places that they themselves overcame. Our team of counsellors and social workers work daily with these victims who are placed in government homes, bringing much required support and counselling as these victims work towards overcoming trauma.



## DIYA STORY

Khushi lived with her mother, siblings and an abusive step father in Jharkhand. When she grew older, she moved to live at a hostel. When she returned home during the holidays, she learned that her marriage was being arranged. She ran away from home to avoid marriage and ended up at Chennai. The Childline staff brought Khushi to a Government Home and this is where the Diya staff first met Khushi. In the days that followed, Khushi expressed her displeasure of being in the home and was piling anger due to bullies. The Diya staff counselled her and Khushi began taking interest in arts and crafts. She excelled at these and even took up wrestling. Khushi's self-esteem developed and she learnt multiple languages. She was moved back to Jharkhand to a home and was reported about how well she developed at Chennai and the Government home at Jharkhand agreed to help her in her restoration. She stays in touch with her home and has continued to do well.

\*Name change to protect identity

# AZAD – Offering a second chance to petty offenders in prisons

## Vision Statement:

That petty offenders are living a life free from crime and are able to fulfil their dreams thereby becoming positive contributors to society.



One of the more invisible and powerless group of people in the city of Mumbai are the thousands of undertrials in prisons. Azad reaches out to men, women and children confined in prisons through legal aid and legal case assistance, medical camps and pre-primary education for children of women prisoners. We also offer emergency support to families of prisoners, and long-term reintegration support to released prisoners. Project Azad works to ensure that petty offenders are living a life free from crime and are able to fulfil their dreams thereby becoming positive contributors to society.



## AZAD STORY

Arvind\*, a 32-year-old young man used to live with his mother at Antop Hill. On 3rd April 2019, he was arrested under section 457,454,380 of Indian Penal Code 1860. During the prison visit by our staff, he said that he began working as a security guard. It was just after two weeks later that the police came to his house for an inquiry. They just informed his mother that there is a new officer in the area, and Arvind's signatures were required for a previous case on him. When he went along with the police to the police station, he said that they falsely alleged him of the charges and arrested him. However, the police recovered nothing during their investigation. In August 2019, Sahaara provided Legal Help with cash bail. With the help of Sahaara, he is now working as a security guard and earns ₹ 9,500 per month. Arvind is very grateful for the timely help he received from Sahaara.

\*Name changed to protect identity



## WORK AMONG STREET CHILDREN

A compassionate group of Sahaara volunteers help to carry out nutritional and value educational activities for street children. We had the joy of making an impact among 95 street children in two different locations across Mumbai. We recognize the importance of taking special care of such vulnerable children as we provide them with health awareness and medical treatment by professional para medical volunteers.



## ADULT LITERACY

Adult Literacy program was carried out among 6 adults this year. As individuals become literate, they are exposed to a world of educational opportunities and they can take steps towards the vocational goals to which they aspire



## WORK AMONG PEOPLE WITH HANSON'S DISEASE

Once a week, we spent time among 25 people affected with Hanson's Disease (Leprosy), a socially isolated group with very little opportunity for economic gain. Our focus is on medical and nutritional interventions, where we provide free nutrition, medicine, pain killers, bandages and disinfectants to provide relief from a disease which inflicts so much suffering.



# FINANCIAL REPORT

## 2019-2020

<b>Details of Managing Committee Members as on 31/03/2020</b>	
<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>
Rajesh Mathew	Hon. Chairman
Kranthi Sai Nadh Bathini	Hon. Treasurer
Ignatius Kaitha	Hon. Secretary and Human Resources
Shoba John	Strategy and Policy
Ruby Caleb	Managing Committee Member
V. J. Joseph	Managing Committee Member
Manoj Shirsat	Managing Committee Member

<b>Distribution of Staff according to Salary Levels</b>			
<b>Gross Salary Slab</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Total</b>
Less than 5000	0	0	0
5000 - 10000	0	1	1
10000 - 25000	10	28	38
25000 - 50000	8	12	20
50000 - 100000	1	0	1
100000 >			0
<b>TOTAL STAFF</b>			<b>60</b>

<b>Amount reimbursed (in Rs.) to All board members in the financial year 2019-20 for the following items</b>	
International Travel	0
Domestic Travel	0
Local Conveyance	0
Entertainment Expenses	0
Others	0

<b>Total Payments made to Consultants</b>	
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>Consultant</b>
Less than 5000	
5000 - 10000	
10000 - 25000	3
25000 - 50000	0
50000 - 100000	0
100000 >	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4</b>

<b>Accountability &amp; Transparency</b>			
	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Remuneration</b>
Head of the Organisation (including honararium)	K. Xavier Selvan	C.E.O	16,86,326.00
Highest paid staff (staff or consultant)	Rahul Thomas	Head of Operations	8,10,678.00
Lowest paid staff (staff or consultant)	Leena Divte	Teacher	78,260.00

**POSH ANNUAL REPORT: No cases reported during the year 2019-2020**



**THE MAHARASHTRA PUBLIC TRUSTS ACT, 1950**

**SCHEDULE VIII [ Vide Rule 17(1) ]**

**SAHAARA CHARITABLE SOCIETY**

**BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31ST MARCH 2020**

2018-19	Funds And Liabilities	2019-20	2019-20
	<b>Trusts funds or Corpus -</b>		
39,00,000.00	Balance as per last balance sheets	39,00,000.00	
	Addition during the year	-	39,00,000.00
	<b>Other Earmarked Funds</b>		
	(Created under the provisions of the trust deed or scheme or out of the Income)		
	Depreciation fund		
	Sinking fund		
	Reserve fund		
	Any other fund		
	Land and Building Fund		
370,03,129.32	Balance as per last Balance Sheet	370,03,129.32	
	Additions during the year	200,64,809.00	570,67,938.32
370,03,129.32			
	Gratuity Fund		
1,14,991.00	Balance as per last Balance Sheet	1,14,991.00	
	Contribution during the year		
	Interest during the year		
1,14,991.00	Payment during the year	(1,14,991.00)	-
	For staff EPF Contribution	85,502.00	
	For rent & other deposits	-	
	For purchase of Immovable property	-	
	<b>Income &amp; Expenditure account</b>		
169,52,710.17	Balance as per last balance sheet	153,92,925.64	
(15,59,784.53)	Less: Deficit for the year	(46,40,270.66)	107,52,654.98
153,92,925.64			
<b>564,11,045.96</b>	<b>Total</b>		<b>718,06,095.30</b>

**Notes to Accounts - Schedule G**

The above balance sheet to the best of my/our belief contains a true account of the Funds and Liabilities and of the Property and Assets of the Trust.

Hon. Chairman  
Rajesh Mathew

Hon. Secretary  
Ignatius Kaitha

Mumbai, 18 September 2020

THE MAHARASHTRA PUBLIC TRUSTS ACT, 1950			
SCHEDULE VIII [ Vide Rule 17(1) ]			
SAHAARA CHARITABLE SOCIETY			
BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31ST MARCH 2020			
Regd No. F-16965 (MUM)			Amt in INR
2018-19	Property And Assets	2019-20	2019-20
	<b>Immovable Properties:- (At cost less depreciation)</b>		
	(Refer Schedule A)		
379,78,463.43	Balance as per last Balance Sheet	341,80,617.09	
-	Additions during the year	209,63,701.00	
(37,97,846.34)	Less: Depreciation	44,66,246.76	506,78,071.33
341,80,617.09			
	<b>Intangible Assets</b>		
	Sahaara Short Movie	930579.00	
	Less:Amortise During the year	46528.95	8,84,050.05
	<b>Investments</b>		
	Bank Fixed Deposits		
5,52,067.00	Axis Bank (MAIN)	-	
	HDFC Bank (MAIN)	-	
69,46,916.00	Axis Bank (FCRA)	73,83,020.00	
	Life Insurance Corporation of India		
1,14,991.00	(staff gratuity )	-	73,83,020.00
76,13,974.00			
	<b>Other Assets: (At cost less depreciation)</b>		
	(Refer Schedule B)		
1,74,794.41	Less:Deletions during the year	-	-
3,63,101.82	Less:Depreciation for the period	5,12,595.49	22,62,137.32
18,17,640.66			
	To Others		
3,56,000.00	Deposits (Refer Schedule C)	3,57,000.00	
3,90,247.48	Advance for Interior work	-	
7,46,247.48	TDS	4,40,574.48	7,97,574.48
	<b>Cash and Bank balances -</b>		
	Account with-		
86,92,646.28	Axis Bank (FCRA)	82,73,825.33	
30,87,697.97	Axis bank (Local Funds)	14,95,383.31	
2,72,222.48	HDFC Bank (Local Funds)	32,033.48	98,01,242.12
120,52,566.73			
<b>564,11,045.96</b>	<b>Total</b>		<b>718,06,095.30</b>
As per our report of even date			
For Udeshi Shukla & Associates			
Chartered Accountants			
FRN 114886W			
Hon Treasurer	Paresh Vijaysinh Udeshi		
Kranthi Sai Nadh Bathini	Partner		
	MRN 042082		

**THE MAHARASHTRA PUBLIC TRUSTS ACT, 1950**  
**SCHEDULE IX [ Vide Rule 17(1) ]**  
**SAHAARA CHARITABLE SOCIETY**  
**Income & Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st March 2020**

2018-19	EXPENDITURE	2019-20	2019-20
	To Expenditure in respect of properties -		
	Rates, taxes, cesses		
	Repairs and maintainance	-	
	Salaries	-	
	Insurance	-	
5,909.08	Depreciation	5,318.17	5,318.17
114,37,682.99	To Establishment expenses (Refer Schedule D)		64,30,480.00
	To Remuneration to trustees		
	To Remuneration (in case of a math)		
	To Legal expenses		-
1,65,558.00	To Audit fees		1,24,466.00
	To Contribution and fees		
	To Amount written off -		
	a) Bad debts		
	b) Loan scholarships		
	c) Irrecoverable rents		
	d) Other items (Fixed Assets)		
-			
41,55,039.08	To Depreciations		49,73,524.08
	To Amortisation of Intangible Assets		46,528.95
-	Reserve or specific funds		
126,18,768.13	To Expenditure on object of the trust		
	a) Educational (Sch. E)	167,62,468.00	
<b>362,36,318.49</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>381,89,849.19</b>

**Notes to Accounts - Schedule G**

The above balance sheet to the best of my/our belief contains a true account of the Funds and Liabilities and of the Property and Assets of the Trust.

Hon. Chairman  
Rajesh Mathew

Hon. Secretary  
Ignatius Kaitha

Mumbai, 18 September 2020

THE MAHARASHTRA PUBLIC TRUSTS ACT, 1950

SCHEDULE IX [ Vide Rule 17(1) ]

SAHAARA CHARITABLE SOCIETY

Income & Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st March 2020

Registration No: F-16965 (MUM)

Amt in INR

2018-19	INCOME	2019-20	2019-20
16,98,029.08	By Interest - accrued/realised		
2,53,587.00	On Investments	5,03,246.00	
19,51,616.08	On Bank accounts	3,43,987.00	
	On Gratuity Fund	6,274.00	8,53,507.00
112,54,188.74	By Donations in cash or kind		
213,39,924.03	Local	92,24,828.14	
325,94,112.77	Foreign	234,71,243.39	326,96,071.53
1,30,805.11			-
15,59,784.54	By Deficit carried over to Balance Sheet		46,40,270.66
<b>362,36,318.50</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>381,89,849.19</b>

As per our report of even date  
For Udeshi Shukla & Associates  
Chartered Accountants  
FRN 114886W

Hon Treasurer  
Kranthi Sai Nadh Bathini

Paresh Vijaysinh Udeshi  
Partner  
MRN 042082



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To Fulfill Dreams of the Vulnerable and Marginalized in Society  
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<https://sahaarasociety.org/donate/>



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Instagram: [https://www.instagram.com/sahaara\\_fulfillingdreams/](https://www.instagram.com/sahaara_fulfillingdreams/)



VOLUNTEER

<https://sahaarasociety.org/volunteer/>

## CONTACT US

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