



## Trustee Report

2015 was the first year of operations for the Charity and mainly an exploratory period where we both found partners in Sri Lanka to help and assist in helping disadvantaged children improve their life chances.

Our official launch event was on the 21<sup>st</sup> of March 2015 and was a modest success raising our profile and raising also initially a modest £700.

In May 2016 we did our first trip to Sri Lanka to meet with potential partner institutions. We met with nine potential partners, some of which had been supported by BQu, a company owned by one of the Trustees, Jacques de Cock.

We visited 10 potential beneficiaries and selected 8 for ongoing support. These are:

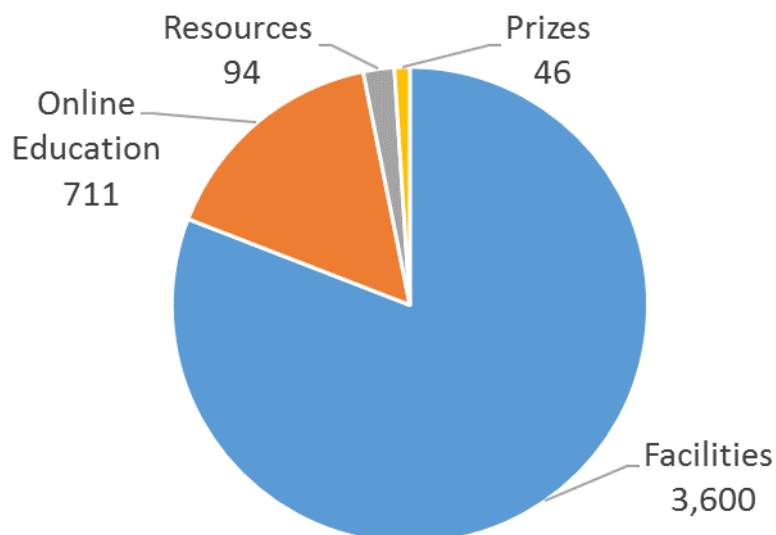
- Ananda Vidyalaya, a small rural primary school to the East of Colombo catering for a very poor region,
- Aruna home for mentally challenged children, a small totally self-funded home for children with mental health issues run as a family home,
- Convent of our lady of Lanka which runs a large hostel for poor girls to enable them to study at a good secondary school near Jaffna
- Gothama child development centre, this is a hostel for poor or orphaned boys south of Colombo
- Lawris child development centre, this is a hostel for girls who need to be in care in Colombo itself
- Madhu Matha & Joseph master memorial English school, this is a primary school in Mannar, a very poor part of the country in the North East providing good education and English language tuition
- Saleena Vidyalaya, a small school with very limited resources just south of Colombo
- Sri Saddarmodhaya college a mixed school catering for children from 5 to 16 from a nearby slum providing excellent education despite its lack of money.

In our first year of operations, we collected £4,525 and distributed £4,451 helping over 1,100 children the 8 above-mentioned organisations.

We have listened to their needs and provided them with the resources they have needed most these have covered a range of activities including essential building work, money for resources and food to keep some children studying as well as computer and internet access to most of them so that they can join the connected world.

The majority of the spend was on facilities and online education. The split is shown in Exhibit 1 below

**Exhibit 1**  
**Split of Donations**  
**100% = £4,451**



This does not include the work done by BQu to install and support these schools and hostels to enable them to use the 8 computers we donated and the other computers that had been donated by others but which had stopped working due to the lack of ongoing support.

None of the operating and marketing costs have been paid for by the donations and these have been paid for solely by the trustees themselves. We will continue this policy of focussing all, or most, of our donations to provide resources and capabilities directly to the beneficiaries in Sri Lanka

We have continued to support the online cost and the IT installations of our beneficiaries but due to lack of time the Trustees have not yet done a new trip to continue and develop the resources and capabilities further in 2016.

One of the new initiatives we will be undertaking in 2017 is the support of a whole community in Negombo. Negombo despite being only about 1 hour north of Colombo is a poor town where the main industries, fishing, and potteries, only pay about £3.50 a day or about £72 a month which is just about subsistence for the typical family of 5 this has to support.

The initiative we will be discussing in December will include:

- Provide IT support and internet access to the four schools in town
- Creating a Web Café in a space provided by the local parish which is run by Father Lloyd, one of the trustees of SLCF

- Employing an IT expert to help train the local inhabitants and assist them in creating and maintaining web capabilities such as simple websites for local small businesses and finding information for the local inhabitants
- Helping with the creation of small high productivity gardens. These have been shown to reduce food costs by up to 50% in countries where they have been implemented

We hope to be able to mobilise and motivate the local community and develop further initiatives with them to enable this town to prosper and develop further. If this initiative proves to be successful we hope to be able to obtain further funding to do the same in other towns which are equally disadvantaged and remote from the rapid development that is taking place in Colombo.

This will require much more resources and in particular about 100 computers to be able to provide these for all the schools and the Web Café.

We hope you will join us on this journey and continue to support us in particular with monthly donations of a small contribution and any unwanted laptops or tablets that might be lying around in your homes.