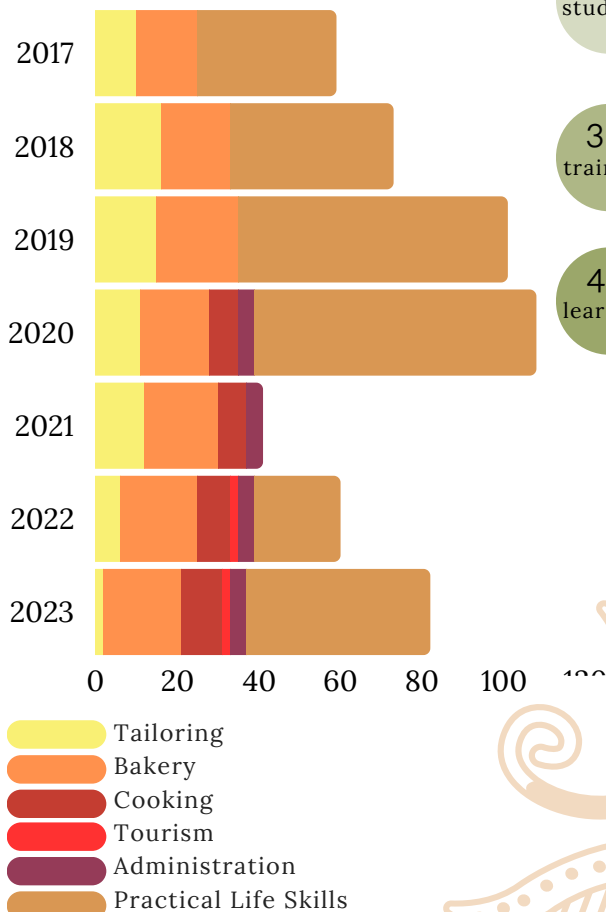




ANNUAL REPORT 2023

The Learn For Life Empowerment Project (LFL) continues to work along three interconnected initiatives serving over 200 clients from marginalized communities:

Vocational Training & Practical Life Skills - Participants -



152
students

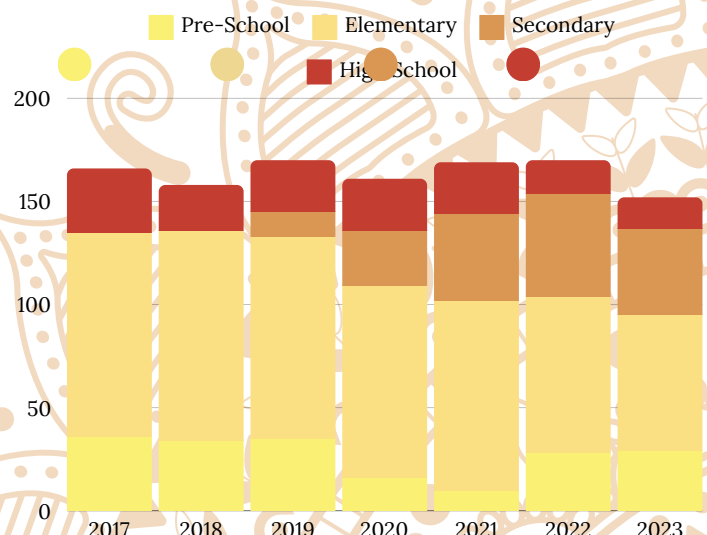
Education - (Early Childhood Development, primary and secondary schooling) at Badi Asha School, fee and tuition scholarships until graduation

37
trainees

Vocational training - on the job training of baking, tailoring, hospitality and tourism services in our commercial outlets

45
learners

Practical life skills program - training in computers and stitching for students and community members





BADI ASHA SCHOOL

The teaching strategy is grounded in educational psychology research. It is inspired by a number of different philosophies and pedagogic theories, notably by educators like Montessori, Krishnamurti and Rudolf Steiner. In the process of moving away from textbooks and towards learning-oriented lesson planning, teachers are encouraged to supplement the curriculum with creative activities and interactive lessons, as well as the use of the smartboard.

WE OFFER FREE*	AGE
Pre-School	4-6
Elementary School	6-14
Secondary School	15-16
Highschool Tuition	17-20



Alternative teaching strategies, that serve a range of learning needs and help kids develop relationships, self-esteem and pride, include art, music, dance, interactive games and conversations.

In 2023, the school underwent more structural renovations. The kindergarten's floor has been completed, along with the garden's implementation and additional plant cultivation.

Along with the vocalist, the music classes were expanded to include a percussion and guitar instructor in order to implement the school band. Kathak dance classes have started and the kids' response has been excellent. The precise footwork and expressive hand movements of Kathak, a traditional Indian dance, aid in the development of human personality in all facets as well as cognitive functions.

*The school follows the official NCERT English medium curriculum, and all textbooks are in line with that standard.



Following the lengthy hiatus brought on by COVID-19, which made travel challenging for many, volunteers began returning to provide assistance.

International volunteers consistently offer new perspectives and innovative ideas, and the students and staff find great stimulation in their interactions with them.

The yearly class 7 trip to Delhi was finally allowed to resume, and the students look forward to it greatly since it gives them an opportunity to learn about their culture outside of their city, mingle in a new setting, and engage with students from other schools. Additionally, this year, Badi Asha students taught foreign pupils how to bake Brezel at a baking class hosted at the German school. To create a better, more polished work atmosphere, personality development classes were offered to all employees starting in June.

The outcomes were positive, but they need to continue in the upcoming years.

As is common, some of the school teachers departed due to marriage or other personal or family concerns, but new teachers were hired, and one of them was a former student ours who is now teaching kindergarten and sports and doing a fantastic job. The teacher training program is continuously executed in both offline and online modes to train new teachers.

A few of our former students enrolled in our baking and waitering programs to gain work experience. While some of them are still in school, others are hoping to secure employment so they can provide for their families.

Break the Bias

The renowned Asian Bridge Foundation launched a program for staff and students focused on **behavior change for gender equality**. The first phase aimed to increase understanding of gender-based violence and its root causes in Indian society. The program covered topics such as human rights, responsibilities, and gender-based roles. In 2023 the second module of the program was covered to address issues related to gender-based discrimination, patriarchy, masculinity, and sexuality.

TAILORING PROJECT

The Tailoring Project was established in Varanasi in 2016 with the goal of empowering women via the production of handcrafted, hand-printed, and hand-woven goods sold under the Learn for Life label. Gaining expertise in professional tailoring empowers women in India, since tailoring is traditionally a 'man's job'.

Regretfully, LFL was forced to reduce the number of women working on the project because of a lack of funding. All of the student uniforms, classroom pillows, and clothing (such as waiter aprons) required for the guest accommodation and restaurant were sewn by The Tailoring Project's studio.

Since we had to close our two retail locations due to COVID-19, all of the leftover clothing inventory was handed to a nearby artisan shop, which is funding the project by selling our goods.

We were able to resume our hobby sessions in tailoring for our pupils this year.





BAKING TRAINING

Apprentices in the vocational training program receive instruction in three areas: computer literacy, basic arithmetic and English, business training, and baking and kitchen skills. The curriculum is modeled after the dual training system in Europe.

Those who take part, many of whom come from challenging backgrounds, acquire useful skills for working in the future or being self-employed.

We have made significant advancements in our vocational training program by creating a more detailed and organized curriculum regarding the “on-the-job” training as well as theoretical knowledge.

A regular Gender equality training program is being conducted for all trainees and LFL staff in collaboration with Asian Bridge Foundation.

Additionally, we have established partnerships with two bakeries in Germany, which are eager to support our project by accepting our trainees as apprentices to complete their training and become certified bakers according to German standards. Furthermore, we have initiated the registration process for our vocational training center in Varanasi with the Indian government.



BAKERY VARANASI

Throughout the year, we made significant improvements to our guest house in Varanasi to accommodate the growing number of Indian and foreign tourists. This led to the creation of new jobs and the expansion of the vocational training programs at our bakery and guesthouse/restaurant.

In the summer, we introduced a new software-based system to better manage the influx of customers at our establishment, providing training to all staff and trainees.





The increase in tourism also allowed us to resume vocational training for city tour guides and continue our food program for malnourished women and children in partnership with Rama Krishna Mission.

Additionally, we offered daily breakfast and lunch to students and staff, and with the assistance of an Italian cheese maker, we established a cheese production unit and provided ongoing training

BAKERY DELHI

We closed our bakery and café, found a new location, and renovated it according to German standards. For the start, we focused on production and sales to private customers as well as retail partners.

We set up an online shop and further developed the vocational training program with new trainees from our own project and Delhi shelter homes. We also started regular weekly baking workshops for Afghan refugees in cooperation with the Goethe Simurgh Centre. At the end of the year, we offered vocational training to a young Afghan woman and man.

Additionally, we organized a Brezel baking workshop at the German school during our Varanasi school's trip to Delhi. We also held Brezel baking workshops for students learning German at the Goethe Institute and several Delhi private schools.

Our weekly stalls at the German and Italian embassies were a success, as well as our stalls at the German and Swiss Christmas Markets during the holiday season.

PRACTICAL TRAINING FOR STUDENTS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Learn for Life not only educates children but also provides community-based adult basic computer classes and vocational training to former LFL students who were unable to complete their education for various reasons.

Because of Labdoo's continuous support and collaboration, computer classes are also offered to our trainees in the bakery, to the older kids at Badi Asha School, and to the new employees working in the office.



LEARN FOR LIFE
ANOTHER WORLD IS POSSIBLE

LOOKING FORWARD

The effects of the pandemic persist despite annual improvements in the circumstances, particularly with regard to tourism. The lower number of students in 2023 can be attributed to the fact that many students—particularly boys—were compelled to abandon their studies in order to work to support their families. Improving vocational training means offering our former students the chance to acquire new and useful skills while also creating a safe and healthy work environment. We want to sincerely thank you for continuing to support our effort. Your assistance is much appreciated and more valuable than it has ever been.

