Through the years Aseema’s focus has remained on the child. Our goal is to empower each and every one of our children with high quality value based education to enable them to realise their limitless potential.

In this edition we wish to give you a sense of what makes Aseema different. From our unique education approach to our emphasis on co-curriculars, from our attention to students’ emotional well-being to making parents active partners in their children’s education, Aseema has always looked at the holistic development of the child. In this year’s Annual Report, we share insights from our children, alumni, teachers, parents and donors that reflect the impact that Aseema has had on our children.

“At Aseema the teachers focus on all the students and help all equally. Even the naughty ones are helped and corrected kindly with understanding.”

Ankit Giri, Standard VI at KMS

This year was also a landmark year for Aseema. The Primary and Secondary Sections of ABSK at Igatpuri were formally inaugurated. We bring you details of the event in the latter part of this report.

Starting with a batch of 18 children in 1997, Aseema today impacts the lives of 4,422 children across four of our schools and our training centre. The below table shows the number of students we impacted in 2018–19:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Directly Impacted</th>
<th>Hindi Medium at KMS</th>
<th>Training at Kanpur</th>
<th>Aseema Alumni Programme</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pali Chimhai Municipal School (PCMS)</td>
<td>605</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Santacruz (W) Municipal School (SMS)</td>
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<td>Kherwadi Municipal School (KMS)</td>
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<td>Aseema Bal Shaikshanik Kendra (ABSK)</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indirectly Impacted</th>
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<th>Training at Kanpur</th>
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<tr>
<td>Hindi Medium at KMS</td>
<td>450</td>
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<tr>
<td>Training at Kanpur</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aseema Alumni Programme</td>
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Beginning at 2.5 years, our children spend the first three years of their school lives in the Montessori environment in the Pre-Primary section. Each classroom includes children between 2.5 and 6 years, who learn, work, play and grow together. As one walks past these classrooms, a thought comes to one’s mind - what are these tiny tots up to? Independently working with materials, are the children merely exploring the materials or are they learning? The Montessori environment is indeed a combination of both.

A glimpse into a Montessori classroom on any day would reveal little ones working on 4-digit addition sums, making words with the help of the moveable alphabets, cutting vegetables, pounding grains, reading quietly in a corner and many more such activities.

The children may repeat the tasks they select as often as they desire, until the task is mastered. Work chosen independently and repeated without interruption leads to deep concentration and develops self-confidence.

Montessori classrooms are active, creative and adaptive communities. The Montessori environment’s ability to cultivate concentration and build the confidence of young children through their purposeful work remains one of the most significant contributions to the education of young ones.

It was heartening to see the Pre-First students teach, mentor, nurture, adore and protect their younger classmates. Having spent three years in the Montessori classrooms, our Pre-First children now eagerly look forward to entering the Primary school next year.

*Number of Montessori Environments at Ascema: 9*

There is always an undeniable feeling of learning and growth in the room. The children understand early on in the Montessori classroom that learning comes from trying and that they may fail at times but will also have the opportunity to try again and learn from their mistakes.

*Laxmi Poonam, Pre-Primary Section Teacher at KMS*
As you step into the primary section at Aseema, you can sense the infectious feeling of joyful expectancy. The children from Standards I to VIII are bubbling over with excitement and enthusiasm. An all-pervading sense of purpose is evident in each classroom.

In Standard I-IV, children learn through observation, discussion, experimentation, and hands-on work with carefully-prepared materials. Each day, children are given some time to choose their own work, as they do in the Montessori classrooms. The use of materials in the class helps bring learning alive, giving concrete form to abstract concepts that children are introduced to. One of the biggest advantages of this approach is that it moves away from rote learning, laying the foundation for the children to develop critical thinking skills.

In Standards V-VIII, learning is promoted through various projects related to Languages, Geography, History, Math and Science. The one of a kind projects on topics such as solar system, tools and ornaments from the stone age, pollution, angles and geometry etc. promote lifelong learning. The projects teach the children to exercise persistence, make efforts, accept challenges, communicate effectively, cooperate with others and make decisions.

The Education Fair at KMS saw a happy buzz of activity in the corridors, children and teachers rushing around with last minute preparations. The excitement was palpable, with children happily involved with displaying colorful charts, games, quizzes and models, demonstrating their skills with great confidence and enthusiasm.

After spending eight years in the Primary section, our Standard VIII children are confident teenagers fully geared up to enter the Secondary Section.

Very impressive demonstration on waste water treatment. I am sure this would be of great help for our environment. Well done & keep learning!

Laurent Romanet
Chief Operating Officer
BNP Paribas India

As a result of all the activities in school, I developed a passion towards learning science and exploring the field further. Each day Aseema tries to boost the confidence of each student either through academics or through sports. It is here that I nurtured my interests and that helped me move forward with confidence.

Sachin Mishra, Aseema Alumnus
As the students enter into the Secondary Section they are exposed to challenging times. At home, as adolescents, they are expected to shoulder greater responsibilities. Interaction with their peers and the community exposes them to various vices and temptations. The nervousness of the approaching board exams and the fear of leaving school add to their anxiety. At such times Aseema offers them a safe haven to come to terms with the transition.

The walls, the buzzing projector in the computer laboratory, the wooden furniture, the musty smell of books in the library, the smell of chalk are the familiar backdrop for the children experiencing a whirlpool of emotions. As always, our team of teachers, social workers, counsellors provide rock solid support and mentor our children, guiding them with warmth and love. They reinforce the values and self-confidence inculcated in the primary classes to enable the children to face the future with courage and hope.

Each year, the lives of our Standard X children and their teachers are filled with intense academic rigour and a growing sense of anticipation as to the exams and the future ahead.

In 2019 the statewide S.S.C. pass percentage dipped to 77.10%, the lowest since 2006. SMS was one of only two municipal schools that achieved 100% results at the S.S.C. Examination.

This year we also saw our first batch of Standard X students at ABSK, Igatpuri successfully achieve 100% results at the S.S.C. Examination.

As one more batch of our students joins the Alumni we wish them all the best for a bright successful future and a continued association with Aseema in the years to come.

Pass Percentage Across 3 Schools: 93%
Distinctions: 7
First Class: 17
Second Class: 42
Pass Class: 14

Teachers are like mothers. Aseema has changed my life fully. I have learnt to speak in English. Aseema has also helped me in every situation, taught me right from wrong and prepared me for life and how to live when I leave school and go to college. For me school is life. I recall a teacher saying ‘In life you’ll meet many people, some will try to hold you back but you have to keep on moving.’ I remember this as a lesson for life.

Saiif Khan, Standard IX at KMS
Co-curricular Activities

Sports

Aseema provides opportunities at each stage of the child’s school life to help them discover and develop their hidden talents. Our wide range of co-curricular activities aid in this process and ensure that children develop holistically.

Over the years great sporting achievements have adorned the Hall of Fame across our schools. We were proud to see our children participate at State and National levels in Judo and Rugby. In the last two years our girls and boys have also been selected for Maharashtra’s Republic Day Parade. While we take pride in our champions, Aseema has always laid stress on participation and sportsmanship rather than competing and winning.

This year witnessed a fantastic five day Scouts’ Camp at Igatpuri for the senior boys from all our schools. Apart from playing various sports, doing yoga and trekking, the participants’ days were filled with activities — community visits to understand the working of the Gram Panchayat, cleanliness drives, making of solar cookers and seed balls and learning about their use. These and many more such activities ensured that the holistic education being imparted at school was further cemented by the camp. Spending five days and nights in each other’s company, working closely together in spite of cultural and language differences taught our children some crucial life lessons. Next year the camp will include the girls as well.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medal Tally</th>
<th>PCMS</th>
<th>SMS</th>
<th>KMS</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gold</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>88</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>94</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

At Aseema, the one hour of sports daily, gives our children the much needed physical outlet to emotional problems and issues which they may not even fully understand. It is gratifying to see our children learn to cope and develop their sense of self-worth through the daily sports activities.

Yogesh Bhapkar, Head of Sports
Project Ringtones

The tech enthusiasts and junior coders of PCMS flocked the visitors at the Annual Project Ringtones Exhibition with their videos, animated stories, games and quizzes. It was truly a celebration of learning, as the children confidently allowed their guests to play the games they had created over the course of the year.

Music

The Discover Music Programme with the Mehli Mehta Music Foundation (MMMFF) introduced our children to the basic elements of music, musical instruments and singing. It was a moment of great joy to see 55 students from PCMS participate at the Annual Singing Tree Concert hosted by MMMFF. This platform enabled our children to nurture their creativity and imagination and helped them discover their innate talent.

Library

The school library is a vibrant, interactive learning hub, equipped to meet the needs of every reader. The teachers conduct programmes involving reading, discussion, debates, role play, conversation and vocabulary building to nurture and encourage love for language and books. These activities have motivated our children to develop the habit of reading. Every child who learns to read gains access to a lifetime of possibilities and opens multiple doors to those around them as well. The library has indeed become a place of discovery and learning.

It was an amazing, educative and equally enjoyable experience.”
Naazish Shah, Volunteer Coordinator at Aseema & Visitor at Project Ringtones Exhibition

We teach the children to Discover Music through the weekly classes.
Research shows that music makes children that much more grounded and focused.
Farahanaaz Dastur, Honorary Director, Education Programmes, Mehli Mehta Music Foundation.

The children have grown to express themselves clearly and answer any question asked with confidence in English. They can clearly comprehend every element of the story and absorb all the facts and information very well. They also enjoy the process and remain engaged and attentive. These reading sessions help children to perform better in their regular classes and at exams.
Librarian at KMS

Community Work Centre

Broken tin roofs, dark alleyways, open drains... These and many more such sights are what meet the eyes of our social workers when they visit the homes of our students. Struggling to make ends meet, the parents barely have time to understand the needs of their children. However, the flat screen televisions and refrigerators crammed into their small homes show that they too have aspirations of rising out of the vicious cycle of poverty.

It is here that our social workers play an invaluable part. Firstly, by making the parents aware of the power of education as a way to lift them out of poverty and then by acting as a link between the school and the parents from the time the child enters school till she completes her education.

The academic year begins for our social workers with assisting the parents with the admission process. The monthly School Management Committee meetings and the quarterly capacity building sessions with parents, organized by the social workers, become a platform for parents to interact with the School authorities. Throughout the year the team of social workers conducts home and community visits to ensure parent involvement.

Good health is the foundation to a happy childhood. Adverse living conditions with limited sanitation facilities make our children and their families vulnerable to infections and communicable diseases. The health and nutrition programmes overseen by our social workers ensures that our children at Mumbai and Igatpuri receive timely and curative care.

With these, and many more such activities, our social workers ensure that the parents become active partners in the process of nurturing the children into confident, well-developed individuals.

We are fortunate to have committed and energetic parents who have helped us in different ways throughout the year. We are truly grateful to each one of them for their generous efforts towards a brighter tomorrow.

Student Retention: 95%
No. of communities: 30
No. of parent meetings: 30
No. of health camps: 13
The counsellors at Aseema help our children to understand that life does not throw up surprises that they are unable to handle. The diverse and complex needs of every child are met with a non-judgmental attitude, tender loving care, warmth, guidance and mentoring, thereby creating a positive learning experience for all.

The popular Monday Mood Check-In and the children’s box are thoughtful activities to create an informal platform to reach out to the children, encouraging them to share their feelings and emotions. The children drop their notes into the children’s box to petition for requirements—an additional Judo teacher or even a change in the meal programme to add biryani to the menu!

Our counsellors also organise age-appropriate sessions for the children to address issues such as child sexual abuse, relationship education, self-harm awareness, peer pressure and bullying. They use various methodologies such as discussions, role-plays and audio-visuals to aid the children’s understanding of these issues.

Children may self-refer or be referred by teachers or social workers for counselling. Through individual and group counselling sessions, the counsellors assist the children to tackle and overcome their emotional and social problems. The counsellors often encourage the child to use toys, painting or drawing to express themselves and their feelings, thereby making the child feel comfortable and at ease.

Additionally, the Counselling Centre also screens students in the Pre-Primary section for developmental delays.

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I believe every child has the right to education and I wish to contribute.

I wish to donate INR

☐ Sustaining a child’s education at school
☐ Sustaining Aseema’s work (Corpus Donation)

I enclose a cheque made in favour of Aseema Charitable Trust with this donor form.

SIGNATURE*

FULL NAME*

POSTAL ADDRESS

MOBILE NUMBER*

EMAIL

PERMANENT ACCOUNT NUMBER (PAN)*

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Aseema

@3 Josephine Apartments, Chunabhatti Road, Bandra (W), Mumbai 400050, India
Aseema’s approach to education is based on the belief that all children have an innate love for learning which grows and flourishes when there is a bond between the teacher and the student. The effectiveness of Aseema’s approach to education depends on understanding the diverse needs of the different learners and thereby adapting to the on-ground conditions in the classrooms.

Teachers joining the Schools are given intensive training on the learning methodology followed at Aseema which promotes critical thinking and discourages rote learning. The weekly training gives all our teachers a platform to explore adaptive learning methods and opportunities to innovate in the classroom. These practice sessions and demonstrations also ensure that they are confident in implementing new methods, keeping in mind the requirements of the curriculum. The training programme also enables teachers to share challenges in classroom management, problems in the handling of material and find solutions that work. It is a chance to interact, share and learn.

Through the Training Centre, Aseema also reached out to 480 children at Kanpur. The teachers at Amin Girls College at Kanpur were trained on Aseema’s approach to education. This year we completed 8 years of our association with Amin Girls College. It is very fulfilling to see the teachers at Kanpur build their capacity to provide engaging and meaningful education to their students.

_Aseema has been training the teachers in Amin Girls College in Kanpur for the last eight years. The transformation in the teaching, and consequently the children, has been remarkable. Earlier the teachers were focused on repetitive rote learning — now they use interesting teaching aids and encourage critical thinking. Though some of the teachers were wary of the new teaching methods — they received great support from Aseema’s Training programme and built their confidence over time. Moreover, the children are now more animated and curious and enjoy learning. I believe that Aseema’s approach to education and the teachers training programme has made the difference._

_Meenaz Kassam, Retired Professor, Aseema Advisory Board Member._
Product Division

Dressed in blue and white uniforms, students at Aseema’s Room 13 – Art Studio were seen working intently, setting their papers ablaze with a riot of colours. They put forward their unique creative expressions to projects such as Madhubani folk art, Jamini Roy, birds with water colours and Raja Ravi Varma’s portraits.

Whether they worked on the techniques of lino printing or created a collage inspired by the works of M. F. Hussain, the students at Aseema’s Room 13 – Art Studio learnt to stay focused and to collaborate. Room 13 doesn’t just teach them techniques in art but also introduces them to the lives of the artists, giving them an opportunity to learn about different cultures, societies and historical events.

With the aim 'See, Think, Create' Room 13 enables children from Standard V onwards to discover art, discover themselves and discover the joy of creating extraordinary artwork!

The work of our budding artists inspired Aseema’s Product Division to create another wide range of products this year which included coasters, trivets, stationery, book ends among many others. Do visit our Product Division and enable the creativity and imagination of our young artists to flourish further.

No. of products: 215
No. of exhibitions: 90

Alumni Programme

With humble dreams of becoming independent, supporting their families and making a mark for themselves, our students leave school to reach greater heights. As they step out into the real world the alumni programme gives them guidance and assistance to face challenges ahead.

Apart from providing financial assistance, Aseema also organises regular core committee meetings, mentors the ex-students and plans social events for them to bond with each other. All Alumni who are financially supported by Aseema carry out 60 hours of voluntary work with us. This opportunity to give back to the schools and contribute to future batches of students, cultivates a sense of responsibility and fulfillment amongst our Alumni.

Total number of alumni: 295

Aseema has taught me the spice of life. It has been my constant, right from teaching me to hold pencils to letting me sign my board sheets. It has done magic in the way I speak, from fumbling to talk about “myself” to confidently portraying “who I am”. From calling them stars to knowing that they are celestial bodies, it has taught me to think critically. As the potter gives shape to the pots, it shaped my personality from a dependent child to an independent adult. I’m thankful to Aseema for being my ladder to success.

Sanober Sayyed, Aseema Alumnus
Dedication, commitment, passion and compassion are few of the qualities that each of the staff members and volunteers at Aseema possess. Each one of them works tirelessly together to achieve one objective; ensuring that each child at Aseema realises her limitless potential. Throughout the year we conducted a varied mix of workshops and trainings for our staff to equip and motivate them to put forth their best.

From college students to professionals we had a perfect mix of dedicated volunteers who contributed enormously to our work.

Thank you to each one of you for your invaluable contributions in fulfilling dreams!

Total Staff: 290  
Number of Teachers: 174  
Number of Individual Volunteers: 192  
Number of Corporate Volunteers: 345

In the 10 years that I spent at Aseema, I have learnt a lot. My biggest achievement is that I can understand English. I have seen a great change amongst the children. Here each day I was given the opportunity to grow and I am reminded of my childhood. I want to continue learning and growing with the teachers and students. I am ready to do any work here at Aseema, as in return I get the love of every child.
Kartiki Redkar, Support Staff at PCMS

We are delighted to share that 8 students from Aseema made their maiden journey from Mumbai to Yokohoma, Japan to attend the Societe Generale Rugby Spirit Festival. The Festival from October 23-27 was an educational and cultural exchange programme organized and sponsored by Societe Generale. The children had a once in a lifetime opportunity to connect with Japan and interact with other children from various parts of the world through Rugby. They also watched the Rugby World Cup semi-final match live!

Now that they are back they cannot stop talking about the new places they visited and and what they learnt. It was truly a red letter event in their young lives and something they can draw inspiration from in the future! We hope the trip will motivate them to work harder and to develop their potential to the fullest to make their dreams come true.
15th December 2018 dawned with unusually strong winds - an indication of the winds of change sweeping through the tribal communities at Igatpuri – a promise of high quality value based education being imparted at Aseema Bal Shaikshanik Kendra (ABSK). It was a moment of great pride when the building housing the primary and secondary sections of ABSK was formally inaugurated by our honorable Education Minister, Shri Vinod Tawde.

Etched into the hill side, the architecture of the building is a model of how to build without destroying the natural landscape. With the lower ground floor at the base of the hill and the first floor at plateau level, the building is an awe-inspiring sight. In addition, Aseema has constructed basketball and football fields on campus to give the children access to state of the art sports facilities.

Along with our esteemed chief guests, donors, staff from all our centres and the members of the community, we celebrated the dawning of new hope for the community that this landmark event represented. The two-day programme was packed with the official inauguration, tree plantations, cultural programmes by the students, tours of the school and friendly basketball matches. An estimated 2,300 people graced the event. We are deeply indebted to each one of you for making the event a grand success and look forward to your support in the years to come.

In order to develop the campus and make it a model of sustainable growth, work has commenced in areas of water harvesting, waste management, energy conservation and plantation. We hope that this will inspire our students, their parents and members of the tribal community to take steps to live in harmony with nature.

*Amazing school! I wish we could make all the schools in our country like this one!*
Ashish Kumar Singh, Visitor to ABSK
Donations

Monetary Donations
- Ankasa
- Arhada Kurir Udhyog
- Astral Foundation
- Basanti Foundation
- Being Human - the Salman Khan Foundation
- Bharat Ashok Sunderlal Charity Trust
- Bharat Trading Company
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- Credit Agricole Corporate & Investment Bank
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- ETP International Pvt. Ltd.
- GCO (Global Conference Organizers) B.V.
- Golden Assam Tea Depot
- Gulf Polymers
- GVK Mumbai International Airport Pvt. Ltd.
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- HDFC Limited
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- Mahanagar Gas Ltd.
- Meet Hemmesy India Pvt. Ltd.
- Nirea India Pvt. Ltd.
- NRB Bearings Ltd.
- Nuruddin Rubab Lails Charitable Trust
- Perma Foundation
- Prohonomatory & Senior Master
- Ram Bahad Memorial Foundation
- Reliance Foundation
- Rustamjee Realty Pvt. Ltd.
- Saint Gobain India Foundation
- Seth Jeevanji Jamasji Mistry’s Surat Adarlan Fund
- Sharekhian Limited
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- The Vieya Trust
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Donations in Kind
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- Bhansia Foundation
- BNP Paribas India
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- Sharekhian Limited
- Societe Generale Bank
- Societe Generale Securities India Pvt. Ltd.
- The Vieya Trust
- Wipro Cares

Our sincere gratitude to our generous donors for their contribution to our work. A summary of the funds received and expenses incurred in the year 2018-19 is shown in this spread.

Donation

- Domestic: 60.61%
- Foreign: 29.73%
- Income from Investment: 9.54%
- Miscellaneous Receipts (Grants): 0.12%
We also extend our sincere gratitude to all our individual donors and well-wishers who have contributed so generously to Aseema.