

BIOCON FOUNDATION

www.bioconfoundation.org

As a teeming nation that supports 16.5% of the world's population, India bears 20% of the world's disease burden spanning diarrheal diseases, TB, respiratory infection, maternal conditions, nutritional deficiencies, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, and HIV/AIDS. The battle against such overwhelmingly disproportionate statistics cannot reside solely with the governing bodies. It becomes the responsibility of national citizens – corporate and individual.

Being an industry leader in pharmaceuticals, Biocon is driven by the desire to serve the nation's poor by making healthcare affordable, instill best practices in pharmaceutical production, and engender innovation to develop cost-effective products for the common man.

The Biocon Foundation, Biocon's Social Responsibility wing, understands that any healthcare program must be collaborative, concentrated and comprehensive. It must integrate private and public sector participation, permeate social strata, and expand its radius to reach the grassroots level – the poorest and remotest citizens. To this end, the foundation has established 9 Arogya Raksha Yojana (ARY) clinics across Karnataka. The clinics provide comprehensive primary health care services- medical consultation, subsidized medicines and diagnostic tests. In addition, these clinics are staffed by community health workers that provide a plethora of healthcare services and programs aimed to educate people as well as prevent and treat common illnesses and diseases.

Preventive Health Education Programs



Recognizing that prevention is the key to lessening the disease burden, the Biocon Foundation has fused the elements of education and prevention by implementing an extensive Preventive Health Education program. This addresses water-borne diseases and hygiene-related and chronic illnesses as well as maternal health and childcare.

To implement this program we provide:

- Workshops and door-to-door interactions – conducted by a team of community health workers who provide information on nutrition, personal and environmental hygiene, good sanitation, and hand washing habits.
- Mobile-enabled short public health films.
- Sanitation facilities such as building toilets or assisting with the same.
- Mobile-enabled diagnostic tools for community health workers to determine provisional diagnoses. These diagnoses can be viewed by the doctor at the ARY clinic to decide whether the patient can be treated on the spot or needs to be brought to the clinic.
- Health camps and developing mobile phone-based tools to screen people with chronic illnesses such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes and oral cancer.
- Mobile diabetic foot detection, treatment and counseling in collaboration with the Jain Institute of Vascular Sciences, Bangalore.

Primary Healthcare Services



Dispensed through the ARY clinics, these services ensure that the rural poor have access to efficient health management via competent clinical care, generic medicines and standard diagnostic tests.

Key features of these services are:

- Leveraging best practices and technology to improve clinical competencies through shared standards and protocols.
- Patient-based clinical record systems and health information that can track, monitor and analyze symptoms, diagnosis, treatment, compliance, and disease profiles of communities.
- Antenatal/ postnatal tracking where mothers are counseled about institutional deliveries available through the ARY Health Insurance scheme.
- Active link for case referrals from ARY clinics to hospitals as part of the Health Insurance Scheme, thereby ensuring effective and timely treatment of critical illnesses by competent medical personnel.

Tertiary and Secondary Healthcare Schemes



Biocon Foundation has created a health micro insurance scheme that currently offers its 100,000 members the services of highly qualified surgeons and doctors. In operation for 7 years, this scheme has facilitated over 1000 surgeries related to cardiac procedures and gynecology. With high renewal rates every year, the scheme represents a significant endorsement of our services from the community. Further, leveraging technology has helped us automate and scale up our services by providing a mobile phone-based enrolment solution. This upgrade from a manual paper-based system has greatly improved our efficiency and accuracy at maintaining client data.

EDUCATION



Since education holds the key to progress, The Biocon Foundation has made concentrated efforts to empower rural Indian children. Aiming to provide computer-aided learning, extracurricular activities, life skills education, and English language skills for rural children, we have spearheaded several education programs such as:

• **Chinnara Ganitha Books** – These books offer a self-learning math module that has reached 70,000+ children in 800 schools across 3 districts of Karnataka. Through the Chinnara Ganitha camps, Biocon employees volunteer their time to teach and assist underprivileged children. Further, constant interaction helps us to consistently analyze ongoing issues and evaluate the effectiveness of our outreach.



• **Aata Pata Wadi Project** – This aims at increasing access to education opportunities by providing marginalized children with an open and fun learning environment that teaches them new skills and awakens their spirit of enquiry.

• **Infrastructure support** – The Foundation empowers villages by providing proper infrastructure for schools, sanitation and water supply. Some initiatives here are:

- ~ Hennagara Gram Panchayat – sponsored the construction of two primary schools, a compound wall, school stage and toilet block
- ~ Srirampura village and Hebbagodi village – Sponsored a water scheme comprising of a bore well and pipelines
- ~ Hebbagodi village – Built a primary school and toilet blocks

We have also facilitated daily supply of water through the BWSSB to people living around the Biocon Campus.

DISASTER RELIEF



In 2009, over 4000 villages in North Karnataka suffered from floods owing to heavy rainfall. The widespread devastation affected crops, livestock, and houses and inundated villages. Biocon Foundation is rebuilding one of the affected villages in the Bagalkot district and ensuring its self-sufficiency by leveraging solar energy to power the whole village. 411 houses have been constructed fully, with complete sanitation provisions.