

The GoTo logo features the word "GoTo" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. A thick yellow horizontal bar is positioned below the letters "o" and "T".

Success Story:

One School At A Time

One School at a Time (OSAAT) is a non-profit organization that is committed to empowering children to stay in school and break the cycle of poverty for both their families and communities. They have renovated more than 35 schools serving over 6,000 students and focus their partnership with subsistence farming communities in rural Karnataka, India to boost the performance and quality of existing public schools.



Challenge

In early 2018, in the southern region of Karnataka, India, the children of the Government Higher Primary School in the Kattamalalavadi village were ready to start their school day. But unfortunately, rainwater leaked into classrooms through tired or nonexistent roofs, walls cracked and caved, and piles of debris littered the school's perimeter. The basic infrastructure of the school didn't reflect the learning potential of the children who relied upon it.

When GoTo Gives, GoTo's corporate social responsibility program, first began its collaboration with the school through the nonprofit One School At A Time (OSAAT) in early 2018, even the headmaster was doubtful that the school could be turned around. "Basic infrastructure is the foundation of any education system," OSAAT founder Vadiraja Bhatt says. "OSAAT's mission is to rebuild rural, underprivileged schools like Government Higher Primary School, and with GoTo, we were able to make it possible."

Not only was the physical infrastructure of Government Higher Primary School beginning to crumble, so was the communication amongst the OSAAT administration. With a serious lack of a reliable and effective conferencing utility for staying connected with one another regardless of their location, administration members and volunteers found themselves struggling to work together in an efficient capacity to further the critical work of the OSAAT mission.

Education and youth programs are a core focus of GoTo's corporate social responsibility work. Since 2018, GoTo Gives has supported OSAAT's work in many ways, including employee giving, employee volunteer time and GoTo Meeting licenses.

“GoTo Gives’ commitment to OSAAT is motivating. Them helping us rebuild schools and embracing the belief that every child deserves a safe school in which to flourish, along with their stringent focus on ethics and professionalism, makes us feel more capable of tackling challenging projects in the future.”

Vadiraja Bhatt
Founder,
One School At A Time



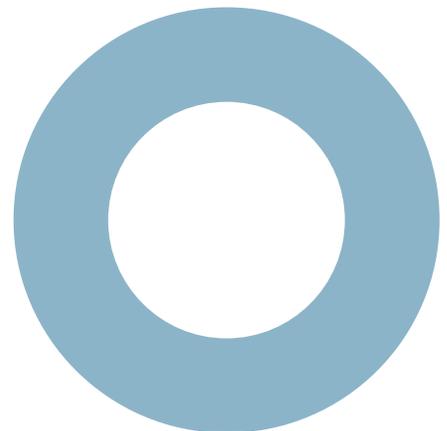
Solution

The renovation of Government Higher Primary School was made possible in June of 2019 with the facilitation of the GoTo Gives ambassadors in Bangalore, with GoTo co-sponsoring the construction of four new classrooms. Now students are able to sit and learn in classrooms that just months ago they had to avoid on rainy days. New walls support chalkboards and student work, and infrastructure no longer impedes learning.

GoTo Gives ambassador Siddu Mareppa was honored to attend the school opening ceremony. “It was great to see the smiles on the students and teachers’ faces. They were so excited,” said Mareppa. Being a part of this transformation felt particularly personal, as he attended a school much like the Government School as a child, where building conditions frequently got in the way of learning. Because of GoTo’s support, students at the Government School can have a more reliable learning environment.

When previous conferencing utilities proved to be ineffective in connecting members of the OSAAT administration and aiding in their productivity, additional support in the form of GoTo Meeting was a welcomed improvement. Now, members of the administration are enabled to connect remotely through the GoTo Meeting web-hosted service, which also offers them reliable video conferencing, screen sharing and information distribution.

The licenses have helped streamline OSAAT’s business operations so they can work to improve schools with smoother technological capabilities. With the help of GoTo Meeting, OSAAT pan India operation has been much more effective and productive. Volunteers meet through the mobile app even while they are traveling or stuck in traffic.





Results

The project improved learning conditions for over 500 students in Kattemalavadi, and these four classrooms will accommodate around 200 students daily. Historically, the schools that OSAAT works with perform 15% better than compared to the district average, experience increased student enrollment, decreased dropout rates, and a higher passing percentage on public exams. In some schools, the improved infrastructure has enabled teachers to introduce innovative ways of teaching, even winning some state awards. In a couple of schools, students have gone on to become senior officers of the Government. OSAAT's Operational Chief, Balakrishna Rao, expects to see similar improvements in the Kattemalavadi school in the coming years.

GoTo Meeting has made a remarkable difference, Rao says, especially in increasing their administrative efficiency. Administration members can stay connected without interruption no matter where they are and how they access, so their mission critical work never has to slow down. He notes the difference in their weekly review meetings, which consist of 30-50 volunteers from across the globe. With the licenses, they can now share project-related data and reports during the meetings. "Because of the high quality and reliability of GoTo Meeting, these meetings now run smoothly," Rao says.



GoTo gives

GoTo Gives is the vehicle through which we fulfill our mission to create a more sustainable world by connecting the next generation workforce to the power of possibilities. Our three impact areas are: Education & Youth, Environmental Stewardship, and Community Action. Through financial support and direct service, GoTo employees lead with purpose.

Improve your communication and collaboration with GoTo Meeting.
Visit www.goto.com/meeting for more information.

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