Mukul Madhav Foundation

Established 1999

OUR JOURNEY SO FAR

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MUKUL MADHAV FOUNDATION

Urban amenities in rural areas - dream come true

RENEWING HOPE Pune-based Finolex Industries' CSR wing, the Mukul Madhav Foundation, is changing lives via education, community development and health in villages in Ratnagiri district. **Prachi Bari** reports

> We started this school in June 2080 with only 153 students. The idea was simple: to provide quality English education at an affordable cost to the local community.
> MADHURA RATNAPARKHI, principal

Rural boys thrive on the schools's outdoor facilities at Mukul

Students of the Mukul Madhav Polytechnic at Golap, Ratnagiri, work on a science experiment in the school laboratory.

PP CHHABRIA: A TRUE VISIONARY

PUNE: Born in Kera Ni, Pralhad P Chhabria, the legendary founder of Finolex Group, migrated to India during Partition. He set up Finolex Cables in 1958. Finolex Group is the largest manufacturer of electrical cables and the second largest PVC resin manufacturer in the country.

He and his wife Vimla created Hope Foundation in 1972 in the memory of their daughter Sonali, to assist cancer patients. Later, he established the Mukul Madhav Foundation and Hirwa-rk Centre, which are active in rural, education and social welfare. In turn, his daughter-in-law Usha and son Rajnish Chhabria took it upon themselves to carry his vision forward.

Letting development and social welfare flow from the village centre

Prachi Bari

RATNAGIRI: Unlike most hamlets and villages where the women have to walk long distances to fetch water, at Shirkhede adivasi village, Golap, that hardship of epic proportions has been eliminated. This is because of a water tank, 10,000 litres in capacity, in the village square.

Installed by Mukul Madhav Foundation (MMF), the corporate social responsibility wing of Finolex Industries Limited, this has brought precious water to the 100 adivasi families in the village. Before the tank was built in 2016, women had to walk long distances to fetch water from a well in the village.

"I had to walk a lot to fetch water and I would always miss hearing some letters from my son. Now there is water close to my home. I am happy that my family's basic requirement of water has been taken care of," said Vishakha Chavan, who lives in Shirkhede adivasi wadi.

Over the past 17 years, this foundation has changed the face of many villages in Ratnagiri, a backward district in Konkan region, by providing basic facilities and social infrastructure, such as roads, healthcare facilities and social welfare.

The women of Golap do not have to walk long distances for water, which is now available in the village itself. PRACHI BARI/HT PHOTO

Finolex Industries set up its manufacturing plant in Ratnagiri," said Dr Ashutosh Mishra, CSR coordinator, Finolex Industries.

Soon after establishing the plant, Finolex brought together all the 22 Grampanchayats to discuss a solution to the water scarcity and open 91,22,000 litres the water schemes.

"We decided to set up supply of clean water to the villages from a nearby lake, through tankers, each with a capacity of 10,000 litres, especially during April and May," said Dr Mishra.

Village Golap, where the non-silted irrigation well was set up, was the first village to witness change through various initiatives. Soon, 16 wadis (hamlets) were identified for support. In addition to employment, villagers got drinking water with two

Below was to help create better facilities for the villagers once

EMPOWERING SPECIAL KIDS WITH THE RIGHT TREATMENT

Prachi Bari

RATNAGIRI: While dealing with water scarcity in Ratnagiri district, Mukul Madhav Foundation (MMF) was drawn to issues relating to the health of the villagers.

Sachin Kulkarni, a founder trustee, remembers that they were approached by the Satara Zilla Parishad for financial assistance to help differently-abled children. They began a unique project for Finolex Industries Ltd and Mukul Madhav Foundation (MMF) to help children with CP in the district. With the policy of inclusive education in place, the district was promoting these children to attend regular school. Today the MMF is working for children in Satara district.

The foundation also found that the schools did not have the required infrastructure, i.e., specially designed chairs for students with severe palsy. MMF therefore donated 100 such chairs to the 22 schools.

Adhere to their motto that these cases can only be solved if the children get help at home too, The MMF then organised specially designed wheelchairs and portable commode chairs for each of these children at their homes. They distributed 176 wheelchairs and 104 commode chairs in 2015.

Every month, special camps are held in Wai, Mahabaleshwar, Satara, Karad, Koregaon, Khandala, Phaltan, Mhasvad, Khandala, Jaoli and Medha. These camps have helped identify several children in need of orthopaedic and neurological surgical interventions.

Orthopaedic surgeries of 87 children have been completed at Sassoon Hospital, Pune.

AT RATNAGIRI, 2,960 ZP SCHOOLCHILDREN WERE SCREENED BY A TEAM OF 20 DOCTORS FROM TOP HOSPITALS IN DI 2017

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