

Corporate Social Responsibility Report (2022-23)



Light Microfinance Private Limited

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The MD Writes



Dear All,

An increasingly paperless world of privileged, urban populace could never teach us the worth of papers until we landed in a remote Gujarat village, where students had books provided by the government but the money given to buy stationery was spent by their parents on items that were more essential for their survival. Education staggered in dearth of papers to write on.

In Gujarat's tribal-dominated Dahod district, our mission was to promote education, upgrade lifestyle and develop healthcare, as part of Light's CSR programme undertaken during 2022-23. Poverty and illiteracy were rampant with scarce jobs and spiralling population. We realised even a notebook could be a piece of luxury.

In FY23 Light was able to reach out to over 5,000 people across 10 villages in Dahod and Ahmedabad through three programmes – *Ek Hi Iccha*, *Sabko Siksha*, *Nirog* and *Aapka Bhagya, Aapke Haath* – and spent Rs 18.36 lakh on these schemes.

While dealing with the education initiative, we realised how various taboos and prejudices had kept the youth away from enlightenment. We wanted to bring them out under the sun from this darkness of illiteracy. Light partnered with the Ahmedabad Women's Action Group (AWAG), a non-government organisation working for uplifting women in economically marginalised sections, to promote education and generate awareness among children to ward off their sexual exploitation. We provided every child in the age group of 5 to 14 years a book on sexual literacy along with stationeries and notebooks.

AWAG representatives taught them about good touch and bad touch. Our target under the *Ek Hi Iccha, Sabko Siksha* programme was simple: promote education to enlighten children and encourage better living.

Our mission of improving health was complemented by *Nirog*, a health programme, to secure a healthy life for the people in Dahod. We found eye problems one of the commonest diseases plaguing the malnourished community. Light organised 10 eye check-up camps across 10 villages schools during 2022-23 under the *Nirog* programme. At least 3,147 people from various age groups received consultation and treatment free of cost. Spectacles and medicines were also distributed.

Our third programme to reach our ultimate goal was *Aapka Bhagya, Aapke Haath*. Light has devised the women empowerment programme to help victims of domestic violence and supporting women from economically weaker section and slums by providing them assistance to earn a living. We chose Ahmedabad to host this programme in FY23. Our experts addressed people in small groups on the importance of financial independence and the possibilities left unexplored.

We worked towards making them comprehend how a small assistance from us could make a big difference in their lives. We wanted to show each one of the participants how she could bring in a change by unleashing the potential she had inside her. The programme was a grand success with 40 women taking part in it and emerging with a smile of confidence.

As a finance company, our wealth lies in the people living at the base of the pyramid. Our commitment to serve them is our capital. And, our constant strive towards their sustainable development is our principal resource. We frame our corporate social responsibility initiatives with children and women at the centre. We believe their empowerment is the only way towards an economically and socially developed community. All our CSR strategies are based on three principles of promoting education, securing healthcare and exploring opportunities. A perfect synchronisation in these policies have, over the years, driven us to our goals.

At Light , we never cease to uphold the vision to create a society where everyone has access to basic necessities, equal opportunities, and dignified life, regardless of their socio-economic background.

Sincerely,

Deepak Amin
Founder, Promoter and MD,
Light Microfinance Private Limited

Message from our leaders



This year's social impact program has been incredibly meaningful to me. I felt a strong connection to the people we served, particularly the children, as I witnessed firsthand the challenges they face. Belonging to a similar background, the school and their kids took me back to my childhood. It was a poignant reminder of the struggles and dreams that I once shared with them. Seeing their faces light up with joy and hope, despite the challenges they faced, ignited a sense of determination within me.

I am proud that Light has chosen education as one of its core areas for social impact. The collaboration of the Ek Hi Iccha Sabko Shiksha program with the eye check-up camp for children, a service often overlooked by parents for various reasons, was a significant step.

I am hopeful that Light's social impact journey will continue to make a difference, bringing light to the lives of millions. Together, let's strive towards a brighter future.

Rakesh Kumar
CEO and Executive Director
Light Microfinance Private Limited

Message from our leaders



Healthcare in India remains a challenge, with many households still lacking access to essential services. It fills me with great pride and privilege to be a part of Light's mission as we take our first step towards a healthier Bharat through our program, Nirog.

The statistics on visual impairment in our country were alarming in 2010, but India has made remarkable progress since then. However, there are still millions who need to be reached out including elderly parents, women and children in rural areas, where resources and facilities are scarce. Light's Nirog is a healthcare intervention program which focused on eye-camps in 2022-23. This year in addition to screening, we provided spectacles and medicines for corrective measures wherever necessary to the rural population.

Together, let us continue to prioritize the health and well-being of every individual, making a meaningful impact on their lives.

Avira Saini
CFO and Executive Director
Light Microfinance Private Limited

A Tale of Triumph

The story of Light is of undaunted endeavour, impeccable dedication & unwavering determination to achieve the goal of serving the unserved and underserved in the most sustainable way.

The journey had begun in 2009 with the sole mission to offer financial products and services using the advancement in technology to the maximum number of people. We didn't realise when and how fast, we became one with our customers like a family where business thrived on humanity, respect and understanding. Our cost-effective, time-bound and technology-driven approach towards our customers helped us stay the course despite headwinds like Covid pandemic and ensure remarkable success.

Light has been one of the pioneers in the microfinance space to have fully digitised KYC process and other back-end operations on cloud-based technology in 2014 – much before its peers in the BFSI sector even thought of it.

Our success along the course of the journey helped us constantly redefine our objective and restructure our approach. We needed more funds to extend the ambit of our operations and in September 2022, Light received its second round of investments and secured Rs 196 crore in Series-B. The funding was led by British International Investment (BII), the UK's development finance institution (DFI) and impact investor. All three of the Company's existing investors Nordic Microfinance Initiative (NMI), Triple Jump BV and Incofin IM, also participated in this round. The four funds follow an investment strategy aimed at creating social and environmental impacts in addition to financial gains.

Light is today not just a leader in Indian microfinance sector, it is also emerged as a preferred brand in the domain where it operates, thanks to its programmes designed on innovative financial products and services and aimed at flattening the gender divide and creating livelihood in rural and peri-urban areas.

Light has its operations sprawled over large swathes of northern and central India, covering Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh through a network of 148 branches and has served over four lakh women borrowers so far through a squad of more than 2,000 workers. Our success reflected in our financials. The company's assets value surpassed Rs 1,700 crore in March 2023, marking a significant milestone in its over-a-decade-old journey and stoking its ambition to be one of the leaders in the financial services industry in the years to come. Light ended the year 2022-23 with a RoA of 1.9% vs 0.7% in FY22. The growth in profit was driven by a 78.2 percent topline growth to Rs 291 crore. Our ever-widening ambit added 178,696 fresh borrowers to the family.

The juggernaut that began rolling a decade and a half back seemed to be moving in full throttle, despite a challenging macroeconomic environment and geopolitical uncertainties plaguing the entire world. Our triumph is reflected in the momentum we maintained even during the Covid days and the ongoing state of inflation and economic slowdown.

As we look ahead, we are filled with a renewed sense of purpose and determination. The story of Light continues to unfold, as we strive to make a lasting impact on the lives of the unserved and underserved. We express our deepest gratitude to our customers, investors, and the entire Light family for their unwavering support on this incredible journey. Together, we will illuminate the path towards a brighter, more inclusive future.

A Glance



Ek Hi Iccha, Sabko Shiksha

- Stationery kits & Literature on sexual literacy distributed to 5000 kids
- Sessions on good touch, bad touch



Nirog

- 2238 kids and 909 adult eyes were screened.
- 1504 received spectacles
- 3147 received medicines



Aapka Bhagya, Aapke Haath

- 40 women were provided sewing machines to earn a living.
- The beneficiaries were from urban slums.

Vision

A society where everyone has access to basic necessities, equal opportunities and dignified life, regardless of their socio-economic background.

Our Social Vehicles

In FY23, Light was able to reach out to over 5,000 people across 10 villages in Dahod and Ahmedabad through three programmes – Ek Hi Iccha, Sabko Siksha, Nirog and Aapka Bhagya, Aapke Haath.

School/Location	No. of Beneficiaries		
	Ik Hi Iccha, Sabko Shiksha	Nirog	Aapka Bhagya, Aapke Haath
Mangala Dabhi na Muvada Prathmik Shala, Borivai	287	160	-
Sarvodaya Madhyamik Vidyalaya, Borivai	259	107	-
Borivai Parthmik Shala, Borivai	498	343	-
Nava Mehlana Prathmik Vidyalaya, Nava Mehlana	416	332	-
Sajivav Prathmik Shala, Sajivav	463	325	-
Shree SV Khant High School, Khojalvasa	577	407	-
Karath Prathmik Shala, Karath	988	590	-
Dageriya Prathmik Shala, Mirakhedi	537	360	-
Jafarpura Prathmik Shala, Jafarpura	439	249	-
Jafarpura Jhaabvarg Prathmik Shala, Jafarpura	536	274	-
Ahmedabad	-	-	40
TOTAL	5000	3147	40

Mission

To promote sustainable development and empower communities through education, healthcare, sanitation, gender equality, environmental sustainability and natural disaster relief.

Ek Hi Iccha, Sabko Shiksha

Ek Hi Iccha, Sabko Siksha, translated, one wish, education for all, is designed as a comprehensive programme to provide academic assistance to disadvantaged children to complete their studies. It is woven around a central belief that is integral to our philosophy. We believe that education is essential to elevate a society to a higher plane and we are trying to spread education to every nook and corner of India to reach that goal.

While working on our social commitments in Dahod, we realised that lack of stationery, primarily papers to write on, was the biggest hurdle for children. Distribution of stationery was a major part of the programme. The supply of pen, pencil, papers and other educational items motivated youngsters to study and encouraged students to work towards a better life. We worked with 10 government schools in rural Dahod and 5,000 stationery kits comprising notebooks, pencil, pen, rubber, sharpner along with a book on good touch and bad touch were distributed among school kids and village children.



Nirog

Health is integral to the overall development of a society. Our healthcare initiative, Nirog, or free of diseases, is designed to improve the health and wellbeing of people in both rural and urban India. It aims to provide access to healthcare services and offer support to individuals who are largely deprived of basic healthcare needs.

In this financial year our focus was on preventive healthcare and we decided to begin with eyes as they are one of the most vital organ. The eye checkup camps were held at the government schools after permission from the school principals where school children along with people from the community were screened for various eye elements. The beneficiaries were also provided with spectacles and medicines so that with timely intervention they continue to see the world with their own eyes. Light was able to help around 3,000 kids and adults.



Aapka Bhagya, Aapke Haath

Light had set off its journey with the single objective of social and economic development of India through women empowerment. We upheld the vision at every step. While framing our CSR policy, we ensured that all our initiatives culminate into our ultimate destination. Thus, Aapka Bhagya, Aapke Haath (your fortune in your hand) was devised. The programme is crafted to provide assistance to women by helping them achieve financial independence and self-reliance.

The programme was named Aapka Bhagya, Aapke Haath to reflect our philosophy of empowering women to take control of their own destiny. By providing women with the resources and support they need to succeed, the program aims to create a more inclusive and equitable society, where women have equal access to opportunities and are empowered to achieve their full potential. We see the programme as a critical step towards empowering women and promoting gender equality in India. The program is focused on women who are victims of domestic violence or are from slums in urban and rural India. We believe providing women with financial independence is a significant step towards creating a more prosperous and equitable society for all. This year 40 women beneficiaries were part of the programme who were given motorized sewing machines so that they become economically independent.



CSR Report

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative aims at having a long-term sustainable impact on the community. The CSR Policy of the Company has been designed keeping in view the company's business vision, its CSR vision and long-term social objectives that the company wants to achieve. The CSR Policy has been created with the purpose to outline its CSR focus areas, review mechanism, execution process and reporting mechanism and it also provides an overview of the projects or programs that could be undertaken by the Company from time to time.

The Corporate Social Responsibility policy of the company covers the regulatory requirements.

2. Composition of CSR Committee:

Sr No.	Name of Director	Designation in the Committee /Nature of Directorship in Company	Number of meetings of CSR Committee held during the Year	Number of Meeting of CSR Committee attended during the Year
1	Deepak Amin	Member	1	1
2	Rakesh Kumar	Member	1	1
3	Aviral Saini	Member	1	1

The meeting was held on May 24, 2022.

3. Provide the web-link where composition of CSR Committee, CSR Policy and CSR projects approved by the board are disclosed on the website of the company:

<https://www.lightfinance.com/compliance.html>

4. Provide the details of Impact assessment of CSR projects carried out in pursuance of sub-rule (3) of rule 8 of the Companies (Corporate Social Responsibility Policy) Rules, 2014, if applicable (attach the report):

Not Applicable for the financial year under review

5. Details of the amount available for set off in pursuance of sub-rule (3) of rule 7 of the Companies (Corporate Social Responsibility Policy) Rules, 2014 and amount required for set off for the financial year, if any:

Not Applicable for the financial year under review

Sr. No.	Financial Year	Amount available for set-off from preceding financial year (in Rs.)	Amount required to be set-off for the financial year, in any (in Rs.)
NIL			

6. Average net profit of the Company as per section 135(5): **Rs 9,17,69,097**

7.(a) Two percentage of average net profit of the Company as per section 135(5):
Rs. 18,35,382

(b) Surplus arising out of the CSR projects or programmes or activities of the previous financial years: **NIL**

(c) Amount required to be set off for the financial year, if any: **NIL**

(d) Total CSR obligation for the financial year (7a+7b-7c): **Rs 18,35,382**

8.(a) CSR amount spent or unspent for the financial year 2022-23 in FY 2021-22:
Rs. 18,35,382. There was no amount unspent.

(b) Details of CSR amount spent against ongoing projects for the financial year:
Not Applicable as there is no ongoing project.

(c) Details of CSR amount spent against other than ongoing projects for the financial year:

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Sr No	Name of Project	Item from the list of activities in schedule VII to the Companies Act, 2013.	Local area (Yes/No)	Location of the project State (District)	Amount spent for the project (Amt Rs. In Lakhs)	Mode of implementation Direct (Yes/No)	Mode of implementation – Through implementing agency. NAME (CSR Reg No)
1	Ek Hi Iccha, Sabko Shiksha	ii	Yes	Gujarat (Dahod)	Rs 18,36,000	No	AWAG (CSR00000709)
2	Nirog	iv	Yes	Gujarat (Dahod)		No	AWAG (CSR00000709)
3	Aapka Bhagya, Aapke Haath	iii	Yes	Gujarat (Ahmedabad)		No	AWAG (CSR00000709)
Total					Rs 18,36,000		

(d) Amount Spent in Administrative overheads: **NIL**

(e) Amount spent on Impact Assessment, if applicable: **NIL**

(f) Total amount spent for the Financial Year (8b+8c+8d+8e): **Rs 18,36,000**

(g) Excess amount for set off, if any: NIL

Sr No	Particular	Amount (in Rs)
1	Two percent of average net profit of the company as per section 135(5)	Rs 18,35,382/-
2	Total amount spent for the Financial Year	Rs 18,36,000/-
3	Excess amount spent for the financial year [(ii)-(i)]	Rs 618/-
4	Surplus arising out of the CSR projects or programmes or activities of the previous financial years, if any	NIL
5	Amount available for set off in succeeding financial years [(iii)-(iv)]	NIL

9. (a) Details of Unspent CSR amount for the preceding three financial years:

Sr No	Preceding Financial Year	Amount transferred to Unspent CSR Account under Section 135(6) (in Rs.)	Amount spent in the reporting Financial Year (in Rs.)	Amount transferred to any fund specified under Schedule VII as per Section 135(6), if any.			Amount remaining to be spent in succeeding financial years (in Rs.)
				Name of the Fund	Amount (in Rs.)	Date of transfer	
NIL							

(b) Details of CSR amount spent in the financial year for ongoing projects of the preceding financial year(s):

Sr No	Project ID	Name of the Project	Financial Year in which the project was commenced	Project Duration	Total amount allocated for the project (in Rs.)	Amount spent on the project in the reporting Financial Year (in Rs.)	Cumulative amount spent at the end of reporting Financial Year (in Rs.)	Status of the Project- Completed/ ongoing
NIL								

10. In case of creation or acquisition of capital asset, furnish the details relating to the asset so created or acquired through CSR spent in the financial year (asset-wise details):

(a) Date of creation or acquisition of the capital asset(s)

Not applicable

(b) Amount of CSR spent for creation or acquisition of capital asset

Not applicable

(c) Details of the entity or public authority or beneficiary under whose name such capital asset is registered, their address etc.

Not applicable

(d) Provide details of the capital asset(s) created or acquired (including complete address and location of the capital asset)

Not applicable

11. Specify the reason(s), if the company has failed to spend two per cent of the average net profit as per section 135(5)-

Not applicable as the company has spent full amount of CSR as per the regulatory requirement.

**FOR AND ON BEHALF OF
LIGHT MICROFINANCE PRIVATE LIMITED**

**MR. DEEPAK AMIN
PROMOTER & MANAGING DIRECTOR**

**MR. RAKESH KUMAR
CEO AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

CORPORATE OFFICE

310, PINNACLE BUSINESS PARK,
CORPORATE ROAD, PRAHLAD NAGAR,
AHMEDABAD, GUJARAT – 380015.

www.lightfinance.com