



NIVASA TURNS 10!

We have completed ten years of joyful work. After ten years of trials and very instructive errors, hardships and heartaches, reflections and rejoicings, we are now in a good place.

Success is a subjective term. To us, it is about looking back on the path travelled without regret of ever swerving from the Nivasa values, of truth, integrity of thought, word & action and always keeping the cause greater than the self, with the journey itself as destination.

The reason one works in the social sector is the deep belief in the interconnectedness of humanity, a way of life when you care about the world. This is what enables us to serve as a social venture specializing in contextual design consulting for housing and other building typologies for the underserved segment.

We are doing designs in a site specific and climate sensitive manner that can be replicated, with supporting design and construction guidelines. We are working with the Women & Child Department, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj departments under NREGA and NRLM schemes and other departments of Govt. of Karnataka, on designs for anganwadis, taluk panchayat offices, community centers, SHG centers, Halli santes, library, and homes for the mentally challenged. Additionally, we are working with the New Delhi Government on design for creches for migrant construction workers' children.

With endless, round-the-clock work and consumed by the cause, we have been remiss in not expressing our gratitude enough to everyone for their selfless investment in our journey. Expressing gratitude is so joyful, and we are dedicating this issue to do just that!

Every pilot is pivotal. The supporters of a pilot project of a fledgling organization going through a dichotomous "unsure yet so sure" stage are most special.

To us, it is the Centre for Social Initiative and Management (CSIM), Bangalore, who enthusiastically supported the idea of Nivasa and acknowledged it with a three year fellowship, it is the single, insistent anonymous donor from Singapore for the housing at our pilot at Thimmaiyanadoddi, it is the NGO YogaKshema who very simply went out of their way in every way for the project. It is because of them we could have the privilege of Canara Bank supporting the community center and other infrastructure work in this hamlet.

NGO YogaKshema, with the credo

"Improving the quality of lives of people by improving the quality of minds", is Nivasa's spiritual torch bearer, the backbone of our organization, which was instrumental in the making of Nivasa, which has made every one of our pilots happen, whose volunteers have made us celebrate, reflect and refine ourselves. They have conducted all our gatherings, project inaugurations and brainstorming sessions during the formative years and they taught us service.

We are truly fortunate to have the blessings of spiritual stalwart, YK founder and Neuroscientist Dr. Usha Vasthare, YK president Shri P.V Maiya, and well-wishers Mrs. and Mr. S. R Iyer without whose sterling support and guidance, we wouldn't have been able to progress in our journey. We are, because of who they are.

We simply cannot forget someone who helped establish an important pillar of the Nivasa edifice.

AN Venugopal, Ex-President, RMZ Foundation gave us the first opportunity for our Construction Labour Community (CLC) Project

(enabling dignified living conditions to on-site construction labour) with RMZ Corp, smoothening all the roadblocks to establishing our credibility. Today we have worked with numerous developers and large contractors on this project and it is thanks to his faith in giving us the first break.

A milestone is also a reason to pause and acknowledge with deepest gratitude to all our loving and giving co-passengers who make the work happen-family and friends, family's friends, friends' families and friends' friends, school and college classmates, ex-colleagues, government officers and departments, partner organizations, donors, corporates, foundations, developers, contractors and project management companies, masons, fabricators, workers, NGOs, colleges, volunteers, architects, engineers, individuals, end users and our own resolute work horse team including our trustees and advisors. Each one of them has been a part of our journey, incognito, with no expectations. A special shout out to all architects who cared and dared to be a part of our baby steps. We take this opportunity to acknowledge all of them, and to thank all for being an integral part of our journey.

Design can truly make a difference, and we hope we have the honor and opportunity to serve the under-served in the years to come.

Team Nivasa

