



# Annual Report 2018



Tea Leaf Trust

Providing Opportunities  
through Education



# Who we are

Tea Leaf Trust is a UK-registered charity that develops and supports educational centres in Sri Lanka's hill country. Our belief is that regardless of where you are born, what your ethnicity is, or who your family are, you should have equal opportunities for success. We believe this can be achieved through education. Our vision is to support the youth of Sri Lanka's tea estate communities to become educated, professional and empowered young people enabled to lead social transformation within tea plantation communities.

# Our aims

- To deliver high quality educational programmes to young people and children from the tea estates of Sri Lanka;
- To improve youth employability by developing high-standard English language skills and professional skills;
- To effect social transformation in tea estate communities through programmes of community service;
- To develop the emotional health and personal strength of young people from the tea estate communities.



# What we do

Tea Leaf Trust founded and supports the running of Tea Leaf Vision Education Centres (TLV), delivering programmes of English language and personal and professional development to 18-24-year-olds from the tea estates. Run by young people for young people, the centres focus on programmes that prioritise English and employability and emotional health support, allowing around 320 young adults each year to improve their chances for personal and professional success.

The staff are all graduates of the programme themselves, and offer strong, positive role models, able to understand the difficulties faced by the students whilst demonstrating what can be achieved by a good education. The centres are concerned also with community development, supporting youth to become active agents of positive change in their communities and develop skills to cope positively with the challenges they face.

In 2018, Tea Leaf Trust signed a partnership agreement with Sri Lanka Unites, a national peace building and reconciliation NGO. As the National Educational Development Partner, Tea Leaf Trust is responsible for the educational programming for six Reconciliation Centres across the island.

# Why we do it

Over 85% of our students live on less than Rs. 300/- per day; 63% of the population live in line rooms; over 75% of men suffer from alcoholism; 83% of women have suffered domestic violence; and only 20.2% of people have a secondary education, less than half of the national average of 50.2%. With all these factors, it is hard for the youth of the tea estates to lift themselves or their families from poverty.

'I was like a dark sky before I came to TLV but now I am like a full moon with lots of bright stars.

This is the place which gave me a proper meaning of my life.'

– TLV student, P. Sinduja

## TLV Centres

Opened in 2010, TLV Maskeliya is our first centre followed by TLV Nuwara Eliya in 2016. We educate 300 students each year, improving their English and desirable skills such as Business and ICT, and supporting their personal development through Emotional Health and Success and Ethics. We also run a Community English Programme where TLV students deliver free English classes to primary age students in the surrounding tea estates; around 3,000 children benefit every year.

Our service projects benefit 40,000+ community members annually.

## Partnerships

Tea Leaf Trust is now the National Educational Development Partner for Sri Lanka Unites working to build a new future for Sri Lanka. We are supporting Sri Lanka Unites towards a target of engaging 500,000 young people in peace building leadership across the nation during 2019.

We have also worked with Rotary extensively and particularly with the Rotary Clubs of Margate and Colombo on the Rotary Mobile Library Bus Project that continues to provide English classes to over 800 children from remote areas every month.



# Case Study One

'N' comes from Maskeliya and is from a very low-income family. His father does not earn enough to support his family and suffers from alcoholism. He was also in prison for about five years. During this time, 'N's' mother had to simultaneously balance both her childcare and work responsibilities. When she wasn't caring for her family she was working on a farm for low wages.

As the eldest child in his family, 'N' was expected to support his family financially, looking after his mother and two brothers who are still schooling. He worked in a hotel for a year and, for this reason, was unable to complete his O Levels. Fortunately, while he was working, 'N' heard about Tea Leaf Vision. He believed the school would help him turn over a new leaf in his life, so decided to join in January.

At the beginning of the year 'N' lacked confidence. He gave the impression that he was not interested in learning, and did not participate much in lessons. However, after being appointed as the class representative, 'N's' confidence grew, and he started to work really hard.

'N' completed his responsibilities to an excellent standard. He was very respectful of the school and the students, and received an award for Being a Helpful Student. He graduated in December 2018 and is now working to help his family.



# 2018 Impact

|  | 2018   | Since 2010 |
|--|--------|------------|
| Main Diploma graduates   | 263    | 1,363      |
| Advanced Diploma graduates   | 12     | 121        |
| % in full-time employment, further education or training one year after the course | 82%    | 70%        |
| Basic English Programme graduates  | 162    | 1,770      |
| Primary school students receiving over 40 hours of free English classes            | 2,104  | 14,715     |
| Primary school students engaged in health and nutrition activities                 | 2,123  | 17,081     |
| Community Beneficiaries  | 39,932 | 170,691    |
| Total hours of community service undertaken by TLV students since 2014             | 16,782 | 35,938     |
| Approximate number of lives saved*   |        | 50         |

\*The hill country is a suicide hotpot, and though still too high, the rate of suicide amongst TLV alumni is less than 5% of the regional average.

# Case Study Two

Vijayakumar is from Upcot Estate, Maskeliya and is 19 years old. Her father works in a tea estate and her mother works abroad. She was adopted by one of her relatives when she was 11 years old as her family was unable to take care of her. She re-joined her family this year when she joined Tea Leaf Vision. She travels nearly two hours every day just to come to school.

When she joined she didn't have very good English and had many negative thoughts, but she was very brave and started interacting with everybody quickly. She improved with the support of teachers and friends. She loves education and she is really keen on continuing her higher studies.

She became a great student and asked many questions to improve. She helps everyone in the school. She believes that she is making the best out of Success and Ethics lessons and she practices those lessons every day.

She is one of the strongest Change Agents in her community after coming to Tea Leaf Vision. She is now studying at the Asian University for Women in Bangladesh on a full scholarship studying for her undergraduate degree.



# Case Study Three

Jamuna is from Strathdon Estate, Hatton. There are five members in her family. Her parents are estate workers and earn about Rs. 10,000/- every month. She has two sisters and one of them is ill and every month her parents spend a considerable amount of money on her medication.

Jamuna wanted to join TLV, but she didn't have enough money even to travel to the school. She studied for an IT course, worked in an institution then saved money to come to Tea Leaf Vision. She spent Rs. 130/- every day but she came to school without missing a day.

She was a very talented student and was positive despite her many problems. When she joined TLV she didn't know any English. She spent four hours every day travelling to and from school. She received a weekly award for being a Hardworking Student and graduated in December 2018 with Distinction.

Her aim is to be a teacher at Tea Leaf Vision and we strongly believe that if she continues to develop then she will represent TLV positively in the future.



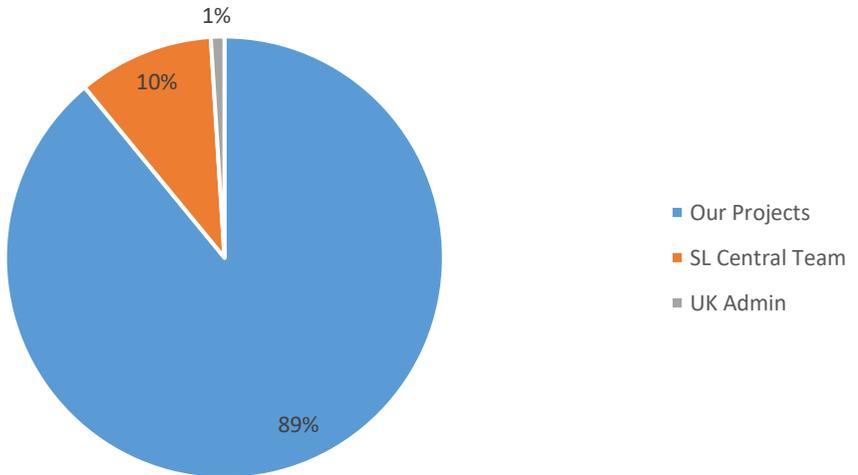
'I came to Tea Leaf Vision with a lot of problems but I overcame those things after I studied the valuable lessons here. Now, I can manage my problems and live my life with my creation according to Tea Leaf Vision moments. Tea Leaf Vision is like a magic world. It gave me new life with good characteristics. The great secrets of my success is Tea Leaf Vision.'

**TLV student, L. Kohila**

'I am so happy to be a big part of this year. I learn to love myself and spread that love. I understand others and accept them as they are with my visions. Thank you Tea Leaf Vision for your motivation. You have helped me to develop my skills and look for opportunities among difficulties. A little sun shines inspirationally in my life!'

**TLV student, Dhanusha**

## How We Spend Our Funding



**Our projects are: Tea Leaf Vision Maskeliya; Tea Leaf Vision Nuwara Eliya; Rotary Mobile Library; Teacher Training Programme; Gender Equality Programme; and Street Drama Social Enterprise Programme**

# People We Love

Alongside our private donors, our heartfelt thanks go to:



Alongside Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation, we would like to thank the many Rotary Clubs who support our work (in alphabetical order):

RC of Beverley

RC of Chislehurst

RC of Colombo

RC of Hull Paragon

RC of Kelvedon & District

RC of Keswick

RC of Margate

RC of Medway Sunlight

RC of Sidcup





# Partner with us

We are proud of these achievements, but we also recognise how much there is still to do and how many more young people there are to serve. We are seeking partnerships that will enable the project to expand; to continue to transform the lives of these needy communities, contribute to Sri Lanka's skilled and talented workforce and save lives. We need you to help us.

To find out more, please visit our website or get in touch:

**[www.tealeaftrust.com](http://www.tealeaftrust.com)**

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**Watch our video:**  
<https://vimeo.com/36237230>

