



foreword

India is at an important moment in its journey. Across sectors, new ideas are emerging to address persistent challenges from unequal economic opportunity and exclusion to health, climate and education. But ideas alone do not create change. Changemakers need the right support, capital, technology and the space to test, learn and grow.

This is where the^delta plays a role.

the^delta brings together changemakers, ideas and capital to address India's most pressing challenges. We identify and back promising early-stage nonprofits, help organisations scale and harness AI for impact. We also run research-backed prize challenges to break barriers to work and entrepreneurship for underserved communities, with a focus on pathways to opportunity, adoption and scale.

Catalysts for Change celebrates the nonprofit organisations we have supported and the social entrepreneurs behind them. For the many people and organisations who have supported their journeys with time, expertise, capital, networks and encouragement, it offers a glimpse of the impact that becomes possible when promising entrepreneurs are found early, backed for their potential and supported to scale.

We are grateful to the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog, for recognising the^delta¹ as an Atal Incubation Centre and supporting our journey to find, back and build the social entrepreneurs shaping a more inclusive India.

These stories remind us that lasting change happens when talent, bold ideas and the right support come together. Here, we bring our social entrepreneurs to life, demonstrate what their work makes possible and look to inspire more people to back, build and catalyse change.



Subhashree Dutta

Chief Executive Officer
the^delta



Vidya Venugopal

Managing Director
Social Entrepreneurship
the^delta

¹ AIC NCore Developmental Impact Foundation



Picture: Launch Girls



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"the^delta has created a platform for organisations to develop solutions that address some of our most pressing social and economic challenges. It is encouraging to see the innovation, commitment and potential reflected in these organisations. I wish them continued success as they grow their impact and contribute meaningfully to India's development journey."

Deepak Bagla

Mission Director

Atal Innovation Mission

funding partners



Supported By



ATAL INNOVATION MISSION





Picture: Kanya featured on the cover of TIME magazine in 2023

our impact at a glance

₹136Cr+

catalytic capital
unlocked

265

entrepreneurs
supported
43% women

148

organisations
supported

₹990Cr+

philanthropic capital
raised (FY'26)

117M+

direct program
participants
life to date

Pan India presence

scan the QR code to access the interactive map
of the states where our alumni are working



employees of orgs supported

5,725

full time employees

1,420

part time employees

incubator insights

2.01%

selectivity rate

~10.1x

grant multiplier

recognised for creating change

400+ awards and recognitions received by the alumni

5



11



6



14



18



11



15



4



23



7



5



6



12



4



and many
more

featured in



live



1.Data on capital raised, program participants and employees is aggregated self-reported data from 98 organisations
2.Selectivity rate for 131 incubator organisations upto cohort of 2026-27. Grant multiplier = funds raised within 12 months post-graduation ÷ grant disbursed and it is self-reported upto cohort of 2024-25.



Picture: Rocket Learning as featured on MIT Solve

impact through our alumni

education <i>life to date</i>	530K schools reached share of ~49% Govt. & Govt. aided schools			
	1.9M teachers impacted	56M students impacted		
skills, careers and enterprise <i>life to date</i>	2.3M youth, farmers & women skilled	97K career awareness & development	18.5K entrepreneurs enabled	
livelihoods and income enabled <i>for FY 2025-2026</i>	₹2,220Cr for 147K apprentices		₹356Cr for 110K farmers, workers & entrepreneurs	
access, opportunity & justice <i>life to date</i>	48M healthcare access	1.8M PWDs supported	₹5,600Cr Govt. funds unlocked	25% of India's courtrooms reached

1. School reach is life-to-date, adjusted by 25% for overlap. 49% share of Govt. and Govt. aided school uses current national numbers. The two are not directly comparable but indicate scale.
2. Impact numbers are life-to-date (June 2026), except livelihoods and income enabled for FY26. All impact figures are alumni self-reported and not comprehensive.
3. Apprenticeship and courtroom figures are driven by RightWalk and Adalat AI, respectively.

education & learning



*creating pathways to better learning,
stronger foundations and brighter futures*



* Image sourced from Canva.



“Having attended most Shakti workshops, I observed a clear shift in how School Leaders and Gender Coordinator teachers see their roles. They now view gender equity and student well-being as part of everyday school practice rather than separate responsibilities. School Leaders are creating more spaces for dialogue and teachers are engaging with students more thoughtfully.

Overall, schools are becoming more student-centred, inclusive and responsive.”

-Dr. Shaik, Academic Monitoring Officer, Peddapalli

Strengthening education leaders for better student outcomes

Alokit is dedicated to improving student learning outcomes in under-resourced communities by strengthening school principals and public education systems. It equips school leaders to mentor teachers, improve pedagogy and create inclusive learning environments that enhance both learning and student wellbeing. Working in partnership with governments, Alokit delivers data-driven programs focused on foundational literacy and numeracy, school governance, leadership development, communication skills and gender-equitable schools. Leveraging internal dashboards and state portal data, it enables school leaders to drive institutional transformation and improve learning outcomes at scale.

impact

1.3M+

students reached

1st

rank of peddapalli
district in telangana

7K+

school learners
impacted

recognitions

- Baidurya Sen: Dalai Lama Fellow; ASPIRE Circle Fellow; WISE Emerging Leaders programs
- Sai Pramod Bathena: Member, School Leadership Development Committee, Telangana Education Commission
- Alokit: Best NGO award by District Administration of Narayanpet

geography of impact

Telangana, Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Meghalaya

founders



Baidurya Sen

West Bengal University
of Technology (B.Tech)



Sai Pramod Bathena

College of
Engineering, Chennai
(MTech)

Year Founded: 2020

alokit.org

baidurya.sen@alokit.org



"Peer Learning is the need of the hour—not just in schools, but at every stage of life—as it enables us to grow by learning from one another's experiences and strengths."

Involve Education



Facilitating peer learning spaces that build student agency

Involve Education Learning Solutions Foundation builds student agency through peer learning. It partners with governments, schools and civil society organisations to create student-led classrooms where children actively participate in learning, support their peers and develop leadership. Its programs strengthen foundational learning, improve academic outcomes and foster confidence, collaboration and ownership. By embedding student leadership into everyday classroom practice, Involve transforms learning experiences and enables children to develop the agency and skills needed to thrive.

impact

7K

schools impacted

100K

students impacted

30K

teachers reached

recognitions

- Divanshu Kumar: Social Innovation Fellowship | Don Norman Design Award | Global Engagement Summit Winner
- Involve Education: HundrED Global – 100 Innovations in Education | Agency Fund & South Park Commons

geography of impact

Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Punjab, Chhattisgarh, Tamil Nadu

founders



Divanshu Kumar
IIT Madras (B.Tech)



Dr. Pratibha Narayanan
The University of
Göttingen (PhD)



Samyak Jain
IIT Madras (B.Tech)

Year Founded: 2018

involveedu.com

[communications@involveedu.co](mailto:communications@involveedu.com)

m



"No one had asked me what I wanted to become or why. Through the wellbeing classes, I started thinking about my own dreams instead of only thinking about what others expected from me"

-Student in Daily Wellbeing Class

Wellbeing unlocks learning

Labhya transforms learning outcomes by embedding a daily wellbeing class within public education systems. In partnership with state governments, it equips government teachers to deliver structured wellbeing sessions that strengthen children's social-emotional wellbeing alongside academic learning. Evaluated through the world's largest randomised controlled trial on children's wellbeing by J-PAL South Asia, the model has demonstrated significant improvements in maths, cognition and anxiety reduction, showing that a low-cost wellbeing intervention can improve learning outcomes at scale.

impact

9.4M

children
impacted

39.4K

public school teachers
trained

62K

public schools
reached

recognitions

- Richa Gupta: Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia; DRK Entrepreneur; Mulago Fellow; UN Young Leader for the SDGs; Harvard Ministerial Leadership Fellow; Former Board Member, YuWaah (UNICEF Generation Unlimited); Winner, Muhammad Ali Humanitarian Award
- Vedant Jain: DRK Entrepreneur

geography of impact

Tripura, Gujarat, Uttarakhand, Delhi

founders



Richa Gupta
Harvard University
(MEd)



Vedant Jain
LSE (Executive MBA)

Year Founded: 2017

labhya.org

richa@labhya.org



"I learned a new language, coding with the LFE team and created an animation project. I want to learn more and code more."

Sana Salamtullha Khan, a Grade 6 student from Chinchwad, Pune, participating in Leadership for Equity's Future Literacy Initiative

Leadership for Equity



We envision public education systems that refuse to let children down

Leadership For Equity (LFE) is a student-impact organisation with a systems approach, working with state, city and district governments to strengthen public education. LFE began with teacher support and now focuses on making excellent teaching the norm in government classrooms by shaping the conditions to sustain it at scale. LFE sees teachers as the closest lever for children's learning, working through policy, financing, cadres and structures to improve teaching practices, classroom experience and student outcomes. It works across two core areas: Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) and Future Literacy Skills, equipping learners with foundational, digital, computational and 21st-century skills.

impact

20%

Maharashtra
Govt. school
literacy gains

23%

Maharashtra Govt.
school numeracy
gains

98%

academic leaders
adopting improved
practices

recognitions

- Madhukar Banuri: Skoll Global Fellowship | Ashoka | Acumen India
- Siddesh Sarma: Motwani Jadeja Fellowship | Parayma Fellow
- LFE: Scratch Education Collaborative

geography of impact

Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Maharashtra, Nagaland, Tripura

founders



Madhukar Banuri

Harvard University, BITS
Pilani



Siddesh Sarma

MPhil Tata Institute of
Social Sciences

Year Founded: 2017
leadershipforequity.org
connect@leadershipforequity.org



Madhu Nisha, a student from Salem says about the Ennum Ezhuthum program, *“In my class, we do many fun and interesting learning activities and I really enjoy doing them. They make learning exciting, so I like learning more every day. I listen carefully, think creatively and feel more confident. Now I can read without mistakes and solve maths problems on time. This makes me feel happy and proud and I enjoy my class.”*

Madhi Foundation



Foundational learning first, so every child can thrive

Madhi Foundation is working to ensure every child acquires strong foundational learning. It believes lasting improvements happen when entire education ecosystems work together, not in silos. Through partnerships with governments, it strengthens public education systems and enables parents and communities to become active partners in children's learning. Madhi was the Chief Management Partner for Tamil Nadu's official Foundational Learning Mission, Ennum Ezhuthum (Literacy and Numeracy Mission). Its work supports over 37,000 schools, 1,00,000 teachers and 27 lakh children across Tamil Nadu and is expanding through partnerships with the governments of Meghalaya and Nagaland.

impact

20L

students
reached

65K

teachers

118%

increase in numerical
proficiency in TN
Govt. schools

recognitions

- Merlia Shaukath: Mulago Rainer Arnhold Fellow | Ashoka Fellow | FICCI FLO Chennai Chapter Woman Achiever Award
- Madhi: Doing Good for Bharat (Ennum Ezhuthum) | Zendesk Tech for Good Global Impact | Nexus for Good | WWHGE Grant: for evidence on scaling foundational learning | NISAU India UK Achievers Honours - Finalist | DoCC SPJIMR Social Impact Award (Education)

geography of impact

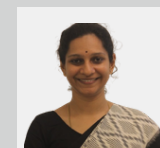
Nagaland, Tamil Nadu

founders



Merlia Shaukath

Oxford University (Msc
Area Development
Studies)



Vijayalakshmi Mohan

St. Joseph's College
(B.Tech)

Year Founded: 2016
madhifoundation.org
prathiti@madhifoundation.org



“It gives me so much happiness and immense satisfaction to see my students truly grasp and visualize the concepts they are learning. For the first time, they are actually able to see what they are learning.”

Lakshmi, a teacher from Sevur, Tamil Nadu

MakerGhat



To nurture employable and entrepreneurial citizens through hands-on making

MakerGhat is a grassroots STEM and AI learning movement that works with governments to turn under-resourced public schools into hubs of hands-on, future-ready learning. It currently reaches 25,000+ schools across India through makerspaces, teacher training and open-source curricula and trains 22,000+ teachers annually in experiential, project-based pedagogy. Anchoring & leading the Shikshagraha STEM Collective, it works with state and district education departments to design, pilot and scale systemic programs around STEM and AI literacy, using a “district as the unit of change” approach.

impact

14L

total youth
impacted

22K+

teachers trained

25K+

classrooms
reached

recognitions

- Azra Ismail: Forbes 30 under 30 Asia | .ORG Impact Rising Star | 75 Women in STEM, Office of Principal Scientific Advisor, Govt. of India
- Aditya Vishwanath: Stanford Knight-Hennessy Scholarship | Schmidt Futures International Strategy Fellowship | Georgia Tech 40 under 40 award | Forbes 30 under 30 Education | Ashoka Fellow
- MakerGhat: HundrED Global Collection | MIT Solve GM Prize winner

geography of impact

Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi (NCR)

founders



Azra Ismail
Georgia Tech (PhD)



Aditya Vishwanath
Stanford University
(PhD)



Mithun Mathew
Amal Jyothi College of
Engineering (BTech)

Year Founded: 2022
makerghat.org
makerghat@gmail.com



"I couldn't educate my first two children. We had to run the household and there was no steady income. It was a hardship. However, I made up my mind that my daughter would definitely attend school. I did everything I could to send her. Today, she is pursuing a Bachelor's degree. Now, I tell other mothers that education must come before marriage. If she learns, she will understand; if she understands, she will bring change." Rita Devi, Member, Shiksha Chaupal, Mushari Block, Muzaffarpur

Mantra4Change



Transforming public schools in India for millions of children through sustainable and continuous school improvement

Mantra4Change works to strengthen public education in India. It enables sustainable and continuous improvement across the three environments that shape a child's learning journey: classrooms, schools and communities. In partnership with the Ministry of Education, state education departments and civil society organisations, Mantra4Change works to strengthen education leadership at every level of the system. It builds the capacity of institutions and stakeholders to drive meaningful and sustained school improvement. Through collaboration and collective action, it strives to ensure that every child receives an enriching learning experience. Today, its work spans 6 states, reaching 2.2 lakh schools, 2.8 lakh school leaders and teachers and 32.2 million children.

impact

8.6%

increase in learning gains: maths & science (Bihar)

44%

improvement in student's problem Solving skills in Govt. Middle Schools, Bihar

12.48%

increase in FLN in Govt. schools in Bengaluru

recognitions

- Khushboo Awasthi: Business World Education 40u40 Power List | NITI Aayog Women Transforming India
- Mantra4Change: Winner-Collective Social Innovation Award, The Schwab Foundation, World Economic Forum, Davos | Don Norman Design Award for Human-Centred Design | Official Selection: ERA (Equity, Representation & Access) Global Cohort, Cannes Lions

geography of impact

Bihar, Karnataka, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Nagaland, Meghalaya

founders



Khushboo Awasthi
Tata Institute of Social Science (MHA)



Santosh More
Visvesvaraya Technological University (BE)

Year Founded: 2013

mantra4change.org

santosh@mantra4change.com



This picture is representative and AI generated to protect stakeholders' privacy.

Ayesha* (name changed), MukkaMaar Girls program, "*MukkaMaar se humne seekha ki bindass raho ekdum - kisi se daro nahin, khud ka confidence rehna chahiye, kisi ke kehne mein nahin aane ka.*"
(MukkaMaar taught us to be completely carefree - to never be afraid of anyone, to have confidence in ourselves and not to let others influence our decisions.)

MukkaMaar



To build agency in India's ~23 million adolescent girls

The core objective of MukkaMaar's work is to build agency in adolescent girls. In pursuit of this, its programs lie at the cusp of gender-based violence (GBV) prevention, gender equity, education, sports for development and life skills. Through partnerships with government bodies, MukkaMaar empowers youth sportspersons to equip adolescent girls to confront gender-based violence and live lives of their choosing.

impact

50K

adolescent
girls impacted

80

youth- women, men and
transgender-
sportspersons empowered

2.6K

Govt. education
leaders engaged

recognitions

- Ishita: ExpressAWE Social Entrepreneur of the Year (Financial Express & FICCI) | The Phenomenal She Award (Indian National Bar Association).
- MukkaMaar with Mukki: Top 3 Innovation and USD 10K Grant under the SARTHI initiative by the Asian Disaster Preparedness centre (ADPC), the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and FICCI.

geography of impact

MukkaMaar Girls - Offline program - Maharashtra, New Delhi

MukkaMaar with Mukki - Digital program - 20+ states, PAN India

founder



Ishita Sharma

SNDT (MSc Human
Development)

Year Founded: 2018
mukkamaar.org
ishita@mukkamaar.org



“Before AI Saksham, their AI program, I had heard about AI but never imagined I could use it in my classroom. The program gave me practical exposure to AI tools and techniques to leverage AI in a creative and personalised way for my students. Today, I feel much more confident designing activities, generating teaching resources, and encouraging children to think critically. More importantly, AI Saksham has changed my mindset; I no longer see AI as something complicated. I now feel empowered to prepare my students for the future.”

-Seema Ma'am, Government School Teacher, Noida

Muskaan Dreams



A world where every child leverages technology to thrive in the evolving digital future

Muskaan Dreams is a social impact technology nonprofit working with governments to prepare children in public schools for an AI-enabled future. It integrates STEM, AI, and 21st-century skills into classrooms through sustainable, government-owned models. Since its inception, the organisation has supported more than 15,000 teachers and worked across over 5,000 government schools, to reach more than one million students by 2026. By strengthening public education systems through scalable, evidence-backed models, Muskaan Dreams equips children with the skills they need to thrive in the future.

impact

5K

schools
covered

900K+

students reached

15K+

teachers trained

recognitions

- Abhishek Dubey: Forbes Asia 30 Under 30
- Muskaan Dreams: TiE Global Recognition

geography of impact

Karnataka, Telangana, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan,
Madhya Pradesh

founder



Abhishek Dubey
ITM University (B.Tech)

Year Founded: 2014
muskaandreams.org
abhishek@muskaandreams.org



"By partnering with Vinoba and working consistently with our teachers and students, we are driving an educational transformation in the district. We are confident that these efforts will not only strengthen foundational learning but also help shape capable, talented and responsible citizens for the future."

-Akash Chikkara, Collector, Bastar

Open Links Foundation



Make government schools aspirational by improving the quality of education

Open Links Foundation (OLF) leverages technology, behavioural insights and district-level leadership (IAS officers) to improve the quality of education in government schools by supporting and motivating teachers and improving program implementation efficiency. With the Vinoba app at its core, OLF has built a scalable, systemic model for educational transformation. It enables centralised district-teacher communication, fosters a vibrant teacher community through peer learning and drives student academic and life skills development through rapid feedback loops and efficient program implementation. OLF's model has led to tangible improvements in learning outcomes for 4.8M students across 68,000 schools in 39 districts and this is growing.

impact

503

program
cycles

~1K

life skills program
cycles

10.5K

teachers
recognised

recognitions

- Sanjay Dalmia: IIT Delhi Alumni Award for Outstanding Contribution to National Development
- OLF: India AI for Impact summit 2026 Finalist, AI for HER category | Finalist Rural Innovation Category, National Conference on Social Innovation (Pune), 2025 | Featured as model IT Project in "Minimum Government, Maximum Governance"

geography of impact

Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar

founder



Sanjay Dalmia
IIMA (PGP)

Year Founded: 2017

vinoba.info

contact@openlinksfoundation.org



"The environment I found at Peepul's school was extraordinary. It motivated me to speak. I was never stopped or criticised for speaking up and that gave me confidence. My teachers knew that it's through engagement that we learn more. I got that environment early on, giving me the confidence of pursuing a field as tough as neurosurgery." Pragya, ex student, Exemplar School

We strengthen government systems to build high-engagement classrooms and better learning.

Peepul partners with state and the central government in India to improve learning outcomes across public school systems. Its work is grounded in an insight: student engagement inside the classroom is a critical driver of learning and central to system transformation. Rather than operating parallel programs, it strengthens government capacity, enabling governments to remain the primary doers, payers and long-term owners of change. Its model operates through two integrated pillars: Academic Coaching, which strengthens classroom practice and Academic Governance, which embeds the systems, routines and accountability needed to institutionalise instructional improvement and sustain learning outcomes.

impact

66L

students
reached

2.73L

teachers
reached

90.2K

schools
reached

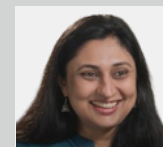
recognitions

- Kruti Bharucha: BW Disrupt Social Impact Award, Social Impact Leader of the Year | Business World 40u40 | Mulago Rainher Arnhold Fellow | NITI Aayog Women Transforming India
- Peepul: Commonwealth Education Award, Rethinking Innovation in Education | Elevate Prize Finalist | Fortune Leadership Awards | T4 Education World's Best School | Indian CSR Awards

geography of impact

Delhi, Madhya Pradesh

founder



Kruti Bharucha
London School of
Economics (MSc)

Year Founded: 2010

peepulindia.org

shrawan.chinchwadkar@peepulindia.org



“The happiness I felt was unforgettable. It motivated me to bring this to my students so they could experience the same joy of creation and problem-solving.”

Her journey shows how transformative the program has been not just for students, but for teachers who are embracing technology with courage, curiosity and a renewed sense of purpose. Mrs. Kumbhar’s persistence proves that when the will to learn is strong, age truly becomes just a number.

Mrs. Lata Kumbhar, Z.P. Primary School Khodashi (Karad block)

Pi Jam



Designs and scales equitable, future-ready learning solutions

Pi Jam works through its 3P Model: Prototype, Propagate and Proliferate. It prototypes contextual learning tools, including innovation labs, playbooks and locally relevant curricula. It propagates these approaches by supporting teachers and building communities that encourage continuous learning and innovation. It proliferates successful models by working with governments, researchers and partners to integrate them into education systems through curriculum development, open-access resources and policy engagement. Guided by equity, access and contextual relevance, Pi Jam collaborates with students, educators, governments and mission-aligned organisations to strengthen sustainable, future-ready learning ecosystems.

impact

1.6M+

students
impacted

3

state education dept.
adopted curriculum
and code mitra

₹2.1 M

innovation grants
enabled for
students

recognitions

- Pi Jam: NASSCOM Social Innovation Forum Award | HunderED Finland Global Education Innovation (3 consecutive years) | Echoing Green Finalist | Official Future Skills Partner, Government of Telangana Department of Education | Theirworld Innovation Award | Akamai STEM Award

geography of impact

Maharashtra, Telangana, Karnataka, Jammu and Kashmir, U.P, Chhattisgarh

founder



Shoaib Dar

Vellore Institute of
Technology (B.Tech)

Year Founded: 2017

thepijam.org

shoaib.dar@thepijam.org



"Earlier, there was little clarity in how we taught children at Anganwadis. Through Rocket Learning, we now use activity-based videos and receive regular technical training, which has improved our teaching skills. I recently passed the exam to become a Supervisor in Uttar Pradesh. I truly credit Rocket Learning for building a strong educational foundation for both children and Anganwadi workers."

Geeta Devi, Anganwadi Worker, Uttar Pradesh

Rocket Learning



Building early childhood development at population scale

Rocket Learning transforms early childhood development for underserved children by strengthening government systems to improve school readiness at scale. In partnership with ICDS and state governments, it equips Anganwadi educators through a blended model combining technology and on-ground support, delivering play-based learning, continuous micro-training and data-driven engagement via WhatsApp. By embedding its model within public systems, Rocket Learning enables scalable improvements in foundational learning for children aged 0–6.

impact

6M

children impacted

75%

school readiness
amongst children

400K

anganwadi
educators trained

recognitions

- Rocket Learning: 100X Impact Accelerator - LSE | WISE Awards; Zendesk Impact Award | Member, Government of India National ECE Taskforce | Google AI Grant | Elevate Prize

geography of impact

Uttarakhand, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, West Bengal, Meghalaya, the Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Odisha

founders



Azeez Gupta

Harvard Business
School (MBA)



Namya Mahajan

Harvard Business
School (MBA)



Siddhant Sachdeva

IIM Calcutta (MBA)



Utsav Kheria

IIM Ahmedabad (MBA)

Year Founded: 2020

rocketlearning.org

partnerships@rocketlearning.org



"My name is Akshita and I'm a student of Grade 5. I used to be really scared of maths, especially multiplication and division... over the past year, since I started doing Saarthi practice sheets, that fear has gone away! Now I feel more confident every day... maths feels easy and fun... I've also noticed that my memory has improved a lot... I'm no longer afraid of maths—I love it!"

Every child in India masters basic maths via deliberate practice

Saarthi Education builds foundational numeracy for children in Grades 1 to 5. It works inside government and affordable private schools across Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana. Its approach is narrow on purpose - most children get taught maths but never get enough practice to master it. So, it redesigns classroom time around daily, structured practice and trains teachers to run it. Its research series, Mind the Practice Gap, tracks whether Indian policy and curriculum leave room for practice at all and how it can be fixed at scale.

impact

50K

students
reached

20%

pre-post average
score improvement

20

questions per
child per day

recognitions

- Ankit Arora: Speaker, Skoll World Forum
- Saarthi: Featured in India Social Mobility Study 2020-21 | Impact Conversations with the Aavishkar Group

geography of impact

Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh

founder



Ankit Arora

Apeejay College of
Engineering (B.Tech)

Year Founded: 2017
saarthieducation.org
ankit@saarthieducation.org



*"Through our drawings, we have brought to life the story of our village pond and the animals that live there. This drawing is not just a picture, but a reflection of our village's natural beauty." —
Students, Class 6, 7 & 8, Govt. Middle School Pakela , Chhindgarh, District - Sukma*

Enabling positive childhood experiences for children growing up in crisis.

Shiksharth is working to create positive childhood experiences for children growing up in conflict-affected areas, regions vulnerable to natural hazards and challenging geographies. Currently they are headquartered in Bastar division in Chhattisgarh covering districts Sukma, Dantewada, Bijapur, Narayanpur. It has supported over 2,000 schools and programmatically served more than 350,000 children across 10 highly challenging districts and continues to build resilient education systems in some of India's most challenging geographies.

impact

250

no. of re-opened schools
supported destroyed
because of conflict

7K

no. of out of school
children back to
school

1.2L

no. of children served
in crisis affected
geographies

recognitions

- Shiksharth: Innovation at Grassroots Award by the Hon. President of India | Top 10 Public Administration Innovation by the Government of India | Champions of Children Award by the Government of Delhi | Marichi Award by Indirapuram Group of Institutions |
- Ashish: Acumen Fellow | Teach For India Fellow | Wipro Seeding Fellow

geography of impact

Chhattisgarh, Odisha

founders



Ashish Kumar
Shrivastava

Barkatullah
Vishwavidyalaya (BE)



Shalini Shrivastava
M.Sc (IT) ,Punjab
Technical University

Year Founded: 2016
shiksharth.in
ashish@shiksharth.in



"Slam Out Loud has given me these tools and has helped me find a way of expression that just holds me when I need it the most. When I do not have a friend to talk to, when I do not have somebody close to me I can share my feelings with, I turn to writing."

SOL student, finished with her undergrad on a full scholarship and has joined a company as a Creative Writer earning 8 LPA.

Slam Out Loud



Reimagining learning through the arts, so every child can flourish.

Slam Out Loud builds future-readiness skills — agency, imagination, curiosity, and emotional awareness — using the visual and performing arts. The model is systemic, utilising the existing art period. Educators deliver this in classrooms across four cities, while partnerships with state governments embed it into curriculum, training, and measurement at scale. Backed by a completed Harvard/Max Planck RCT and an ongoing J-PAL RCT, SOL has built these skills with 700,000+ students, measured through competency-based assessments rather than self-report. SOL also selects children with a long-term interest and ability in the arts and creates mentorship, platforms for their work, and pathways into creative careers.

impact

38%

avg. growth in
future readiness
skills

10M+

children reached
through digital
platforms

5

state Govt.
partnerships

recognitions

- Jigyasa: Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia | Echoing Green fellow, Salzburg Global fellow | WISE Emerging Leader
- Gaurav: Winner-Unleash+, China
- Slam Out Loud: Top 3, Data-Led Innovations in Learning & Livelihood — D4GX India Empowerment Challenge | Commissioned by the Punjab Government | HunderED Hall of Fame, Innovator of the Year

geography of impact

Punjab, Maharashtra, Bihar, Delhi, Karnataka

founders



Jigyasa Labroo

Harvard University
(M.Sc)



Gaurav Singh

Lee Kuan Yew School of
Public Policy (MPA)



Varun Pawar

JNTU, Telangana,
(B.Tech, Electronics &
Comm. Engineering)

Year Founded: 2017
slamoutloud.org/
jigyasa@slamoutloud.org



"Before SwaTaleem, I did not know what my daughter studied in school. Now their weekly [IVRS] calls tell me everything — what she learns, what she dreams. I share it with my husband. We ask questions. We attend school meetings. My younger daughter, who hated school, now loves learning. SwaTaleem did not just change my daughters — it changed our whole family."

Gita, Parent, Sirsa, Haryana, IVRS Parental Engagement

SwaTaleem Foundation



Equipping girls to write their own futures.

SwaTaleem— meaning "owning your education" — works with historically marginalised adolescent girls in government schools to build agency through ecosystem change. Its village-based model engages every layer of a girl's world: girls receive structured SEL, English and career sessions; wardens are trained to deliver curriculum and become better caregivers; parents are reached through Mitwa, an AI voice-bot; and government becomes an active partner through gender-transformative advocacy. SwaTaleem reaches 45,000+ girls across 250+ schools in Haryana, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh — with ambition to reach 7.5 million by 2033. True education, they believe, makes every girl the captain of her own life.

impact

45K+

adolescent
girls reached

2.8L

parents reached
through IVRS

500

wardens trained

recognitions

- SwaTaleem: Google.org Impact Challenge Winner for Women & Girls | Nature Award for Inspiring Women in Science (Science Outreach) | HundrED Global Collection | Badlav Humse Hai Changemaker Award
- Ananya Tiwari: Google.org Leaders to Watch

geography of impact

Haryana, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh

founders



Vaibhav Kumar

IIT K (MTech)



Ananya Tiwari

University of Illinois
(PhD)

Year Founded: 2018

swataleem.org

info@swataleem.org



“Ever since I started coding, I can understand technical concepts. I even help my father with his work now. I even started a startup called ‘Just Play’ with a small group of 5 people from my school, where we experiment with Roblox characters.” Rishav speaking of the coding program of The Mentor Me Foundation

The Apprentice Project

Building 21st-century skills in under-resourced children through a scalable, AI-enabled learning system

The Apprentice Project (TAP) is an AI-enabled education non-profit that partners with government school systems to build critical skills such as problem-solving, creativity, critical thinking and financial literacy. TAP emerged from the founders' experiences as educators and their understanding of gaps in real-world, application-based learning for students in government and under-resourced schools. Through choice-based, technology-enabled and project-based learning programs, TAP works with teachers, schools and public education systems across Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Maharashtra and Punjab, impacting over 1.5 lakh students in 2025-26

impact

300K+

students
impacted

4.8K

teachers
onboarded

2.8K

government
schools onboarded

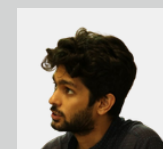
recognitions

- TAP: Harvard President's Innovation Challenge Winner | NGO Story Awards Summit NGO of the Year (Education category)

geography of impact

Maharashtra, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab

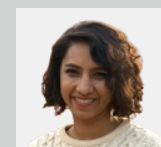
founders



Anand Gopakumar
SCT College of
Engineering (B.Tech)



Prashant Kumar
IIM Kozhikode (PGDM)



Monica Pesswani
Harvard Kennedy
School (MPA)

Year Founded: 2013
theapprenticeproject.org/
anand.g@theapprenticeproject.org



“If I study well, I can achieve any goal, become successful and make my parents proud.”

-Amar, School Quality Enhancement program [SQEP]

The Education Alliance



To build the evidence, partnerships and system capacity required to ensure that every child can reliably access a learning-ready school

The Education Alliance (TEA), registered as the Network for Quality Education Foundation, is a non-profit organisation working to strengthen India's public education system so every child can access a learning-ready school. TEA partners with governments to improve school infrastructure, teacher deployment, instructional systems, leadership and governance through evidence-based reforms. By building system capacity, generating evidence and forming strategic partnerships, the organisation supports sustainable improvements in public education, making quality learning opportunities accessible at scale for children across India.

impact

8

states reached

20M

students impacted

1M

teachers reached

recognitions

- Amitav Virmani: Ashoka Fellow; Aspen Fellow
- TEA: Millennium Alliance Award

geography of impact

Delhi, Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Gujarat, Uttarakhand

founder



Amitav Virmani
UNC Chapel Hill (MBA)

Year Founded: 2014
theeducationalliance.org
amitav.virmani@theeducationalliance.org



Gauri (Class 6, Lucknow) had never played before. Now, she rarely misses any TRP session at her school.

“Sports make me feel happier and more energetic.”

It also helped her move beyond household chores often inflicted on girls.

Gauri is now part of the winning team and an emerging bowler.

The Right Pitch | The Unifly Collective



Building a movement to empower children with 21st-century skills through sports and co-curriculars

The Right Pitch (TRP) is a sport-for-development initiative that uses cricket to help children develop essential 21st-century skills. Together with The Unifly Collective, a sister initiative, it aims to transform the lives of 1 million children by 2030. Working primarily with government and affordable private schools, TRP creates inclusive opportunities for every child to Play, Lead and Learn, regardless of background. Through structured cricket coaching integrated with reflective learning, children build communication, collaboration, critical thinking, creativity, confidence and a growth mindset. TRP partners with educators and communities to expand access to play-based, project-based learning in underserved regions of India.

impact

250

schools
impacted

5K

educators trained

13K

children reached

recognitions

- Saumya: Acumen Fellowship | Melton Fellowship
- Pallavi: Brown University - Global Fellow in Courage
- Subhankar: Changemakers for Equality Fellow 2026 (Julius Baer Foundation)

geography of impact

Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Himachal Pradesh

founders



Subhankar Paul

West Bengal Institute of
Technology (B.Tech)



Pallavi Kejriwal

HM Institute of Media
(Integrated Marketing)



Saumya Aggarwal

SSCBS (B.Com)



Jonathan Mendonca

Harvard Graduate
School of Education
(M.Ed)

Year Founded: 2018

therightpitch.org

[subhankar@theuniflycollective.
com](mailto:subhankar@theuniflycollective.com)



The Learning Equaliser programs helped Anuska see that gender should never define ambition. Inspired by stories of women breaking barriers, she confidently shared, "The first driver of Vande Bharat Express was a woman. If she can do it, I can also become a loco pilot one day."- Anushka Mondol, Class 9, West Bengal, The Learning Equaliser programs

Transform Schools



Improving learning outcomes for secondary-school children in India

Transform Schools works to improve learning outcomes for middle and secondary school students across India through a whole-systems approach: engaging teachers, Head Teachers and state-level system actors as partners in designing, testing and scaling solutions that governments adopt and sustain. Its strategic focus is the last five years of schooling (ages 13–18) — the period when learning poverty deepens, dropout rates climb and the gap between what adolescents need and what schools deliver is widest. It is committed to improving transition rates from primary to secondary, reducing learning poverty and keeping more adolescents: especially girls, Dalits, Tribals and children in aspirational districts: in school and learning.

impact

1.5

years of student learning gains in years (JPAL RCT)

\$11.6

cost per student to achieve learning gains

2.2 Years

of learning outcomes catch up under government-led implementation in Karnataka, 2024-25

recognitions

- Pankaj Sharma: BW 40u40 | Aspire Fellow
- Transform Schools: Indian Chamber of Commerce Social Impact Awards | SABERA Awards 2024: Jury Commendation| Semifinalist, WISE Prize for Education 2024 | Finalist, WISE Awards 2023 | Finalist, 12th National Conference on Social Innovation

geography of impact

Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha, Telangana, Tripura, West Bengal

founders



Pankaj Sharma
TISS (MSW)



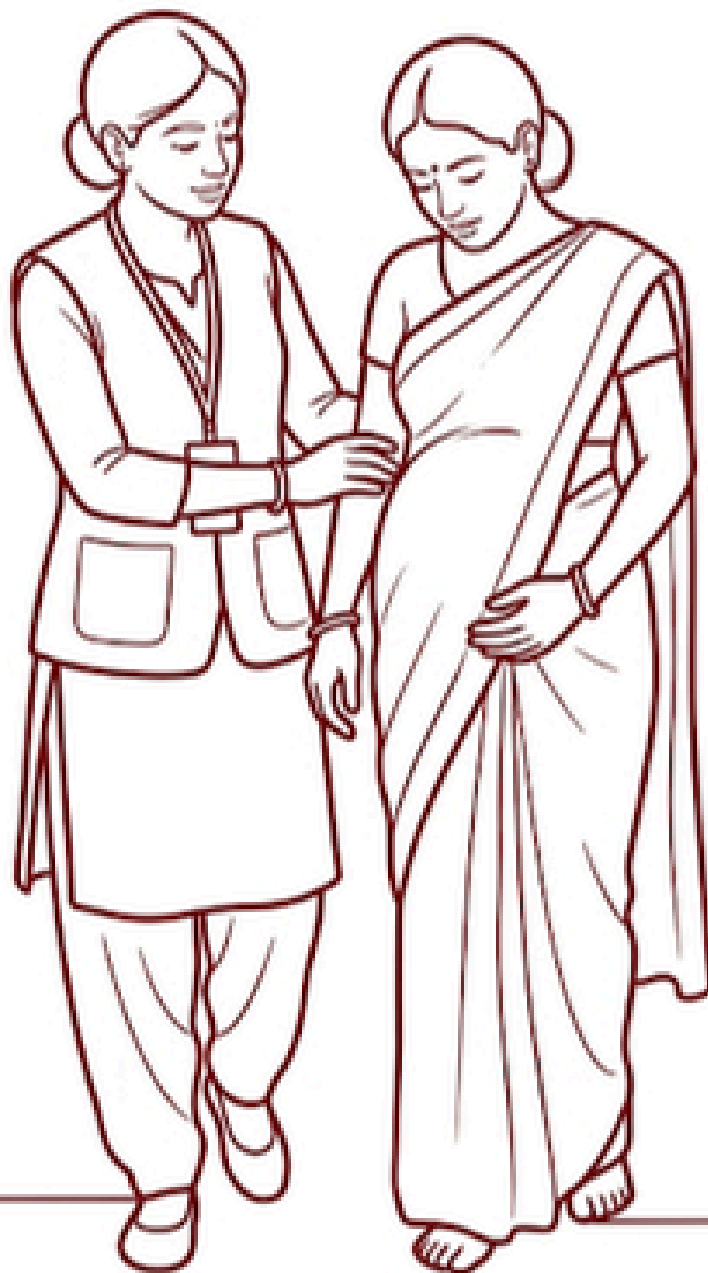
Tanushree Sharma
University of Glasgow
(MSc)

Year Founded: 2002

transformschoools.in

pankaj@peopleforaction.org

health & well-being



*building healthier lives, stronger
communities and greater well-being*



* Image sourced from Canva.



“When I joined Aaroogya, I learned to screen women in my community using the MyHealthline app. Earlier, women here would never go to a hospital until it was too late. Now they trust me because I am one of them, I have screened hundreds of women door to door and this work has given me both an income and respect in my community. Today, women come to us at the Aaha AI Kiosk for further care.”

Aaroogya Foundation



Bringing AI-powered healthcare to every woman

Aaroogya Foundation is committed to ensuring that no woman dies from a disease that could have been detected early. The organisation has used AI-powered screening to make breast cancer and women's health diagnostics accessible through frontline health workers, clinics, community health camps and multilingual AI health kiosks. By bringing early detection directly to underserved communities, the foundation reduces barriers to timely care and connects women with appropriate treatment pathways. It also equips and trains frontline health workers to deliver screening services, creating sustainable, community-led healthcare systems that improve access to preventive care and early intervention.

impact

13.7K

women screened for
women's health
conditions

20K+

early diagnoses enabled,
connecting women to
treatment when outcomes
are best

5K+

frontline
healthcare
workers trained

recognitions

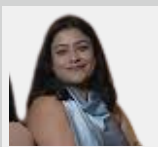
- Aaroogya: 13th CSR Summit & Awards | Johns Hopkins Technology Ventures Partnership | USAID Grant | Millennium Alliance Grant | Mulago Foundation Grant | Novartis Grant

geography of impact

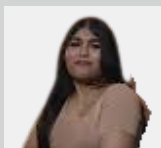
India: Haryana / Delhi NCR (Gurugram).

International: Uganda (East Africa) and the United States (California and Maryland, via our Johns Hopkins collaboration).

founders



Priyanjali Datta
Esic Dental College
(Bachelors of Dental
Surgery)



Shyanjali Datta
Gargi University

Year Founded: 2017
shyanjali@aaroogya.org.in



"...My baby girl, Bhumika, was born weighing only 1.9 kg... The Anganwadi Worker and FMCH Field Officer, Ms. Roshni, visited our home and guided me...She taught me about Kangaroo Mother Care, correct breastfeeding techniques... With their regular guidance and support, my baby's weight increased from 1.9 kg to 2.05 kg within a week and after another 15 days, she reached 2.5 kg... I sincerely thank the FMCH team for helping my baby grow healthier." Kedar Mistri

FMCH



A malnutrition-free India

FMCH works in underserved communities to combat malnutrition during the first 1,000 days of life, a critical period from conception to a child's second birthday. The organisation focuses on improving the health and nutrition of pregnant and lactating mothers, as well as children from birth to two years of age, through targeted interventions that promote healthy growth and development.

impact

9.6K

anganwadi
workers trained

9

districts

85%

reduction in
malnutrition

recognitions

- FMCH: CSR Health Impact Gold Awards | Data4GoodExchange competition| Nexus4Good | Best CSR implementation project by IWT

geography of impact

Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Nagaland and Nepal

CEO



Zamrooda Khanday
Tata Institute of Social
Work (MSW)

Year Founded: 2006

fmch-india.org

zamrooda.k@fmch-india.org



"The support, guidance and regular follow-up provided by the Fortify Health team helped us successfully implement this initiative. At the same time, chapatis prepared from fortified atta maintained their taste, softness and quality, with no noticeable difference from regular atta while providing added nutritional benefits." Vishwatmak Janglidas Maharaj Ashram Trust (VJMAT Trust)

Fortify Health



Reduce iron-deficiency anaemia

Fortify Health is reducing iron deficiency anaemia at scale by making it hassle-free to fortify wheat flour. Wheat flour is the core food staple for over 500 million Indians. Through effective fortification, it will be possible to reduce anaemia rates by 30% at a population level. It supports industrial wheat flour millers and many government organisations to fortify chakki atta with iron, folic acid and Vitamin B12, in line with standards set by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). It is reaching more than 20 million beneficiaries monthly and is considered one of the most cost-effective global health interventions.

impact

20.8M

program
participants reached

269

mill partners

₹0.14

cost per program
participant

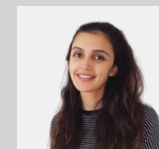
recognitions

- Tony Senanayake: Mulago | Rippleworks
- Fortify Health: LSE 100x Accelerator

geography of impact

Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab, Delhi, Telangana, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal, Haryana; Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Uttarakhand

founders



Nikita Patel

SOAS University of
London (MA)



Tony Senanayake

CEO
UCL (MPH)

Year Founded: 2017

fortifyhealth.global

tony.senanayake@fortifyhealth.global



“Earlier we used to travel 20 km from here to Peth to get even the most basic of health check ups done. It was quite expensive to travel and get there. We would spend nearly INR 500 to 1200 for something as basic as a blood test. The team does blood tests, checks blood pressure and does eye examinations. With this telemedicine service, we can save a great deal on not just tests, but also medicines. Whatever money we were spending on travel and medication, can be saved now.” Mangala Mohan, a resident of Nashik

Intelehealth

We deliver quality healthcare where there is no doctor

Intelehealth is expanding equitable access to high-quality healthcare through an AI-enabled, open-source telemedicine platform designed for underserved rural communities, particularly women and marginalised populations. Built for low-bandwidth settings, the platform enables health organisations to deliver timely, evidence-based care by equipping frontline health workers with Ayu, an AI assistant featuring over 150 clinical protocols, screening and history-taking tools, clinical decision support and virtual doctor consultations. Ayu also reduces administrative burden, improving diagnostic accuracy by 12% and reducing consultation time by 47%, while strengthening last-mile health systems and ensuring expert care reaches communities where it is needed most.

impact

20M

tele-consultations
facilitated

18L

healthcare workers
trained

10L

doctors trained

recognitions

- Dr. Neha Verma: SwissRe Foundation | World Economic Forum Top 15 Innovators | Mulago | 'AI by Her' Global Impact Challenge Top 30 Finalist | IndiaAI Impact Summit 2026
- Intelehealth: LSE 100x Impact Accelerator | Skoll World Forum Grantee | NITI Aayog MyGov COVID-19 Winner | Added to the Digital Public Goods Alliance Registry 2022

geography of impact

Jharkhand, Karnataka, Odisha



founders



Dr Neha Verma
Johns Hopkins
University (PhD)



Dr. Soumyadipta Acharya
Johns Hopkins
University (PhD)

Year Founded: 2016
intelehealth.org
neha@intelehealth.org



"What makes me really happy is that it's such a bottom-to-top exercise. We are actually listening to our health workers. At the core of everything that is being done, the intention is that we are doing it for them. So, it should make their lives easier. They should find more happiness in what they are doing and, therefore, the people they are serving would also be benefitted." Dr. Mittali Sethi, IAS, District Collector, Nandurbar, Maharashtra

Khushi Baby



Actionable insights and innovation empowering health systems to serve vulnerable last-mile population

Khushi Baby is a 12-year old public health non-profit organisation working to strengthen India's public health system through an operating model that closes care loops at the last mile. By closing the gap between data, insights and action, Khushi Baby is enabling timely and critical health services to reach the most vulnerable. Khushi Baby works closely with governments in Maharashtra, Rajasthan & Karnataka across primary health care to strengthen decision-making and build more effective and accountable public health systems.

impact

60M

target
participants
reached

1.2L

community workers
digitally trained &
supported

10K

health officials
onboarded on
integrated
dashboards

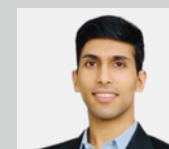
recognitions

- Ruchit Nagar: Forbes 30u30
- Mohammed Shahnawaz: Times Now Amazing Indian
- Khushi Baby: Winner, MIT Solve | 100x Impact Accelerator | Marico Innovation Foundation | Patrick J. McGovern Prize for AI in Humanity | Rajasthan Digital India Trailblazer Awardee | Johnson & Johnson's Generation Health Challenge | National E-Governance Award

geography of impact

Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Karnataka

founders



Dr. Ruchit Nagar

Harvard Medical School
(M.D.)



Mohammed Shahnawaz

Indian Institute of Health
Management Research
(PhD.)

Year Founded: 2014

khushibaby.org

pranav.savanur@khushibaby.org



"Through TAF, we received a flipbook where all the schemes we provide are clearly explained... Whenever I feel unsure about something, I refer to the flipbook to understand it better... It helps me train ASHAs while also strengthening my own knowledge. Earlier, people believed that girls were of no use... They didn't see the value of educating girls... Today, in our village, people have become more conscious about education. They no longer discriminate between boys and girls."

Sangeeta, Community Health Officer, Betul

The Antara Foundation



Because every mother and each child deserves an equal start to a healthy life

The Antara Foundation (TAF) partners with governments and communities to strengthen public health systems and improve maternal, newborn, child health and nutrition outcomes. It works across both the supply and demand sides of care—building the capacity of frontline workers, supervisors and nurses; improving coordination, data use and quality of services; and empowering women, families and communities to seek timely care and adopt healthier practices. Through models like the AAA Platform, nurse mentoring and digital tools, TAF strengthens last-mile delivery, engages informed communities and helps governments institutionalise and scale effective solutions.

impact

60.5K

villages reached
by AAA Platform

2.13L

frontline workers
trained

1.8K

labour room
nurses trained
and mentored

recognitions

- Antara: ICMR–National Institute of Nutrition National Innovation Summit Promising Innovation Award | CSRBOX CSR Project of the Year
- Ashok: Pivotal and Lever for Change Action for Women’s Health awardee | ICONIQ Impact and Co-Impact Women’s Health Co-Lab awardee 2025

geography of impact

Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan

founders



Ashok Alexander
IIM-A (MBA)



Chandrika Bahadur
(CEO) Harvard
University (MPA)

Year Founded: 2013
antarafoundation.org
info@antarafoundation.org



Edel Mary Queen, a resident of L.R. Nagar, begins each day by preparing her children for school before heading to work at Johnson Market. After her second pregnancy, she began experiencing irregular periods but had little time to seek care. Through Asha, an Uninhibited Swasthya Saathi, she connected with the Hello Saathi telemedicine helpline, where a doctor guided her through medical tests, treatment and dietary changes. "They regularly supported me with guidance and care. Now, things are much better and manageable. Periods are no longer a reason for me to miss work," she says

Uninhibited



To advance menstrual health and well-being through evidence, knowledge sharing, partnerships and systems change

Uninhibited advances menstrual health as a critical indicator of the overall health and well-being of people who menstruate. Working across research, programming, advocacy and systems change, the organisation strengthens adolescent health, health systems, digital innovation and evidence generation. Through its Menstrual Health Hub (MHHub), a global knowledge exchange and advocacy platform, Uninhibited synthesises research, lived experiences and ecosystem learnings to influence policy, strengthen menstrual health systems and support governments, civil society organisations, researchers, funders and communities in advancing menstrual health as a public health priority.

impact

27

districts with
direct impact

43

period fellows
through PeriodShala

900K

lives supported
through
telemedicine

recognitions

- Dilip Pattubala | Acumen India Fellow | Mulago Fellow | GLG Social Impact Fellow
- Uninhibited: Global Development Awards Competition | Japanese Award for Most Innovative Development Project (Hello Saathi) | Junoon Awards for Hello Saathi

geography of impact

Karnataka

founder



Dilip Pattubala

Anglia Ruskin University
(PGDM Social Welfare)

Year Founded: 2014
www.uninhibited.org.in
hr@uninhibited.org.in

agro & aquatic livelihoods



strengthening agro & aquatic livelihoods, resilient communities and sustainable well-being



* Image sourced from Canva.



"Intercropping papaya with chickpea and black cowpea has helped me make better use of my land while creating multiple sources of income. With technical support from AGRO RANGERS, I feel more confident about building a resilient farming system for my family." Ajit Nilakh

Agro Rangers



Creating sustainable livelihoods for farmers through regenerative agroforestry that improves soil health and builds climate resilience

Agro Rangers is working to restore degraded landscapes and improve farmer livelihoods through regenerative agroforestry in drought-prone regions of Maharashtra. We partner with small and marginal farmers to establish climate-resilient farming systems that improve soil health, enhance biodiversity, strengthen water conservation and create sustainable sources of income. Our work combines plantation support, farmer training, technical guidance, community mobilisation and long-term monitoring to ensure successful adoption of agroforestry. By bringing together communities, government, corporate partners and philanthropies, we aim to build resilient rural ecosystems where people and nature thrive together for generations.

impact

266

farmers supported
through agroforestry

277

acres of farmland
rejuvenated

1.8L

saplings planted

recognitions

- Siddhesh: UN Land Hero Award | Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia (Social Impact) | Schaeffler Social Innovator Fellow | SELCO Best Innovation Practices Award | Connecting Dreams Resilient Leadership Award | Vigyan Ashram Special Achievement Award | Krushithon Agriculture Extension Award | IIM Bangalore NSRCEL Top-Up Grant

geography of impact

Maharashtra

founders



Siddhesh Sakore

JSPM's Rajarshi Shahu
(BTech)



Jayadip Sarode

Savitribai Phule Pune
University

Year Founded: 2020

agrorangers.org

contact@agrorangers.org



*Ratnamala Nanasabheb Ware has planted mango, lemon, bamboo and java plum on her land in Pune
“Patil Sir gave us advice and we planted trees on our land.. He supported us and we are grateful for that”*

Farmers for Forests



Flourishing forests, thriving farms, prospering people

Farmers for Forests (F4F) is dedicated to combating climate change by increasing India's biodiverse forest cover while enhancing farmer livelihoods. Using a Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) model, F4F incentivises farmers to transition degraded land into agroforestry, providing dual revenue streams from produce and carbon credits. It uses open-source AI and drone technology to track tree survival and quantify carbon sequestration. Its work spans deforestation prevention, urban biodiversity hubs and human-elephant coexistence, fostering long-term environmental and economic resilience across rural India. It has reached 25,000 farmers, with 500 from the 2022 cohort realising income increases after three years.

impact

25K

smallholder &
tribal farmers
directly supported

20L+

trees planted

5L

acres under forest
protection &
restoration

recognitions

- Krutika Ravishankar- Mulago | Ashoka | Elevate Prize Winner
- Aditya Avinash: Acumen Fellow
- F4F: Fast Forward | World Economic Forum Top Innovator | Miller centre Accelerator program| India Chapter: Uplink Top Innovator in the Trillion Trees | Top 10-Moonshoots 4 Development Global Challenge (IFAD)| Top 3- Forest Stack Innovation Challenge(Rajasthan Forest Dept& JICA)

geography of impact

Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand

founders



Krutika Ravishankar
Mount Holyoke College
(BA)



Arti Dhar
Cornell University
(MPA)



Jaspreet Kaur
IIM Calcutta (MBA)



Aditya Avinash
NICMAR University
(PGDM-ACM)

Year Founded: 2019
farmersforforests.org
founders@farmersforforests.org



Ambavi Bai from Usar Village in Kumbhalgarh Block, Rajsamand district, Rajasthan, cultivated ridge gourd using the trellis farming technique for the first time. She shared that this intervention helped her become financially independent. She earned ₹75,000 from the sale of ridge gourd.

Gramshree



Empowering 1 million tribal families by 2040 through integrated livelihoods

Gramshree Foundation Trust is a livelihood-focused non-profit working to reduce poverty among tribal communities through sustainable agriculture and value-chain development. The organisation partners with tribal families to build resilient income-generating models centred on natural farming, vegetable cultivation, nursery entrepreneurship and market linkages. By promoting climate-resilient agricultural practices and enterprise development, Gramshree enables communities to improve productivity and access better economic opportunities. Its interventions strengthen local entrepreneurship, enhance household incomes and foster long-term self-reliance.

impact

5K

no. of tribal
families impacted

1.2K

tribal families adopted
natural farming

8

no. of nursery
entrepreneurs
promoted

recognitions

- Rakesh Gupta : Next Bharat Impact Entrepreneur Founding Cohort

geography of impact

Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand

founder



Rakesh Gupta

Xavier Institute of Social
Service
(Master's in Rural
Development)

Year Founded: 2018
www.gramshreetrust.org
rakeshgramshree@gmail.com



"Before Jaljeevika, I sold our farm produce to whoever came first. Now our FPO sells directly to a processor at a fixed price , more price than what the middleman ever offered. this year, we started promotion of biofortified cereals to ensure nutritional security with tribal households.."

Kendriya Balaji, Director-Fish Farmer Producer Organisation, Ashifabad

Water for livelihood, livelihood For all

Jaljeevika believes India's 28 million smallholder fish farmers and fisherfolk are an entrepreneurial force that can thrive with institutional support. As a platform architect, it builds institutions, digital systems, knowledge networks and market linkages transforming subsistence activity into dignified enterprise. Jaljeevika has shown that combining inputs, advisory, access to government schemes and markets increases incomes, regenerates water bodies and expands women's leadership for farming households. Its AquaRise programs demonstrate a scalable, community-governed platform for 50,000 aquaculture-dependent households, proving India's Blue Economy transformation begins at the pond, not at the policy level.

impact

32K

fish farmers
trained

30%

annual productivity
enhancement

₹80K

average annual
additional income
enhanced

recognitions

- Neelkanth Mishra: Ashoka Fellow
- Jaljeevika: Change Engine Accelerator program 2026 | Krishi Mangal (Social Alpha) Accelerator program 2025 | FAO Global Technical Recognition 2025

geography of impact

Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana

founder



Neelkanth Mishra
University of York
(MPPM)

Year Founded: 2013
jaljeevika.org
neelkanth.mishra@jaljeevika.org



Lina Devi earned about ₹14,000 on just 1,742 square feet in the four-month Rabi season of 2024 by adopting multi-cropping based on knowledge obtained from Khetee. She cultivated fruits, vegetables and Napier grass for silage production

Khetee



Empowering communities through agroforestry

Khetee promotes agroecological farming using the model of agroforestry which keeps the prosperity of a farmer and nature together at the centre. They have developed a unique fellowship program for farmers and aspiring farmers to enable them to build agroecological model farms. Additionally, they also organise training programs for farmers for their capacity building in regenerative farming. Khetee is striving for systemic transformation in the way agriculture is practiced, its relationship with the market and the policies that are made around it.

impact

50K

farmers
benefited

20

trained the trainer

20acre

farmland
restored

recognitions

- Khetee: Shortlisted for Lush Spring Prize 2023 by the Lush Regeneration Fund

geography of impact

Bihar, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh

founder



Kumar Neeraj
IISE (Social
Entrepreneurship)

Year Founded: 2017
kheteeconnect@gmail.com



"My dream of building a financially secure family has finally come true. Today, I earn more than I ever imagined, giving me the confidence to provide a brighter future and better opportunities for my children."

Jayanti Sahu

Sarvodaya



Empowering tribal communities to break intergenerational poverty through sustainable livelihoods, entrepreneurship and systems change.

Sarvodaya Social Development Foundation (SSDF) incubates inclusive livelihood models across agriculture, food systems, natural resource management, entrepreneurship and skilling, enabling underserved producers to access markets, technology, finance and institutional support. Our approach combines community institutions, innovation and strategic partnerships to create sustainable economic opportunities rather than short-term aid. Through collaborations with social enterprises, governments, CSR partners and development organisations, SSDF is building scalable, community-owned models that improve incomes, strengthen local economies and create pathways to long-term prosperity across the Chhotanagpur region.

impact

1.4K

lives
impacted

670

women economically
empowered

72

reverse migration
of people

recognitions

- Bimal: Acumen Green Angels
- SSDF: Agri Business Incubator- MANAGE Hyderabad | Orbit 6 Social Entrepreneurship Incubator- IIMB NSRCEL | Incubator for Social Enterprises and Entrepreneurs for Development (ISEED) at IRMA

geography of impact

Odisha & Jharkhand

founder



Bimal Lakra

Biju Patnaik University
of Technology (MBA)

Year Founded: 2023
sarvodayafoundation.in
bimallakra@gmail.com



"This year, I saved money, earned more and my soil is alive again. Natural farming has changed my future."

Moru Bhau, a Master Farmer, has transformed his livelihood through Waatavaran's Community-led Agroforestry Initiatives

Accelerating climate action to flourish human dignity

Waatavarán Foundation works to protect the planet and its vulnerable communities by strengthening the relationship between people and nature. It builds climate resilience by empowering indigenous and forest-dependent communities, protecting the commons and enabling sustainable livelihoods through community capacity building. The organisation works with governments, civil society organisations, academic institutions and local communities while leveraging technology for data-led, decision-driven innovation. Through its hyperlocal, community-led approach, it advances forest rights, environmental stewardship and collaborative climate action to strengthen resilient livelihoods.

impact

5.5K

families protected
with land &
livelihoods

3K

access to livelihoods
by tribal families

3K

tribal women as
co-owners of
forest lands

recognitions

- Waatavarán: Winner, D4GX India Empowerment Challenge | Mumbai Climate Summit Award | GuideStar India Gold Certification
- Bhagwan: Most Impactful Green Management Leader, World Federation of CSR Leaders

geography of impact

Maharashtra

founder



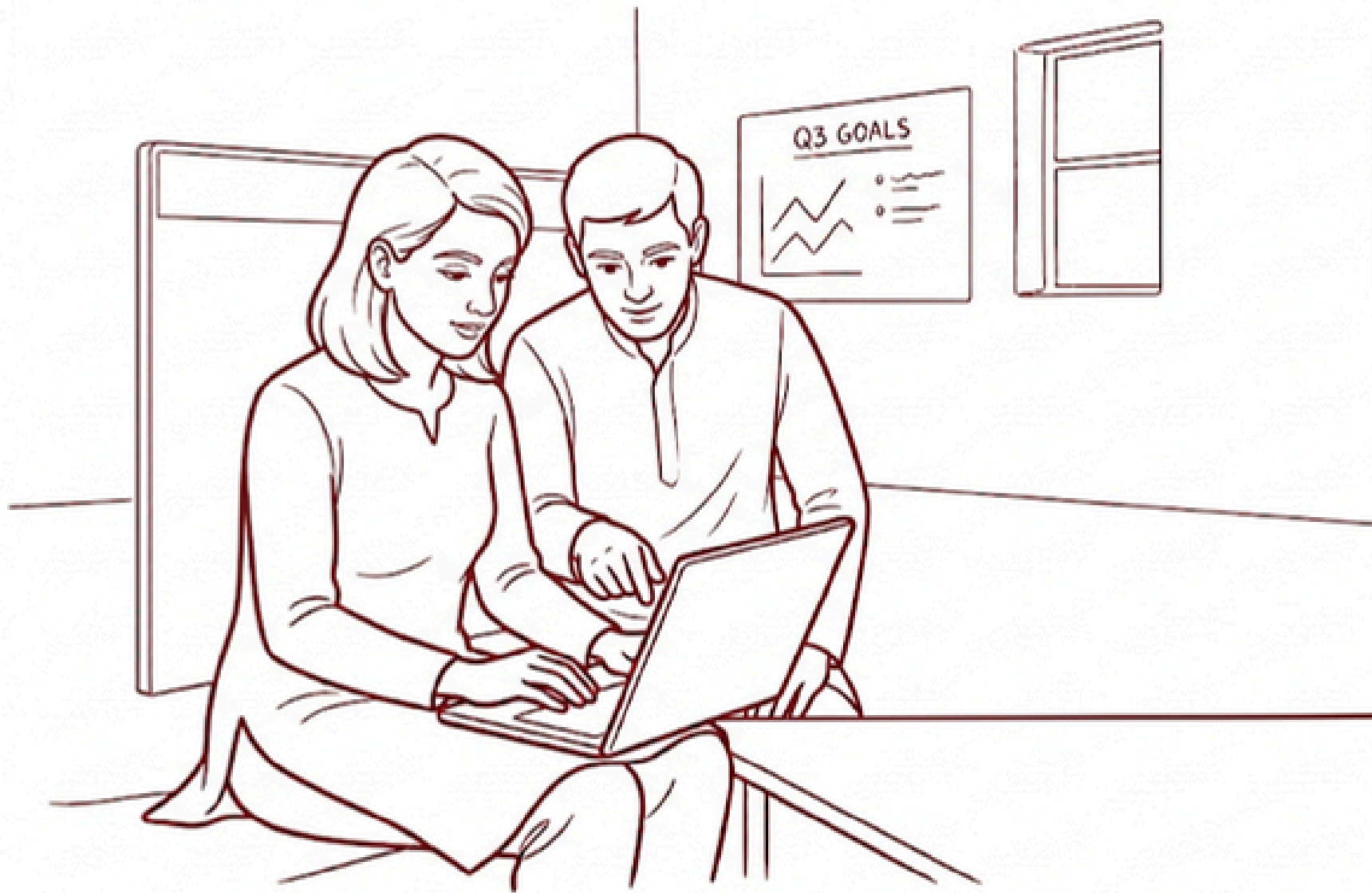
Bhagwan Kesbhat
NMIMS (MBA)

Year Founded: 2018

waatavarán.org/

bhagwan@waatavarán.in

career awareness, skilling & employability



connecting people to dignified work, opportunity and economic independence





"As a child, when I dreamt about my future, I never imagined I was capable of studying this much or pursuing a Master's degree. I never believed I would get selected or that I could confidently say: I can do maths. Now, I can."

Nidhi, Alumni, Women STEM Educator program, Currently M.A Education at Azim Premji University

Aavishkaar

Nurturing curious, creative & critical thinking citizens of tomorrow

Aavishkaar is a centre working to make high quality maths and science education accessible to every child, regardless of background. Aavishkaar does this by building a network of skilled, confident educators, training in-service teachers directly (in Govt., non profits, schools spanning low, mid and high income communities) and equipping young women from underserved communities with a career pathway as dedicated maths educators through its residential and digital fellowship programs. Together, these efforts ensure every child, in government, private, or high end schools, receives the same high quality STEM education.

impact

11K

teachers
impacted

100+

partner orgs

1.3K

women trained and
working as primary
maths educators

recognitions

- Sandhya Gupta: Ford Global Fellow | Featured by UN Women in its 2024 publication Hum
- Aavishkaar: Great Place to Work Certified | Emergent Ventures Grantee, supporting “zero to one” ideas for social impact

geography of impact

Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Karnataka, Assam, Rajasthan, Telangana

founders



Sandhya Gupta
Iowa State University
(PhD Electrical
Engineering)



Sarit Sharma
Iowa State University
(PhD Electrical
Engineering)

Year Founded: 2016
aavishkaarcentre.org
sandhya@aavishkaarcentre.org
rg



The CareerShala programs helped me explore different career options and gain a clearer understanding of myself and my goals. It inspired me to aim for becoming an IAS officer by showing the journey involved and the importance of early preparation. The programs also introduced role models whose experiences provided valuable insights. Additionally, I learned about alternative career paths like fashion design. Overall, CareerShala broadened my awareness of opportunities and helped me clarify my interests.

~Class 12 Student, BD Inter College, Bhagwanpur

Alohomora



Unlocking careers, confidence and hope for India's young people

Alohomora Education works to institutionalise career guidance and transition support within India's public education system so young people can make informed decisions about their futures. It designs school-embedded solutions that build career awareness, confidence, decision-making skills and access to opportunities for adolescents and youth. Working with governments, multilateral agencies and ecosystem partners, Alohomora strengthens public systems through teacher capacity building, structured career guidance curricula and systems strengthening, enabling quality career support to reach young people at scale, particularly in underserved communities.

impact

66%

better career
decision
making skills

88%

reported greater
clarity on how to
pursue their chosen
careers

1,000

teachers &
career facilitators
trained

recognitions

- Alohomora: Winner, District-Level Good Governance Award, Haryana for Pratibha Manthan; Top 6 Ideas Globally at World Bank Youth Summit

geography of impact

Haryana, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Assam, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh

founders



Parinita Jain

University of Michigan
(BBA)



Divakar Sankhla

IIM Lucknow (MBA)

Year Founded: 2017

alohomora.org

hello@alohomora.org



"Folk music carried truth and authenticity because it comes from what we see, feel and live through. Beware of the cunning ones, who keep playing new tricks, in this world, few are left, who stand by you with a true heart. Anahad's work gave us confidence that will span across generations, carrying this legacy."

-Late Jumme Khan

Anahad Foundation



Empowering folk musicians through production technology

Anahad Foundation is dedicated to the recognition, preservation and evolution of India's folk music. Through innovative initiatives such as Backpack Studio and Equals, it enables rural musicians with access to production technology, copyright awareness and songwriting skills, helping them thrive economically and gain global visibility. Its mobile recording studio brings professional-quality production to artists in remote areas at no cost. Anahad has helped artists triple their incomes and documented more than 500 folk groups, building sustainable livelihoods while safeguarding India's rich cultural heritage.

impact

714K

digital footprint

1200

videos created

10K+

folk artists engaged

recognitions

- Shuchi Roy: Birla Women Leaders Fellowship
- Abhinav Agrawal: Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia | Ashoka Fellow
- Anahad Foundation: UNESCO IFCD Grant | SVP Fast Pitch

geography of impact

Delhi, Rajasthan, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Kashmir, West Bengal, Sikkim, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Gujarat, Bihar, Assam, Meghalaya, Telangana, Karnataka, Odisha

founders



Abhinav Agrawal

Berklee College of Music
(Master's degree)



Shuchi Roy

University of Lucknow
(LLB)

Year Founded: 2013

www.anahad.ngo

shuchi@anahad.ngo



“When I was in class 10th, the United Efforts workbook not only helped me see banking as a career option but also the path towards it. Today, I am pursuing BCom and looking forward to building my career in banking.”

Subhapradha, a B.Com Final Year

Anahata United Efforts



By 2030, 2 crore students will be taking informed actions to become professionals

Anahata United Efforts Foundation (AUEF) partners with State Governments to adapt AI powered S2P [Students to Professionals] Subject Integrated Career Planning curriculum for Classes 8-12. Government school teachers are trained to provide exposure to 20+ sectors, build 21st century skills, gain experience and develop social emotional intelligence.

impact

2.5K

schools

1.95L

students benefitted

5.8K

teachers trained

recognitions

- AUEF: partnerships with LKQ India, eVidyaloka, Colors of Life Foundation and Parikrama Foundation

geography of impact

Karnataka, Delhi

founder



Meenakshi Gairola
SPJIMR (PGDBM)

Year Founded: 2018
unitedefforts.org
partnerships@unitedefforts.org.in



“When I first started preparing for competitive exams, I didn't have access to a good study environment or the books I needed. AMF's Bansa Community Library changed that. It gave me a place where I could study every day without interruption, access quality resources and stay motivated alongside other aspirants. Clearing SSC CGL has been a life-changing milestone for me and I will always be grateful to AMF for making quality learning accessible to students like me.” Akash Kumar, AMF Discover program

Aruna Mithlesh Foundation



Reimagining community libraries as livelihood launchpads

Aruna Mithlesh Foundation (AMF) advances educational equity and community-led development in underserved rural communities. Through a network of community libraries, a mobile library and learning hubs, AMF provides free access to books, digital resources, reading programs, career guidance and academic support for children, youth, women and first-generation learners. Beyond education, the organisation promotes livelihoods through employability, entrepreneurship, digital literacy, financial inclusion and leadership development. AMF operates 12 community libraries and a mobile library serving 230 villages, creating locally owned ecosystems that expand learning opportunities, strengthen livelihoods and empower communities.

impact

15K

number of members
associated

1.5L

books circulated

230

villages impacted

recognitions

- AMF: Featured in Mann Ki Baat | S.R. Ranganathan Award | Amar Ujala Madhyanchal Ki Shaan – Youth Inspiration Award | Changemaker of the Year | recognised by the Government of Uttar Pradesh | Featured by Doordarshan Uttar Pradesh & leading national media

geography of impact

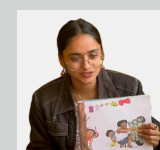
Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Maharashtra, Haryana

founders



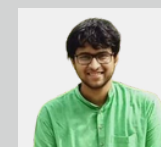
Jatin Lalit Singh

Jamia Millia Islamia,
(M.Ed.)



Niharika Aggarwal

Ambedkar University
(MA Education)



Abhishek V.

University of
Cambridge (MPhil
Education)

Year Founded: 2024

arunamithleshfoundation.org
contact@arunamithleshfoundation.org



“The industry visit to VITS Hotel was a remarkable experience for me. This was the first time I visited such a hotel. I was surprised by the diverse educational backgrounds of the professionals working in the hospitality and tourism industry, from meeting the chef in the kitchen to learning about housekeeping, finance and front-office operations. It has inspired me to explore career options in this field, especially the learn-and-earn opportunity to financially support my family.”- Aarushi Jadhav

Asudé Foundation



Designing the world as a playground for learning

Asudé is a learning design lab working at the intersection of learning and design. Since 2020, we have made career and experiential education accessible to underserved students across government and tribal schools in Maharashtra, reaching over 40,000 students. We design platforms, experiences and tools that take learning beyond classrooms.

Our flagship IndustryConnect.app, India's first district-wise technology platform, connects tribal and rural schools with industries and mentors. While Career City, our career-exploration city building game, helps students discover real-world careers and education pathways through play.

impact

183

schools
engaged

40K+

students

6.4X

increased career
awareness

recognitions

- Vyankatesh: Social Impact Fellow at the Harvard Innovation Lab | Winner for Game Design at Intel Young Maker's Competition, Beijing
- Alria: SICI Fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School | Entrepreneurship Fellow at the Harvard Graduate School of Education
- Asude: Seed for Change Award by Harvard South Asia Institute

geography of impact

Maharashtra

founders



Vyankatesh Kharage
Harvard University
(MA)



Alria Kharage
Harvard University (MA)

Year Founded: 2020

asude.org

connect@asude.org



Naima Kanan Board Member, Lekope Majuli Women Farmer Producer Company Ltd. says, “When Lekope began, I never imagined that women like us could lead a business company. Today, I’m part of Lekope’s Board, represent thousands of women producers and participate in decisions that shape our company’s future. Through Ayang’s support, I have grown from being a producer to becoming a leader, while increasing my family’s income and inspiring other women in my village to believe that they too can lead.”

Ayang Trust



Building thriving communities through community-led, dual-generation development

Ayang Trust is a grassroots nonprofit building thriving communities across Northeast India through a dual-generation approach integrating education, livelihoods and climate resilience. Ayang works alongside rural and tribal communities to create place-based, community-led solutions that expand opportunities for children, women and families. Its work spans quality education, women-led entrepreneurship, sustainable agriculture, producer collectives, disaster resilience and systemic resilience. Today, it operates across Assam and Arunachal Pradesh, demonstrating how locally rooted institutions can enable dignified livelihoods, stronger learning outcomes and resilient communities.

impact

12.5K

rural women
livelihoods
strengthened

9K

children supported
through quality
education

1.1K

women led
enterprises
developed

recognitions

- Dharamjeet Kumar | Acumen Fellow; America India Foundation Community Leadership Award
- Bipin Dhane | Dalai Lama Fellowship
- Aswathy Jayakumar | GP Birla Fellowship
- Ayang Trust: HDFC Parivartan Award | Wipro Seeding Fellowship

geography of impact

Assam, Arunachal Pradesh

founders



Dharamjeet Kumar
Azim Premji University
(MA)



Bipin Dhane
IIT Kharagpur (M.Tech)

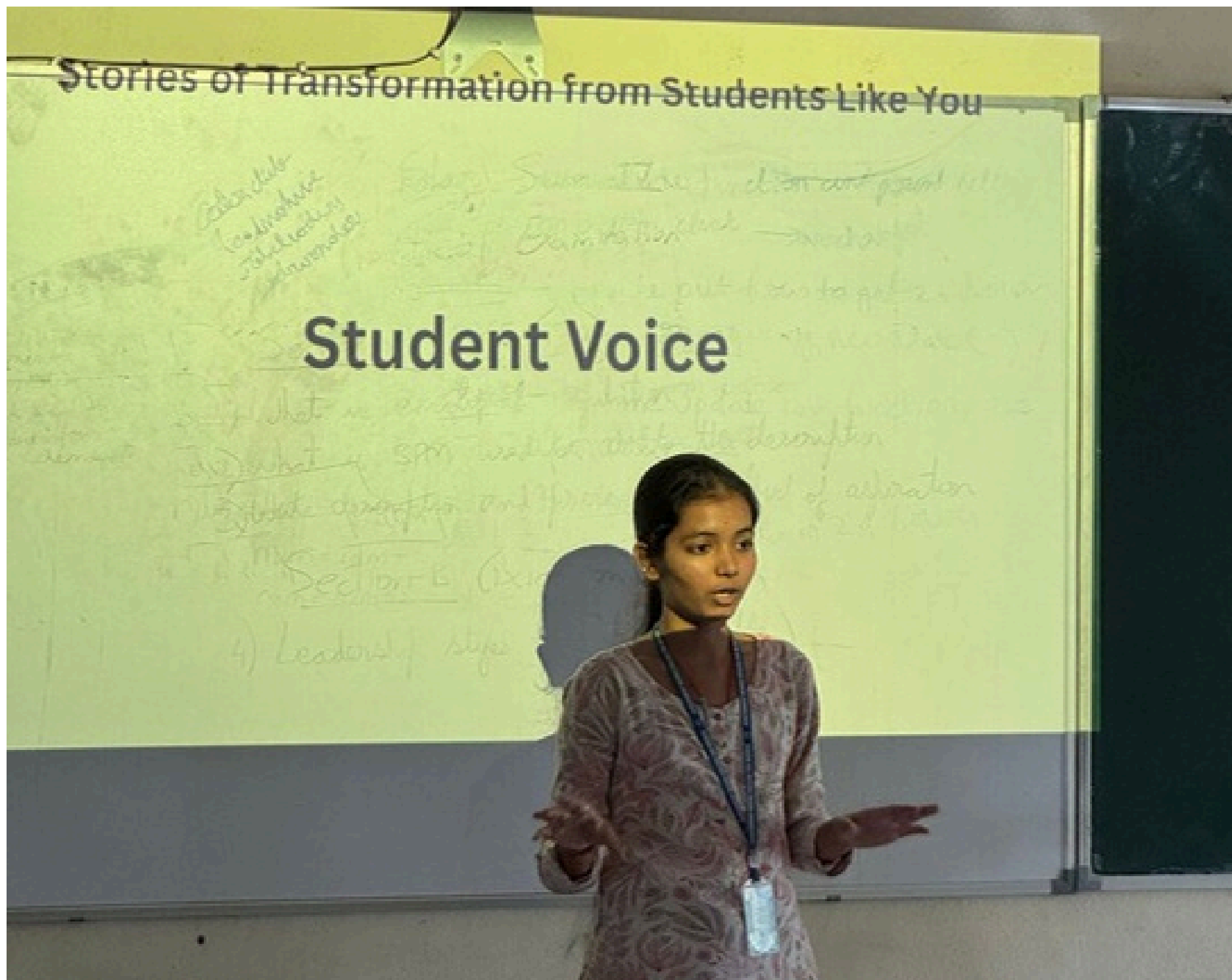


Aswathy Jayakumar
Costa Rica (MA)

Year Founded: 2017

ayang.org.in

dharamjeet@ayang.org.in



"I joined Barabari Skilling Academy, where I learned full-stack web development using the MERN stack. Before joining, I knew I wanted to become a full-stack developer but lacked a clear roadmap. Their structured learning, mentorship and mock interviews helped me strengthen my technical skills, build confidence and secure my first internship as a full-stack developer."

Chetana Sen, Full Stack Web Development

Barabari Collective



Enabling low-income graduates in India to access high-growth careers

The Barabari Collective is a Future of Work and Employment organisation working at the intersection of Government Relations, LLM-based EdTech and industry partnerships to build high-growth careers for technical graduates. Based in India, it focuses on low-income students who often face limited access to computers, low course completion rates and weak job placement outcomes. Barabari partners with colleges on skills programs, builds AI-driven EdTech tools for communication and technical training and connects graduates to jobs, internships and freelance work across multiple states.

impact

1,000

students completed
foundational AI
readiness

500

students achieved
intermediate AI
readiness

200

students advanced
to advanced AI
readiness

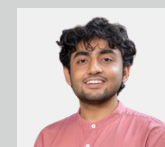
recognitions

- Harihar: BITSAA Award
- Barabari Collective: Selected for TiE Social Impact Incubation

geography of impact

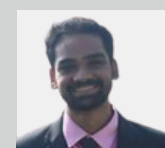
Telangana and Karnataka

founders



Harihar Menon

BITS (MSc. Physics and
BE Honors)



Karthik Krishnakumar

BITS (MSc. Physics and
BE Honors)

Year Founded: 2023
barabaricollective.org
info@barabaricollective.org



"My mother alone raised my younger brother and me, working as a cook. I never imagined a life outside my small locality, I hadn't seen anyone near me do that. Then at my government school in Saharanpur, studying humanities, I came across CodeYogi and learnt about AI and software building. I studied mostly on my mother's phone and later got a laptop through CSR support. I went much deeper from there and today, straight out of school, I'm interning as an AI developer building state-of-the-art AI and tech solutions. Next year, I'll be mentoring other students in my district."

-Payal Bharadwaj, CodeYogi Foundation

CodeYogi Foundation



AI-first skilling for India's underserved youth, at smartphone scale

CodeYogi transforms any smartphone into an AI lab. Most AI and tech-skilling programs require computer labs and trained teachers — both of which are hard and slow to scale. CodeYogi is built to work without either, right on students' family smartphones. Its AI mentor guides each student, in their own language, from beginner to hands-on AI and software development fluency with structured lessons, real assignments and personalised evaluation. CodeYogi runs through district and state government partnerships, supporting Digital India and NEP mandates at zero cost to the state, with no new infrastructure needs and no additional burden on teachers.

impact

3.5L

students
enrolled

75K

students demonstrated
practical AI proficiency

49%

girls in the
program

recognitions

- CodeYogi: AWS Social Entrepreneurs Accelerator | Code.org Global Leaders

geography of impact

Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Andaman-Nicobar Islands, Jharkhand, Haryana

founders



Prashant Chaudhary
IIT Delhi (B.Tech)



Rakesh Sehgal
IIT Delhi (B.Tech)



Priyanka Sethi
JIIT (M.Tech)

Year Founded: 2025

codeyogi.org

hello@codeyogi.org



Sanjay Patil practices Meenakari and copper enameling. His workshop is one of the few surviving workshops in Alibag, sustained through EkiBeki's revival program. With design training, infrastructure support and market access, his workshop continues to keep this endangered craft alive.

-Sanjay Patil, Design Development, Skill Building and Infrastructure Support for Copper Enamel

Ekibeki



Creating sustainable livelihoods through crafts

Ekibeki Association is dedicated to preserving, sustaining and revitalising India's traditional crafts. It works to revive endangered art and craft forms while creating sustainable livelihoods for artisans and strengthening community craft clusters. Through design development, skill building, infrastructure support, market access and entrepreneurship, the organisation enables artisans to build thriving enterprises without migrating to larger cities. By combining traditional knowledge with contemporary opportunities, Ekibeki preserves India's rich craft heritage while fostering economic resilience and empowering artisan communities to grow sustainably.

impact

190

crafts supported

500+

women empowered

1250

artisans directly
impacted

recognitions

- Vishpala Hundekari: Acumen Fellow | Goldman Sachs 10,000 Women programs
- Ekibeki: Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay Special Mention | NEST; Vital Voices Global Ambassador 2023

geography of impact

Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Goa
Malaysia, Singapore, United Kingdom

founder



Vishpala Naik
Hundekari

NID (Industrial Design)

Year Founded: 2018
ekibekiassociation.org
vishpala@ekibeki.com



“I come from a community where girls get married in their teenage years. Eklavya not only guided me but gave me confidence to study at prestigious institutions like Fergusson College in Pune. I am the first woman in my village to travel to Pune for education... I have recently secured a place at the Young India Fellowship at Ashoka University with a ₹10 lakh scholarship. I am mentoring my younger siblings and other girls in my community to pursue higher education and meaningful jobs.” Shruti Bothare

Eklavya India Foundation



Opening pathways to top-tier higher education, leadership & socio-economic mobility for first generation students

Eklavya opens pathways to top-tier higher education, leadership and socio-economic mobility for first-generation students from historically marginalised communities. Founded in 2017 by Raju Kendre, a first-generation learner from a nomadic community, Eklavya works across the school-to-college continuum for youth aged 16–30, connecting students to 100+ leading institutions in India and globally, including IIT, IIM, Harvard and Oxford. Eklavya has delivered 1 million+ hours of mentorship and training, reached 600,000+ students, placed 4,000+ across top institutions and facilitated INR 75+ crores in scholarships. Its 1,000+ alumni have seen average incomes rise tenfold, helping households break the cycle of generational poverty, with many returning as community leaders.

impact

6L+

students
reached across
India

4K+

students placed in
Tier-1 Institutions
nationally & globally

₹75+Cr

mobilised in
scholarships

recognitions

- Raju Kendre: Echoing Green Fellowship | Forbes 30 under 30 | Affiliate Ashoka Fellow | Chevening Scholar | Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts | Maharashtra Ratna | LinkedIn Top Voices Social Impact | PIONEER International Alumni Award | British Council Global Alumni Award | Zee Yuva State Youth Award | LinkedIn Top Voices Social Impact | Alexander von Humboldt German Chancellor Fellow

geography of impact

Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Jharkhand, Delhi, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Gujarat, Telangana, Himachal Pradesh, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh.

founder



Raju Kendre
SOAS (MSW, MSc)

Year Founded: 2021

eklavyaindia.org
raju.kendre@eklavyaindia.org



“For two years I’ve mixed biochar from Paddy Straw made by Energy harvest Trust on my onions, garlic and fruit trees. The roots go deeper, the soil holds water longer and the harvest speaks for itself.”

Amandeep Singh, Organic Farmer

Energy Harvest



To support research, education, training and solutions deployment to improve the environment and farming community life

Energy Harvest System works to reduce the open burning of paddy straw by developing and commercialising practical technologies for its productive use. The organisation promotes sustainable alternatives that convert crop residue into biomass-based products and clean energy, helping reduce air pollution while creating additional value for farmers. By supporting efficient collection, processing and utilisation of agricultural waste, Energy Harvest System contributes to improved crop residue management and demonstrates how paddy straw can become a useful resource instead of an environmental challenge.

impact

660

farmers with whom
we have worked on
the ground
interventions

18Kgs

paddy straw converted
to biochar (soil
conditioner)

96K+

visitors on our
crop burning
platform

recognitions

- Energy Harvest: Selected under Google's AI for Social Good program

geography of impact

Punjab, Haryana

founder



Sukhmeet Singh
ISB (MBA)

Year Founded: 2016
energyharvesttrust.com
[sukhmeet@energyharvesttrust.c](mailto:sukhmeet@energyharvesttrust.com)
om



‘After starting my master’s at Shiv Nadar University and spending time in the course, I sometimes still cannot believe that I made it here. I am the first girl from my village to cross Telangana and I proudly share my stories and experiences with younger girls. I owe all this success to Esther for supporting me every step of the way from my home to Delhi.’

Esther



Enabling Dalit and Adivasi girls to have a voice and choice

Esther is a Dalit Bahujan women-led non-profit working towards a future where girls and women, regardless of caste, class, religion, or geography, have access to knowledge, resources, networks and safe spaces to realise their full potential. Through its Future Readiness Leadership program, Esther equips Dalit and Adivasi girls with life skills, leadership opportunities, mentorship and career readiness support throughout their undergraduate studies. In partnership with state governments, the organisation enables young women to pursue higher education and emerge as confident leaders.

impact

3years

delay in
marriage

58%

average growth in
admissions among
low-income women

86%

boost in
confidence to
pursue
aspirations

recognitions

- Ravali: SA Delegate at European Union HQ; ChangemakerxChange Changemakers For Equality Asia

geography of impact

Telangana

founder



Ravali P
ISDM (PGP)

Year Founded: 2021
estherindia.org
ravali@estherindia.org



“When tourists come, it contributes to the development and prosperity of the village. Visitors get a chance to live closely with the local culture and they learn to value and respect it. It also provides an opportunity for cultural growth and development.”

Jamnalal Kumhar | Village Tourism Project (Pilot)

Gramiyo Foundation



Travel differently; travel with villages

Across India's tourism states, villages are the destinations in waiting. Their landscapes, food, craft and living culture are what travellers are increasingly seeking for immersive experiences, yet the communities who hold these assets remain outside the economy built around them. Gramiyo works from the pre-market readiness stage, onboarding village women and youth through the Village Tourism Project, a village tourism micro-entrepreneurship program, to build the confidence, capacity and ownership structures they need to participate in rural tourism. When they are ready, their village finds its place on gramiyo.com, a discovery and booking platform for village experiences across India.

impact

5

states

9

villages

35

families

recognitions

- Gramiyo: Top 25 Global finalist, Social entrepreneurship in Tourism | Top 3 project, WomenLeaders India Fellowship | UnLtd Incubator

geography of impact

Maharashtra, Goa, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Tamilnadu

founder



Shraddha Gosavi
Rachana Sansad's
Academy of
Architecture (B.Arch)

Year Founded: 2025
gramiyo.org
namaste@gramiyo.org



Manisha, who participated in the Girl Boss Future Ready program (2025-26) says, *“I built a small business on my own to fund my studies, but I still underestimated myself and my skills. Girl Boss helped me see what I was already capable of. In March 2026, I sat for a placement interview for the first time and I answered confidently. I didn't even know I was this brave!”*

Launch Girls



A world where all girls own their futures

Launch Girls prepares adolescent girls and young women, ages 14-24, across South Asia and Africa to transition from education to meaningful economic participation. Through its entrepreneurial education programs, grounded in research from MIT and the World Bank, it builds work-readiness skills, agency and support networks that enable adolescent girls and young women from underserved communities to pursue employment or entrepreneurship. Since 2020, it has reached 26,000+ young women across 16 countries. Today, 80% of its programming is in India, where it partners with Governments in Telangana and Karnataka.

impact

97%

participants
with a clear
future plan

93%

participants confident
making future
decisions

93%

participants able
to communicate
clearly

recognitions

- Neha Sahu: Acumen India Fellow
- Launch Girls: Harvard Innovation Labs- Launch Lab X 2024-25 | Featured in HundrED Global Collection 2026 and named as a Youth Choice Featured Innovation | Runner up, ILSS Centre of Excellence for Fundraising Pitch Fest | Incubated at NSRCEL, IIM Bangalore

geography of impact

Karnataka, Telangana, Kenya, Madagascar, Uganda

founders



Neha Sahu

New York University
(BSc.)



Averil Spencer

Harvard Kennedy
School (MPA)

Year Founded: 2020

launchgirls.org
neha@launchgirls.org



"I have been selected for the Chevening scholarship for 2027. LedBy played an important role in this, especially with the essay on networking. Even in my interview, I used an example of how, through LedBy, we network and have formed a tribe." This is indeed a dream for me to study an MSc in Gender and Development at LSE. Resham, LedBy graduate

LedBy Foundation

Unlocking Muslim women's talent India's economy is missing

LedBy Foundation is a Harvard-incubated nonprofit advancing economic mobility for Muslim women in India, one of the country's most excluded workforce demographics, facing a labour-force participation rate of just ~21%. It operates on the thesis that talent is universal but access is not: through fellowship and accelerator programs, an entrepreneurship track and a research pipeline including a J-PAL RCT and a hiring-bias study (cited by BBC and the US Congress), it addresses discrimination at both the individual and systems level. It is building a labour-market institution, not just a program.

impact

85

net promoter
score

200%

higher employment
rate compared to the
control group

₹45 Cr

net income
increase

recognitions

- Ruha Shadab: Echoing Green;
- LedBy: Stanford Social Innovation Review; Harvard Social Incubator; Time of India feature

geography of impact

Pan India

founder



Dr. Ruha Shadab

Lady Hardinge Medical
College (MBBS),
Harvard University
(MPP)

Year Founded: 2020

www.ledby.org

ruha@ledby.org



"I grew up watching my father work hard every day just to keep us going. Lighthouse gave me the confidence and skills to build something more for myself. Today, I lead a team, own a home and support my family fully. It all started with believing I could do it."

Altaf Sayyad

Lighthouse Communities



Lives and livelihoods for underserved urban youth

The Lighthouse Communities Foundation (LCF) program impacts lives and livelihoods for underserved youth. A highly personalised program, it nurtures their agency to envision and realise sustained livelihoods. Lighthouse champions a pioneering public-private partnership model, with capital expenditure and facilities backed by local and state governments, while the private sector supports operational costs (manpower and training). To ensure exemplary livelihood services, the city's ecosystem is leveraged by forging partnerships with value-aligned skilling institutions and employers. Lighthouse targets a minimum coverage of 25% of total households in every slum community of the city, in order to reach an inflection point to facilitate non-linear socio-economic shifts.

impact

2.8L

citizens enabled
with agency

55K

youth placed

77%

retained in
employment post
1 year

recognitions

- Amruta Bahulekar: Business World 40u40
- LCF: Indian CSR Awards CSR Journal Excellence Award 2022 | SKOCH Award for PMC School Improvement Project 2019 | SKOCH Award for Sustainable Livelihood, Digital Empowerment, Shikshak Sahyogi Dal and the PMC Pune City Connect model initiative as a Model for Social Transformation 2018 | Business World Innovative Smart Solutions 2016

geography of impact

Bihar, Maharashtra, New Delhi, Odisha, Rajasthan, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh

founders



Ruchi Mathur

Indian Institute of
Management, Ahmedabad
(PGP)



Dr. Ganesh Natarajan

Indian Institute of
Technology, Bombay (PhD)

Year Founded: 2011

lighthousecommunities.org
contact@lighthousecommunities.org



"I once set my dreams aside for everyone else, but today my story has taken a new turn. With renewed courage and confidence, I have found my wings and I am flying toward my own future."

Kanchan Devi

Manzil Mystics



Making music education accessible while creating sustainable livelihoods for grassroots musicians.

Manzil Mystics uses music to expand educational opportunities, strengthen communities and create livelihoods. It brings music education to government and low-income schools, helping children develop creativity, emotional resilience and a sense of belonging. Through its 18-month Learning Through Music Fellowship, Manzil Mystics trains grassroots musicians from underserved backgrounds to become skilled educators and professional performers. By connecting quality music education with meaningful livelihood opportunities, the organisation is building a sustainable ecosystem where children benefit from joyful, inclusive learning experiences while musicians gain pathways to dignified careers, creating lasting social impact through the power of music.

impact

3.7L+

children

3K

young musicians

150

schools

recognitions

- Anurag: Gratitude Network Fellow | The/Nudge Incubation | INK Fellow | Arts for Good Fellow, Singapore International Foundation | Wipro Fellow
- Manzil Mystics: HundrED Global Collection | Spotlight on Child-Centred Learning by HundrED & Montessori Global Education

geography of impact

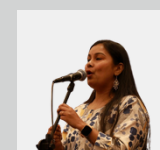
Delhi NCR, Maharashtra, Bihar, Odisha, Uttarakhand

founders



Anurag Hoon

Indira Gandhi National
Open University (MSW)



Preeti Arya

Delhi University (B.A)

Year Founded: 2011

manzilmystics.org

manzilmystics@gmail.com



"Driving a bus was once beyond my imagination. Today, I see it as my profession and my path to a better future for my family."

Nirmala – Bus Driver program

MOWO Social Initiatives



Empowering women through mobility through advocacy, motor training and livelihoods

MOWO Social Initiatives Foundation promotes mobility as both a life skill and an employable skill for women. Through its Advocacy, Motor Training and Livelihoods approach, the organisation conducts awareness campaigns, operates women-focused motor training centres, provides two-wheeler, three-wheeler and bus driver training, supports women in obtaining driving licences and connects them to dignified livelihood opportunities. Working with governments, educational institutions, corporates and community organisations, MOWO strengthens the women's mobility ecosystem while building pathways to economic independence.

impact

7K

motor
trainings

600+

livelihoods

40K

advocacy

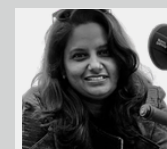
recognitions

- Jai Bharathi: Women Leaders India Fellowship; Grinnell College Global Social Innovator; TiE Women Social Entrepreneur of the Year
- MOWO: Acumen Accelerator; iF Design Social Impact Prize; CIVICUS Nelson Mandela–Graça Machel Innovation Award Finalist; Telangana State Vishista Mahila Puraskaram; Visa IFundWomen Grant

geography of impact

Telangana, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Delhi

founder



Jai Bharathi

JNTHU College of
Engineering (B.Arch)

Year Founded: 2019

mowo.in

move@mowo.in



Kajal says *"I joined NavGurukul at 17 with only a basic 10th-pass qualification, coming from a background where my father works as a rickshaw puller and my mother as a domestic cook. Through the residential program, I completely transformed my trajectory, secured a full-time placement at an MNC and am now earning 15 LPA—a reality I previously couldn't have even dreamed of."*

Empowering underserved youth to build meaningful careers

NavGurukul is a technology-led non-profit that helps underserved young people in India build dignified, future-ready careers through fully funded, outcomes-driven education. Its residential and online programs offer self-paced training in software engineering and life skills. Beyond campuses, it expands access through its Remote Finishing School, digital labs using refurbished laptops, AI learning initiatives and government partnerships that bring practical digital skills into schools and ITIs. NavGurukul focuses on first-generation learners, especially young women and works to turn potential into opportunity at scale.

impact

5K+

users served
by Zuvy

27L+

ITI students reached
annually through
Navgurukul's AI
curriculum

₹57Cr+

earned collectively by
2,100+ alumni
(residential programs
+ Zuvy)

recognitions

- Abhishek Gupta: Forbes 30 under 30 | Business World 40 under 40
- NavGurukul: LinkedIn Future of Work Fund – Selected Partner (1 of 6 organisations worldwide) | S&P Global Foundation | MIT Solve | StepForward Challenge-Winner 2026

geography of impact

Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra

founders



Abhishek Gupta
IIT Delhi (B.Tech)



Nidhi Anarkat
Harvard University
(Ed.M)



Rishabh Verma

Year Founded: 2016
navgurukul.org
ceoffice@navgurukul.org



"I hesitated to attend Communion 3.0 in Kochi since I felt immensely underprepared for any GDPI session, but I'm more than glad I went. The sessions were super helpful and gave me a clear framework on how to approach GDPI prep. The mock interview and GDs helped in assessing my weaknesses. I also got to meet some amazing people, one of whom is now a close friend. Overall, an experience way greater than any expectation I had and I'm very sure Communion played a crucial role in my prep."

- Betssy Babu | Pathanamthitta, Kerala | Aspirant CAT'2025

Working towards a world where every student can access quality higher education and achieve their full potential.

Opengrad is a free, all-inclusive platform designed to help students succeed in competitive exams, offering curated content, video lectures, mentorship and valuable resources handpicked by accomplished alumni and students from top institutions. Think of it as a peer-driven learning ecosystem where those who've already cracked the exams guide the next generation. Opengrad's mission is to democratise access to higher education by leveraging technology and community to provide no-cost, relatable and scalable pathways from career awareness to admissions and beyond for students from underserved communities, because great guidance should never come with a price tag.

impact

10K

students
reached

3

partnerships with
state Govts

400

tier 1 college
conversions

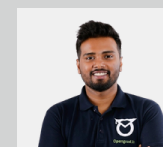
recognitions

- Opengrad: iVolunteer - Top 10 in leadership in Volunteer Engagement
- Sahil Sameer: Incubated by NSRCEL

geography of impact

Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Chhattisgarh

founders



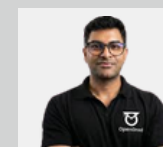
Sahil Sameer

MBA: IIM Indore



Mohammed Shahid

MBA: IIM Indore



Sebbin Antony

BTech: Manipal Institute
of Technology

Year Founded: 2023

opengrad.in

admin@opengrad.in



"First I wanted to do something from a science background — B.Tech or B.Sc. But after my entrepreneurship classes at Panaah, I decided to make a career in sports and chose my college for that. I am now in Mahabaleshwar as a PE Teacher Intern across four schools, teaching sports and running physical training sessions. I have gained communication, planning and leadership skills and it has been a great opportunity to make a positive impact on students' lives."

Suraj Vispute (Panaah Professionals)

Panaah Communities



To equip children and youth from Pune's highest-need urban communities to learn faster and earn better.

Panaah Communities works with children and young people in Pune's low-income urban settlements through three connected programmes. Solvers supports academic recovery for Grades 4–9 and helps out-of-school adolescents return to formal education. Scholars offers high-rigour Math and Science preparation, benchmarked through national and international olympiads. Professionals helps 16–21-year-olds secure quality first employment earning ₹30,000+ monthly. In 2026, Pune Municipal Corporation partnered with Panaah to bring Solvers and Scholars into its schools.

impact

188

young people
placed in
earning roles

17

scholars qualified for
national-level
competitive exams

6

centres across
Pune

recognitions

- Panaah Communities: UnLtd India | The Circle India | NSRCEL, IIM Bangalore Social Enterprise Incubation programs | SVP India

geography of impact

Maharashtra

founders



**Sayed Mohammad
Shoeb**

Pune University (BE)



Hasnain Naqvi
Gujarat Technological
University (BE)



Aarshiya Das
University of Calcutta
(MA)

Year Founded: 2023
panaahcommunities.org
shoeb@panaahcommunities.org



“The biggest change is that I now focus on execution instead of just ideas. Through YouStart, I earned my first income, built a product through real user feedback and gained the confidence to take action instead of waiting for things to be perfect. The experience also helped me secure a Founder’s Office internship at an early-stage startup.” Pavani DB, You Start program

Polygnan



Empowering youth for the AI-driven future of work

Polygnan Foundation is reimagining engineering education for the future of work. We believe future-ready engineers can be nurtured in India through experiential learning, mentorship and real-world execution. We work with engineering students to build the skills, mindset and confidence needed to become builders, problem-solvers and changemakers. Through cohort-based programs like YouStart, applied AI skilling and student-led venture building, we help young people move from learning to doing and from ideas to tangible outcomes. Our goal is to create a stronger pipeline of confident, capable and industry-ready engineering talent.

impact

21

student-built
MVPs/venture

2.35L

total student income
enabled

130

AI projects &
portfolios built

recognitions

- Chandana Shivanand: GHCI 2025 Speaker
- Polygnan: NSRCEL Impact Orbit Incubation

geography of impact

Karnataka

founders



Chandana Shivanand
University of Southern
California (MS)



**Prajwal Rajendra
Prasad**
Georgia Institute of
Technology (MS)

Year Founded: 2025

polygnan.org

info@polygnan.org



“I come from rural Kashmir, where I completed my schooling and undergraduate degree. From a young age, I dreamed of pursuing higher education in the UK but didn't know how to make it happen. While pursuing my first master's at the University of Kashmir, Project EduAccess visited my university for an outreach program. Their team encouraged me to apply for a second Master's at Oxford, guided me through the process, helped me with my Oxford scholarship interview and patiently answered every question. EduAccess helped me get to Oxford, but it became so much more than a support system—it feels like a family.” Tabina Manzoor, Mentee

Project EduAccess



Democratising access to higher education, leadership and professional opportunities

Project EduAccess is a non-profit that works to expand access to higher education and meaningful career opportunities for under-served youth in India. Through mentorship, leadership and skill-building fellowships, workshops and partnerships with public colleges and universities, we help underprivileged youth build the skills, knowledge and networks they need to access scholarships, postgraduate study, research opportunities and purpose-driven careers. Alongside this direct support, we collaborate with institutions and policymakers to address the structural barriers that continue to limit educational opportunity and social mobility for under-served youth.

impact

2.5K+

mentees supported

₹82.5Cr

in scholarships unlocked for mentees to study abroad

900+

admission offers received by mentees from universities abroad

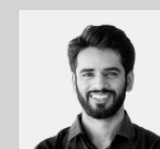
recognitions

- Sameer Rashid Bhat: UK-India Achievers Award by NISAU and UK Government 2026
- Project EduAccess: JPMorgan Chase Tech for Social Good (TfSG) | Profumo Fund, Brasenose College | Wardens Discretionary Fund, Rhodes Trust | Thatcher Development Award, Somerville College, University of Oxford

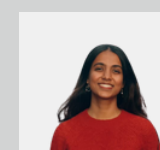
geography of impact

India, Jordan, Bangladesh, South Sudan, Brazil, Indonesia, Ghana, Sri Lanka, Colombia, Kyrgyzstan, Nigeria

founders



Sameer Rashid Bhat
University of Oxford
(PhD)



Gayathree Devi Kalliyat
University of Oxford
(PhD)



Misbah Reshi
University of Oxford
(PhD)

Year Founded: 2022
projecteduaccess.com/
info@projecteduaccess.com



“I don't want to marry yet. I want to stand on my own feet.” Today, instead of an early arranged marriage, Sampatti is assembling cars at Tata Motors—paving the way as one of the first young women from her district to enter formal manufacturing.” Sampatti, Career Mobility program

Project Potential



Enable intergenerational social mobility for youth in India's poorest districts

Potential means that your birth should not determine where you end up in life; yet, in much of Bihar, birth remains destiny, with nearly one-third of youth not in education, employment, or training. Project Potential enables rural youth to build aspiration, strengthen leadership capability and access opportunities for upward mobility. It serves as a trusted bridge between rural communities and high-quality career pathways. Through its partnership with Jeevika, it runs career development libraries and connects youth to training and placement partners in fields such as software engineering, hotel management, healthcare and manufacturing apprenticeships.

impact

9K

youth benefitting
from libraries
yearly

4K

youth participants in
life skills, career
programs

87K

ayushman cards
created

recognitions

- Zubin Sharma: Acumen Angels | Dasra Social Impact Leadership Fellowship | UPenn Social Impact Strategy Fellow | Schmidt Futures Act 2 Network
- Project Potential: Khwab Foundation Kalam Youth Leadership Award | Rojgar Sah Swarojgar Mela Award (JEEVIKA, Thakurganj, 2021)

geography of impact

Bihar

founders



Zubin Sharma
Yale University (MPP)



Abodh Kumar
IGNOU (MARD)

Year Founded: 2014
projectpotential.org
zsharma@projectpotential.org



"For years, I stood outside the gates of a private school in Lucknow, watching children my age walk through doors that felt permanently shut to me... I had never even heard of the RTE Act until RightWalk Foundation told my family it gave children like me the chance to study in a good school, free of cost, up to Class 8... When I reached the end of that road, RightWalk stepped in again—their RTE Scholar Fund supported my education beyond Class 8, so I didn't have to walk away. Today, I am in Class 12 at Jaipuria School, still dreaming of becoming a Chartered Accountant." Aarti Kashyap

RightWalk Foundation



Making public policy deliver education, livelihoods and health to end poverty

RightWalk Foundation (RWF) is a public policy implementation and state-capacity-building organisation. It ensures that progressive public policies work for people at scale—not just on paper, but in real lives, over time. Its RIGHT model—Redesign, Institutionalise, Ground, Hone and Transition—converts policy intent into sustained, government-owned outcomes. RightWalk operates across four states, has impacted over 20 lakh lives and unlocked more than INR 20,947 crore in economic value, including public funds and market-linked opportunities. By strengthening state systems, it turns public entitlements into durable pathways out of poverty for underserved communities. It combines policy reform, institutional capacity and last-mile delivery to make change durable and scalable.

impact

12.3L

children enrolled
under RTE

4L

apprenticeships
matched

₹20,947Cr

worth of public
funds unlocked

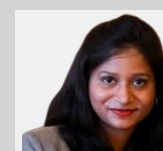
recognitions

- Samina Bano: UK India Achievers | Mulago | Chevening Gurukul | NITI Aayog Women Transforming India | Acumen | Ashoka | IIMB Distinguished Alumni Award
- Shipra Srivastava: Acumen India
- RWF: LSE 100x Impact Accelerator | Kalam Award for Innovation in Governance

geography of impact

Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Kerala

founders



Samina Bano
IIMB (PGP)



Shipra Srivastava
UP Technical University
(MBA)

Year Founded: 2017
rightwalk.org
team@rightwalk.org



"The people in my village started saying, 'You become the Sarpanch, we will vote for you.'"

Sapnewaali Nisha, Patnawa Gaon, Uttar Pradesh

Sajhe Sapne

SAJHE
SAPNE
साझे
सपने

Helping young women build brighter futures.

Sajhe Sapne launches the careers of young rural women into the modern workforce. Through its Sapna Center model, it offers 12–15-month mini-MBA programmes in Hindi, opening pathways into further learning, internships, entrepreneurship and dignified employment for young women from villages who have completed Class 12 or college. Through its Kaabil Kamau Kamyab district-level campaigns in Madhya Pradesh, Sajhe Sapne is building a culture of careers and agency that can make early marriage obsolete after Class 12. Its 150+ alumni are often the first women in their villages to pursue careers, earn steady incomes, delay marriage by 4+ years and become financial and social decision-makers.

impact

130+

Sapnewaalis

100%

internship placement

95%

placement at the
time of
graduation

recognitions

- Surabhi: Echoing Green Global Fellowship | IIT Delhi GOLD Award | UC Berkeley Distinguished Alumni Award | G.P. Birla Fellowship for Women Leaders | Acumen India Fellowship.

geography of impact

Himachal Pradesh, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Punjab and Maharashtra

founder



Surabhi Yadav
UC Berkeley (MA)

Year Founded: 2020

sajhesapne.org

sapnewaalis@sajhesapne.org



"Through art, we can see students' talents and better understand how to support their growth. I learnt that students should be given the freedom to express themselves, giving them the space to explore their creativity."

-Divya A, Gudulur, Tamil Nadu

Saturday Art Class



Adding He(Art) to Education

Saturday Art Class is working to strengthen art education in India's public schools. Through curriculum development, teacher capacity building, technology, research and government partnerships, it brings visual arts into classrooms at scale. By supporting existing education systems, the organisation creates engaging learning environments that nurture creativity, self-expression, social-emotional learning and children's holistic development.

impact

313K

total
underserved
students

7K

educators upskilled
using visual arts
learning

38

districts with
active
government
partnerships

recognitions

- Chhavi Khandelwal: Oxford Weidenfeld-Hoffmann Scholars | Arts for Good Fellow, Singapore International Foundation | Gather Activism Fellow | Impact Lab Fellow
- Manasi Mehan: Gather Activism Fellowship | Harvard Innovation Labs
- Saturday Art Class: Runner-Up, Harvard President's Innovation | Harvard Social Impact Fellowship Fund | Atma Accelerator for Change

geography of impact

Maharashtra, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Jammu & Kashmir, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh.

founders



Manasi Mehan

Harvard School of
Education (M.Ed)



Chhavi Khandelwal

University of Oxford
(MPP)

Year Founded: 2017
saturdayartclass.com
manasim@saturdayartclass.com



"I don't ask permission anymore. I make decisions. For myself. For my daughters." Gauhar Khan, Pioneer Artisan

Skilled Samaritan Foundation



Creating income opportunities for women artisans through tech-based design support for sustainable products.

Skilled Samaritan Foundation (SSF) creates sustainable livelihood opportunities for women and girls from marginalised communities who lack formal education. It builds on existing craft skills, providing physical and technology-enabled design, market support through partnerships with corporates, designers and service providers. Its projects, primarily focused on sustainable livelihoods, vocational skills, women empowerment and waste-to-wow concepts, are designed and delivered with utmost transparency, speed and commitment to create sustainable products for the home, furniture and lifestyle space for the growing conscious buyer. Today, SSF works with nearly 1,500 women who are breaking barriers and leading lives of dignity and respect.

impact

500

rural women weavers
accessing market
linked livelihoods

5

craft clusters set up
across India

250

buyers purchasing
baskets made by women
artisans with premium
sustainable packaging, .

recognitions

- Gauri Malik: NITI Aayog Women Transforming India | UN Women Generation Equality Award | Social Impact Awards India | Acumen

geography of impact

Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Rajasthan

founder



Gauri Malik
University of Warwick
(MSc Finance)

Year Founded: 2012

sirohi.org

gauri@sirohi.org

SRUJNA SHEROES 2026



"Srujna's training changed how I saw myself, I went from learning how to manage money to teaching other women how to do it. Now, through my workshops, I get to watch women in my community gain the confidence to save, budget and plan for their future. Knowing I've helped build that kind of security for so many families is what makes this work meaningful to me." Suma Lata , Financial Literacy Project

Providing women in poverty with the ecosystem, skills and tools to earn a respectable income and bring positive change in their communities

Srujna Charitable Trust is a Mumbai-based NGO working towards women's economic empowerment, currently operating across 9 states in India and reaching over 3 lakh women. Established in 2011, Srujna runs four core programs — financial literacy, sales training, Superdidi leadership development and micro-enterprise incubation; designed to work as an intentional pipeline moving women from economic awareness to economic empowerment. With a vision to impact lives of 1 million women by 2030, Srujna focuses on leveraging tech and AI to scale its intervention.

impact

3.07L

women trained
in financial
literacy

5.8K

women trained in
sales and
entrepreneurship

2.07K

super didis
created in the
community

recognitions

- Jyotika Sehra and Vaishali Shah: World CSR Day India Sustainability Award of Merit | 51 Most Impactful Social Innovators (Globally) | Nari Shakti International Award 2018
- Vaishali Shah: Top 10 Tedx Women Entrepreneur Speeches in Asia 2023
- Srujna: Socio Star Award 2026 | Brit Worldwide Inspire Award 2016

geography of impact

Andhra Pradesh, Delhi (NCR), Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal

founders



Jyotika Sehra
NMIMS (MBA)



Vaishali Shah
NMIMS (MBA)

Year Founded: 2011
srujna.org
contact@srujna.org



“Through Step Ahead India, I discovered many other ways to create social impact. With career guidance and mentorship, I explored the social sector and joined the Gandhi Fellowship. As a Fellow, I worked with tribal communities and the Education Department in Madhya Pradesh, supporting over 500 teachers and 5,000 students. Today, I am a program Leader at Kshamtalaya Foundation, contributing to teacher development and well-being.” - Babli Yadav

StepAhead India



Enabling underserved Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences youth to build meaningful, purpose-driven careers.

Step Ahead India enables Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences (AHSS) youth from Tier 2, Tier 3 and rural India to transition into meaningful careers in Impact sectors. While millions of AHSS graduates aspire to serve society, most are exposed only to competitive exams, often spending years in the exam cycle with little awareness of alternative career pathways. Step Ahead expands these pathways through technology-enabled career awareness, job readiness, personalised mentorship and placement support. By connecting youth to fellowships, Young Professional, Govt. consulting, NGOs, CSR and development careers, we help them transform years of uncertainty into purposeful, economically sustainable careers.

impact

19L+

youth reached

11K+

youth engaged
through mentorship
programs

7.3K+

youth supported
into meaningful
careers

recognitions

- Vinay Kumar : UNESCO-CEMCA Award 2015, Nobel Citizen Award 2020 and Global Excellence Award 2020
- Step Ahead India: UnLtd India | NSRCEL, IIM Bangalore Impact Orbit – Skilling & Livelihood Innovations program | NITI Aayog

geography of impact

Pan India

founders



Vinay Kumar

University of Mysore
(MBA)



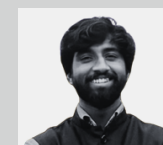
Saraswati Dhaygude

Savitribai Phule Pune
University (MCom)



Amit Yadav

National Law University
(LLM)



Ashu Yadav

Andhra University
(MBA)

Year Founded: 2023
stepaheadindia.com
connect@stepaheadindia.com



“When families like us face a medical emergency, confusion and fear often become as overwhelming as the illness itself. Getting support from Tapasya in accessing the Shahri Garib Card showed how timely guidance can turn uncertainty into hope and ensure that treatment is never delayed because of lack of information.”

Name: Laxmi Uttam Gavali | program: Project Sakhi

Tapasya



Building a poverty-free India

Tapasya bridges the gap between vulnerable communities and social welfare systems by enabling citizens to access government schemes and entitlements designed for them. Through community-based women leaders called Sakhis and technology-enabled processes, it identifies eligible benefits, supports documentation and facilitates applications. By improving last-mile access to social security, healthcare, education, livelihoods and financial inclusion, Tapasya creates pathways out of poverty and inequality.

impact

100

community
sakhis trained

₹500Cr+

total benefits value
unlocked

55K

no. of citizens
unlocked at least
one welfare
scheme

recognitions

- Tapas Sutradhar: Pravah Changeloom Fellow
- Mrinal Rao: Pravah Changeloom Fellow
- Tapasya: NITI Aayog AIM SDG Entrepreneurs of India (Top 60) | ATMA 3-year Accelerator | UnLtd India Incubation program

geography of impact

Maharashtra, Karnataka

founders



Dr. Tapas Sutradhar
North Maharashtra
University (PhD)



Mrinal Rao
Karve Institute of Social
Service (MSW)

Year Founded: 2018

www.tapasya.xyz

tapas@tapasya.xyz



“TQC online classes were great. Counseling sessions helped me overcome my fear of speaking. Now I can communicate well in English and earning money has boosted my confidence.”

-Dileshwari Yadav

The Quest Center



Building paths to real careers

The Quest Center bridges skill gaps for college graduates from low socio-economic backgrounds by providing free, industry-aligned training in business technology, employability and communication skills. Working with rural colleges and non-profit partners, it delivers hands-on, project-based learning in high-demand fields such as digital marketing, data analytics, sales, HR and accounting, complemented by career guidance, resume building, interview preparation and dedicated job placement support. Through this integrated model, The Quest Center helps underserved youth secure quality employment and achieve long-term financial independence.

impact

440

students
registered

255

students trained and
certified

167

students placed

geography of impact

Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka

founders



Sonal Maheshwari

University of California,
Santa Cruz (MS
Computer Engineering)



Nidhi Verma

Savitribai Phule Pune
University (PhD)

Year Founded: 2023
thequestcenter.org
sonal@thequestcenter.org



Before the AI training, I used to depend on visual judgement and customer feedback for arranging clothes. Now, AI helps me plan store displays, match colours and even design promotions. It saves time and gives my store a professional edge.” Prathamesh, AI Empowerment Training program

Tisser Artisans Trust



Empowering artisans through sustainable handmade innovation, livelihoods and enterprise development

Tisser Artisans Trust is dedicated to preserving India's rich textile and craft heritage while creating sustainable livelihoods for artisan communities. Working across rural and urban clusters, Tisser empowers artisans through design innovation, skill development, market linkages, entrepreneurship support and digital inclusion. The organisation collaborates with government agencies, corporates, academic institutions and development partners to strengthen artisan enterprises and promote responsible, inclusive growth. By integrating craftsmanship with contemporary markets, Tisser is enabling artisans to achieve independence while safeguarding cultural heritage. Through a holistic approach, Tisser is building artisan ecosystems, to impact over 50,000 artisans across India over five years.

impact

50K

artisans reached

18

states reached

100

craft clusters supported

recognitions

- Dr. Megha: Meaningful Business 100 | UNIMO Rangoli Top Woman Achiever | Women Power Summit & Awards | Priyadarshani Award for Outstanding Women Entrepreneurs | Times She UnLTD Entrepreneur Awards | Rani Laxmi Bai Bhushan Puraskar
- Tisser: Desi Dhaakad Social Impact Awards | 3rd Asia's Leadership Awards | M Billionth Award for Tech Innovation | RIDE Startup

geography of impact

Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Assam, Nagaland, Haryana and Delhi (NCR)

founder



Dr. Megha Phansalkar

Devi Ahilya

Vishwavidyalaya (PhD)

Year Founded: 2016

tisser.in

contact@tisserindia.com



“The Kalpana program, in particular, has been a key source of inspiration and learning for me. It’s only because of VigyanShaala that I’ve grown both personally and professionally. Their mentorship has not only helped me sharpen my skills but also boosted my confidence to work towards my future goals. I’m grateful for the opportunities they’ve provided, I will always continue the learning and making a difference.” Himani Upadhyay, Kalpana- She for STEM and Rural STEM Champion Fellowship

VigyanShaala



On a mission to nurture the next generation of engineers, scientists and innovators

VigyanShaala International is working to democratise STEM education and career pathways for women and underserved communities across India. It runs two flagship programs. Kalpana – She for STEM builds a structured pipeline for undergraduate women through digital literacy, incubator and accelerator stages. The Rural STEM Champions Fellowship places Science and Innovation Labs in rural government colleges, training young science graduates as community role models. It has reached over 30,000 students across 28 states, with the mission of reaching one million young people in STEM by 2030.

impact

40K

students
impacted

1K

global mentors

₹4.7Cr

worth of
scholarships
mobilised

recognitions

- Darshana Joshi: Ford Foundation Global Fellowship | Falling Walls Female Science Talents | Falling Walls Engage, Global Winner | NITI Aayog Women Transforming India | Echoing Green | Echoing Green Fellowship | Nature Research Award for Inspiring Women in STEM
- VigyanShaala: Nikkei Asia Prize 2025 | Featured by United Nations Industrial Development organisation Recognition for Inclusive Innovation

geography of impact

Pan India

founders



Dr. Darshana Joshi

University of
Cambridge (PhD)



Dr. Vijay Venugopalan

Polytechnic University
of Milan (PhD)

Year Founded: 2019

vigyanshaala.com
communications@vigyanshaala.com

employment & entrepreneurship



turning ideas into opportunity, enterprises and lasting impact

Baeru
Collective



Saksham
वीडियो | सिखाएं ||



मार्गshala

MITTI
Café



SVATANYA





“After I lost my husband, I did not know how I would manage. Baeru gave me a way to earn and with my own earnings I raised my children and gave my daughters beautiful weddings. Today I stand tall at the Karkala Centre. This work gave me back my strength and my hope.” Sabeena Didi

Baeru Collective



Building human and cultural infrastructure for India's coastal transition

Baeru Collective has worked with coastal communities since 2020, building climate-first livelihoods, culture and leadership along the coast. The Collective enables women from fishing and harbour communities to become independent micro-entrepreneurs in waste recovery while restoring coastal ecosystems. Its programs span livelihood training, youth engagement and cultural campaigns that root conservation in coastal identity. Working alongside panchayats, harbour authorities and fishing communities, Baeru Collective has trained over 5,500 women, supported a network of 1,500 micro-entrepreneurs and anchored community-led recovery of coastal waste across Karnataka's shoreline.

impact

8K

livelihoods
enabled

7L

population impacted

60K

MT of waste
processed

recognitions

- Divya Hegde: UN Women WEPs Awards, Asia Pacific Winner | ChangeNOW Paris Women for Change 2025 | Acumen | NITI Aayog Top 60 SDG Entrepreneurs | UNESCO Top 100 Global Green Citizen
- Baeru: Tideline Innovation Awards: Tech for Coastal Communities Award 2026 | UN Women Care and Climate Accelerator | Member, Coalition for Sustainable AI- Oceans (UNEP, Govt. of France, ITU)

geography of impact

Karnataka, Goa, Tamil Nadu

founder



Divya Hegde
Northwestern
University (MSc)

Year Founded: 2020

baeru.org

divya@tipsessions.org



"Before joining IDEA, I was running a small fast food business, but it wasn't generating enough income because of low customer demand. The Entrepreneurship Development program taught me market assessment, business planning and informed decision-making. With the confidence and entrepreneurial mindset I gained through IDEA and a ₹25,000 DHAN loan, I started an e-rickshaw service. Today, I earn a stable income, support my family with dignity and have built a sustainable livelihood despite the challenge of living with a disability." Rishi Pandey

Empowering persons with disabilities through entrepreneurship and inclusion

Inclusive Divyangjan Entrepreneur Association (IDEA) is a national organisation dedicated to empowering Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) through entrepreneurship, skill development, incubation, market linkages and financial inclusion. Since its inception, IDEA has supported more than 2,000 entrepreneurs with disabilities across 10 states and over 60 districts in India. Through initiatives such as the Divyangjan Hunar Atamnirbhar Network (DHAN), entrepreneurship development programs, seed grants and digital commerce platforms, IDEA enables persons with disabilities to build sustainable livelihoods, create jobs and become economically independent, contributing towards an inclusive and self-reliant India.

impact

2K

entrepreneurs
with disabilities
empowered

₹120Cr

annual turnover
generated by
entrepreneurs

68%

% increase in
average annual
income

recognitions

- Mallikarjuna lytha: Sarvshreshth Divyangjan Award, National Award for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities | SRM ProSkill Champion Award for Social Entrepreneurship | State Award for Persons with Disabilities for Exceptional Achievement in Entrepreneurship/Self-Employment – Government of NCT Delhi
- IDEA: NSE Best Social Stock Exchange Award

geography of impact

Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Telangana, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh

founder



Mallikarjuna lytha
Jawaharlal Nehru
University (MPhil)

Year Founded: 2019
idea4newindia.com
idea@divyangjanindia.com



“When I joined i-Saksham, my family warned me that if I stepped out to work, I would not be allowed back home. ... i-Saksham helped me find my voice, confidence and purpose. As I changed, my family changed.

When I moved to another city for work, my husband took to caregiving. ... My proudest achievement is seeing women from my village step out to work, pursue higher education and choose their own futures. My journey taught me that when one woman gets an opportunity, she transforms not only her own life, but her family, her community and the generations that follow.” Nandini, Edu Leader

i-Saksham



Building local young women as 'Leaders of Change'

With the vision of 'Voice and Choice for Every Woman', i-Saksham develops young women as change leaders through its 2-year Edu-Leader Fellowship. The program addresses roots of women's exclusion, including patriarchal norms, limited role models and negotiating power. Edu-Leaders build confidence, mentor 20–25 adolescent girls, engage families to shift gender beliefs and influence institutions. Over 1,100 Edu-Leaders have impacted 25,000+ adolescents and families. Its alumni achieve a 90% college enrolment rate, compared to Bihar's 12% average and a 50% placement rate in civil society and corporates. i-Saksham aims to build 10,000 women leaders influencing one million girls, enabling girls to complete school and women to step into public life.

impact

1.1K

edu-leaders
trained

25K

adolescents showing
improved life skills &
education continuity

70%

alumni transition to
higher education,
employment or
civic leadership

recognitions

- Shravan Jha: Acumen Angel
- i-Saksham: NSDC Skills Innovation Initiative | Koita Foundation Tech Awards Top 12 Finalists | Innovate for Digital India Challenge (IIMA) — Top 50 | Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana — Top 50 | bVokal Shakti Award | Felicitated by Deputy CM, Bihar for contribution to girls' education & women leadership across Bihar's aspirational districts

geography of impact

Bihar

founders



Ravi Dhanuka

Institute for Rural
Management (PGDRM)



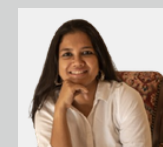
Aditya Tyagi

Tata Institute of Social
Sciences (MSc)



Shravan Jha

Symbiosis International
University (MBA)



Ranita Uppal

Jawaharlal Nehru
University (MA)

Year Founded: 2015

i-Saksham.org

ravi@i-Saksham.com



"Kaarigar Clinic transformed my mindset and my life. I began as an agricultural labourer and, through continuous mentoring and entrepreneurial support, grew my business from ₹4,000 to ₹13 lakhs in just three months."

Indu Parghi | Business Wellness program | Cohort 10

Kaarigar Clinic



India's first business clinic for artisans

Kaarigar Clinic is India's first Business Clinic for Artisans, pioneering a new model of entrepreneurship that places artisans at the centre of economic and social transformation. The organisation empowers artisans to become entrepreneurs through business incubation, creative capacity building, design innovation, branding, digital skills, market access and leadership development. By helping artisans move from informal labour to enterprise ownership, Kaarigar Clinic enables sustainable livelihoods while preserving India's living craft traditions. Its work strengthens local economies, creates employment and positions artisans as business leaders, ensuring creativity becomes a pathway to dignity, prosperity and long-term social impact.

impact

5K

artisans
empowered for
entrepreneurship

75K

livelihood generated

500K

lives impacted

recognitions

- Kaarigar Clinic: Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay Award for Social Impact | SVP Fast Pitch Gold Award | Most Creative Marketing Strategy Award | Vibrant Gujarat Social Startup Award
- Nileshe: Changemakers of India Award | Social Impact Creator Award

geography of impact

Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh

founders



Dr. Nileshe Priyadarshi

Gujarat Vidyapith
(MBA, Ph.D in Rural
Management)



Noopur Kumari

NIFT (B.Des)

Year Founded: 2019

kaarigarclinic.com
kaarigarclinic@gmail.com



Mamta Choudhary, a creative entrepreneur from Maheshwar, Madhya Pradesh, sold about 3,500 metres of self-designed fabrics through Karghewale and other platforms in FY 23-24. This achievement resulted in an average annual revenue of ₹9.5 lakhs, marking a 300% increase from her baseline revenue before starting her incubation journey with Karghewale.

Karghewale



Empowering weavers to become entrepreneurs.

Karghewale is an artisan-led textile platform that empowers young weaver entrepreneurs across India by connecting them directly with national and global markets. The organisation brings together skilled handloom artisans under a shared brand, enabling them to design, produce and sell high-quality handcrafted textiles while retaining ownership of their businesses. Working with over 150 weavers across multiple states, Karghewale promotes sustainable livelihoods, ethical production and contemporary design rooted in traditional craftsmanship. By providing business incubation, market access and entrepreneurial support, Karghewale helps preserve India's rich handloom heritage while creating dignified and sustainable income opportunities for artisan communities.

impact

57

artisan
incubatees

1,500

peer and ancillary
artisans

₹40K

avg. income of
artisan
entrepreneurs

recognitions

- Nivedita Rai: Acumen Fellow (2019)
- Karghewale: Upaya Dignified Jobs Accelerator Cohort (2023)

geography of impact

Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Ladakh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Nagaland, Odisha, Rajasthan, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

founders



Nivedita Rai
IRMA (PGRDM)



Sourodip Ghosh
IRMA (MBA)

Year Founded: 2020
<https://www.karghewale.com>
hello@karghewale.com



“Joining Karya brought a profound transformation to my life, which I am truly proud to share. The most significant change is that my family can now eat three meals a day, a basic dignity we struggled with before. This work gave me the skills and independence to lift us out of a very difficult financial situation. Beyond the self-respect and confidence I have gained, Karya has provided the stability we desperately needed.” - Worker from Telangana, \$578 earned to date

Karya



Leverage the AI revolution to create dignified earning and learning opportunities for low-income communities across the world

In India, Karya's smartphone-based digital work platform has enabled over 180,000+ people to build language datasets and evaluate AI models while earning fair wages. Trusted by leading organisations including Microsoft, Google, Anthropic, OpenAI and the Gates Foundation, Karya designs and delivers end-to-end pipelines across data, evaluation and deployment. With pilots in Kenya, Indonesia, South Africa and Ethiopia and partnerships with leading AI labs, governments and foundations, we are advancing language technologies for underrepresented communities. By combining dignified digital work with frontier AI innovation, Karya aims to build a new AI economy that is equitable, inclusive and community-driven.

impact

\$4.5M

wages distributed
so far

25.8%

average increase in
annual income

360%

average increase in
annual income (top
percentile)

select recognitions

- Karya: DRK | Elevate Prize winner | 100X Accelerator | Echoing Green | Tech for Good Museum Global Awardee
- Manu: Forbes 30 Under 30 | Time 100 Most Influential People in AI
- Vivek: ACM Early Career Researcher of the Year Award
- Safiya: Mulago, AWSher award

geography of impact

All states in India, Pilots in Kenya, Ethiopia, South Africa, Ecuador and Indonesia.

founders



Manu Chopra
B.Sc CS Stanford
University



Safiya Hussain
MSc Claremont
University



Vivek Seshadri
PhD Carnegie Mellon
University

Year Founded: 2023
<https://www.karya.in/>
grants@karya.in



“My organisation, Pagdandi Foundation aims to negate the factors that push migration. The fellowship gave me the encouragement to execute concepts that I knew of. It enabled me to take action. Moreover, I could look at my work from different lenses as pushed by my mentors and facilitators.” Ekta Aggarwal, Pagdandi Foundation

Margshala



Enabling rural youth to build dignified livelihoods close to home

Margshala Foundation enables rural youth in the Western Himalayas to build dignified local livelihoods in their communities. It works across the full journey from exploration to enterprise. Khojshala helps young people discover viable local livelihood pathways through exposure, guidance and role models, while the Swarozgar Fellowship supports aspiring and early-stage entrepreneurs with mentorship, peer learning and ecosystem linkages. Its Local Livelihoods Library extends this work through a mobile digital platform offering localised sector information, entrepreneur stories and personalised guidance. Till date, Margshala has worked with 6,000+ people and supported 250+ enterprises across agriculture, tourism, handicrafts and digital services.

impact

6K

community
members
impacted

250

rural businesses
supported

3.5

jobs created per
entrepreneur

recognitions

- Aadya Singh: Uttarakhand SDG Achievers Award (Government of Uttarakhand and UNDP) May 2026
- Margshala: JP Morgan Chase's Force for Good program

geography of impact

Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Ladakh, Kashmir

founder



Aadya Singh
IIT Madras (MSc)

Year Founded: 2022
margshala.com
hello@margshala.com



Bhairappa, a person with dwarfism, experienced significant discrimination while growing up and was rejected by more than 70 companies at job fairs. He now leads a team of seven people and is married to Roopa, whom he met at Miti Cafe.

Mitti Cafe



Brewing inclusion, serving dignity, creating livelihoods, transforming communities with every cup

Mitti Café is creating dignified livelihoods and fostering economic independence for persons with disabilities and individuals from other vulnerable communities. Through inclusive cafés and catering services operated by trained employees with disabilities, it challenges societal stereotypes while delivering exceptional hospitality. Partnering with airports, educational institutions, hospitals, corporate offices and public spaces, it combines high-quality food with meaningful employment, skill development and public sensitization. By building inclusive workplaces and demonstrating the immense potential of every individual, Mitti Café advances equality, transforms perceptions and creates sustainable social impact across India and beyond.

impact

6.5K

program
participants

2K

jobs created

21

customers
served

recognitions

- Alina Alam: Women Transforming India | 75 Womenpreneurs of India | Forbes 30 under 30 | Commonwealth Youth Award | NCPEDP-Mindtree Helen Keller Award | UN Intercultural Innovation Awardee | The New Indian Express Devi Award 2024 | Nina Sibal Memorial Award
- Mitti Cafe: National Award for Empowering Persons with Disabilities 2024 | RESTORE Award DEI Champion

geography of impact

Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, West Bengal, Delhi, Haryana, Maharashtra & Telangana.

founder



Alina Alam

Azim Premji University
(M.A)

Year Founded: 2017
mitticafe.org
alina@mitticafe.org



"I never imagined we would come first in the Dhanotsav pitch competition. We had no platform, no path forward. And then suddenly we were on a stage — meeting people running large organisations, speaking in front of NGO leaders. I thought: look how far we have come." Suman Gautam, Founder, Safal Karobar & Dhanotsav

STEP



A thriving community of women entrepreneurs

STEP is a gender inclusive incubator, dedicated to advancing women's entrepreneurship across India. It supports women founders to build sustainable, impact-driven businesses that address real-world challenges.

Through hands-on capacity building, one-on-one mentorship and catalytic funding, STEP transforms grassroots ideas into scalable enterprises led by women.

impact

1.5K

women entrepreneurs
supported

₹6.5Cr

follow-on funding
raised

50L

lives
touched

recognitions

- Reinu Shah: Mason and John Galbraith Fellow, Harvard Kennedy School

geography of impact

Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Delhi, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Goa, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Tripura, Meghalaya

founder



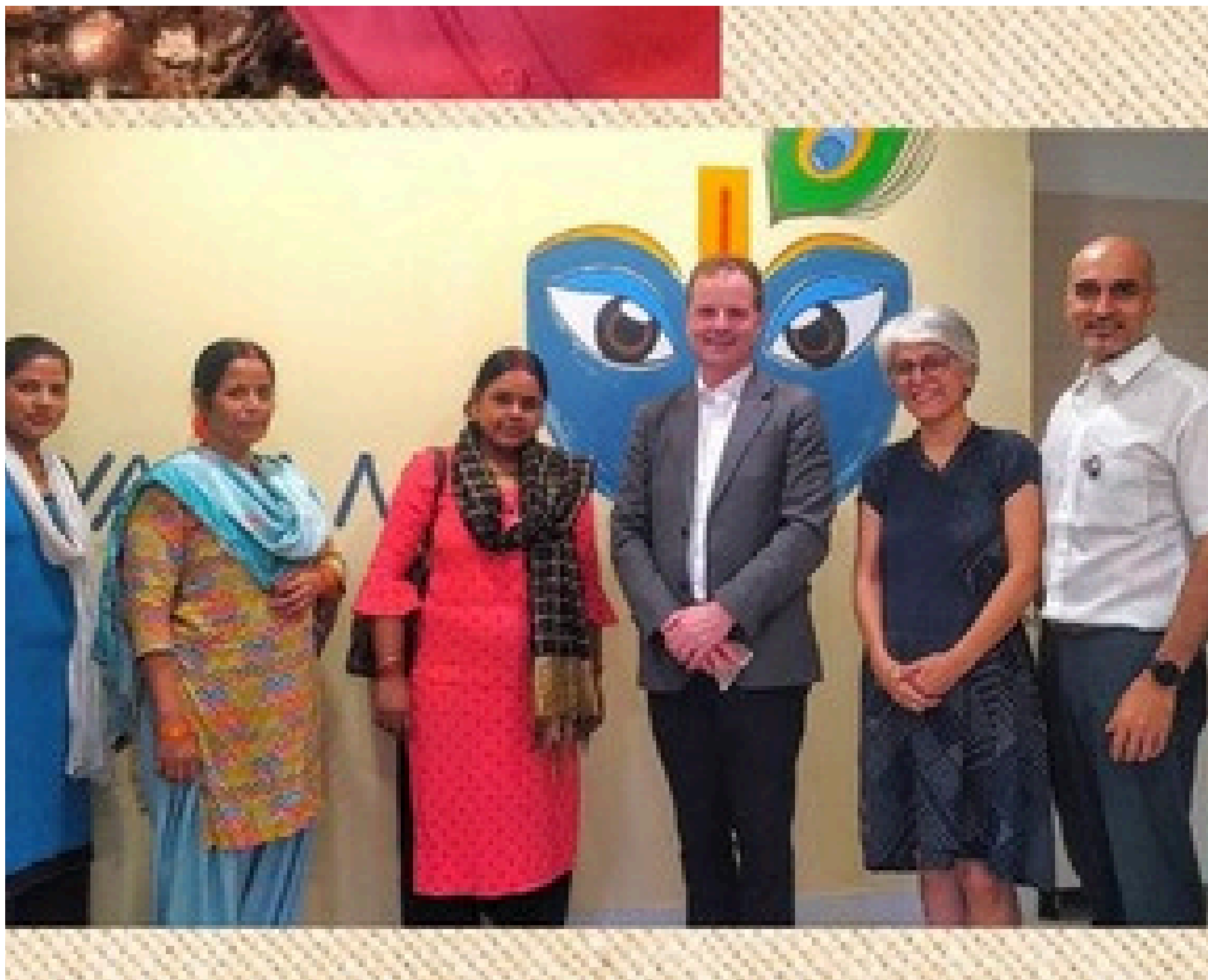
Reinu Shah

Harvard Kennedy
School (MPA)

Year Founded: 2022

thestepworld.com

amita@thestepworld.com



"I got skill, I gained confidence, I earned money and my dignity"

-Kavita Sahoo

Empowering marginalised women through textile upcycling to create livelihoods and handcrafted toys that bring joy to terminally ill children

SVATANYA India Foundation transforms pre-consumer textile waste into premium handcrafted products while creating sustainable livelihoods for marginalised women. The organisation trains and employs women in upcycling, traditional handcrafting, embroidery and stitching, turning environmental preservation into a pathway for financial independence and social mobility. By preserving heritage crafts and promoting a human-centric circular economy, it gives new life to textile waste. It also creates a special range of upcycled toys that are gifted to underprivileged children fighting terminal illnesses in government hospitals, bringing hope, joy and comfort during difficult times.

impact

1,230

marginalised
women
upskilled

785

livelihood for
upskilled women

27

waste textile
upcycled (tons)

recognitions

- Deepa: Reliance Foundation – Vital Voices Fellow | Social Entrepreneur for Women Empowerment – Mystique India Conclave | UN Women & DO School | SheThePeople – Burgundy Achievers in Social Impact
- Nimish: Social Entrepreneur Award – National Handcrafted Artisan Shakti Conclave | Deloitte Impact Day Feature | Hyundai – Art for Hope

geography of impact

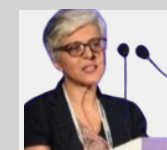
Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Maharashtra

founders



Nimish Pant

Delhi College of
Engineering (BE)



Deepa Pant

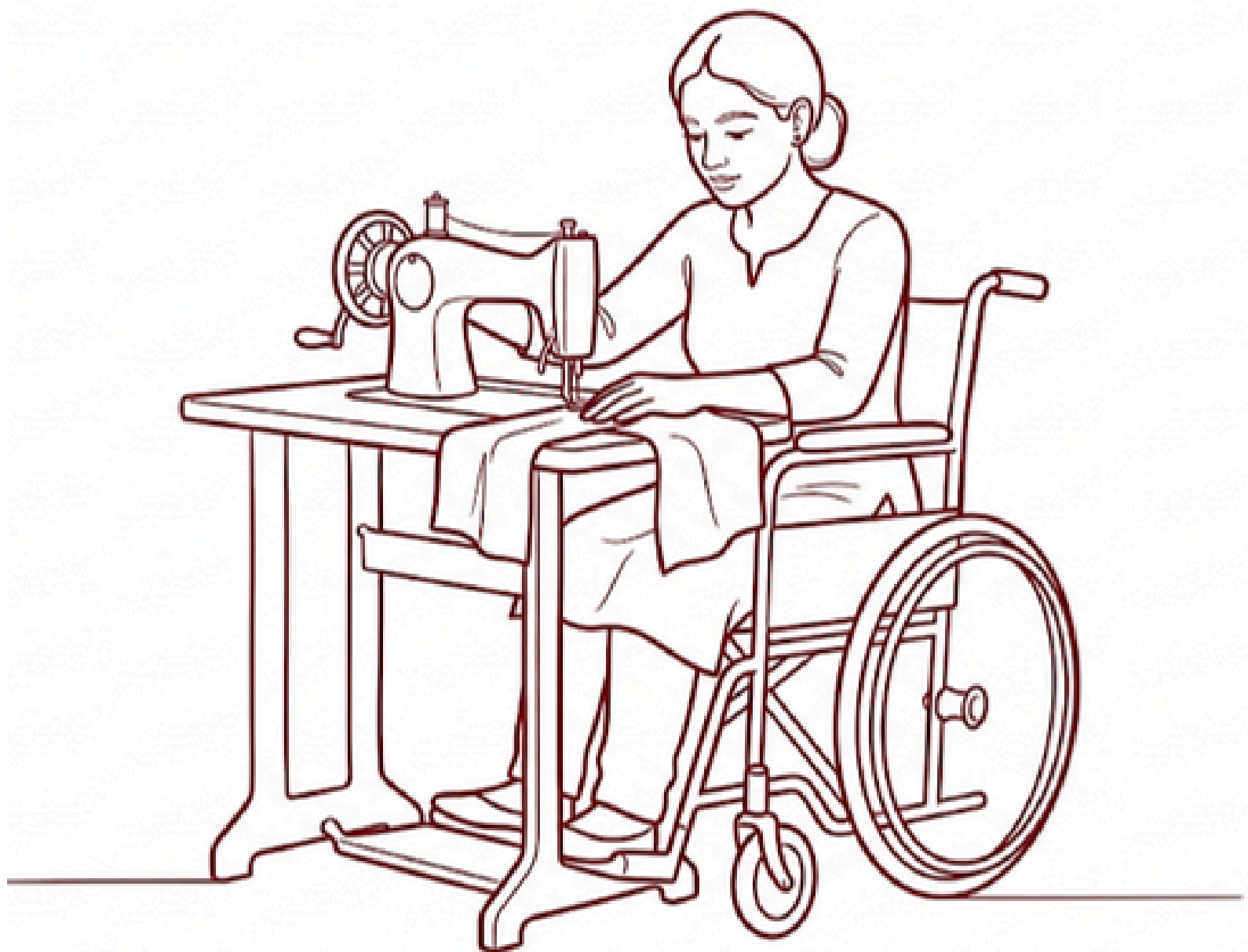
NIFT Delhi (M.A)

Year Founded: 2018

<https://svatanyaindia.com/>

SvatanyaIndiaFoundation@gmail.com

access and inclusion



creating pathways to opportunity, dignified livelihoods and independence for everyone



* Image sourced from Canva.



"Things have changed a lot for me. Through Akam Foundation's livelihood project, I was able to set up my food stall. As I became financially independent, my parents gradually became more accepting and the respect I receive at home has grown. Today, I feel more confident in myself and hopeful about my future."

Biku, Livelihood Security program

Akam Foundation



Just & equal society where everyone can live with dignity

Akam Foundation is a transgender-led organisation, advancing gender justice, education and community empowerment in Assam and Northeast India. Guided by the values of equality and inclusion, they work to strengthen the rights, dignity and leadership of transgender and queer communities through sustainable livelihood initiatives, access to rights and entitlements, leadership development, mental well-being and inclusive education. It also promotes free community libraries as feminist learning spaces that expand opportunities for children and marginalised communities. By combining grassroots action, research, advocacy and community-led solutions, they aim to build a more just, inclusive and equitable society.

impact

30

entrepreneurship
development

50

access to rights

60

leadership
development

recognitions

- Rituparna: Prag Prerona Award 2024

geography of impact

Assam

founder



Rituparna Neog
MA Social Work (TISS)

Year Founded: 2022
akamfoundation.org.in
contact@akamfoundation.org.in



“Through Chalo Network’s Chalo Saathi programs, I learned how to protect myself from fraud, avoid sharing OTPs and links and stay cautious during online transactions. Earlier, I used to pay more than necessary in transaction charges, but now I am aware and make better decisions. I feel that such training can benefit the entire community.” Lakshmi, Chalo Saathi program

Chalo Network



Making financial services inclusive and accessible for migrants everywhere

Chalo Network is a financial solutions company focused on improving the financial well-being of migrants and their households across India. It develops and distributes financial products designed around the unique needs of migrant workers throughout the migration cycle. Through its flagship platform, Pravasi Money, Chalo Network connects migrant borrowers with formal lenders, enabling access to suitable credit while supporting onboarding, financial awareness, data verification, credit assessment and repayment. Working with agents, NGOs, employers, contractors, recruiters and lending partners, it combines technology, data, research and last-mile distribution to help migrants move from informal to formal financial services and build greater financial security.

impact

50K

migrants/customers
reached via agent
operations

2L

transactions
facilitated through
agent network

150

agents trained

recognitions

- Chalo Network: J.P. Morgan Tech for Social Good | Village Capital Financial Solutions for Migrants Accelerator 2023 | Seedstars Financial Inclusion for Women Affected by Migration | Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH)

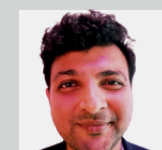
geography of impact

Maharashtra, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Telangana, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Jharkhand, Delhi NCR

founders



Priyansha Singh
TISS (MA)



Varun Aggarwal
Maastricht University
(MSc)

Year Founded: 2021

chalo.network
[communications@indiamigrati
onnow.org](mailto:communications@indiamigrati
onnow.org)



“CLiC was the first place where someone sat with me, listened and asked what I wanted to do with my life. They told me about the Haldiram Skill Academy in Noida. I had never boarded a train before but I went and that journey changed everything. After three months, I was placed at a Haldiram outlet in Mathura. Today I earn ₹18,000 per month. CLiC gave me one chance and I made sure I didn't let it go.”

Kajal, CLIC program

Empowering Care leavers to become self-reliant. (Care to Career)

CareLeavers Inner Circle (CLiC) Forum supports care leavers (Children who leave child care institutions at the age of 18) toward self-reliance. Working in alignment with government, CLiC works on seven key domains: Housing, Skills & Training, Job Placement & Micro-ventures, Financial Assistance, Mental Health & Well-being, Education and Identity Documentation through partnerships and technology. The organisation engages with adolescents aged 15–18 living in Child Care Institutions, making them aware of aftercare scheme & preparing them for a smooth transition into independent life. CLiC also runs a dedicated helpline to offer continuous guidance, follow-up support, emergency assistance ensuring no care leaver is left unsupported after leaving institutional care. CLiC is by the careleavers for the careleavers

impact

2800

CareLeavers
tracked

28K

helpline call traced
from CareLeavers

₹4L

aftercare fund
unlocked from Govt.

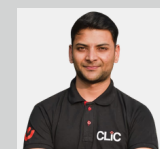
recognitions

- Girish: Ashoka Fellow | Forbes 30U30 India, Asia | 100 Young Leader Award by Queen Elizabeth Commonwealth Trust
- Anisha: Forbes 30U30 India, Asia
- CLiC: Change Engine Accelerator program | Earth Company Impact Hero program | Reimagine social impact climate action by Global Solution Initiative

geography of impact

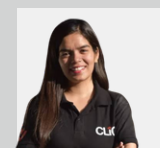
Rajasthan, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Uttarakhand

founders



Girish Mehta

University of Rajasthan
(BA)



Anisha Sharma

Delhi University
(BA)

Year Founded: 2021

<http://www.clicforum.org>

Hello@clicforum.org



"It is hard to find affordable healthcare for drivers like us. This clinic made it easy for me to take care of my health while on the job." Sheikh Arif, Heavy Goods Vehicle Driver

HumSafer Driver Safety



HumSafer promotes safer driving through monitoring, training, awareness and accountability.

The HumSafer Driver Safety Foundation is a road safety initiative focused on improving driver behaviour, reducing accidents and promoting safer transportation practices across the logistics and commercial vehicle industry. The organisation works with transporters, fleet owners, corporates and drivers to create a culture of safety through technology, training, awareness programs and performance monitoring. By tracking safety-related parameters, recognising driving and encouraging improvement, HumSafer helps organisations enhance driver well-being, protect assets and improve operational efficiency. Its mission is to make roads safer by fostering accountability, education and safety management within the transportation ecosystem.

impact

14K+

drivers vaccinated

11K

lives insured

7K

reach of health
check-ups and
safety coaching

recognitions

- Jehaan Kotwal: ITS India Road Safety Panel
- HumSafer: Featured on BBC News

geography of impact

Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu

founders



Jehaan Kotwal
FLAME University
(Entrepreneurship)



Sumedh Mane
University of Glasgow
(DIT.E)

Year Founded: 2019

humsafer.info

jehaan@goodmind.in



"I was so overwhelmed at first, but reading about others who had done this before made me feel like it was possible. Now, I have a clear plan and I know what steps I need to take." Khushi

I-Stem



Making education, information and employment accessible for persons with disabilities

Over 96% of websites remain inaccessible to assistive technology, locking persons with disabilities out of education, information and employment. I-Stem is building AI infrastructure to close that gap, founded by blind leaders with lived experience of inaccessibility. The platform delivers career discovery, adaptive learning, document accessibility conversion and task automation across inaccessible interfaces, supplemented by on-ground programs that ensure adoption and effective use. I-Stem has reached 64,000+ users through 70+ partner organisations across 15+ states, made 2.3 million pages accessible and is integrated into Sugamya Bharat, the government's national disability platform, helping users gain meaningful employment and live independent, dignified lives.

impact

23L

pages converted to
accessible formats

₹1.5Cr

collective income
earned

72%

users reporting
increase in confidence
and knowledge

recognitions

- Kartik Sawhney: Echoing Green | MIT Solve winner | Queen's Young Leader | UN Young Leader | Dalai Lama Fellowship
- Ford Global Fellowship 2026 | National Award for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities 2018

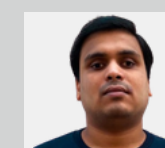
geography of impact

Pan India

founders



Kartik Sawhney
Stanford University (MS)



Shakul Sonker
Ashoka University (BSc)

Year Founded: 2019
inclusivestem.org
info@inclusivestem.org



"Migrating from Gonda to Ahmedabad, I wanted to build a better future while serving my community. With Online Saathi's training and support, I established my own digital service centre. Today, I help 100–200 people each month access banking, insurance, loans, government schemes and essential services while earning ₹10,000–₹12,000 per month. Online Saathi gave me the confidence to run my business and connect with customers beyond my network. My dream is to mentor more entrepreneurs, so every community has a trusted local Saathi." Rajesh Kumar

Online Saathi



Build India's largest last-mile network connecting every citizen to opportunities with trust and dignity

Online Saathi is a social enterprise building India's largest last-mile network of local entrepreneurs to connect underserved communities with essential opportunities. Through a technology-enabled platform and trained community entrepreneurs ("Saathis"), we provide access to government schemes, banking, remittances, insurance, employment, digital documentation and other essential services. Our model combines technology with trusted local support, making services accessible, affordable and inclusive. By empowering local entrepreneurs, Online Saathi creates sustainable livelihoods while advancing digital and financial inclusion and expanding access to essential public services for migrant workers and underserved communities across India.

impact

1.25K

services delivered
to citizen

1.8K

local entrepreneurs
on-boarded

60K

citizens accessed
Govt. benefits

recognitions

- Naresh: Brand ambassador, Jagriti Yatra
- Online Saathi: Incubatee, Atal Incubation Centre-Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini

geography of impact

Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh

founder



Naresh Sijapati
Gujarat University
(B.Com)

Year Founded: 2021

onlinesaathi.org
ceo@onlinesaathi.org



“The same trains that once meant begging, hawking, coal collection, humiliation and survival now carry us towards training, markets and livelihood-building. Through the Action Research Lab, we are beginning to reclaim public spaces, rebuild confidence and imagine futures beyond survival.”

- Rocky, Muskan and Rajjak

Community-led, data-driven, evidence-based ecosystem for dignity, justice and inclusive livelihoods

Pleqsus builds inclusive livelihood pathways through four interconnected verticals: Livelihoods; Policy Research & Advocacy through the Centre for Queer & Transgender Studies (CQTS); Awareness & Social Transformation through PROJECT KHAIRATI; and Health. Across these verticals, PLEQSUS combines community mobilisation, evidence generation, livelihood pilots, policy advocacy, legal awareness, health support and QT-BHARATH, an AI-enabled Digital Public Good (DPG). Working with 43 CBOs across 10 states, PLEQSUS strengthens grassroots institutions and community leadership, enabling transgender, gender-diverse, queer and GSM communities to access resources, opportunities, services and formal systems.

impact

40K

community
members
reached

43

community-based
organisations in their
network

9

livelihood
models piloted
or deployed

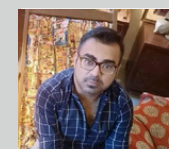
recognitions

- Pleqsus: national community and implementation partner by the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), under the Ministry of Rural Development, for advancing inclusive livelihood pathways for transgender and gender-diverse communities

geography of impact

Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal

founders



Avinaba Dutta

University of Ottawa
(graduate program)



Sudeb Suvana

Year Founded: 2019
avi.avinaba@pleqsus.org



'Didi, now I can take my mother to the market and make sure my sisters reach school safely. Buying my own scooty from my first salary felt like flying on two wheels — it gave me freedom I had only dreamed of.'

-Ritika bought her own Scooty, within a year of finishing her trauma informed fellowship.

Protsahan India



Rebuilding the lives of girls facing violence, exploitation and poverty, so they can stay safe, learn and dream again.

Protsahan India Foundation works at the intersection of child rights, trauma-informed care and systems strengthening. Over the last 15 years, the organisation has worked closely with adolescent girls experiencing violence, ultra-poverty, migration, child marriage and other forms of adversity to help them heal, stay in school and build self-reliant futures. Alongside direct care, Protsahan partners with families, frontline workers and government systems to strengthen child protection and prevent harm before it escalates. Through CareVerse, the organisation equips frontline responders with the knowledge, skills, tools and ongoing support to recognise adversity early, respond with confidence and improve outcomes for vulnerable girls.

impact

96K

adolescent
girls

99.7%

girls delayed marriage and
first pregnancy past 18 years

97%

girls completed
Class 12 or higher

recognitions

- Sonal Kapoor / Protsahan: Ashoka | Echidna Giving | Google Community Grant | Airbnb Community Fund
- Jaswinder Singh: Fellow, Data Science. University of Amsterdam.

geography of impact

Delhi, Bihar, Manipur, Assam

founders



Sonal Kapoor
CEO Protsahan



Jaswinder Singh
Executive Director,
Protsahan

Year Founded: 2010
protsahan.co.in
info@protsahan.co.in



“Coming from a rural background in Dharashiv, an Aspirational District in Maharashtra and being a first-generation college-goer, I had ambition but limited access to guidance, networks and exposure. Through SAMAVESH, I received mentoring not only for higher education but also for employability, industry readiness, community leadership, agency and livelihood pathways. The program helped me strengthen my communication, leadership and professional skills, while building the confidence to navigate academic and career opportunities.” Samadhan Galande

Samavesh Action For Impact



Enabling rural and marginalised youth, persons with disabilities and first-generation college-goers to access education, leadership and livelihoods.

SAMAVESH enables young people from rural and marginalised communities, persons with disabilities and first-generation college-goers to overcome barriers to education, livelihoods and civic participation. It supports access to scholarships, higher education, mentoring, digital skills, civic entrepreneurship and community leadership. Through a technology-enabled, community-based model integrating rights awareness, academic support, career guidance and livelihood training, SAMAVESH transforms eligibility into opportunity. Its work equips young people to build sustainable livelihoods, exercise leadership and break the cycle of poverty.

impact

5K

scholarship
recipients supported

₹13Cr

scholarship funding
unlocked

800

students assisted in
securing documents

recognitions

- Pravin: National Youth Award (GoI) | Maharashtra State Youth Award (Govt. of Maharashtra) | Ford Global Fellow | Acumen India Fellow | Chevening Scholar (LSE, UK Government) | Women Deliver Young Leader | Commonwealth Youth Worker Award – Asia Region Finalist | UNLEASH Innovation Talent | Chevening Volunteer Award (FCDO, UK Government)

geography of impact

Maharashtra and Jharkhand

founders



Pravin Nikam

London School of
Economics (MS Human
rights and economics)



Sidharth Hendre

MIT World Peace
University (BA Political
Science)

Year Founded: 2011

samaveshindia.org

pravinnikam@samaveshindia.org



"We always wanted to become independent and start a home-based microenterprise. After I became a part of a Self Help Group through Sol's ARC, I was supported for a loan which helped us make a down payment for an auto rickshaw and start a small business of homemade spices. Now we wish to work harder and take this business ahead for our future"

- Bharti Ben

Sol's ARC



Creating scalable learning solutions that meet diverse learning needs of all children

Sol's ARC enables sustainable livelihoods for persons with disabilities, guided by its vision, "Every Child Learns, Every Adult Earns." It challenges segregated approaches by embedding disability inclusion within mainstream livelihood and financial systems. It develops community-based models that enable persons with disabilities to access rights, government entitlements and financial services. Its work includes mobilising people into SHGs, strengthening access to credit and government schemes and supporting them to start or grow enterprises and local opportunities. In partnership with government, NGOs and community institutions, Sol's ARC demonstrates scalable models in the rural economy, enabling greater financial independence and dignity.

impact

255

PwDs mobilised
into SHGs

15K

PwDs impacted through
govt partnerships in
scale model

140

PwDs started
income generation

recognitions

- Sol's Arc: Nexus of Good Foundation Annual Award 2023 | DG4X Award at Data for Good Exchange 2023 | Inclusion Ke Sitaare Award 2025 | SIDBI Award for Best Practice in Employment of Persons with Disabilities | Ivey Case Studies: Sol's ARC: Developing Inclusive Workplaces for Neurodiverse Individuals 2022 | Case Study in TISS Gramodaya National Conference on Rural Development

geography of impact

Gujarat, Meghalaya

founder



Sonali Saini

SNDT University (M.Ed)

Year Founded: 2003

solsarc.ngo

sols.arc@solsarc.ngo

ecosystem & institutional strengthening



strengthening partnerships, systems and institutions for lasting change





Justice Manmohan Singh shares, “ As chief justice, one of the biggest challenges I face is the growing demand for stenographers, at a time when the available pool is limited. Adalat AI addresses this constraint to a large extent. Its speech-to-text capability frees up stenographers for other critical functions. I am deeply grateful to the Adalat AI team. This is precisely where AI should be used - it is the right application of the technology, one that directly responds to the needs of the justice system. In my view it will be a true game-changer.”

Adalat AI



Our mission to make timely and equitable justice a reality for all

Adalat AI is building end-to-end digital infrastructure to enable paperless courts. Deployed across 5,800+ courtrooms in 11 Indian states, covering approximately 24% of India’s judiciary, with statewide mandates in Kerala, Sikkim and Andhra Pradesh, it replaces fragmented paper-based workflows with integrated digital systems for filing, case registration, judicial workflows, multilingual courtroom transcription, document generation, digital signatures and litigant communication. Judges report 2–3× higher hearing throughput and 30–50% reductions in documentation time. Adalat AI augments judges and court staff by eliminating repetitive administrative work, enabling greater focus on judicial decision-making, while integrating with existing systems without requiring new courtroom hardware.

impact

5.8K

courtrooms
nationwide

38.5L

courtroom minutes
transcribed

1.15Cr

judicial minutes
saved

recognitions

- Utkarsh Saxena: Fast Forward Accelerator | Echoing Green | Mulago Rainer | Elevate Prize | Business World 40 under 40
- Arghya Bhattacharya: Forbes 30u30 | Mozilla Fellowship
- Adalat AI: India AI Innovation Challenge 2026 | Koita Foundation Tech Awards | Next Big Thing in Tech | LSE 100x Impact Accelerator | Harvard Presidents Innovation Challenge | Stanford Graduate School Case Study

geography of impact

Punjab, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi, Sikkim, Karnataka, Kerala, Bihar, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan

founders

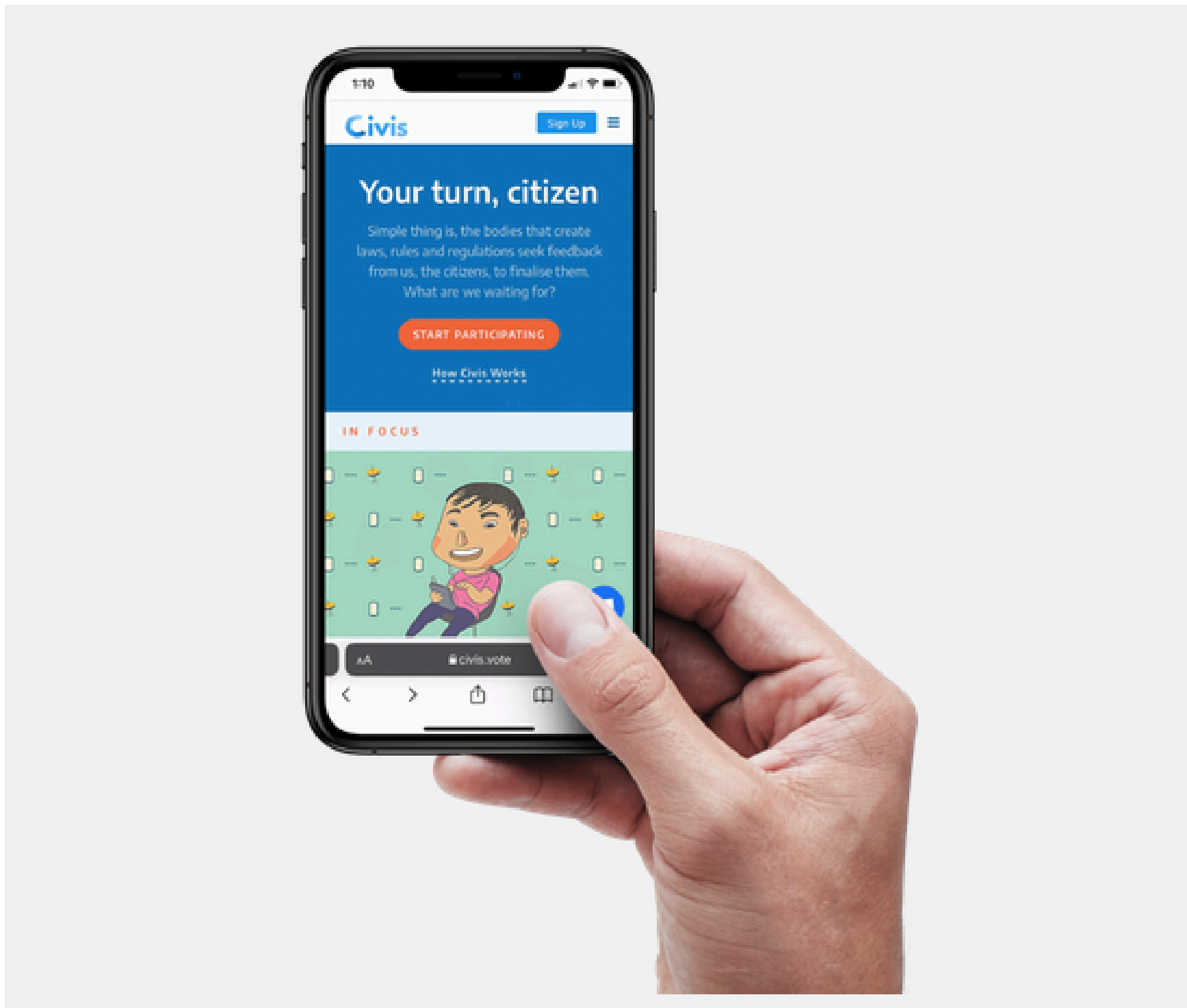


Utkarsh Saxena
PhD Candidate
(University of Oxford)



Arghya Bhattacharya
MSc (IIIT Hyderabad)

Year Founded: 2023
adalat.ai
rishi@adalat.ai



Civis seeks to increase citizen participation in the lawmaking process, to generate public awareness and provide education on issues of civic importance.

Civis

Empowering citizens to shape policy.

Civis is a civic technology platform that enables citizens in India to participate in government policymaking through public consultations. It simplifies complex draft laws and policies into easy-to-understand summaries, helping people provide informed feedback to lawmakers. Users can explore active consultations, discuss policy proposals and submit responses directly through the platform. They aim to make governance more transparent, inclusive and participatory by bridging the gap between citizens and the government. By encouraging public engagement in decision-making, Civis empowers individuals to shape policies that affect their lives and strengthens democratic participation across India.

impact

1.5K+

consultations
created on
civis

8L+

responses on the civis
platform

9L+

no. of citizens
engaged

recognitions

- Antaraa Vasudev: Forbes Asia 30 Under 30 | Ashoka Fellow | Asia Foundation Development Fellow | D-Prize – Distribution Entrepreneur / Winner
- Civis: Koita Foundation Tech Awards 2nd Prize | Agami Prize for Idea Prize Winner | Maharashtra StartUp Summit – State government recognition | Vibrant Gujarat StartUp Summit – State government recognition

geography of impact

Pan India

founder



Antaraa Vasudev
University of Mumbai
(LLB)

Year Founded: 2018

www.civis.vote
info@civis.vote



“After reading Anita ji’s Ground up story, Praveen Bhatt, who runs his own IT company, reached out to IDR with the intention of supporting the author. Recently, he contributed a total of ₹1 lakh (₹9,000 earlier and ₹91,000 later) to help Anita ji repay her bank loan. He is also working towards purchasing her honey in the future through his company.”

Anita Dhakad

India Development Review



Democratising access to knowledge

India Development Review (IDR) believes that knowledge is a powerful catalyst for change and that diverse voices and lived experiences should shape the social sector. By publishing insights, research and practical lessons from practitioners, policymakers, funders and community leaders, IDR democratises access to high-quality knowledge. The platform fosters informed dialogue, collaboration and learning across the development ecosystem, helping organisations make better decisions and amplify impact. Through accessible, practitioner-led content, IDR strengthens the social sector by ensuring that valuable knowledge is shared, recognised and available to everyone working to create change.

impact

20M	2.3K	10
reach (per month)	authors/contributors	marginalisations

recognitions

- Smarinita: Marico Innovation Awards 2023 | Fortune Most Powerful Women - US State Department cohort 2024 (only 1 selected from India)

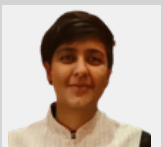
geography of impact

Pan India

founders



Smarinita Shetty
NMIMS (MBA)



Devanshi Vaid
Bryn Mawr College (BA)



Rachita Vora
University of Cambridge (MBA)

Year Founded: 2017
idronline.org
writetous@idronline.org



“I had a property issue and one of my friends introduced me to OutLawed India. With their help, I was able to start the legal process for the property issue and it was very useful for me. My eagerness to learn more made me join the paralegal training with OutLawed India. From being a client of a paralegal, I have become a paralegal myself! After this training, I now know how to help people in my community who need support, how to assist with documents, how to guide people and how to provide counselling to the concerned person.” Madhav Manchanda, Volunteer from Uttarakhand

Making the law accessible to all.

OutLawed India is a not-for-profit organisation working towards enabling last mile justice delivery. They train and deploy community paralegal volunteers who provide free legal aid. From assisting domestic violence victims with drafting and registering a police complaint to drafting and sending legal notices for wage recovery to assisting victims of child sexual abuse, these paralegals serve as a bridge between law and underserved communities.

Across 2025 and 2026, OutLawed India designed and implemented Karnataka's first state-wide paralegal volunteer training initiative.

impact

3K+

paralegal
volunteers trained

6K+

people reached through
legal awareness and legal
aid camps

1K+

free legal services
rendered every
year

recognitions

- Vibha Nadig: Forbes 30 Under 30 | INK Fellow | TEDx

geography of impact

Karnataka

founder



Vibha Nadig
NLSIU (BA LLB)

Year Founded: 2019
outlawedindia.com
contact@outlawedindia.com



Manjubai from Shelkui, Maharashtra says, "I was able to add a room to my house to ensure adequate space for my children, without having to incur any debt."

Project DEEP



Reshaping welfare in India with direct cash transfers for inclusive growth.

Project DEEP operates at the intersection of policy and practice to catalyse inclusive welfare systems that maximise economic outcomes for 300 million vulnerable citizens in India. It operates across three key focus areas: direct unconditional cash transfers, research and analysis of cash transfer schemes and partnerships with state governments on welfare design and delivery. Through its work, it has so far disbursed INR 5.5 crore to communities, enabling asset creation and income enhancement; published India’s first consolidated analysis of cash transfer schemes, and partnered with the governments of Maharashtra and Punjab to strengthen welfare delivery.

impact

₹5.5Cr

funds
disbursed

3.5K

lives directly
benefitted

₹4.4Cr

utilised by program
participants in asset
creation and livelihood
enhancement

recognitions

- Project DEEP: Change Engine Accelerator | Featured in Harvard Business Review | Charity Entrepreneurship Fellowship | Authored 'Unconditional Cash Transfers in India: Tracing the journey, shaping the future'

geography of impact

Maharashtra and Rajasthan

founders



Muzamil Baig
TIMSR (PGDM)



Pankhuri Shah
HSNC University
(MCom CFA)

Year Founded: 2023
project-deep.org
info@project-deep.org



Sargun Kaur, Researcher at Prosperiti, presented key findings on land, building, and approvals reforms to unlock tourism growth at a national workshop and the launch of NITI Aayog and the Ministry of Tourism's report, Unlocking Growth in the Tourism and Hospitality Sector: Recommendations for Non-Financial Regulatory Reforms.

Building state capacity to drive economic freedom in India

Prosperiti is a public-purpose organisation driving economic freedom across Indian states. It started its journey to lift a billion people into prosperity. It is on a mission to catalyse a series of 1991-like reforms at the state level so that entrepreneurs can create more jobs and workers can earn more. It produces actionable insights on state-level regulation, identifies opportunities for reforms, helps build policy consensus and supports governments in implementing systematic deregulation. It releases issue-specific State of Regulation reports and bi-weekly broadcasts to help states make informed decisions. In partner states, it provides design, drafting and execution support. For the near term, their focus is to reform labour and land use regulations.

impact

3

'lighthouse'
states
supported

30+

reforms
facilitated

8

citations in
Economic Survey
2023-24 and 2024-25

recognitions

- Prosperiti: Winner of Emergent Ventures award by the Mercatus Centre in 2021

geography of impact

Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Telangana, Tamil Nadu

founders



Bhuvana Anand
Fletcher School at Tufts
University (MA)



Baishali Bomjan
University Of North
Bengal (MSc)

Year Founded: 2022
prosperiti.org.in
baishali@prosperiti.org.in



"I always knew I liked working with wood, but I never imagined it could become my livelihood. At CMYC, I found the tools, guidance and encouragement to improve my skills. The nano grant has helped me take the next step towards opening a workshop of my own." Elvistar Pyngrope, Chief Minister Youth Centre

Sauramandala



Accelerate social and economic change in underserved communities through collaborations.

Sauramandala Foundation (SMF) is a Bengaluru-registered nonprofit working across Meghalaya and the Northeast to accelerate social and economic change through collaborative action. Its Centre for Accelerated Development (CFAD) approach helps communities understand challenges, co-design and test solutions, generate evidence and support adoption within larger systems alongside governments, civil society and local institutions. Under the World Bank-funded MPOWER project, SMF is scaling Chief Minister's Youth Centres from 22 to 42, expanding access to learning, skills, sports, counselling, innovation and entrepreneurship. Its work also includes Forgotten Folklore, DRIVE incubation and testing distributed clean energy for remote, off-grid communities.

impact

42

Chief Minister
Youth Centres
installed

66

books produced
under Forgotten
Folklore Project

₹160 Cr

funds mobilised
(~40x leveraged
on initial funding)

recognitions

- Nagakarthik MP- Acumen Fellow | Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship & Jubilant Bhartia Foundation, Finalist for Social Entrepreneur of the Year (SEoY), India, 2025
- Sauramandala: World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) Best Innovator 2026

geography of impact

Assam, Karnataka, Meghalaya, Nagaland,

founders



Nagakarthik MP
Sir M.V.I.T (B.E)



Neil Kamat
M.S. Ramaiah Institute
of Technology (B.E)

Year Founded: 2018

sauramandala.org

info@sauramandala.org



*Akshay Anand, Sr Director Fundraising & Partnerships, Make a Difference
program: Fundshui, Tech4Good Community*

*“The collaborative FR system is intriguing, I’ve been working on a model myself. I would love to connect,
learn and share some insights.”*

Building the digital backbone of the social impact sector through open-source infrastructure, systems integration and capacity building.

Social impact initiatives are often expected to adapt to tools and systems that were never designed for their realities. Limited budgets, lean teams, fragmented workflows and dependence on external vendors frequently leave organisations navigating technology that adds complexity rather than reducing it. Tech4Good Community (T4GC) was created to address this gap. It has grown into a national community of more than 2500 non-profits across India. Through capacity building, technology stewardship, open-source infrastructure and ecosystem partnerships, the organisation supports social change initiatives in making informed technology decisions while avoiding costly vendor lock-ins.

impact

40

no. of tools
trained

100

no. of events and cap
building workshops
conducted

3000

tech training and
mentorship
hours

recognitions

- Rinju Rajan: Acumen Fellow 2025 | Winner the Digital Women Awards in 2023, Impact Category by shethepeople
- Anusha Bhargava: Rockefeller's Big Bets Fellowship Asia Pacific 2025

geography of impact

Pan India

founders



Rinju Rajan

IIT Madras, Masters in
Development Studies



Anusha Bhargava

University of Sussex-
International Relations



Akhila Somanath

Deakin University MBA

Year Founded: 2018

tech4goodcommunity.com

hello@tech4goodcommunity.com



“As a PONIC, with the support of my colleagues & WAIC, we evaluated the cases of children who have been living in Child Care Institutions for many years. In the category of no visitation of their guardians and with huge support of WAIC, we identified 5 children and they have all come into the adoption pool. In this, two children are reserved by the PAPs. I think this is the first NGO to promote legal adoption.

Thank you WAIC.”

- Protection Officer Non-Institutional Care, Nagarkurnool District, Telangana

Where are India's Children



Working for a child's right to a family through adoption for children in CCIs

Where are India's children (WAIC) works to ensure that orphaned and abandoned children living in Child Care Institutions (CCIs) have the opportunity to grow up in permanent, loving families through adoption. The organisation identifies children eligible for adoption, supports the legal processes required to declare them adoptable and facilitates their inclusion on the Mission Vatsalya adoption portal. WAIC collaborates with government agencies, Child Care Institutions and adoption agencies to strengthen adoption systems, improve data transparency, build stakeholder capacity and enable every child's right to a family.

impact

25K

digitised
children in CCI

255

children adopted who
reached families

560

children declared
legally free for
adoption by CWC

recognitions

- WAIC: D4GX Awards (Dasra) | Agami Finalist

geography of impact

Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana

founders



Meera Marthi

NIIT (Diploma in IT)



Protima Sharma

IISc (MBA HR)



Smriti Gupta

Indian School of
Business (MBA)

Year Founded: 2019

waic.in

meera@waic.in

*our latest cohort of the incubator
July 2026 to March 2027*



In

Jann16

Enabling access to justice through conversational AI solutions

Jann16 builds AI-powered, multilingual, audio-enabled legal chatbot assistants on WhatsApp, co-created with lawyers, NGOs and technology partners. Their tools help individuals understand their rights in simple language, while enabling NGO field workers and helplines to deliver consistent "legal first aid" at scale without building parallel infrastructure. Currently operating through partnerships across Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Delhi and Tamil Nadu, it aims to build a network of 100+ NGOs reaching over one million people.

year of incorporation

2026

website

jann16.org

email id

contact@setu.law

founders



Avanti Durani

Mumbai University (LLB)



Prashant Mara

NLSIU (LLB)

Slam Labs

AI-enabled maths learning inside government schools

SLAM Labs embeds a pedagogy-first, AI-enabled learning system inside government-school schedules, working within the system rather than around it. Every topic follows a Concrete-Pictorial-Visualisation-Abstract progression. Instructional Language Models generate visual explainers in the child's own language, on demand. The 2024–25 pilot recorded up to 42% gains in conceptual understanding, with 80 schools and 11,000+ students already confirmed through government partnerships for 2026–27. It aims to reach 1M+ children by 2031.

year of incorporation

2024

website

slamlabs.org

email id

info@slamlabs.org

founders



Madhumita Halder

IIT B (BTech)



Rajat Dhariwal

IIT B (BTech)

Mangai

Creating aspirational jobs in Tier 2 and 3 cities through SME growth

Mangai works with small and medium businesses (SMEs). Mangai helps business grow by improving Managerial Capacity, CEO coaching and Market Access. SME growth in turn will create quality local jobs for youth and women in tier 2 and 3 cities. They are currently testing viable solutions to solve this problem at scale.

year of incorporation

2026

website

mangai.co

email id

reachout@mangai.co.in

Sama

Bridging digital divide through repurposed devices

Sama Digital Foundation systematically connects corporate end-of-life devices to community needs to unlock learning and livelihoods. Their model manages the complete lifecycle in-house : handling device sourcing, rigorous technical assessment, repair, data wiping and formal certification. By creating an accessible digital infrastructure layer first, they enable long-term learning, micro-entrepreneurship and sustainable income-generation opportunities directly for underserved women and youth across India.

year of incorporation

2024

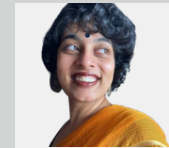
website

thesama.in

email id

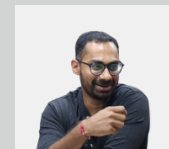
operations@thesama.in

founders



Shruthi Iyer

VTU (BE)

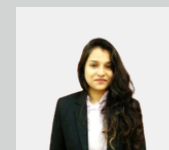


Krishna N.

Venkitaraman

HEC Paris (MBA)

founder



Manisha Sinha

Delhi School of
Economics (MBA)

Shifu

Empowering founders from underserved Tier 2+ districts to build revenue-earning companies

The Shifu Fellow program aims to support driven early-stage founders from India's underserved districts through three forms of support: early funding, access to follow-on capital and up to ₹1 crore in startup credits, alongside bootcamps, mentorship, storytelling support and warm introductions. It will be delivered by builders who have navigated these same barriers. Bihar, Jharkhand and Andhra Pradesh are Shifu's priority states for groundlevel work, alongside online outreach across India. The ambition: support 15,000 fellows within the next 5 years

year of incorporation	website	email id	founders
2025	shifufoundation.org	contact@shifufoundation.org	 <u>Mausmi Ambastha</u> NIFT (MF Tech)  <u>Sri Maneru</u> NIT Warangal (BTech)  <u>Prateek Sethi</u> BIT Mesra (BTech)



N/12 Kickoff bootcamp (above), D/1 Kickoff bootcamp (below)



N/12 Kickoff bootcamp (above), N/10 Soirée (below)

recognitions & awards

Mulago

Tony Senanayake | Fortify Health | 2025
Utkarsh Saxena | Adalat AI | 2024
Safiya Husain | Karya | 2024
Richa Gupta | Labhya | 2023
Shruthi Iyer | FMCH | 2023
Samina Bano | RightWalk | 2023
Krutika Ravishankar | Farmers4Forests | 2023
Namya Mahajan | Rocket Learning | 2022
Merlia Shaukath | Madhi | 2022
Vikas Birhma | Gramhal | 2021
Varsha Venugopal | Suvita | 2021
Dilip Pattubala | Uninhibited | 2021
Kruti Bharucha | Peepul | 2020
Neha Verma | Intelehealth | 2019

DRK

Karya | 2024
Adalat AI | 2024
Labhya | 2022
Rocket Learning | 2021
Intelehealth | 2021
Peepul | 2020

Ashoka

Antaraa Vasudev | Civis | 2025
Girish Mehta | CLiC | 2025
Krutika Ravishankar | F4F | 2025
Aditya Vishwanath | MakerGhat | 2024
Raju Kendre | Eklavya | 2024
Khushboo Awasthi | Mantra4Change | 2023
Sonal Kapoor | Protsahan | 2023
Merlia Shaukath | Madhi | 2022
Madhukar Banuri | LFE | 2019
Abhinav Agrawal | Anahad | 2019
Shailabh Kumar | Uplift Mutuals | 2018
Neelkanth Mishra | Jaljeevika | 2017
Samina Bano | RightWalk | 2015
Amitav Virmani | TEA | 2015
Kuldeep Dantewadia | Reap Benefit | 2013

MIT Solve

NavGurukul | 2026 (Winner), 2022 (Finalist)
MakerGhat | 2024
Adalat AI | 2024
Rocket Learning | 2021
Khushi Baby | 2019

Echoing Green

Surabhi Yadav | Sajhe Sapne | 2025
Raju Kendre | Eklavya | 2024
Kartik Sawhney | I-Stem | 2024
Utkarsh Saxena | Adalat AI | 2024
Dr. Darshana Joshi | VigyanShaala | 2023
Manu Chopra | Karya | 2023
Jigyasaa Labroo | Slam Out Loud | 2023
Shaman Gupta | Misfyt | 2022
Dr. Ruha Shadab | Led By | 2022
Hemakshi Meghani | ISD | 2022
Vikas Birhma | Gramhal | 2019

Impact 100x Accelerator

Fortify Health | 2026
Adalat AI | 2025
Khushi Baby | 2025
RightWalk | 2024
Peepul | 2024
Reap Benefit | 2024
Gramhal | 2023
Intelehealth | 2023
Karya | 2023
Labhya | 2023
Rocket Learning | 2023

HundrED

Manzil Mystics | 2026, 2023 & 2022
Slam Out Loud | 2026, 2022 & 2021
Launch Girls | 2026, Winner, Youth Choice Feature, 2025
Anthill Creations | 2025, 2024 & 2022
Protsahan | 2025, 2024, 2022 & 2021
Labhya | 2024, 2023 & 2022
MakerGhat | 2023
Pi-Jam | 2022, 2023, 2025
Saturday Art Class | 2022
Swataleem | 2022
Reap Benefit | 2022, 2021
Rocket Learning | 2022

Fast Forward

Farmers for Forests | 2024
Adalat AI | 2024
Karya | 2023
Gramhal | 2022
Rocket Learning | 2021
Intelehealth | 2016

recognitions & awards

Acumen

Arup Kumar | AVA Creations | 2025
Shipra Srivastava | RightWalk | 2025
Aditya Avinashe | F4F | 2025
Divya Hegde | Baeru | 2024
Bimal Lakra | Sarvodaya | 2024
Saumya Agarwal | Barefoot | 2024
Surabhi Yadav | Sajhe Sapne | 2024
Ashish Srivastava | Shikharth | 2016
Bharat Sharma | Dakshas | 2016
Samina Bano | RightWalk | 2018
Shoaib Dar | Pi Jam | 2022
Neha Sahu | Launch Girls | 2022
Nivedita Rai | Karghewale | 2019
Nagakarthik MP | Sauramandala | 2023
Gauri Malik | Skilled Samaritan | 2024
Dilip Pattubala | Uninhibited | 2016
Rinju Rajan | Tech4Good | 2025
Shruthi Iyer | FMCH | 2016

Acumen Angels

Neha Sahu | Launch Girls | 2024
Zubin Sharma | Project Potential | 2023
Nivedita Rai | Karghewale | 2022
Shravan Jha | I-Saksham | 2022
Samina Bano | RightWalk | 2023
Shruthi Iyer | FMCH | 2023
Hemakshi Meghani | ISD | 2023

Distinguished Alumni Award

Sanjay Dalmia | IIT Delhi | 2026
Surabhi Yadav | UC Berkeley | 2024
Samina Bano | IIMB | 2023
Bhagwan Kesbhat | NMIMS | 2020
Reinu Shah | Scindia Kanya Vidyalaya | 2015

BW Businessworld 40U40

Utkarsh Saxena | Adalat AI | 2025
Abhishek Gupta | NavGurukul | 2024
Pankaj Sharma | Transform Schools | 2023
Khusboo Awasthi | Mantra4Change | 2022
Aziz Gupta | Rocket Learning | 2022
Kruti Bharucha | Peepul | 2019
Amruta Bahulekar | Peepul | 2018

Forbes 30U30

Manu Chopra | Karya | 2025
Vibha Nadig | OutLawed | 2025
Siddesh Sakore | Agro Rangers | 2025
Arghya Bhattacharya | Adalat AI | 2025
Azra Ismail | MakerGhat | 2023
Richa Gupta | Labhya | 2023
Vishal Sunil | Rocket Learning | 2023
Jigyasa Labroo | Slam Out Loud | 2022
Aditya Vishwanath | MakerGhat | 2022
Namya Mahajan | Rocket Learning | 2022
Raju Kendre | Eklavya | 2022
Siddhant Sachdeva | Rocket Learning | 2022
Antaraa Vasudev | CIVIS | 2021
Piyush Verma | Manush Labs | 2021
Abhishek Dubey | Muskaan Dreams | 2019
Abhishek Gupta | NavGurukul | 2020
Alina Alam | Mitti Cafe | 2020
Vikas Birmha | Gramhal | 2020
Abhinav Agarwal | Anahad | 2019
Ruchit Nagar | Khushi Baby | 2016
Kuldeep Dantewadia | Reap Benefits | 2014
Girish Mehta | CLiC | 2026
Anisha Sharma | CLiC | 2026

Data For Good Exchange

Waatavarani | 2023
CIVIS | 2023
Sol's ARC | 2023
Karya | 2022
Where are India's Children | 2022
FMCH | 2022
Uninhibited | 2021

Women Transforming India Award — NITI Aayog

Alina Alam | Mitti Cafe | 2021
Dr. Darshana Joshi | VigyanShaala | 2021
Gauri Malik | Skilled Samaritan | 2021
Khushboo Awasthi | Skilled Samaritan | 2021
Samina Bano | Skilled Samaritan | 2021

Chevening

Samina Bano | Gurukul Fellow | 2023
Raju Kendre | Scholarship | 2021
Pravin Nikam | 2020

our mentors



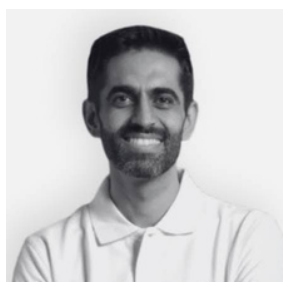
Abhijit Patwardhan | Founder, AltLyf

Abhi is Founder of Alt Lyf and author of Painting Your Retirement Canvas. With 25+ years of global leadership across technology and FMCG, including HP and Lexmark, he applies design thinking to career and life transitions. He is also a social innovation coach with Dalai Lama Fellows. An IIM Bangalore and Stanford school alumnus, mentor, adviser, sailor, dog trainer and trustee, he champions purposeful longevity.



Arti Ahuja | IAS [retd], Ex- Union Secretary Labour and Employment

Arti Ahuja is a retired IAS officer with 34+ years in public administration, policy and program management across key ministries. She led major reforms in worker welfare, nutrition, women's empowerment and India's COVID-19 response. A Harvard and Princeton alumna, she now contributes to academia and advises on women's issues, health and nutrition.



Atul Satija | Founder Mentor, The/Nudge

Atul Satija is Founder Mentor of The/Nudge, founded to advance resilient livelihoods towards a poverty-free India. He guides its strategic direction, bringing two decades of experience across entrepreneurship, technology, sales and business development. Before this, he spent five years at InMobi, helping scale it into a global leader in mobile advertising and earlier led Google's mobile business for Japan and Asia-Pacific. He holds a B.Tech from NIT and an MBA from ISB.



Gopichand Katragadda | Founder and CEO, Myelin Foundry

Dr. Gopichand Katragadda is Founder and CEO of Myelin Foundry and an Independent Director at Bosch India, Asian Paints and ICICI Securities. Former Group CTO and Innovation Head at Tata Group and CMD of GE India Technology Centre, he has led major technology and R&D initiatives. Gopi holds BE, MS and PhD degrees in Electrical Engineering.



Jugal Mohapatra | Non-Executive Chairman, Shriram Finance Ltd. & Padraka Foundation

Jugal Mohapatra brings over 37 years of public administration experience, including serving as Secretary to the Chief Minister, Principal Secretary (Finance), Development Commissioner and Chief Secretary of Odisha. He also served as Secretary of Fertilisers and Rural Development, Government of India. He holds master's degrees in Economics from Delhi School of Economics and Boston University and a Ph.D. from XIM University.

our mentors



Jagdeesh Puppala | CEO, Living Landscapes

Jagdeesh Puppala is a thought leader at the interconnected spaces of ecology, equity and economy, with 40 years of experience in systems thinking and grassroots action. Former CEO of the Foundation for Ecological Security, he currently leads Living Landscapes. A Skoll Award winner, Henry Arnhold Conservation Fellow and Senior Ashoka Fellow.



K R Lakshminarayana (Lan) | Chief Endowment Officer, Azim Premji Foundation

Lan set up one of India's first endowment funds, at the Azim Premji Foundation, to sponsor various philanthropic activities in the areas of education, grants, healthcare and other areas of development. He currently manages investments of the multi-billion-dollar endowment while playing a governance and strategy role at the Foundation. Lan is an MBA and PhD from IIM Lucknow and has previously served as Chief Strategy Officer and Head of M&A for Wipro Technologies.



Maneesh Dhir | Former Managing Director, Apple India

Maneesh Dhir is a Board member of The/Nudge Institute. A large part of Maneesh's career has been in building growth businesses, in both corporate and entrepreneurial leadership capacities, with significant stints in both Silicon Valley and India. He holds an MBA from Stanford University and is an alumnus of University of California, Los Angeles and IIT, Delhi.



Nikunj Jhaveri | Chairman & Founder Systems Plus Group of Companies

Nikunj Jhaveri is Founder and Chairman of Systems Plus Group, bringing extensive IT and leadership experience, including as CIO at PepsiCo Asia. Since 1987, he has championed 'giving back,' directing profits toward health, education, livelihoods and marginalised communities. An IIT Bombay alumnus, Nikunj also supports non-profits and leads Rotary service and fundraising initiatives in Mumbai.



Paresh Parasnis | Former CEO, Piramal Foundation

Paresh Parasnis, a chartered accountant, is the former CEO of Piramal Foundation, where he drove innovative solutions for large-scale social impact. Previously Executive Director & COO of HDFC Standard Life, he serves on several non-profit boards. He holds a B.Com from Mumbai University and is a Fellow Chartered Accountant.

our mentors



Piyush Shah | Co-Founder, InMobi

Piyush Shah mentors and invests in founders who build at the intersection of tech, innovation, purpose and impact. He is strongly driven by the purpose of 'unlocking the fullest potential in people' especially students, youth and entrepreneurs with a mission to unlock their "Ikigai" or "unique game," the point where purpose, success and joy converge. He has invested in 45-50 startups as an angel and is a board member of the^delta.



Raj Gilda | Co-founder, Lend A Hand India

Raj Gilda spent two decades optimising spreadsheets at Citibank, Deloitte, NSE and Tech Mahindra in New York and Mumbai, presumably including his retirement plan. In 2011 he quit to offer vocational education in government schools. As Co-founder of Lend A Hand India, he partners with state governments, reaching 20+ states, 2M+ students yearly. Plus: a Chevening scholarship, a UT Austin MBA and an ornamental engineering degree.



Rekha Koita | Co-Founder, Koita Foundation

Rekha Koita is Director and Co-Founder of Koita Foundation, focused on digital health adoption and NGO transformation in India. With experience at Accenture and Mind Matters, she leads efforts to strengthen NGO processes, technology, scale and outcomes. An IIT Bombay Distinguished Services Award recipient, Rekha holds degrees from IIT Bombay and Carnegie Mellon University.



Richa Goswami | Non Executive Board Member, EQT AB

Richa Goswami is a global marketing leader who currently serves on the board of EQT. Previously, she held a senior leadership role at Johnson & Johnson. At Fidelity International, she became the company's first-ever Global Chief Marketing and Brand Officer. At HSBC, she was its first-ever Global Chief Marketing and Customer Officer. Recognised as one of the world's top 5 CMOs in 2019, she holds a Master's in Business Administration.



Samit Ghosh | Founder, Ujjivan Small Finance Bank

Samit Ghosh is Founder of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank and served as its Managing Director and CEO until 2019. A banker for over 40 years, he began at Citibank and led retail banking launches for Standard Chartered in the Middle East & South Asia and HDFC Bank. He serves as Chairman of Parinaam Foundation. He is an alumni of Jadavpur University and Wharton School.

our mentors



Sushant Dash | CEO Tata Starbucks

Sushant Dash, CEO of Tata Starbucks, brings 28 years of consumer and retail experience. He spearheaded Starbucks' India launch in 2012 and previously drove growth at Tata Consumer Products. A MICA alumnus, Sushant has received multiple leadership and marketing accolades and is passionate about human connections and marathon running.



Sushma Rajagopalan | Partner at Rittenhouse Ventures and the Co-founder of 2ndCareers

Sushma Rajagopalan is a global IT leader and venture capitalist with 25+ years of experience transforming companies. A Partner at Rittenhouse Ventures, she serves on non-profit and technology boards and mentors startups through Harvard Innovation Lab and PACT. Previously MD & CEO of ITC Infotech, she also held leadership roles at LiquidHub and L&T Infotech. She adopts a portfolio career as a VC, an entrepreneur and a mentor to many Startups especially women.



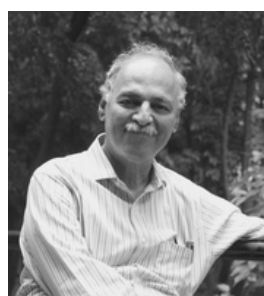
SK Jain | Founder, RatnaTraya Capital

Surendra Kumar Jain is Founder of RatnaTraya Capital and Co-Founder and former Managing Director of Westbridge Capital and Sequoia Capital India, with 25+ years of investment experience across public markets, private equity and venture capital in India. He is an alumnus of IIM Ahmedabad, IIT Delhi and the University of Minnesota and a Trustee of Plaksha University



T Koshy | Former Founding MD & CEO, ONDC

Thampy Koshy is a globally recognised expert in Digital Public Infrastructure and Digital Transformation, with 30+ years of experience. An IIM Bangalore alumnus, he has contributed to Aadhaar, CoWIN, GST, pension systems and the Tax Information Network. As founding MD of ONDC, he conceptualized and implemented India's pioneering open digital commerce network. At present Koshy is acting as a mentor to Indonesia Open Network an initiative in line with ONDC of India.



Ujwal Thakar | Former CEO, Pratham India Education Initiative

Ujwal Thakar is a banker and social-sector leader with 28 years of experience across leading institutions including SBI, Standard Chartered, BNP Paribas and Times Bank. He has served as CEO of Pratham and GiveIndia and has been an adviser to KPMG & PwC's BFSI practice. He is the Chairman of the board of Educate Girls the 2025 Ramon Magsaysay award winners and also serves on several non-profit boards. Ujwal holds a Masters degree in Physics and Biochemistry.

our mentors



Umakant Soni | Cofounder, Bharat1.ai

Umakant Soni, Cofounder of Bharat1.ai, has over 16 years of experience across 50+ AI and robotics ventures in India. He co-founded ARTPARK, AI Foundry and pi Ventures and has contributed to shaping India's national AI strategy, including the NM-ICPS and IndiaAI missions. He also served as an expert on India's behalf at the Global Partnership on AI. His work focuses on building human-centric approaches to AI development. He is also a noted keynote speaker on AI and deep tech innovation across emerging markets.



Vivek Mathur | Former Operating Partner, Elevation Capital

Vivek is a former operating partner at Elevation Capital. He assists portfolio companies scale by working with them on matters such as finance, operations, compliance and structuring. He has over 30 years of deep operational experience in finance, banking and strategy. He has previously worked at Standard Chartered and headed Dell's Global Contact Centres in India. Vivek has a B.E. from BITS Pilani & an MBA from the University of Iowa.



Vikas Agnihotri | Former Operating Partner SoftBank

Vikas is a Former Operating Partner at SoftBank Investment Advisers and Former Managing Director at Google India. He is currently on the board of Hindustan Media Ventures Ltd. He was previously a board member at Paytm, Lenskart, FirstCry, GlobalBees and InMobi. Earlier in his career, he was CEO of Religare Macquarie, with roles at Standard Chartered and Deutsche Bank. He studied management at Sydenham Institute, Mumbai University.



Ziaa Lalkaka | ED & CEO, HT Parekh Foundation

Ziaa Lalkaka is the Executive Director & CEO of the H T Parekh Foundation which works across initiatives focused on Urban Climate change (flagship), Children's literature and reading and Disability. After close to 2 decades spent in the corporate financial sector in audit, M&A advisory and real estate private equity, she transitioned to the development sector in 2014 to establish and lead (erstwhile) HDFC Ltd's philanthropic arm. She also served on Ashoka University's Board and is a Chartered Accountant by academic qualification.

ecosystem supporters

A big thank you to our ecosystem supporters who have generously shared their time, expertise and networks to strengthen our nonprofits and the wider sector — from shaping selection and mentoring cohorts, to leading sessions, sharing perspectives and opening doors to their broader ecosystems.

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- Abhinav Katiyar | Shiksha.com
- Abhishek Bharadwaj | 10x Impact Labs
- Abhishek Jain | Swasth
- Abhishek Nandy | PrediQT Business
- Abhishek Singh | IAS
- Addie Achan | Fast Forward
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- Aditya Bhatt | Aria
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- Aditya Tyagi | i-Saksham
- Ajaita Shah | Frontier Markets
- Ajay Nair | Swasth
- Akash Raman | Consultant
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- Akhila Somanath | Tech4Good
- Akila Krishnakumar | SVP
- Akshay Soni | The/Nudge
- Akshay Trivedi | The X Fractor
- Akshay V | EdZola
- Alina Alam | Mitti Cafe
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- Asma Kathiwala | RoundGlass
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- Atul Satija | The/Nudge
- Avantika Sinha | Leadership Consultant
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- Aviral Apurva | NuSocia
- Balasubramanya R | CEGIS
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- Bela Shah | Wisdom Leadership
- Bhairavi M Shibulal | Ekara Global
- Bharath Sondur | The/Nudge IAF
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- Bikash Chowdhury | Intuit India
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- Chetna Gala Sinha | Mann Deshi Bank
- Chinmay Sengupta | AirV Labs LLP
- Chitresh Sinha | The Plated Project
- CV Madhukar | Omidyar
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- Dr. Darshana Joshi | VigyanShaala
- David Menezes | People+AI
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- Debleena Majumdar | Kahaniyah
- Deepa Nagraj | Mphasis
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- Dhaval Udani | Danmojo
- Dilip Kandlur | Google
- Dilip Pattubala | Uninhibited
- Divya Hegde | Baeru
- Divya Khemani Wadhera | Meta
- Dr KP Krishnan | IAS (Retd)

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- Dr. Debasish Mitter | MSDf
- Dr. Dimple Bahl | NIFT Delhi
- Dr. Gaurav Aggarwal | Reliance Jio, India
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- Dr. Gayathri Vasudevan | LabourNet
- Dr. Gopichand Katragadda | Myelin Foundry
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- Dr. M Beena | IAS
- Dr. Manjunatha A. V | GoK
- Dr. Nachiket Mor | Banyan Academy
- Dr. Nidhi Pundhir | HCL Foundation
- Dr. Ranjan Banerjee | BITSoM
- Dr. Rehan Shahed | ARTPARK at IISc
- Dr. Sekhar Bonu | NITI Aayog
- Dr. Shalini Rajneesh | IAS, CS, GoK
- Dr. Suruchi Mittar | Invest India
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- Gauri Chandra | Positive Momentum
- Gautam John | RNP
- Gautham Ravichander | eGov Foundation
- Gayatri Gokate | The X Fractor
- Geetha Manjunathan | Niramai Health
- Gelya Sequeira | Educate Girls
- Gunish Chawla | Amazon
- Gurkaram Singh | The/Nudge
- Hanisha Vaswani | Majority Fund
- Harish Hande | Selco
- Harmeet Sehgal | The/Nudge
- Harminder Sahni | Wazir Advisors
- Indrani Handa | The Bridgespan Group
- Jack Kelsey | Jasmine Social Ventures
- Jagadish Babu | EkStep Foundation
- Jagdeesh Puppala | Living Landscapes
- Jayant Rastogi | MagicBus
- Jayashree Braganza | Chrysalyst
- Jigar Doshi | ArtPark
- John Paul | The/Nudge
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- Jyotika Sehra | Srujna
- Kadambari Anantram | Sambodhi
- Kailash Nadh | Zerodha
- Kamakshi Rao | Ankur Capital
- Kannan Balakrishnan | Wells Fargo
- Kaoshal Kumar | NSE
- Karan Napgal | IDInsight
- Karthik Subramanian | Nimida Group
- Kartik Sawhney | I-Stem
- Kevin Brown | Mighty Aly
- Kezia Yonzon | Sambodhi
- Khushboo Awasthi | Mantra4Change
- Kirthiga Reddy | Verix
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- Kruti Bharucha | Peepul
- Krutika Ravishankar | Farmers for Forests
- Kshitija Krishnaswami | Accenture
- Kurush Irani | Bajaj Finserv
- Lakshmi Pattabhiraman | Omidyar
- Lakshminarayana KR | APF
- Lt Gen Ravin Khosla | Indian Army (Retd)
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- Madhuri Mukherjee | Dalberg
- Maharshi Vaishnav | Motilal Oswal Foundation
- Mahesh Kushwaha | IAF Fellow The/Nudge
- Mahi Titus | Dream A Dream
- Malavika R Harita | Brand Circle
- Mallika Patil | Painted Sky
- Maneesh Dhir | Ex-Apple India MD
- Manish Dugar | Practo
- Manish Gupta | Yosaney
- Manisha Gupta | Start Up!
- Manoj Chandran | Manah Wellness
- Manoj Joshi | The/Nudge
- Manoj Kumar | Social Alpha
- Manu Chopra | Karya
- Maragathavalli Inbamuthiah | The/Nudge
- Matthew Spacie | Magic Bus
- Meena Ganesh | Portea Medical
- Meenakshi Garg | Rocket Learning
- Meenu Bambhani | State Street
- Megha Phansalkar | Tisser
- Mekin Maheshwari | Udhyam
- Merin Mandanna | Meta
- Mohit Bhatnagar | Sequoia
- Mohit Khanna | The/Nudge
- Mohit Sadaani | Founder, The Mom Co
- Monappa N | The/Nudge IAF
- Mugundan Thirumalai | CFO Bridge
- Mukesh Bansal | Cure Fit
- Mukhmeet Bhatia | IAS (Retd)
- Muniraju Pulipalyam | Microsoft Accelerator
- Murugan Vasudevan | Veddis
- Naman Gupta | The/Nudge
- Nandita Sharma | ONDC
- Naren Srinivasan | The/Nudge
- Narinder J Singh | Founder, Avina Holdings
- Natasha Jog | Meta
- Navaneethan Gopal | Ingram Micro
- Naveen Tewari | InMobi

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