

NEWS UPDATE

FEBRUARY 2024



"Every sunrise is an invitation for us to arise and brighten someone's day."

- RICHELLE E. GOODRICH



Table of Contents:

04

Introduction

History of M S International, Inc.

About Sarva Mangal Family Trust

Monthly Highlights

05

Event

Manu and Rika Shah's India Philanthropy Trip

06

NGO Visit

American India Foundation:

Learning and Migration Program

Digital Equalizer

Maternal and Newborn Survival Initiative

Market Aligned Skills Training

Meeting with the Former President of India

Meeting with Lokesh Muni

Lend A Hand India

Akshaya Patra Foundation

Lift Time Achievement Award from VJTI

Table of Contents:

Maratha Life Foundation
Shrimad Rajchandra Love and Care
Bhansali Trust
Pragnachakshu Punarvasan Kendra
SMFT Primary School, Vaghpur
Life Blood Centre
Life Greenfield Centre
Matruchhaya School
Dhanvantri School
Sarvamangal Arogyadham
Swavalamban Angavikalara Seva Trust
Sipani Seva Sadan
Mathrushree Manovikasa Kendra

28

NGO in Focus for February'24

Dasra

32

Success Story

Dasra

INTRODUCTION

HISTORY OF M S INTERNATIONAL, INC.

Manu and Rika Shah founded MSI in 1975, in the basement of their home in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. MSI is now the largest importer and distributor in the world of Premium Surfaces including granite, marble, porcelain and ceramic tiles, slate, travertine, limestone and other natural stone products from 37 countries. Most notably, MSI provided the granite for the Vietnam Memorial in DC.

Manu and Rika Shah established Sarva Mangal Family Trust (Sarva Mangal means 'let all be happy' in Sanskrit) over 20 years ago with compassion as their driving force for philanthropy. Manu's vision for SMFT is to act as a catalyst, challenge status quo, nurture passionate change-makers and support leapfrogging ideas that are scalable and sustainable. Today, all members from the Shah family are involved in social impact initiatives that are undertaken by SMFT. Manu supports VOSAP – Voice of Specially Abled People, which has created over 10,000 change makers and rated over 18,000 buildings rated for accessibility. He also supports Lend a hand India, which provides digital vocational training to over 300,000 students in 20,000 schools.

In 2007, Mr. Manu Shah was named Ernst & Young's national "Entrepreneur of the Year" in the distribution, manufacturing, and security category.

ABOUT SARVA MANGAL FAMILY TRUST

Established in 1994 by the Founders of M S International, Inc. The mission of the Sarva Mangal Family Trust is to improve and strengthen the health, education and wellness of communities and help them prepare for global jobs of the 21st century. Sarva Mangal is a Sanskrit word which means "Goodness to All."

To advance this mission, the Sarva Mangal Family Trust has donated to and is continuing to work with various organizations and programs in health promotion and prevention, assisting victims of domestic violence, empowering seniors, entrepreneurship, technological literacy, community activism, and children's education.

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS



MANU AND RIKA SHAH'S INDIA PHILANTHROPY TRIP

Manu Shah and Rika Shah embarked on a philanthropic journey to India. Over the course of 20 days, their travels took them through 24 cities, engaging with 15 nonprofit organizations. Their journey included traversing through seven flights, two train expeditions, and covering over 2000 kilometers by car. Along the way, they had the opportunity to meet and interact with over 3200 individuals. Their focus during this extensive journey centered around three major areas: Education technology, Healthcare, and Nutrition, as well as Vocational training. Through their exploration and engagement, Manu and Rika aimed to make a meaningful impact on these crucial aspects of society.

(Continued on Page 4).

EVENT - MANU AND RIKA SHAH'S INDIA PHILANTHROPY TRIP

February 2024 – Since its inception, the impact of the Sarva Mangal Family Trust has been profound, touching the lives of 30 million individuals. Among them, 3 million students have benefited from digital and early childhood education initiatives. Additionally, 1 million students have received vocational training, empowering them with essential skills for the future. The mission has also expanded its reach by providing 8 million midday meals annually to students in grades 1 to 8, ensuring better nutrition and educational outcomes. Furthermore, 2 million underprivileged individuals have received free-of-cost treatment or preventive healthcare services, enhancing their well-being and quality of life.

Continuing their journey with a focus on the three major areas of the India Philanthropy Mission, Manu and Rika began their trip with the American India Foundation. Across five states in India, they witnessed impactful projects like the Learning and Migration Program, Digital Equalizer, and Maternal and Newborn Survival Initiative. Additionally, they visited Rewari, where SMFT has been a prime sponsor for over several years, supporting livelihood initiatives. These efforts have collectively served 3,000 women and underserved youth through the establishment of two training and production centers. Through partnerships and dedicated efforts, Manu and Rika continue to contribute to the empowerment and betterment of communities across India.

Continuing their India philanthropy trip, Manu and Rika visited multiple organizations dedicated to various causes. They journeyed to Lend a Hand India in Pune, Bhansali Trust in Radhanpur, Shrimad Rajchandra Hospital in Dharamapur, and the Akshaya Patra Foundation in Panvel, Mumbai. Additionally, they celebrated the first-year anniversary of the SMFT primary school in Vaghpar, witnessing the impact of their support firsthand. During their journey, they had the honor of meeting renowned personalities such as the former President of India, Ram Nath Kovind. Furthermore, their philanthropic efforts were recognized and celebrated as they were felicitated by Lokesh Muni for their dedication and commitment to making a positive difference in society.



Manu & Rika with AIF India Team



Rika with Specially Abled Child at Mathrushree Manovikasa Kendra



Manu & Rika with Primary School Kids



Manu & Rika at Akshaya Patra Kitchen

NGO VISIT – LEARNING AND MIGRATION PROGRAM

February 2024 - Manu Shah and Rika Shah, founders of SMFT, recently visited Kabirdham, Chhattisgarh, to observe the Learning and Migration Program (LAMP) run by the American India Foundation (AIF). This program is part of AIF's broader initiative to support the educational needs of children in migrant communities across India. LAMP is specifically designed to mitigate the adverse effects of seasonal migration on children's education by ensuring continuity in their schooling and providing quality educational resources

Key components of LAMP include early childhood care, school enrollment and retention, learning resource centers, teacher training, and community engagement. The early childhood care component ensures access to pre-primary education through childcare centers. To promote school enrollment and sustained attendance, LAMP focuses on children at risk of dropping out due to migration. Learning resource centers, equipped with technology, bridge the educational and digital divide, a need that became particularly crucial during the COVID-19 pandemic. Teacher training enhances the skills and competencies of government teachers and school leaders to improve the quality of education. Community engagement increases participation in school governance and decision-making processes, fostering a supportive educational environment.

Since its inception, LAMP has had a significant impact, providing quality education to 1.3 million children. The program operates in 5,238 villages across 17 states and union territories, reflecting its extensive reach and effectiveness in addressing the educational challenges faced by children in migrant communities. LAMP's holistic approach ensures that children receive continuous educational support, even in the face of migration. By involving community stakeholders and enhancing the capabilities of local educators, LAMP fosters a sustainable and inclusive educational environment. Its success underscores the importance of targeted interventions in transforming the educational landscape for vulnerable populations.



Practical Demonstration of the Project



Science Exhibition Display by the Students



Science Exhibition Display by the Students



Science Exhibition Display by the Students

NGO VISIT – DIGITAL EQUALIZER

February 2024 – SMFT Founder’s recent visit to the American India Foundation's (AIF) Digital Equalizer program in Ganjam, Odisha. They experienced firsthand the transformative power of technology in education. AIF's Digital Equalizer program is dedicated to enhancing under-resourced public schools across India, turning classrooms into vibrant, dynamic environments for teaching and learning. Central to AIF's philosophy is the belief that teachers are the primary agents of change. By empowering educators with the tools and training to be more effective, the program not only motivates and inspires students but also fosters an environment where education can open new doors of opportunity.

The Digital Equalizer program collaborates with state governments to leverage existing infrastructure and investments, using a blended learning model that integrates technology with traditional classroom content. This approach not only boosts student engagement but also equips them with crucial digital skills for the future.

The program emphasizes that technology should enhance, not replace, the role of teachers. By focusing on high-quality teaching and collaborative learning, Digital Equalizer aims to improve educational outcomes. This is achieved through comprehensive training for teachers on both pedagogy and technology, ensuring that they can effectively integrate digital tools into their teaching methods. The program covers a wide range of subjects including Science, Mathematics, Humanities, and English, as well as essential life skills such as IT, Financial Literacy, and WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene).

Since its inception, Digital Equalizer has made a significant impact, empowering 7.2 million children with interactive STEM experiences, transforming 32,000 schools through innovative teaching practices, and reaching 36 states and Union Territories.



Projects Created by the Students



Project Demonstration by the Students



Project Demonstration by the Students



Kids' With Tablets

NGO VISIT – MATERNAL AND NEWBORN SURVIVAL INITIATIVE

February 2024 - Mr. and Mrs. Shah, founders of SMFT, recently visited the American India Foundation's Maternal and Newborn Survival Initiative (MANSI) in Paderu, Andhra Pradesh, India. The primary objective of the MANSI program is to reduce maternal and newborn mortality by addressing high rates of maternal and infant deaths through timely and effective healthcare services. By improving access to quality healthcare, MANSI aims to enhance the well-being of mothers and newborns in remote and underserved regions. This initiative is vital in areas where healthcare resources are scarce and maternal and infant mortality rates are high. The program's approach combines medical interventions with community engagement to ensure lasting impacts.

MANSI collaborates closely with the government to strengthen public health services and engages with vulnerable communities, including tribal, rural, and hard-to-reach populations, to help them make informed health choices. The program focuses on strengthening the capacity of government frontline workers (ASHAs and AWWs) to deliver essential health and nutrition services at both the household and community levels. Additionally, MANSI empowers adolescent girls by providing them with information and services related to sexual and reproductive health. This holistic approach ensures that the program addresses multiple facets of health and well-being.

Behavior change communication campaigns are also a critical component of MANSI, aiming to raise awareness and shift social norms surrounding health. These campaigns educate communities on the importance of maternal and newborn care, encouraging healthier practices and behaviors. Since its inception, the MANSI program has had a significant impact, counseling 350,000 women on safe motherhood and access to basic healthcare. Furthermore, 250,000 newborns have received home-based care, ensuring they get the best start in life. Additionally, 10,000 ASHA workers have been trained to provide preventive maternal and newborn healthcare, enhancing the overall capacity of the healthcare system in these regions.



Group Photo with AIF – MANSI Team



ASHA Workers Team Working on Project MANSI



MANSI Project Beneficiaries



MANSI Project Beneficiaries

NGO VISIT – MARKET ALIGNED SKILLS TRAINING

February 2024 - Mr. Manu Shah and Mrs. Rika Shah, founders of SMFT, recently visited the American India Foundation's (AIF) Marketing Aligned Skills Training (MAST) project in Rewari. For over 14 years, SMFT has been a prime sponsor of this initiative, demonstrating their long-term commitment to empowering underprivileged communities. The MAST project specifically targets youth, women, and persons with disabilities, providing them with the skills necessary to secure jobs and achieve sustainable livelihoods.

The MAST project offers specialized training in diverse fields such as garment manufacturing, IT, electric vehicle services, and maintenance. These skilling interventions are designed to equip participants with practical knowledge and industry-relevant skills. Upon completing their training, qualified candidates are placed into entry-level jobs, creating a clear path to financial independence and stability.

By focusing on skills development, MAST plays a crucial role in enabling India's youth to become significant contributors to the economy. The initiative aligns with the framework of the National Skills Development Corporation (NSDC), ensuring that the training meets national standards. Additionally, private employment partners, including notable companies like Reliance and ICICI Bank, collaborate with MAST to provide employment opportunities for the trainees.

The impact of the MAST project is substantial, with 2.2 million underserved citizens benefiting from the program. Specifically, 3,000 women and underserved youth have been positively affected, gaining skills and employment that transform their lives. SMFT's sponsorship has facilitated the implementation of these impactful training programs in Rewari, Haryana, and Mysore, Karnataka, underscoring their dedication to fostering economic growth and empowerment through skill development.



Manu & Rika Shah at the MAST Rewari Centre



Training and Production Centre



Experience Sharing by the Beneficiaries'



Beneficiaries' Sharing Their Experience

MEETING WITH THE FORMER PRESIDENT OF INDIA RAM NATH KOVIND AND HIS FAMILY



Mr. Manu Shah with Former President of India, Ram Nath Kovind



Rika and Manu Shah with Former President of India, Ram Nath Kovind and his Family

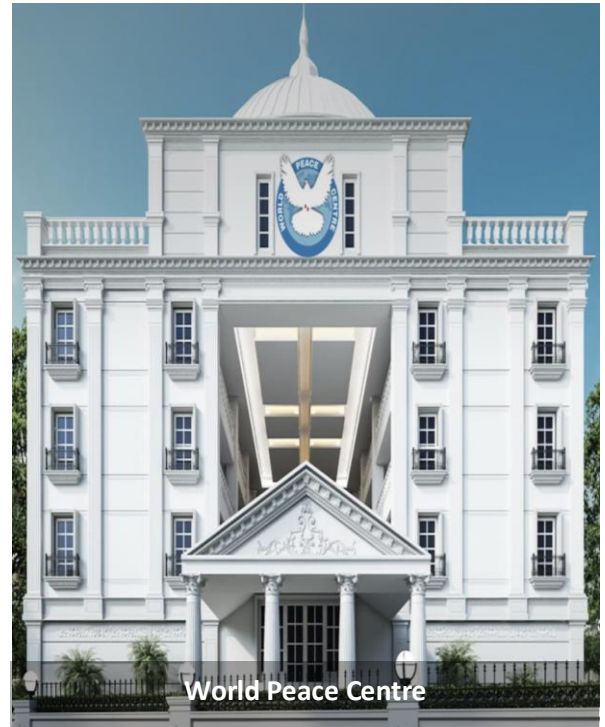
NGO VISIT – MEETING WITH LOKESH MUNI

February 2024 – The founders of SMFT, Manu and Rika Shah had the honor of meeting Acharya Lokesh Muni. During this meeting, Acharya Lokesh Muni felicitated the couple for their outstanding philanthropic efforts. Their generous contributions and unwavering support have been recognized as instrumental in furthering the mission of promoting peace and non-violence on a global scale. The Shahs' dedication to philanthropy aligns with the core values of Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti, significantly bolstering the organization's initiatives and impact.

Acharya Dr. Lokesh Muni is a revered Jain spiritual leader, renowned for his unwavering dedication to promoting non-violence (ahimsa), peace, and interfaith harmony. With a deep-rooted commitment to ethical living and compassion, Acharya Lokesh Muni has made significant strides in fostering understanding and respect among diverse communities and cultures. His teachings emphasize the intrinsic value of all living beings and the necessity of living in harmony with others.

In his efforts to create a more peaceful world, Acharya Lokesh Muni founded **Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti** and the **World Peace Center**. These organizations are pivotal in spreading the principles of non-violence and peace across the globe. Through various programs, seminars, workshops, and international collaborations, Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti works tirelessly to advocate for peaceful resolutions to conflicts and to promote a culture of compassion and non-violence.

The **World Peace Center**, a central initiative within Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti, serves as a global hub for peace efforts. It organizes numerous events aimed at educating and engaging people in the practices of peace and non-violence. The center also collaborates with other peace organizations worldwide, reinforcing the global network dedicated to these causes.



NGO VISIT – LEND A HAND INDIA

February 2024 - The founders of the Sarva Mangal Family Trust recently visited Lend A Hand India in Pune, Maharashtra, highlighting their commitment to empowering underprivileged youth through vocational education. Lend A Hand India focuses on enhancing employability and creating better opportunities for students by integrating practical skills into the school curriculum. By collaborating with schools and state governments, they impact thousands of schools and millions of students across India.

Lend A Hand India's mission is to reform education by incorporating vocational training into school programs. They partner with government and government-aided schools to set up vocational labs, train instructors, organize internships, and provide certifications. With a direct presence in over 150 schools, benefiting more than 10,000 students, their influence is substantial. Additionally, through collaborations with state governments, their reach extends to over 1 million students across more than 12,000 schools. This initiative aims to enhance employability skills, encourage diverse career choices, and foster acceptance of vocational education among various stakeholders.

Supported by the Sarva Mangal Family Trust, the vocational education initiative aims to integrate vocational training into mainstream education for students in grades 9-12. Focusing on lifelong employability skills, the initiative targets reaching 1 million youth over three years. Key objectives include providing internships, incorporating technology in education, and working with the government to formulate and execute effective policies. The expected outcomes include empowering youth with practical skills, fostering innovation in education, and building government capacity nationwide.

Through their dedication, the Sarva Mangal Family Trust and Lend A Hand India are empowering India's youth with essential skills and improved employability, paving the way for a brighter and more prosperous future.



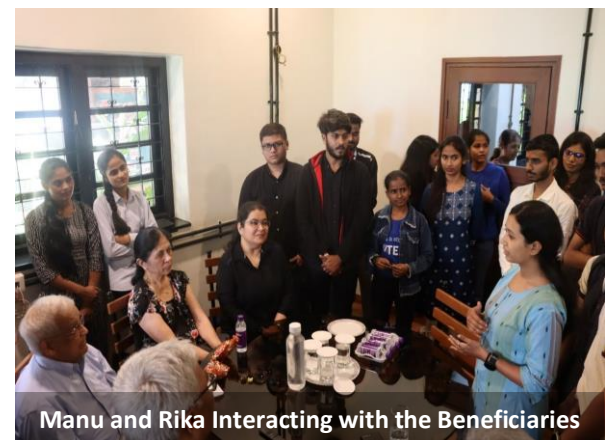
Manu and Rika with LAHI team and Students



Manu and Rika at LAHI's Karigar School of Applied Learning



Electrical Workstation Demonstration



Manu and Rika Interacting with the Beneficiaries

NGO VISIT – AKSHAYA PATRA FOUNDATION

February 2024 – Manu and Rika, founders of the Sarva Mangal Family Trust, visited the Akshaya Patra Kitchen in Panvel, Maharashtra, renowned for its mid-day meal programs for school children across India. The visit aimed to understand the foundation’s operations, assess the impact of their support, and explore further assistance in fulfilling Akshaya Patra’s mission of providing nutritious meals to children in need.

The Sarva Mangal Family Trust is one of the prime donors of the Akshaya Patra Foundation Kitchen in Panvel, Maharashtra. The kitchen has the capacity to prepare approximately 15,000 nutritious meals daily for children across 70 local schools. The diverse menu includes mixed dal, pulao, chole, jeera rice, sambar, khichdi, sweets, and bananas. This initiative aligns with the PM POSHAN Abhiyaan, aiming to strengthen children's nutrition and education in the region.

The Akshaya Patra Foundation, is dedicated to eliminating classroom hunger through the PM POSHAN (Mid-Day Meal) Programme. This initiative ensures that children in government and government-aided schools receive nutritious meals, thus supporting their education and overall well-being. Serving over 2 million children daily in 22,000 schools across India, Akshaya Patra operates 72 kitchens nationwide, making a substantial impact by reaching those who need it most.

The remarkable efforts of the Akshaya Patra Foundation not only address hunger but also enhance educational outcomes and foster the overall well-being of children. By nourishing young minds, the foundation contributes significantly to a brighter future for India’s next generations.

Through this partnership, the Sarva Mangal Family Trust and Akshaya Patra Foundation are making a meaningful difference in the lives of many children, paving the way for a healthier, more educated future.



Cooking Area



Jacketed Food Distribution Vessels



Manu and Rika at the Panvel Kitchen



First Electric Van Inaugurated by Manu & Rika for the Distribution of Food

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FROM VJTI, MUMBAI

Manu Shah, a distinguished alumnus of Veermata Jijabai Technological Institute (VJTI), Mumbai, was recently awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by the VJTI Alumni Association. Recognized for his remarkable contributions and dedication to his field, Manu now envisions pioneering an endowment program aimed at empowering VJTI students. This initiative seeks to provide enhanced opportunities, thereby fostering a legacy of excellence and opportunity at his esteemed alma mater.



NGO VISIT – MARATHA LIFE FOUNDATION

February 2024 – The Sarva Mangal Family Trust team recently visited the Maratha Life Foundation in Mumbai, Maharashtra, a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting and sheltering vulnerable groups. Established by Mr. Kisan Mallari Lokhande, an Army Officer and Vijay Kargil War veteran, the foundation was created to fulfill his parents' dream of serving society.

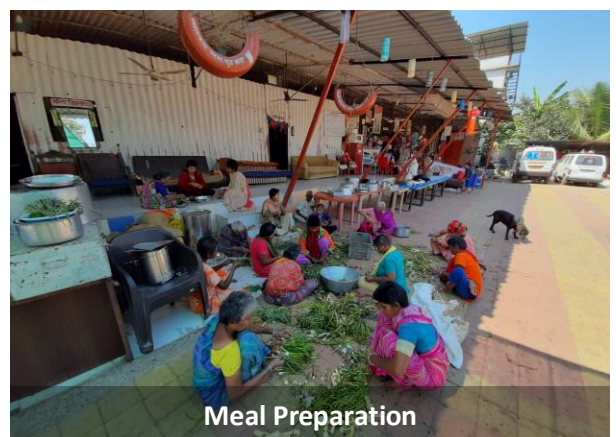
Maratha Life Foundation's mission is to provide support and shelter to various vulnerable groups, including senior citizens, orphaned children, individuals struggling with addiction, and domestic animals in need of care. Through its ashram, orphanage, de-addiction center, and animal shelter, the foundation offers a safe and nurturing environment where these groups can receive the care and support they need to improve their quality of life.

The foundation promotes a sense of community and compassion by celebrating national events and festivals within their facilities, creating a supportive and inclusive environment for all those they serve. This approach not only addresses immediate needs but also fosters long-term emotional and social well-being. By bringing people together through these celebrations, the foundation strengthens the bonds within the community and provides a sense of belonging and joy to its residents.

Maratha Life Foundation offers several critical facilities free of cost:

- **Old Age Ashram:** Providing care for senior citizens and helpless individuals.
- **Orphanage:** Nurturing orphaned and parentless children.
- **De-Addiction Center:** Supporting individuals struggling with addiction.
- **Animal Shelter:** Offering shelter for various domestic animals.

These services, rooted in compassion and community support, ensure that the most vulnerable members of society have a place to turn for help and healing.



NGO VISIT – SHRIMAD RAJCHANDRA MISSION

February 2024 – Manu and Rika Shah, founders of SMFT, are dedicated to creating a healthier society. Drawing from their life experiences, they have implemented an anemia detection and vision care program in partnership with the Shrimad Rajchandra Mission (SRHM).

SMFT's goal is to provide health awareness and treat anemia in 5 million people over the next 5 years in the poorest parts of India. They utilize both invasive and non-invasive methods to assess anemia levels in large populations, raise awareness, and offer nutritional support to individuals with deficient hemoglobin levels.

For non-invasive hemoglobin monitoring, they use the Masimo Rad-67, which provides portable measurements within 30 seconds, has an intuitive touchscreen, and a rechargeable battery lasting up to 6 hours. Currently, the SMFT program has impacted 260,000 underprivileged people who have been screened for anemia, covered over 200 schools, and supported 120 villages.

SMFT's Vision Care Project provides vision care using a portable autorefractor to examine eyes and prescribe affordable eyeglasses in the most impoverished regions of India. They aim to serve 20 million people and distribute 5 million low-cost eyeglasses within 5 years. So far, they have screened over 110,000 underprivileged people, provided 25,000 eyeglasses to children and adults in rural South Gujarat, and supplied 2,600 specially ordered eyeglasses to people with complex visual needs.

The founders of SMFT believe in expanding their impact. To reach more people, SMFT supported the construction of a 250-bed multispecialty hospital in Dharampur, Gujarat. This hospital offers free medical services to underprivileged tribal communities while providing specialized tertiary care in cardiology, orthopedics, radiology, psychiatry, oncology, critical care, and rural outreach. Currently, this hospital has treated over 2 million underprivileged patients, with 86% receiving free treatment and medication, and has cared for 10,000 newborn babies.



Anemia Detection Program for School Kids



Manu and Rika Interacting with Kids



Rika Shah Interacting with Patient after Vision Screening



Shrimad Rajchandra Hospital

NGO VISIT – BHANSALI TRUST

February 2024 – SMFT founder Manu and Rika visited the Bhansali Trust in Radhanpur, Gujarat. SMFT focuses on education, healthcare, and nutrition, with a belief that education starts early and never ends. To support this vision, SMFT provides comprehensive early childhood services, including supplementary nutrition, growth monitoring, immunization, and preschool education for children aged 0-6.

Additionally, they have established five high schools in remote areas, empowering students and nurturing skill development. This initiative has significantly impacted over 90,000 individuals, with 3,000 high school students benefiting annually.

Rika emphasizes the importance of women's empowerment, asserting that women need to learn about savings and income generation to support their families independently.

In partnership with Bhansali Trust, SMFT has created Self Help Groups that promote savings, facilitate bank loans, and distribute micro-credit for entrepreneurship. These groups engage women in income-generating activities such as sewing and papad making, fostering skill development and economic growth. This initiative has positively impacted 1.3 million people, with 70,000 women participating in 7,000 Self Help Groups.

In the healthcare sector, SMFT supports the Gandhi Lincoln Hospital in Radhanpur in partnership with Bhansali Trust. The hospital provides a wide range of healthcare services, including consultations and surgeries, ensuring affordability and accessibility for people from all income levels.

Moreover, it addresses opium and alcohol addiction, boasting a 50% success rate in recovery. Since its inception, the healthcare initiative has immunized 875,000 people, treated 160,000 patients annually, and provided treatment for 40,000 addicts. This comprehensive approach ensures that essential healthcare services reach those in need, contributing to the overall well-being of the community.



NGO VISIT – PRAGNACHAKSHU PUNARVASAN KENDRA

February 2024 - Manu and Rika visited Pragnachakshu Punarvasan Kendra in Morbi, Gujarat, where they gained valuable insights into the organization's efforts to empower visually impaired individuals, particularly girls. This institution focuses on improving the socio-economic and educational status of visually impaired women, aiming to eliminate the feelings of inferiority and lack of confidence often experienced by them. Currently, the center provides essential amenities such as food, shelter, education, and clothing free of cost to 203 visually impaired girls, emphasizing the belief that they should be able to work and support themselves.

Pragnachakshu Punarvasan Kendra offers a variety of educational and vocational training programs to help these girls become self-sufficient. They provide primary and high school education, with a special school for blind girls from standards 8 to 10. The center also teaches Braille reading and provides books in Braille script. Home science courses teach girls how to cook and manage household tasks, while mobility training helps them move independently. Craft training includes skills like coir work, canning, beadwork, and jute bag making, along with a recognized canning diploma course. Additionally, computer training using the latest voice software is offered in both English and Gujarati.

Beyond education and vocational training, the organization plays a significant role in the personal lives of visually impaired girls. They arrange marriages for visually impaired couples and provide them with residential flats, ensuring a stable and supportive environment. The Sarva Mangal Family Trust is funding a new 17,500 sq. ft. residential building with 26 flats to accommodate these couples, further supporting the center's mission of creating a nurturing community for visually impaired individuals.

The center also offers guidance on important life stages such as marriage, childbearing, and nurturing practices, and plans to establish an old age home to support visually impaired individuals in their later years.



Manu and Rika at VI Beneficiaries' House



Kitchen at Pragnachakshu Punarvasan Kendra



VI Men Working in Natraj Stationery Factory



Beneficiaries at Pragnachakshu

NGO VISIT – SMFT PRIMARY SCHOOL, VAGHPAR

February 2024 – Sarva Mangal Family Trust Primary School stands as an inspiration of hope and progress in the rural landscape of Vaghpur village, Morbi district, Gujarat. Inaugurated on January 20, 2023, by the esteemed founders of MS International Inc., Manu, and Rika, the school not only marked the beginning of a new educational journey but also celebrated its inaugural year, symbolizing a year of growth, learning, and community involvement.

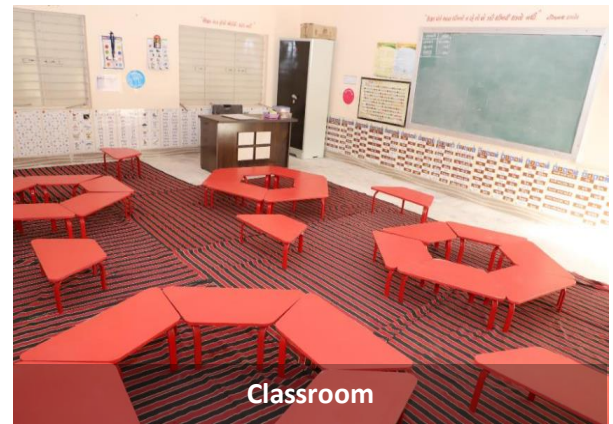
Nestled amidst the serene surroundings of Vaghpur village, Sarva Mangal Family Trust Primary School represents a commitment to providing quality primary education to its students. The school aims to serve as a transformative force in the community, enriching the lives of all its students and paving the way for a brighter future.

Operating in collaboration with Project Life Rajkot, the school's impact is further amplified. With a remarkable tally of 115 primary schools established under its banner, the initiative has made significant strides in strengthening educational infrastructure across the region. However, its impact extends beyond brick and mortar structures. The partnership with Project Life Rajkot underscores a holistic approach to education, emphasizing innovative pedagogical methods, community engagement, and sustainable development practices.

One of the most impressive aspects of the project is its annual impact on a substantial number of schools, with 50,000 students positively influenced by its endeavors. Additionally, the initiative has played a pivotal role in providing educational scholarships to 15,000 deserving students, ensuring access to quality education and nurturing academic excellence. These achievements underscore the project's unwavering commitment to advancing education on multiple fronts, promoting inclusivity, and empowering future generations for a brighter tomorrow.



SMFT Primary School



Classroom



SMFT Primary School First Year Anniversary



Manu and Rika with School Kids

NGO VISIT – LIFE BLOOD CENTRE

February 2024 – Manu and Rika's visit to the Life Blood Centre in Rajkot offered them a comprehensive understanding of its history, state-of-the-art facilities, remarkable achievements, and ambitious vision for the future. Established on December 6, 1981, the center holds the distinction of being the first blood bank in the Saurashtra region of Gujarat, India. This pioneering initiative addressed a critical need for safe and scientifically tested blood and blood components, laying the foundation for a vital healthcare resource in the community.

Situated within a sprawling 15,000 square feet facility, the Life Blood Centre boasts advanced technology and a modern laboratory. Managed by a team of dedicated professionals, the Centre's operations are supported by a fully computerized database, ensuring the efficient management of blood donations and components. Such infrastructure enables the Centre to uphold stringent quality standards while providing essential services to patients not only within Rajkot but also to those in surrounding areas.

The Centre's achievements stand as a testament to its commitment to excellence. Accreditation from the National Accreditation Board for Hospitals & Healthcare Providers (NABH) underscores its adherence to best practices and quality standards.

Over the years, the Life Blood Centre has served over 397,000 lives, issued more than 684,349 blood components, and performed over 6,623 Single Donor Platelet procedures. Additionally, it has organized over 5,525 blood donation camps, demonstrating its proactive approach to community engagement and awareness.

Life Blood Centre envisions becoming the premier blood centre in India, striving to enhance and save lives while maintaining leadership. Its mission focuses on providing safe blood supplies to hospitals, specializing in hematology and transfusion medicine testing, conducting research on blood-related diseases, and offering education and training services.



NGO VISIT – LIFE GREENFIELD CENTRE

February 2024 – Manu and Rika recently visited the Life Greenfield Centre located in Rajkot, Gujarat. The primary objective of the Life Greenfield Centre is to promote afforestation and encourage individuals and communities to actively engage in planting trees. Their overarching mission is to facilitate the creation of a sustainable environment that supports all forms of life, contributing to the well-being of the planet.

The Life Greenfield Centre has been instrumental in distributing over 274,000 trees for replantation efforts, aiming to counter deforestation and enhance green cover. By offering a diverse selection of more than 70 indigenous tree species, they ensure that the saplings are suitable for various ecological conditions.

With over 24,400 plants readily available for distribution, ranging from 6 to 15 feet in height, the center makes it easy for individuals, organizations, and community groups to access the saplings they need. Additionally, they actively nurture approximately 7,000 plants to ensure healthy growth until they are ready for distribution, emphasizing a comprehensive approach to tree conservation and ecosystem restoration.

The Life Global Organization's commitment to environmental well-being, epitomized by initiatives like the Life Greenfield Centre, is truly commendable. Through endeavors such as promoting afforestation and offering diverse tree species, they make tangible contributions to a healthier planet. By engaging in sustainable practices, they not only reduce their environmental footprint but also set a powerful example for others to follow. Their efforts underscore the importance of collective action in addressing environmental challenges, emphasizing the need for collaboration among individuals, communities, and institutions. In nurturing the environment for future generations, the Life Global Organization demonstrates a deep sense of responsibility towards the planet. Their comprehensive approach to sustainability and conservation inspires others to join in the effort to create a more sustainable world.



Life Greenfield Centre



Tree Plantation by Manu & Rika



Briefing about Different Types of Plants



Watering the Sapling Planted by Manu & Rika

NGO VISIT – MATRUCHHAYA SCHOOL

February 2024 – The Sarva Mangal Family Trust team visited Matruchhaya Kanya Vidhyalay, in Bhuj, Gujarat. This institution, with a proud history of 40 years, is committed to fostering holistic character development alongside academic education.

Matruchhaya Kanya Vidhyalay's mission is to shape well-rounded individuals who actively contribute to society, prioritizing values and skills essential for the students' overall growth. As a government-aided institution managed by the state government, the school emphasizes accessible education for all.

Today, over 4,500 girls from Junior KG to Grade 12 receive top-notch education from the best teachers at Matruchhaya. The school has been recognized for its excellence, having been awarded the title of Best School of Kutch by the Government of Gujarat in 2016.

Additionally, the teachers at Matruchhaya have been honored as the best in Gujarat. Sandipani Vidhyaniketan in Porbandar has also recognized Matruchhaya as the best school in the state. Every year, the school actively participates in various state and national level competitions in fields such as science, sports, and arts.

Matruchhaya Kanya Vidhyalay offers a range of facilities to nurture students' skills. These include modern computer and science laboratories, a spacious sports ground equipped for physical fitness, and a well-appointed auditorium. The school's resources support both intellectual and sporting development, ensuring that students have the tools they need to excel in various areas.

Additionally, Matruchhaya promotes lifelong learning by instilling a habit of reading from a young age. The school offers a diverse collection of books covering a wide range of subjects, from entertainment to education, fostering a love of reading among its students. The Matruchhaya Kanya Vidhyalay has a significant impact on its students and the community. The institution's dedication to fostering holistic development is evident in its achievements and the recognition it has received.



NGO VISIT – DHANVANTRI SCHOOL

February 2024 – Sarva Mangal Family Trust team visited the Dhanvantri School, located in Bhuj, Gujarat. The school was established in September 1996 with a noble aim to provide education and training to children with special needs. These children may face challenges such as hearing impairment, autism, cerebral palsy, and other disabilities. The school particularly focuses on serving students from low socio-economic backgrounds, recognizing the additional hurdles they may face in accessing quality education and support services.

Dhanvantri School in Bhuj, Gujarat, is committed to empowering children with special needs through tailored education and training. Its objectives focus on equipping students with essential life skills, imparting knowledge across various subjects, nurturing confidence and self-esteem, and ultimately preparing students to lead fulfilling lives and contribute positively to society.

Through specialized programs, the school ensures that students receive a comprehensive education that addresses their unique requirements and enables them to overcome challenges. By emphasizing skill-building, knowledge acquisition, confidence-building, and life preparedness, Dhanvantri School aims to empower its students to reach their full potential and make meaningful contributions to their communities.

Dhanvantri School in Bhuj, Gujarat, caters to a diverse range of special needs, ensuring personalized attention and support for each student based on their specific requirements. The school's scope extends to providing transportation facilities for approximately 110 students residing within a 30 km radius of Bhuj, ensuring accessibility to specialized education and support services. By addressing the educational and logistical needs of students with special needs in Bhuj and its surrounding areas, Dhanvantri School plays a crucial role in providing quality education, support, and empowerment, enabling these children to overcome challenges and lead fulfilling lives.



Group Class for Specially Abled Kids



Activity Based Learning for Specially Abled Kids



Group Class for Specially Abled Kids



Computer Classroom

NGO VISIT – SARVAMANGAL AROGYADHAM

February 2024 – The Sarva Mangal Family Trust team recently visited Sarvamangal Arogyadham in Kutch. Managed by Shree Jain Medical & Educational Trust, which was established in 1973 by visionary donors Amrutlal Bhai Shah and his wife Bhagyavati Amrutlal Shah, Sarvamangal Arogyadham operates with the mission of providing superior medical and educational facilities to the people of Bhuj.

Sarvamangal Arogyadham is an Ayurvedic wellness center offering a variety of treatments rooted in authentic Ayurvedic tradition. Staffed by qualified and experienced practitioners, the center emphasizes continuous education and support for both its staff and clients. Their comprehensive approach to wellness focuses on prevention and natural, holistic healing methods. The effectiveness of their treatments is evident in numerous positive testimonials and results, and they are renowned for their compassionate and supportive care. Each treatment plan is personalized, integrating traditional Ayurvedic practices with modern scientific understanding to achieve optimal results.

Nestled in a serene 7-acre campus in Bhuj City, Sarvamangal Arogyadham boasts exclusive facilities, including the region's only authentic Panchakarma and Naturopathy centers. With over 16 years of experience and a record of serving more than 720 satisfied patients, the center stands as an inspiration of holistic wellness. It offers over 60 treatments, combining traditional Ayurveda with modern therapies, and prioritizes personalized care and the integration of modern science for comprehensive healing.

For those seeking outdoor wellness services, the center offers regular yoga classes and gymnasium workouts. Sarvamangal Arogyadham also provides comfortable accommodation options and emphasizes preventive measures alongside compassionate support throughout the healing journey. The visit by the Sarva Mangal Family Trust team highlighted the center's significant impact on promoting holistic health and wellness in the region.



Sarva Mangal Arogyadham



Treatment Centre



Naturopathy Treatment



Morning Yoga Practice

NGO VISIT – MATHRUSHREE MANOVIKASA KENDRA

February 2024 – During a visit to Bangalore, Rika Shah distributed assistive devices at Mathrushree Manovikasa Kendra. The distribution aimed to benefit children with disabilities. Over 10 assistive devices were distributed during the visit. These devices are crucial for improving the quality of life and enhancing the accessibility of education for children with disabilities.

The beneficiaries of these devices included a total of 150 children who are expected to benefit from their use. The devices distributed included a range of tools tailored to the specific needs of the children. These devices included:

1. **Floor Sitter/Corner Seat:** Specialized seats for children promoting proper posture and stability during activities, particularly beneficial for those struggling with independent sitting.
2. **Physio Gymnic Balls:** Large inflatable balls used in physiotherapy to enhance balance, coordination, and strength for children.
3. **Wheelchairs:** Vital mobility aids granting children with mobility impairments the freedom to move independently, facilitating easier navigation of their surroundings.
4. **Cerebral Palsy Walker:** Customized walking aids helping children with cerebral palsy or mobility challenges by providing support, stability, contributing to strength building and mobility improvement.

The distribution of these assistive devices is important for enhancing the daily lives of children with disabilities, enabling them to participate more fully in activities and improving their overall well-being. Through the generosity and support provided by initiatives like this, organizations like Mathrushree Manovikasa Kendra can continue their valuable work in empowering children with disabilities and promoting inclusivity within the community.



Cerebral Palsy Devices Ribbon Cutting



Physiotherapy for Specially Abled Kid



Rika Teaching Specially Abled Child to Walk



Sweets Distribution

NGO VISIT – SWAVALAMBAN ANGAVIKALARA SEVA TRUST

February 2024 – The Sarva Mangal Family Trust team visited the Swavalamban Angavikalara Seva Charitable Trust, an institution founded in 2017 by Gopi N, who personally experienced the challenges of sight loss. Under Gopi's visionary leadership, Swavalamban has blossomed from a modest beginning with three visually impaired members to a supportive family of 30 individuals. The trust is profoundly dedicated to empowering visually impaired people, assisting them in leading lives of independence and dignity. Swavalamban's mission is deeply rooted in the belief that blindness is not a limitation but a condition with latent strengths waiting to be recognized and activated.

Swavalamban Angavikalara Seva Charitable Trust operates on a philosophy of multifaceted initiatives designed to enhance the lives of individuals with disabilities, particularly the visually impaired. Their comprehensive approach includes livelihood programs, sports activities, educational interventions, health and nutrition assistance, arts and culture promotion, and fostering environmental consciousness. At the core of their work lies a commitment to holistic empowerment that transcends mere physical assistance, aiming for complete rehabilitation and personal growth.

The trust extends essential support to visually impaired individuals, providing shelter, education, hostel facilities, food, free bus passes, and pensions for blind students. This inclusive approach ensures that visually impaired people can lead fulfilling lives with dignity and independence. By offering these crucial resources, Swavalamban empowers its members to surmount challenges and realize their full potential.

Through its unwavering dedication and comprehensive support, Swavalamban is profoundly impacting lives and illustrating that with the right support, visually impaired individuals can attain independence and live with dignity. The Sarva Mangal Family Trust team commends Swavalamban for its remarkable efforts.



NGO VISIT – SIPANI SEVA SADAN

February 2024 – The Sarva Mangal Family Trust team recently visited AiR Humanitarian Homes in Chandapura, Bengaluru. Established in 1998 and inspired by the ideals of Swami Vivekananda, AiR Humanitarian Homes demonstrates an unwavering commitment to serving humanity. The foundation operates three shelter homes in Bengaluru, located in Bannerghatta, Chikkagubbi Village (Kothanur), and Chandapura, collectively providing daily care and support to 850 residents.

AiR Humanitarian Homes aims to alleviate the pain and suffering of the homeless and the needy, offering a caring and loving home where each resident lives with dignity and respect. Their inclusive approach welcomes individuals of all ages, genders, castes, and religions. They care for the differently abled, those abandoned, the diseased, and victims of abuse and accidents. The dedicated team ensures that residents are comfortable, happy, and able to experience life in all its vibrancy and beauty.

Over the past two decades, AiR Humanitarian Homes has profoundly impacted over 50,000 individuals in need by providing essential medical assistance, support, and emotional solace. Their services include facilitating crucial medical procedures and surgeries, offering prosthetic limbs and wheelchairs, and administering treatments for severe conditions such as AIDS and cancer. These efforts have significantly alleviated suffering and improved the quality of life for many.

AiR Humanitarian Homes also focuses on holistic rehabilitation, striving to reunite patients with their families and empower them to regain independence and pursue gainful employment. Their steadfast objective is to ensure that every resident can lead a life filled with dignity and purpose. The visit by the Sarva Mangal Family Trust team highlighted the remarkable impact of AiR Humanitarian Homes in promoting human welfare and transforming lives.



Trust Building



Beneficiaries at the NGO



NGO Kitchen



Beneficiaries Staying Facility

NGO IN FOCUS FOR FEBRUARY'24 - DASRA

The [Rebuild India Fund](#)'s vision is to support the most vulnerable communities in India by supporting a vibrant network of locally led, community-rooted NGOs across the country. The mission of Rebuild is to contribute to a transformed India where millions of the most marginalized communities thrive with dignity and equity! This will be enabled to multi-year flexible grants that allow those closest to the problem that is NGOs and their leaders to take critical decisions related to their specific geographies, communities and contexts.



Neelam Besra from Jharkhand Mahila Utthan at Rebuild's Partner Workshop

SMFT-Funded Project

SMFT funded Rebuild India Fund invests in locally led community-based organizations, addressing systemic challenges in fundraising, collaboration, and sector exposure. Through an inclusive sourcing process leveraging NGO networks, they identify CBOs working with vulnerable communities.

Over five years, they aim to provide INR 10 lakhs annually to 500 Community-Based Organizations, alongside support in organizational development and access to new funding networks and platforms. Moreover, they advocate for trust-based philanthropy, urging funders to offer unrestricted, flexible, long-term funding to CBOs, reducing paperwork and reporting burdens. This approach empowers NGOs to focus on impactful solutions without undue administrative pressure.



Community-Based Organizations Gathered For Reflecting On Trust-Based Giving

NGO IN FOCUS FOR FEBRUARY'24 – DASRA (Cont.)

Project Location

Rebuild India Fund works with community-based organizations from 21 states and 5 Union Territories of India, covering 44% districts in India. Sarva Mangal Family Trust supports organizations in Jharkhand, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Karnataka, Delhi and Gujarat states of India.



Recent Project Updates

- Rebuild India Fund is now 142 Community-Based Organizations strong, spanning 21 states and 5 Union territories. 71% of CBOs are dedicated to serving indigenous communities, and 74% work with proximate leaders. The CBOs are working with communities with disabilities, adolescent girls, youth, school dropouts, persons with disabilities, single women, migrants, sex workers, and those seeking to exit sex work, women leaders, marginal farmers, weavers, LGBTQIA++, Nomadic and De-notified tribes, and others.
- Unlocked ~USD 570,000 in addition to Rebuild grants for portfolio NGOs.
- Conducted 5 Partner Workshops with over 140 leaders and staff members addressing critical institutional needs and organizational development such as fundraising, Prevention of Sexual Harassment at work (POSH), wellbeing, compliance and many others. Read more about their learnings [here](#).
- Published 12 articles on domestic news platforms like NDTV, Alliance Magazine, Business World, LiveMint and more, featuring the LGBTQIA++ community, vulnerability and climate risks in Assam's Majuli island, mental health, trust-based philanthropy and youth-centric agriculture in the north east.
- Partnered with Vaaka media to launch 10+ episodes spotlighting proximate leaders on No-Cost Extension podcast hosted by Deval Sanghavi.

Overall Impact

Community-based organizations have reported the following developments with the support of flexible funding and capacity building support from Rebuild in the first six months to one year of receiving support:

- **80% of organizations were able to utilize funds to strengthen existing programs**, of which 36% expanded to new geographies while 32% reported an increase in lives impacted
- **61% of partner organizations reported that Rebuild has enabled additional funding or grant support**, by building organizational capacity for fundraising (59%), enhanced visibility (22%), directly connected to a funder by Rebuild or through a peer within Rebuild (17%)
- **56% of partners were able to introduce new programs**, while 49% reported being able to strengthen existing programs as well as introduce new programs
- During the past 6-month period, **over 3.4 million lives were impacted using Rebuild's funds.**

NGO IN FOCUS FOR FEBRUARY'24 – DASRA (Cont.)

Investment in organizational development has been a key feature of several interventions supported by Dasra partners, ranging from hiring new staff to skill development training to purchasing inverters for a rural office facing intermittent power supply to ensure smooth operations. Some have also initiated social justice-related interventions, such as conducting a gap assessment study to understand the health and education status in Uttar Pradesh.

Highlight of the Month

- To celebrate Rebuild partner organizations and inspire new collaborations, Dasra hosted the Rebuild Annual Gathering in Mumbai, where over 100 community-based organizations joined to discuss insights from NGO's journeys and also share experiences from NGO's varied contexts. Partner organizations also set the expectations from trust-based giving and how they could help each other as peers.
- Dasra concluded two-day partner workshop with new cohort of organizations. Read the [blog](#) to learn more about their insights from hosting 5 partner workshops.
- Dasra hosted a panel at Dasra Philanthropy Week 2024 with community-based leaders and funders, highlighting early insights from Rebuild's flagship report "Glimmers and Stressors: The State of Mental Health in India's Nonprofit Sector." Link: [#DPW2024 Live – Leadership Resilience: Nurturing Mental Health of Non-Profit Practitioners \(youtube.com\)](#)



NGO IN FOCUS FOR FEBRUARY'24 – DASRA (Cont.)

Awards

[Rebuild India Fund's](#) anchor funder, [Tarsadia Foundation](#) has won the [Catalyst 2030 Award](#) in the Leader in Trust, category for Donors. In 2021, [Tarsadia Foundation](#) co-created [Rebuild India Fund](#) with [Dasra](#) to support 500+ local community-based organizations on the cornerstones of trust-based philanthropy. Tarsadia Foundation is a true champion representative in family philanthropic practices.



Catalyst 2030 Award Received By Maya Patel,
Executive Chair, Tarsadia Foundation

In the News: [NGOs meet in Bengaluru to deliberate on improving lives of marginalized communities | Bangalore News - The Indian Express](#)



SUCCESS STORY – DASRA



Name: Mantu and Gayatri
Project: Self Employment
Location: Madhya Pradesh

Once considered destined for a life of uncertainty and limited opportunities, Mantu and Gayatri, two young women from the Korku tribe of Madhya Pradesh, defied the odds and charted a new course for themselves amidst the challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Traditionally, women from the Korku tribe would migrate to metropolitan cities in search of work as domestic help or construction laborers, facing exploitation and a lack of access to essential services. However, Mantu and Gayatri made a bold decision to stay rooted in their community and seek alternative avenues for empowerment.

Their journey took an unexpected turn when they stumbled upon a motorcycle and mobile repair training program conducted by Dasra's partner organization, Spandan Samaj. Initially met with skepticism and doubt from their peers and community members, who questioned the feasibility of young women taking up traditionally male-dominated trades, Mantu and Gayatri remained undeterred.

With determination and perseverance, Mantu and Gayatri immersed themselves in the training, overcoming initial challenges and gradually proving their worth. Their dedication and commitment paid off as they honed their skills and demonstrated their competence in motorcycle and mobile repair.

As their proficiency grew, Mantu and Gayatri became shining examples of empowerment within their community, challenging gender norms and inspiring other young women to pursue their dreams. Their success not only transformed their own lives but also sparked a shift in attitudes towards gender roles and opportunities for women in the Korku tribe.

Today, Mantu and Gayatri stand as inspirations of hope and resilience, showcasing the transformative power of education and skill development in breaking the cycle of poverty and inequality. Their story serves as a testament to the potential for change and progress, even in the face of adversity, and highlights the importance of empowering marginalized communities to forge their own paths to a brighter future.

SUCCESS STORY - DASRA

In drought-prone regions of Jharkhand, continuous drought has contributed to the growing trend of migration out of the state. Due to the persistent drought conditions, only single-crop farming, primarily of paddy, is viable, resulting in poor returns.

Name: Indigenous Santhal Leaders

Project: Jan Sahyog Kendra

Location: Jharkhand

Jan Sahyog Kendra, founded and managed by indigenous Santhal leaders in Hazaribagh, Jharkhand, operates in an area severely affected by drought, conflict, and food insecurity. The organization collaborates with indigenous Santhal communities to establish water committees and implement water conservation and harvesting structures, aiming to effectively manage water resources during dry seasons. [Listen](#) to Narendar Mahato from JSK to know about the community-centric models adopted by the organization.



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