



ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24

DEEP GRIHA SOCIETY



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FROM DIRECTORS DESK

As I reflect on the year, I want to acknowledge the incredible resilience and dedication of the team, partners, and community members who consistently work towards bringing Deep Griha Society's vision to life. Together, we have embraced challenges and opportunities alike, with a commitment to building capacity within low income communities through multiple initiatives.

This year, we have continued to work towards providing educational opportunities and nurturing the aspirations of young minds, equipping young people and women with the tools for financial independence, and ensuring support for our senior citizens to age with dignity. Each initiative speaks to the core of our mission: building capacity, fostering self-reliance and strengthening community.

The ASIMIT program, for instance, stood out as a testament to the strength of community-driven solutions. Women who once hesitated to step beyond their homes now contribute significantly to their families' incomes, by preparing thousands of meals per month. Their growth is not just economic but personal, as they grow in confidence and find their voice.

Our commitment to education through the Aadhar Kendra Sponsorship Program, City of Child and the Deep Griha Academy ensures they receive academic learning and access to activities that facilitate holistic development. Our Senior Citizen Program supports in varying degrees over 4,200 elders, through activities that seek to support their physical health, access to social security and activities to positively impact their mental well being.

Innovation and partnerships have also been at the forefront this year. The research study in collaboration with Weill Cornell Medicine and KEM Hospital will address the pressing issue of gestational and postpartum diabetes. The long-term goal of the study is to improve postpartum type 2 diabetes (T2DM) screening and reduce T2DM-related adverse outcomes among women in underserved communities in India.

Our achievements are a collective effort—made possible by all our stakeholders, especially the unwavering trust of the communities that we work with.

Thank you for walking this path with us and we look forward to the future that we are building together.





DEEP GRIHA SOCIETY OVERVIEW

VISION

Empowerment of the marginalized through capacity building and sustainable rural and urban development programs.

MISSION

Our mission is to create inclusive opportunities for individuals and communities by delivering impactful programs in education, healthcare, livelihood, and social empowerment. Through collaboration, capacity building, and innovation, we aim to promote self-reliance and drive sustainable development in both rural and urban areas.

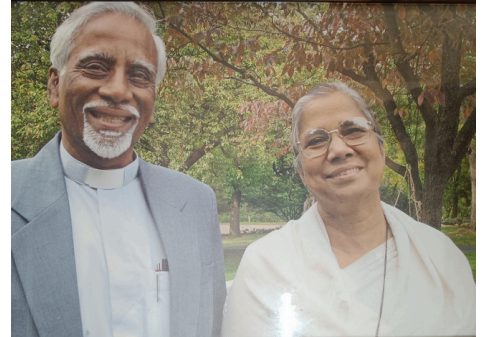
APPROACH

By partnering with grassroots NGOs and community groups we create better access to education, vocational training, nutrition, health services, income generation activities, employment and recreational activities.

THE FOUNDERS

Deep Griha Society, founded by Rev. Bhaskar and Dr. Neela Onawale, was led by Dr. Neela as Founding Director until 2016. Since then, Ms. Ashlesha Onawale has been leading the organization, continuing its mission of community development.

Deep Griha Society was established in 1975 as a one-room medical clinic in the home of its founders.



Through this clinic, Dr. Neela quickly recognized that malnutrition was a key underlying factor contributing to the health concerns of her patients. In response, a nutrition program was introduced, offering both supplementary nutrition and awareness sessions on health and nutrition to the community.

Over the years, Deep Griha Society has expanded its initiatives in direct response to the evolving needs of the community, continually adapting to the changing landscape of community development.



9539

VOLUNTEER SINCE INCEPTION



70,642

LIVES TOUCHED



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

AADHAR KENDRA

The Aadhar Kendra Sponsorship program ensures holistic development of children from socially and economically challenged backgrounds with special emphasis on children from single parent homes or those who have lost both parents.

OBJECTIVES

- * To provide the participating children with continued access to education and to support parents as they encourage their children's education.
- * To ensure that the children have access to daily nutritional meals and preventative healthcare checks.
- * To create access to recreational activities conducted during the year that promote general well-being.
- * To create access to counselling and age-appropriate awareness sessions for mental healthcare.



262

Participants Enrolled for the year 2023-24

91%

Participants attended school regularly



KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- * It should be noted that **5 students have opted for Vocational Training** after High School over academics and this choice will ensure career opportunities in their area of interest sooner than later.
- * 14 children dropped out of the program this year due to migration or marriage or job opportunities. Through the jobs the children are able to manage their own expenses.
- * The sponsorship programme seeks to go beyond meeting the basic needs of the children and ensures that **the children have access to a counselor for group as well as individual sessions.**
- * Apart from counseling the children have access to various relevant awareness sessions covering topics ranging from career guidance to reproductive health.
- * Field workers' connection with parents was built on, through the 52 home visits and through parent meetings in the office.
- * Along with the mentioned interventions, legal guidance, government schemes guidance, child development guidance etc. were also provided throughout the year.

90%

Attendance at activities organized

40%

Participants have access to coaching classes outside of school for extra guidance

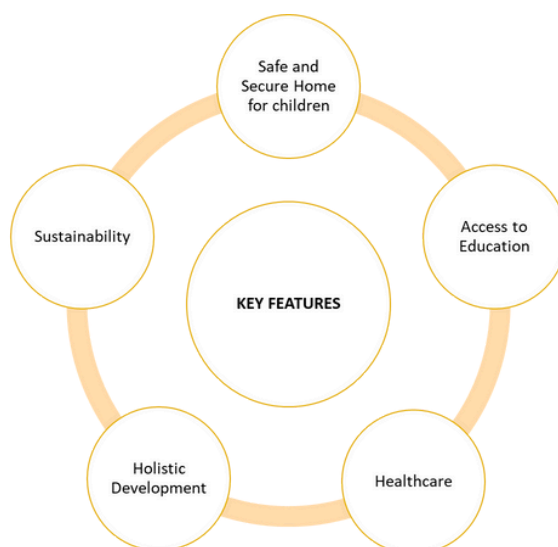


CITY OF CHILD

Through the implementation of the sponsorship programme, Deep Griha learnt that some of the extended family/grandparents couldn't manage the day to day needs of the children. The City of Child was born of this realization and opened its doors as a residential facility in 2002. The facility can house up to 50 boys through the academic year.

OBJECTIVES

- * To provide a safe and secure environment for boys from vulnerable family situations.
- * To provide access to education.
- * To ensure access to regular health check-ups, treatment when required and counseling for overall healthcare, with a balanced nutritious diet that is age appropriate, being an essential component.
- * To ensure holistic development of the children through sports and performing arts among other activities.



48

school going students through the year 2023-24

24

new admissions for the academic year 2023-24



KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- * For the academic year 2023-24, 34 children attended the Zilla Parishad Primary and Secondary school in Kasurdi and 14 children attended school at Deep Griha Academy.
- * CoC had a total of 24 new admissions for the said academic year. However, 18 children dropped out too. Children dropped out for reasons varying from home sickness, to substance abuse issues. We had a few admissions where the children were unable to adapt to the CoC environment, as they had been living without structure and supervision at their own homes, with family members busy with work. The lack of supervision at home had led to young boys being addicted to substances that they couldn't access at CoC making it impossible for the team to manage any kind of withdrawals and the young boys willing to do whatever it takes to get home. Not an easy time for the children or the team.
- * With an aim to achieve holistic development, apart from academics, the children were taken on many exposure visits that were educational and fun for the children. Regular awareness sessions, individual development plans are all part of the process as the children understand themselves and their role in the community better.
- * City of Child's agriculture component has been an effort towards financial sustainability with environmental responsibility. The team applies organic practices to grow food that is needed in the kitchen at CoC, the extra is sold in the market or to individuals for income generation.

INR 8,000

Revenue Generated through
Bajri Selling

14

Life Skills Sessions organized



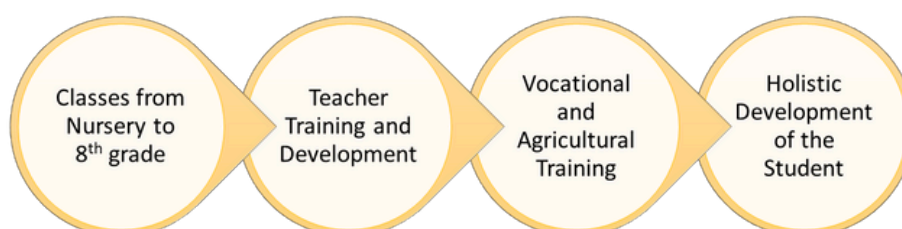
DEEP GRIHA ACADEMY

A survey conducted in villages around the school highlighted the need for an English and Computer education, we learnt that young people were dropping out of schools and refusing to go back to agriculture with no real skills in hand to be contributing members of society. This highlighted the need for vocational training. We also learnt of the need for improved access to preventative healthcare services. DGA decided to include agriculture as part of the school's curriculum so that education and agriculture were no longer seen as mutually exclusive. To respond to these needs of the community, Deep Griha Academy started in 2007.

OBJECTIVES

- * To provide quality English medium education through child-centered methodology for children between 3-16 years of age
- * To provide vocational and agriculture training for the students
- * To ensure relevant education that focuses on holistic development is imparted to children at the school
- * To build local capacity through teacher training at Deep Griha Academy

KEY FEATURES





KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- * The school works towards **holistic development of the children** and seeks to facilitate learning beyond academics. Apart from **academics, the children also learn about agiculture, vocational skills, art, music, dance, theatre and creative thinking.**
- * Students participated in a total 10 competitions, camps and/or workshops.
- * Total 28 Home Visits were conducted. This helped the teachers to better understand their students' challenges in the classroom. Home visits, especially to those who were irregular at school, resulted in students coming in regularly and also helped deter children from dropping out of school. Expectations from parents were also discussed in these visits through which parents understood the importance of their active participation in their child's learning.
- * Through Parent Teacher Meetings and parental workshops parents are gradually becoming more aware of their role in their children's learning. This shift has also helped the parents reassess their expectations from their children as well as their own responsibility when it comes to learning. For the year 2023-24, 2 health check up camps were conducted.
- * Under community outreach, a summer camp was organized in which, 70 students participated, a mini Marathon was organized where 200 students and citizens participated, total 7 Dental clinics were conducted that 67 people benefitted from

204

Students enrolled for the academic year 2023-24

11 Exposure Visits Organized

28 Home Visits Conducted



TECH SMART CENTER

Deep Griha Society & Tech Mahindra Foundation have collaborated to provide 18 to 30 year olds an opportunity to acquire job specific training courses followed with job placements at the end of the course.

DGS's Tech Mahindra SMART Center offered two courses -

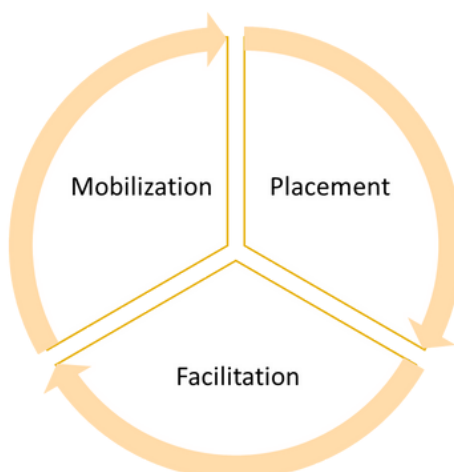
- 1.CRS - Customer Relations and Sales
- 2.OA- Office Administration

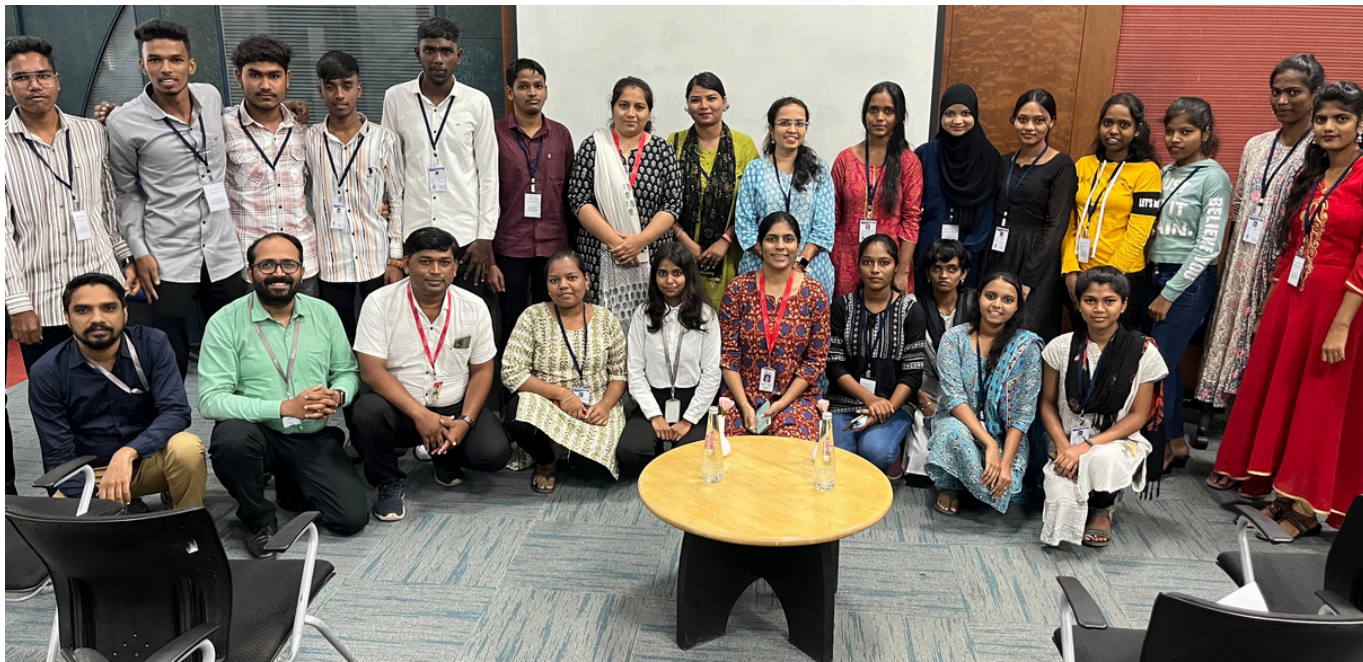
Duration of the courses was four months.

OBJECTIVES

- * To provide employable skills to young people to better help them at their first job
- * Ensure job placement at the end of the course for last mile connectivity

ACTIVITIES UNDER TECH MAHINDRA SMART CENTER





KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- * DGS SMART centre is an inclusive centre where general students and students with a Hearing Impairment learn together .
- * Mobilization through word of mouth, community visits as well as basic advertising, has successfully connected young people with the SMART center.
- * Campus Placement Drive was organized through which 113 students were selected for job opportunities with an average salary of Rs. 13K. 46% of the students were placed.
- * International Women's Day was celebrated with Ms. Ambika Bhose as the Guest of Honour. Ms. Ghose spoke about domestic violence and more specifically about "how to raise your voice against domestic violence" and also about "legal support available". She spoke about the Bharosa Cell with 24*7 support available for women and the elderly.
- * Also, a parent meeting, certificate distribution program was organized this year.

4

Staff members received
Appreciation Certificates

64

Mobilization Drives were
organized



ASIMIT

The Income generation programme gained momentum in the last year and led to Asimit meaning ‘without boundary’ which is a ‘of women, by women and for women’ initiative that seeks to support the women’s journey to financial independence, one tiffin (mealbox) and one product at a time.

Apart from providing daily meals to Deep Griha’s other initiatives, Asimit is preparing meals as per order for professionals, and students. Women prepare over 3,000 meals through the month and create products like quilts, bags, and baby kits. Deep Griha has facilitated sessions on finance and computers through the year to foster their entrepreneurial skills.

OBJECTIVES

- * To provide income generation opportunities to women from low-income communities. With a goal of financial security for women in the community.
- * To facilitate skill building and skill application opportunities for women from low-income communities.

ACTIVITIES UNDER ASIMIT





KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- * The tiffin service grew from 212 tiffins' in the first quarter to around 4500 tiffins' in the fourth quarter.
- * Women participants had access to computer classes for basics like MS - Word as well as advanced learning like data entry, digital marketing and google listings etc.

- * Economic empowerment initiatives have made significant progress in empowering women in the target areas. A total of 250 women were targeted and at the end of the year a total 224 women had registered.



18,297

Tiffins Provided

130

Women involved in the Program



SENIOR CITIZEN PROGRAM

The Senior Citizen Program under the Vriddha Mitra umbrella provides access to government schemes, home visits, regular health clinics, medication, daily meals, movement therapy, yoga, recreational activities, and mobility tools for enhanced well being of the senior citizens. We reach around 4200 individuals through the intervention of 10 Community Officers.

OBJECTIVES

- * To enhance the well being of senior citizens in low-income communities
- * To facilitate access to activities focused on social, physical and mental well being for the participants

KEY HIGHLIGHTES

4247

Elderly enrolled in the program in the year 2023-24

175

Elderly involved in Elderly Day Celebration Event

ACTIVITIES





KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- * Movement Therapy sessions were conducted throughout the year. The sessions helped improve muscular strength and endurance, balance, and other aspects of functional fitness in senior citizens.
- * Awareness sessions on Law, Healthcare, Life free from Addiction, Mental wellbeing among other topics, were conducted throughout the year
- * Grocery Kits distributed as per need
- * Health check up Camps were organized “Eye/vision check-up, Dental Check -up”, etc were conducted
- * Cancer Awareness and Check up camps were organized through the year with the help of partner organisations.
- * Along with the above listed activities, recreational activities and events were also organized throughout the year. These activities included Rakhi making workshop, Oil Lamp painting, Mehendi, Marathi Movie screenings, Diwali and Christmas party etc.
- * The Senior citizens received guidance on Healthy Lifestyle as an elder and a special meal on the occasion of Elderly Day on 5th October with active participation of senior citizens.
- * Reading Corner activity started this year wherein senior citizens spent their time reading.
- * Various social scheme camps were organized for the elderly including help with documentation to ensure access to Government Schemes available.
- * To enhance staff’s working skills twelve capacity building activities were conducted throughout the year. Topics covered were, Communication skills, Teamwork, Mental Health, Self Awareness, Child Protection, Basic Computer Training etc.



RESEARCH STUDY ON GESTATIONAL DIABETES

The study is being conducted by Cornell, KEM Hospital and Deep Griha in the urban slums of Pune city through Community Health workers (CHWs) managed by Deep Griha Society.

The long-term goal of this study is to improve postpartum type 2 diabetes (T2DM) screening and reduce T2DM-related adverse outcomes among women in underserved communities in Pune by identifying postpartum women with T2DM and link them to clinical care early, thereby preventing T2DM- related complications.

OBJECTIVES

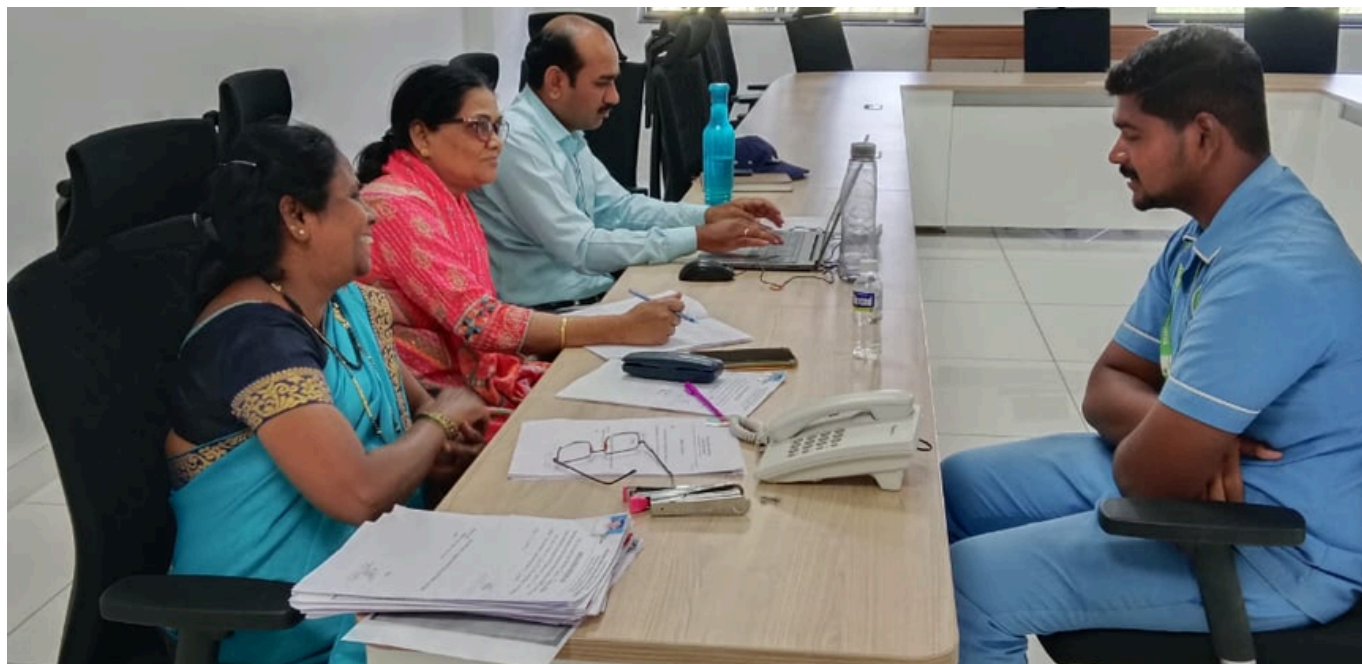
- * To improve T2DM screening during the critical life stages of pregnancy and postpartum
- * Determine the uptake of postpartum T2DM screening in home testing versus referral arms among women with GDM in Pune
- * Evaluate implementation of the CHW-delivered programs





KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- * A Study Coordinator and a Qualitative Data Coordinator joined the team in December with intensive training about the study taking up their first two weeks.
- * 12 Community Health Workers (CHW) recruited from the communities they would work in, were next to join the team. The CHW training conducted by a team from KEM and Cornell covered a period of three months.
- * CHWs were trained extensively on not just administering the test but also data collection and preparing them for maternity related questions, including training on topics like HIV and Tuberculosis.



SCHOLARSHIP

In association with the Bank of New York Mellon, the Workforce Development Scholarship Program was started in 2016. The aim is to provide financial assistance to deserving students from low-income families pursuing higher studies in technical and vocational fields. With 37 students supported in the first year, we have grown to support 118 students in 2023-2024.

OBJECTIVES

- * To provide financial assistance to deserving students from low income families
- * To prevent drop outs due to financial condition

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- * Total 118 students received scholarship for the academic year 2023-24 out of 221 applications received
- * Almost 50% of the students are pursuing Nursing, with 38 students enrolled for B.Sc Nursing and 37 students doing a General Nursing and Midwifery (GNM) course. There is a big demand for nurses in the healthcare sector. 23 students had chosen technical fields which ensure job opportunities upon completion of their education

INR 1,448,228

Scholarship Disbursed in
2023-24

OUR DIRECT PARTICIPANTS IN 2023-24

Sr. No.	Project Name	Number of Participants
1	Aadhar Kendra	262
2	City of Child	49
3	Deep Griha Academy	204
4	Tech Smart Center	248
5	ASIMIT	130
6	Senior Citizen Program	4247
7	Research Study	184
Total		5324

23,400

Our indirect participants in
2023-24

PARTICIPANTS' SUCCESS STORIES

From Aadhar Kendra

Raised in a low-income neighborhood in Pune, Snehal (name changed) lived with her mother, who sold slippers to make ends meet. Despite financial struggles, Snehal was determined to study. Deep Griha Society's Aadhar Kendra recognized her ambition and stepped in with financial aid and mentorship, enabling her to pursue a B.Com degree and an Account Executive course.

Midway through her training, a personal setback forced Snehal to pause her studies. Family tensions and emotional stress began to affect her well-being. DGS responded with counselling and stress-management sessions for her and her family—helping her rebuild relationships and return to her studies with confidence.

“**Snehal's journey shows how the right support at the right time can help young women overcome personal challenges and stay on the path to success.**”

Today, Snehal has completed her certification, tutors students at home to support her family, and is preparing for her final-year B.Com exams. She is also studying for an interview at the Income Tax Office in Pune.

“Without DGS, I would have had to quit my education. Their counselling helped my family and me trust each other again and move forward.” Snehal says

From City of Child

After losing his father at a young age, Abhay's (name changed) family faced severe financial hardship. His mother worked as a housemaid to make ends meet. A turning point came when Abhay and his younger brother were introduced to City of Child through DGS's Aadhar Kendra.

“**Abhay's story is a testament to the power of timely support and determination proof that with the right opportunities, young lives can be transformed.**”

There, he received essential support—education, accommodation, meals, and counselling—that helped him excel in school. With hard work and guidance, Abhay completed his 10th grade and pursued a Diploma in Motor Mechanics. Today, Abhay is apprenticing as a Mechanical Engineer at Tata Motors, earning a stipend to support his family and soon to be a full-time employee.

“I am very thankful to DGS, Aadhar Kendra, and City of Child for helping me complete the education of my choice,” says Abhay.

From Deep Griha Academy

At Deep Griha Academy, we believe that with the right environment, every child can overcome challenges and thrive. Nilesh's (Name changed) transformation reflects this belief.

When he began the school year, Nilesh struggled with aggression, disinterest in learning, and disruptive behavior. Instead of responding with punishment, our educators embraced restorative practices—offering empathy, open dialogue, and emotional support. Restorative Practices importance lies in fostering a safer, more inclusive, and supportive school environment where students can thrive academically and socially and DGA focused on it.

“Nilesh’s journey is a testament to how empathy, guidance, and patience can help a child heal and grow.”

Gradually, Nilesh began to change. His cooperation improved, he engaged more in class, and his confidence grew. Today, he is an active, connected learner on a positive path of growth.

His story is a powerful reminder of the impact of compassionate education and the importance of safe, supportive spaces for every child.

From TMF Smart Center

Born with a hearing impairment, Pallavi (name changed) faced repeated job rejections even after completing her graduation. At our SMART Center, she learned English, computer skills, life skills, and retail sales. After completing the course, she secured a job at Tata Motors in Pune. Pallavi now supports herself, contributes to her family, and inspires other girls with similar challenges.

“Pallavi’s journey is a powerful example of how access to opportunity, training, and encouragement can help individuals overcome even the toughest obstacles.”

Pallavi shares:

“I am grateful to the SMART Center. Despite many rejections, I never stopped believing in myself. Now I feel valued and proud.”

Pallavi is now inspiring other young women with disabilities to believe in their dreams.

From ASIMIT

Before 2022, Dipti (Name Changed) was a homemaker. When the pandemic hit, her family's income took a bigger hit, her husband lost his job. Deepti became a part of the Asimit team, specifically the tiffin services project, apart from cooking she also took part in the Computer class and gained valuable skills.

Over the years, Deepti's commitment and determination led her to take on more tasks beyond cooking, the daily data entry and some accounting became part of her work. Her confidence in herself has been on a steady rise and her income has changed her standing at home as well. It has been rewarding to be part of Deepti's journey.

“

Dipti's story shows how timely opportunity and encouragement can empower women to become self-reliant, confident contributors to their families and communities.

”

Dipti reflects:

“If DGS's ASIMIT hadn't given me this opportunity, I would have had to borrow at high interest. I am proud and thankful.”

Senior Citizen Program

Mr. Ansari (Name Changed) needed a bypass surgery costing ₹400,000 but could not afford it. Our Community Worker guided him to register for the Shahari Garib Yojana scheme. With that support, he underwent surgery, recovered, and now receives free medicines from the government hospital.

“

Mr. Ansari's story highlights the life-changing impact of access to government schemes and community outreach, especially for families facing medical and financial crises.

”

“I'm truly grateful to Deep Griha Society for showing me the right path and helping me regain my health.” says Mr. Ansari

We wish Mr. Ansari good health and thank our team for their timely intervention.

CLOSING NOTE

If you've made it this far, thank you for making the time to read the report. It documents what you have made possible with your trust and partnership. Thank you, our partnership has ensured that individuals and communities had support necessary to build a life of dignity and hope for over forty years!

We are deeply grateful to our donors and funding partners for your unwavering belief in our mission, to the communities for your trust and resilience, and to our dedicated staff and volunteers for consistent commitment and care.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to listening deeply, learning continuously, and growing together with the community, always remembering to celebrate what works and supporting aspirations for a brighter future.

Thank you for being an essential part of this journey. It is an honour to work together toward a more just, kind, and equitable world.

CONTACT US



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Please get involved:

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- Volunteer
- Sponsor a Child
- Social Media: Follow, Share



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