



Mahita

ANNUAL REPORT

2024-2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2024-25, Mahita celebrated 30 years of transformative social development, delivering impactful programs across Telangana and Andhra Pradesh to empower marginalized communities through education, health, gender equity, child protection, and sustainable livelihoods. Directly impacting over 6,000 individuals and indirectly benefiting more than 10,000, Mahita's initiatives aligned with UN SDGs (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 12, 13, 16, 17) and Government of India programs such as NEP 2020, Poshan Abhiyaan, Jal Jeevan Mission, ICDS, RBSK, Skill India, and Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, fostering systemic change for vulnerable populations.

Mahita's programs delivered profound impacts across diverse contexts. The Mobile Crèche initiative nurtured 269 children of migrant workers at three centres, far exceeding the target of 144, by creating safe and inclusive spaces that integrated nutrition, immunization, play-based learning, and parental engagement. Ismail's journey at the Divine Space centre, from separation anxiety to confidence and joyful participation, reflected the program's holistic outcomes. In rural Telangana, agricultural and livelihood programs revitalized communities by recharging 60 borewells, treating farmland through soil and water conservation, and training 65 farmers in sustainable practices, resulting in 80% adoption of improved techniques, boosting household incomes by 20–30%, and enabling high-value crop cultivation. In Adilabad, tribal households benefitted from 3 new wells, 3 solar-powered irrigation systems, and the distribution of over 19,000 vegetable saplings and 1,875 mango trees, with farmers diversifying crops and earning daily incomes of ₹600–700, while soil conservation structures enhanced long-term resilience.

Women's empowerment was advanced through the training of 150 tribal women in dairy and vegetable cultivation, with 25 dairy units established, generating ₹10,000–15,000 monthly for participating households, and the creation of Samrudhi, Adilabad's first women-led Milk Producers' Cooperative Society, shifting gender norms and strengthening financial independence. Educational programs reached 950 students through STEM and digital classrooms in Hyderabad, with 70% girls' participation, menstrual health education for 310 adolescent girls reducing stigma and absenteeism, and spoken English classes benefiting 80 students. Vocational training for 411 young women in urban slums secured a 70% placement rate, enabling 288 women to earn ₹12,000–25,000 monthly or launch microenterprises, delaying early marriages and enhancing family stability.

Child protection and youth advocacy gained momentum through YUVA MITRA, which engaged 1,490 children in forums, trained 150 youth ambassadors, and influenced commitments on mid-day meals, menstrual hygiene, and climate education. Campaigns reached 125,000 people, embedding children's voices in governance and sparking cultural dialogue on gender and rights. Volunteers from HSBC, Accenture, and Narsi Munji Institute enriched programs through spoken English teaching, career guidance, and mobilization efforts, further amplifying community impact.

Looking ahead to 2025-26, Mahita plans ambitious expansions, including partnerships with Indian Oil Corporation Limited and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited to acquire vehicles that will enhance outreach. New initiatives will focus on breast cancer screening for women in collaboration with the Health Department, public health improvements, school infrastructure development, and child marriage interventions in Adilabad, reinforcing Mahita's commitment to holistic, inclusive community development. Despite funding constraints, Mahita's resilience has been sustained through enduring donor partnerships, steadfast Board support, and the dedication of committed staff. This collective strength has carried Mahita through three decades of service, cementing its role as a catalyst for systemic change and a champion of just, empowered futures for marginalized communities.

on Behalf of Mahita
RAMESH SEKHAR REDDY . P
Program Director

ABOUT MAHITA

Mahita is dedicated to creating an economically and socially just society that respects local cultural values and practices. Since its registration in 1994, Mahita has been at the forefront of development in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, with a strong focus on gender equality, education, health, climate action, human rights, livelihoods, and humanitarian work.

For over 30 years, Mahita has empowered marginalized communities, particularly children, by protecting them from exploitation and abuse and enabling them to realize their potential. Through strong community interventions and collaborations with NGOs in both states, Mahita also leads a consortium as a Convenor, fostering partnerships for collective impact.

GOVERNANCE, STAFF, AND CERTIFICATIONS

Mahita is governed by an esteemed 8-member Management Board supported by 3 Executive Committee members and subject experts. The organization is strengthened by 40 full-time staff and 25 volunteers who contribute at multiple levels.

Mahita ensures transparency and accountability through registrations under 80G and 12A of the Income Tax Act, FCRA certification from the Ministry of Home Affairs, and compliance with PF, ESI, TDS, and Service Tax regulations. Ethical practices are reinforced by key policies, including Financial Policy, HR Policy, Child Protection Policy, Gender Policy, and a Policy Against Sexual Harassment at the workplace.

VISION

Mahita envisions a society characterized by health, self-reliance, and equality, where marginalized communities, particularly women and girl children, are afforded equal opportunities and rights with dignity, free from discrimination and exploitation.

MISSION

Mahita endeavors to serve as a catalyst for change, empowering both individuals and communities to unlock their potential and journey towards holistic development. Our commitment lies in ensuring the comprehensive growth of children while safeguarding them from exploitation and abuse..



PROJECT REFLECTIONS



PROGRAMME REFLECTIONS – 2024-25

NURTURING MIGRANT CHILDHOODS: HOLISTIC EARLY EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND NUTRITION SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN OF CONSTRUCTION WORKERS IN TELANGANA

Mahita, in partnership with Mobile Crèche, is implementing three Mobile Crèche Centres for children of migrant construction workers in Telangana, supported by collaborators like JLL and Kotak. These centres operate at Divine Space (Osman Nagar, Hyderabad; relocated from Honor Home in January 2025), Brick Infratech (Tellapur, Rangareddy District), and Muppa Melody (Osman Nagar, Hyderabad).

The Holistic Child Development and Educational Support Program creates safe, inclusive environments for children aged 7 months to 12 years, focusing on physical, cognitive, emotional, and social growth. It includes crèches for infants, early learning centres (Balwadi), and bridge courses for older children, integrating nutrition, health check-ups, immunizations, and hygiene promotion.

Family engagement occurs through counseling, group discussions, and cultural activities, addressing challenges like migration-induced educational exclusion for children from states like Bihar, West Bengal, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Maharashtra.



ALIGNMENT WITH SDGS AND GOVT. OF INDIA PROGRAMS

The initiative aligns with UN SDGs: 2 (Zero Hunger) via nutrition; 3 (Health) through check-ups/immunizations; 4 (Education) with foundational learning; 5 (Gender Equality) by inclusive support; 10 (Reduced Inequalities) targeting migrants. It supports Govt. programs like NEP 2020 (early education access), Poshan Abhiyaan (nutrition outcomes), ICDS (child welfare), RBSK (health screening), and BBBP (girl child focus), bridging gaps for marginalized groups.

ISMAIL'S JOURNEY OF GROWTH AND ADAPTATION (DIVINE SPACE CENTRE)

Ismail, a three-year-old boy from West Bengal, migrated with his parents, Ifthakar and Mamatha Begum, who work as daily wage labourers at the Divine Space construction site in Osman Nagar, Telangana. Enrolled in the Mahita-Mobile Crèche centre on January 21, 2025, Ismail initially struggled with separation anxiety, appearing withdrawn, tearful, and reluctant to engage without his mother. This reflected common challenges for migrant children, including instability and cultural dislocation.

Staff provided personalized support through playful activities like toy play and group interactions, alongside parental counseling on routine importance. Over months, positive changes emerged: Ismail now attends punctually, eats independently, interacts joyfully with peers, and participates enthusiastically in learning sessions. Emotionally resilient and socially integrated, his cognitive and physical skills flourished. Parents praise the transformation, noting enhanced confidence and family well-being, aligning with the programme's holistic approach.



BUILDING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES: INTEGRATED LIVELIHOOD, EDUCATION, AND WATER RESOURCE INTERVENTIONS IN RURAL TELANGANA

Mahita, in partnership with Prince Pipes and Fitting Limited, implemented the "Improving the Quality of Life of Marginalised Communities through Social and Economic Initiatives" project from April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025, across ten villages in Sadashiva Pet Mandal, Sangareddy District, Telangana. Targeting small-scale farmers, women, and children facing climate-induced challenges like groundwater depletion, soil erosion, and erratic rainfall, the initiative addressed poverty, gender disparities, and limited access to education and economic opportunities.

Through a participatory model emphasizing capacity building and local leadership, it integrated water resource management (borewell recharging, trench cum bunding), women's entrepreneurship training (e.g., tailoring, kitchen gardening, retail), and educational enhancements (WASH infrastructure, educational kits, scholarships). The project fostered sustainable agricultural productivity, economic empowerment, and equitable access to services, building resilient rural communities.



QUANTITATIVE ACHIEVEMENTS:

- **Water Conservation:** Recharged 60 borewells (10 new), benefiting 65 farming households; treated 10 acres with trench cum bunding for soil retention.
- **Agricultural Training:** Trained 65 farmers (40 men, 25 women) in sustainable practices, with 80% adoption rate (e.g., drip irrigation, organic composting).
- **Women's Empowerment:** Trained 60 women in livelihood skills; 10 launched microenterprises (sari shops, tailoring, vegetable vending), earning Rs. 3,000–5,000 monthly.
- **Educational Support:** Provided 600 educational kits to vulnerable children (300 boys, 300 girls), reducing dropouts by 15%; renovated WASH facilities in 6 schools, benefiting 800 students (450 girls, 350 boys).
- **Scholarships:** Awarded 30 adolescent girls scholarships (Rs. 5,000–10,000 each) for higher education.
- **Reach:** Directly impacted 1,500 individuals; indirectly benefited 3,000 through enhanced resources and awareness.

ALIGNMENT WITH SDGS AND GOVT. OF INDIA PROGRAMS

The project aligns with UN SDGs: 1 (No Poverty) through income generation and resource access; 4 (Quality Education) via kits, scholarships, and WASH improvements; 5 (Gender Equality) by empowering women economically and socially; 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) with sustainable water management; and 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) through entrepreneurship and skill development. It supports Govt. of India programs like Jal Jeevan Mission (water access), Skill India (livelihood training), Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (girls' education), and MGNREGA (rural employment), contributing to integrated rural development.

QUALITATIVE ACHIEVEMENTS AND IMPACT:

- **Agricultural Resilience:** Revitalized farmlands enabled high-value crop cultivation (e.g., vegetables, pulses), increasing incomes by 20–30%; farmers led community workshops, fostering self-reliance.
- **Women's Empowerment:** Women entrepreneurs gained financial independence, boosting confidence and social standing; businesses met local needs, strengthening economies.
- **Educational Transformation:** WASH upgrades improved girls' attendance by addressing menstruation-related absenteeism; kits enhanced classroom engagement; scholarships shifted family attitudes toward girls' education.
- **Community Cohesion:** Awareness campaigns on water, hygiene, and gender equality reached 500 households, promoting inclusive practices.
- **Behavioural Changes:** Farmers proactively maintained borewells; women became role models; families prioritized girls' education over early marriage.
- **Sustainability:** Participatory governance via village leader meetings and self-help groups embedded long-term resilience against climate and socio-economic challenges.



CASE STUDY: BANGLES & SARI BUSINESS

NAME: YELLARAPU VINODHA

LOCATION: Maddi Kunta, Sadhashivpet
Mandal, Sangareddy

TOTAL GRANT AMOUNT: ₹15,000

PERSONAL CONTRIBUTION: ₹12,000

MONTHLY INCOME: ₹10,000

(₹18,000 during festivals)

BUSINESS/INITIATIVE DESCRIPTION:

Established a bangles and sari business after training. Balances business with agricultural labor to support her 10th-grade son.



Yellarapu Vinodha, a widow from Maddi Kunta in Sangareddy, utilized financial aid and training provided by the project to start a bangle and sari business. This new venture arose out of necessity after the loss of her husband, requiring a reliable source of income to support herself and her son, who is in the 10th grade. The project support was instrumental in helping her procure initial inventory and develop business skills, which became particularly valuable during local festivals such as Dasara and Bathukamma when her earnings would significantly increase to ₹18,000.

The business not only stabilized her financial situation by providing a consistent monthly income of ₹10,000 but also allowed her to balance her time between her entrepreneurial activities and agricultural labor. This dual engagement ensured that she could support her son's education, thus contributing to his future economic independence and reinforcing her own long-term economic empowerment. This case study exemplifies the transformative impact of targeted support

BUILDING RESILIENT TRIBAL COMMUNITIES: SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE, WATER MANAGEMENT, AND LIVELIHOODS IN ADILABAD, TELANGANA

Mahita implemented the project “Sustainable Development through Enhancement of Livelihoods among Tribal Communities and Restoration of Children’s Rights” across the villages of Maruthiguda and Pusamguda in Adilabad District, Telangana. The initiative targeted marginalized tribal households, addressing critical challenges such as water scarcity, soil erosion, and limited livelihood opportunities. It aimed to strengthen natural resource management, promote sustainable agriculture, and restore dignity and opportunities for tribal families, particularly women and children.

Through a participatory and community-centered approach, the project integrated water resource development (wells, solar-powered irrigation, trench cum bunds, stone outlets), sustainable farming practices (vegetable cultivation, horticulture plantations), and livelihood enhancement (market linkages, capacity building, employment generation). This holistic strategy not only improved agricultural productivity but also fostered long-term resilience against climate and socio-economic vulnerabilities.

QUANTITATIVE ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Water Resource Development:**
 - Constructed 3 new wells and deepened 6 existing wells, benefitting 39 farmers and irrigating more than 65 acres.
 - Installed 3 solar-powered irrigation systems, enabling sustainable water access for up to 75 acres.
 - Developed 25 acres with trench cum bunding for groundwater recharge and soil moisture retention.
 - Installed stone outlets across 50 acres to reduce soil erosion and enhance water retention.
- **Agriculture and Horticulture:**
 - Planted 1,875 mango saplings for long-term livelihood generation.
 - Distributed over 19,000 vegetable saplings (chilli, tomato, brinjal, marigold) and promoted vegetable cultivation across 25 acres.
 - 25 farmers adopted crop diversification, increasing daily incomes through vegetable vending.
- **Capacity Building:**
 - Conducted 2 training programs, benefitting 52 farmers, on water resource development, soil conservation, solar energy, and horticulture.
 - Organized 2 exposure visits, enabling 54 farmers to learn from model farms and apply sustainable practices locally.
- **Reach:**
 - Directly impacted 300 individuals and indirectly benefitted 150 others through water and livelihood interventions.

QUALITATIVE ACHIEVEMENTS AND IMPACT

- **Improved Agricultural Resilience:** Reliable water sources from wells and solar irrigation enhanced crop yields, enabling cultivation in both Rabi and Kharif seasons. Farmers diversified into vegetables and horticulture, improving food security and household incomes.
- **Sustainable Practices:** Adoption of bio-composting, natural pest control, and renewable energy reduced input costs while promoting eco-friendly farming.
- **Livelihood Security:** Farmers reported daily incomes of INR 600–700 from vegetable sales. Mango plantations are expected to provide sustained income in the long term.
- **Community Empowerment:** Construction of soil conservation structures created seasonal employment while building collective ownership of resources. Self-help groups and village leaders actively supported implementation.
- **Environmental Benefits:** Enhanced vegetation cover, soil conservation, and groundwater recharge contributed to climate resilience and reduced the carbon footprint.



ALIGNMENT WITH SDGS AND GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS

The project strongly aligns with multiple UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

- **SDG 1 (No Poverty):** Income generation and livelihood diversification.
- **SDG 2 (Zero Hunger):** Sustainable agricultural practices and improved crop yields.
- **SDG 5 (Gender Equality):** Women's inclusion in farming, SHGs, and livelihood training.
- **SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation):** Groundwater recharge, solar irrigation, and soil conservation.
- **SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth):** Employment through farm-based enterprises and green technologies.
- **SDG 13 (Climate Action):** Drought resilience through sustainable resource management. It also complements Government of India programs such as Jal Jeevan Mission (water security), Skill India (vocational training), National Horticulture Mission (fruit plantations), and MGNREGA (rural employment).



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**CAF SUPPORTED PROJECT
(SOLAR PUMPS)**

NAME OF THE BENEFICIARY: TekamAnandrao

VILLAGE: Maruthiguda

GRAM PANCHAYATH: Chandpally

MANDAL : Bela

I am a tribal farmer belonging to Kolam community, my village is Pusamguda in Bela Mandal of Adilabad District. We have been living here from since by birth. We depend on agriculture and most of the villagers are also depend on agriculture and agriculture labor works only.

Our agriculture were purely rain dependent, we don't have electricity supply in our agricultural field, so that we could not be able to have the bore wells in the fields. Because of lack of water resources in our agricultural land the yield/crop was very less.

Due to the weather conditions, heavy rains, floods, shortage of water, the crop yield will differ from year to year. Due to these reasons we could not able to meet the expected income from the agriculture.



In this juncture, Mahita NGO came to our village discussed with us to know about our problems related to agriculture, during the discussions we explained them about the problems we are facing with lack of water resources.

During the discussions Mahita representatives explained about the solar water pumps system. On the other hand, an exposure visit arranged by MAHITA. During the exposure visit we came to know about solar pumps, trench cum bunds, horticultural plantation. The mahita organisation provided us water resources in our field by digging new open wells, installed Solar Pumps to encounter the water issues as well the power supply issues. Now we could able to provide water for our agriculture during the summer too.

We have been provided with 100 pipes, sprinklers to supply the water through this open well and solar pump not only to our agriculture field but also to the neighbouring agriculture fields, as a result some more farmers are benefitting. We are very happy that with this open well and solar pump system we are providing sufficient water to our fields and getting good yield, and we are saving the money needed for electricity bill because of the solar pump system. Earlier we used to grow only one crop in a year but now it is more suitable to grow two crops to three crops.

We thank mahita organisation for supporting us in our agriculture and improving our standards of living.



EMPOWERING TRIBAL WOMEN THROUGH AGRICULTURAL & LIVESTOCK PRACTICES

ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

Mahita, in partnership with HSBC Software India Limited, launched the "Empowering Tribal Women through Agricultural & Livestock Practices" project in April 2024 across seven villages in Adilabad district, Telangana: Bheempur, Balsari Rampur, Wadgaon, Dabbakuchi, Rajghad, Gunjala, and Andherbandh. Targeting 150 women and 100 families, the initiative addressed chronic underdevelopment, seasonal livelihoods, gender disparities, and ecological vulnerabilities faced by tribal communities.

Through a holistic, rights-based approach, it integrated dairy farming, vegetable cultivation, financial literacy, and cooperative development to promote poverty alleviation, gender empowerment, and sustainable agriculture. The programme enhanced income levels through vegetable sales, with farmers earning ₹15,000–₹20,000 monthly, and established Adilabad's first Women's Milk Dairy Cooperative Society, Samrudhi, with technical guidance from Vijaya Dairy. It largely developed linkages with Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) and Deccan Grameena Bank, fostering institutional support for sustainable outcomes.

QUANTITATIVE ACHIEVEMENTS:

- **Dairy Farming:** Established 25 dairy units with Murrah buffaloes across Rajghad, Wadgaon, and Balsari Rampur, yielding 5–7 liters of milk daily, generating ₹10,000–₹15,000 monthly per family for 25 households.

- **Vegetable Cultivation:** Supported 50 families to cultivate vegetables on 50 acres, earning ₹1,800–₹3,000 weekly per family (₹15,000–₹20,000 monthly), enhancing food security.

- **Financial Inclusion:** Trained 163 women in financial literacy; 71 opened bank accounts with Deccan Grameena Bank and adopted savings practices.

- **Cooperative Development:** Formed Samrudhi Milk Producers' Cooperative Society, Adilabad's first women-led cooperative, involving 25 women for collective marketing, supported by Vijaya Dairy's technical guidance.

- **Training and Capacity Building:** Trained 150 women in animal husbandry, veterinary care, and enterprise management via KVK; 50 families adopted climate-resilient farming techniques (e.g., drip irrigation, organic inputs).

- **Reach:** Directly benefited 250 individuals (150 women, 100 families); indirectly impacted 500+ through economic and nutritional improvements.



QUALITATIVE ACHIEVEMENTS AND IMPACT:

- **Economic Empowerment:** Women transitioned from unpaid labor to confident entrepreneurs, with dairy and vegetable ventures providing stable incomes, reducing reliance on informal credit.
- **Gender Transformation:** Leadership in Samrudhi Cooperative shifted community mindsets, elevating women's social and economic roles.
- **Environmental Sustainability:** Climate-resilient practices like drip irrigation and organic inputs improved soil health and crop yields, fostering ecological stewardship.
- **Community Resilience:** Financial literacy and bank accounts enhanced women's decision-making, promoting long-term financial security.
- **Social Impact:** Women leaders became role models, inspiring economic participation and challenging gender norms.
- **Institutional Linkages:** Strong partnerships with KVK and Deccan Grameena Bank ensured access to resources, training, and financial services, enhancing scalability and sustainability.



ALIGNMENT WITH SDGS AND GOVT. OF INDIA PROGRAMS

The project aligns with UN SDGs: 1 (No Poverty) via income generation; 2 (Zero Hunger) through food production; 5 (Gender Equality) by empowering women; 8 (Decent Work) via enterprises; 12 (Responsible Consumption) through cooperative marketing; 13 (Climate Action) with sustainable farming; and 17 (Partnerships) via collaborations with KVK, Deccan Grameena Bank, and Vijaya Dairy. It supports Govt. of India programs like PMKSY (water management), DAY-NRLM (livelihoods), and Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (gender equity), enhancing tribal development.

SUCCESS STORY: HOW DAIRY FARMING TRANSFORMED MY LIFE

Name of the Beneficiary: Kudmetha Sangeetha

Village: Wadgaon

Gram Panchayat: Wadgaon

Mandal: Bheempur

I am Kudmetha Sangeetha from Wadgaon village. My husband, Sriram, and I have two young children—a three-year-old daughter attending Anganwadi and a one-year-old son. Our family has relied on agriculture for generations, cultivating cotton and red gram. However, farming income is uncertain, and we often struggled to meet our daily needs, forcing us to borrow from moneylenders at high interest rates.

Everything changed when Mahita representatives visited our village. After multiple interactions, I was selected for the dairy farming initiative under the Mahita-HSBC-ITDA program. I was informed that while Mahita and ITDA would support the purchase of buffaloes, I needed to take a 20% bank loan, which I agreed to.

Through training and exposure visits to successful dairy cooperatives, I realized that this was more than just owning a buffalo—it was about financial independence. With Mahita's support, I purchased a Murrah buffalo and its calf. Earlier, our village had no buffaloes, and we had to travel to Adilabad for dairy products. Today, my family not only produces milk, curd, and ghee for our needs but also sells them to nearby villages.

Our buffalo produces 5 to 6 liters of milk daily, earning us Rs. 350 to 400. For the first time, I can meet household expenses without borrowing and have even started saving. I also became a member of the Samrudhi Milk Producers' Cooperative Society, where we work together to improve our dairy business.

Looking back, I see how far I have come—from struggling with debt to financial security. I am grateful to Mahita and HSBC for empowering women like me. This is just the beginning, and I am confident that we will continue to grow and succeed.



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EMPOWERING FUTURES: ADVANCING EDUCATION AND CHILD PROTECTION THROUGH STEM AND COMMUNITY NETWORKS IN URBAN HYDERABAD

Mahita, in partnership with DKA Austria, implementing "Improving the Quality of Education among Children and Helping Them Continue Higher Education through Science Labs, Digital Classrooms, and Child Safety Networks" project in Hyderabad, Telangana. Implemented in two government schools (Kulsumpura and Narsingi) and ten urban slum communities, the initiative aimed to bridge educational gaps and enhance child protection for marginalized children, particularly girls.

By integrating STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) and digital classrooms, training educators, providing menstrual health awareness, and establishing Child Protection Committees (CPCs), the project fostered academic advancement, gender inclusion, and safe learning environments. It emphasized capacity building, technology integration, and community-driven safety networks to promote sustainable educational and social outcomes.

QUANTITATIVE ACHIEVEMENTS:

- **STEM and Digital Classrooms:** Reached 950 students (670 girls, 280 boys) across two schools, exceeding the target of 800, with a 70.53% female participation rate.
- **Teacher Training:** Trained 24 educators (16 women, 8 men) in STEM and digital pedagogy, enhancing classroom engagement.
- **Child Protection:** Established 10 CPCs in slums, training 263 community members (211 women, 52 men); formed two children's groups in schools, engaging 450 students (250 girls, 200 boys).
- **Menstrual Health Education:** Trained 310 adolescent girls in hygiene and reproductive health, reducing stigma.
- **Spoken English Classes:** Benefited 80 students (50 girls, 30 boys), improving communication skills.
- **Reach:** Directly impacted 1,700+ individuals (students, teachers, community members); indirectly benefited 3,000+ through safer, inclusive environments.

QUALITATIVE ACHIEVEMENTS AND IMPACT:

- **Educational Transformation:** Students displayed creativity through STEM projects (e.g., solar-powered models, robotics), boosting problem-solving, attendance, and subject comprehension.
- **Teacher Empowerment:** Trained educators integrated STEM tools into lesson plans, making learning interactive and relevant, increasing student enthusiasm.
- **Child Protection:** CPCs became community watchdogs, identifying risks and advocating for child welfare; children gained skills to recognize abuse and assert rights, fostering cultural shifts.
- **Gender Empowerment:** High female participation in STEM and menstrual health sessions challenged gender norms, empowering girls as leaders and learners.
- **Confidence Building:** Spoken English classes enhanced communication and public speaking, particularly for migrant and low-income students, improving classroom engagement.
- **Sustainability:** Schools now maintain STEM labs independently; communities own child protection initiatives, ensuring long-term impact and resilience.

TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT OF STEM EDUCATION ON STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT: A CASE STUDY OF MEENAKSHI FROM GHS KULSUMPURA

NAME: P.MEENAKSHI

SCHOOL: ZPHS KULSUMPURA

CLASS: VIII

Meenakshi, an 8th-grade student at GHS Kulsumpura, has shown remarkable academic improvement this year, largely thanks to the practical experiences provided by the STEM lab. Daughter of P. Veeresh and P. Parmeshwari, daily wage workers who strive to provide her with opportunities they never had, Meenakshi's grades have soared from 65% to 90%. This jump in perfor-



In the classroom, Meenakshi is actively engaged, eager to clarify doubts and deepen her understanding. The real transformation occurs in the STEM lab, where learning transitions from theoretical to experiential. Here, students like Meenakshi don't just follow instructions; they engage in the scientific process, learning as much from failures as from successes. This active participation in experiments allows her to grasp complex concepts in a tangible way, enhancing her cognitive skills in critical thinking and problem-solving.

Regular attendance at school and the STEM lab has fuelled her curiosity and desire to learn. By applying theoretical knowledge in practical settings, Meenakshi has not only solidified her grasp of academic concepts but also honed crucial analytical skills. This hands-on approach helps students excel academically, as they are better prepared for real-world scenarios and examinations.



Meenakshi herself acknowledges the profound impact of the STEM lab, noting that it has greatly boosted her confidence and understanding, making her feel more prepared and relaxed during exams. She is optimistic about maintaining her performance in the final examinations and expresses gratitude towards DKA and Mahita for their support in bringing the STEM and Digital lab initiatives to her school.

This personal testimony underscores the transformative power of integrating practical lab experiences with traditional education, particularly for students from underprivileged backgrounds.



SKILLS FOR DIGNITY - EMPOWERING YOUNG WOMEN IN URBAN SLUMS

Mahita, in partnership with Manos Unidas, is implementing the "Enhancement of Family Income through Future Skills and Creating Decent Job Employment for Young Women in Urban Slums of Hyderabad" project, starting in January 2024. Targeting 800 young women (ages 18–26) across urban slums in Hyderabad, Telangana, the initiative addresses systemic poverty, gender inequality, and unemployment over a two-year period. By providing market-relevant vocational training in Information Technology (IT), beauty and wellness, and fashion design, alongside life skills, financial literacy, and entrepreneurship support, the project empowers women economically, reduces school dropouts, delays early marriages, and boosts workforce participation.

Strategic collaborations with corporates like Accenture and HSBC Software, and safety sessions by the SHE Team, foster sustainable, gender-responsive development, transforming families and communities.

QUANTITATIVE ACHIEVEMENTS:

- **Vocational Training:** Trained 411 women (exceeding the 400 target) in IT (MS Office, web design, Tally), cosmetology, and tailoring.
- **Employment Outcomes:** Achieved 70% placement rate, with 288 women securing jobs as telecallers, DTP operators, computer operators, or tailoring professionals, earning ₹12,000–₹25,000 monthly.
- **Entrepreneurship:** Supported several women to launch salons, tailoring units, and boutiques with seed capital assistance.
- **Exposure and Linkages:** Organized two industrial visits for 60 women to beauty parlors and fashion design centers; conducted 12 awareness sessions and four corporate HR linkages.
- **Program Oversight:** Held four bi-monthly team reviews and four graduation ceremonies for 411 participants.
- **Reach:** Directly impacted 411 women; indirectly benefited 1,000+ family members through income and empowerment.

QUALITATIVE ACHIEVEMENTS AND IMPACT:

- **Economic Empowerment:** Women gained financial independence, contributing to household expenses and reducing marriage pressures, enhancing family stability.
- **Gender Transformation:** Participants from conservative backgrounds challenged norms by running businesses and working in formal sectors, gaining community respect.
- **Confidence and Skills:** Life skills and communication training boosted self-esteem, mobility, and workplace readiness; collaborations with Narsi Monjee Business School improved interview skills.
- **Safety and Legal Awareness:** SHE Team sessions educated women on workplace rights and self-defense, reassuring families and increasing participation.
- **Community Ripple Effect:** Women entrepreneurs hired others, creating local economic networks; role models inspired broader community engagement.
- **Sustainability:** Corporate partnerships enabled product sales (e.g., Diwali lamps, dresses), ensuring long-term income generation and program scalability.



ALIGNMENT WITH SDGS AND GOVT. OF INDIA PROGRAMS

The project aligns with UN SDGs: 1 (No Poverty) through income generation; 5 (Gender Equality) by challenging stereotypes and empowering women; 4 (Quality Education) via vocational and life skills training; 8 (Decent Work) through job placements and entrepreneurship; 10 (Reduced Inequalities) by targeting slum communities; and 17 (Partnerships) via corporate and public-sector collaborations. It supports Govt. of India programs like Skill India (vocational training), DAY-NRLM (livelihoods), and Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (gender equity), advancing inclusive urban development.



CASE STUDY: PANDEY'S JOURNEY FROM STRUGGLES TO SUCCESS

BACKGROUND: Surekha Pandey, a young woman from Uttar Pradesh, faced significant challenges in life. Her family, consisting of her father and two sisters, migrated to Hyderabad in search of better opportunities. However, the family's economic situation remained precarious, as her father, Vinod Pandey, worked as a part-time painter, struggling to provide for the household. Surekha herself lacked the knowledge and skills required to secure stable employment, leaving the family with limited savings and no steady income to rely on.

CHALLENGE: The Pandey family's financial struggles were compounded by their migration, which left them without a local support network. Surekha's lack of employable skills created additional hurdles, making it nearly impossible for her to contribute meaningfully to the family's income. Her father, burdened with household responsibilities and financial stress, found it increasingly difficult to sustain their daily needs.

THE INTERVENTION: Surekha's life changed when she came across Mahita's organization, which offered free training and placement services to young women from marginalized communities. With a mix of hope and determination, she enrolled in Mahita's Future Skill Programme. During the program, Surekha gained valuable skills, including expertise in digital platforms such as Hinge, and developed the confidence to pursue professional opportunities.

OUTCOMES: The training proved transformative for Surekha. Armed with her newfound skills, she secured a position as a Cashier at Unlimited (Attapur), earning an annual income of INR 1,56,000. This well-paying job provided her with the financial stability needed to support her family. Surekha became self-sufficient, confident, and capable of taking care of her loved ones. Her ability to contribute to the family's income not only relieved her father of financial stress but also allowed the entire family to enjoy a better quality of life.

This journey highlights the significance of family support and sibling bonding in overcoming adversity. Surekha's sisters, Lekha and Kajal, played a critical role in the family's collective effort to stay resilient during tough times. Their selfless actions and emotional support underscore the positive impact of shared responsibility on individuals and families.

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TESTIMONIAL:

Reflecting on her journey, Surekha shared: "Mahita's organization played a pivotal role in my life's transformation, empowering me to break the cycle of poverty and build a brighter future."

Surekha Pandey's story is a testament to the power of targeted interventions like Mahita's Future Skill Programme in empowering marginalized individuals. By providing employable skills and facilitating economic opportunities, the program helped Surekha overcome systemic barriers and achieve financial independence. This case study illustrates how education, skill development, and family support can collectively uplift individuals and communities, creating a ripple effect of positive change.

YUVA MITRA – BUILDING THE VOICES OF YOUNG PEOPLE

Mahita, as the Convenor of the Alliance for Child Rights (ACR) in partnership with UNICEF, is implementing the YUVA MITRA – Building the Voices of Young People in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana..

Leading the programme across 20 districts, Mahita spearheads coordination among NGOs, government bodies, and youth networks to strengthen child rights advocacy, protection, and governance participation. The initiative empowers children to influence public discourse through structured forums, advocacy training, and engagement with policymakers on issues like education, gender-based violence, nutrition, and climate action.

By fostering children’s governance and leadership, Mahita has cultivated confident youth ambassadors who lead community campaigns and policy dialogues. Long-term Impact: Empowered youth leadership, policy integration, gender equity, sustainable child-centric advocacy, strengthened community resilience.

QUANTITATIVE ACHIEVEMENTS:

- **Youth Forums:** Engaged 1,490 children (650 in Andhra Pradesh, 840 in Telangana) across 19 districts in child forums.
- **Youth Ambassadors:** Trained and deployed 150 ambassadors (75 per state) in child rights advocacy.
- **Election Advocacy:** Engaged 30+ political candidates with Charters of Demand during 2023 Telangana and 2024 Andhra Pradesh elections.
- **Public Campaigns:** Reached 125,000+ people via CRC Week mall campaigns in Hyderabad and Vijayawada.
- **Health Impact:** Visited 5,000 households through Mission Indradhanush 5.0, vaccinating 1,400 children.
- **Nutritional Study:** Covered 972 schools to map dietary patterns.
- **NGO Capacity:** Strengthened 60 NGOs through consultations.



QUALITATIVE ACHIEVEMENTS AND IMPACT:

- **Youth Leadership:** Ambassadors became confident advocates, presenting evidence-based demands in Children's Parliaments, influencing policy on education and child protection.
- **Policy Engagement:** Secured commitments from officials for improved mid-day meals, menstrual hygiene, and climate education, embedding child rights in governance.
- **Community Awareness:** Campaigns like "Empower Girls" and Blue Lighting of Charminar drew 15,000+ attendees, sparking public dialogue on child rights.
- **Gender Empowerment:** Focused advocacy on girls' rights reduced stigma around menstrual hygiene and child marriage.
- **Environmental Stewardship:** Youth-led Mission Life pledges promoted sustainable practices in schools and communities.
- **Systemic Change:** Strengthened NGO advocacy and feedback loops with decision-makers, ensuring sustainable, community-led accountability.



ALIGNMENT WITH SDGS AND GOVT. OF INDIA PROGRAMS

The project aligns with UN SDGs: 4 (Quality Education) through educational advocacy; 5 (Gender Equality) via girls' empowerment; 3 (Health and Well-being) with vaccination and nutrition initiatives; 13 (Climate Action) through youth-led environmental efforts; 10 (Reduced Inequalities) by amplifying marginalized voices; 16 (Peace, Justice, Strong Institutions) via governance participation; and 17 (Partnerships) through UNICEF and NGO collaborations. It supports Govt. of India programs like Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Mission Indradhanush, and Swachh Bharat Mission, advancing child-centric development.



VOLUNTEERING ENGAGEMENT:

That's inspiring work being done by the volunteers from HSBC Software India Limited, Accenture, and the MBA students from Narsa Munji Institute of Business Management! Here's a concise summary of their contributions:

- **HSBC SOFTWARE INDIA LIMITED:** 20 volunteers are teaching spoken English and communication skills at two government schools. They also organized an exposure visit for the children to their Hyderabad office, enhancing practical learning.
- **ACCENTURE VOLUNTEERS:** These volunteers dedicate time at vocational centers, guiding young girls on new job opportunities and engaging them in interactive sessions to boost their communication, personality development, and interpersonal skills.
- **NARSA MUNJI INSTITUTE OF BUSINESS MANAGEMENT:** Six MBA interns at Mahita are mobilizing young women toward livelihood courses, identifying gaps in teaching, providing inputs, and conducting training programs for both teachers and young women on communication skills.





WAY FORWARD

Mahita's journey over the past three decades has been rooted in resilience, partnerships, and a deep commitment to inclusive development. Looking ahead, the organization is determined to build on its achievements and step confidently into new areas of impact.

A significant milestone this year is Mahita's verification on AVPN ImpactCollab. This recognition is not just a badge of credibility but a reflection of Mahita's consistent and committed work in empowering communities. It opens new doors for collaboration, partnerships, and visibility on a global scale, enabling Mahita to engage with diverse stakeholders who share our vision of equity and justice.

The ongoing programmes in education, gender equality, health, livelihoods, and humanitarian response will continue to be strengthened through evidence-based approaches and community-driven strategies. At the same time, Mahita will strategically step into new verticals, including climate action, Health, digital empowerment, and sustainable livelihood ecosystems, ensuring that interventions remain relevant to the evolving needs of vulnerable communities.

Future efforts will focus on building strong networks, leveraging technology for development, and deepening partnerships with government, corporates, and civil society. By doing so, Mahita will continue to expand its reach, amplify the voices of marginalized groups, and sustain its role as a catalyst for transformative change.

With every milestone, Mahita reaffirms its mission of creating a just, inclusive, and empowered society, where no child or community is left behind.

Mahita

ANNUAL REPORT

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