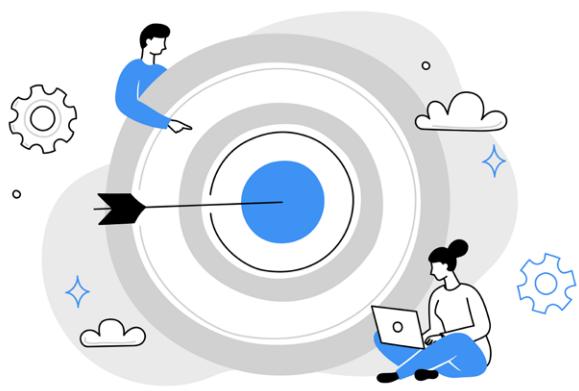




ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024



Gram Niyojan Kendra



Our Mission

To facilitate the process of development based on equality and social justice by implementing programmes for poor and marginalised sections of society through their active involvement and participation.

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From the Director's Desk

We have over the years, organised programmes for women, children, elderly, the disabled and other marginalised and disadvantaged sections of the population. Gram Niyojan Kendra has continued to positively impact the lives of people over the journey of last forty six years. Over the years we have tried to reach out to the marginalised and the vulnerable women and children, across the geographies.

The year 2023-24 saw the expansion in our portfolio with our work on women and land rights. We expanded our footprint by undertaking much needed interventions in states like West Bengal and Jharkhand where the issue of land rights and the marginalisation of women has been deep-rooted. Simultaneously, we also continued with our existing activities that have been described in this report.

In order to bring scale to our work we also forged successful partnerships and collaborations with various governmental, public and other credible agencies functioning in the field of rural development.

In recent years, our engagement with the corporate sector has borne fruit with social development projects in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh. A lot of our work has shown impact and results that are now ready for replication in other settings and geographies. We look forward to taking our rich body of evidence and experience of social mobilisation and community engagement to further the vision of our founder, the late Professor K.K. Mukherjee.

Dr. Sutapa Mukherjee
Founder Secretary



Chairman's Message

Gram Niyojan Kendra has a long standing legacy that has been way ahead of its time in terms of understanding community needs and prioritising service delivery in a systematic manner.

The major focus of GNK has been on empowering women, making them aware of their land rights, focusing on the development of children and adolescents, ensuring safety of the girl child and skilling youth. While working in different geographies, issues specific to those areas came to the fore. Given the Kendra's strong community connect and familiarisation with grassroots realities, related issues began to be included in the broad charter of activities.

The Kendra acknowledges the support and patronage received from its governing body members and funding partners who have believed in the work that is being done and anchored us much beyond the programmatic level.

We look forward to the future with a lot of hope and promise, taking forward lessons and achievements from our earlier projects.

Mr. N.K. Dhand
Chairman

Abbreviations

CHC	Community Health Centre
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
GP	Gram Panchayat
GNK	Gram Niyojan Kendra
KNH	Kindernothilfe
NGO	Nongovernmental Organisation
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SLC	Support Learning Centre
SFC	Sangha Service Centre
SHG	Self Help Group
UP	Uttar Pradesh
WBSRLM	West Bengal State Rural Livelihoods Mission
WLL	Women Land Literacy
WSHG	Women Self Help Group

Approaches

Social Mobilisation and Community Engagement

Training and Capacity Building

Advocacy and Communication

Collaborating with State Governments

Our Footprint

States : **5 States**

District : **57 districts**

Villages : **2000+ villages**

Families : **100000+ families**

Beneficiaries : **517000+**



Ongoing Projects

- Women Empowerment through Property Ownership Programmes in West Bengal
- Centre for Entrepreneurship Development in Ghaziabad,
- Stronger Land Rights for Women in Jharkhand
- Computer Training as part of Digital Literacy of Rural Youth in Ghaziabad
- Protecting Children and Tackling Trafficking and Child Prostitution.
- KAWACH addresses issues of Child Labour, Child Marriage, Child Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Uttar Pradesh
- Area Development Programme in Roopwas block in Bharatpur district, Rajasthan
- Area Development Programme in Narkatiaganj district, West Champaran, Bihar
- Rural Youth Employed Post Completion of the Health Attendant Training Programme.
- Mental Health Awareness Programme for School children in Ghaziabad
- Climate Change Sensitization of SHGs and Government Functionaries through Mangroves Forest Programme.
- Skill Development of Male Prisoners.
- Social Development Programme in partnership with Micromatic Grinding Technologies Limited, Ghaziabad.

Our Impact

7240 Women empowered

440 Self Help Groups strengthened

2752 Adolescents trained on life skills

3718 Students benefitted through education initiatives

1 Health camps held

772 children and **330** pregnant women covered through immunization and vaccination

5976 Women counselled on land rights

507 government functionaries trained on climate change and Mangrove restoration in the Sundarbans.

1000 fishermen registration cards handed over to eligible fishermen in the Sundarbans.

72 male prisoners trained in job linked life skills

SDG Footprint



Empowering Women and Youth

- **26%** of self-help group members and **600** women in West Bengal imparted land literacy training
- **500+** trainings established a connect between women, land rights and violence in Jharkhand
- **23** adolescent girls trained on career-based certificate courses in Ghaziabad
- **65** students enrolled in computer training in Ghaziabad and placed in retail stores
- **23** sessions held on mental health in **16** schools covering **2365** students and **94** teachers in Ghaziabad



Project 1:

Women Empowerment through Property Ownership Programmes in West Bengal

Gram Niyojan Kendra in collaboration with Landesa is working to ensure secured property ownership for approximately 10 to 15 thousand rural households in West Bengal by upgrading capacities. With updated and accurate land records, villagers will have new opportunities, expanded liberties, and greater freedom through the pathway of more secure property ownerships. The objectives of this collaboration are:

- Facilitate identification and training of required number of SHG women to provide land records updating services.
- Work with the WBSRLM to facilitate SFC established in all the 22 rural districts in West Bengal with land record updating.

Key Activities

i. Setting up Sangha Service Centres

- *To reduce exploitation of marginalised women by middlemen in matters related to their land rights, several Sangha Service Centres (SFCs), were set up and nurtured in West Bengal. The centres provide land related services, particularly for updating and correcting land records. These centres are managed by trained women self-help group (WSHG) members to address community's demand on land record updation at rates recommended by the West Bengal State Rural Livelihoods Mission (WBSRLM). Giving the Women Land Literacy and SFC initiative an impetus was the participation of Birbhum district administration through a tableau presentation at the Republic Day parade on 26 January.*

- *Entrepreneurial opportunities are provided to WSHG members who are supporting in submitting applications for updating land records to the Block Land & Land Reform Offices through the online platform created by the government of West Bengal for its citizens (<https://banglarbhumi.gov.in>).*





ii. Generating demand for services via land literacy trainings by Block Level Trainers

- A state-level workshop on Women Land Literacy (WLL) was organised on 6 November 2023, at the Biswas Bangla Convention Centre in New Town, Kolkata. This was spearheaded by the West Bengal State Rural Livelihoods Mission (Anandadhara) under the Panchayats and Rural Development Department. The workshop was chaired by Shri Becharam Manna and Smt. Seuli Saha, Hon'ble Ministers of State in the Panchayats and Rural Development Department of the Government of West Bengal. In addition, the Secretary of the Panchayats and Rural Development Department, the State Mission Director & Chief Executive Officer of WBSRLM, and the Senior Land Tenure Advisor, Asia Region, Landesa chaired the workshop. All the GNK staff, based out of West Bengal, attended the event.
- New centres were set up and three days' training provided to selected SHG members. Refresher trainings were provided based on the request of district level authorities. Hand holding support was also extended, in person and through online platforms, to centres that had opened earlier but were unable to perform satisfactorily.

iii. Showcasing successes by reviewing performances and organising facilitation events

- Five Regional Level Knowledge Dissemination Workshops were organised in five districts where service providers from different districts took part along with government officials. They discussed the progress, challenges, and future strategies for improving programme outcomes. These helped boost the enthusiasm of women service providers.
- Successful service providers were felicitated by their district administrations for their excellent performance in updating land



records. The SFCs and their performances continued to grow consistently through the year as shown in Fig 1.

Fig 1: Progress of SFCs in 2023-2024

Snapshot of SFC's Progress	March 2023	March 2024
No. of SFCs trained for operation	212	299
No. of SFCs that are operating	116	189
No. of service providers trained	697	1018
No. of Warish and Mutation application disposed	1754	4662
No. of plot information provided	1073	3370
No. of Record of Rights certificate provided	1658	4553
No. of conversion cases disposed	47	111
No. of Khajna payment completed	280	931
No. of miscellaneous cases disposed	249	778
No. of counselling services provided	1844	5976

Project 2: Stronger Land Rights for Women in Jharkhand

In tribal communities of Jharkhand, domestic abuse affects two-thirds of women. Apart from issues of child marriage, dowry and witchcraft, middle-aged, impoverished, widowed and unmarried women are at risk of suffering violence from family members over land and property. While Women Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and Village Organizations (VOs) are present, they are not well informed on legal rights of women with respect to land and are unable to play a constructive role in helping them safeguard their interests.

Given GNK's strong relationship with the Jharkhand State Livelihood Promotion Society (JSLPS), state officials invited them to collaborate with one of their district units to recognise the extent and nature of land related issues and their impact on women. Landesa supported GNK in its work with JSLPS entailing developing a cadre of land trainers in eight panchayats of two districts with the aim of establishing systems that address women's land-related issues effectively. Learning needs of community women were developed and an intense land literacy and leadership module finalised focusing on building women's individual and collective agency in addressing land issues.

Key Activities

i. Supporting SHARC and their network of single women to be well informed and trained on land rights: Training programmes were held with project staff to orient them on land rights as enshrined in the Indian constitution. Engagement with government officials like Deputy Development Commissioners (DDC), District Legal Service Authority (DLSA), SRLM DPM in Hazaribagh, Circle Officer & Circle Inspectors and Block Development Officer (BDO) in Hazaribagh prioritised women and land rights on their agenda.

- 798 people trained on rights and entitlements in eight panchayats of which 368 were panchayat leaders.
- Strong participation by men ensured they were sensitised to the gender aspect.
- Discussions initiated with 38 WSHGs on social security schemes.

- 3-day workshop held on “Collective Vision and Leadership” for Panchayat Committee Leaders in July 2023 with 26 community leaders and 6 project staff.
- Training module for panchayat leaders covered goals and responsibilities of *Ekal Nari Shashakti Sangathan (ENSS)* and strengthening it by increasing capacity of recently chosen members on administrative structure and legal processes

ii. Conducting a Pilot Study in Clusters operated by JSLPS: In collaboration with district functionaries of Lohardaga tribal, a pilot study was carried out in Kuru block, district Loharda to understand the operation and function of the Cluster Level Federation (CLF); recognise the extent and nature of land related issues and their impact on women; assess what women knew and the importance of educating them on land issues. With support of Landesa, GNK collaborated with local CSOs to organise land literacy activities involving men, women and community leaders.

- Women leaders enhanced their ties with land revenue department officials through interactions and field visits.
- Sensitisation sessions held with government stakeholders to foster greater sensitivity towards women’s land tenure security, leading to commitments to bridge existing gaps.
- Traditional leaders trained on leveraging their influence to shift norms and uphold women’s dignity and rights.
- Gender Resource Persons trained to play a pivotal role by enhancing their knowledge and sensitivity towards women and relevant laws.
- SHGs and VOs – through their Gender Justice Centres to serve as platforms to address land-related issues effectively.

iii. Collaborating with other CSOs in the State: The team engaged with tribal population in the project area to create awareness on land rights for tribal women. It was acknowledged that recognising and addressing violence against tribal women within the framework of their customary practices is essential.

- Discussions held with leaders of the Professional Assistance for Development Action (PRADAN), a technical support organisation for ‘gender justice’ working in the state within the Jharkhand State Livelihood Promotion Society (JSLPS). It also coordinates a network called VBNet Foundation that comprises of 21 CSOs
- GNK collaborated with VBNet to improve knowledge about women and land through virtual and in-person discussions. The team visited Patamda block of east Singhbhum district, where the CSO, Tagore Society of Rural Development (TSRD) has a field office.
- Interactions held with Azim Premji Foundation, a funding body supporting multiple projects in Jharkhand

Trainings and discussions	Reach
No of meetings conducted with SHGs, panchayat and traditional leaders, village organisations, cluster level federations	700 meetings held
No of discussions held on land, violence against women on land related matters and laws that protect some of these injustices with single women and community members	650 discussions held
Trainings with grassroots workers on how to investigate cases of GBV that were connected to land	More than 20 workers sensitised who further spread awareness in their respective villages

iv. Preparing a Land Literacy Question Bank: Extensive desk research of printed literature and video/online information was undertaken to comprehend the relationship between women and land. It secured inputs on the nature of legal assistance available; ownership/rights of land in the state; land-related laws; details of Land Revenue Department; online processes related to land; and ways of securing land. Interactions with revenue officials provided insights in the working of the revenue department which helped finalise phase-wise training materials on women and land issues.

v. Findings from a media scan: Given the influence media exerts on local population in influencing them, shaping their behaviours and serving as a deterrent, the team undertook a systematic scanning of coverage in 2023 by reviewing four popular Hindi dailies. The findings revealed that media mostly covered subjects associated with witch-hunts and crime related to land disputes.

Challenges faced by the project team

The team met with initial resistance from tribal leaders who associated discussions on land rights with questions of tribal identity and potential land misappropriation by outsiders. However, clarification that the goal was to acknowledge and uphold tribal identity while addressing the pressing issue of violence against tribal women led to a mutual understanding. Further, the team was unable to work in eight panchayats while it was in partnership with the local NGO SHARC due to their specific restrictions on the flow of funding from global contributors. Resultantly, the pilot with single women collectives had to be discontinued.



As part of the media scan, it was found that media had a skewed understanding of the real underlying issue. Their lack of knowledge on land matters and reforms on land-related laws seemed apparent. Their coverage did not probe the real causes of land-related violence and establishing the connect between GBV and its relationship with land. Their coverage therefore was not always accurate or evolved.

Achievements

Women became more aware and empowered: Women could now make the connection between themselves, their land and the different forms of violence they had to endure.

Triggering interest in other members of the community: There is growing interest from the community – including men and traditional leaders – to know more about land. The CSOs in the State are now better equipped to recognise women's land rights and take steps to bring perpetrators to book. Traditional leaders and men too are using their awareness to advocate for justice for women on land matters.

Government prioritising the issue: Agencies like SRLM are keen to conduct regular land literacy sessions and generate demand from the ground up. They want to set up redressal avenues to give aggrieved women a platform to share their concern and seek justice.

Project 3: Centre for Entrepreneurship Development in Ghaziabad

The Centre which was set up in 1983 aims at developing the spirit of entrepreneurship among girls, women and youth by imparting livelihood and leadership skills. Regular vocational training programmes on stitching, hand embroidery and advanced fashion designing are held at regular intervals at the Kazipura centre in Ghaziabad.

In addition to the Kazipura centre there is one affiliated centre, which functions under the supervision of the Kendra. Exams and assessments are conducted and certificates of participation awarded to those who successfully complete their training. Gradually, interest in the community is building up as they see trained candidates finding decent jobs in the market. As a result of these efforts, the number of enquiries has steadily gone up.

- 24 students enrolled at Kazipura centre
- 23 candidates completed a 3- month course including 14 girls who obtained certification for beautician training



Project 4: Computer Training as part of Digital Literacy of Rural Youth in Ghaziabad

Digital literacy has emerged as a major gap in the education of rural youth. A Computer Training Centre has been running in Kazipura from September, 2022. It provides computer training to rural boys and girls so they can use and apply this practical knowledge to upgrade their lives and make them suitable for a variety of jobs.

- 63 students enrolled and 42 students received certificates on completing computer training
- 5 candidates secured jobs in 24x7 and Pantaloons stores



Project 5: Demystifying Mental Health for school children in Ghaziabad

GNK has been promoting mental health awareness amongst adolescent students studying in government schools across the district. Efforts are made to demystify mental health challenges via the medium of interactive workshops where school children and teachers are encouraged to participate. Children needing counselling support are provided the same through the Child Guidance Centre at GNK. As children open up and talk about their mental health issues appropriate referrals are made so they can address their problems and work towards a healthy and sound future.



Mental Health Awareness Camps programme are held across Government schools of Ghaziabad, with permission of the District Inspector of Schools, Education Department, Uttar Pradesh. This programme is a unique awareness intervention in Mental Health for school students in Ghaziabad.

- 23 sessions held covering 16 schools in the district
- 2365 boys and girls and 94 teachers participated in the programme

Voices of women and other stakeholders

“Neither me nor any of the women in my neighbourhood knew that we had any kind of laws to protect our land rights.”

“We silently suffer the torture inflicted on us by our sons and other family members who pressurise us to relinquish our land title deed or sell our land at much lower prices.”

“Am grateful my widowed sister has a son which offers her protection against being homeless. If she had a daughter, her in-laws would have made both mother and daughter land-less and homeless.”

“In our ancestral land where my brothers also live, I have been given just a shed in an outhouse. I dare not demand equal rights lest my parents and relatives take this also away from me.”

“Mental health issues are rampant but no one knows what to do. For the first time there is conversation around different mental health conditions.”

Protecting Children and Prevention of Child Trafficking

- **20** villages and **208** students covered in Bharatpur district of Rajasthan
- **40** villages of Narkatiaganj Block, Bihar counselled on exploitation & trafficking
- **2081** adolescents in **15** schools trained on self defence in Bettiah
- **650** girls attended adolescent meetings in **40** intervention areas
- **40** BBM meetings held in **40** communities on child rights
- **527** families guided on savings and aid provided for medical emergencies
- **140** children attend Balwadi regularly where nutrition needs are met
- **500** students benefitted from extra classes increasing enrolments from **161** to **208**
- **800** adolescents in **40** communities trained on life skills
- **10,000+** community members participated in events held on important days in Bihar and Rajasthan
- **10** trainings for survivors and mentors of child labour, child marriage and commercial sex exploitation held in UP

Building on its more than four decades of work in the area of child protection and prevention of child trafficking, GNK initiated Project Samriddhi with the goal of preventing and controlling trafficking and prostitution through an Area Development Programme in the two states of Rajasthan and Bihar.

Roopwas block in Bharatpur district, Rajasthan and Narkatiyaganj block of district West Champaran, Bihar were chosen. Based on a needs assessment carried out in both geographies, areas of intervention were planned, namely education, health, economic empowerment and child protection. The overall goal was to equip local community members with skills that could help them build a better life with suitable and sustainable livelihood options.

Project 1:

Area Development Programme in Roopwas block in Bharatpur district, Rajasthan



Samriddhi Bal Vidya Mandir Madhyamik Vidyalaya, a senior secondary school, set up by the Kendra at block Roopwas, district Bharatpur Rajasthan has been functioning well in the report period. 208 Students, all residents from nearby areas, covering around 20 villages are enrolled in the school. Outreach and community mobilization is undertaken in the villages adjacent to the school. Due to sustained activities undertaken by the field team, the number of enrolments increased from 161 to 208 students in 2023-2024 academic year.

Activities included:

Strengthening Education and Learning

- **Balwadi child care centre set up:** The centre was operationalised in village Pipretha of Bharatpur district with the goal of initiating 3-6 year olds in educational activities. Multiple activities were held to improve motor coordination, language and social skills in addition to introduction to the 3R's. A major attraction was due to the fact that it was free, for longer hours and also offered snacks and nutritious food. However, some children were withdrawn since their parents could not keep up with the timings and schedule.
 - 26 children (16 boys and 10 girls) are attending the Balwadi regularly.



The safe and homely atmosphere at the Balwadi along with personal attention has given relief to parents, most of whom are construction daily wage migrant workers. Since we teach children age appropriate things, it helps them transition smoothly to a primary school. Word about the Balwadi is spreading and more children are seeking admission.

- **Dinesh Sagar, Balwadi Teacher**

- **Extra community level classes:** These classes were held in Bharatpur where students from 17 villages attended during winter vacation. Extra classes were organised for weak students from primary and secondary sections. Boys and girls were screened on the basis of their grades and those needing extra attention were provided extra classes for six months. These classes served as a bridge class and once they were brought up to speed they were sent back to their regular class/school. Special attention was given to students sitting for board exams wherein they were guided on how to prepare, draw time tables, revise and write their papers.

- 232 students (153 boys and 79 girls) were taught in community classes
- 47 students (31 boys and 16 girls) were screened and provided extra classes
- 20 students (12 boys and 8 girls) appeared in board exam in April, 2024. While 10 students secured first division, 6 passed in second division and 1 in third division. The 2 students who got supplementary resolved to clear it in the next attempt. Only one student did not pass and he will be supported in appearing for the exam next year

By attending extra classes I could clarify many doubts. Tips on how to prepare for examinations gave me confidence and was instrumental in helping me be a top scorer, obtaining 501 marks out of 600.

- **Sanjana Kumari, Bharatpur**

- **Exposure visits:** These were received extremely well by students. An educational tour was organised in January, 2024 with financial contribution of students and teachers.
 - 32 students visited Jaipur zoo/Ramniwas Garden, Museum Hawa Mahal, City Palace and Amber Fort as part of exposure visits.

Community Mobilisation and Advocacy

- In Bharatpur to increase enrolment in the school, household visits were made to interact with parents in 30 villages.
- Since the community was largely uneducated, outdoor media was used. Public announcements were made regularly through loud speakers. Over 2000 informative pamphlets were distributed across villages highlighting benefits of schooling and more than 1250 parents were contacted and informed about the school and its facilities, performance and background.
- A deworming camp was held for all students and organised with the help of the local Community Health Centre (CHC) at Roopwas. An Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM) attended the camp and distributed Albendazole tablets to all students.
 - Number of enrolments increased from 161 to 208 students in 2023-2024 academic year
 - 11 meetings organised with parents/guardians/caregivers of children.
 - 282 community people (165 women and 117 male) participated in meetings.

Project 2:

Area Development Programme in Narkatiaganj district, West Champaran, Bihar

GNK is working in 40 villages of Narkatiaganj Block, District West Champaran, Bihar to prevent exploitation and trafficking of children and women. The project was initiated in 2018 and is supported by Kindernothilfe, Germany.

Key Activities

- **Adolescent meetings at community level:** The meetings covered the theme of child rights, focusing on survival, protection, development and participation. Discussions, exercises and games held as part of adolescent engagement fostered a transformative and positive impact in the community, promoting child rights and wellbeing, especially among adolescent girls.
- **Adolescent meetings at school level:** The meetings helped young boys and girls open up and share their concerns and bust myths and misconceptions related to biases that impacted their day to day life. Adolescents became more aware of their emotional and psychological wellbeing. They developed self-control to effectively manage physical and mental changes, and adopted better personal hygiene, health practices and dietary choices. Girls improved their menstrual hygiene and management. The information on common infectious diseases, their prevention, treatment, and importance of vaccination was useful since they shared these with their parents and families.
 - 440 adolescent girls attended adolescent meetings in 40 intervention areas
 - 207 adolescent girls in 17 schools were made aware of their rights and how to navigate exploitative, oppressive and unjust situations
 - 40 BBM meetings in 40 communities organised to address child rights issues where over 733 children participated

- **Conducting self-defence training:**

Adolescents were trained at SHHPE, Bettiah as part of ongoing efforts to promote girl child safety and rights.

- 2081 adolescents trained on self defence at SHHPE, Bettiah in 15 schools in 2023



- **Organising WSHGs and promoting small savings:**

Meetings were conducted with SHG members and they were advised and mentored on how to do small savings promoting regular savings for emergencies, investments and personal goals. Women members were encouraged to start small businesses and improve financial literacy and decision-making skills. The trainings enhanced their capabilities, confidence and leadership skills through active participation, while fostering a supportive community that extended beyond economic empowerment.

- 527 families, encouraged to step up savings, investments and individual economic activities, and financial support provided during medical emergencies.

Loan utilisation details of SHG members							
Benefits received by members from the group							
Total members	In medical emergency	To buy livestock	To start a business	For meeting basic needs of the family	For agricultural purposes	Loan given outside the group for financial gain (@5%)	Total beneficiaries
450	97	7	10	126	19	10	269

- **Support Learning Centre to support education, nutrition and health:**

An SLC was set upon pilot basis to support students' fundamental right to education. GNK ran coaching centres to provide not just basic elementary information, making entry level formal education attractive but also remedial education for those lagging in primary classes. A series of personal health awareness camps were held at the centre to provide awareness on nutrition and oral health since children were prone to consuming chocolates, biscuits and sugary foods and not brushing properly. Dentists screened teeth of all participants and demonstrated correct way of brushing. They were told to be mindful of tooth related problems like cavities, plaque and gum inflammation and informed about the connection between oral hygiene and digestion/stomach related problems.



- 720 children in 36 coaching centres benefitted by improving their Maths, English and Hindi
- 220 students were reached through 11 SLCs that were set up on pilot basis
- 410 children benefitted from sessions on oral and dental hygiene



• **Vocational training, life skills training and exposure visits held:** Since 2019-2020, GNK has been working in 40 villages in Narkatiaganj block to protect child rights and promote community development, including running tailoring and computer training centres. The Kendra continued to prioritise child rights and women's empowerment with life skills training reaching adolescents across different communities. Equipped with essential life skills, adolescent girls were empowered to make healthier choices, positively impacting their well-being, relationships and awareness. This helped foster a child-rights-centric community dedicated to empowerment and rights fulfilment. Several exposure visits were organised in January 2024 to provide participants a glimpse into India's rich cultural heritage. Visits to Taj Mahal and Buland Darwaza saw enthusiastic participation. Outdoor visits provided an opportunity to the facilitators to talk about self defence, trafficking and other risks which young people, especially girls face in tourist areas.

- 800 adolescents reached across 40 communities through life skills training

• **Community Mobilisation and Advocacy:** Commemorated special days to mobilise community members and draw attention to issues of concern. In Narkatiyaganj, Samriddhi-KNH organised an International Day of the Girl Child on 11 October to spread awareness on child marriage and gender-based violence, government policies and schemes and dowry related laws. Human Rights Day was celebrated on 11 December with active participation on multiple stakeholders. World Against Child Labour Day was celebrated at Bargajwa village on 12 June, 2023 and children, parents and employers were made aware of legal rights of children had legal consequences of violating these laws. A programme was organised on World Environment Day with special prayers in schools highlighting the importance of the day and urging students to take small steps for a healthier environment. Children organised rallies and engaged in a debate and art competition on prioritising environmental preservation over technological advancement.

- 700 adolescent girls participated in activities held on the International Day of the Girl Child

- 900 children, adolescents, community members, students, BBM groups participated in the Human Rights Day celebrations on 11 December.

- 200 participants attended the community event on World Against Child Labour Day

- 15 villages and schools participated in the World Environment Day on 5th June where 15 BBM groups and 1500 BBM members/school children participated and planted 300+ saplings.

Project 3:

KAWACH addresses issues of Child Labour, Child Marriage, Child Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Uttar Pradesh

The KAWACH Project supported a holistic prevention model to address and counter child labour, child marriage, child trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of children. The project was implemented in five districts of Uttar Pradesh, namely Varanasi, Bhadoi, Prayagraj, Mirzapur, Azamgarh) and three districts of Bihar (Sitamarhi, Gopalganj, Siwan). The partners were ROSA, MSEMS, and PGS in Uttar Pradesh and ADITHI in Bihar.

The aim of the project was to empower human trafficking and debt bondage survivors by building their resilience through collective conscience building and improving their livelihood status. The initiative focused on scaling up evidence-based models of prevention in selected districts of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, with a focus on working in both source and destination areas.

Key Activities

i. Capacity building

At the heart of the KAWACH initiative was the capacity building of partners, training of staff and providing hand holding support to members of different forums, mentors and resource persons.

- **Partner organisations:** As part of the Advisory Board and Survivors group's initiative, training of four partner organisations was completed. This included their senior team and over 20 staff members who were part of the project.
- **Survivor's Forum:** Four leadership trainings of the Survivor's Forum comprising 20-25 members each was completed in addition to four trainings on "Business Skill Development and Financial Inclusion". Hand holding support workshops were undertaken for survivors of human trafficking and human bondage (3 in UP, and 1 in Bihar)
- **Mentorship trainings:** 10 mentors were developed, through training and capacity building (2-3 in each survivor group). They were guided on mentoring and facilitating other groups/communities to establish business for better livelihood. They were guided on ways in which they could identify vulnerable child/youth with potential to be trafficked.

“ 10 mentors who are key members of survivors group were capacitated on Government programmes and schemes. This helped them link their group members and other vulnerable youth to Government programmes. ”

Voices of Children and Adolescents

“Self defence trainings have given me a lot of confidence. I am now much more at ease walking from my school to residence alone. I know I can take care of myself and also anyone else who is being harassed on the roads.”

“Being part of the special day celebrations like Childrens' Day, Girl Child Day, Women's Day and Human Rights day has made us much more aware of these issues. We now apply them to our life and educate others too.”

“As survivors of trauma we had retreated into a shell. Our mentors helped us process our negative feelings. We feel much better now as we look at a future with hope and promise.”

“Exposure visits have made us aware of real world jobs and shown us the path. We will now prepare to embark on that journey with skills and knowledge.”

“As teachers we welcome such initiatives where youth and adolescents are being equipped with information and tools to protect themselves. The veil of silence and the fear of taboo are finally being removed and there is open conversation on child protection and safety.”

Health, Environment and Inclusion

- **253** youth completed Health Attendant Training in **26** batches
- **10** sensitisation events held with **445** women on Mangrove plantations in the Sundarbans
- **507** government functionaries trained on climate change and Mangrove restoration
- Kultali block GP allocated INR **50,000** from own funds for awareness campaign in the Sundarbans.
- **10** street plays organised in four villages with participation of **800+** community members.
- **1000** fishermen registration cards handed over to eligible fishermen
- **72** male prisoners trained in job linked life skills

The Kendra has made progress in furthering the quality and upgrade of both supply and demand side of health care services. On one hand it improved preparedness and access to health services and on the other, it developed a cadre of trained youth seeking job placement in the geriatric and caregiving sectors.

In the area of environment, sensitive areas like the Sundarbans have been identified where climate change has wreaked havoc in the lives of people. Working closely with the state government, GNK has activated local communities to adopt simple and effective practices that can protect them from environmental degradation and changing ecological patterns.

Taking forward its work in the area of skilling, effort has been made to work with marginalised and excluded groups such as male prisoners.

The positive feedback and success of these initiatives in 2023-2024 will pave the way for the development of new proposals in order to expand outreach.



Project 1:

Rural Youth Employed Post Completion of the Health Attendant Training Programme

The Kendra has made progress in furthering the quality and update of both service and demand side of health care services. On one hand it has improved preparedness and access to health services and on the other, it has developed a cadre of trained youth who are finding job placement in the geriatric and care giving sectors.

The Health Attendant Training Programme helped create a livelihood opportunity for youth



as they embarked on a specialised career track and polished their learnings so they could find suitable employment in the geriatric and seriously ill care giving sector. This programme was first initiated by GNK in 2009 and has had a successful innings of 26 years. Trained youth have found employment in homes, nursing homes and hospitals, earning anywhere between INR 10,000 to 25,000 a month.

Project 2:

Climate Change Sensitisation of WSHGs and Government Functionaries through Mangroves Forest Programme

The programme was launched with the aim of empowering communities in the Sundarbans in West Bengal, where there was urgent need to protect the Mangroves and regenerate them. The GNK team aligned itself with the vision of the state government to mitigate adverse effects of climate change in this extremely sensitive region.

Phase 1 of the programme 2023 - 2024, concluded with identification of four villages for implementing a pilot. Two villages each were selected from Gosaba Block (Pakhiralaya of Rangabelia Gram Panchayat and Mathurakhanda of Bali 1 Gram Panchayat) and Kultali block (Boserchak and Debipur of Gurguria Bhubaneswari Gram Panchayat).

The rationale for selecting the block/villages for the pilot intervention was to have blocks that were heavily Mangrove dependent; which had the Block and other stakeholders on board; had a high chance of replicability; and were located in a way that was neither remote nor adjacent to urban areas.

By the end of Phase 1, the team had a good understanding of the Government's ongoing work in the Sundarbans. They could assess the communities' knowledge on Mangroves and discuss potential avenues to strengthen health interventions in this sensitive zone.

Key Activities

i. Sensitisation events

Sensitisation of WSHG members on climate change and mangrove conservation: Events were organised targeting women SHG members residing in the four pilot villages. About 445 women were assessed on their knowledge on the issue prior to the event.

- *Four events held from Oct to Dec 23 with 193 WSHG members*
- *Six events held from Jan to Mar 24 with 252 WSHG members*



ii. Training programmes

Gram Panchayat-level orientation for elected representatives and GP employees: Orientation events were conducted on climate change, mangrove restoration, and role of Gram Panchayat at Gurguria Bhubaneswari Gram Panchayat in Kultali block and Rangabelia GP of Gosaba block.

- *103 participants (78 male and 25 female) attended training sessions*

Block-level orientation for elected representatives of the Panchayats: Administrators of both the pilot blocks, Gosaba and Kultali, successfully organised orientations for elected representatives of Panchayats, covering a range of pertinent issues.

- 404 elected members (211 female and 193 male) oriented on dangers facing the Sundarbans

iii. Community celebrations

Street plays: Street plays were organised for raising awareness on climate change and mangrove restoration seeing healthy participation. An expert was hired to develop the script and engage professional performers. Three plays were conducted in Rangabelia GP, four in Bali 1 GP, and three in Gurguria Bhubaneswari GP. Each of these plays were then video recorded so that they could be shown to a larger audience over the next few months.

- 10 street plays organised in four pilot villages with participation of 800+ community members.



Commemoration of special days: Celebration of Mangrove Day on 26 June 2023 and National Youth Day on 12 January 2024 were two other important events which actively involved community members of Gurguria Bhubaneswari GP.

iv. Strengthening access and linkages to services

Facilitating Fisherman Registration Card for land tenure security: GNK team's active coordination with the Fisheries Department and Gram Panchayats resulted in greater awareness of the fisherman cards and the benefits they provided.

- 1000 fishermen registration cards developed and handed over to eligible individuals from the fishermen community

Ripple Effect

After conducting insightful sessions in the sensitisation event for WSHG members on climate change and mangrove conservation and Gram Panchayat-level orientation for elected representatives and GP employees, the Gurguria Bhubaneswari GP of Kultali block made a significant decision of allocating INR 50,000 from their own funds towards an awareness campaign on the theme.

Project 3: Skill Development of Male Prisoners

GNK is supporting the Skill Development of Male Prisoners in Dasna Jail in collaboration with India Vision Foundation. The collaboration with India Vision Foundation, New Delhi completed a decade in the reporting period. GNK supported in planning and organising various vocational training activities for the male prisoners. In the initial discussions, many inmates voiced their concern of not being equipped with the necessary skills and training that could help them earn for themselves and their families post their prison tenure. Based on discussions and consensus few vocational trainings were planned and they were guided on how to set up their own small service based business. This gave them a lot of confidence and optimism as they enthusiastically attended the skill training sessions.

- 72 male prisoners trained for hand embroidery (31) and hair cutting (41).

Voices of Beneficiaries

“Our limited interaction with the outside world deprived us of latest developments in the world. Through the project’s trainings and sensitisations we have learnt a lot about climate change and are now implementing some of those learnings in our farming practices.”

“The power of collectives and working together to bring about change has motivated us to celebrate our community events with even more gusto, incorporating social messages for the benefit of those who are not part of the project.”

“Our circle of influence has increased as we use our panchayat’s office to conduct meetings, and guide people on things we learn in sessions and trainings conducted by local NGOs.”

“We never thought our time in prison would be productive and we would learn skills that can be monetised. I am looking forward to open a tailoring shop once I am released.”

Corporate Social Responsibility Initiative

- **8000** families and **30,000 +** members from urban slums covered
- **140** children received educational services and dry rations from four Balwadi centres
- **112** children enrolled in primary schools
- **713** community women sensitised on health in **44** community awareness meetings
- **123** mothers of balwadi children sensitised on care, nutrition and child development
- **1772** children and **330** pregnant women covered on immunization and vaccination
- **78** adolescents trained on life skill issues



The Kendra has made successful inroads in the area of public private partnership using its rich experience and depth of knowledge to forge relationships of trust with corporate social responsibility arms of industry houses. The result of one such longstanding relationship pertains to the social upliftment in Ghaziabad district of Uttar Pradesh. One of the most industrialised and polluted parts of the state, there is a lot to be done.

Project 1:

Social Development Programme in partnership with Micromatic Grinding Technologies Limited, Ghaziabad

In collaboration with Micromatic Grinding Technologies Limited, a social development programme has been implemented in the urban slums of four backward districts of Ghaziabad, namely Bapudham, Kanawani, Kashiram and Nandgram areas of Ghaziabad. The Project is dedicated to improving lives of children in the age group 3 – 6 years, adolescents and women. Under the aegis of the project, special balwadi centres are organised in the community where information on nutrition, immunization and vaccination is provided for children and pregnant women.

Community events and interactions are held regularly to increase awareness on health, immunisation, education, skill development, self-employment, different government schemes and programmes, child protection and child rights. The project team has developed relationship of trust with the government departments and is supporting them in mobilising community members for 100% immunization and vaccination of children and pregnant women. Adolescent groups have been formed and skill based trainings are being provided as per interest and ability to adolescents at their doorstep.



Key Activities

i. Educating children and mothers: Four balwadi centres are running at Bapudham, Kanawani, Nandgram and Kashiram colony covering 140 children aged 3 to 6 years. These balwadis function for three hours daily and they follow the ICDS syllabus. Learning materials and refreshments are provided to children.

- *140 children reached through 4 balwadi centres*
- Regular mother's meetings are held every month with approximately one meeting per centre. The mothers are provided feedback on children and guided on how they can enhance their participation in their child's learning.

ii. Forming adolescent groups and skilling adolescent girls: Four groups of adolescent girls' were formed, one each in Bapudham, Kanawani, Nandgram and Kashiram colony with a view to collectivise them for life skill trainings. An adolescent module was prepared by GNK and trainings imparted by expert coaches through in-person trainings.

- *80 adolescent girls trained on life skills based on their interest and aptitude.*

iii. Generating awareness: Community sensitisation meetings were organised for women providing them inputs on different aspects of their life. Good response was seen in the commemoration of important days and milestone events such as Independence Day, Children's Day, Deepawali, Christmas, Republic Day, International Women's Day etc. These were celebrated in the community and at the balwadi centres and saw active participation.

- *44 sensitisation meetings held covering 713 community women in project areas.*

“Commemorating special days helped encourage critical thinking, boosted confidence through public speaking, addressed societal issues and promoted leadership roles amongst youth.”



iv. Partnering with the government to increase uptake of health, nutrition and immunization services: Support was provided for immunization of children and pregnant women in Bapudham, Kanawani, Nandgram and Kashiram colony through community mobilisation on immunization days announced by the health department. Additionally, growth monitoring of children of each centre was done on monthly basis to identify Moderate Malnourished (MAM) and Severe Malnourished (SAM) children. Those who had serious complications were referred to hospitals/NRC for treatment. Communities were encouraged to partake easily available food items like roasted gram, gursev, namkeen sev, murmure and roasted moongfali dana, namkeen diet mixture etc. These were also provided in the balwadis as dry ration.

- 1772 children covered on immunization and vaccination days
- Counselling provided to 330 pregnant women on institutional delivery and regular check-ups
- 140 children in four balwadis centres provided dry nutrition

Achievements

Increase in school enrolments: Children of balwadi centres understood the importance of learning, joining school and re-enrolling if they had dropped out.

Change in behaviour of parents: Those parents who had infants and younger children demonstrated improved behaviours by turning up for immunization, sharing the 100% immunization cards of their children and following other health, hygiene and nutrition related instructions. Parents were also more involved and participatory in their engagement with their children at home. They took more interest in helping children complete their homework and talked to them about their daily routine.

Improved development indicators of balwadi children: All-round development was noted among children attending balwadi centres and a growing improvement in their indicators.

Active engagement of women: Community women were seen voicing their concerns, sharing their challenges and enlisting support where needed. They attended meetings in large numbers and asked questions regarding nutrition in pregnancy, precautions to be taken, completing all four prenatal check ups etc

Greater access to government schemes: People began to step forward to seek help in availing benefits from pension schemes and Matri Bandana Yojana. Many of them learnt how to submit online applications for securing benefits.

Focus on skilling: Adolescent girls realised the importance of life skill trainings and developed their behavioural skills. They also became more aware of enhancing their knowledge, skills and training for job employment.

I learnt a lot as a Volunteer at the GNK when I was placed in a Child Care Centre at Bapudham, Ghaziabad to work with 3 to 6 year old children. I was unaware of so many problems and am grateful for the insights provided to me. The project needs many more interns and volunteers who can work selflessly to uplift slum population and rural communities.

- **Paridhi Tyagi**

Student of class XII, Uttam School for Girls, Ghaziabad



Annexures

Annexures

Organisation's Overview

Legal Status

- Registered under Society's Registration Act: No.1624/1976-77 date of Registration 31.01.1977 under the Societies Registration Act of 1860.
- FCRA Registration: 136810001 dated 27.12.1984 valid for a period of five years w.e.f. 01.04.2022.
- 12A-AAATG5766DF20214 w.e.f. 28.05.2021 from A.Y. 2022-23 to A.Y. 2026-27.
- 80G- 12A-AAATG5766DF20214 w.e.f. 28.05.2021 from A.Y. 2022-23 to A.Y. 2026-27.
- PAN (Permanent Account Number) AAATG5766D
- TAN (Tax Deduction at Source Account Number): MRTG00395D
- GST NO.: 09AAATG5766D1ZM
- CSR 1 Registration No. CSR00002336
- TISS CSR Partner No. CECSR/21/04/244 dated 28.07.2021 to 27th July, 2024.

Team

Annex 1: List of Managing Committee Members

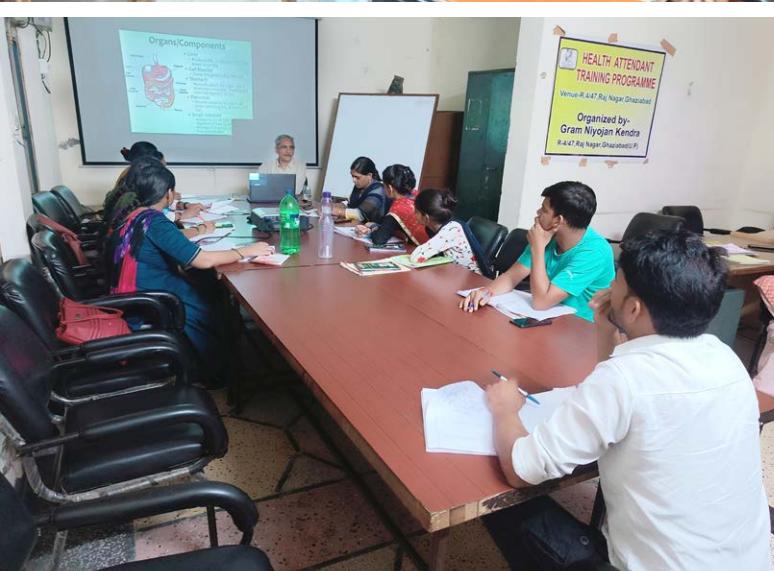
S.No.	Name	Occupation	Designation
1	Mr. N.K. Dhand R-5/58, Rajnagar, Ghaziabad -201002 (U.P.)	Businessman	Chairman
2	Shri Satish Kumar Nav Bharat Jagriti Kendra Amrit Nagar, Korrah, Hazaribagh (Jharkhand)	Development Worker	Vice -Chairperson
3	Dr.(Mrs.) Sutapa Mukherjee G3-003, Stellar Sigma Apartment, Sigma-IV, Gautam Budh Nagar-201310 (U.P.)	Development Worker	Secretary
4	Dr. Madhuri Mukherjee Flat No. 002. Goodrich Block Grandforte Apartments, Plot No. 76, Sigma-4 Greater Noida -201310 (U.P.)	Development Worker	Jt. Secretary
5	Mrs. Kulwant Kaur H.N.275, Gali No. 1, Shyam Park, Sahibabad-201005 (U.P.)	Development Worker	Treasurer
6	Dr. Awadh Prasad B-190, University Marg, Bapunagar, Jaipur (Rajasthan)	Action Research	Member

S.No.	Name	Occupation	Designation
7	Prof. Jai Prakash Dubey D-4, Sector-15, Rohini Delhi-110089	Teaching	Member
8	Ms. Sunita Datta B-370, Patel Nagar-II Ghaziabad-201001 (U.P.)	Advocate	Member
9	Mr. Ram Gopal H.N.405, Chookna, Brahmputra, Behind Shiv Mandir, Ghaziabad (U.P.)	Development Worker	Member
10	Mr. Bibhas Chatterjee House No. 767 Z, Ganeshpuram Sports College Road, Rapti Nagar Phase-1, Gorakhpur-273003 (U.P.)	Development Worker	Member
11	Ms. Nina Malhotra R-2/75, Raj Nagar, Ghaziabad (U.P.)	Development Worker	Member

Annex 2: List of General Body Members

S.No.	Name	Occupation	Designation
1	Mr. N.K. Dhand R-5/58, Rajnagar, Ghaziabad -201002 (U.P.)	Businessman	Chairman
2	Shri Satish Kumar Nav Bharat Jagriti Kendra Amrit Nagar, Korrah, Hazaribagh (Jharkhand)	Development Worker	Vice -Chairperson
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10	Mr. Bibhas Chatterjee House No. 767 Z, Ganeshpuram Sports College Road, Rapti Nagar Phase-1, Gorakhpur-273003 (U.P.)	Development Worker	Member
11	Ms. Nina Malhotra R-2/75, Raj Nagar, Ghaziabad (U.P.)	Development Worker	Member
12	Mr. Chandan Pal, W.B. Gandhi Peace Foundation P.O.: Duilya Sarvodaya Park, Howrah	Development Worker	Member
13	Sh. Sadhu Saran Singh Samaj Kalyan Mandal At+post: Kaliachak, Hilsa Nalanda (Bihar)	Development Worker	Member
14	Mr. Asish Das AKD Infotech Pvt. Ltd. R-13/113, Rajnagar, Ghaziabad	Businessman	Member
15	Dr. Prakash Tyagi Executive Director, GRAVIS 3/437, 458, MM Colony, Pal Road Jodhpur-342008 (Rajasthan)	Development Worker	Member
16	Mr. Chiranjiv Bhattacharya 466, Krishna Nagar, Bharatpur-321001 (Rajasthan)	Development Worker	Member





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