

ANNUAL REPORT 2024–25

**EVERY WOMAN & CHILD DESERVES A LIFE FREE FROM
DISCRIMINATION, INEQUALITY & CRUELTY**



OUR VISION

To develop the awareness and capabilities of individuals who have been deprived of their fundamental rights as a result of the inequalities that exist in our society.

OUR MISSION

To provide rescue, rights and rehabilitative services to the communities in most need.
To offer a safe exit point to women and their children trapped in the crippling cycle of poverty and abuse.

OUR IMPACT 2024-25

Overall reach
2,02,425



Health
14,292



Shelter
459



Education
2,646

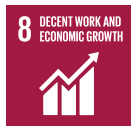
Support
3,741



Helplines
27,647



Awareness
1,53,520



CONTENTS

- 05 | A Decade of Impact
- 07 | Udaan Updates
- 10 | NGO Meet
- 11 | Our Super 40
- 13 | Reimaging Futures
- 15 | Empowering Futures
- 17 | Building Futures
- 19 | Early Detection
- 21 | From Snehalaya with Love
- 27 | News & Developments
- 28 | Compliance & Finance



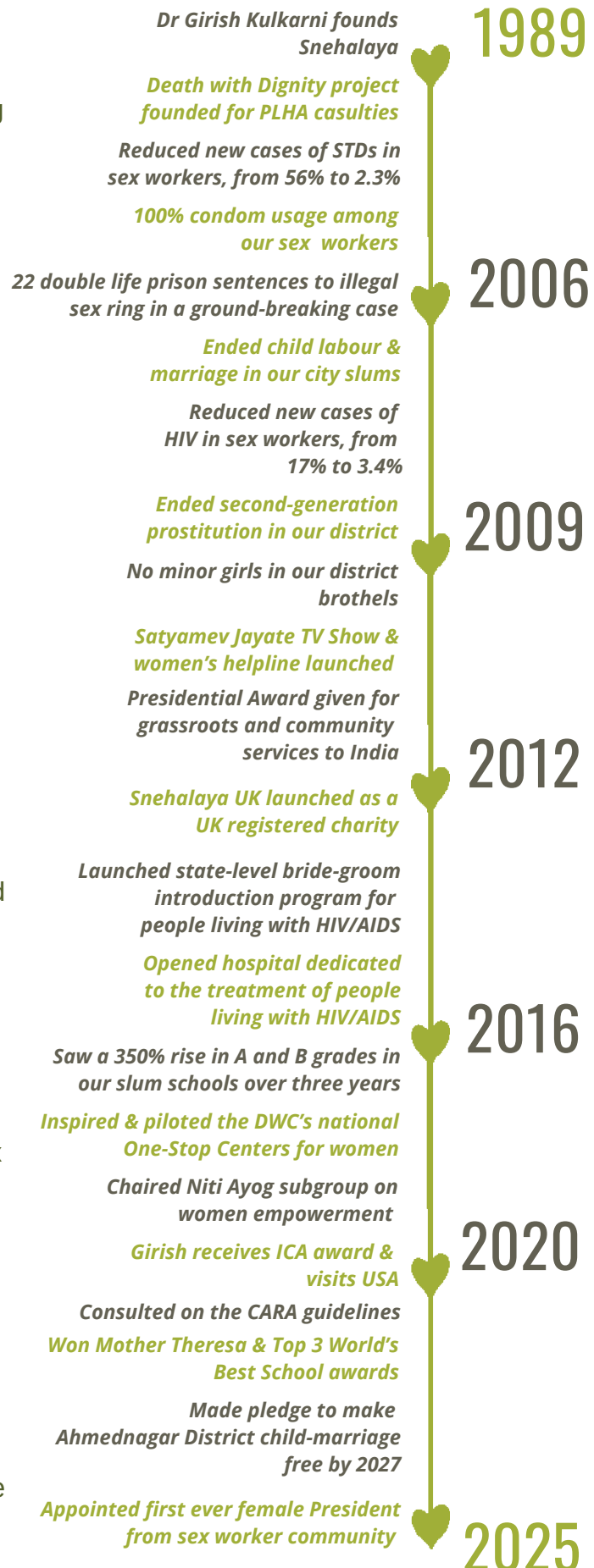
OUR HISTORY

Girish Kulkarni grew up in Ahmednagar enjoying life in a middle-class, loving and supportive family. In 8th Std, he was taking a shortcut between classes. This took him through one of the city's red-light areas where wandering through the narrow alleys, he saw girls his own age sitting outside brothels selling their bodies to the highest bidder. Even at this young age, the injustice of being born into a poor situation had a profound impact on him, especially when he saw a naked child being beaten and tortured. Her crime? She had contracted syphilis and was no longer able to work. The young Girish felt powerless to help and his inability to intervene haunted him into early adulthood.

When Girish started college, he was reminded of what he had witnessed when a friend took him to the red-light area to meet his mother, sister and grandmother, who were all sex workers. Youth volunteer organisations' slogans of changing the world didn't seem to offer the direct action he felt was needed for these women. Realising his own time and resources were limited, but still wanting to ease his own conscience he decided to think globally but act locally. He thought: "How can I change the lives of at least a few people?" He approached some sex workers to ask them how he could help and they said, "Take our children".

Each day Girish would take two children to a park, buy snacks, tell stories or teach them how to ride bikes. Word soon spread and within four months he was entertaining 80 children and building the trust and respect of the sex worker community. From day one, sex workers have served and represented their issues as Snehalaya trustees.

Girish's interventions over three decades ago prove that small actions can have a large impact. When HIV and AIDS started ravaging the community, a Death with Dignity program, a few roadside huts and a bike and cart, provided palliative care and funerals to some of India's first casualties. Today, over 3,00,000 people have benefitted from our 20+ projects, saving countless lives and giving dignity back to those marginalised by society.



FROM OUR SECRETARY

Hello friends,

Every time I sit to write to you, I'm reminded that Snehalaya isn't just an organisation—it's a living, breathing family. This year has been no different: we've planted seeds, watched them bloom and held each other through moments of loss. I'd love to take you through some of these stories.

When our patrons, the Malpani family from Mumbai, offered their land at Kinhavli, the first image that came to mind was green. Today, that vision stands tall as a five-acre Miyawaki forest—home to hundreds of birds and butterflies. Local Katkari families tend it with care, and soon school children and researchers will wander its trails learning about nature's quiet miracles. This is more than a plantation; it's a promise to keep our earth alive.

This year, a group of 20 dedicated doctors led by Trustee, Dr Anshu Mulay, along with our Snehadhar and Caring Friends teams, brought breast cancer care directly to women in rural communities. Over 1,000 women have already been reached. Seeing their relief and courage reminds us why we began this journey—to bring dignity and health to those who need it most.

Our newest skill centre, the Suniti Bakery, was born in memory of our beloved Suniti Phadke 'Aaji.' Children now learn to bake cakes and biscuits while the sweet aroma fills the space with joy. It feels like a grandmother's kitchen—a place where learning is comfort and hope rises with the dough. Aapulki, our new centre for the staff caring for the women and children living in our shelter homes, is painted with vibrant Warli art and opens its doors to conversation, counselling and play. It's where documents are kept safe and hearts feel safer.

This year we celebrated 10 years of Snehalaya UK—a journey begun by Miranda Hudson and now led by Joyce Connolly. I was honoured to have been invited to join the UK team to celebrate—truly an auspicious occasion. Across the ocean, Snehalaya USA, started by Chitra Belwadi and Pooja Jaiswal, is taking its first steps, connecting the Indian diaspora to our work. Every handshake across continents reminds us that compassion knows no borders. This year we went further, creating a cohort of 40 small non-profits and training them in administration, fundraising and governance with experts like Shashikant Satbhai, Ajay Sathe and Harshu Ghate. Watching them grow stronger feels like watching your own children take flight. We're also strengthening ties with our past residents—helping them find jobs, get documents and access medical support. Once Snehalaya, always Snehalaya.



Our Yuva Nirman camps and bicycle rallies have already inspired over 50 young people to enter the social sector. Conceived by Dr Koparkar, our Super 40 program is nurturing 40 slum children to become entrepreneurs. Some have already begun small ventures like deep cleaning services and painting contracts. Their grit makes us proud.

This year wasn't without sorrow. We lost Rutwik, our bright young community leader from our Sanjay Nagar slum redevelopment project, in a tragic accident. He was only 25. His absence is deeply felt, but his spirit will guide the work he began.

As we look back, this year feels like a tapestry of green shoots, brave hearts, warm kitchens and global friendships—stitched together with both joy and grief. Thank you for being part of this family and for walking with us into a better tomorrow.

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Namaskar!

It once again gives me great pleasure to present the Annual Report for Snehalaya, this time for 2024-25. It has been two years of me being President and I am still a social worker at my core. I have represented Snehalaya on so many platforms and spoken about our work while I continue to work with the victims of the flesh trade in Shevgaon.

Every day is still a challenge for all the sex workers I work with. But the awareness regarding our health, STDs and HIV status has helped us survive and live in a better way. Our children have a safe and secure place to be, though far from us, in Snehalaya. They have all the facilities for education and skilling which helps them find newer and better avenues. Many of them find their place in society by opting for the range of courses available, followed by securing jobs. But I feel there is still a long way to go.

Apart from the usual happenings in Snehalaya, our women's day celebrations were extra special and so was the birthday bash on 15 August. But it is International Women's Day that holds a special place for me. It is about celebrating womanhood, celebrating my equal space in the society and gives me a feeling of importance—the confidence that my existence matters. The confidence and space which I have today is something which I have earned after life-long struggles and challenges. Just like I never shy away from my past, similarly in Snehalaya, we teach our girls to accept their past, utilise the opportunities they have in the present and move ahead to a promising future.

We have been rescuing children in difficult circumstances for decades, but through 'Udaan' our focused efforts to stop child marriages are creating even greater impact. I have personally seen minor girls who were victims of child marriage later forced into prostitution that could never return back. Hence this project has a special place in my heart. Similarly, our breast cancer awareness campaign targeted at rural women also ensures a healthier and better chance of life due to early detection and treatment by our teams.

As this was just my second year in my role, there is still lot to understand and more knowledge to gain. A lot of learnings and the many new people I get to meet each day makes this journey unique. I look forward to representing Snehalaya on many more platforms to share our work and connect more like-minded people to this noble cause.

Reading through this report which can only cover a few of the highlights from another incredible year, I am humbled by the scale and reach of our projects. Over two lakh people have directly benefitted from our interventions over 12 months, we couldn't do this without your support and the hard work of our 350 staff and our army of volunteers and supporters. Thank you for everything you have done to change my life and for all the others we are collectively empowering.



Jaya Jogdand
President, Snehalaya



A DECADE OF IMPACT



Snehalaya UK is volunteer led, with no physical office space or paid staff, by a committed team who have close connections with our Indian projects. Together they have led on significant campaigns and fundraising events while expanding Snehalaya's UK and international supporter base. In July, the team celebrated their 10th anniversary with a series of events in the UK in the presence of our Secretary, Dr Priti Bhombe, former trustees and volunteers and some new UK-based friends and supporters.

The main event was a 10 year birthday party with past, present and future supporters. After a short update on the Indian projects and highlights of the UK team's 10 years, there was a quick round of speed dating where those attending could share their connection with Snehalaya and learn more about each other.

Other events included talks, volunteer recruitment and media interviews. Snehalaya UK plans to continue the conversations they have started to build on their initial 10 years and to reach out more to the Indian diaspora and students to make the next 10, and the 10 after that, even more rewarding.

OBJECTIVES & AIMS

- Support the work of Snehalaya in Ahilyanagar, Maharashtra & other charities / organisations in such a way that is charitable under the laws of England & Wales as the trustees determine.
- To raise Snehalaya's international profile & educate people in the UK of the challenges Snehalaya's beneficiaries face
- To raise funds for Snehalaya's projects.
- To work in partnership with Snehalaya to assist with project delivery in India, including support on matters of staff management, governance & strategy to ensure its long-term sustainability & to build capacity.
- To develop & support international volunteering & educational visits strategy & provide a support network for past volunteers.
- To provide relevant & qualified experts for training, support, advice & mentoring
- To support Snehalaya's communication & marketing strategies
- To sustain & build capacity of Snehalaya UK

33 trustee meetings
4 chairs
23 trustees
3 babies

Snehalaya UK has developed successful partnerships and funding including:



Three projects with Malala Fund to promote girls' education



Mercury Phoenix Trust funding since 2015



Connecting Classrooms project with the British Council managing five years of teacher exchanges between UK and India

University partnerships (fundraising & volunteer programs)

Interested in getting involved from the UK? Our Board of Trustees are always looking for new members, networkers, volunteers and fundraisers. Get in touch: give@snehalaya.org.

Snehalaya USA,
CA



Snehalaya
Americas Inc, NC

Following in the footsteps of the UK team, Snehalaya USA joins the east coast-based Snehalaya Americas Inc to raise awareness of Snehalaya's programs amongst the Indian diaspora in the USA and wider international community.

Set up in 2024 by volunteers and supporters it aims to build on our US support and drive fundraising efforts for the vital work that we do to protect, advocate for and rehabilitate vulnerable members of our local community. Snehalaya USA also aims to:

- Raise funds for communities in most need, specifically women and children affected by HIV, gender-based violence and the sex trade.
- Build and maintain an advisory body of experts and professionals who provide training, support, advice and mentoring.
- Support the development and management of volunteering programs
- Build the capacity of the USA organisation in order to effectively deliver our charitable objectives,

Contact: snehalayausa@snehalaya.org



We regularly welcome volunteers to our projects in India so they can fully understand the social issues we deal with by working side-by-side with our teams.

£574,818.71
disbursed to India
to date

Volunteer-led by Board of Trustees & CEO, Snehalaya UK supports the work of Snehalaya India through:

- Fundraising
- Volunteer & donor engagement
- Strategic support
- Awareness raising
- Engaging with Indian diaspora in UK
- Managing UK & other international partnerships

From cake sales to abseils & everything in between, fundraising connects communities and is a great way to challenge yourself for a great cause.





Our Founder, Dr Girish Kulkarni has always been ambitious, which has always inspired the 350+ dedicated staff of Snehalaya. Nurtured by educators, he was determined to change the destiny of the sex workers from a young age. Taking a localised approach to imparting change at district level and, confident in creating the models for others to follow, it is a testament to his dedication, innovation and passion, adopted by our wider team, that there are no longer any underage or second generation sex workers in our entire district.

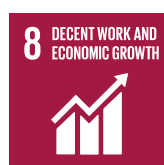
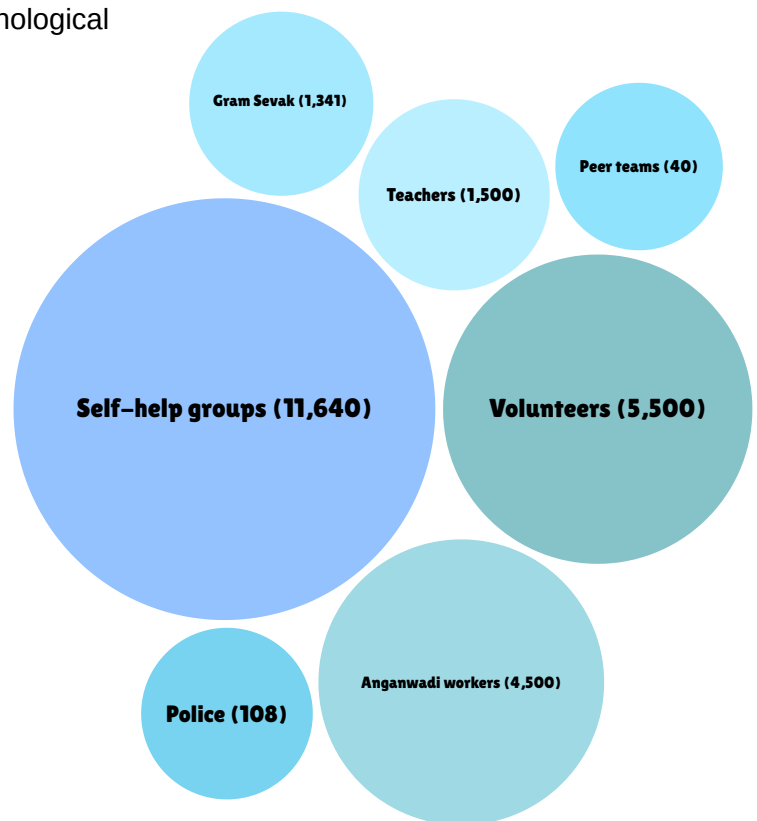
Having a proven track record and having learned that our district is one of the most prevalent for child marriage, we have focused our efforts in ending the practice in our district by 2027. Project Udaan is Snehalaya's flagship three-year pilot designed to eliminate child marriage and empower vulnerable under-18 girls across Ahilyanagar (formerly Ahmednagar) District. Launched in response to alarming data from UNICEF and national surveys, our project targets a region severely affected by drought, migration, poverty and systemic gender inequities. With Ahilyanagar, along with adjoining Marathwada districts, listed among India's high-risk districts for child marriage, Udaan fills a critical gap—becoming the only NGO-led holistic intervention in the region, combining prevention, protection and long-term rehabilitation.

The need for Udaan is deeply rooted in the lived realities of marginalised families. Children from rural belts, tribal communities, slum settlements and migrant households face multiple vulnerabilities—economic hardship, unsafe environments, limited education and harmful cultural practices. Globally, one in three child brides are from India, and more than half belong to five states, including Maharashtra. Local challenges such as severe drought, lack of livelihood opportunities, and migration for sugar cane harvesting push families toward early marriage as a coping mechanism. For girls especially, this results in long-lasting physical, psychological and educational consequences.

The initiative also focuses on strengthening government connections and building community-led safety nets. In 2023–24 alone, through consistent engagement, Udaan has mobilised 11,608 individuals and 13,021 groups—creating a district-wide collaborative movement against child marriage.

24,629+

**INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS OF
STAKEHOLDERS ACTIVELY ENGAGED
— BUILDING ONE OF INDIA'S LARGEST
PEOPLE'S MOVEMENTS AGAINST CHILD
MARRIAGE**



EMPOWERING GIRLS

Our massive school awareness campaigns have educated both female and male students on gender rights, child protection laws and the long-term consequences of child marriage. Udaan works with at-risk communities and adolescents through a multi-layered approach. Our interventions include community sensitization, mobilisation through local leaders, school awareness campaigns, and direct family counseling.

Our key interventions include community sensitization through group discussions, street plays, rallies, youth sessions and parent meetings; strengthening education and skill development; offering shelter, counselling, legal and medical support; and connecting girls with livelihood opportunities. Through these combined efforts, we are building a replicable model that can be scaled across other districts to support India's commitment to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5.3, which aims to eliminate child marriage by 2030.

Our project prioritizes some of the most vulnerable groups and identifies girls perceived as being at risk. Through our portfolio of projects and supporters, they receive educational support, skills training, health interventions and, where necessary, shelter, legal aid and rehabilitation.

Udaan's strength lies in its massive community-driven framework. Our vision is to end child marriage in Ahilyanagar by building informed, empowered communities that safeguard every child's right to education, safety and dignity. Our mission focuses on creating a protective ecosystem through awareness, mobilisation, survivor support and collaborative action with government departments, civil society and citizens.



Girls most at risk

- Girls trafficked or exploited through marriage
- Orphans & semi-orphans

Especially those from:

- Tribal communities
- Migrant labour families
- Slum communities
- Economically vulnerable households

1 IN 3 CHILD BRIDES ARE FROM INDIA



**OVER 2,25,000
STUDENTS
REACHED**

UDAAN IMPACT

Over the past two years (2023–24 and 2024–25), Udaan has made significant strides in prevention, rehabilitation and empowerment. Child marriages have been stopped and more girls have been protected from the lifelong harm early marriage brings. Through consistent follow-ups and community engagement, girls have been assisted in returning to school, received health and psychological support and received skill-development training that will enable them to achieve their full potential and financial independence. Each one represents a life redirected, a future restored and a community strengthened.



100

GIRLS SUPPORTED TO REJOIN SCHOOL

176

**GIRLS PROTECTED FROM
EARLY MARRIAGE**



65

**GIRLS GAINED FINANCIAL
INDEPENDENCE THROUGH SKILL
DEVELOPMENT**

45

**GIRLS PROVIDED
HEALTH SUPPORT**



PROJECT OUTCOMES

**SIGNIFICANT REDUCTION IN CHILD MARRIAGE CASES
IN INTERVENTION AREAS**

**INCREASED SCHOOL RETENTION AMONG ADOLESCENT
GIRLS**

**RISE IN GIRLS' FINANCIAL INDEPENDENCE THROUGH
SKILL-BUILDING**

**STRENGTHENED LOCAL SYSTEMS THROUGH
COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS**

**A REPLICABLE MODEL FOR EXPANSION ACROSS OTHER
DISTRICTS**

**STRONG ALIGNMENT WITH UN SDG 5.3 - ELIMINATING
CHILD MARRIAGE BY 2030**

As Udaan progresses into the next phase, the focus remains on deepening impact—reducing the incidence of child marriage, strengthening community-driven systems, empowering more girls through education and skills, and building a replicable model for other districts across Maharashtra and India. Through consistent monitoring, monthly reviews and data-driven planning, Udaan continues to transform vulnerable childhoods into safe, dignified, and hopeful futures.

Together with our partners, supporters and community stakeholders and by combining protection, prevention, empowerment and community mobilization, we are moving closer to a district where every child grows up free, educated and empowered.

With your help, we are committed to ensuring that every child in Ahilyanagar has the opportunity to grow, learn, dream, and thrive—free from the shadow of child marriage.



PAYING IT FORWARD

Written by
Snehalaya Trustee,
Shashikant Satbhai

In the early days of our founding, Dr Girish Kulkarni received help and advice from many other social workers and NGOs working to protect and empower the communities he sought to serve. Without their invaluable guidance and advice it is unlikely that Snehalaya would have the same impact today.

Today, our mission is to create replicable models that others can follow and we regularly receive visitors from far and wide, representing organisations of all sizes wishing to learn more from what we do. In particular, there has been much interest following our Snehalaya 2.0 project that has streamlined our systems and processes, particularly through data management systems.

While we are always happy to host and share, we believe in empowering others to be the change they wish to see and always prefer to give them the practical tools and skills to serve the marginalised in their own communities. Therefore we decided to invite smaller, grassroots organisations from across Maharashtra to attend a unique NGO workshop to learn more from us and each other. Around 40 organisations were invited to a three-day workshop led by the facilitator of our Snehalaya 2.0 project, Shashikant Satbhai, which included access to our project teams, supporters and founder.

The invited NGOs cover a breath of social issues, many of which we also focus on, such as mental health, education, HIV, women empowerment and others we don't (yet!) such as animal welfare. In some cases, the organisations are led by one person managing all things and others have small teams, but in all cases they all needed practical suggestions on how to manage, scale up and ensure the smooth running of their work.

We shared our 35+ years of experience, knowledge and development of due diligence, HR, marketing and communications, fundraising, beneficiary management, online helpdesk systems and much more. We have a genuine desire to share our resources with society, we don't consider it to be solely owned by Snehalaya. If it can help beyond our own boundaries then we have a duty to share.

The workshop was the start of the journey with these NGOs, we are now committed to continuing to support and mentor them. We will continue to take follow up and support them as they implement what they have learned. We received some excellent feedback and are confident that the 60 attendees have all taken something useful back to their own projects.



"I have never seen such an organization, with a trainer who can share all the minute details! Everything has been covered!"

Workshop participant

OUR SUPER 40

Written by
Snehalaya Patron,
Shubhangi Koparkar

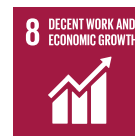
Our Balbhavans have been game changers for children and families residing in the largest slums in Ahilyanagar. Since 2003, we have ensured that every child in these slum areas secure their right to education. After successfully stopping child labour, child marriages, reducing addictions in children, and sensitising families about education and health, our patron, and my husband, Dr Vinay Koparkar felt the need of a deeper and targeted approach.

Thus, he designed and initiated a Super 40 program which has become a highlight of our Balbhavan project. A rigorous selection process saw 40 students recruited from all eight of our slum education centers. The objective was to empower good human beings with confidence and an individual thought process. Motivating them to plan their career paths, supporting them in their education and encouraging them to be active participants in society were also key priorities. The year-long program included periodical interactive sessions, workshops, visits to industries, meetings with successful entrepreneurs and the sharing of their feedback with each other as well as with Dr Koparkar and his team. On top of these sessions, hands-on training and admissions to skilling and other educational avenues were provided.

As a result of our focused program, we are very happy to see that all 40 of these boys and girls have now decided their paths. We are sure that all of them will set great examples for the upcoming batches of our Super 40 program. Usha, our Balbhavan coordinator and her super-efficient team have been our right and left hands to make this first batch of Super 40 a success. On the concluding day of the first batch in May 2024, each one of the Super 40 group member was confident enough to speak on topics given to them at the last minute. The high level of confidence and the positive change in the personalities of these students was highly appreciated by all Snehalaya trustees and executive committee members.

Finally, I will say, this is not the end but just the beginning. The Super 40 program has had a great catalysing effect in our Balbhavan project to shape the path ahead for students. The beginnings are always challenging, but once the first hurdles are overcome, the ride becomes smooth.

We look forward to working with many more of our Super 40 students.



Where are they now?

1

Hotel
Management

1

GNM
nursing

3

Entrepreneurs

3

Employed

6

Vocational
training

1

Business
degree

3

IT degrees

22

Arts & Commerce
degrees

Three of our students have already begun their entrepreneurship journey: Stavan has started his own house-keeping and deep cleaning services while Rohit and Prem have partnered with each other to secure painting contracts. These three students have not only become self-employed but have also provided employment to others from their slum communities.



In June 2024, a two-week training programme in catering services with Lend A Hand India (LAHI) institute in Pune attracted 13 Super 40 candidates.

Rutuja is pursuing her BBA while also working at Kanakia Mehta and Associates as intern accountant, balancing her career and education.



REIMAGINING FUTURES

This year's Yuva Nirman January youth camp saw a departure from our previous three-day format. Building on their success with their Super 40 program with our slum school children, long-term Pune supporters, Mrs Shubhangi and Dr Vinay Koparkar led an inspiring 10-day camp for specially selected young people at our Rehab Center campus. Responding to rapidly increasing social and economic inequalities, division in society and the hatred and violence spreading across the world, they are worried that young people's hopes of a bright future are dimming. Our 33rd state-level youth development camp asserted our belief that the youth who take action while introspecting and maintaining social awareness are the hope of India and the world.

While our previous camps have inspired youths from across the state with inspirational speakers, this year's 10-day residential camp (21 to 30 January) involved a more immersive experience with greater personal interactions and capacity development. Places were limited and, with a total of 176 applications from youth from across the state the final 40 were selected following face-to-face interviews. The successful students came from all areas, arts, science, commerce, including social work, biotechnology, agriculture, engineering, medicine and law.

The overall objective of engaging with youths through our camps is to raise their social awareness. This cannot be achieved through listening to lectures alone and our 40 inquisitive campers had a unique opportunity to take a closer look at the social issues Snehalaya tackles. This started with a visit to our projects. Interacting with our project teams and beneficiaries gave them the chance to learn more about children in need of care and protection, our work to end gender-based violence, healthcare and support for people living with HIV and how everything we do aims to empower women and children. The students were able to then spend a further three days in their chosen projects which they continued from 6 to 10am for the remaining days of the camp.

As a youth himself when he started Snehalaya, Dr Girish Kulkarni always offers huge inspiration to those wishing to follow in his footsteps and be the change they wish to see. He took part in two group discussions, 'Search for Inspirations' and 'Swami Vivekananda, Mahatma Gandhi and Dr Ambedkar who I admire' as well as sharing the overall spirit of Snehalaya. His partner in our journey, Dr Prajakta Kulkarni also guided campers on stress self-regulation in the session 'Moving towards Mental Health'.

All participants agreed they had truly come to know themselves by taking part and are taking a huge treasure trove of ideas away with them. Helping run the camp were former youth volunteers and this year's batch also expressed their desire to join as representatives in future camps.



The camp concluded with a certificate distribution and thanks to all involved with promises that this was just the start of the journey for these special 40 young people. Follow up sessions are already in planning and we look forward to seeing where they take their experience for the betterment of us all.

When our Founder, Girish started Snehalaya, he made sure to learn from those already operating in the field. Therefore we also invited other NGOs and social workers to come and share their experiences with our campers. Open dialogue with those working passionately on many social issues gave the campers new perspectives and insights.





EMPOWERING FUTURES

For some, teaching is a profession. For others, it is a calling—a sacred duty that brings light into the lives of others. For Sunita, teaching became not just a career, but the very purpose of her life.

Born into a modest, middle-class family, Sunita grew up surrounded by strong values of education and integrity. Her father, a disciplined and self-respecting man, and her mother, who prioritised learning, ensured all their daughters were educated. Inspired by her elder sister, a teacher, Sunita's dream of becoming an educator took root early in childhood.

Life, however, had other plans. Just as she began pursuing law, her father suffered a paralytic stroke, forcing her to leave her studies in favour of marriage and family responsibilities. But, even amidst these new duties, her fire to teach never dimmed. With her husband's support, she resumed her education, completing her diploma in education in 2010 while raising two young children—an achievement born out of resilience and hope.

In 2011, Sunita joined our Balbhavan project, a turning point that transformed her dream into action. Her first role was in Siddharthnagar, one of our city's toughest slum areas—a place marked by addiction, domestic conflict and neglect of education. "The beginning was not easy," she recalls, "but once I saw the children's curious eyes, I knew I was exactly where I was meant to be."

Through empathy and persistence, she began rebuilding the community's faith in education. Children who once avoided school began regularly attending evening study classes, slowly building confidence. Today, many of her early students stand tall as educated, self-reliant young adults—including Hema, now a nurse, and Aishwarya, now working in IT after completing a masters in geography. They are among several of Sunita's 'girls' empowered to reject early marriages to continue their higher education.

Her Snehalaya journey took her to Utkarsha Balbhavan, Laltaki, where she once again mobilised parents to prioritise their children's learning. Under her guidance, students like Vairagar and Pratik excelled in competitive exams such as Pragyashodh and Manthan.

When we launched a new Balbhavan at Kothla this year, Sunita took the lead in working with Madari and Muslim communities where education was often undervalued. Through home visits, conversations and local engagement, she inspired families to embrace learning. The results were visible with her students scoring impressively in state-level academic competitions.

Today, having completed 14 impactful years at Snehalaya, Sunita reflects on her journey with gratitude: "Snehalaya is not just my workplace; it is my family. It has supported me not only as a teacher but also as a mother and an individual. I have learned from every child, every colleague and every challenge."

Sunita continues to nurture hundreds of young minds with unwavering compassion. For her, teaching is not a job—it is a lifelong mission to empower children, uplift families and transform communities. The sparkle in her students' eyes and their growing confidence remain her greatest rewards.



As Snehalaya expands its educational reach through new balbhavans, dedicated educators like Sunita remind us that true change begins in the classroom—with love, patience and the belief in every child's potential.



“The joy I feel while teaching
can never be measured.
Watching my students grow,
learn & dream that is my
greatest success.”



BUILDING FUTURES

Pooja is from the Ramwadi area of Ahilyanagar — a small, crowded slum. Life there is never easy. Her father drives an auto-rickshaw, and mother works as a domestic help. Their daily struggle to earn enough for food and school fees is constant, yet her parents always carry one dream in their hearts: “Our children should study and build a better life than ours.”

Pooja is one of three siblings and her elder brother had to give up his education early to help the family. Meanwhile, Pooja was enrolled in Sitaram Sarda School, but had little interest in her studies and would often skip classes, wandering aimlessly around the slum lanes instead.

Then came the day that changed everything. One afternoon, when skipping school, she returned home early to find her mother there. Her mother was so angry she was not in class that Pooja fled, quickly outrunning her mother as she twisted and turned through the maze of slum lanes until, out of breath, she came to an abrupt halt in front of Jayashree, a teacher from our Paris Balbhavan. Seeing her gasping for air she asked the girl what had happened. Before she could answer, her mother came running around the corner and, still angry, shared the situation with Jayashree, stressing how worried she was about her daughter’s future.

That chance meeting was a turning point in Pooja’s life. Jayashree invited Pooja to our balbhavan and, from the very first day, something inside her changed. She began to apply herself in our study classes and slowly her confidence grew and she started to understand how education could truly change her life.

There was no looking back and, after completing her 12th grade exams, Pooja decided to pursue IT engineering. Being from a reserved category, her fees were a little bit lower, but still, it was a huge challenge for her family to pay them, yet somehow they managed.

Following her graduation Pooja struggled to find a job, soon realising that she needed more specialised skills and that a C-DAC course seemed to offer the best career options. However, her heart soon sank when she realised that the fees were beyond her reach. Her father wanted to help, but his income from driving an auto was barely enough to cover the family’s daily needs and her dreams seemed to be slipping away.

She came to speak with our Balbhavan project coordinator, Usha who told the ambitious girl about our Vidya Sahayog Scholarship—a program that supports deserving students who want to continue their education but can’t afford the fees. Pooja still remembers the hope she felt that day.

The very next day, excited that there may be light at the end of the tunnel, she visited our office with all her documents clutched in her hands. There she shared her story in front of an interview panel and prayed for a chance. A few days later, she received the news that her application had been successful! Her joy knew no bounds. That scholarship didn’t just pay her fees; it gave her a new beginning, a reason to believe in herself again.

With our support, Pooja completed the C-DAC course and soon after, secured a job in the IT sector. Today, when Pooja walks into her office—confident and independent—she often thinks of the little girl who once ran barefoot through the lanes of Ramwadi, unsure if she even belonged in school. It was our Vidya Sahayog Scholarship that turned that uncertain little girl into a proud, self-reliant woman. It didn’t just fund her education—it fulfilled her parents’ dreams, restored her faith and changed the course of her life forever.

Over the last five years, our Vidya Sahayog scholarship program has supported 53 equally-deserving students from economically challenged backgrounds. This financial year, we have approved scholarships worth Rs 20 lakhs. We are pleased to say that each year, on average, around 50 to 60 students futures are secured with our financial support. Your support of our work ensures some of the most vulnerable young people are able to follow their education dreams to secure their own and their families’ futures.





EARLY DETECTION

Written by
Snehalaya Trustee,
Dr Anshu Mulay

Breast cancer is the most prevalent form of cancer in both urban and rural Maharashtra; with a mortality of approximately 39:1,00,000 it is also the cancer which takes the most lives. Though the ratio is much less in rural areas, most of the cases either go undiagnosed or the women lose their lives due to late detection. Moreover, women are still the most neglected gender in the rural areas with reference to health and nutrition.

Due to today's changing lifestyle, mental stress, chemically-adulterated food and polluted air and water, the incidence of cancer is increasing. In our 36 years' experience, women tend to report their own health problems late. In diseases like cancer, neglecting early symptoms means the disease progresses to later stages, reducing the chances of complete recovery and many women end up losing their lives. If the woman belongs to an economically poor household, she is also unable to afford the high cost of cancer treatment.

Since 2009, I have been working in Snehalaya's Balhhavan project. There, I focused on children's education, health and moral development. After becoming a trustee of Snehalaya, I attended an International Women's Day program where my fellow trustee, Dr Swati Ghule suggested that we should start working on breast cancer. The next month, April 2024, we began the work with camps exclusively focused on breast cancer awareness and screening with the women living in our city's largest slums.

However, we soon realised that both breast and cervical cancers were on the rise and as we were reaching out to women, we decided to also address cervical cancer. To understand more, we visited Masoom—an organisation working on these issues in Pune district—and studied their approach.

Explaining my mission to 20 of my friends, their enthusiasm saw them immediately offering to join me and training to help run the camps took place soon after. Joining forces with our Caring Friends Hospital and Snehadhar women empowerment projects made sense as they have been working with women in rural villages for many years. We also sought the help of local Gram Panchayats, youth groups and Public Service Commission (PSC) members to spread awareness about our cancer camps in their villages.

Through the camps, we guide women about the symptoms of both types of cancer, preventive measures, necessary lifestyle changes and available medical tests. We first provide information about the symptoms of cervical and breast cancer before covering risk factors in our daily lives that can lead to them, the benefits of avoiding them and what lifestyle changes can help prevent cancer.

If these two cancers are detected early, they are much more curable. However, there is still a lack of awareness in society about both. Therefore we provide demonstrations on how to perform monthly self-breast examinations and anyone who feels a lump in the breast or underarm is immediately examined. The women are also informed about essential cancer tests and the right time to see the doctor. All married women above the age of 20 also undergo a VIA test for cervical cancer, with results shared within minutes.

This year, we have organised camps at all eight of our city's largest slums and villages within 20km of Ahiliyanagar. An additional camp in Shevgaon targeted sex workers and special awareness camps have been organised in our city's colleges. By promoting screening and awareness, we aim to bring about a significant improvement in women's health and ultimately save lives.

Cancer ratio

1:2

urban areas

1:60

rural areas



Through 27 camps we have raised awareness amongst 2,000+ women and girls and screened 882 women for cancer. So far, two women have been diagnosed with cancer and are now receiving timely treatment.





From Snehalaya with Love

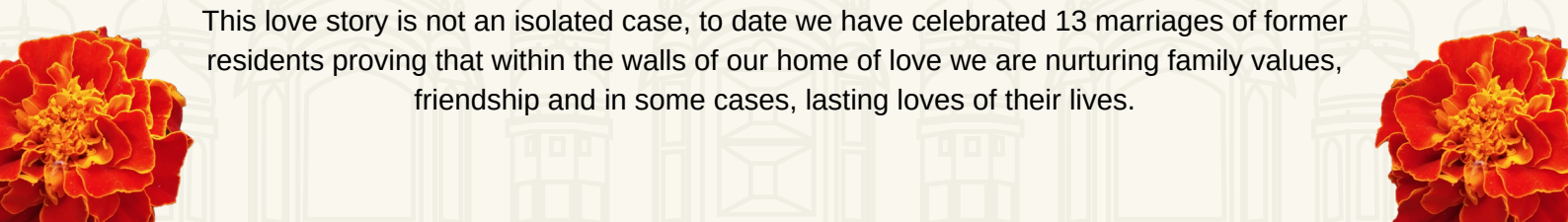
Snehalaya has often been described as a village. Like any village, it has its ups and downs, moments of laughter and tears, conflicts and reconciliations, days of celebration and days of hardship. But, as in any village, the community becomes the heartbeat of daily life and a deep well of understanding—because everyone has walked a similar path.

Only someone who has lived in a children's institute can truly describe what it feels like to grow up in one. At first, it can be overwhelming—so many routines, so many people and the challenge of finding your own place within it all. Yet, with time, something else emerges. Out of the shared routines, struggles and small joys comes a sense of belonging that is hard to put into words. Friendships blossom in the most ordinary of moments: studying together late into the night, whispering secrets long after lights out or standing shoulder to shoulder during chores. These small shared experiences weave together a fabric of trust and belonging. What might have started as a group of strangers slowly becomes a family.

This closeness does not fade easily. In fact, it is not surprising to us when past residents get in touch to let us know they have decided to marry one another. Their lives have been intertwined for so long, they know each other's strengths, vulnerabilities and dreams in a way few others can.

This year, two former residents, Aniket and Priya (names changed), tied the knot with many of their Snehalaya family celebrating their lifelong commitment to each other, rooted in understanding and built on the bonds of a unique journey together. Aniket remembers growing up: "I always knew we had strong feelings for each other," he says with a quiet smile. Both had lost parents to AIDS early in life and their shared experience and connection deepened over time. What began as the companionship of childhood slowly grew into something deeper, a bond tested by time and strengthened by the unique journey they shared. They have now entered the next stage of their journey having recently welcomed their first child: proof that from shared struggle can come joy, and from a "village" like Snehalaya can emerge new generations ready to build brighter futures.

This love story is not an isolated case, to date we have celebrated 13 marriages of former residents proving that within the walls of our home of love we are nurturing family values, friendship and in some cases, lasting loves of their lives.

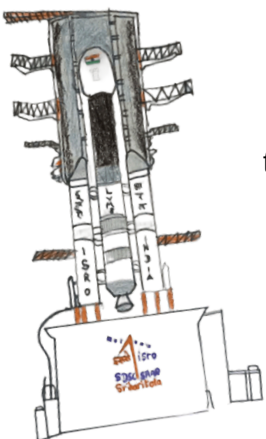




MOON LANDING

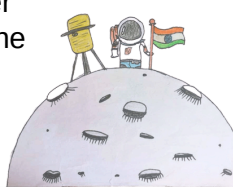
Next time you look up at the moon, look a little closer to see if you can spot our children's artworks in the first ever lunar art gallery. Realistically, it may not be visible to the naked eye, but we are incredibly proud to know that our out-of-this-world creative designs have made history and are available to future visitors to our Moon.

Launched in partnership with LifeShip, LunARC's historic art gallery features tens of thousands of submissions from over 40 countries, constituting a ground-breaking testament to inclusion and creativity. We leapt at the chance to submit our beneficiaries' artworks for the first art gallery on the Moon. A digital compilation of our artworks were launched, with others from around the world, to the surface of the Moon in January 2025 via the lunar lander Blue Ghost.



The gallery showcases artwork from individuals historically excluded from frontiers, now celebrated as pioneers in humanity's next great leap. This is more than art—it's an invitation for people everywhere to see themselves as part of the space conversation and to step boldly into this shared future. Children from our Balbhavan and Snehalya English Medium School created designs based on our own brief of: A day in the life...; The Moon; and My India.

We also took the opportunity to create a lasting memorial to our former beneficiary, Heena, who sadly passed away with cancer, by including one of her amazing mandala designs in the submissions.



EXPANDING MINDS



Over the past few years, our UK trustee and long-term Indian volunteer, Nick Cox has been working with our Snehalaya English Medium School 9 and 10 std students. As a native English speaker he engages the youngsters in conversation and activities to help improve their verbal, reading and writing skills. Each year, the classes aim to inspire students to 'start with the end in mind' by asking a simple yet powerful question: "What is your future dream?"

This sparks meaningful conversations about students' hopes and ambitions as they create a roadmap to success. To help bridge the gap between their dreams and real-world possibilities, students have engaged in work experience and this year took part in a series of exposure visits—a hands-on initiative designed to introduce them to diverse career paths and workplaces.

With over 20 Snehalaya projects and a large head office, there was no better place to start than right at home, taking our students on guided tours to meet our diverse teams of professionals. With interactions with our dedicated project managers, Secretary, Dr Priti Bhombe, and Founder, Dr Girish Kulkarni. Each visit offered (listed below) inspiration as well as invaluable insights into the responsibilities and community impact of our diverse NGO.

- Accounts
- Anamprem
- Caring Friends Hospital
- Himmatgram
- HR
- Manasgram
- Marketing, Fundraising & Communications
- PR
- Operations
- Sakshama
- Snehadhar
- Snehankur Adoption Centre
- Snehgyot

A former student who wanted to work in hotel management, interned in our PR office and now works at Hyatt, Pune

This year, we broadened our exposure visits to include external organizations, businesses and community services, including MIDC Police and Fire stations. Hotel Udayan Raje Palace, SBI Bank, Hundekari Sports Academy (where students learned about cricket, umpiring & coaching—even winning a friendly match) and our District & Sessions Court (guided by advocate and Snehadhar honorary director, Sham Aasava, who introduced students to judges and the legal system). We also took seven boys from SKVK, our vocational training project, to Hunnar Gurukul, a residential vocational program for youth from challenging backgrounds. Seeing alumni, Rohit grown in height and confidence and Akshay working as a skilled carpenter teaching others, was one of our proudest moments.

At every stop, professionals explained the educational pathways and qualifications needed for their chosen roles with our students asking intelligent questions and showing remarkable curiosity, leaving strong impressions wherever they went. At Snehalaya, we believe in expanding minds beyond limits. Having seen what their futures could look like, our students are not just dreaming bigger—they are now working on the qualifications, skills, experience and confidence they need to turn those dreams into reality.





PLACE YOUR ORDER

Our master bakers can prepare your celebration cakes and also have sweet & savoury treats available for sale. Place your order with our PR team.

Breads & cakes

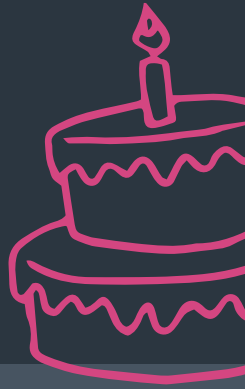
Cream puffs

Pastries

Biscuits

Pizza bases

FLOUR POWER



We have our own bakery and ever since it opened the inviting aroma of freshly baked bread now fills our Rehab Center, thanks to the Suniti Bakery—undoubtedly the most delightful and tastiest initiative to come to Snehalaya in a long time.

The first batch of students in the bakery program didn't just learn to bake bread; they also mastered making a range of baked goods with their skills extending to crafting exquisite personalized birthday cakes—large enough for all Snehalaya residents to enjoy. Additionally, they discovered the art of handmade chocolate-making, a firm favourite among everyone. Our trainer Shriniwas is an enthusiastic baker who wants his students to pay attention to the minutest of details and also maintain the bakery hygiene so that we are eating the most fresh and delicious bakery products.

This comprehensive bakery course concludes with both practical and theoretical exams. Judging by the incredible flavours and tempting smells emerging from our bakery, the students have every chance of excelling.

The enthusiasm and dedication of these young learners (or, as we call them, The Bakers Dozen!) are inspiring. We also feel that baking in itself is a therapy which brings immense joy and satisfaction to the bakers.

With this invaluable skill set, we are hopeful that their training will pave the way for bright futures filled with opportunity. We believe that not only more of our children but even our adult survivors will be attracted to learn this art of satisfying the taste buds of so many.



DANCE BHOOMI



Volunteers are the lifeblood of our organisation. They come in all shapes and sizes, ages and nationalities and consistently bring new ideas to help us deliver as many services as we do. We are grateful to each and every one and the Bhanap family are just one example of the heroes who share their time and passion with us.

The Bhanaps live on the west coast of America and have become regular visitors and played a key role in building our American presence. Their daughter Vyoma, a student at University of California Davis (UCD) used her experience of connecting with our children to secure a Donald A Strauss Scholarship to deliver a dance therapy project, Dance Bhoomi, to teenage girls living in our residential home, in partnership with our on-site counsellors. Expression through dance, music and movement was the focus of the year-long program to help our youngsters manage their mental health and wellbeing to ensure they are better equipped to deal with their teenage years and emotions.

When presenting the impact of the project to the Strauss Board they were impressed with her project and all the work everyone has put in. They especially loved our student testimonial videos where our girls shared what the sessions meant to them personally. We initially targeted those with specific issues but gradually the sessions were open to all with an interest and they proved very popular and brought the girls involved increased confidence and new friendships. The fun elements of the sessions also strengthened the relationships between our girls and their counsellors with improved bonding and trust between them, invaluable when seeking to address their issues in counselling sessions.

Sessions were held every Saturday over a full year, with Vyoma attending in person for the first sessions and then been regularly checking in with online calls, recorded videos and weekly catch ups with our counsellors from her US home. Although the funding she received has ended, Vyoma remains committed to continuing the sessions and will be independently fundraising to cover the associated costs. We and the Strauss board are excited to see the project continue.

Vyoma is proving to be an incredible supporter after her first in person visit in 2022 when she and her family joined a team from Indians for Collective Action (ICA) and we were thrilled when she returned to initiate her scholarship project. Previously Vyoma had conducted a range of volunteering activities, including translation of our publications and online English classes.





“

As an avid dancer, I noticed how the students were drawn to Zumba and dance as a release, which inspired me to apply for the Scholarship and kickstart the Dance Bhoomi program. This program aspires to give students a movement vocabulary with which to understand their emotions, practice self-compassion and express their ideas – all while tapping into their innate love of dance.

”

NEWS & DEVELOPMENTS

We are pleased to announce the inauguration of Mukti Vahini for child rights under the umbrella of our Udaan project. When our Childline project was returned to government control we realised some vital gaps remained in the child protection services we could offer within our district. Mukti Vahini provides an emergency helpline and support to children in distress and ensures that our 30+ years of expertise continues to offer a vital lifeline to every child in our district.

Another new project, Sakshama offers a three-month Patient Care Assistant or Bedside Assistant course for vulnerable groups, including young mothers, survivors of abuse, women freed from sex work, underprivileged girls from slums and tribal areas and children transitioning out of institutionalised care. Additional vocational training programs will also be implemented, all free of charge with a residential center for out-of-town students.

This marks a significant step towards creating a safer, more empowered environment for girls and women, paving the way for a brighter future. (It also replaces our previous Bedside Nursing Assistants course which unfortunately came to an end as a result of the COVID pandemic.)

We are grateful to all our supporters who work hard to host events to fundraise for our projects. This year, this included our first ever Australian event, a Melbourne supper club organised by former volunteer Meg. We are also grateful to our newly established Snehalaya USA team who attended the BMM event on the west coast of America, presenting our work to the assembled crowd, A huge thanks also to our Snehalaya Americas Inc team who hosted Savera, a musical fundraiser on the east coast of the States. We love seeing the amazing impact you are all making in spreading the word about our work, thank you!

In a milestone achievement, our Snehalnkur adoption center was recognized by the Government of India as being the most successful in the country. The accolade is a result of our track record of helping to develop and implement the CARA guidelines and having successfully placed nearly 2,000 babies into loving families both in India and internationally.

Over the past few years we have been developing a move towards family-based care (FBC). Research and practice has identified that children belong in families, not institutions and the transition to FBC requires time and a considered approach. Snehalaya has become a leader in the emerging field in India and we are committed to creating a safe space where children in need of care and protection (CNCP) are able to develop and learn the required skills to live independently upon release from the institution. We also strive to uphold the rights of the child, to do no harm and to identify family-based alternatives in the best interests of each individual child and to follow and uphold the guidelines to develop and manage the government strategy on deinstitutionalisation.

As part of this emerging approach we have restructured our shelter homes. Over the past year we have appointed a head of child protection that works with our shelter superintendents, former beneficiary project and aftercare provision to ensure clearer goals and communication in the best interests of each child in our care. The creation of a new office space where all the teams involved in CNCP has greatly improved our working practices and we are hopeful that a refocus on strengthening families, headed by our family-based care will lead to reintegrating children back into the family homes and prevent more children being placed in care.

The construction of the National Basketball Academy and Sports Centre in Kinhavli is underway and we also have basketball coaches training students at our Snehalaya English Medium School. The academy is adjacent to our Dr Malpani Memorial Center in Thane District, is providing employment to local tribal communities. Our Miyawaki forest is also flourishing with produce regularly being delivered to our projects.



CREDIBILITY ALLIANCE NORMS COMPLIANCE

Staff details as on March 31, 2025

Monthly Salary plus benefits paid to staff



Female



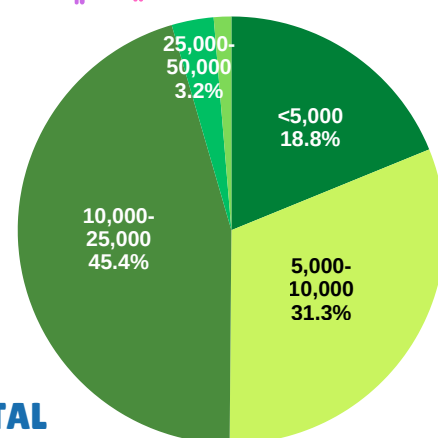
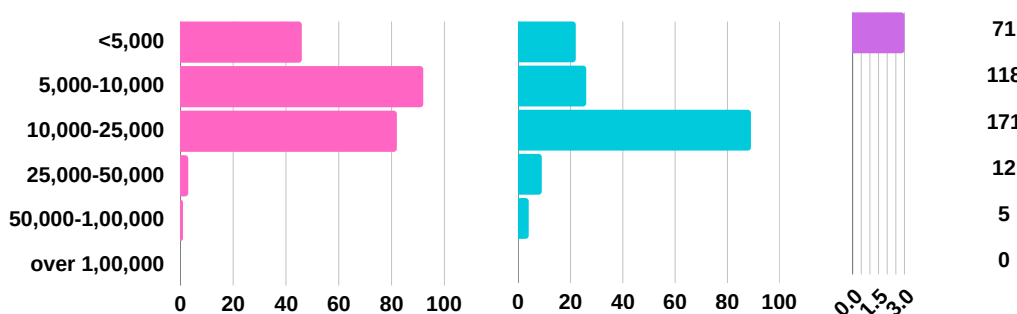
Male



Transgender



TOTAL



224



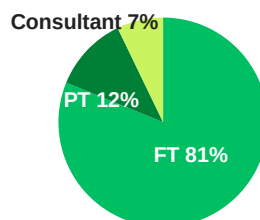
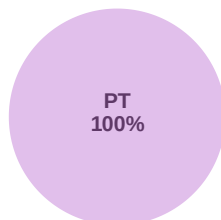
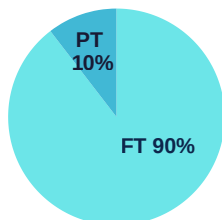
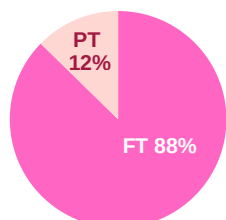
150



3



TOTAL
377



Annual remuneration of our two highest paid employees:

- Rs 9,60,000/- Director
- Rs 7,80,000/- Shelter Director

Remuneration of our lowest paid staff members:

- Rs 14,400/- Agriculture Worker

Identity

Snehalaya is a voluntary organisation registered in 1992 under the Bombay Public Trust Act, 29 of 1950 (Reg No F2169/A.Nagar) and Societies Registration Act 1960 (Reg No MH2220/A.Nagar) and in 2010 under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) Reg No 083720087.

Snehalaya is registered with the Income Tax department under 12A Nsk/Tech/12A(a)93/1993-94 of the Income Tax Act 1961. All contributions to Snehalaya are exempt under Section 80(G) of the Income Tax No CIT(E)/12A(a)/80G/135/2008-09/1916) of the Income Tax Act 1961.

Income Tax Permanent No: AAETS3394M. 80G certification: AAETS3394MF20214. 12A certification: AAETS3394ME20214.

Snehalaya has received Accreditation from Credibility Alliance (CA/17/2019), a consortium mandated to audit NGOs, for the standard of good governance organisation & transparency.

Snehalaya has Platinum Seal of Transparency from Guidestar India, Gold-Star Rating with Give India and is a Top-Ranked Organisation with Global Giving.



CREDIBILITY
ALLIANCE



FINANCIALS

Statement of Income & Expenditure Accounts For The Year Ended March 31, 2025

Income	Rs in Lakhs
Grants & Donations	1,071.64
International Sources	504.02
Bank Interest Received	212.15
Misc Receipts	41.54
Expenditure over income (Deficit)	-
Total	1,829.34

Expenditure	Rs in Lakhs
Food, Grains & Vegetables	83.30
Education & Skill Development	40.42
Health & Medicines	103.88
Livelihood	23.61
Program & Social Activities	73.84
Salaries & Honorarium	440.98
Farming	10.21
International Travel Exp	0.00
Travel, Lodging & conveyance Expenses	57.29
Other Expenses on the Object of the Trust	87.41
Repairs & Maintenance (buildings, electrical & vehicles)	45.00
Establishment Expenses	105.33
Rent	14.74
Insurance	46.63
Audit Fees	0.001
Depreciation on Assets	252.84
Excess of Income over Expenses (Surplus)	443.86
Total expenditure	1,829.34

For deposits being made in ₹ INR. All deposits qualify for 80G tax exemption.

Bank Name : HDFC
Branch : Imperial chowk, opposite Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Smarak, Ahilyanagar, Maharashtra 414001
Name of Charity : Snehalaya
Account Number : 01811000053339 - Savings
IFSC code : HDFC0000181
MICR number : 414240002

For deposits being made in foreign currencies as per FCRA regulations.

Bank Name: State Bank of India
Name of Charity : Snehalaya
Account Number : 40153553940 - Savings
SWIFT code: SBININBB104

Balance Sheet as at March 31, 2025

Liabilities	Rs in Lakhs
Trust Fund or Corpus	832.23
Ear Marked Trust Fund	2,860.52
Depreciation Fund	622.67
Loans and Advances	0.05
Other Current Liabilities	3.18
Provisions	49.40
Rent Deposit	1.00
Income & Expenditure A/c	3,203.74
Total (deficit/surplus)	7,572.79

Assets	Rs in Lakhs
Fixed Assets	3,939.41
Fixed deposits - banks & other Investments	3,005.52
Other Deposits	-
Current Assets, Loans and Advances	27.55
Stock in hand	8.93
Accrued Interest on fixed deposit	237.75
TDS	72.67
TCS	0.74
Tax paid against Income Tax appeal	6.45
Rent Receivable	0.41
Grant Receivable	6.76
Other Current Assets	0.29
Cash & Bank Balances	266.33
Total	7,572.79

Detailed Statement of Accounts is available on request

Auditors

ABHAY BHANDARI CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Pooja Complex, Chandani Chowk, Opp.
Ahmednagar College, Ahilyanagar- 414 001.
Maharashtra, India
Tel: 0421- 2342956, 2342960

THANK YOU!

Thank you to all of our supporters, we wouldn't exist without you. From the single person donating a small cash sum, the fundraisers running events and those sharing our news through social media to those giving in-kind donations of clothing or meals to celebrate a birthday or remember a loved one, we appreciate and thank every last one of you. It would be impossible to list you all, but we know who you are and we hope you realise that every contribution you make, no matter how big or small, is making a positive difference to thousands of lives. We would also like to thank some of our funding and corporate partners who not only provide financial support to realise our ambitions but also offer us the guidance and reassurance that keeps us motivated, sustainable and successful.





Please visit us!

Snehalaya, 239 F Block, MIDC, Ahilyanagar, Maharashtra 414111, India

Tel: 0241 2778353, 9970982505, email: info@snehalaya.org

Find out more about our life-changing work at www.snehalaya.org.

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youtube.com/snehalayango