

# The Impact of Socially Responsible Business Education

Volume 4

Edited by **Prof. Zenia Nanra**









# **SOCIAL IMMERSION PROGRAM (SIP)**

## **THE IMPACT OF SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS EDUCATION**

**Volume- IV**

**Editor:**

**Prof. Zenia Nanra**





**Editor:**

**Prof. Zenia Nanra**

Assistant Professor, Personality Enhancement Programme &  
Chairperson, V.B. Padode Centre for Sustainability, Jagdish Sheth  
School of Management (JAGSoM)

ISBN Number- 978-93-340-1592-8

Text © JAGSoM, 2024

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or any information storage or retrieval system, without the prior permission in writing from the publisher.

*Cover design:* Design Studio, Vijaybhoomi School of Design



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>Editorial</i> .....	<i>i</i>
<i>Social Responsibility and Business Education</i>	
<i>About the Editor</i> .....	<i>ii</i>

## **RESTORING ECOSYSTEMS AND EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES: SADHANA FOREST'S HOLISTIC APPROACH TO REFORESTATION AND WATER CONSERVATION- ALIGNED TO SDG 11.....1**

Prof. Ambika Prasad Nanda, Pranav Niyogi K N, Dishti Sharma, Abhishek Nair, Abhishek Rajpurohit, Akhil D, Anudeep, Balabhadrapathruni, Chayanika Baidya, Daksh Lodha, Damini Mohanty, Jayadhrava G A, Kartick Pai, Mohit Pant, Nishant Kurivella, Sonali Poralu Madhusudhan and Visvajit Laxman

## **IMPACT ASSESSMENT STUDY OF THE RURAL SCHEMES OFFERED BY GOVERNMENT FOR THE MIGRANTS AROUND IDUKKI - ALIGNED TO SDG 8..... 15**

Prof. Ajith Kumar V S, Prof. Shaji Kurian, Deepak Murugavel, Jayant C Banoula, Abhinav Raghuvanshi, Bhavika V, Himani Tyagi, Subhankar samal, Swati Roy, Anshuman Singh, P.Neha, Viknesh Kumar T, Saurav Kumar Singh, Jayant C Banoula, Kalidas S, Srishti Tripathi and Gurvir Singh Heer

## **IMPACT TRANSFORMING EDUCATION THROUGH ABHYUDAYA'S FREE LEARNING CENTERS - ALIGNED TO SDG 4 .....29**

Prof. Kamalika Chakraborty, Supratik Adhikary, Darshan Kurdikar, Ankita Sahu, Rishabh Tyagi, Srishti Gupta, Prarthana Das, Divyam Jain, Manav Mehta, Diganta Dey, Sourav Roy, Akрати Gupta, Darshan Warghane, Priyanshi Mishra, and Abhinav Sinha.A

**PROJECT SPARSH: EMPOWERING PERSONS WITH  
DISABILITIES - ALIGNED TO SDG 3 .....40**

Prof. Binita Vartak and Prof. Shrabani B Bhattacharjee, Sunny Prakash, Prajwal Arun Nagpure, Muskan Gupta, Pratima Bauri, Madhurima Dutta, Pragati Priya, Nayanthara Balagopal, Harshit shaw, Vartika Agarwal, Sujal seth, Aniket Basatwar, Devesh Senger, Vijeta Srivastava, Mithun S and Prachee





## Editorial

# Social Responsibility and Business Education

### **Prof. Zenia Nanra**

Assistant Professor, Personality Enhancement Programme, Jagdish Sheth School of Management (JAGSoM), and Chair, V.B. Padode Centre for Sustainability, JAGSoM

In today's dynamic landscape, business education transcends mere financial gains, emphasizing the importance of societal and environmental impact. This book explores the profound shift towards socially responsible business education, showcasing how leading institutions integrate ethics and sustainability into their curricula. Through case studies and analysis, it illustrates how such education empowers students to address pressing global challenges while fostering thriving businesses that contribute positively to communities and the planet. As we confront unprecedented environmental and social crises, this book champions the transformative potential of education in shaping responsible business leaders who prioritize the well-being of people and the planet, inspiring readers to embrace a new paradigm where profitability aligns with social and environmental responsibility.

A structured, scientific approach to ESG/Sustainability reporting offers numerous benefits that cannot be overlooked. Primarily, it plays a pivotal role in safeguarding our planet by addressing climate change. Economically, reputable research institutes highlight the promising prospects for responsible businesses. Moreover, ethical reporting fosters effective communication, essential in our digitally interconnected and transparent world. Volume IV of select white papers from the 2022-2024 PGDM batch presents ideas for future action aligned with the 17 SDGs, crafted by students through meticulous analysis and under faculty guidance, with aspirations to implement these ideas in their management careers.

The first paper explores Restoring ecosystems and empowering communities: sadhana forest's holistic approach to reforestation and water conservation. In the second paper students designed an impact assessment study of the rural schemes offered by government for the migrants around Idukki, Kerala. In the third paper students analyse the Impact transforming education through Abhyudaya's free learning centres. And in the last paper students worked with Project Sparsh - empowering persons with disabilities in Wayanad, Kerala.

We invite you to share your reflections with us. Meanwhile, we will continue to nurture holistic, socially responsible, and continuously employable professionals through our Social Immersion Program (SIP).

## ABOUT THE EDITOR



**Prof. Zenia Nanra**

**Assistant Professor and Chairperson- V. B. Padode Centre for Sustainability**

**Speciality Area: Memory and History Studies, Archival Research, Postcolonial and Cultural Studies**

Prof. Zenia Nanra has developed her research interest in Interdisciplinary studies in English Literature and Language, Postcolonial and Cultural Studies, Memory and Archival Studies, and Historical narratives through the lens of Indo- Canadian discourses. She has presented her research work at PGSC, School of Humanities, Universiti Sains Malaysia Penang, Malaysia (2018), and in KFLC: The Languages, Literature, and Cultural Conference, University of Kentucky, USA (2018). She has been associated with

several GIAN (Global Initiative of Academic Networks) programs and NPTEL (National Programme on Technological Enhanced Learning), initiative, a project funded by NHRD, Government of India for the courses “Speaking Effectively” and “Globalisation and Culture”. She is also a Citizen Historian associated with the 1947 Partition Archive, New Delhi. In addition to her academic pursuit, she takes keen interest in Oratory, Theatre and Dramatics.



# RESTORING ECOSYSTEMS AND EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES: SADHANA FOREST'S HOLISTIC APPROACH TO REFORESTATION AND WATER CONSERVATION- SDG 11

Prof. Ambika Prasad Nanda, Pranav Niyogi K N, Dishti Sharma, Abhishek Nair, Abhishek Rajpurohit, Akhil D, Anudeep, Balabhadrapathruni, Chayanika Baidya, Daksh Lodha, Damini Mohanty, Jayadhrupa G A, Kartick Pai, Mohit Pant, Nishant Kurivella, Sonali Poralu Madhusudhan and Visvajit Laxman

## Introduction

### Contextual Background

Sadhana Forest is a dynamic and passionate non-profit organization based in Auroville, Tamil Nadu, India, with a profound commitment to ecological restoration and sustainable living practices. Established in 2003 by Aviram Rozin and his team, the organization's foundation is deeply rooted in the principle of veganism as a core value. Central to their vision is the promotion of veganism, a philosophy and lifestyle that abstains from the use of animal products or by-products for food, clothing, or any other purpose. Embracing veganism aligns with Sadhana Forest's holistic approach to sustainability, as it reduces the ecological footprint associated with animal agriculture and supports the ethical treatment of animals.

The Key Values that Sadhana Forest follows are:

**Ecosystem Renewal:** Sadhana Forest focuses on healing ecosystems, planting trees, and safeguarding biodiversity.

**Eco-Conscious Lifestyle:** The initiative promotes sustainable living, conserving resources, and minimizing ecological harm.

**Community Engagement:** Involving locals, volunteers, and allies creates a united front for impactful transformations.

**Guided by Values:** The project upholds compassion, environmental awareness, and ethical choices.

Through selfless seva, volunteers not only contribute to the forest's growth but also experience a transformative journey that connects them deeply to nature, fosters a sense of community, and equips them with valuable skills and insights for a more sustainable way of life.

## 1.2 Immersion Activities & Experience

**Immersion activities:** Sadhana Forest engages in a range of impactful activities aimed at ecological restoration and sustainable living. They undertake reforestation projects that convert degraded land into thriving ecosystems, promoting biodiversity and soil health. The organization educates communities about water conservation, composting, and permaculture, encouraging sustainable practices that minimize environmental impact.

Workshops and training provide hands-on learning experiences, fostering a deeper understanding of ecological balance and sustainable living. Sadhana Forest also establishes food forests that offer a sustainable source of nutrition while combating food insecurity.

**Experience:** A stay at Sadhana Forest is an immersive experience that delves into sustainable living and ecological restoration. Set within nature's embrace, the environment nurtures a strong sense of togetherness and common purpose. Participating as part of a group, you engage in hands-on activities like planting trees, constructing water-efficient systems, and crafting with natural materials.

The communal lifestyle encourages cultural exchange and the sharing of knowledge. Together, you attend workshops that cover topics like composting, permaculture, and eco-friendly practices, equipping you with skills applicable to daily life. Through collective

labor, you witness firsthand the metamorphosis of barren land into thriving ecosystems.

## **2. Goal Selection**

### **2.1 Various issues identified:**

**Ecosystem Restoration:** Volunteers can participate in reforestation initiatives by planting native trees and plants. They can assist in selecting appropriate species, preparing planting sites, and nurturing young plants.

**Water Conservation:** Volunteers can help construct water conservation structures like swales (trenches), check dams, and rainwater harvesting systems.

**Soil Conservation:** Volunteers can work on implementing soil erosion control measures, such as building terraces on sloping land, creating contour trenches, and applying mulch to prevent soil from being washed away.

**Livelihood Enhancement:** Volunteers can collaborate with local communities to establish sustainable livelihood projects.

**Educational Outreach:** Volunteers can conduct workshops and training sessions on topics like agroforestry, permaculture, water management, and waste reduction. These educational efforts empower community members with practical knowledge to adopt sustainable practices.

**Community Engagement:** Volunteers can facilitate community meetings and discussions to gather input from residents. By involving the community in decision-making, volunteers can ensure that projects align with local needs and aspirations, fostering a sense of ownership.

**Infrastructure Development:** Volunteers with construction skills can assist in building eco-friendly infrastructure, such as composting toilets, renewable energy installations (solar panels), and water-efficient irrigation systems.

**Skill-sharing:** Volunteers can share their expertise in areas like sustainable building techniques, alternative energy solutions, or waste management.

**Awareness Campaigns:** Volunteers can design and execute awareness campaigns, including interactive workshops, talks, and creative presentations, to educate the community and visitors.

## **2.2 Issue chosen to address as a group:**

### **2.2.1 Ecosystem Restoration and Water Conservation:**

**Imperatives for Our Times:** In an era of escalating environmental challenges, the significance of ecosystem restoration and water conservation has surged to the forefront of global discourse. As stewards of the planet, we are confronted with the critical responsibility to address the multifaceted consequences of ecological degradation and water scarcity.

**2.2.2 Ecosystem Restoration: A Crucial Reclamation:** Ecosystem restoration stands as a beacon of hope amidst the backdrop of diminishing biodiversity, rampant deforestation, and habitat loss. By embracing the restoration of native trees and plants, we embark on a journey to rebuild ecosystems that once thrived harmoniously.

**2.2.3 Water Conservation- The Precious Commodity:** Water, the lifeblood of our planet, is increasingly threatened by scarcity and mismanagement. The urgency of water conservation cannot be overstated, as its scarcity reverberates through communities, ecosystems, and economies. Volunteers who contribute to constructing water conservation structures are safeguarding a critical lifeline.

## **3. Recommended/ Implemented Solution**

### **3.1 Information Gathered & Analyzed**

In an era characterized by environmental degradation and growing concerns over water scarcity, initiatives that effectively tackle both ecosystem restoration and water conservation are of paramount importance. Ecosystem restoration, a crucial undertaking in the face

of rampant deforestation and habitat destruction, lies at the heart of Sadhana Forest's mission. By targeting degraded areas in diverse locations such as India, Haiti, and Kenya, the organization works diligently to reclaim nature's balance through reforestation.

Water conservation, as an equally pivotal concern, finds a strong ally in Sadhana Forest's multifaceted approach. A noteworthy aspect of their strategy is the recognition of the intricate relationship between healthy ecosystems and water availability. The success of Sadhana Forest's endeavors also hinges on its innovative water conservation techniques. Another notable approach adopted by Sadhana Forest is the implementation of earthwork contours. By shaping the land to follow the natural contours, this technique facilitates water retention and prevents excessive runoff, promoting efficient infiltration and soil moisture management. These initiatives reflect the organization's commitment to utilizing innovative and context-appropriate solutions to address water scarcity.

### **3.2 Alternative Solutions**

**Strengthen Community Engagement:** Collaborative community involvement stands as a cornerstone solution in addressing ecosystem restoration and water conservation challenges. By engaging residents, Sadhana Forest can build a sense of ownership and shared responsibility for the reforestation efforts.

**Cultivate Sustainable Livelihood Opportunities:** A crucial aspect of tackling these issues is to provide alternative livelihood opportunities that are in harmony with the restored ecosystems. Sadhana Forest can collaborate with communities to develop eco-friendly income sources such as agroforestry, eco-tourism, or sustainable handicrafts.

**Elevate Educational Outreach for Lasting Change:** Education is pivotal in driving a lasting shift in attitudes and behaviors toward ecosystem restoration and water conservation. Sadhana Forest can intensify their educational outreach by conducting workshops, awareness campaigns, and school programs that highlight the importance of these issues.

**Employ Agroecological Practices:** Incorporating agroecological practices into reforestation efforts can significantly enhance water conservation. By integrating tree planting with companion plants and covering crops, Sadhana Forest can improve soil structure, increase organic matter, and enhance water retention.

**Implement Efficient Irrigation Techniques:** In regions where water availability is limited, implementing efficient irrigation methods like drip irrigation can be instrumental. By delivering water directly to the root zone of plants, this technique minimizes water wastage and ensures optimal plant hydration.

**Foster Indigenous Knowledge Integration:** Local indigenous knowledge often holds valuable insights into sustainable land management and water conservation practices. Sadhana Forest can collaborate with indigenous communities to integrate their traditional wisdom into reforestation and water conservation strategies.

**Establish Monitoring and Evaluation Frameworks:** To measure the impact of their efforts and make data-driven decisions, Sadhana Forest can establish robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks. By regularly assessing the survival rates of planted trees, changes in biodiversity, and improvements in water availability, the organization can fine-tune their strategies and adapt to evolving challenges.

**Collaborate with Local Authorities and Institutions:** To scale up their impact, Sadhana Forest can forge partnerships with local authorities, research institutions, and non-governmental organizations.

### **3.3 Solution Implemented/ Recommended**

**Strengthen Community Engagement:** Connecting with the local community is critical for any organization seeking to accomplish long-term environmental changes. Sadhana Forest can develop a sense of ownership and responsibility among residents by including community members in replanting and conservation initiatives.

**Cultivate Sustainable Livelihood Opportunities:** By combining sustainable living practices with income-generating opportunities for

the local community, a win-win scenario can be created. Sadhana Forest, for example, might investigate agroforestry practices in which specific tree species are cultivated for both ecological restoration and financial gain.

**Elevate Educational Outreach for Lasting Change:** Collaboration with schools and educational institutions is an excellent strategy to teach the generations to come the values of sustainable living along with conservation. Sadhana Forest may impact young minds and inspire them to make environmentally conscious decisions by incorporating curricula on issues such as sustainable living, reforestation, and water conservation.

#### **4. Outcome**

##### **4.1 Outcome/Expected Outcome of the Solution**

**Reforestation and Ecological Restoration:** Sadhana Forest is planting trees in areas that have been deforested. They are planting native trees that are adapted to the local climate and conditions. This helps to restore degraded ecosystems, improve soil quality, and provide habitat for wildlife. Wick irrigation method is technically feasible with efficient water distribution through capillary action and expertise in indigenous planting. Mulching helps in retaining moisture in the soil.

**Community Engagement and Empowerment:** Sadhana Forest is teaching people about the benefits of sustainable living, such as composting, rainwater harvesting, and organic farming. They are also teaching people how to implement these practices in their own lives.

**Water Conservation:** Sadhana Forest is building water harvesting systems to collect rainwater and store it for use during the dry season. This includes dry composting and the practical implementation of sustainable handwash stations, a three-bucket system, and rainwater harvesting showcasing technical feasibility.

##### **4.2 Group Reflection in Terms of Personal & Professional Development**

#### 4.2.1 Personal Development

**Environmental Consciousness:** The experience heightened our awareness of environmental issues, making us more conscious of our ecological footprint and the need for sustainable living.

**Resilience and Adaptability:** Living in a forest environment taught us to adapt to challenges, be it adverse weather conditions or limited resources. This resilience is a valuable personal trait making us more adaptable and accepting individuals.

**Cultural Sensitivity:** Interacting with volunteers from diverse backgrounds and walks of life expanded our horizons and enhanced our cultural sensitivity, appreciation for diversity and dedication to the cause.

**Mindfulness:** The serene environment and off-grid living encouraged self-reflection and mindfulness, providing a space for personal growth, stress reduction, and increased self-awareness. Doing all daily chores on our own made us realize the impact of our actions.

**Sense of belongingness:** Being part of the Sadhana community emphasized the importance of collaboration, effective communication, and working towards shared goals. We learned the value of building and sustaining communities.

**Cultural Sensitivity:** Interacting with volunteers from diverse backgrounds and walks of life expanded our horizons and enhanced our cultural sensitivity, appreciation for diversity and dedication to the cause.

**Mindfulness:** The serene environment and off-grid living encouraged self-reflection and mindfulness, providing a space for personal growth, stress reduction, and increased self-awareness.

Doing all daily chores on our own made us realize the impact of our actions. Immersed in the forest environment, we learned the importance of being present and attentive to our surroundings.



**Sense of belongingness:** Being part of the Sadhana community emphasized the importance of collaboration, effective communication, and working towards shared goals. We learned the value of building and sustaining communities.

**Gratitude and Contentment:** Living in simple conditions and witnessing sustainable living practices at Sadhana Forest taught us to appreciate the basics of life. Through activities like communal meals and sharing resources, we cultivated a sense of gratitude and contentment.

**Resourcefulness:** Learning practical skills such as wick irrigation, cooking our meals, water conservation, and sustainable building techniques made us more resourceful individuals capable of finding solutions.

**Self-Reliance:** Participating in daily chores and sustainable practices like water conservation and composting taught us the importance of self-reliance and reduced environmental impact.

**Health and Well-being:** The simple and organic lifestyle at Sadhana encouraged healthier eating habits and physical activity, contributing to our overall well-being.

**Long-Term Vision:** Sadhana Forest's dedication to long-term reforestation projects instilled in us the importance of setting ambitious goals and working patiently towards achieving them.

**Simplicity and Minimalism:** Experiencing a minimalist lifestyle with minimal possessions made us realize the value of simplicity and how reducing material clutter can lead to a more fulfilling life.

#### **4.2.2 Professional Development**

**Teamwork and Collaboration:** Learning to work closely with fellow students in a communal setting honed our teamwork and collaboration skills, which are invaluable in professional settings.

**Leadership Skills:** Taking on responsibilities within the Sadhana community for doing our daily Seva gave us the opportunity to develop leadership skills.

**Time Management:** Balancing communal tasks, workshops, and personal time taught you effective time management skills. This skill will help us handle multiple responsibilities in our professional space.

**Environmental Responsibility:** Our increased awareness of environmental issues equips us to advocate for sustainability and environmental responsibility in our future workplaces.

**Cultural Competence:** The multicultural environment in Sadhana Forest improved our cultural competence, teaching us how harmony can be achieved when goals are aligned. This is a vital skill in today's globalized business world.

**Resource Management:** At Sadhana through sustainable living practices, emphasizing efficient use of water, energy, and food resources we learned conservation, recycling, and minimizing waste to reduce environmental impact. This insight can be applied to corporate sustainability initiatives and cost-efficiency measures.

**Problem-Solving:** Dealing with challenges at Sadhana Forest sharpened our problem-solving abilities, essential for overcoming obstacles in professional projects.

**Social Impact Initiatives:** The exposure to Sadhana's social impact work inspired some of us to consider careers in the nonprofit sector or corporate social responsibility (CSR) roles.

**Stress Management:** The mindfulness practices we learned can help us manage stress in high-pressure work environments, improving our overall well-being.

**Global Perspectives:** Interacting with volunteers and staff from around the world provided us with a broader perspective, enhancing our ability to work in multicultural environments.

#### **4.3 Plan for Sustenance – An Implemented Solution & Personal Plan**

##### **4.3.1 An Implemented Solution**

To ensure the continuity of Sadhana Forest's achievements, a comprehensive plan for the sustenance of implemented solutions is crucial. The organization's innovative reforestation methods, water conservation strategies, community involvement, and educational advocacy must be carefully managed for sustained impact.

**Continued Reforestation and Restoration:** The ongoing growth of rejuvenated ecosystems demands meticulous attention. Regular monitoring of forest health, identification of potential threats, and the active involvement of local communities in planting and maintenance activities are imperative.

**Water Conservation and Management:** Sustaining water conservation efforts requires a proactive stance. Regular maintenance and potential upgrades of existing infrastructure are essential to maintain optimal efficiency. Adapting water conservation methods to changing climate conditions and availability is crucial.

**Community Engagement and Empowerment:** The strength of Sadhana Forest lies in its close ties with local communities. This relationship must be nurtured through open communication, participatory decision-making, and capacity-building initiatives.

**Educational Advocacy:** The impact of educational initiatives hinges on their relevancy and reach. Developing an evolving curriculum of workshops, seminars, and educational resources ensures that information remains current and engaging.

#### **4.3.2 Personal Plan**

Individual commitment is the cornerstone of Sadhana Forest's sustainability. A personal plan aligned with the organization's values can magnify its impact and inspire positive change beyond its immediate sphere.

**Adopt Sustainable Practices:** Embrace a holistic approach to sustainability in daily life. Transitioning to a vegan lifestyle, practicing efficient water usage, conserving energy, and reducing waste through recycling and conscious consumption significantly contribute to minimizing personal ecological footprints.

**Support Sadhana Forest:** Demonstrate commitment through tangible actions. Contributing financially through donations, engaging in eco-tourism experiences, and participating in volunteer opportunities directly support the organization's initiatives.

**Educate and Inspire:** Maximize personal impact by propagating acquired knowledge. Share insights gained from workshops and educational programs with friends, family, and wider social circles.

Through the synergy of community efforts and individual dedication, we solidify the vision of harmonious coexistence between humanity and nature, ensuring a greener and more sustainable future for all.

## **5. Conclusion**

### **5.1 Suggestion for Changes in Policy/New Policy to Address the Issue**

**Digital Outreach with Heart:** Let's shape a policy that embraces the power of digital outreach, using the heart of social media and online storytelling to spread Sadhana Forest's message far and wide.

**Green Dreams Incubator:** Imagine creating a space where local dreams of sustainable businesses take root. Let's craft a policy that nurtures these dreams within Sadhana Forest, empowering communities to build enterprises that not only sustain livelihoods but also nurture the environment we hold dear.

**Learning Together Through Research:** Together, let's design a policy that bridges our forest haven with academic minds. By inviting students and researchers to explore biodiversity, soil vitality, and ecosystem restoration.

**Nature's Classroom for All:** Picture a policy that takes learning beyond textbooks and into the heart of nature. By crafting educational initiatives for local schools and communities, we can inspire the young ones and instill a love for nature and its preservation from the earliest days.

**Designing with Nature's Palette:** Let's weave a policy that infuses our physical spaces with the tranquility of nature. By embracing

biophilic design principles, we'll create an environment that speaks to the soul, nurturing a stronger bond between our community, our guests, and the beauty that surrounds us.

In conclusion, our 10-day journey at Sadhana Forest was nothing short of transformative. As a group of 15 volunteers, we embarked on this adventure with diverse backgrounds and experiences, but a shared commitment to making a positive impact on the environment. Our time here has been a testament to the power of collective action, community engagement, and the profound connection between humans and nature. Through hands-on experiences in reforestation, water conservation, and embracing the principles of veganism, we've not only contributed to the restoration of ecosystems but also gained invaluable insights into sustainable living practices. The knowledge we've acquired during workshops, interactions with local communities, and the immersive environment has left a lasting impression on each of us.

As we bid farewell to Sadhana Forest, we carry back a renewed sense of purpose, a deeper understanding of our responsibilities as stewards of the Earth, and a determination to integrate the lessons learned here into our daily lives. The friendships forged, the challenges overcome, and the sense of accomplishment achieved during these 10 days will forever remain etched in our memories. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the entire Sadhana Forest community for opening their arms to us and allowing us to be a small part of their remarkable journey towards ecological restoration and sustainable living.



# IMPACT ASSESSMENT STUDY OF THE RURAL SCHEMES OFFERED BY GOVERNMENT FOR THE MIGRANTS AROUND IDUKKI – SDG 8

Prof. Ajith Kumar V S, Prof. Shaji Kurian, Deepak Murugavel, Jayant C Banoula, Abhinav Raghuvanshi, Bhavika V, Himani Tyagi, Subhankar samal, Swati Roy, Anshuman Singh, P.Neha, Viknesh Kumar T, Saurav Kumar Singh, Jayant C Banoula, Kalidas S, Srishti Tripathi and Gurvir Singh Heer

## INTRODUCTION

**CONTEXTUAL BACKGROUND:** In this section, we provide an overview of the context in which our project, in collaboration with the NGO, was initiated. It is essential to understand the backdrop against which our efforts were directed.

**Geographical Setting:** Our project was carried out in the Idukki district of Kerala, India. Idukki is characterized by its hilly terrain, dense forests, and a predominantly agrarian economy. The district is known for its rich biodiversity and is home to several indigenous communities. However, these communities often face socio-economic challenges that hinder their development.

**Socio-Economic Landscape:** The Idukki district, while blessed with natural beauty, grapples with various issues that affect the quality of life for its residents. Some of the prominent challenges include:

**Agricultural Dependency:** The district's economy is primarily dependent on agriculture, with a focus on cash crops like rubber, spices, and tea. This dependency on a few commodities makes the economy vulnerable to market fluctuations and price instability.

**Land Scarcity:** Idukki's small geographical size and high population density result in limited agricultural land for farming. Farmers often struggle to expand their cultivation areas or establish new farms, restricting their income potential.

**Labor Shortage:** Many individuals from Idukki have migrated to other regions or countries in search of better employment opportunities. Consequently, there is a shortage of agricultural laborers, impacting farming activities and increasing production costs.

**Climate Change Vulnerability:** Kerala, including Idukki, is susceptible to climate change impacts such as erratic rainfall patterns, floods, and landslides. These natural disasters can cause significant damage to crop, farmland, and agricultural infrastructure, leading to financial losses for farmers.

**Market Access:** Farmers in Idukki often struggle to access markets for their produce. Limited infrastructure for storage, transportation, and processing hampers their ability to sell their products at fair prices and find profitable market outlets.

**Community and Cultural Significance:** Idukki is also known for its diverse communities, including indigenous groups. These communities have unique cultural traditions and practices deeply intertwined with their natural surroundings.

## **1.2 IMMERSION ACTIVITIES & EXPERIENCE**

In this section, we delve into our immersive experience while working closely with the NGO in the Idukki district. Our hands-on involvement in various activities provided us with invaluable insights and a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by the local communities.

**Community Engagement:** Our immersion activities began with extensive community engagement. We conducted surveys, interviews, and focus group discussions with local farmers, indigenous communities, and other stakeholders. This direct



interaction allowed us to gain firsthand knowledge of their needs, aspirations, and concerns.

**Field Visits:** Field visits were a cornerstone of our immersion process. These visits took us to remote villages, farms, and forested areas where we observed the daily lives and practices of the local population.

**Agricultural Workshops:** To understand the agricultural challenges in Idukki, we participated in workshops organized by the NGO. These workshops covered various topics, including sustainable farming practices, organic agriculture, and crop diversification. We not only learned from experts but also shared our knowledge with local farmers.

**Skill Enhancement Programs:** Recognizing the importance of skills in modern agriculture, we facilitated skill enhancement programs. These programs aimed to equip local farmers with the latest techniques in crop cultivation, pest management, and post-harvest handling.

**Environmental Conservation Initiatives:** Our immersion experience extended beyond agriculture. We actively participated in environmental conservation initiatives such as afforestation drives and waste management projects. These initiatives underscored the significance of preserving the natural heritage of Idukki.

**Challenges Encountered:** During our immersion activities, we encountered several challenges, including language barriers, logistical issues in remote areas, and the need for tailored approaches for different communities.

**Personal Growth and Learning:** Our immersion experience was not just about understanding the local context; it was also a journey of personal growth. We developed skills in communication, community engagement, and project management.

## 2. GOAL SELECTION

## 2.1 VARIOUS ISSUES IDENTIFIED

During our immersive experience and comprehensive analysis of the Idukki district, we identified a range of pressing issues that significantly impact the lives of the local communities. These issues span various domains and are pivotal for the sustainable development of the region. Below, we present a concise overview of the key issues we identified:

### **Agricultural Challenges:**

**Low Productivity:** Many farmers in Idukki face challenges related to low agricultural productivity due to outdated farming practices and limited access to modern techniques.

**Climate Vulnerability:** The region's vulnerability to climate change, resulting in unpredictable weather patterns, affects crop yields.

**Monoculture Dependency:** Excessive reliance on cash crops like cardamom has led to economic instability due to market fluctuations.

**Limited Crop Diversification:** Limited crop diversification has left farmers susceptible to pests and diseases targeting specific crops.

### **Land Rights and Indigenous Communities:**

**Land Dispossession:** Indigenous communities often face the threat of land dispossession due to factors such as developmental projects and encroachments.

**Cultural Erosion:** The erosion of indigenous cultures and traditions is a growing concern, as younger generations become increasingly disconnected from their heritage.

### **Environmental Conservation:**

**Deforestation:** Rampant deforestation, often driven by illegal logging and land-use changes, threatens the region's rich biodiversity.

**Wildlife Conflicts:** Human-wildlife conflicts are on the rise as natural habitats are encroached upon by human settlements.

**Waste Management:** Improper waste management practices contribute to pollution and environmental degradation.

### **Infrastructure and Connectivity:**

**Inadequate Roads:** Many remote villages suffer from poor road connectivity, hindering access to essential services, markets, and healthcare facilities.

**Limited Access to Electricity:** Some areas lack access to reliable electricity, hampering economic activities and educational opportunities.

### **Education and Healthcare:**

**Quality Education:** Despite efforts, the quality of education remains a concern in certain areas, affecting the future prospects of the youth.

**Healthcare Accessibility:** Access to healthcare facilities is limited in remote regions, leading to challenges in addressing health issues effectively.

### **Socio-Economic Disparities:**

**Income Disparities:** Significant income disparities exist between different sections of the population, with marginalized groups often facing economic hardships.

**Gender Disparities:** Gender-based disparities persist, particularly in access to education and economic opportunities.

### **Water Resource Management:**

**Water Scarcity:** Certain areas grapple with water scarcity issues, affecting both agricultural and domestic needs.

**Water Pollution:** Water sources are often polluted due to improper waste disposal practices.

### **Fisher Farmers and Meat Rearers Exploitation:**

**Middlemen Exploitation:** Fisher farmers and meat rearers face exploitation by middlemen who charge high commissions, reducing their profits and economic stability.

**Potential Solution:** One potential solution could involve NGO involvement in setting up a factory where fish and meat can be processed and packed for direct sales, reducing dependency on exploitative intermediaries.

### **Unsustainable Tourism:**

**Environmental Impact:** The booming tourism industry, while beneficial, poses sustainability challenges, including waste generation and strain on natural resources.

**Lack of Technological Adoption:** Many communities lack access to modern technologies, limiting their ability to adapt to changing agricultural practices and access markets efficiently.

## **2.2 Issue Chosen to Address as A Group: Fisher Farmers And Meat Rearers Exploitation**

Among the various issues we identified in the Idukki district, one that particularly struck a chord with our group was the exploitation faced by fisher farmers and meat rearers. These communities play a vital role in the region's economy and food security, yet they often find

themselves in vulnerable positions due to the exploitation by middlemen who charge exorbitant commissions.

**Background:**

**Role in Local Economy:** Fisher farmers and meat rearers are essential contributors to the local economy, providing valuable food resources to the community.

**Exploitative Practices:** Middlemen in the supply chain often take advantage of the lack of direct access to markets and processing facilities for fish and meat.

**Challenges Faced by Fisher Farmers and Meat Rearers:**

**High Commissions:** Middlemen charge significant commissions, reducing the income that should rightfully go to the primary producers.

**Market Dependency:** Fisher farmers and meat rearers are often compelled to sell their products through middlemen due to a lack of direct market access.

**Limited Bargaining Power:** The imbalance of power in the supply chain leaves these communities with limited bargaining power, making them susceptible to unfair pricing.

**2.4 RECOMMENDED SOLUTION: ESTABLISHMENT OF PROCESSING AND PACKAGING FACTORIES**

**Rationale:** The recommended solution involves the establishment of processing and packaging factories for fish and meat with the assistance of NGOs. This solution addresses the core issue of exploitation faced by fisher farmers and meat rearers in the Idukki district.

Here are the key components and details of this proposed solution:

**Objective:** The primary objective of this solution is to empower fisher farmers and meat rearers by reducing their dependence on exploitative middlemen and creating a more sustainable and profitable value chain for their products.

**Key Features:**

**Factory Setup:** Multiple small-scale processing and packaging factories will be set up strategically across the Idukki district. These factories will be equipped with modern processing equipment and hygienic packaging facilities.

**NGO Involvement:** Collaboration with NGOs will be a crucial aspect of this solution. NGOs will play a pivotal role in funding, project management, and capacity building for the local community. They will facilitate the setup and initial operation of these factories.

**Training and Capacity Building:** The NGOs will provide training to fisher farmers and meat rearers on sustainable fishing and farming practices, as well as modern processing techniques. This will enhance product quality and safety.

**Market Linkages:** Efforts will be made to establish direct market linkages for the processed fish and meat products. This can involve partnerships with local markets, restaurants, and even e-commerce platforms for wider reach.

**Quality Control:** Strict quality control measures will be implemented at the factories to ensure that the processed products meet the required standards. This will enhance consumer trust and market competitiveness.

**Environmental Sustainability:** The factories will adhere to environmentally friendly practices, including responsible waste disposal and resource management, aligning with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

**Benefits:**

**Reduction in Middlemen Commissions:** By establishing these factories, the dependence on middlemen for processing and

distribution will significantly decrease, allowing fisher farmers and meat rearers to retain a larger portion of their earnings.

**Market Access:** Direct market linkages will provide a more extensive and stable customer base for the products, reducing the risk associated with fluctuating market prices.

**Employment Generation:** The setup and operation of these factories will generate employment opportunities within the local community.

**Environmental Responsibility:** The solution promotes environmental sustainability by ensuring responsible resource use and waste management.

### **Challenges:**

**Initial Investment:** Setting up processing factories requires a significant initial investment, which will need financial support from the NGOs.

**Operational Efficiency:** Ensuring the efficient and sustainable operation of the factories will be a critical challenge, requiring proper management and oversight.

**Community Participation:** Motivating and involving fisher farmers and meat rearers in the project will be essential for its success.

**Resistance from Middlemen:** Existing middlemen may resist this change, and negotiations or legal considerations might be necessary.

**Monitoring and Evaluation:** A comprehensive monitoring and evaluation framework will be established to track the progress and impact of this solution. Key performance indicators will include increased income levels for fisher farmers and meat rearers, reduced commissions paid to middlemen, product quality improvements, and environmental impact assessments.

By implementing this solution, our group aims to not only address the exploitation issue but also contribute to the broader goal of

sustainable development in the Idukki district. Through collaboration with NGOs and active community participation, we believe that this solution can bring about positive, long-lasting change for fisher farmers and meat rearers in the region.

## **4. OUTCOME**

**4.1 EXPECTED OUTCOMES OF THE SOLUTION:** The implementation of processing and packaging factories for fish and meat, with the assistance of NGOs, is expected to bring about several positive outcomes for fisher farmers and meat rearers in the Idukki district. These outcomes will be tangible and felt in various ways. Here are the expected outcomes along with examples of how they will be realized:

**Reduction in Middlemen Commissions:** Fisher farmers and meat rearers will experience a significant reduction in the commissions they pay to middlemen. Example: Previously, a fisher farmer may have had to give up 30% of their earnings to middlemen. With the new system, this could reduce to 5%, allowing them to keep a larger share of their income.

**Increased Income Levels:** The overall income levels of fisher farmers and meat rearers will rise due to higher earnings from their products. Example: A meat rearer who previously earned \$500 per month might see their income increase to \$800 or more as they can now sell directly to consumers.

**Improved Product Quality:** Processed fish and meat products will meet higher quality standards, leading to increased consumer trust. Example: Fish processed in hygienic factories with quality control measures will have a longer shelf life and better taste, making them more attractive to consumers.

**Employment Generation:** The establishment of processing factories will generate employment opportunities within the local community. Example: The new factories will employ local workers for various roles, such as processing, packaging, quality control, and management.



**Market Access:** Direct market linkages will provide a more extensive and stable customer base for fish and meat products. Example: Local restaurants and markets may source their products directly from the factories, providing a consistent market for the community.

**Environmental Responsibility:** The factories will adhere to environmentally friendly practices, contributing to a more sustainable local environment. Example: Proper waste disposal and resource management will help maintain the cleanliness of water bodies, reducing pollution.

**Community Empowerment:** The local community, particularly fisher farmers and meat rearers, will be empowered through training and capacity building. Example: Farmers will gain knowledge about sustainable practices, improving the long-term viability of their livelihoods.

**Alignment with SDGs:** The solution aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), contributing to global sustainability efforts. Example: Reduced dependence on exploitative practices supports SDG 1 (No Poverty) and SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production).

These expected outcomes will be measured through a robust monitoring and evaluation framework that tracks various indicators, including income levels, product quality, employment data, and environmental impact assessments. The real impact will be felt by the community members who will have improved livelihoods, reduced financial burdens, and a brighter economic future.

#### **4.2 GROUP REFLECTION ON PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:**

Our journey through the Social Immersion Project (SIP) in Idukki district has been transformative on both personal and professional levels. This experience has not only deepened our understanding of the challenges faced by fisher farmers and meat rearers but has also enriched our skills and perspectives in various ways.

## **Personal Development:**

**Empathy and Cultural Sensitivity:** The immersive experience allowed us to step into the shoes of the local community. We developed a profound sense of empathy, understanding their struggles, aspirations, and cultural nuances.

**Adaptability:** Living in a rural environment and working closely with the community required adaptability. We learned to adapt to different living conditions, local customs, and the challenges of rural life.

**Communication Skills:** Engaging with community members, NGOs, and local authorities enhanced our communication skills. We learned to communicate effectively, especially when language and cultural barriers existed.

**Problem-Solving:** Addressing the exploitation of fisher farmers and meat rearers demanded creative problem-solving. We honed our ability to identify root causes, brainstorm solutions, and work collaboratively to implement them.

**Leadership and Teamwork:** Leading and participating in group activities within a diverse team taught us the dynamics of effective teamwork. We understood the significance of leadership, delegation, and collaboration in achieving project goals.

## **Professional Development:**

**Field Research and Data Collection:** Conducting surveys, interviews, and data analysis improved our research and data collection skills. We now possess practical experience in gathering and analyzing qualitative and quantitative data.

**Project Management:** Managing the various aspects of the SIP, from project planning to execution, helped us acquire project management skills. This experience will be beneficial in handling future projects and assignments.

**Stakeholder Engagement:** Engaging with stakeholders, including NGOs, government officials, and community members, sharpened

our stakeholder management skills. We learned to build relationships, negotiate, and advocate for our project.

**Policy Analysis:** Understanding the economic, social, and environmental policies affecting the local community provided insights into policy analysis. We gained a deeper understanding of policy implications on the ground.

**Sustainability Perspective:** The focus on sustainable development and the alignment with United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) broadened our sustainability perspective. We now appreciate the importance of integrating sustainability into various domains.

**Community Engagement:** Our interactions with the community reinforced the significance of community engagement in development projects. We learned the importance of listening to the community's needs and involving them in decision-making.

## **5. CONCLUSIONS**

### **5.1 SUGGESTIONS FOR CHANGES IN POLICY/NEW POLICY**

Addressing the issue of exploitation faced by fisher farmers and meat rearers involves not only grassroots initiatives but also policy changes. Here are some key policy recommendations:

**Regulation of Middlemen:** Implement regulations to cap the commissions charged by middlemen in the sale of fish and meat. This will ensure that the producers receive a fair share of their earnings.

**Promoting Cooperative Models:** Encourage the formation of cooperatives among fisher farmers and meat rearers. These cooperatives can collectively negotiate better prices and manage storage and processing facilities, reducing their dependency on middlemen.

**Financial Support for Processing Units:** Introduce financial schemes or subsidies to support the establishment of small-scale

fish and meat processing units. This will facilitate value addition and reduce post-harvest losses.

**Skill Development:** Invest in skill development programs for fisher farmers and meat rearers. This will enable them to adopt modern farming and processing techniques, enhancing the quality of their products.

**Market Linkages:** Develop robust market linkages for fisher farmers and meat rearers. This can be done through partnerships with retail chains, restaurants, and export opportunities, reducing dependency on local middlemen.

**Environmental Regulations:** Enforce strict environmental regulations to ensure responsible disposal of waste and effluents from processing units. This will promote sustainable practices in the industry.

**Awareness Campaigns:** Launch awareness campaigns about the exploitation faced by these communities and the importance of supporting local, sustainable agriculture and fisheries.

## **Conclusion**

In conclusion, our project addressed the critical issue of exploitation faced by fisher farmers and meat rearers. Through extensive research, data analysis, and community engagement, we identified that the intervention of NGOs in setting up processing units can significantly alleviate this problem. This solution not only reduces the dependency on middlemen but also enhances product quality, benefiting both the producers and consumers.

Our experience during this project was transformative, both personally and professionally. We not only gained valuable insights into the challenges faced by marginalized communities but also developed practical solutions and policy recommendations.

# IMPACT TRANSFORMING EDUCATION THROUGH ABHYUDAYA'S FREE LEARNING CENTERS – SDG 4

Prof. Kamalika Chakraborty, Supratik Adhikary, Darshan Kurdikar, Ankita Sahu, Rishabh Tyagi, Srishti Gupta, Prarthana Das, Divyam Jain, Manav Mehta, Diganta Dey, Sourav Roy, Akрати Gupta, Darshan Warghane, Priyanshi Mishra, and Abhinav Sinha.

## Introduction

**Contextual Background-** The organization's mission is to offer disadvantaged children with high-quality education, awareness, and skills. We enjoy seeing the students' enthusiasm as they participate in interactive learning and explore new prospects. It gives us hope and enthusiasm. The organization is dedicated to providing a warm and inviting atmosphere for all children. It ensures that every child has an equal opportunity for intellectual and social growth. This non-profit organization's ongoing efforts mold young minds and develop future leaders by teaching a feeling of duty and compassion for society. Visiting these institutions demonstrates education's transformative impact.

**The time span of visit:** We visited an Abhyudaya Foundation (NGO) that strives to educate and empower young people from June 26 to July 5, 2023. During our tour, we were struck by the staff and volunteers' passion and dedication to providing great education to impoverished children. With passion and hope, the students matured and realized their potential in the organization's vibrant and encouraging atmosphere.

**The places of visit:** During our 10-day social immersion program, we visited three locations. HSR Layout FLC came in first, Thayimane came in second, and Agara FLC came in third and last. HSR layout FLC has approximately 60 students from the state board as well as CBSE / national board. Thayimane has roughly 120 pupils in grades 1 through 10. There are 28 students from state board schools in Agara FLC.

We had a terrific time teaching and mentoring students at Abhyudaya, an exceptional Non-Governmental Organization (NGO). We were astounded by the student's dedication and excitement for learning. The influence of Abhyudaya on young brains is evident. We departed Abhyudaya with a renewed sense of optimism about their bright future. We are thrilled to continue supporting and collaborating with this amazing organization.

At Abhyudaya, they believe in inclusive and fun activities that bring people closer together and create a sense of belonging. Whether it's a fun game of Kabaddi where teamwork and strategy come to the forefront, or a fun game of musical chairs where laughter and excitement fill the room, these activities aren't just games. They're opportunities to bond and build long-lasting relationships. Through these easy-to-implement activities, we build a space where people from all walks of life can gather, enjoy themselves, and learn important life skills such as teamwork, sportsmanship, and how to live harmoniously in a diverse society.

### **Goal selection**

#### **Various issues identified:**

**Lack of Quality Volunteer teachers to handle students from higher grade:** There is a teacher shortage for students in grades 10 through 12. Science and business students frequently self-study, and courses only take place when Ravi Sir or Darshan Sir are available. Students in higher grades require more focus on critical ideas. Students would benefit from more specialized volunteer teachers who could offer in-depth expertise in essential disciplines. Many students struggle with fundamental ideas; one science student in the

11th grade was only familiar with fraction addition and trigonometry from the 9th grade. It's critical that teachers recognise these pupils and give them additional help.

**Lacks social media reach:** The 2004-founded Abhyudaya needs to expand its corporate outreach. CSR funding can be obtained by focusing on businesses. Utilizing networks like LinkedIn and creating compelling content will increase awareness and aid Abhyudaya in getting funding for specialised instructors and cutting-edge technology for smart classrooms.

**Traditional learning methods:** The teaching learning methods that are practiced is the traditional learning method which mostly focused on introduction, concepts, and conclusion. It's a brick-and-mortar classroom setup.

**Identifying weaker students:** As the FLC focused on group peer learning guided by a volunteer teacher, there were some students who were not able to cope up to the speed, hence the few challenges were noticed: a. Difficult to identify students who require special attention. b. Struggling with Basic Concepts

**Learning Inequalities:** Crowded classrooms and a lack of personal attention hinder individual learning experiences and extracurricular involvement.

Issue chosen to address as group.

**Shortage of Volunteer Teachers:**

**Lack of facilitating Focused Learning:**

- The shortage of volunteers makes it challenging to provide focused learning experiences for students. Many students are left to study on their own or wait for the limited availability of qualified teachers like Ravi Sir or Darshan Sir.

- To ensure that students receive the attention they need, it's crucial to recruit more qualified volunteer teachers, particularly for higher-grade students (10th to 12th grade).

### **Lack of Specialized Expertise:**

- Finding volunteers with the right expertise for specific subjects is a significant hurdle. To enhance the quality of education, efforts should be made to identify and engage individuals with specialized knowledge in science, commerce, and other core subjects.

- Subject matter experts can provide more detailed and comprehensive explanations, benefiting students in their core subjects.

### **Basic Knowledge Gap:**

- Many students from difficult backgrounds lack basic knowledge of fundamental concepts. It's essential for teachers to identify these students and provide them with extra attention and support.

- Addressing gaps in foundational knowledge, such as trigonometry and fractions, is vital to ensure that students can grasp more advanced concepts effectively.

### **Lack of Digital Learning Methods and social media reach:**

- Abhyudaya was established in year 2004 but still according to me the reach & connect with the corporates are lagging. If they target some companies effectively Abhyudaya would be able to ascertain CSR funds from the corporate giants.

- Use of social media platform like LinkedIn with better interactive content can be lead to more visibility amongst the corporate and then Abhyudaya will mostly be able to get more funds to hire specialized teachers & use better equipment's for smart classes.

### **Recommended / Implemented solution.**

#### **Information gathered & analyzed**

Our approach to formulating these recommendations involved a systematic gathering of information and a comprehensive analysis of the challenges encountered by Abhyudaya's Free Learning Centers



during the immersion program. The process can be outlined as follows:

**Observation and Immersion:** We immersed ourselves in the daily activities and interactions within the learning centers. This included attending classes, observing teaching methods, and engaging with both students and educators. This direct observation provided valuable insights into the existing educational landscape.

**Engagement and Interviews:** Meaningful conversations were conducted with students, teachers, coordinators, and other stakeholders. These interviews offered diverse perspectives, shedding light on the challenges faced, as well as potential opportunities for improvement.

**Evaluation of Ongoing Initiatives:** We examined the current initiatives implemented by Abhyudaya, evaluating their effectiveness and impact. This assessment helped identify areas where enhancements could be made to further elevate the educational experience.

**Problem Identification:** Through a careful analysis of observations, engagement, and evaluation, we identified the core problems that hindered the educational journey of underprivileged students. These problems formed the basis for our recommended solutions.

**Alignment with Mission:** Our recommendations were aligned with Abhyudaya's overarching mission of providing quality education to marginalized children. This alignment ensured that the proposed solutions resonated with the organization's goals and values.

**TEV Analysis:** The Technical, Economic, and Viability (TEV) analysis was conducted for each proposed solution. This involved assessing the technical feasibility, economic implications, and overall viability of implementing the solutions.

**Customization and Tailoring:** The solutions were tailored to address the specific challenges identified through our information-gathering process. This ensured that the recommendations were

precise and directly addressed the needs of Abhyudaya's Free Learning Centers.

This robust process ensures that our recommendations are well-informed, effective, and aligned with Abhyudaya's goals. It underscores our commitment to empower underprivileged students through quality education.

### **Alternative solutions**

Online volunteer platforms: volunteers can provide remote teaching and mentorship through video conferencing.

**Teacher Training Workshops:** Organizing training workshops for community members who are interested in becoming volunteer teachers. These workshops can equip them with basic teaching skills and techniques.

**Incentives and Recognition:** Provide incentives like certificates, recognition events, or letters of recommendation to motivate volunteers and show appreciation for their efforts.

### **Solution implemented / Recommended**

#### **Embracing digital learning methods:**

- Online Lectures from YouTube to support FLC classes: Faculty providing YouTube video links to students to support their teaching.
- Using audio and video simulations to enhance learning experience: Showing interactive videos & presentations to the students for better learning.
- Using E-Books & Free Certifications: E-Books will reduce expenses on books & providing free courses available online.

#### **Shortage of Volunteer Teachers:**

- Collaborating with the Educational Institutes: Coordinators of Abhyudaya visiting degree colleges & attracting college students to teach at their FLC.

- Approaching UPSC & CAT students.

- Provide mentoring and support to youth teachers: Supporting courses and mentoring sessions tailored for teachers.

- Host talks and workshops on fellowships at educational institutions: This would help to raise awareness of fellowship programs among students and encourage them to apply.

### **Expanding Reach & improving post quality:**

Identify a passionate and skilled volunteer to take charge of social media activities.

Using Interns for Social Media Outreach.

Better chance to secure CSR funds.

Provide relevant training and resources to enhance the volunteer's social media skills.

### **Implementation:**

Developing a detailed action plan for each recommendation, including timelines, responsibilities, and measurable outcomes.

Establishing a communication channel for volunteers, teachers, and stakeholders to share progress and feedback.

Regularly assessing the effectiveness of each strategy through surveys, feedback sessions, and data analysis.

Continuously adapting and refining the strategies based on feedback and changing circumstances. By systematically implementing these recommendations, Abhyudaya can enhance its digital learning methods, address the shortage of volunteer teachers, and improve its reach and post quality, leading to a more impactful and effective educational initiative.

### **Outcome**

**Outcome / expected outcome of the solution:**

The experience at Abhyudaya brings forth remarkable outcomes. It instills discipline within students, fostering self-confidence and a sense of accountability. This involvement is immensely rewarding, allowing individuals to make a positive impact on lives while promoting education and community empowerment. Working with diverse backgrounds in Pragathi Plus, Agara FLC, and Thaiy Mane fosters a dynamic learning environment. The supportive ambiance at Abhyudaya cultivates trust and connection, enabling the building of meaningful relationships with students. Witnessing their growth and resilience fuels a commitment to shaping a brighter future through education. This journey also imparts invaluable lessons in adaptability, empathy, and the transformative power of education.

Other significant outcomes include students learning self-reliance, fostering a sense of responsibility, utilizing games and activities to build camaraderie, and teachers' dedication to individual students. Students evolving into teachers enriches peer learning, strengthening the community's fabric. Appreciating existing blessings and aspiring for improvement becomes a guiding principle.

Our proposed solution aimed to increase the number of volunteers at Free Learning Centers (FLCs) by utilizing available learning resources. This objective sought to enhance the quality of education provided to underprivileged students, thereby fostering improved academic performance, comprehensive development, and a reduction in educational disparities.

#### **Evidence of the Outcome:**

**Discipline and Responsibility:** The students exhibited disciplined behavior and a strong sense of responsibility toward their education. Their consistent attendance demonstrated their commitment to learning and self-improvement.

**Eagerness to Learn:** The students displayed a genuine thirst for knowledge, reflecting their keen desire to acquire new skills and enhance their educational opportunities.

**Promotion of Traditional Values and Peer Learning:** The FLCs actively emphasized traditional values, underlining their holistic

approach to education. Peer learning was encouraged, fostering a collaborative and supportive atmosphere among students.

**Independent Learning and Collaboration:** Students engaged in self-directed learning, indicating their capability to take charge of their education. The spirit of collaboration among students showcased their ability to work together toward common educational objectives.

**Effective Learning Experiences:** The utilization of traditional teaching methods resulted in meaningful and productive learning experiences for the students, contributing significantly to their overall educational progress.

**Involvement in Extracurricular Activities:** The students' participation in extracurricular activities highlighted their well-rounded development. This involvement nurtured teamwork, improved interpersonal skills, and facilitated personal growth.

### **Group reflection in terms of personal & professional development.**

Visiting an NGO dedicated to supporting children's education and employment can have a profound impact on a person. It goes beyond just a visit; it sparks emotional, intellectual, and motivational changes. Witnessing the challenges these children face - from limited resources to societal biases - creates a deep connection and empathy. The social immersion program provided the participants with valuable insights, fostering both personal and professional growth. The experience highlighted the importance of education, empathy, and social responsibility. Participants learned to appreciate their privileges and became more sensitive to the challenges faced by underprivileged communities. This experience makes us reevaluate our own privileges and blessings. It leads to gratitude and a sense of responsibility to give back.

Professionally, participants developed skills in observation, teaching, mentoring, and organizing activities. We learned the significance of innovation and adaptability in resource-constrained environments.

Interacting with diverse students and mentors enhanced their communication and leadership abilities.

The visit prompts introspection, making us question our values and priorities. Seeing the determination of these children inspires us to rethink our goals. It reminds us that success isn't just personal; it's about contributing positively to society. The dedication of the NGO's staff and the progress of the children empower us. We want to be part of the solution, whether through volunteering, advocacy, or support.

**Plan for sustenance** – implemented solution & personal plan

The plan for sustaining the implemented solution encompasses a range of strategic measures:

**Collaborating with Companies for CSR Activities:** Establish partnerships with companies to promote corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities that involve their employees as volunteers. This will help maintain a steady influx of volunteers for the Free Learning Centers (FLCs).

**Utilizing Social Immersion Programs in Colleges:** Leverage social immersion programs conducted in colleges to attract students as volunteers for FLCs. This provides students with valuable hands-on experience while contributing to the betterment of the community.

**Engaging Aspiring Students:** Tap into the enthusiasm of aspiring MBA and UPSC students who seek diverse experiences beyond academics. Encourage them to volunteer at FLCs, enriching their perspectives and benefiting the students.

**Involving Homemakers and Retired Teachers:** Utilize the expertise of homemakers and retired teachers residing in the vicinity of FLCs. Their contributions as volunteers can enhance the learning experience and provide mentorship.

**Conclusion**

**Suggestion for changes in policy / new policy to address the issue.**

The immersion experience at Abhyudaya has been a profound and transformative journey, leaving a lasting impact on both the students and us. The exposure to diverse contexts, cultures, and challenges has fulfilled key objectives, fostering social responsibility, empathy, and an understanding of complex societal issues. The experience has deepened understanding of the importance of education, particularly in the face of hardship, and it has taught crucial life lessons like self-control, gratitude, and the value of peer learning. The immersion has also revealed some of the organization's major issues, including shortage of volunteer teachers and the need for greater outreach and funding. Through Techno Economic Viability (TEV) analysis, suggested solutions to these problems include recruiting college students and young professionals as volunteer teachers, enhancing social media presence for funding and outreach, and providing relevant training and resources. We had a fresh appreciation for the value of education, the need of community support, and the commitment needed to have a positive impact on others' lives. Overall, the immersion experience at Abhyudaya has not only highlighted the incredible potential for positive change in underprivileged communities but has also sparked a lifelong commitment to contributing meaningfully to society. Our reflections and proposed solutions as a team underscore the importance of collaborative efforts in addressing social challenges and fostering a brighter future for all.

# **PROJECT SPARSH: EMPOWERING PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES – SDG 3**

Prof. Binita Vartak and Prof. Shrabani B Bhattacharjee, Sunny Prakash, Prajwal Arun Nagpure, Muskan Gupta, Pratima Bauri, Madhurima Dutta, Pragati Priya, Nayanthara Balagopal, Harshit shaw, Vartika Agarwal, Sujal seth, Aniket Basatwar, Devesh Senger Vijeta Srivastava, Mithun S and Prachee

## **Introduction**

Shreyas Foundation is a non-profit organization that was established in 1979 and registered under the "Societies Registration Act of 1860" in 1986. Operating in the districts of Kasargodu, Kannur, Kozhikode, Malappuram, and Wayanad in Kerala, as well as the Nilgiri district of Tamil Nadu, the foundation has been actively involved in promoting sustainable and integral development in the region.

With nine regional offices, Shreyas Foundation has a widespread presence, reaching out to communities in remote areas. It has successfully formed 84 units (Village Federations) and collaborated with 2682 Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), impacting over 50,000 families. The foundation's focus is on empowering various vulnerable groups such as Tribal Families, Persons with Disabilities (PwDs), Small and Marginal Farmers, Agriculture Laborers, Rural Women, Children, and Youth.

## **Vision**

The vision of Shreyas Foundation is to create a just and peaceful



society based on human values. It aims to foster an inclusive environment where all individuals have access to opportunities for growth and development.

## **Mission**

The mission of Shreyas Foundation is to be a learning, facilitating, and model organization for integral and holistic development through a participatory approach. The foundation seeks to actively involve the community in its development initiatives and empower them to take charge of their progress.

## **Aim and Objectives:**

**Formation, Strengthening, and Sustaining of Community-Based Organizations (CBOs):** The Shreyas Foundation aims to establish and support CBOs that play a crucial role in driving sustainable development in their respective communities.

**Qualitative Leadership with Gender Perspective:** The foundation focuses on fostering leadership qualities, especially with a gender perspective, to ensure equitable development and representation of all community members.

**Decentralized Development Initiatives and Institution Building Process:** Shreyas Foundation promotes decentralization in its approach to development, empowering local institutions to drive change effectively.

**Social Inclusion and Integrated Development of Tribal Communities and Persons with Disabilities:** The foundation places special emphasis on promoting social inclusion and ensuring the integrated development of marginalized groups such as tribal communities and persons with disabilities.

**Judicious Management of Natural Resources, Sustainable Agriculture, and Food Security:** Shreyas Foundation is committed to promoting sustainable agriculture practices and managing natural

resources responsibly to ensure food security for the participating population.

## **Programs**

**Agricultural and Animal Husbandry:** The foundation promotes group farming and various agricultural practices, including paddy and tuber cultivation. It emphasizes organic kitchen gardening, composting, biogas promotion, and the preservation of seeds and medicinal plants.

**Children and Youth Development Programme:** The foundation focuses on the formation and strengthening of child and youth groups, ensuring their physical, mental, and emotional well-being.

**Community-Based Organizations:** Shreyas Foundation is actively involved in the formation and strengthening of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) to empower communities economically and socially.

**Disaster Management Programme:** The foundation has dedicated initiatives to address disaster management and build resilience in vulnerable communities.

**Natural Resource Management:** Shreyas Foundation engages in projects and activities that promote responsible natural resource management and conservation.

## **Ongoing and Previous Major Projects**

The foundation has been involved in several ongoing and previous major projects with partners such as Caritas, Butterflies, SAFF Canada, NABARD, Sense India, Federal Bank, LIC, KRWSA, and more. These projects span various domains like cancer care, child health, family development, safe drinking water, financial literacy, disaster response, and skill development.

Shreyas Foundation's impactful work over the years, in collaboration with local communities and various stakeholders, has contributed

significantly to the sustainable development and empowerment of vulnerable groups in the regions it operates. The foundation's commitment to creating a just and peaceful society based on human values continues to drive its efforts towards integral and holistic development through participatory approaches.

## **1.1 Contextual Background**

### **Current scenario**

Project SPARSH is a pioneering initiative aimed at empowering persons with disabilities (PwDs) and ensuring their full and effective participation in society, in accordance with the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016. This project caters to individuals facing long-term physical, mental, intellectual, or sensory impairments, hindering their equitable engagement with others.

### **Activities**

#### **Formation and Strengthening of Special Self-Help Groups**

**(SHGs):** The project focuses on creating and reinforcing specialized SHGs to provide a supportive community for PW Ds.

**Identification and Assessment:** SPARSH identifies and assesses new children and adults with deaf blindness, understanding their specific needs comprehensively.

**Special Education and Therapy:** The project provides center-based and home-based special education and physiotherapy to enhance the overall development of children with deaf blindness.

**Social Security Support:** SPARSH assists children in availing themselves of social security schemes like disability certificates, pensions, scholarships, bus passes, and Niramaya.

**Medical and Nutritional Support:** The project ensures access to medical and nutritional support to improve the health and well-being of PW Ds.

### **Achievements:**

Successful implementation of an early screening program at Fatima Hospital Kalpetta to identify children with deaf blindness early on.

Establishment of a well-equipped resource center with physiotherapy equipment to cater to the needs of PW Ds effectively.

Ongoing support and services provided to 1216 PW Ds, including tribal children, improving their overall quality of life.

formation of a local network named "Jyothis" for PW Ds, promoting community inclusion and support.

Facilitation of income generation activities for 754 families of service users, empowering them economically.

Strategic partnerships and collaborations with 45 organizations, amplifying the reach and impact of the project.

### **Challenges faced currently:**

**Geographical Dispersal:** PW Ds are scattered across the district, making service delivery challenging.

**Limited Transportation Facilities:** Limited travel facilities hinder accessibility to remote areas.

**Wildlife Threat:** Certain areas face the threat of wild animals, adding to the complexity of service provision.

**Natural Disasters:** The floods in 2018, 2019, and the COVID-19 pandemic have posed significant challenges to project operations.

**Staff Turnover:** Frequent staff turnover affects the continuity and sustainability of the project.

**Limited Internet Access:** PW Ds face limited access to the internet, hindering their connectivity and communication.

**Data Management:** Lack of proper data with government departments creates hurdles in coordination and planning.

## **Objective**

The primary objective of the project is to identify and address the root causes of challenges faced by the SPARSH initiative, seeking effective solutions to enhance service delivery, overcome geographical barriers, minimize staff turnover, strengthen disaster resilience, and improve data management.

## **1.2 Immersion activities & experience**

### **Project Activities & Methodologies**

The successful execution of our project will be based on a comprehensive set of activities and methodologies aimed at achieving our objectives effectively. These activities are as follows:

**Field Visits and Data Collection:** We will conduct field visits to both tribal and non-tribal areas to gather relevant data and gain a deep understanding of the ground reality concerning disability issues.

**Stakeholder Interviews:** To gain valuable insights and perspectives, we will conduct interviews with various stakeholders, including disabled students, parents, teachers, and government officials.

**Review of Existing Documentation:** We will thoroughly review existing files and documentation of students with disabilities to identify patterns, trends, and potential areas that require attention and improvement.

**Root Cause Analysis:** Utilizing effective management techniques like root cause analysis, we will delve into the underlying factors contributing to challenges faced by the SPARSH project.

**Business and Data Management Tools:** We will leverage advanced tools such as Excel and Tableau for efficient data management and analysis. These tools will facilitate informed decision-making, enabling us to design and implement effective solutions.

## **Goal selection**

### **2.1 Various issues identified:**

#### **Challenges Identified during the Project**

During the implementation of the project, we diligently assessed the various aspects of the SPARSH initiative, which has enabled us to identify key challenges that require focused attention and strategic solutions. The top challenges we have identified are as follows:

**Underutilization of Physiotherapy Sessions:** Despite the availability of physiotherapy services, we observed that a significant number of beneficiaries are not fully utilizing these sessions.

**Tracing and Identifying Individuals in a Structured Way:** The process of tracing and identifying individuals with deaf blindness in a structured manner poses challenges, especially in remote and tribal areas.

**Lack of Awareness about Government Schemes and Services:** Many individuals and families are unaware of the various government schemes and services available for persons with disabilities. Bridging this information gap is vital to enable them to avail themselves of benefits and support.

**Low Morale and Motivation among Families:** Several families of people with disabilities face emotional and psychological challenges, leading to low morale and motivation. Empowering and providing psychological support to these families is imperative for fostering positive and enabling environment.

**Encouraging Special Education:** While special education is

available, encouraging its widespread adoption and creating awareness about its benefits remain significant challenges. Promoting the value of special education can result in improved outcomes for children with deaf blindness.

## **2.2 Issue chosen to address as group:**

### **Root Cause Analysis**

Upon conducting an in-depth analysis of the challenges faced by our project, we have identified the root cause to be the absence of a cohesive system capable of integrating the essential services provided by Shreyas Foundation. While each service, such as physiotherapy, special education, and awareness about government schemes, holds significant value, the lack of a well-structured and integrated approach has hindered their effective implementation.

The absence of a cohesive system results in fragmentation and disjointed efforts, leading to the underutilization of vital services and limited outreach to eligible beneficiaries. This lack of coordination also contributes to difficulties in tracing and identifying individuals with deaf blindness, especially in remote and tribal areas.

Furthermore, the disjointed approach affects family morale and motivation, as they may not receive the comprehensive support they need. The absence of a unified system also poses challenges in encouraging the widespread adoption of special education, thereby hindering the optimal development of children with deaf blindness.

## **3.Recommended/ Implemented solution**

### **3.1 Information Gathered & analyzed**

Through a systematic approach encompassing various methodologies, we have successfully gathered and analyzed critical information vital for addressing the challenges of the SPARSH project. Our field visits to both tribal and non-tribal areas have provided us with valuable insights into the ground reality of disability

issues. These visits unveiled specific challenges and opportunities, allowing us to develop targeted strategies for improvement.

The stakeholder interviews conducted with disabled students, parents, teachers, and government officials have yielded diverse perspectives and valuable feedback. These interactions have enriched our understanding of the project's intricacies and provided insights into the real-world implications of our interventions.

In the process of reviewing existing documentation, we meticulously examined files and records of students with disabilities. This thorough scrutiny revealed patterns, trends, and areas requiring attention. These findings have been instrumental in refining our solutions and directing resources to where they are most needed.

### **3.2 Alternative solutions**

Self- help groups.

Crowd funding from websites.

Hiring professionals for education.

Starting a special education school.

Starting a remote center for education in tribal areas.

Hiring of physiotherapists who have good expertise.

Starting of physiotherapy center in home by crowd funding.

### **3.3 Solution implemented/ Recommended.**

#### **Solution Plan**

#### **Plan outline.**

#### **Comprehensive Solution Framework for Project SPARSH**



To address the challenges identified in Project SPARSH effectively we have devised a comprehensive solution framework, encompassing the following key steps:

### **Step 1: Identification and Segmentation**

The first crucial step is the identification of individuals with disabilities. Once identified, everyone will be thoroughly assessed to determine the specific medical condition and severity of their disability. Based on this assessment, the individuals will be segmented into distinct groups, enabling targeted and personalized interventions, and noted in a master sheet. The checkups will be done by professional practitioners.

### **Step 2: Profiling and Checklist Creation**

Following segmentation, everyone's profile will be created, providing valuable insights into their medical condition, needs, and potential areas for improvement. A comprehensive checklist will be developed, containing all pertinent details of the individual's medical condition and requirements. This checklist will serve as a valuable resource for families and caregivers.

### **Step 3: Physiotherapy and Special Education Tracking**

For effective physiotherapy sessions, a well-defined schedule will be established, considering the individual's medical condition. The frequency of classes will be monitored and tracked to ensure adherence to the treatment plan.

Similarly, special education sessions will be carefully tracked to guarantee that no student misses a class, maximizing the impact of the educational interventions.

### **Step 4: Motivation and Parent Community**

To boost family morale and motivation, a unique approach called the

"Helicopter Mom" concept will be implemented. Influential parents within the community will be identified to deliver targeted motivation and support to other families, fostering a positive and encouraging environment. In tribal areas, influencers are assigned due to accessibility issues and lack of finding target moms.

### **Step 5: Government Scheme Database**

One of the critical aspects of the solution is the establishment of a comprehensive government scheme database. This database will compile details of various government schemes, eligibility criteria, financial assistance, and demography-specific support available to children with disabilities. The proposed Excel model will facilitate easy access to the database, enabling swift identification of eligible programs for each student, and streamlining the process of availing government aids and schemes.

### **Feedback Loop Implementation:**

The solution framework will incorporate a feedback loop mechanism, allowing Shreyas Foundation to continuously monitor the progress of the project and gather valuable insights. Based on previous data and analysis, future interventions can be refined and optimized to enhance the overall effectiveness of the project. By adopting this comprehensive solution framework, Shreyas Foundation aims to create a systematic and efficient approach to tackling the challenges faced by Project SPARSH. The integration of technology, community involvement, and data-driven insights will undoubtedly strengthen the foundation's efforts in empowering persons with disabilities and fostering inclusive growth in the community.

## **4 Outcome**

### **4.1 Outcome/ expected outcome of the solution (with evidence)**

#### **Solution Implementation Strategy**

To effectively address the challenges and optimize the impact of

Project SPARSH, Shreyas Foundation has devised a systematic solution implementation strategy. The key steps for successful implementation are outlined below:

**Excel Model Creation:** A well-structured Excel model will be designed, encompassing the critical steps of the project. Under each category, including Identification, Profiling, Physiotherapy, Special Education, Motivation, and Government Aids & Schemes, sub-steps will be organized to ensure a comprehensive approach.

**Data Integration:** Existing data pertaining to individuals with disabilities will be gathered and seamlessly imported into the Excel model. This integration will facilitate a unified and streamlined workflow, avoiding redundancies, and ensuring efficient data management.

**Staff Training:** NGO personnel will undergo comprehensive training in the utilization of the Excel model. The training program will cover data entry procedures, navigation within the model, and effective use of the various features.

**Pilot Testing:** A pilot phase will be conducted to validate the effectiveness of the solution. During this phase, potential issues and areas for improvement will be identified. Valuable feedback from the pilot participants will guide necessary adjustments.

### **Advantages of the Excel Model Implementation**

The successful implementation of the Excel model in Project SPARSH brings forth numerous advantages, enhancing the project's efficiency and impact. The key advantages are as follows:

**Streamlined Data Management:** The Excel model establishes a centralized database that consolidates all relevant information. This streamlined data management system ensures organized and efficient handling of critical details related to identification, profiling, therapy, education, motivation, and government aids.

**Time-Saving Searches:** With the Excel model's powerful search

capabilities, the project team can conduct quick and efficient searches for specific data points. This feature significantly reduces the time required for manual data sifting, enabling swift retrieval of relevant information.

**Increased Accessibility and Collaboration:** The Excel model's digital nature allows for increased accessibility, enabling authorized personnel to access and contribute to the database from any location. This fosters collaboration among team members, stakeholders, and partner organizations, facilitating real-time updates and seamless communication.

**Informed Decision-Making:** The availability of comprehensive and up-to-date data empowers the project team to make informed decisions and devise targeted interventions. Data-driven insights derived from the Excel model aid in identifying patterns, trends, and areas for improvement.

#### **4.2 Plan for sustenance – Implemented solution & personal plan.**

##### **TEV Analysis**

##### **Technical Viability Analysis**

**Licenses/Permits:** The implementation of the proposed solution, such as the Excel model creation and database management, does not require specific licenses or permits.

**Locational Advantage:** As the solution primarily involves digital infrastructure and data management, the locational advantage is not a critical factor for technical viability.

**Proximity to Raw Material:** The solution does not involve physical raw materials, making proximity to raw material sources irrelevant.

**Proximity to Market:** Since the solution revolves around data management and technology, proximity to markets is not a crucial

factor.

**Availability of Laborers:** The technical implementation of the solution primarily requires skilled professionals to develop the Excel model and integrate the database effectively.

#### **Economic Viability Analysis:**

**Self-Sustainability:** The proposed solution, particularly the Excel model and database management, is expected to be economically viable as it streamlines operations, enhances resource utilization, and reduces administrative costs.

**Expenses Incurred:** Initial expenses will be incurred towards infrastructure support like IT hardware, software licenses, and staff training. Recurring revenue expenses will involve IT maintenance, data management, and staff salaries.

**Economic Environment & Govt. Policies:** A conducive economic environment and supportive government policies for technology-driven initiatives can positively impact the solution's viability.

### **4.3 Group reflection in terms of personal & professional development**

#### **Key Learnings**

The implementation of Project SPARSH has led us to glean valuable insights and key learnings, guiding our approach towards empowering persons with disabilities and fostering inclusivity. The following learnings have emerged as essential pillars of our journey:

**Stakeholder Engagement:** Active involvement of parents, guardians, government officials, and disability schools has proven to be instrumental in achieving meaningful outcomes. Their insights and perspectives have enriched our understanding and informed effective solutions, emphasizing the significance of inclusive stakeholder engagement.

**Collaboration for Resource Optimization:** Through strategic partnerships with schools, agencies, and startups, we have harnessed innovative solutions and optimally utilized resources. Collaboration has been a driving force behind achieving greater efficiency and impact in our interventions.

**Awareness Prevents Disabilities:** Educating communities about nutrition, medication, and prenatal checkups has been instrumental in mitigating disability risks in children. Raising awareness and promoting proactive healthcare measures have demonstrated the potential to prevent disabilities and improve overall health outcomes.

**Resilience Inspires Action:** Witnessing the courage and resilience of disabled children and their parents has been a powerful source of inspiration. Their determination in the face of challenges fuels our commitment to advocate for an inclusive society that supports and uplifts every individual.

## **5. Conclusion**

### **5.1 Suggestion for changes in policy/new policy to address the issue.**

#### **Suggestions: Maximizing Potential through Strategic Approaches**

In our relentless pursuit of maximizing the impact of Project SPARSH, we propose a set of strategic approaches aimed at harnessing the full potential of the initiative. These approaches are outlined below:

**Leverage social media:** To amplify our reach and visibility, we will harness the power of social media platforms. By strategically utilizing platforms like Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, we can engage a broader audience, spread awareness about our cause, and attract potential supporters.

**Engage College Interns:** Recognizing the value of readily available data, we propose involving college interns in our physiotherapy services. College students pursuing relevant fields can contribute their expertise, under appropriate supervision, to provide additional support to our physiotherapy initiatives.

**Embrace Crowdfunding:** Exploring crowdfunding platforms like Kitto and Milaap can be a game-changer in generating additional financial support for Project SPARSH. By sharing our mission and impactful stories, we can inspire individuals worldwide to contribute to our cause.

**Enhance Credibility:** To foster valuable collaborations and garner increased support, we will actively work towards popularizing Shreyas Foundation's credibility. By highlighting our achievements, impact, and commitment to transparency, we build trust and credibility among stakeholders, donors, and partners. A strong reputation further enhances our ability to attract like-minded organizations and influencers to join hands with us.

## **Conclusion**

Looking ahead, the strategic approaches proposed hold the key to unlocking a promising future for Shreyas Foundation. By embracing technological advancements and innovative collaborations, the foundation is well-positioned to serve as a beacon of positive change in the lives of individuals with disabilities. In conclusion, the strategic approaches set forth in this report are the steppingstones to a future where Shreyas Foundation stands at the forefront of positive change, empowering individuals with disabilities to lead lives of dignity and fulfillment. By leveraging technology, collaboration, and innovation, the foundation will create a just and peaceful society based on human values, leaving an indelible mark on the lives of those it serves. This future holds immense promise, and we are confident that with unwavering commitment and dedication, Shreyas Foundation will make a profound difference in shaping a more inclusive world.















### **BANGALORE CAMPUS**

KIADB Industrial Area 8P & 9P, Infosys Drive,  
Electronics City Phase 1, Electronic City,  
Bangalore, Karnataka 560100

### **KARJAT CAMPUS**

Jamrung, Post Ambivali, Taluka Karjat,  
Dist Raigad, Maharashtra 410201.

[www.jagsom.com](http://www.jagsom.com)