



Annual Report 2022-2023



Swami Vivekanand
Shiksha Samiti (SVSS)
Bundelkhandi,
Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh

Greetings from Chief Functionary

Swami Vivekanand Shiksha Samiti (SVSS) is celebrating its 53th year of establishment as I am writing this note for the Annual Report 2022-23.

On behalf of all of us in Swami Vivekanand Shiksha Samiti (SVSS), we send our heartfelt greetings to all partners: Government of India and State Governments, inter- national government departments, foundations and organizations, private companies who have contributed through CSR initiatives, individuals; and finally, members and staff of the organizations.

Through support and collective action, we have been successful in transforming millions of lives across our work locations. The stories of courage and inspiration of the people impacted are constantly shared verbally and through our digital platforms (website and social media). Do visit our channels to read and share these stories.

I would like to highlight some achievements of the past year: The first is our continued work and expansion of the *Childline* Programme and the efforts to bring justice to the children in distress. More than 500 cases were registered and resolved till date. The programme has also met with widespread appreciation from the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India. We are in process and will now be further scaled up to more regions in the coming years.

I am also very proud to share that we directly engaged with more than 5,000 women and youth across our project initiatives for gender equality, women empowerment, and skill development. These include large-scale projects that train women in functional and financial literacy, entrepreneurship and skills training and support women to start their own enterprises and income-generating activities. All these activities contributed towards the UN Sustainable Development Goal no. 5, i.e., “achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls”. It also contributed to improving the lives of the families of these women, translating to more than 1.2 million people.

Let me also mention SVSS’s contribution in 2019-20 to make our project locations in Mirzapur and Sonbhadra district, an open defecation free zone. In this regard, SVSS also started supporting individuals and community members in construction of Toilets. One of such initiative was undertaken in Chandauli district wherein a community toilet was constructed with support from Oil and Natural Gas Company (ONGC) under its CSR initiative.

Lastly, I want to emphasize that SVSS is committed to continue the efforts of expansion in both quantity and quality of the five broad areas of development work – education, health, livelihood & community development, and environmental sustainability – all aligned with the global Sustainable Development Goals. Operationally, all SVSS projects are people-centric and build on engagement and ownership of the activities by the people benefitted and with an administrative and organizational framework that ensures the highest level of accountability and transparency.

We look forward to working together with all stakeholders and partners in many years to come!

Mr. Anuj Srivastava, Chief Functionary, SVSS



About the Organization

Swami Vivekanand Shiksha Samiti (SVSS) is a not-for-profit organization registered under the Societies Act in the year 1971. The idea of its existence was conceived by Shri Uma Shankar Srivastava who was inspired by the philosophy of Swami Vivekanand. He envisioned the creation of an organization which could spread the idea of education and uplift the poor masses, especially the women and children. A congregation of likeminded social activists came together and SVSS was established to make this mandate a reality. SVSS is working for the past 42 years for the cause of the marginalized sections of the society, especially women, youth and children. Its focus has been on issues which usually considered insignificant in common parlance, have a significant impact in ensuring inclusion of the marginalized. The work at SVSS is governed by the guiding principles of being secular and non-political. SVSS worked with 1148 villages in Uttar Pradesh and has impacted the lives of over children.

Broder Objective

In our endeavour to improve the quality of education imparted through the programme we aim and work for:

- Providing basic education to underprivileged children in the age group of 3+ to 18
- To improve quality of education available to the underprivileged children
- To create community awareness towards education, health and rights.
- To make necessary interventions to create income security opportunity for the rural communities
- Through village institutions collaborate and influence Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) to become more effective, accountable and inclusive

Vision

A society which is just, egalitarian and democratic and a life which is free from violence, hunger and exploitation.

Mission

- We work towards mobilizing and effecting institutions of self-governance and improving the accountability of public service delivery mechanisms to help beneficiaries access their rights and entitlements
- We build leadership among women and create an enabling environment for children to help vulnerable sections in the society realize their optimum potential leading to improvement in their quality of life
- We partner with government ministries; local, national and international organizations to scale up our intervention models and replicate.

Approach

SVSS adopts a hybrid approach in vouching towards its goal of sustainable village development. The hybrid approach engages components of service delivery as well as rights-based approaches. In doing so, it works both ways:

- a) Making the supply side (i.e., Institutions and government administration) more accountable
- b) Making the demand side more empowered which includes communities.

The hybrid approach emphasizes non-discrimination, attention to vulnerability and empowerment. SVSS works at grassroot level to create sustainable change for village children.

Genesis

The inception of SVSS, four decades ago, was guided with Swami Vivekananda's mission of empowering children and women through effective access to quality education. Recognizing the backwardness in the Uttar Pradesh region and the daunting need for development interventions, SVSS came into being to improve the status of education in the rural pockets of the state through improving service delivery mechanisms as well as making rural inhabitants realize the importance of education. Pursuing the overarching objective of making education available for all, SVSS placed a special focus on empowering the women of rural communities to mobilize individual initiatives in making their situation better. Reiterating the need for intervention, SVSS, in collaboration with its donors expanded its outreach to foray into the avenues of health and livelihoods. Recognizing that these domains are intertwined, SVSS in today's date envisages for holistic community development through rights-based approach.

Project Highlights/Achievements

Total 90 Child labour cases were solved under Childline Project

Total 8 cases of child marriage were reported under Childline project

Total 650 enterprises were set under Integrated fishery and Poultry Project

Total 550 child were mainstreamed under Childline Project

Total 2950 girl child were given formal education

Work Done in Programmes

Programme	Project Title	Donor Name	Total no of beneficiary	Location	Age Group
Education	Girl Child Education Program	IIMPACT	2950	Prayagraj	6-14 years

Educating the girl child refers to that aspect of education which focuses on developing their skills and knowledge. It includes general education at schools and professional, technical, and vocational education at the college level. Their education encompasses both non-literary and literary aspects. Educating your girl child can bring socio-economic changes. Democratic countries, including India, have constitutions that guarantee equal rights for both women and men. Primary education in India is a fundamental right.

Every day, girls face several barriers on their path to education caused by poverty, cultural norms and practices, poor infrastructure, violence and fragility. Their education is a priority for the strategic development of any nation. Education is a crucial element for the growth of any society. A well-educated country always grows faster. We need to increase our literacy rate so our country can compete with the world. The government provides free education for girls to succeed and make our nation proud.

The concept of girls' education goes beyond getting our girls into school. It is also about ensuring that they learn and feel safe while in school; have an equal opportunity to complete all levels of education. We must ensure that they acquire all the necessary knowledge and vocational skills to compete in the labour market; gain the socio-emotional skills required to adapt to a changing world

It establishes single teacher led learning centres imparting primary level education using a child friendly, Multi grade Multi level learning approach. Students are Provided high quality Primary Education. It enables a facilitative eco-system in village for furtherance of education of girl child. This encourages and enable each girl to become an independent thinker and self -learner. The economic conditions of society can't be changed if women remain illiterate, backward, and co-dependent on men. Financial independence and empowerment in women will come when we educate the girl child.

Programme	Project Title	Donor Name	Total no of beneficiary	District
Livelihood	GAVL-Integrated Fishery and Poultry Project	Godrej Agrovat Limited, SBI Foundation and Society for Development Alternatives	650 Enterprises	Mirzapur, Chakiya, Chandauli & Pahadi

1. **Integrated Fishery and Poultry Project**-Under the GAVL-IFPE (Integrated Fishery and Poultry Enterprises) project, 160 integrated enterprises and 40 ancillary enterprises have been set up across Bhadohi, Chandauli and Mirzapur districts of Uttar Pradesh. Currently, there are 61 women and 67 youth entrepreneurs among others. While assessing the integrated enterprise model, there has been a significant growth in the number of peer-to-peer linkages that have strengthened the entrepreneurial ecosystem in the local areas. The GAVL-IFPE project has revealed that initiating ancillary services along with the integrated enterprise model has strengthened and expanded peer-to-peer linkages in the region. The team intends to capture the meta-narratives among entrepreneurs through deep listening and dialogue to understand how peer-to-peer linkages can further leverage the entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Objectives of the Project:

- Replicate the district enterprise coalition model and deployment of social innovation-based methods and tools in 1 districts of Uttar Pradesh, leading to the set-up of 450 enterprises and creating 1500 direct jobs by women and youth.
- Co-create and pilot innovative credit delivery products in the W4P geographies to address the need for mitigating credit risks associated with 50 micro-entrepreneurs creating 500 direct jobs and enhancing access to finance for rural micro-enterprises.
- Build the capacity of SBI Foundation affiliates and CSO partners through the knowledge products and transference tools developed under the ambit of the current project.

Programme	Project Title	Donor Name	Total no of Child was Mainstream	District	Age Group
Childline	Childline Project 1098	Childline India Foundation	420	Mirzapur	Up to 18 years
Railway Childline	Railway Childline Project	Childline India Foundation	130	Mirzapur	Up to 18 years

1. **Childline**- SVSS has started Childline Project in Mirzapur district of Uttar Pradesh It reaches out to children from 0-18 years. CHILDLINE 1098 is a phone number that spells hope for millions of children across India. It is a 24-hour a day, 365 days a year, free, emergency phone service for children in need of aid and assistance. Childline works for the protection of the rights of all children in general. But its special focus is on all children in need of care and protection, especially the more vulnerable sections. This programme is being implemented in collaboration with the Child India Foundation and supported by Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India. Childline, follow an action process which starts at the first call and continues till the child in need of care and

protection is safely rehabilitated. To put it simply, the work includes several stages which are:

1. **Call 1098**– Any child or a concerned adult can dial the Childline 1098 helpline, which operates night and day.
 2. **Connect to the CHILDLINE Centre**– The call is received by the Childline centre where details about the situation are taken from the caller and CHILDLINE units are mobilised if necessary.
 3. **Rescue in 60 minutes**– Once Childline has enough details about child or children in distress, the Childline team rushes to help children within 60 minutes to bring children out of an emergency situation.
 4. **Intervention**– Once Childline intervenes to help the child, it works with multiple stakeholders such as police authorities, child protection boards, social workers and counsellors. Children's consent and participation is an important component of this process from response to intervention.
 5. **Rehabilitation and Follow Up**– After the interventions, to ensure the child's continued safety, Childline proceeds to find long-term rehabilitation for the child. For this, the Childline team does constant follow ups with the child – meeting the family or visiting the shelter if a child has been assigned to stay in one.
-
1. **Railway Childline Project**- Our 24hr outreach teams, together with Government Railway Police and the Railway Protection Force, work around the clock to recognise children who are alone and at risk at railway stations.
 2. We establish 24hr Child Help Desks at each station location offering children at risk somewhere to go for food, water, first aid and advice.
 3. Our shelters nearby provide short term accommodation for children with nowhere safe to stay. Here they access educational services, recreational, nutritional, health, hygiene and therapeutic support.
 4. Whenever it is safe to do so we reunite children with their families in consultation with the Child Welfare Committee. If this is not possible, we secure a long-term care home place for them.
 5. Support to stop substance abuse and other medical assistance is offered.
 6. If education is not an option, children are encouraged into vocational training courses and apprenticeship opportunities in order that they can secure an income for themselves in the future.
 7. Every child that is reunited with their family, or settled in to a long-term care home placement, is given follow up support for at least a year.

Our commitment to every child

- 24-hour outreach teams at our child friendly station can identify and protect children arriving alone and at risk of exploitation, trafficking and abuse. Child Help Desks on the platforms give vulnerable children somewhere to go for advice, help and immediate crisis intervention.

- Open shelters give children a safe place to stay and recover from trauma while we work with them to establish a long-term positive outcome. We ensure that every child we come into contact with is given the best opportunity for recovery, rehabilitation and the chance to thrive.
- Children avail medical services including help with substance abuse and addictions. Children are constructively engaged in non-formal education at our Open Shelters and we support families in enrolling the children back into schools.
- We trace the families of the children we work with and reunite them with their children – offering them the support they need to stay safer and stronger together. If this is not an option, we make sure they have a long-term alternative care solution.
- Through our engagement with every child, we help them develop resilience, recover from trauma, take control of their lives and make the decisions that will enable them to reach their full potential in life.

Glimpse of the Project



