



ANNUAL REPORT

2024-25

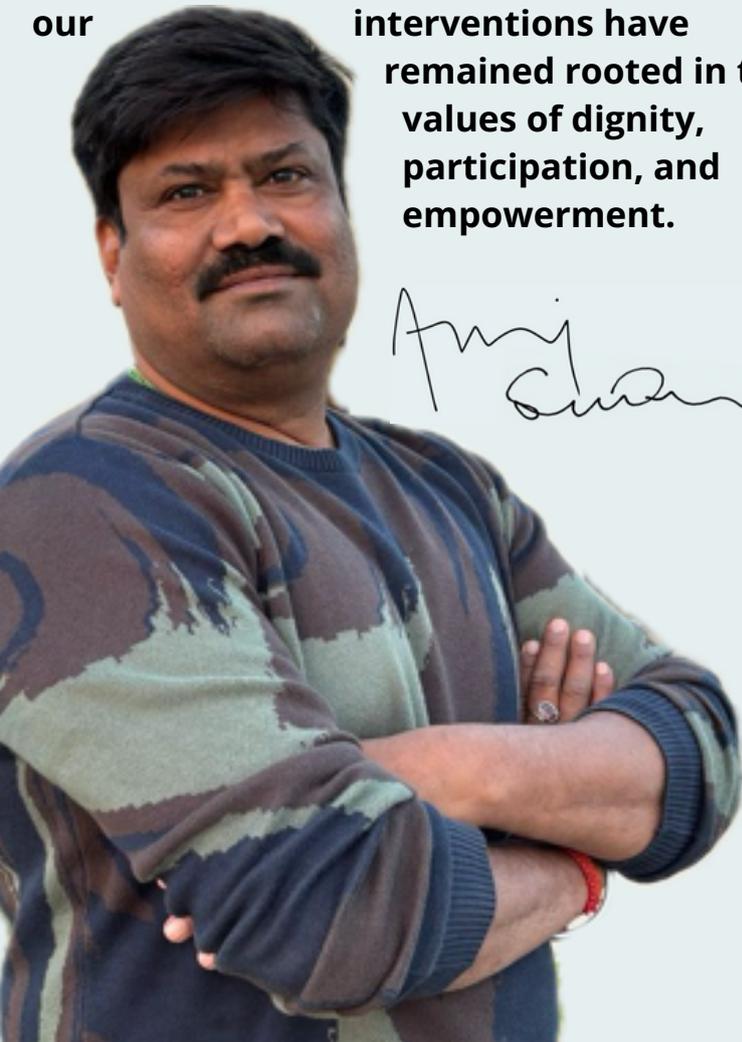
*A year of impact through education, entrepreneurship,
and community engagement!*



FOREWORD | A Note from our Chief functionary

It is with great pride and deep gratitude that I present this year's Annual Report on behalf of Swami Vivekanand Shiksha Samiti (SVSS). As a rights-based, community-centered organisation, SVSS remains steadfast in its mission to advance social justice, equity, and inclusive development—particularly for children, women, and rural communities. This past year has been marked by both profound challenges and transformative progress. In the face of systemic inequalities, climate vulnerabilities, and ongoing socio-economic disruptions, we have continued to expand our reach and deepen our impact through integrated, community-led approaches. Whether through protecting the rights of the child, advancing gender equity, promoting sustainable agriculture, or facilitating access to education and livelihoods, our interventions have

remained rooted in the values of dignity, participation, and empowerment.



Our work would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of our dedicated team, grassroots partners, and the communities we serve. Their lived experiences and resilience continue to guide and inspire our programmatic strategies. Through collaborative efforts, we have strengthened systems of accountability, mobilised local leadership, and built sustainable models for change across multiple geographies.

We are also deeply grateful to our national and international partners, funders, and supporters. Your continued trust and commitment have enabled us to innovate, scale, and respond with agility to evolving community needs. From programmatic grants and capacity-building support to long-term strategic collaborations, your investment in our vision has been invaluable.

As we move forward, SVSS reaffirms its commitment to rights-based development, evidence-driven programming, and inclusive partnerships. Our focus remains on creating lasting impact—by centering the voices of marginalized communities, strengthening institutional frameworks, and influencing policy for systemic change.

Together, we have achieved much. Yet the journey toward equity and justice is ongoing. We look forward to building on this momentum—leveraging data, dialogue, and solidarity—to co-create a more just, resilient, and inclusive society.

Thank you for walking this path with us.

ANUJ KUMAR SRIVASTAVA

CHIEF FUNCTIONARY

ABOUT US

Swami Vivekanand Shiksha Samiti (SVSS)

has been a pivotal force in rural development since its inception in **1970**. Established in **Mujehara, Uttar Pradesh**, the organization has expanded its scope from addressing immediate community needs to implementing longterm, sustainable development programmes.

Over the past five decades, SVSS has empowered thousands of individuals, providing education, employment, and healthcare to marginalized communities. Through its interventions, SVSS has transformed countless lives, helping individuals rise above poverty, gain self-reliance, and achieve personal and social progress. With an unwavering commitment to creating sustainable change, SVSS has adopted a holistic approach to tackling social and economic challenges, ensuring that vulnerable communities receive the support they need to improve their quality of life. This report encapsulates the history, evolution, and impact of SVSS, detailing its contributions in **education, rehabilitation, women empowerment, health, livelihood, child rights, and environmental conservation**.



OUR CORE BELIEFS

VISION

To build a society where every individual, especially the marginalised can live with dignity and have access to essential resources and opportunities.

MISSION

SVSS envisions a just, egalitarian, and inclusive society by empowering underprivileged communities with equal opportunities to learn, grow, and thrive. Our commitment lies in combining bold grassroots action, compassionate engagement, and strong partnerships—so that every individual can rise with dignity, hope, and purpose.

Our Programs-



In partnership with IIMPACT, this initiative was launched in Prayagraj district with the core objective of empowering young girls through access to quality, inclusive, and holistic education. Focused on the 6–14-year age group, the project aims to bridge the educational gap for girls from marginalized communities who face systemic barriers to learning and development.



The program is currently operational across 21 community-based learning centres, reaching 3,000 beneficiaries. Each centre functions not only as a space for foundational academic learning but also as a safe and nurturing environment where girls are encouraged to explore their potential and build essential life skills.

At its core, the project adopts a child-centered, multi-grade, multi-level (MGML) teaching approach that accommodates diverse learning needs and encourages student agency. This inclusive methodology has allowed girls to learn at their own pace while building confidence, literacy, and numeracy skills. Notably, the program has successfully enrolled over 300 out-of-school girls, reintegrating them into the education system and offering them a renewed sense of possibility and purpose.



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS & INITIATIVES

Over the course of implementation, the project has made measurable progress in addressing educational inequality and promoting gender equity. Through a combination of grassroots engagement, innovative teaching methods, and community partnerships, the initiative has successfully created inclusive learning spaces and driven positive change in the lives of thousands of girls.

Primary Education as a Right

At the heart of the program is the belief that primary education is a fundamental right for every child, regardless of gender or socio-economic background. To operationalize this vision:

- 21 single-teacher learning centers were established, providing access to quality education in underserved areas.
- Each center follows a child-friendly, multi-grade, multi-level (MGML) pedagogy, tailored to the varied learning levels of the students.
- The program successfully enrolled over 300 out-of-school girls, offering them a second chance at foundational education and inclusion in the learning process.

Removing Barriers to Education

Understanding that education cannot thrive without addressing the societal and economic obstacles girls face, the project has actively worked to eliminate these barriers. Through targeted community outreach and awareness-building:

- 20 community workshops were conducted to challenge harmful social norms and practices that restrict girls' access to education.
- Awareness campaigns were launched to promote the value of girl child education and emphasize long-term community benefits.
- Improvements in infrastructure—including safe classrooms, proper ventilation, and sanitation facilities—ensured that the learning environment was secure, inclusive, and conducive to regular attendance.

Ecosystem Building

Sustainable impact in education requires more than classroom instruction—it demands the creation of a supportive learning ecosystem. The project has made significant strides in building such an ecosystem by:

- Organising 15 village meetings to engage parents, elders, and community leaders in supporting girls' education.
- Fostering a culture of independent learning and critical thinking, allowing girls to gain confidence, curiosity, and voice in their learning journey.
- Partnering with local organizations to strengthen support structures and extend reach, creating a collaborative network for long-term sustainability.

INSIDE THE LEARNING SPACE



TECHNICAL CONSULTANT TO SUPPORT THE STUDY OF ADVISORY SERVICES FOR SPICE DEVELOPMENT IN UP

The Kisan Unnati Project was conceptualized and launched with the vision of transforming rural livelihoods through a cluster-based approach to spice cultivation, with green chilli selected as the pilot crop. This innovative model integrates agronomic best practices with market access and sustainability, enabling farmers to transition from traditional subsistence methods to more profitable, knowledge-driven agriculture.



At its core, the project aims to build a resilient farming ecosystem by addressing both the technical and social dimensions of agriculture. It promotes sustainable farming practices, enhances income security, and strengthens community capacities for long-term impact.

To realise its vision, the project focused on four core pillars of intervention:

- ***Capacity Building***

Farmers were equipped with modern agricultural skills through:

- ***Targeted training programs on sustainable farming techniques***
- ***Exposure visits to model farms and successful cultivation practices***

These efforts enabled farmers to adopt improved methods, boost productivity, and better manage resources.

- ***Infrastructure Development***

The project invested in creating localised farming infrastructure by:

- ***Establishing nurseries to supply high-quality green chilli seedlings***
- ***Setting up demonstration plots to showcase advanced and replicable farming techniques***

These facilities served as key learning and resource hubs within the community.

- ***Market Linkages***

Strengthening the value chain and reducing exploitation, the project:

- ***Connected farmers directly to markets, vendors, and government departments***
- ***Improved price realisation and decreased reliance on intermediaries***

These linkages ensured farmers had better control over their produce and earnings.

- ***Women's Empowerment***

The project made focused efforts to ensure gender inclusion, leading to:

- ***An increase in female farmer participation from 3% to 26.7% in the initial phase***
- ***Active engagement of women in training, cultivation, and income-generating roles***
- ***This shift has empowered women with greater decision-making power and economic independence.***

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS & INITIATIVES

The Kisan Unnati Project has made significant progress through a series of well-coordinated field-level activities focused on enhancing agricultural productivity and community engagement. These achievements reflect both the technical planning and participatory approach adopted by the program.

Nursery Farmer Selection

To ensure quality sapling production, local farmers were selected to host nurseries based on a structured field assessment. Criteria included land availability, water access, prior experience, and willingness to act as community leaders.

- Farmers assessed and selected through direct field visits
- Selection prioritised leadership potential and suitability for nursery operations

Seed Variety Finalisation

After thorough consultation with agricultural experts and local farmers, two chili seed varieties were selected for their suitability to winter conditions and local soil quality.

- Selected varieties: Namdhari NS 1101 and Namdhari 2572
- Chosen based on germination potential, disease resistance, and yield capacity

Nursery & Sapling Distribution

A total of three nurseries were established across selected villages to supply quality saplings to farmers. Post-germination, saplings were distributed to registered farmers for transplanting.

- 3 nurseries established over a combined area of 0.36 acres
- Saplings distributed to eligible farmers following successful germination

Village Selection & Outreach

Villages were strategically chosen across three administrative blocks based on chili cultivation potential and accessibility. Outreach efforts focused on raising awareness and encouraging farmer participation.

- 64 villages selected: Rajgarh (37), Shikhad (17), Lalganj (10)
- Outreach through pamphlets, door-to-door mobilisation, and community meetings

Farmer Baseline Surveys

Baseline assessments were carried out in two phases to gather key demographic and agricultural data for informed planning and monitoring.

- Phase 1: 667 farmers surveyed, with 51 digitally profiled
- Phase 2: 1,590 additional farmers surveyed across all three blocks

Chilli Cultivation Coverage

With the groundwork laid, green chilli cultivation began across a significant area under the guidance and support of the project team.

- 667 farmers initiated cultivation on a total of 50 acres of land
- Farmers supported with inputs, saplings, and agronomic advice



Work4Progress



ACCELERATING ENTREPRENEURSHIP THROUGH SOCIAL INNOVATION (AeSI) IMPLEMENTING WORK 4 PROGRESS

The AeSI project, supported by SBI Foundation and implemented by Development Alternatives, is designed to accelerate inclusive entrepreneurship in rural India by leveraging social innovation and financial inclusion strategies. In the Mirzapur district of Uttar Pradesh, the initiative is being locally implemented by Swami Vivekanand Shiksha Samiti (SVSS), with a strong focus on empowering women and youth from underserved communities.

The project aims to create a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem that nurtures micro-enterprise development, builds local capacities, and delivers innovative credit solutions to catalyze livelihood opportunities.



Project Objectives:

- *Replicate the District Enterprise Coalition Model and social innovation tools in Mirzapur, with the goal of establishing 550 micro-enterprises and generating 1,500 jobs.*
- *Co-create and pilot innovative credit delivery models to support 50 micro-entrepreneurs, which will further result in the creation of 500 additional jobs.*
- *Enhance the institutional capacities of SBI Foundation affiliates and civil society partners by disseminating and applying knowledge products developed under the Work 4 Progress (W4P) framework.*

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS & INITIATIVES

Entrepreneurship Expansion:

Building on the success of the previous phase—where 800 enterprises were established—the current phase continued to scale efforts in enterprise creation and support.

Skill and Entrepreneurship Training:

A total of 150 women received hands-on training in vocational skills and entrepreneurship development, equipping them to launch and manage small businesses effectively.

Micro-Enterprise Development:

The project facilitated the setup of 444 new micro-enterprises led by women and youth across targeted rural communities.

Financial Inclusion and Access to Credit:

Microfinance loans were arranged for 200 women entrepreneurs, enabling them to start or scale their enterprises with access to working capital.

Market Linkages and Business Sustainability:

216 enterprises were connected to relevant markets, helping them improve sales, reach new customers, and build long-term sustainability.

Skill Development Workshops:

Ten workshops covering essential topics such as financial literacy, enterprise management, and marketing strategies benefited 300 women and youth participants.

Enterprise Support through Coalition Facilitation:

220 enterprises received direct support through coalition-led interventions, including mentorship, resource mobilization, and troubleshooting.

Monthly Coordination Meetings:

Twelve monthly meetings were organised to provide a platform for convergence, knowledge-sharing, and guidance. These meetings cumulatively engaged 200 women and youth.

Community Engagement through Entrepreneurial Tools:

Fifteen communities were engaged through creative games and participatory tools designed to raise awareness and build entrepreneurial mindsets, reaching around 250 individuals.

Women-led Business Launches:

An impressive 356 new women-led enterprises were launched during the reporting period, marking a significant milestone in grassroots entrepreneurship.

Business Operations and Management Training:

Operational and business skills training was delivered to 300 women and youth, aimed at enhancing enterprise efficiency, profitability, and long-term viability.



BENEFICIARY SPOTLIGHT

From Homemaker to Agri-Entrepreneur: Pappu Devi's Journey with Mushroom Farming



Meet Pappu Devi, a determined entrepreneur from Ashogapur, Bhadohi, whose inspiring journey is transforming her community. With a modest ₹50,000 loan from the Nari Ekta CLF under the Promotion of Women-Led Enterprise project—implemented by SVSS India in partnership with Development Alternatives—Pappu took a bold step into mushroom cultivation.

This leap of faith has since blossomed into a thriving enterprise. Earning a stable ₹10,000–₹12,000 per month, Pappu has achieved financial independence and built a sustainable livelihood. But her impact doesn't end there. By employing 5–6 women and youth from her village, she's creating local job opportunities and nurturing a culture of self-reliance and empowerment. Pappu Devi's success is more than just an individual achievement—it's a testament to the transformative power of support, access to resources, and inclusive development. Her story is a shining example of how empowering women can spark widespread change, uplifting entire communities in the process.

Usha's Path to Empowerment

Usha Devi's journey exemplifies the transformative power of entrepreneurship on both individual lives and communities. With an initial loan of 1.5 lakh and a modest investment of 60k, she utilised the resources provided by the Promotion of Women-Led Enterprise project to establish a successful masala packing business.



Her achievements extended beyond her personal advancement; by creating job opportunities for others in her village, she contributed to the establishment of sustainable income streams for women and youth, equipping them with essential skills in business and agriculture. Her narrative underscores the significant impact that access to resources, education, and mentorship can have in empowering women, particularly in rural settings. Beyond her masala packing enterprise, Usha's foray into the cosmetics and utensils market further enhanced her earnings, illustrating the potential for varied entrepreneurial initiatives to drive both individual success and community development.

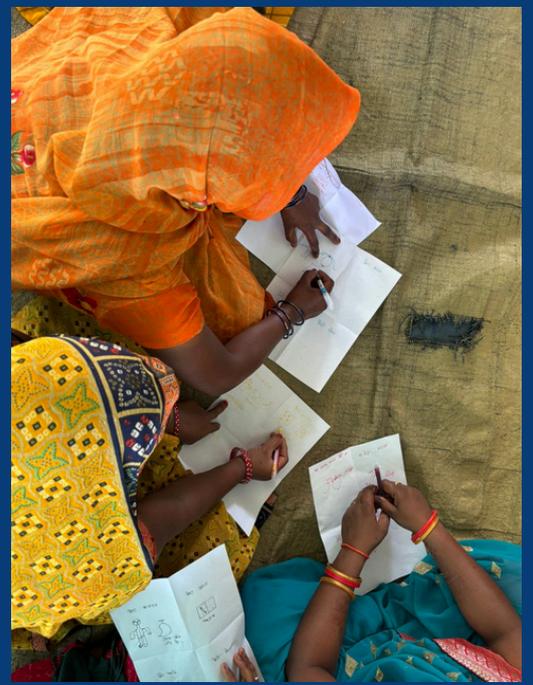


SNAPSHOTS OF 2024-25









IMMEDIATE

- STRENGTHEN ORGANISATIONAL OPERATIONS AT THE FIELD LEVEL BY REFINING THE GATE INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE.
- CONDUCT ALIGNMENT AND PLANNING MEETINGS WITH ALL INTERNAL TEAMS, INCLUDING THE CARE TEAM, TO ENSURE CLARITY OF ROLES AND UNIFIED DIRECTION.

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IN NEXT 3 MONTHS

- BUILD AND EXPAND COMMUNITY NETWORKS BY CREATING A LARGER ECOSYSTEM OF "FRIENDS OF SASSO"—LIKE-MINDED INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS ALIGNED WITH THE MISSION.
- FACILITATE MINDSET SHIFTS AT BOTH INDIVIDUAL AND TEAM LEVELS TO PROMOTE OWNERSHIP AND ACCOUNTABILITY.
- FINALISE AND IMPLEMENT THE ANNUAL PLAN AND REPORTING STRUCTURE. DEEPEN SUPPORT TO COMMUNITY-BASED CAMOMS DEPARTMENTS (OR CLARIFY THE CORRECT TERM IF MISSPELLED).
- LAUNCH INITIATIVES TO CREATE NEW RURAL ENTREPRENEURS. INTRODUCE OR PAUSE SPECIFIC STRATEGIES SUCH AS TECHNICAL FARMING, BASED ON CONTEXTUAL RELEVANCE. CONDUCT FINANCIAL LITERACY AND SKILLS TRAINING FOR WOMEN, EMPOWERING THEM ECONOMICALLY.

MOMENTUM

IN NEXT 6 MONTHS

- WORK ON TEAM RESTRUCTURING AND UPSKILLING TO ENSURE THE ORGANISATION IS FUTURE-READY.
- INTENSIFY ENGAGEMENT WITH CSR FUNDERS THROUGH MEETINGS AND PARTNERSHIP DISCUSSIONS.
- SUPPORT NEW ENTERPRISE SET-UPS WITH NECESSARY TRAINING, RESOURCES, AND MENTORSHIP.

NEXT PHASE

- FOCUS ON HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT TO STRENGTHEN INTERNAL CAPACITIES AND LEADERSHIP—AIMING TO CREATE TRUE "GAME CHANGERS" WITHIN THE TEAM.
- ACHIEVE THE STRATEGIC FINANCIAL MILESTONE OF REACHING ₹5 CRORE IN PROGRAM VALUE, FUNDRAISING, OR ENTERPRISE TURNOVER (AS APPLICABLE).

Follow our journey!

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