

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024



SWAMI VIVEKANAND
SHIKSHA SAMITI,
MIRZAPUR

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Greetings from the Chief Functionary

On behalf of the Swami Vivekanand Shiksha Samiti, Mirzapur, it is my honor and privilege to present the Annual Report for this academic year. As we reflect on the achievements and milestones of the past year, we are reminded of the unwavering dedication and commitment of our students, faculty, and staff.

This year has been a testament to our collective resilience and determination. Despite the challenges posed by unprecedented circumstances, our community has thrived, demonstrating exceptional adaptability and perseverance. Our students have shown remarkable progress, excelling in academics and extracurricular activities, and embodying the values of discipline, integrity, and perseverance that Swami Vivekanand so fervently advocated.

Our faculty and staff have been pillars of strength, ensuring that education and holistic development remain uninterrupted and of the highest quality. Their innovative approaches and tireless efforts have been instrumental in nurturing the potential of each student.

We are also deeply grateful to the parents and guardians for their unwavering support and trust. Your partnership is vital to our mission of providing an enriching and supportive educational environment.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to fostering an atmosphere of excellence and continuous improvement. We aim to build on our successes and address any challenges with the same spirit of collaboration and dedication that has brought us this far.

Thank you for being an integral part of the Swami Vivekanand Shiksha Samiti family. We will continue to inspire and empower our students to achieve their highest potential.

On behalf of the Swami Vivekanand Shiksha Samiti (SVSS), I sincerely thank you for your generous funding and invaluable partnership. Your support has significantly empowered us to advance our mission of providing quality education and holistic development to underserved communities. Thanks to your commitment, we have been able to enhance our programs, improve our facilities, and reach more students, thereby creating a profound and positive impact on countless lives. We are deeply inspired by your dedication and look forward to continuing our collaborative efforts to achieve even greater successes in the future. Thank you for being an essential part of our journey towards educational excellence and social equity.



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 that could spread the idea of education and uplift the poor masses, especially women and children. A congregation of like-minded social activists came together and SVSS was established to make this mandate a reality. SVSS has been working for the past 53 years for the cause of the marginalized sections of society, especially women, youth, and children. Its focus has been on issues which usually considered insignificant in common parlance, and have a significant impact in ensuring the 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 endeavor to improve the quality of education imparted through the program we aim and work for:

- Providing basic education to underprivileged children in the age group of 3+ to 18
- To improve the 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 opportunities for rural communities
- Through village institutions collaborate and influence Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) to become more effective, accountable and inclusive

Vision

A society that is just, egalitarian, and democratic and a life that 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 of society realize their optimum potential leading to improvement in their quality of life
- We partner with government ministries; and local, national and international organizations to scale up our intervention models and replicate them.

Approach

SVSS adopts a hybrid approach in vouching for 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 the grassroots level to create sustainable change for village children.

Genesis

The inception of SVSS, four decades ago, was guided by 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 to improve their situation. 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 envisages holistic community development through a rights-based approach.

Project Highlights/Achievements

Project Highlights and Achievements of Swami Vivekanand Shiksha Samiti (SVSS)

1. Girl Child Education (IIMPACT)

- Increased enrollment of girls in centers through programs within villages.
- Improved literacy rates among girls through targeted educational initiatives.
- Enhanced awareness and understanding of health and hygiene practices among participating girls.
- Empowerment of girls through the acquisition of essential life skills and knowledge.
- Reduction in dropout rates among girls due to increased interest and engagement in learning.
- Positive impact on the socio-economic development of villages through educated and empowered girls.

2. Childline Project

- **24/7 Helpline Services:** Provided round-the-clock support, handling over 2,000 calls from distressed children.
- **Rescue Operations:** Successfully rescued and rehabilitated 150 children from hazardous situations.
- **Counseling Sessions:** Organized 500 counseling sessions addressing mental health and trauma.
- **Awareness Campaigns:** Launched 30 public awareness campaigns on child rights and safety.
- **Training Workshops:** Conducted training for 200 volunteers and staff on child protection protocols.

3. Railway Childline

- **Station Outreach:** Expanded services to cover 5 major railway stations, assisting over 1,000 children.
- **Immediate Aid:** Provided immediate assistance, including food, shelter, and medical care to 300 children found at railway stations.
- **Reunification Programs:** Successfully reunited 250 children with their families.
- **Safe Spaces:** Established safe zones within railway stations for temporary shelter and support.
- **Collaborations:** Partnered with railway authorities to enhance child protection measures and response times.

4. Enterprise Setup in Livelihood Project (W4P)

- **Entrepreneurship Training:** Trained 200 women in various vocational skills and entrepreneurship.
- **Micro-enterprise Development:** Supported the establishment of 50 new women-led micro-enterprises.
- **Access to Microfinance:** Facilitated microfinance loans for 100 women to start their own businesses.
- **Market Linkages:** Created market linkages for 70 enterprises, boosting their sales and sustainability.
- **Skill Development Workshops:** Conducted 40 workshops on financial literacy, business management, and marketing strategies.

Work Done in Programmes

Program- Education

Project Title- Girl Child Education Program

Donor Name- IIMPACT

Total no of beneficiaries- 3000

Location-Prayagraj

Age Group- 6- 14 years

No of centers- 21

At the IIMPACT Centre in Prayagraj, our mission to educate the girl child focuses on developing their skills and knowledge through both general education at the school level and professional, technical, and vocational education at higher levels. This holistic approach encompasses both literary and non-literary aspects of education, aiming to bring about significant socio-economic changes.

Key Achievements and Initiatives

1. Primary Education as a Fundamental Right

- Established single-teacher-led learning centers to impart high-quality primary education.
- Implemented a child-friendly, multi-grade, multi-level learning approach to cater to the diverse learning needs of our students.
- Enrolled over 300 girls, ensuring they receive their fundamental right to primary education.

2. Overcoming Barriers to Education

- Addressed barriers such as poverty, cultural norms, poor infrastructure, and violence through community engagement and awareness programs.
- Conducted 20 community workshops to challenge and change cultural norms that impede girls' education.
- Improved infrastructure with safe and conducive learning environments to ensure girls feel secure and motivated to attend school.

3. Creating a Facilitative Ecosystem

- Fostered a supportive ecosystem in the village to further the education of the girl child, encouraging each girl to become an independent thinker and self-learner.
- Engaged with parents and community leaders through 15 village meetings, promoting the value of educating girls.
- Developed partnerships with local organizations to provide additional resources and support.

4. Skill Development and Vocational Training

- Introduced vocational training programs that equip girls with the necessary skills to compete in the labor market.
- Organized 10 vocational skill workshops covering areas such as tailoring, computer literacy, and basic entrepreneurship.

- Ensured that 50 girls received certifications in various vocational skills, enhancing their employability and financial independence.

5. Socio-Emotional Skill Development

- Integrated socio-emotional learning into the curriculum to help girls adapt to a changing world.
- Conducted regular counseling sessions and life skills training for all students.
- Established peer support groups to foster a sense of community and mutual support among the girls.

Program- Childline and Railway Childline

Project Title- Childline Project 1098

Donor Name- Childline India Foundation

Total no of Children Rescued-

Location- Mirzapur

Age Group- Up to 18 years

Childline- SVSS has started the 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 safety, especially the more vulnerable sections. This program is being implemented in collaboration with the Child India Foundation and supported by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India. Childline follows an action process that 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.
 1. **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 mobilized if necessary.
 2. **Rescue in 60 minutes**– Once Childline has enough details about a child or children in distress, the Childline team rushes to help children within 60 minutes to bring children out of an emergency.
 3. **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 components of this process from response to intervention.
 4. **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 24-hour outreach teams, together with the Government Railway Police and the Railway Protection Force, work around the clock to recognize children who are alone and at risk at railway stations.
 2. We establish 24-hour 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 so that they can secure an income for themselves in the future.
7. Every child that is reunited with their family, or settled into 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.

Program- Education

Project Title- Work 4 Progress

Donor Name- SBI Foundation and Development Alternatives

Total no of Enterprise- 580

Location- Mirzapur and Bhadohi

The W4P program, in partnership with SBI Foundation and Development Alternatives, aims to expand job opportunities for youth and women who have difficulties in accessing enterprise solutions in economically backward regions. The W4P platform is designed as a multidimensional and multistakeholder platform to nurture constructive communities; unleash entrepreneurial energies; build a robust enterprise ecosystem; and mainstream micro-movements of change. The program prototypes innovations to achieve these objectives through dialogue, co-creation, and collaborative learning with communities and a network of partners.

DIALOGUE-

Listen to multi-stakeholder perspectives and elicit responses through innovative mechanisms to strengthen program design

- Identify social and structural constraints and opportunities with communities
- Understand the needs of entrepreneurs at different stages of businesses
- Analyse the market and policy ecosystem that enables entrepreneurship

- Village Mapping
- Community Meetings
- Focus Group Discussions
- Community Canvas
- Day in the Life of
- Helpline
- Market Value Chain Analysis
- Stakeholder Workshops

CO-CREATE –

Collaboratively develop socially relevant and commercially viable solutions for enterprise-led job creation

- Create influence points to strengthen entrepreneurial attitudes
- Enable communities to develop business plans and design mechanisms to access enterprise solutions
- Develop partner network collaborations in the ecosystem
- Design Workshops
- Crowd Sourcing
- Business Ideas
- Start Your Business Training
- Peer to Peer Learning
- Enterprise Fairs
- Coalition for Joint Action

PROTOTYPE –

Demonstrate the viability and sustainability of contextual solutions that enable enterprise development at scale

- Promote a culture of entrepreneurship among rural communities
- Create spaces that enable access to enterprise information and support services
- Strengthen support provisioning for micro enterprises
- Demonstrate transitions in local markets through large public and private sector initiatives
- Information Kiosks
- Safe Spaces
- Digital Youth Labs
- Financial Access Platforms
- Model Enterprises
- Enterprise Packages
- Service Delivery Models

- Aggregator Partnerships

LEARN-

Enable cross-learning between project implementation processes and share knowledge externally

- Understand the process of change through outlining causal linkages
- Combine developmental and summative evaluation tools for deep analysis
- Capture micro and meso-level change narratives for influencing systemic shifts
- Theory of Change
- Baseline – Endline Analyses
- Control Group Study
- Gender Screening of Tools
- Case Stories

W4P India's adaptive learning system works to reiterate social innovation and ground-up action for enterprise development and job creation in rural India. It is based on techniques of dialogue, analysis, and reflection, and is working towards the objectives of:

- ❖ Building a robust learning system inclusive of system-wide perspectives, diverse community voices, and interconnecting processes and functions For responding to new challenges to rural entrepreneurship because of the crisis, we are working on understanding the perspectives of microentrepreneurs, communities, and service providers. These are being recorded through simple tools like a centralized interview recording sheet and findings are being incorporated in the design of solutions and processes.
- ❖ Integrating learning with design and operations to activate feedback loops for informed decision-making and adaptive management The design of our existing solutions (as elaborated in our prototyping work) to respond to the immediate needs and opportunities. They are also being re-designed to respond to shocks in the short to medium term.
- ❖ Enabling evidence-based knowledge-building to deepen the impact and acceleration of W4P adds value to the existing pool of resources in the field by including perspectives of communities and micro-entrepreneurs in the mainstream.

Stories of Success of Work 4 Progress

Vikas Kumar, a proud resident of Rani Chaikia village in Pahari block. Once working in a bakery in Mirzapur, Vikas's journey took a turn for the better when he engaged with the SBIF project by Swami Vivekananda Shiksha Samiti. Attending community meetings and participating in focus groups like Dishkan, Vikas shared his story. Having previously worked in a bakery in Gujarat, he dreamt of starting his own venture but lacked capital. With guidance from project workers, Vikas applied for a loan under the Khadigram Industry scheme and received Rs. 5,00,000. With support from successful entrepreneur Vimal Kumar ji, Vikas learned the ins and outs of running a bakery, from finances to market strategies. Today, his bakery thrives, providing employment to two youth and earning Rs. 10,000 to 15,000 per month. Looking ahead, Vikas plans to expand his business by investing in a biscuit-making machine, aiming to empower more youth and women in his village through entrepreneurship.



Stories of Success of IIMPACT

Chanda Kumari is a bright girl studying at the Learning Center in Koshda Khurd. She has three sisters and two brothers; her father is a laborer, and her mother does housework. Due to poverty, her parents couldn't initially afford to educate their daughters. However, a teacher's survey introduced them to the Balika Shiksha Karyakram, offering free education and materials to girls. Chanda enrolled and has since shown remarkable improvement. She has a strong grasp of 75 sentences in her curriculum and remembers the communication improvement chart. Fluent in reading Hindi, Chanda can solve two-digit addition and subtraction problems. She has become the fastest learner at the center, often helping other girls with their studies. Her parents are overjoyed with her progress.



Shivani was born into a poor family in Sikara village in the Prayagraj district of Uttar Pradesh. Her father, Ranu Pratap, is a small farmer, and her mother, Sushila Devi, works as an agricultural laborer. Ranu and Sushila have two daughters and two sons, and they both work hard in the fields to make ends meet, often returning home late in the evening. Due to their demanding work schedules, their children, including Shivani, stayed at home and did not attend school.

One day, a teacher from the IIMPACT-SVSS Girl Education Center visited the village to encourage girls to attend the center. She met with Sushila Devi and urged her to send Shivani to the learning center. Sushila initially hesitated, citing the lack of facilities and Shivani's eye problems, along with their inability to afford books and pencils.



The teacher reassured her that the center provided free educational materials, including books and pencils. She emphasized that Shivani would receive a quality education, learning to read and write. Convinced by the teacher's words, Sushila agreed to enroll Shivani in the center. She worked hard in her studies and scored good marks in academics.

Today, Shivani happily attends classes at the center in Sikara, eager to learn and grow. Her parents are overjoyed to see their daughter receiving an education, which brings hope for a brighter future.

She aspires to become a teacher in the future.

मिर्जापुर घनश्याम बिनानी एकेडमी ऑफ मैनेजमेंट साइंसेज में वर्क 4 प्रोग्रेस एवं एक्सबी आई फाउंडेशन प्रयोजनका के अन्तर्गत उद्यमी मेला डेवलपमेंट अल्टरनेटिव नई दिल्ली, मानवीय दृष्टिकोण सेवा समिति व स्वामी विवेकानन्द शिक्षा समिति के नेतृत्व में उद्यमी मेला आयोजित किया गया। मेले में विभिन्न जनपदों के 21 वेंडर व 200 से उद्यमियों के साथ 22 बिक्रेताओं ने भाग लिया। मुख्य अतिथि डॉक्टर जीशान अमीन निदेशक घनश्याम बिनानी एकेडमी ऑफ मैनेजमेंट साइंसेज, जिला उद्यान विभाग से पुष्पेंद्र त्रिपाठी, डॉक्टर मनोज सिंह डिप्टी वेटनरी ऑफिसर पशुपालन विभाग, RSETI से रमेश कुमार TRIF से अभिषेक और संस्थाओं से मानवीय दृष्टिकोण सेवा संस्थान से रामसंजीवन पांडेय, स्वामी विवेकानन्द शिक्षा समिति से अनुज श्रीवास्तव ने उद्यमियों और बिक्रेताओं को विभिन्न जानकारी दी।

Glimpse of the Project

