AUROBINDO PHARMA FOUNDATION

IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORTS – CSR PROJECTS FY 2024-25

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Impact Assessment Report of Aurobindo Oncology Block at MNJ Institute of Oncology, Hyderabad, Telangana

Constructed by Aurobindo Pharma Foundation (a Philanthropic arm of Aurobindo Pharma Ltd under Corporate Social Responsibility)

Submitted to

AUROBINDO PHARMA FOUNDATION

Submitted by

apmas

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Abbreviations

ABP	Ayushman Bharat Programme
ALCL	Anaplastic large-cell lymphoma
ALL	Acute lymphoblastic leukemia
AMKL	Acute megakaryoblastic leukemia / Acute megakaryocytic leukemia
AML	Acute myeloid leukemia
ANLL	Acute non-lymphocytic leukemia
B-ALL	B-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia
BCC	Basal cell carcinoma
BMT	Bone Marrow Transplant
BPL	Below Poverty Line
CLL	Chronic lymphocytic Leukemia
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
FBC	Full blood count
HMIS	Hospital Management Information System
HVAC	Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning
ICU	Intensive Care Unit
KSRTC	Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation
MNJIO	Mehdi Nawaz Jung Institute of Oncology
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NPO	Not for Profit Organisation
NPCDCS	National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases, and Stroke
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
RAN	Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi
SCI	State Cancer Institute
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
WBC	White Blood Cell
WHO	World Health Organization

Acknowledgements

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We sincerely thank the Director of MNJ Institute of Oncology, **Dr. M. Srinivasulu**, for his invaluable support and leadership during the assessment process. His guidance and openness in sharing key insights about the project have been instrumental in shaping this report. We are also deeply grateful to **Dr. Krishna Chaitanya**, whose expertise and input added great value to our understanding of the initiative's impact. Additionally, we acknowledge the efforts and cooperation of all the doctors, nurses, and staff members who patiently shared data, perspectives, and experiences to support our assessment.

We would also like to express our gratitude to the patients and their families, who willingly shared their personal stories and feedback with us. Their testimonies provided crucial insights into the human aspect of this project and its profound impact on their lives.

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This assessment would not have been possible without the cooperation and support of all the stakeholders involved in the Aurobindo Oncology Block project. Their willingness to share information, respond to our queries, and provide access to facilities ensured that we could carry out our work effectively and with clarity.

The Aurobindo Oncology Block stands as a testament to the power of collaboration and compassion in addressing critical healthcare challenges. We thank Aurobindo Pharma Ltd, Aurobindo Pharma Foundation (A Philanthropic Arm of Aurobindo Pharma Ltd), and all the associated partners for making a significant contribution to improving cancer care in our society. We are truly honored to have been part of this impactful journey.

With deepest gratitude

Team APMAS!
January 2025

1. Executive Summary

Project Overview

A new Oncology Block has been constructed by the Aurobindo Pharma Foundation at the MNJ Institute of Oncology and State Cancer Institute, Hyderabad. The Aurobindo Oncology Block spans eight floors with a built-up area of 2,32,000 square feet. Aurobindo Pharma Foundation has also provided sophisticated beds, curtains, waiting chairs, oxygen cylinders, and pipelines. The project has an outlay of ₹77.15 crores, with ₹70.66 crores contributed by Aurobindo Pharma Foundation and ₹6.49 crores by Auronext Pharma Pvt Ltd., a sister concern of Aurobindo Pharma Ltd., which was amalgamated into Aurobindo Pharma Ltd. effective April 1, 2023.

Key Findings:

- **Increased Bed Capacity:** The oncology block now houses advanced medical equipment, ICU beds, and specialized units for surgery, radiotherapy, chemotherapy, and palliative care. The total bed capacity has increased from 450 to 750, with ICU beds rising from 25 to 75 and general/AC beds from 425 to 675.
- **Tripled Bone Marrow Treatment:** With the addition of high-end radiation therapy machines and dedicated floors for bone marrow transplants (BMTs), the facility has tripled its capacity for BMTs, from 2 to 8 per month.
- **Major Surgeries** nearly doubled from 1,500 to 2,500 annually, while minor surgeries rose from 1,000 to 1,450 per year.
- **Annual Patient Intake:** Annual new patient intake grew from 10,000 to 14,000, while follow-up cases surged from 80,000 to 1,20,000. Daily radiation therapies increased from 150 to 170, and day-care chemotherapy reduced hospital stays from 3 days to a single day.
- **Economic Relief:** The initiative has provided annual cost savings of ₹70.35 crore to poor and marginalized patients through free or subsidized services. Key savings include ₹18 crore for bone marrow therapies, ₹18.25 crore for general/AC beds, and ₹15 crore for major surgeries.
- **Alignment with SDGs:** The project advances Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by promoting universal health coverage (SDG 3), reducing healthcare inequities (SDG 10), and fostering economic growth through job creation (SD G 8).

Impact

The Aurobindo Oncology Block has profoundly transformed cancer care for economically disadvantaged communities. The enhanced infrastructure has reduced patient wait times to nearly zero, improved procedural accuracy, and elevated overall patient satisfaction. By providing comprehensive, multidisciplinary cancer care at free of cost, the facility has alleviated financial burdens, ensured

equitable access to advanced treatments, and strengthened public health infrastructure. This initiative has also created over 150 jobs, including positions for doctors, nurses, and support staff, contributing to local economic growth.

Impact on Cancer Care: These advancements demonstrate Aurobindo Pharma Foundation's commitment to enhancing healthcare accessibility, capacity, and efficiency. The expanded facilities and improved medical interventions significantly reduce patient wait times, increase procedural accuracy, and elevate overall patient satisfaction. By prioritizing state-of-the-art treatment options and patient-centric care, this initiative establishes a robust foundation for addressing the growing cancer care needs of the population.

Geographical Impact: The Aurobindo Oncology block serves the cancer care needs of the population national wide. Irrespective of the state, financial status or social status, the MNJ Oncology Institute is providing free treatments, follow-up services and medicines to patients across the country. The demographics revealed that patients from Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh are using the free cancer care services at Aurobindo Oncology block.

Economic Impact on Poor & Marginalised Cancer Patients: The Aurobindo Oncology block has achieved remarkable outcomes in reducing the financial burden on poor and marginalized cancer patients. The upgraded infrastructure and enhanced services provide substantial cost savings, ensuring equitable access to critical care.

Key Cost Savings Achieved Annually

1. **Bone Marrow Therapies** : ₹18 crore
2. **General & AC Beds** : ₹18.25 crore
3. **ICU Beds** : ₹14.6 crore
4. **Major Surgeries** : ₹15 crore
5. **Minor Surgeries** : ₹4.5 crore

Recommendations

- Conduct regular cancer awareness camps for early detection and to reach patients residing in remote areas
- Expand ambulance services to reach further destinations
- Implement a robust digital record keeping system for efficient and accurate filing and data records.

Conclusion: The total annual cost savings amount to approximately **₹70.35 crore**, directly benefiting underprivileged cancer patients when compared to treatment cost in private hospitals. The Aurobindo Oncology Block stands as a testament to the transformative power of strategic CSR initiatives in addressing critical healthcare challenges. By aligning with national health priorities and global SDGs, this project has set a benchmark for equitable healthcare delivery. Its success demonstrates the potential of public-private partnerships to bridge healthcare gaps,

alleviate economic hardships, and create a sustainable future. As a model of impactful CSR, this initiative exemplifies how corporate investments can profoundly improve lives and foster social equity, providing a blueprint for replication nationwide.

2. Introduction

2.1 Introduction

The 4th edition of Apollo Hospitals' Health of Nation Report, released on World Health Day 2024, dubbed India the "cancer capital of the world" The study projected the number of annual cancer cases would rise to 1.57 million by 2025, from almost 1.4 million in 2020. Breast, cervical, and ovarian cancer are the most common forms affecting women, while cancer of the lung, the mouth and the prostate are those most affecting men. India is currently in the 3rd place with **14,13,316** cancer cases after China (48,24,703) and USA (23,80,189)[1] as per the 2022 WHO records. The Indian Medical Council Research estimated the cases to be **14,96,972** by 2023. Whereas the available cancer beds in India are approximately **60,000** only.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) has become a key part of running responsible businesses in today's world. In India and globally, companies understand the need to give back to society, protect nature, and support sustainable growth. In a country like India, where challenges like poverty, inequality, lack of healthcare, and environmental damage are common, CSR plays an important role in addressing these issues.

The Companies Act, 2013, made CSR mandatory for certain businesses in India. This law brought more transparency and responsibility to how companies contribute to society. It has encouraged companies to plan and organize their CSR activities to meet the real needs of communities.

CSR also improves a company's public image. When businesses genuinely support social and environmental causes, they earn trust and respect from customers, employees, and the public. This builds a positive reputation, inspires employees, and attracts people who prefer socially responsible brands.

In short, CSR is more than just business—it's a commitment to improving the world. In India, CSR projects, especially in healthcare, help tackle important challenges and support sustainable development. By focusing on CSR, companies become a force for good, helping build a fair, healthy, and sustainable future for everyone.

2.2 Importance of CSR in Cancer Care Treatment in India

Cancer is a growing health challenge in India, with millions affected every year. Many patients, especially from rural and economically weaker sections, struggle to

access timely diagnosis, quality treatment, and support due to high costs and limited healthcare infrastructure. Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) can play a vital role in addressing these gaps and making cancer care more accessible and affordable.

Improving Access to Treatment

- CSR initiatives can help set up cancer care facilities in underserved areas, ensuring that patients do not have to travel long distances for treatment.
- Funding through CSR can make advanced treatments, like chemotherapy and radiotherapy, available at subsidized rates or even free of cost for underprivileged patients.

Early Detection and Awareness

- Companies can invest in awareness campaigns to educate people about early signs of cancer, lifestyle changes, and preventive measures.
- CSR-funded health camps and mobile screening units can aid in early detection, which is crucial for successful treatment outcomes.

Support for Infrastructure and Technology

- Many hospitals and clinics in India lack advanced diagnostic tools and treatment technology. CSR funds can help upgrade these facilities and provide state-of-the-art equipment.
- Establishing specialized cancer care centers in rural and semi-urban areas can decentralize healthcare access.

Financial Assistance for Patients

- CSR programs can provide financial aid for patients who cannot afford expensive cancer treatments.
- Partnerships with NGOs and healthcare providers can help streamline the distribution of funds and support.

Research and Development

- Investment in cancer research through CSR can support the development of new treatments, drugs, and technologies tailored to the Indian population.
- Encouraging collaboration with medical institutions and research organizations can lead to innovations in cancer care.

Palliative Care and Emotional Support

- Companies can fund initiatives that focus on palliative care, providing relief from pain and improving the quality of life for terminally ill patients.
- CSR initiatives can also support counseling services for patients and their families, helping them cope with the emotional and psychological impact of cancer.

2.3 About Aurobindo Pharma Limited

Aurobindo Pharma Limited, founded in 1986 by Mr. P. V. Ramprasad Reddy, Mr. K. Nityananda Reddy, and a group of dedicated professionals, is a leading pharmaceutical company based in India. Commencing its operations in 1988-89 with a single unit manufacturing Semi-Synthetic Penicillin (SSP) in Pondicherry, the company has grown to become a prominent player in the pharmaceutical industry. In 1992, Aurobindo Pharma became a public company and listed its shares on Indian stock exchanges in 1995.

With a vision to make a positive impact on healthcare and human well-being, Aurobindo Pharma has achieved significant success and leadership in various therapeutic segments, including neurosciences, cardiovascular, anti-retroviral, anti-diabetics, gastroenterology, and antibiotics, among others. The company's strengths lie in its large manufacturing facilities approved by leading regulatory bodies, a diversified product portfolio, and a robust research and development facility in India for formulations and active ingredients. Emphasizing operational excellence, Aurobindo Pharma embraces vertical integration, regulatory expertise, and advanced technology for specialty formulations.

2.4 About Aurobindo Pharma Foundation

Aurobindo Pharma Foundation is the philanthropic arm of Aurobindo Pharma Limited, dedicated to fostering the social and economic growth of the nation through its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) program. Committed to improving social, environmental, and economic practices, the foundation collaborates with community groups and implements initiatives that benefit society and enhance the country's institutions.

Focused on sustained excellence and responsible business practices, Aurobindo Pharma Foundation operates and adheres to essential social and environmental policies. The foundation's CSR initiatives encompass various intervention areas, such as promoting education, supporting preventive healthcare, eradicating hunger, and poverty, ensuring safe drinking water availability, encouraging environmental sustainability, conserving natural resources, and establishing old-age homes and many more. Through its responsible and compassionate approach, Aurobindo Pharma Foundation exemplifies the commitment of Aurobindo Pharma Limited towards social welfare, sustainability, and inclusive growth, aligning its efforts with the needs of the communities it serves and the well-being of the nation.

2.5 About MNJ Institute of Oncology and State Cancer Institute

The MNJIO & SCI had its origin as the Radium Institute & Cancer Hospital and was inaugurated by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru as a mere 40 bedded cancer hospital in

1955. The Government of India accorded the status of Regional Cancer Center on 12.03.1996. In compliance with the requirement to accord RCC status, the Government of Andhra Pradesh declared MNJIO & RCC as an Autonomous Institute under vide G.O.Ms.No.128 M&H, dt.21.3.1996 and the institute is registered as a Society to be governed by the Governing Council headed by the Hon'ble Chief Minister as Chairperson. The Government has approved the memorandum of association, rules and regulations, general byelaws and financial byelaws vide G.O.Ms.No.382, HM&FW (M2) Dept., dt.05/10/1996.

The MNJ Institute of Oncology and Regional Cancer Center is a 450 bedded comprehensive cancer care center and was upgraded to a 750 bedded cancer center as the sole tertiary public referral center for entire state of erstwhile Andhra Pradesh. The institute is not only catering to the needs of the patients from the states of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh but also from neighboring states. Even patients from countries like Nigeria are being treated at the institute. More than 10,000 new cancer patients are registered per year and more than 1,10,000 patients come for follow-up, totaling 1,20,000 patients per year. 1,500 major surgeries and 1,000 minor surgeries are performed per year. Every day 300 patients are given radiotherapy and about 300 patients are given chemotherapy.

More than 1.5 lakh cancer-related investigations are conducted annually at the state's only comprehensive tertiary cancer center. This facility provides free-of-cost surgery, radiotherapy, medical oncology, and palliative care services to patients below the poverty line. These achievements rank among the highest in the country, reflecting the center's commitment to equitable and high-quality cancer care.

2.6 Project Background

As part of CSR projects executed by the Aurobindo Pharma Foundation, the construction of Oncology Block at MNJ Institute of Oncology and State Cancer Institute in Hyderabad was carried out during 2021-22 and 2022-23 with the budget of rupees 70,66,01,037. It is the first State Government tertiary care institute to offer a comprehensive range of services, including surgery, radiotherapy, chemotherapy, and palliative care, to patients.

This state-of-the-art facility spans 2,32,000 square feet, featuring an eight-story building with a bed capacity of 300, situated on a two-acre campus. The Foundation has equipped the facility with modern amenities, including oxygen pipelines and cylinders, ICU beds and curtains, furniture for doctors' consultation rooms, waiting areas, fire safety systems, HVAC systems, lifts, emergency exits, a transformer yard, a main power control room, and lightning arrestors. With the addition of this new facility to the existing 450-bed capacity, the total capacity has increased to 750 beds, significantly enhancing the center's ability to serve patients.

2.7 Objectives of the Impact Assessment

The Impact Assessment study for the Aurobindo Oncology Block is designed to comprehensively evaluate the effectiveness and significance of this CSR initiative in enhancing cancer care services. The study focuses on key objectives, including assessing the project's outcomes, analyzing its societal benefits, and understanding its long-term impact on the community

1. **Patient Perspective, Satisfaction, and Awareness:** Assess patient satisfaction levels and awareness of the oncology services provided, focusing on how effectively patients understand and utilize the available services.
2. **Relevance of Oncology Services:** Evaluate the alignment of oncology services with the community's specific needs, focusing access, awareness, and affordability.
3. **CSR Program's Effectiveness:** Assess the effectiveness of the CSR program in delivering positive health outcomes, including its contribution to cancer treatment success, early detection, and overall patient satisfaction.
4. **Resource Utilization and Service Delivery:** Review the efficiency of resource allocation and service delivery at the Oncology Block, identifying opportunities to enhance healthcare delivery and maximize impact.
5. **Sustainability of Oncology Services:** Examine the sustainability of the services through infrastructure upkeep, staff training, and community engagement to ensure long term viability
6. **Impact on Health Outcomes and Social Development:** Assess the program's impact on cancer patients' quality of life, visual acuity (for those with related eye conditions), and broader community health, including any social development outcomes linked to better healthcare access.

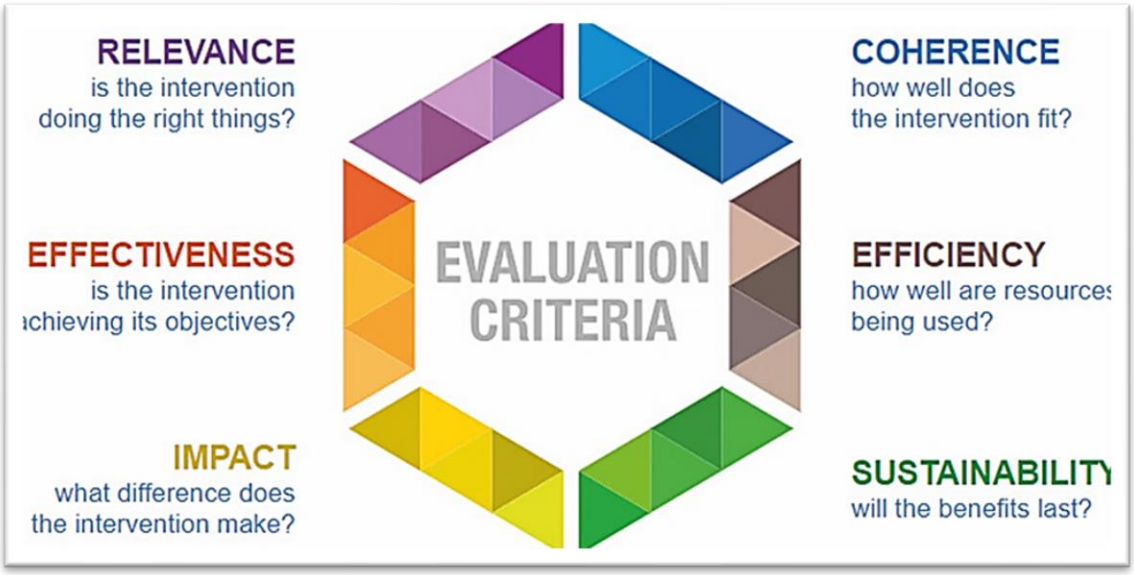
3. Methodology and Approach

3.1 Evaluation Framework

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Development Assistance Committee (DAC) criteria provide a framework for evaluating the effectiveness and impact of development projects, particularly in the context of international aid and development assistance. The key criteria are:

Relevance: This assesses the alignment of the project or program with the actual needs of the target population and the priorities of stakeholders. It ensures that the project's goals are contextually appropriate and effectively address the most pressing issues.

Coherence: This criterion assesses how well the project or program aligns with other interventions in the area. It evaluates consistency with broader policies, objectives, and strategies, ensuring that the initiative complements with other activities in the region for overall harmony and effectiveness.



Effectiveness: This measures the extent to which the project achieved its intended outcomes. It looks how successfully the objectives were realized and whether the expected results were delivered within the defined timeline and scope.

Efficiency: This assesses the optimal use of resources, including time, money, and personnel. It focuses on cost effectiveness in delivering outputs and achieving value for the resources invested.

Impact: This examines the long-term and broader effects of the project, considering both intended and unintended outcomes. It highlights the project's contribution to social, economic, or environmental development over time.

Sustainability: This assesses the project's benefits after completion and the local capacity, ongoing funding, and the resilience of the intervention's effects to ensure long-term viability.

Together, these criteria provide a comprehensive framework for evaluating development initiatives, ensuring that they not only achieve immediate goals but also deliver sustainable, long-term improvements that are well-coordinated with other efforts in the region.

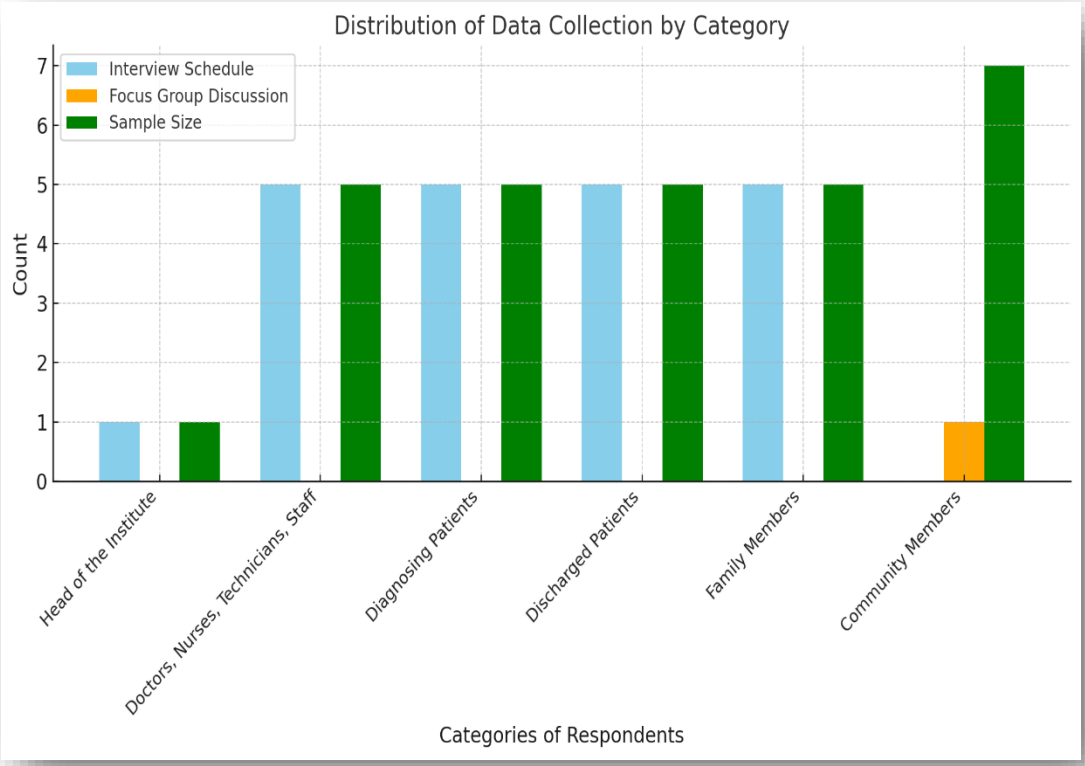
3.2 Data Collection Tools

- **Interviews:** Structured interviews with key stakeholders such as the head of the institute, doctors, nurses, technicians, and family members of patients.
- **Questionnaires:** Administered to a sample of discharged and diagnosed patients.
- **Hospital Records:** Gathered data on patient intake, surgeries, treatments, and costs.
- **Focus Group Discussions (FGDs):** Conducted with community members to assess public perception and awareness.
- **Observation:** Physical verification of facilities and infrastructure.

3.3 Sampling Size

Total respondents are 30 across diverse categories, including community members in FGDs.

Category of Respondents	**Interview Schedule**	**Focus Group discussion**	**Tools**
	Sample Size		
Head of the Institute	1		Interview & Questionnaire
Doctors, Nurses, Technicians, Staff (Reception, Canteen, Billing, Aarogya Sri, Health Insurance etc.)	5		Records, Interview & Questionnaire
Diagnosing Patients (Diversified)	5		Interview & Questionnaire
Discharged Patients (Diversified)	5		
Family members of the Patients	5		
Community Members		10	
Total (31)	**21**	**10**	



3.4 Sampling Method

Purposive Sampling: Targeted selection of respondents directly impacted (e.g., patients, staff) and stakeholders who could provide in-depth insights.

3.5 Data Analysis

Quantitative Analysis: Data from hospital records was analysed to assess trends in patient intake, reduction in wait times, and cost savings and assessed the services provided post-construction versus pre-construction.

Qualitative Analysis: Thematic coding of interview responses to evaluate satisfaction, accessibility, and challenges, and analysis of FGD insights to identify impacts.

3.6 Limitations

Sample Size: Limited to 21 respondents, which might not capture the full spectrum of experiences and impacts across all patient demographics.

Time Constraints: The assessment focuses on the short-term impact, potentially overlooking long-term sustainability issues.

Generalisability: Findings are specific to the MNJ Institute and may not be fully applicable to other regions or institutions.

Estimations: The cost savings to patients are only estimations as there are no records of fee for beds, treatments, and medicines due to free of charge.

Unmeasured Variables: Certain indirect impacts, like psychological benefits or community health awareness, were not quantitatively assessed.

4. Findings and Analysis

Thematic Area	Project Name & Location	Overall Objective	Key Activities
Healthcare, promoting preventive healthcare and sanitation [item no (i) schedule VII of Companies Act 2013]	Construction of Oncology Block at MNJ Institute of Oncology and State Cancer Institute, Red Hils, Hyderabad, Telangana	▪ Enhance the existing 450 bed capacity to 750 and reduce the patient waiting time ▪ Provide free, multidisciplinary cancer care to more patients ▪ Offer a comprehensive range of services, including surgery, radiotherapy, chemotherapy, and palliative care, to patients from Telangana and neighboring states	**Infrastructure:** ▪ Construction of an 8-floor oncology block spanning 2,32,000 sq. ft. with a 300-beds ▪ Installation of critical systems like HVAC, lifts, emergency exits, fire safety systems, and lightening arrestors. ▪ Installation of oxygen pipelines and cylinders. ▪ Supply of ICU beds, curtains, and furniture for consultation rooms and waiting areas. **Integration with Existing Facilities:** ▪ Ensuring seamless integration of the new facility with the existing infrastructure to increase the capacity to 750 beds **Support for Patient Care:** ▪ Setting up dedicated spaces for surgery, radiotherapy, chemotherapy, and palliative care.

Key Outputs	Key Outcomes	Impact
Expanded Infrastructure Completion of an advanced oncology block with state-of-the-art infrastructure. **Increased Capacity** Additional 300 beds to accommodate more	**Improved Healthcare Delivery** Enhanced capacity to treat cancer patients with comprehensive care, including surgery, chemotherapy, and radiotherapy. **Increased Patient Access** Availability of free cancer care services to a larger number of patients, including those from	The construction of the block with required infrastructure was completed in March 2023 and inaugurated by the then Health Minister of Telangana in the presence of Sri. K, Nityananda Reddy, MD & Vice Chairperson Aurobindo Pharma Ltd and Director- Aurobindo Pharma Foundation and dignitaries on 16.4.2023

patients, increasing the total to 750 beds. **Enhanced Equipment and Facilities** Availability of modern medical equipment, oxygen supply systems, and improved consultation and waiting spaces. **Improved Accessibility** Better access to multidisciplinary cancer care services for patients from Telangana and neighboring states.	underserved areas. **Improved Quality of Life** Provision of palliative care and better hospital facilities, contributing to better health outcomes and quality of life for patients and their families. **Enhanced Trust and Community Engagement** Strengthened reputation of Aurobindo Pharma Foundation and MNJ Institute as organizations committed to public welfare through significant CSR initiatives.	The overall Impact of the new block with 300 beds supported by Aurobindo Pharma Foundation CSR Funds is access to quality and modern cancer treatment free of cost to poor and backward people of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra and other neighboring States resulting in early detection of the disease, and reduction of mortalities and an estimated cost savings of Rs 70 Crores per year.

4.1 Relevance

Relevance measures how effectively a programme is aligned with the goals and policies of the Government and aims to know if the programme is relevant to the needs of the beneficiaries. The program's relevance is understood in this context in terms of community needs as well as linkages to existing Government operations.

When the MNJ personnel approached the Aurobindo Pharma Foundation, it had a 450 bedded capacity and has been catering the needs of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and neighboring states. However, the rapid increase in patient load and increase in number of departments catering to cancer treatment led to severe space constraint. Keeping in view of the situation, the Telangana government has allotted 4.12 acres for the construction of a new block to cater to the ever-increasing needs of cancer patients. As the existing block couldn't suffice the needs of cancer patients visiting the MNJ, the construction of new "Aurobindo Block of Oncology" is highly important and relevant to the needs of not only the community but for the nation, as poor people not only from Telangana and neighboring states, but also from Madhya Pradesh, UP and Bihar are being referred to the MNJ Institute of Oncology and State Cancer Institute.

4.2 Coherence

Coherence refers to the compatibility of the intervention with other interventions in a country, sector, or institution. It measures the extent to which other interventions (particularly policies) support or undermine the intervention, and vice versa.

Alignment of the programme with National Priorities – Sustainable Development Goals

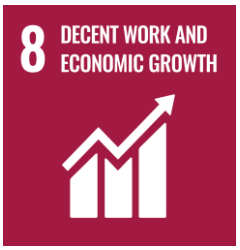
The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), commonly recognized as the global goals, were established in 2015 by all United Nations members with the purpose of eradicating poverty, protecting the environment, and ensuring that everyone lives in peace and prosperity by 2030. India was a significant contributor to the development of the SDGs and is committed to achieving them by 2030.

The project's aim mainly contributes to **SDG 3: Good Health and Wellbeing** by providing access to advanced cancer care for vulnerable sections of society. The project helps in achieving:

- **Subgoal 3.4. Non-communicable diseases:** By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment, and promote mental health and well-being.
- **Subgoal 3.8. Universal health coverage:** Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services, and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.

Other SDGs that are covered are:

SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities **Equity in Healthcare**: The initiative focuses on economically disadvantaged populations, bridging the gap in access to expensive cancer treatments. **Social Justice**: By offering free care, it mitigates disparities in healthcare access and outcomes.	

SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth **Employment Generation**: Creation of 150+ jobs, including skilled (doctors, nurses) and unskilled (housekeeping, security) positions, contributes to local economic growth. **Multiplier Effect**: Indirect economic benefits from improved health outcomes, reduced financial stress on families, and increased productivity.	
SDG 1: No Poverty **Economic Relief:** Annual cost savings of **₹70.35 Crores** directly reduce the financial strain on poor and marginalized families, helping them avoid catastrophic health expenditures.	
SDG 5: Gender Equality **Women-Focused Care:** The dedicated women's floor and separate toilets and rest rooms in each floor ensures that gender-specific healthcare needs are addressed, promoting equitable access for women.	
SDG 4: Quality Education (Indirect Impact) **Professional Development:** Training and research opportunities for medical and support staff contributing to capacity building in the healthcare sector.	
SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals **Strategic Collaboration**: Partnering with established oncology institutions like MNJ Institute of Oncology and the State Cancer Institute ensures that the initiative benefits from shared expertise, infrastructure, and resources.	

The project is in line with various government health schemes such as:

- **National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases, and Stroke (NPCDCS):** In order to prevent and control major NCDs, the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke (NPCDCS) was launched in 2010 with focus on strengthening infrastructure, human resource development, health promotion, early diagnosis, management and referral.

- **Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN):** The Scheme provides financial assistance to patients living below the poverty line and who are suffering from major life-threatening diseases, to receive medical treatment at any of the super specialty Government hospitals/ institutes.

- **Ayushman Bharat Programme (ABP):** Ayushman Bharat, a flagship scheme of the Government of India, was launched as recommended by the National Health Policy 2017, to achieve the vision of Universal Health Coverage (UHC). This initiative has been designed to meet Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and its underlying commitment, which is to "leave no one behind."

- **Aarogya Sri – Telangana:** Aarogyasri Scheme provides financial protection to families living below poverty line upto Rs. 10 lakhs in a year for the treatment of serious ailments requiring hospitalization, surgery and high-end procedures. 1672 treatments are covered under the scheme.

- **Aarogya Sri – Andhra Pradesh:** This scheme counts to be one of the pioneers in terms of achieving equity and providing accountable and evidence-based good-quality health-care services to assist poor families from catastrophic health expenditure. It provides Universal Health Coverage to BPL families. The Scheme is intended to benefit 129.44 lakh families in all districts of the state.

4.3 Effectiveness

Effectiveness is defined as an assessment of the factors influencing progress toward outcomes for each stakeholder as well as validation of the robustness of systems and processes.

It aids in ensuring that the implementation and monitoring processes are sturdy to achieve the greatest possible social impact. The efficacy of the program is established by how well the activities were carried out as well as the effectiveness with which program's systems and processes were implemented.

The project goal was to provide free multidisciplinary cancer care to more patients and to offer a comprehensive range of services, including surgery, radiotherapy, chemotherapy and palliative care to patients from Telangana and neighbouring states. Therefore, to successfully attain these outcomes, the project adopted the following measures:

Identification of the Problem: The primary goal of the project was to enhance the existing capacity of 450 beds to 750 beds to cater for the increasing demand for cancer patients in and

around Telangana state. To be able to deliver the best results identified for the communities and stakeholders involved, the issue was identified by APF, and the project was effectively developed accordingly.

Process driven implementation strategy: The project was implemented strategically to not only enhance the number of beds but also acquired the modern

equipment and facilities to serve the needs of poor and underprivileged cancer patients with best-in-class facilities.

Qualified implementation team: MNJ Institute with the support of APF team, which are pioneers in their respective fields, implemented Commented the project with their expertise. This contributed to the preservation of implementation quality in building a state-of-the-art oncology block in a government hospital.

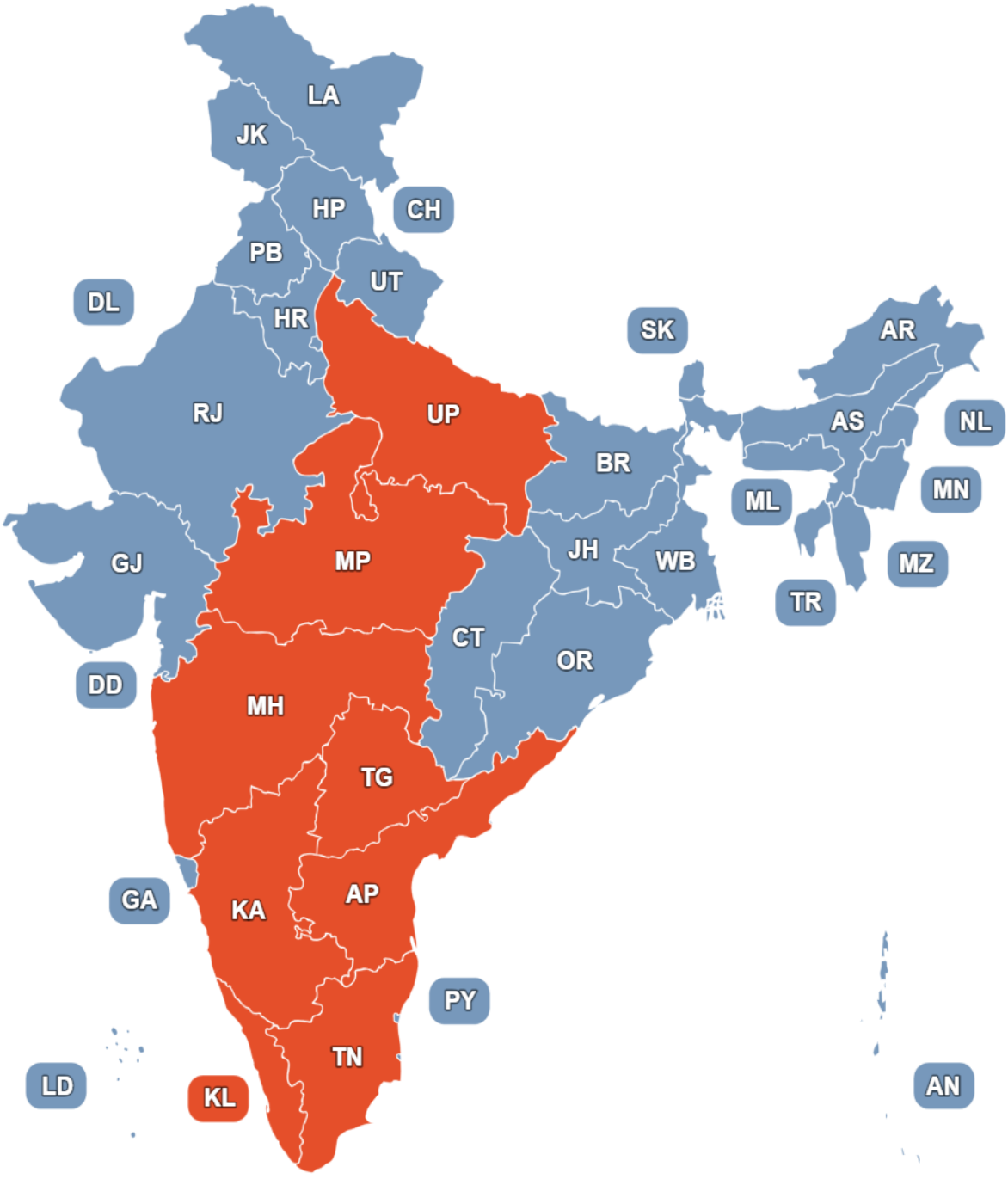
Targeted beneficiary: The primary targeted beneficiaries are poor and backward (Below Poverty line) cancer patients who cannot afford the costly cancer treatments. The project was successful in achieving its objectives because it was able to provide the necessary outreach of healthcare services to the intended beneficiaries, i.e., the poor and backward cancer patients from Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra and other states.

4.4. Efficiency

The efficiency criterion seeks to determine whether the project was completed in a cost-effective and timely way. The purpose is to establish whether the inputs—funds, knowledge, time, etc.—were effectively employed to create the intervention outcomes. This evaluation criterion attempts to determine whether the programme was completed on schedule and within budget.

The project has been efficiently implemented with the support of key stakeholders.

- **Timeliness of delivery or implementation of project interventions:** The programme was implemented within the given time with support from APF CSR team.
- **Cost efficiency of project activities:** Interaction with the APF and MNJ staff revealed that there was no budget overflow and that all the activities were successfully carried out within the allotted budget. Payment milestones were clearly defined as such, and interventions were implemented in consultation with the key stakeholders.



- **Duplication/ overlap of project activities:** Duplication of effort arises when similar interventions are needlessly undertaken within the same community/ location due to poor knowledge management and inadequate coordination of projects, thereby resulting in fund and resource inefficiencies. There is no such duplication/ overlap of project activities in the nearby areas, as it is the only institute which is providing state of the art cancer care treatments at no cost to the poor and needy patients coming from Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and many other states in India.

4.5. Impact

Impact is assessed based on the proportion of respondents who reported experiencing significant changes in their lives due to the project. The goal of this measurement is to evaluate the project's primary and secondary long-term effects, whether direct or indirect, intentional or unintentional. It also considers unintended consequences, which may be either favorable or harmful, providing a comprehensive understanding of the intervention's overall influence.

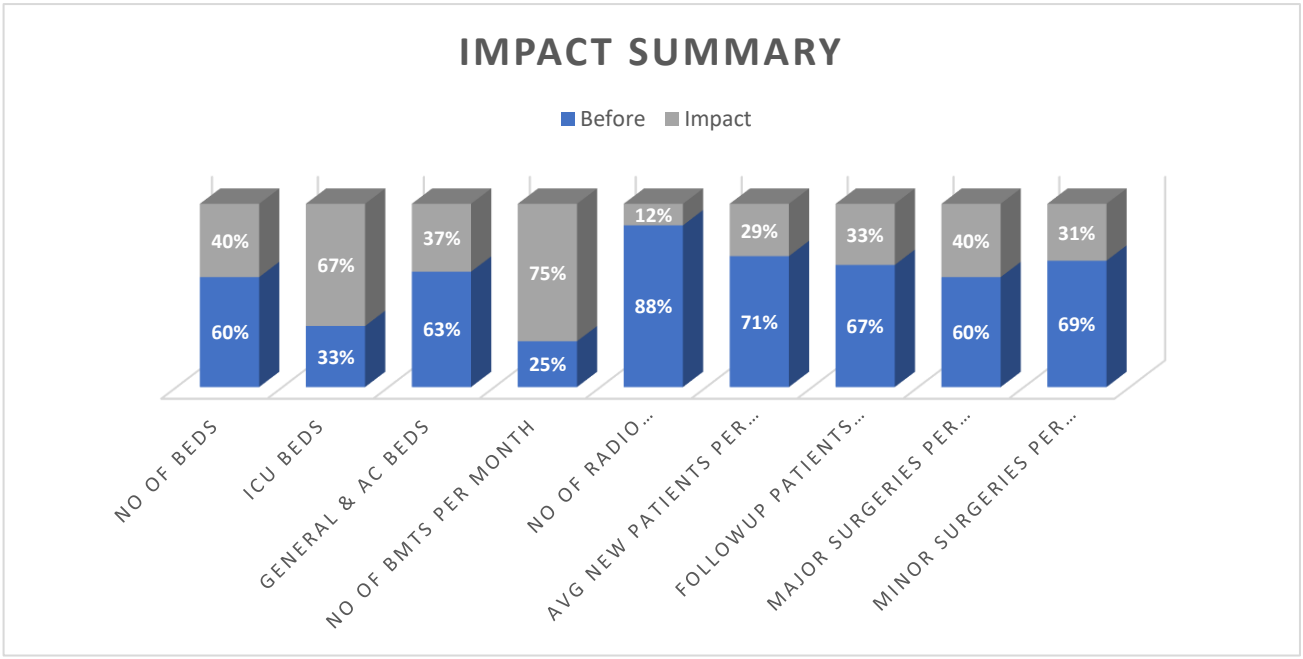
The SDGs emphasize the importance of health and well-being through specific targets:

Subgoal 3.4: Noncommunicable Diseases: By 2030, reduce premature mortality from noncommunicable diseases by one-third through prevention and treatment, while promoting mental health and well-being.

Subgoal 3.8: Universal Health Coverage: Achieve universal health coverage, ensuring financial risk protection, access to essential healthcare services, and availability of safe, effective, high-quality, and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.

These targets underscore the global commitment to advancing health equity and addressing critical health challenges. This entails ensuring that all individuals and communities worldwide have access to high-quality health services - whether promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative, or palliative - without experiencing financial hardship.

Impact Summary			
Particulars	**Before**	**Impact**	**After**
No of Beds	450	300	750
ICU Beds	25	50	75
General & AC Beds	425	250	675
No of BMTs per Month	2	6	8
No of Radio Therapies per day	150	20	170
Avg New Patients per year	10000	4000	14000
Follow up patients per year	80000	40000	120000
Major Surgeries per year	1500	1000	2500
Minor Surgeries per year	1000	450	1450



Increased Accessibility: The additional 300 beds have expanded access to treatment for thousands of underprivileged patients, particularly those from BPL families. Expensive treatments like chemotherapy, which cost between ₹1.5 lakh and ₹30 lakh in private hospitals, are now provided free of charge at the institute, saving lives and alleviating financial hardship.

- The Aurobindo Oncology Block has significantly reduced patient waiting times. Previously, patients had to wait up to **two months** for a bed due to limited availability. With the addition of **300 new beds**, waiting time has been reduced to **almost zero**. The introduction of a **dedicated day-care chemotherapy unit** also means that chemotherapy, which required **three days of hospitalization**, can now be completed on the **same day**, further improving patient flow and reducing bed occupancy issues.

The additional infrastructure and advanced medical equipment have streamlined cancer treatment processes. Key improvements include:

- **Bone Marrow Transplantation (BMT):** Increased capacity from **2 to 8 transplants per month**, allowing more patients access to life-saving treatment.
- **Radiation Therapy:** The installation of the Halcyon radiation therapy machine has increased the number of **daily treatments from 150 to 170** and **reduced session time by one-third**, improving efficiency and comfort for patients.
- **Major and Minor Surgeries:** The number of **major surgeries** increased from **1,500 to 2,500 per year**, while **minor surgeries** rose from **1,000 to 1,450 per year**, ensuring more patients receive timely surgical interventions.
- **Multidisciplinary Care:** The inclusion of **specialized wards for surgery, chemotherapy, radiotherapy, and palliative care** has led to better

coordination among oncologists, surgeons, and support staff, enhancing patient care.

- The expansion from **450 to 750 beds (a 40% increase in bed capacity)** has **greatly reduced overcrowding**, ensuring that all patients receive proper care without long wait times. The new **dedicated waiting areas and consultation rooms** have improved overall hospital management.
- The **increase in ICU beds from 25 to 75** has enabled critically ill patients to receive intensive care without being turned away due to space constraints.
- With **dedicated units for chemotherapy, surgery, and radiotherapy**, patient movement has been streamlined, reducing congestion in common areas.
- The addition of modern amenities, including **oxygen pipelines, improved HVAC systems, and an upgraded fire safety system**, has enhanced the safety and efficiency of hospital operations.

Returning patients have noted **substantial improvements** in the hospital environment and service delivery:

- Improved Comfort: Patients now receive treatment in spacious, well-ventilated wards with better hygiene and facilities.
- Faster Treatment: Previously, patients often experienced delays in accessing chemotherapy and radiation therapy. The expansion has reduced delays, ensuring timely intervention, which is crucial for cancer treatment success.
- Better Pediatric Care: A dedicated pediatric oncology ward on the 3rd floor now accommodates up to 100 children at any given time, improving specialized care for young cancer patients.
- Dedicated Palliative Care: The Palliative Care: The hospital now has a **dedicated space for palliative care**, ensuring that terminally ill patients receive compassionate, pain-free, and dignified end-of-life care.

Comprehensive Cancer Care: The institute offers a holistic approach to cancer treatment with facilities for surgery, radiotherapy, chemotherapy, and palliative care. Advanced equipment and modern infrastructure have enhanced diagnostic accuracy and treatment effectiveness, leading to early detection and improved survival rates.

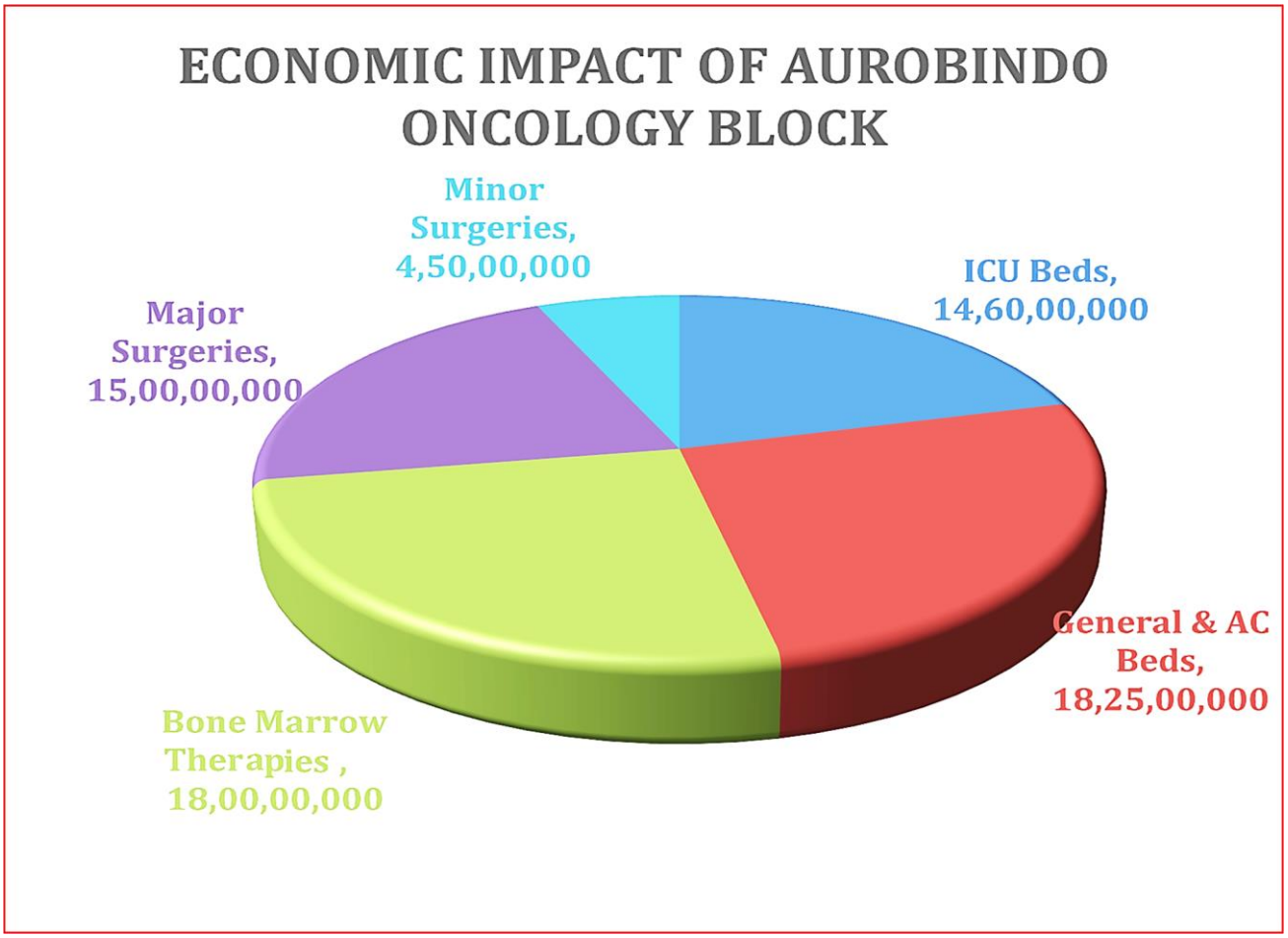
Strengthened Public Health Infrastructure: The project significantly strengthens Telangana's healthcare system by establishing a multidisciplinary, high-capacity cancer care center. It reduces the burden on other medical facilities and supports the state's overall healthcare development.

Economic and Social Impact: By minimizing treatment costs and improving health outcomes, the initiative has lessened the financial strain on families and helped cancer patients regain productivity. This, in turn, fosters wider socio-economic benefits for communities.

Financial Assistance and Cost Savings

ICU Beds

- Estimated Cost Savings per Year: ₹14.60 Crore
- Critical care units are vital for patients with severe complications. The Oncology Block subsidizes ICU treatments, enabling life-saving interventions at minimal costs. Cost savings are calculated based on ₹10,000 per day per bed for 50 beds, with an 80% occupancy rate over 365 days.



General and AC Beds

- Estimated Cost Savings per Year: ₹18.25 Crore
- Many patients require extended hospital stays. By offering general and AC beds at significantly reduced costs, the financial burden on patients is alleviated. Cost savings are estimated at ₹2,500 per day per bed for 250 beds, with an 80% occupancy rate over 365 days.

These subsidized facilities not only make high-quality cancer care more accessible but also provide substantial financial relief to underprivileged families.

Bone Marrow Transplantations:

- **Estimated Cost Savings: ₹18 Crores**
- The Aurobindo Oncology Block has emerged as a beacon of hope for underprivileged cancer patients, providing access to advanced treatments that are often financially out of reach. Among these, **bone marrow transplantation**—one of the most expensive cancer treatments—is now accessible to those in need. The dedicated fourth floor of the facility specializes in delivering this cutting-edge therapy, ensuring that patients who could never afford such treatments in private hospitals receive the care they deserve.
- The transformative impact of the Oncology Block is exemplified through the inspiring stories of patients like **Shreya** and **Gopi Chand**. These individuals, among the most economically disadvantaged, turned to the Aurobindo Oncology Block as a last resort after exhausting their options in private hospitals. Their successful treatment underscores the block's pivotal role in offering a lifeline to the poorest of the poor, reinforcing its mission to provide equitable and compassionate cancer care.

Bone marrow therapy, commonly known as bone marrow transplant (BMT) or hematopoietic stem cell transplant (HSCT), plays a crucial role in treating various types of cancers and blood-related disorders. The therapy involves replacing damaged or diseased bone marrow with healthy stem cells, which can regenerate healthy blood cells.

Success Rates of Bone Marrow Transplants by Age: Success rates for BMT depend on several factors, including the type of cancer, overall health, and age. Below is an overview:

Children (0-18 years): Success Rate: 70-90% for matched sibling donor transplants.
Factors: Younger patients recover faster and have fewer comorbidities.

Adults (19-40 years): Success Rate: 60-80%, depending on cancer type and donor match.
Factors: Response to prior treatment and genetic compatibility.

Middle-Aged (41-60 years): Success Rate: 50-70%.
Factors: Higher rates of graft-versus-host disease (GVHD) and slower recovery.

Older (60+ years): Success Rate: 30-50%.
Factors: Pre-existing health conditions and reduced tolerance for intensive therapy.

Bone Marrow Transplantation (BMT): Expanding Access and Reducing Costs
Bone marrow transplantation, one of the most expensive cancer treatments, comes with an estimated cost ranging from ₹10.00 to ₹30.00 lakhs. Such excessive costs are unaffordable not only for the poor but also for middle-class families. Before the construction of the Aurobindo Oncology Block, the MNJ Institute could perform only **2 BMTs per month**, leaving many cancer patients unable to receive this life-saving

treatment. The addition of a dedicated fourth floor has transformed this scenario, enabling the Institute to perform **6 additional BMTs per month**, effectively **tripling its capacity**.

The financial impact of this expanded capability is profound. With cost savings estimated at ₹25.00 lakh per BMT, the additional 6 BMTs per month over 12 months generate **₹18.00 crore in annual cost savings**, making advanced cancer care significantly more accessible to those in need. This enhanced capacity underscores the transformative role of the Aurobindo Oncology block in providing equitable access to critical cancer treatments while alleviating the financial burden on patients and their families.

Major Surgeries:

- Estimated Cost Savings per year: ₹15.00 Crore
- Cancer surgeries, often critical to treatment, are typically unaffordable for economically weaker sections. By offering these surgeries at a fraction of the cost, the block has saved lives while easing financial stress. The savings through major surgeries are estimated at ₹ 1.5 lakhs per surgery and 1,000 surgeries per year.

Minor Surgeries

- Estimated Cost Savings per year: ₹4.50 Crore
- Even minor surgeries can pose a financial challenge. Through its affordable services, the oncology block has ensured that no patient is deprived of essential care. Minor surgeries are estimated at ₹ 1 Lac per surgery and 450 surgeries per year.

Total estimated Direct Economic Impact for poor and needy patients

- Total Estimated Cost Savings: ₹70.35 Crore
- The economic impact of these cost savings extends beyond direct financial benefits, encompassing improved quality of life, reduced stress, and better health outcomes for cancer patients and their families. The cost of cancer treatment is expensive in corporate hospitals. The APF's CSR initiative helped **₹. 70.35 Crore** per year Crores to Poor and Marginalised Cancer patients. The Aurobindo Oncology Block exemplifies the profound impact of targeted healthcare interventions on society's most vulnerable populations. By providing accessible and affordable cancer treatment, this initiative not only alleviates economic hardship but also upholds the principles of equity and social justice in healthcare.

Apart from the direct benefit to the primary beneficiaries, the new block has also created employment opportunities for 7+ additional doctors, 90+ Nurses and 50+ Supporting staff such as registration, housekeeping and security personnel.

Alignment with Indian Health Norms: The initiative directly supports government schemes like Ayushman Bharat and the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases, and Stroke (NPCDCS). Furthermore, it sets benchmarks for public-private partnerships in healthcare.

4.6. Sustainability

Sustainability refers to the continuation of positive effects after the cessation of development or aid. This critical evaluation criterion considers key elements, such as the likelihood of sustained benefits, risk tolerance, and the presence of robust frameworks. Achieving sustainability requires a well-structured governing framework, a sound financial model, and an efficient operating system.

The MNJ Institute of Oncology and State Cancer Institute, operated by the Telangana government, exemplifies a sustainable healthcare model. All operational expenses are funded through the state government's budget, ensuring financial stability and governance security. By providing free-of-cost cancer care services to underprivileged individuals, the Institute addresses critical healthcare needs without financial or operational threats.

To further strengthen sustainability, adequate numbers of doctors have been deployed to maintain the optimal doctor-to-patient ratio. Additionally, the ongoing recruitment of new staff nurses highlights the management's commitment to delivering continuous and high-quality cancer care services.

This proactive approach ensures that the MNJ Institute remains a reliable and sustainable pillar in cancer care, providing long-term benefits to patients and the community at large.

4.7. Branding and Visibility

The physical verification of the Aurobindo Oncology Block confirms the prominent visibility of the "Aurobindo Pharma Foundation" branding. The name is displayed at multiple strategic locations across the facility, ensuring high visibility and recognition. A dedicated Foundation Stone (*Silaphalakam*) further highlights the contribution of the Foundation.

The live telecast of the inauguration ceremony, which featured participation from local and state leaders, amplified awareness of the project. Additionally, widespread coverage in local and national newspapers through photographs and news articles reinforced the branding and outreach efforts.

Feedback collected from stakeholders indicates that the "Aurobindo Pharma" branding is not only appropriate but also leaves a satisfying impression, reflecting the Foundation's commitment to impactful community initiatives.

Branding and Visibility in various areas of Aurobindo Oncology Block at MNJ Institute of Oncology, Hyderabad:

5. Challenges

5.1 Waste Management Transition

Currently, the waste management operations at the Aurobindo Oncology Block are managed by an outside NGO as part of a social service initiative, free of cost. However, this arrangement is scheduled to conclude in **January 2025**, requiring the institute to establish an alternative, sustainable waste management system.

Transition Plan and Challenges: The management plans to assume responsibility for waste management internally, with anticipated support from the Telangana Government. While this transition aims to ensure continuity and improved waste management, it comes with several challenges:

Logistics and Infrastructure

- Establishing facilities for the segregation, treatment, and safe disposal of biomedical and general waste.
- Ensuring the system adheres to prescribed standards and is scalable for the institute's needs.

Budget Allocation

- Securing adequate funds for equipment procurement, staffing, and ongoing maintenance.
- Allocating resources without compromising other critical operations.

Staff Training

- Conducting comprehensive training programs to ensure staff understand proper waste handling protocols.
- Minimizing environmental impact while prioritizing occupational safety.

Regulatory Compliance

- Aligning operations with the **Biomedical Waste Management Rules, 2016**, and other relevant national and state-level guidelines.
- Ensuring regular audits and updates to maintain compliance with evolving regulations.

Way Forward

The management's proactive approach to transitioning waste management operations demonstrates their commitment to sustainability and environmental responsibility. Establishing a robust framework supported by the Telangana Government will be essential to address these challenges effectively and maintain the institute’s operational excellence.

5.2 Advanced Diagnostics

Though the MNJ Oncology Institute provides whatever cancer care services available there at free of charge, some advanced diagnostics facilities are not available at the hospital. Those diagnostics, indeed, not available anywhere in the country except Delhi. This is causing delayed reports and financial difficulties for the patients.

5.3 Water Scarcity

The hospital faces significant water shortages, which impact daily operations and patient care. The primary causes include the over-reliance on a limited municipal water supply and inadequate groundwater extraction facilities. This shortage poses risks to essential healthcare, particularly during times of high demand.

5.4 Modern Washrooms Accessibility

The hospital's modern washrooms are designed with Western-style toilets, which may not be user-friendly for patients and visitors accustomed to Indian-style toilets. This is creating comfort and accessibility issues, particularly for elderly patients and those from rural or slum backgrounds.

5.5 Water Cooling System

The existing water-cooling system consumes excessive water, exacerbating the water scarcity issue and increasing operational costs. This system's inefficiency reduces overall comfort for patients, doctors, and visitors.

5.6 Lack of Digitalized Hospital Records

The hospital relies heavily on manual record-keeping systems, leading to inefficiencies in data management and retrieval. The manual records may result in errors, data loss and delays in accessing critical patient information.

5.7 Drinking Water Facilities

The absence of dedicated drinking water facilities is a significant challenge for patients, attendants, and staff at the hospital. Inadequate access to clean and safe drinking water can impact on patient comfort and well-being, leading to potential dehydration, especially for patients undergoing treatments like chemotherapy. Moreover, this deficiency creates inconvenience for attendants and staff, affecting their overall experience at the hospital.

Addressing these challenges effectively will require concerted effort and investment from the management. However, implementing the proposed solutions will improve operational efficiency, enhance patient comfort, and contribute to the sustainability of the hospital's services.

6. Recommendations and Way Forward

The following recommendations and strategies are proposed to address the identified challenges and further enhance the impact and sustainability of the Aurobindo Oncology Block.

6.1. Integrating Cancer Awareness and Screening Programs

Early Detection Campaigns

- Conduct regular cancer awareness drives to educate the public about early signs, risk factors, and preventive measures.
- Partner with local NGOs and health organizations to reach rural and underserved areas.

Mobile Screening Units

- Deploy mobile diagnostic units equipped for cancer screening to improve outreach in remote locations.
- Prioritize areas with low awareness and limited access to healthcare services.

6.2. Enhancing Accessibility for Economically Weaker Sections

Ambulance Services

- Expand ambulance networks to cover underserved regions, ensuring timely transportation for critical cases.
- Provide subsidized or free transportation for Below Poverty Line (BPL) patients.

Medical Camps

- Organize periodic medical camps in rural and semi-urban areas for free consultations, diagnosis, and referrals.
- Leverage local community leaders and health workers to increase participation.

6.3. Strengthening Monitoring Mechanisms for Long-term Sustainability

Digitalized Record-Keeping

- Implement a robust Hospital Management Information System (HMIS) to store and manage patient data digitally ensuring accuracy and easy retrieval
- Provide training to staff on the use of digital systems to enhance their effectiveness and efficiency.
- Ensure robust data backup protocols and security measures to protect against data loss or breaches.

- Regularly monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of hospital operations using digital analytics.
- Ensure that the new system is interoperable with other healthcare systems and allows for seamless data exchange.

6.4. Scaling Impact Through Collaboration

CSR and Government Partnerships

- Collaborate with other corporate entities and government health schemes like Ayushman Bharat to expand financial and technical support.
- Seek funding for specialized equipment, training programs, and community outreach initiatives.

Research and Development

- Partner with academic and medical institutions to support cancer research and innovation in treatment protocols.

6.5. Optimizing Facility Utilization

Vacant Operation Theatre on the 4th Floor

- Equip and operationalize the unused OT to increase surgical capacity.
- Recruit additional medical and support staff as needed to handle the increased workload.

6.6. Resolving Water Scarcity and Waste Management Issues

Water Conservation Measures

- Install rainwater harvesting systems and greywater recycling units to reduce dependency on external water sources.
- Increasing the capacity of groundwater extraction by drilling new bore wells or enhancing the existing ones.
- Installing water-saving fixtures and optimizing water usage through technologies like automatic taps and water-efficient cooling systems.
- Transition to energy-efficient air-conditioning systems and water-saving technologies in cooling towers to recycle and minimize water wastage.
- Regularly maintain and optimize the existing systems to ensure their efficiency and minimize water loss.

Waste Management Transition

- Develop an in-house waste management system to replace the services currently provided by outside NGO.
- Ensure compliance with biomedical waste management regulations through staff training and necessary infrastructure investments.

6.7. Improving Washroom Accessibility

Retrofitting Toilets

- Introduce a combination of Western and Indian-style toilets in washrooms to accommodate diverse user preferences.
- Designate specific washrooms for elderly and disabled patients, ensuring easy access to both types of toilet systems.
- Provide clear signage and guidance for patients to locate the washroom that suits their needs, enhancing the comfort of all visitors.

6.8. Enhancing Drinking Water Facilities

- Install multiple water dispensers and water coolers equipped with filtration systems at key points throughout the hospital, including waiting areas, patient rooms, corridors, and staff rooms. These should be easily accessible to both patients and staff.
- Implement point-of-use water filtration systems in various parts of the hospital, ensuring that drinking water is purified and safe for consumption. This system can be placed at taps or in specialized water stations.
- If infrastructure for filtration is not immediately feasible, set up stations with clean bottled water dispensers in high-traffic areas for the convenience of patients and staff.
- Establish a regular testing protocol to ensure that the drinking water provided meets safety and quality standards, minimizing any potential health risks.
- Display clear signs indicating the availability of drinking water stations and encourage patients and attendants to stay hydrated, especially those undergoing treatments like chemotherapy who may be at a higher risk of dehydration.

6.9. Way Forward

The implementation of these recommendations requires a phased approach:

A. **Short-Term Actions (0–6 months):**

- Resolve immediate issues such as drinking water availability and water scarcity.
- Conduct pilot cancer awareness and screening programs in nearby rural areas.
- Retrofit washrooms for accessibility.

B. **Mid-Term Actions (6–12 months):**

- Operationalize the vacant OT on the 4th floor.
- Transition to an in-house waste management system.
- Digitize hospital records to streamline monitoring and evaluation.

C. **Long-Term Actions (12+ months):**

- Establish collaborations with CSR and government programs to scale impact.
- Build sustainable systems for water and energy management.

- Expand cancer awareness campaigns and medical camps to a state-wide level.

By implementing these strategies, the Aurobindo Oncology Block can continue to serve as a model for accessible, sustainable, and high-quality cancer care, benefiting not only Telangana but also neighbouring states.

The oncology block constructed at the MNJ Institute of Oncology & State Cancer Institute under the aegis of Aurobindo Pharma Foundation's CSR initiative represents a monumental stride in addressing India's cancer care gap. With India being dubbed the "cancer capital of the world" and annual cancer cases projected to surpass 1.57 million by 2025, the need for specialized oncology facilities has never been more critical. The addition of 300 state-of-the-art beds has not only enhanced the institute's capacity to 750 beds but has also brought quality, affordable cancer care within reach of economically weaker sections across Telangana and neighboring states.

Through this project, the institute now caters to a significantly larger patient base (Increased New Patients by 29% and Follow-up patients by 33%), reducing waiting times from 2 months to Nil and improving the accessibility of multidisciplinary cancer care. This initiative has directly contributed to national healthcare goals, particularly SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being), by fostering universal health coverage and reducing premature mortality from non-communicable diseases. The project's impact, as evidenced by measurable improvements in patient outcomes and quality of life, highlights its alignment with government priorities and its potential as a model for replication nationwide.

7. Scoring Matrix

The scoring matrix was used to evaluate and score performance of the Project. The following table provides the overall rating across the defined parameters:

OECD Parameters	Indicators	Weightage	Score Achieved	Combined Weightage	Weighted Average Score
Relevance	Need assessment report	20%	20%	W1: 40%	**40%**
	Relevance to patients	50%	50%		
	Alignment with SDGs	30%	30%		
	Alignment with national policies	50%	50%		
Coherence	Alignment with Aurobindo CSR policy	50%	50%		
Efficiency	Timeline Adherence: Project Completion	40%	40%	W2: 40%	**40%**
	Adherence: Budget	40%	40%		
	Duplication of project	20%	20%		
Effectiveness	Target achievement	100%	100%		
Impact	Cost Savings for Patients	25%	25%		
	Increased No of Surgeries/Treatments after APF Intervention	25%	25%		
	New and Modern Equipment	25%	25%		
	Jobs/Livelihoods Created	25%	25%		
Sustainability	Sustainability mechanism	50%	50%	W3: 10%	**8.5%**
	Maintenance and biomedical waste management.	50%	35%		
Branding	Branding/visibility	100%	100%	W4: 10%	**10%**
Score= W1*Average (Relevance, Coherence) + W2*Average (Efficiency, Effectiveness, **Impact) + W3* (Sustainability)** + W4 (Branding)					**98.5%**

The project implemented in MNJ Cancer Institute scored an **average of 98.5%**. The project was aligned to APF's CSR policy and SDGs and was relevant to the needs of the community. The completion rate was 100% for the project and as per the discussion with the stakeholders from APF & MNJ organisations, the project catered to needs of cancer patients from Telangana and surrounding states. Sustainability is rated at 85% due to the need for improved maintenance of the block and treatment of waste management. The total score of the project is 98.5% due to which this project can be rated as **"Highly Impactful"** in nature.

8. Testimonials

Before the "Aurobindo Oncology Block" inauguration, the existing MNJ Hospital is crowded with cancer patients as only 450 beds were available and the waiting time for patients to get the bed was almost 2 months sometimes. The ambience was also very poor in the existing block. Now, after the new "Aurobindo Oncology Block" starts functioning the staff also increased to accommodate the increasing number of patients. We were able to cutdown the waiting time to almost Zero. We are also able to provide state-of-the-art medical care for the cancer patients getting treatment here, who are mostly poor and needy. The patients are given treatment in the spacious and well-ventilated wards. We have established a day care unit, where around 50 chemotherapies are being conducted. Previously, the patient needed to be attended for 3 days for chemotherapy, whereas now he can get the treatment on the same day of the visit. This also has an added advantage for the poor patients who are daily wage workers by way of 2 days livelihoods. This is all made possible only due to the construction of new "Aurobindo Oncology Block.

Around 100 pediatric patients are getting cured at any time in the hospital due to the dedicated pediatric ward on the 3rd Floor. Further, we can conduct 6 additional Bone Marrow Transplantations in addition to the earlier 2 BMTs making it to a total of 8 per month. We are proud to announce that we have completed 100 BMTs after the inauguration of the new Aurobindo Block. We have installed the latest state-of-the-art high-end radiation therapy machine Halcyon in the new block and around 60 patients per day are using the machine for treatment. The Aurobindo Oncology block has achieved remarkable outcomes in reducing the financial burden on poor and marginalized cancer patients. The upgraded infrastructure and enhanced services provide substantial cost savings, ensuring equitable access to critical care. The treatment with this machine reduced the time to 1/3rd compared to the normal radiation therapy machine and the machine is more doctor and patient friendly. All these developments are made possible because of the construction of Aurobindo Oncology block.

The block is constructed with an excellent ambience which is better than corporate hospitals and we on behalf of our staff and patients thank the Aurobindo Pharma Foundation.

Dr. M. Srinivasulu, Director, MNJ Institute of Oncology and State Cancer Institute

The Aurobindo Oncology Block has made a notable contribution in our efforts to provide state-of-the-art free cancer treatments to the poor and needy patients coming from various states. Earlier, as there is no day care unit and Halcyon radiation therapy, the patients need to wait 2 to 3 days for bed and there are not enough beds. Due to the additional 300 beds, with dedicated day care unit and new high-end radiation therapy machine, most of the patients are getting discharged on the same day and this facilitates the immediate bed allotment to the critical care patients. The doctors, nurses and other support staff also increased to accommodate the increasing number of patients. The patients and attenders (Parents / Relatives) are feeling happy with the facilities available in the new Aurobindo Oncology Block.

Dr. Krishna Chaitanya, Professor, Medical Oncology.

The construction of Aurobindo Oncology Block has eased our work through the infrastructure and additional manpower. We don't have any partiality, whether it is demographic or economic condition of the patient, we only have doctor – patient relationship. I suggest the existing Air-Cooling system to be replaced with Air Conditioning as the air-cooling system is consuming more water, and water scarcity is a huge problem which needs to be addressed immediately.

Dr. D. Raghunath Rao, HoD, Medical Oncology.

I have been working as a volunteer in the MNJ Institute for the past 5 years, I am from Aroh Foundation, Chennai. I have seen the patients waiting for days and coming to me requesting to facilitate the bed immediately, but we are helpless at that time. Now I am witnessing the change created by the new Aurobindo Oncology Block in the waiting time reduced to almost nil and the excellent ambience available to the patients. I have also witnessed the patients praising Aurobindo Pharma for creating a corporate level hospital for them. The patients are grateful to the Aurobindo Pharma.

Hari Krishna, Volunteer, Aroh Foundation.

9. Case Studies

Case Study 1: A New Lease of Life for Shreya Through MNJ Aurobindo Oncology Block

The establishment of the Aurobindo Block at MNJ Institute of Oncology has revolutionized cancer care, offering advanced treatments like bone marrow transplantation (BMT) for patients who previously lacked access. This case study highlights the transformative journey of Shreya, an 8-year-old girl from Bidar, who overcame B-cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (B-ALL) thanks to the free treatment and facilities provided at MNJ. The financial burden, which could have been insurmountable for her family, was entirely removed, enabling Shreya to regain her health and lead a normal life.

Background: Shreya, a bright and active girl from Bidar, Karnataka, began experiencing persistent fever in 2021. Her father, Rachaiah Swamy Jali, a KSRTC driver, and her mother, a homemaker, initially sought treatment at a small clinic in Gulbarga. Despite initial efforts, her symptoms persisted, prompting the family to seek further medical assistance.

Subsequent visits to a hospital in Bidar revealed abnormal White Blood Cell (WBC) counts, a potential indicator of a severe underlying condition. Alarmed by the findings, Shreya was referred to Niloufer Hospital in Hyderabad. It was here that she received the devastating diagnosis of B-cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (B-ALL), a type of blood cancer requiring advanced and specialized care. For a family with limited financial resources, accessing such care appeared impossible, casting a shadow over Shreya's future. **The challenges** faced by Shreya's family were multifaceted and daunting:

Financial Constraints: The family's sole income came from Rachaiah's modest earnings as a KSRTC driver, which were insufficient to cover basic household needs. The estimated cost of bone marrow transplantation, ranging from ₹15 to ₹20 lakhs per procedure, was entirely out of their reach.
Limited Access to Advanced Care: At the time, no government hospitals in the region offered advanced cancer treatments like BMT, forcing patients to rely on expensive private facilities or distant healthcare centers.
Emotional Toll: The emotional strain of grappling with a life-threatening diagnosis for their daughter, coupled with the stress of financial limitations, placed an immense burden on the family.

Approach: Advanced Care at MNJ Aurobindo Oncology Block - The newly constructed Aurobindo Block at MNJ Institute of Oncology provided a transformative solution to the family's plight. This state-of-the-art, 300-bed facility offers comprehensive cancer care, including bone marrow transplantation, entirely free of cost.

Key Elements of Shreya's Treatment Plan:

Bone Marrow Transplants: Shreya underwent two autologous bone marrow transplants, first in 2021 and again in 2022 at the old block. These procedures were critical in treating her B-ALL. At that time, the family faced difficulties in finding the bed and felt the need of expansion of the hospital. Further, the amenities and accessibility were also the constraints for getting the treatment at the old block.
Follow-Up Care: Post-treatment, Shreya has been on a strict regime of follow-up medications for two years to ensure her condition remains stable and to prevent recurrence. Now, the follow-up treatment and medications are being provided at the new block. The family felt happy about the new block and expressed their faith that many children like Shrey will get better treatment in the better environment unlike Shreya.
Comprehensive Financial Relief: The cost of two BMTs, amounting to approximately ₹30–₹40 lakhs, was entirely covered by the hospital. Additional expenses for follow-up medicines (₹2–₹3 lakhs annually) and diagnostic tests (₹5–₹7 lakhs) were also provided free of charge.
Family Support Services: The hospital provided counseling and emotional support to the family, helping them navigate the complexities of treatment and recovery in the new block.

Results

Health Outcome: Shreya's health has improved significantly. She has resumed attending school and is actively participating in activities with her peers, embodying the resilience and hope her recovery symbolizes.
Economic Impact: By availing free treatment, the family avoided an overwhelming financial burden of ₹40–₹50 lakhs over two years. This has allowed Rachaiah to focus on his job and maintain economic stability for his family.

Emotional Relief: The family's anxiety over securing funds for treatment was replaced with hope and gratitude. This emotional stability was pivotal in supporting Shreya's recovery journey.
Healthcare Accessibility: The Aurobindo Oncology Block's success has highlighted the importance of accessible and equitable healthcare infrastructure, setting a benchmark for public healthcare facilities.

Case Study 2: A Ray of Hope for P. Gopi Chand Through BMT at Aurobindo Oncology Block

This case study highlights the journey of P. Gopi Chand, a 3-year-old boy from Kothapatnam village, Ongole District, Andhra Pradesh, who is battling Neuroblastoma. Despite facing severe financial constraints, Gopi Chand's family found hope and advanced medical care at the Aurobindo Block of MNJ Institute of Oncology. With cutting-edge treatment, including the ongoing Bone Marrow Transplantation (BMT), and a success rate of 90% in infants, the family is optimistic about Gopi Chand's recovery.

Background: P. Gopi Chand, the son of Venkateswarlu and his wife, hails from a below-poverty-line family in Kothapatnam village. Venkateswarlu earns a modest income as a fisherman, while his wife assists in selling fish to support the family. A year ago, Gopi Chand developed persistent fever and stomachache. Initially, he was admitted to a small private hospital in Ongole, but his condition showed no improvement. Desperate for answers, the family took him to Ankur Hospital in Vijayawada. Here, after spending their savings of ₹1.5 lakhs and borrowing an additional ₹50,000, the diagnostics revealed Neuroblastoma, a rare and aggressive childhood cancer.

The Challenges are

Financial Strain: The family's limited income and already exhausted savings left them unable to afford the low-cost treatment offered at Ankur Hospital.
Limited Treatment Options: While Gopi Chand underwent 8 rounds of chemotherapy at Basavataarakam Indo American Oncology Hospital in Hyderabad, the disease remained uncontrolled. Basavataarakam hospital lacked the capability to perform BMT, the last resort for controlling Neuroblastoma.
Emotional Burden: Coping with a young child's life-threatening illness placed an enormous emotional toll on the family, compounded by the uncertainty of treatment outcomes.

Approach:

Advanced Care at MNJ Aurobindo Oncology Block

The family's turning point came when local leaders guided them to MNJ Institute of Oncology's Aurobindo Block in Hyderabad. This state-of-the-art facility offers specialized treatments, including BMT, completely free of charge.

Key Elements of Gopi Chand's Treatment Plan:

Admission and Diagnostics: Gopi Chand was admitted to the Aurobindo Block 13 days ago, where comprehensive diagnostics and preparatory procedures were initiated.

Bone Marrow Transplantation (BMT):

- The BMT process, known for its high success rate of 90% in infants, is currently ongoing.
- The procedure is performed under the care of skilled specialists, using advanced medical equipment and technology.

Comprehensive Financial and Emotional Support:

- The family's financial burden was completely alleviated, enabling them to focus solely on Gopi Chand's recovery.
- Hospital staff provided counseling and emotional support to the family, instilling hope and resilience.

Results

- **Health Progress:** While the BMT process is still ongoing, initial signs are promising, and the medical team remains optimistic about a successful outcome.
- **Economic Relief:** The family was spared an insurmountable expense of ₹20–30 lakhs, which would have been required for BMT in a private facility.
- **Emotional Well-Being:** Venkateswarlu' s confidence in the success of the treatment reflects the family's renewed hope and optimism.

Conclusion: The journeys of Gopi Chand and Shreya underscore the transformative power of accessible and advanced healthcare infrastructure. The Aurobindo Block at MNJ Institute of Oncology stands as a testament to the critical **role of CSR in public healthcare investments** to bridge the gap between medical innovation and the underserved population. By providing cutting-edge treatments and comprehensive support, the institute restores hope for families facing seemingly insurmountable odds. These stories are not merely narratives of survival but beacons of hope for countless families battling similar challenges. They call for sustained investment in healthcare infrastructure and policies to ensure that financial limitations never obstruct life-saving treatments. The success of the CSR Initiative of Aurobindo Pharma Foundation, the Aurobindo Oncology Block serves as a blueprint for achieving equitable healthcare, ensuring that such inspiring stories become the norm rather than the exception.

Other Infrastructure provided:

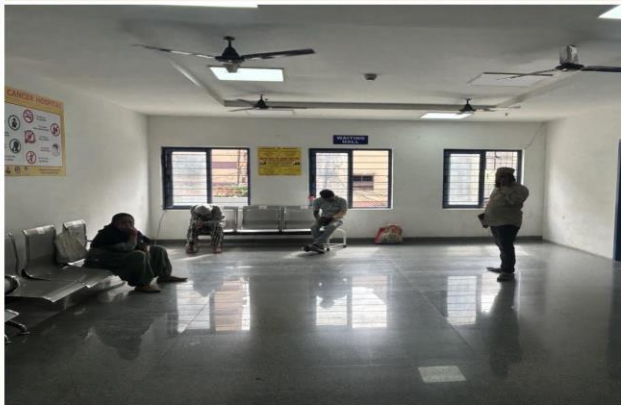
11
12

WATER
SAFE
POWD
SAFE

TELANGANA
RISING
SECURITY
OFFICE
ONCOLOGY & REGIONAL CANCER CENTER

FUJITEC
24 PERSONS
1632KG
FUJITEC
PASSENGER SAFETY TIPS

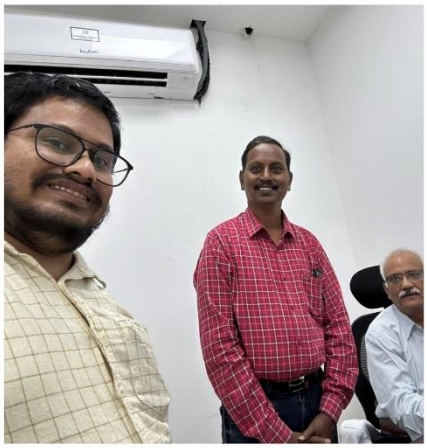
GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA
INSTITUTE OF ONCOLOGY & STATE CANCER INSTITUTE
AUROBINDO PHARMA FOUNDATION



Interview with Director MNJ Institute of Oncology & State Cance Institute:

Interview and Statistical data collection – Dr. Krishna Chaitanya

Discussion with patients, attenders and stakeholders



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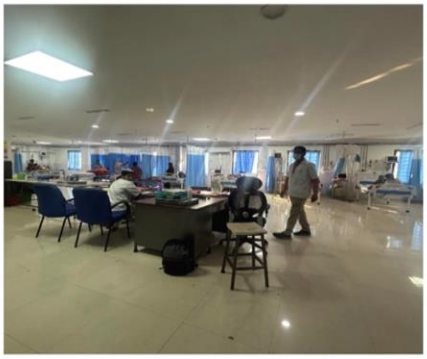

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TOILETS

Impact Assessment Report of Hare Krishna Movement Charitable Foundation Centralised Kitchen, Perumallapuram, Kakinada District, Andhra Pradesh

Constructed by Aurobindo Pharma Foundation (a Philanthropic arm of Aurobindo Pharma Ltd under Corporate Social Responsibility)

Submitted to

AUROBINDO PHARMA FOUNDATION

Submitted by

apmas

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Abbreviations

APF	Aurobindo Pharma Foundation
APMAS	Mahila Abhivruddhi Society, Andhra Pradesh
BMI	Body Mass Index
BPL	Below Poverty Line
CC	Cement Concrete
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
HKMCF	Hare Krishna Movement Charitable Foundation
HO	Head Office
ISO	International Organisation for Standardization
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NGO	Non-Government Organisations
NPO	Not for Profit Organisations
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
REESI	Relevance, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Sustainability, and Impact
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SEZ	Special Economic Zone
SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures
SSP	Semi-Synthetic Penicillin
UN	United Nations

Acknowledgements

On behalf of APMAS, we express our deepest gratitude to the Aurobindo Pharma Foundation for entrusting us with the opportunity to conduct the impact assessment of the centralized kitchen established by the Hare Krishna Movement Charitable Foundation at Perumallapuram village, Kakinada district, Andhra Pradesh state. This remarkable initiative, which provides free breakfast meals to students in government schools across two mandals of the Kakinada district, has been a profound source of inspiration. Witnessing and documenting the transformative impact of this CSR initiative on underprivileged students has been both a privilege and a deeply meaningful experience.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to the Kitchen In-Charge, Mr. Manik Prabhi, for his invaluable and unwavering support throughout the assessment process. His openness in sharing key insights and his dedication to the project have significantly enriched this report. Our gratitude also goes to the Supervisor and the staff of the centralized kitchen, whose cooperation added immense value to our understanding of the initiative's far-reaching impact.

A special thanks to the headmasters, teaching and non-teaching staff, students, and their parents who generously shared their time, feedback, and perspectives. Your voices and experiences have been the heart and soul of this report, infusing it with authenticity and depth.

We are profoundly grateful to the APF-CSR Team at Kakinada for their support, accompaniment, and warm hospitality, which played an instrumental role in the seamless completion of this assessment study.

With sincere gratitude

Team APMAS
Hyderabad

January 2025

1. Executive Summary

1.1. Project Overview

Aurobindo Pharma Foundation collaborated with the Hare Krishna Movement Charitable Foundation (HKMCF) to construct India's first solar-powered HKMCF kitchen, equipped with high-end automated kitchen equipment, with an outlay of ₹9.63 crores. This new kitchen, with a daily capacity of 6,000 breakfast meals, prepares fresh, nutritious, and diverse meals every day, which are then distributed Free of Cost to 46 government schools in the Thondangi and U. Kothapalli mandals of Krishna district. The daily cost of these free breakfast meals is borne by the Aurobindo Pharma Foundation. This initiative marks a significant stride towards improving student well-being and fostering social transformation.

The centralized kitchen spans fifty cents of a two-acre land and was inaugurated on 22 December 2022. It currently serves free, nutritious breakfast meals to 46 schools in 38 villages across two mandals in the district, benefiting approximately 4,500 children each day. The kitchen's output has grown substantially over the past three years.

- **FY 2022-23:** 4.8 lakh breakfasts
- **FY 2023-24:** 10 lakh breakfasts
- **FY 2024-25:** 5.2 lakh breakfasts (till December 2024)

These efforts align with India’s CSR objectives and significantly contribute to the United Nation policies and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). By addressing food insecurity, enhancing nutritional standards, promoting academic focus, and reducing disparities, this initiative demonstrates the transformative potential of CSR driven socio-economic advancements.

1.2. Impact Assessment

The Impact Assessment Study was designed to evaluate the project’s relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, and tangible benefits for stakeholders. The study focused on operational efficiency, student satisfaction, and educational and nutritional outcomes, guided by the comprehensive REESI Framework (Relevance, Efficiency, Effectiveness, Sustainability, and Impact). Key areas of analysis included student energy levels, attendance, classroom focus, and overall well-being.

A mixed-method research design was employed, integrating both quantitative and qualitative approaches. The study included 232 respondents, comprising students, teaching and non-teaching staff, headmasters, parents, and kitchen staff, selected through purposive sampling. Data collection methods included:

- Interview questionnaires
- Check list for focus group discussions
- Observations during the visit to the kitchen and schools
- Review of records and registers

1.3. Perspectives of Students, Teachers, and Parents

The findings from the Impact Assessment Study highlight the program's overwhelming success. Feedback from students, teachers, and parents revealed prominent levels of satisfaction and significant improvements across several parameters:

Table 1: Key Findings

Parameters	Students	Teachers	Parents
Satisfaction with taste, quality, quantity of the breakfast meals	97%	100%	100%
Improved nutritional outcomes of the students	97.2%	100%	100%
Enhanced focus in classrooms by students	100%	100%	100%
Reduction in malnutrition among students	98.4%	97.5%	100%
Reduction in parental work and financial burden for families	100%	100%	100%

Key Outcomes

Improved Attendance: The availability of a breakfast has encouraged timely arrival and increased attendance rates from 99% (baseline) to 99.8%.

Reduced malnourished /underweight students by 55% due to the implementation of a free breakfast program, over a period of two years and three months, comparing data from the baseline in September 2022 to the impact assessment in December 2024.

Table 2: Nutritional Outcomes

Nutritional Outcomes	Baseline (Sept 2022)	Assessment (Dec 2024)
Severely underweight	66%	03%
Underweight	16%	17%
Normal weight	18%	73%
Overweight	0%	07%

The data indicates a remarkable reduction in the percentage of severely underweight students, decreasing from 66% to 3%. While the proportion of underweight students has remained relatively stable (16% to 17%), there has been a substantial increase in students achieving normal weight status, rising from 18% to 73%. Additionally, the percentage of overweight students has increased from 0% to 7%.

These findings provide compelling evidence of the program's success in enhancing students' nutritional status. The reduction in severe underweight cases suggests that the free breakfast initiative has effectively addressed critical nutritional deficiencies. The significant rise in students attaining normal weight underscores the program's role in promoting balanced nutrition and healthy growth among the student population. The emergence of overweight students, increasing from 0% to 7%, warrants attention to ensure appropriate measures are taken to address this issue among students.

Parental Relief: The free breakfast program has resulted in significant economic and time-saving benefits for families, particularly for women. The program eliminated the need for mothers to prepare breakfast, thereby decreasing daily responsibilities and household expenses. Families saved approximately ₹50 per day for one child and ₹11,000 annually; with two children, savings doubled to ₹22,000. These savings are used for meeting other essential needs. Additionally, the program saved mothers approximately one hour daily on meal preparation, serving, and cleaning, allowing them to engage in economic activities such as agricultural or labour work, further contributing to their family's financial stability.

1.4. Recommendations

While the program has demonstrated remarkable success, the following recommendations can help maximize its impact:

1. **Studies:** Conduct annual assessments on student attendance, academic performance, health, and nutritional status to identify evolving needs and trends.
2. **Enhanced Feedback Mechanisms:** Establish structured feedback channels for students, parents, and teachers to refine operational efficiency.
3. **Diversification of Menu:** Introduce new meal options to sustain student interest and continue ensuring balanced nutrition.

1.5. Conclusion

The Centralized Kitchen Project in Kakinada district demonstrates the profound impact of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives in tackling key societal challenges, particularly in nutrition, food security, and education. Through a collaborative effort between Aurobindo Pharma Foundation and the Hare Krishna Movement Charitable Foundation, a modern kitchen facility was established to provide nutritious breakfasts to students in 46 government schools. This initiative has led to improved student attendance and academic performance while reducing financial and time constraints on families, especially benefiting women who can now pursue additional economic opportunities.

Beyond its immediate benefits, the project highlights the power of strategic CSR partnerships in fostering sustainable community development. Its eco-friendly, solar-powered infrastructure not only ensures efficiency but also promotes environmental sustainability, serving as a model for similar programs.

In essence, free breakfast programs in schools yield far-reaching benefits—enhancing student well-being, boosting attendance, and easing financial pressure on families. By ensuring children receive nutritious meals, these initiatives contribute to better learning outcomes and overall development, reinforcing the importance of continued investment in such programs for a healthier, more equitable society.

2. Introduction

2.1. Corporate Social Responsibility

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) refers to companies' voluntary efforts to contribute to societal well-being and environmental sustainability. By integrating social and ethical considerations into their operations, businesses benefit stakeholders, address global challenges, and foster community development. Over time, CSR has evolved into a mainstream strategy shaped by international standards like the UN Global Compact and the Global Reporting Initiative, emphasizing the alignment of corporate goals with societal progress.

Modern CSR transcends profitability and compliance, serving as a bridge between business objectives and societal needs. Companies engaging in CSR reap benefits such as cost savings, regulatory compliance, enhanced brand reputation, stronger stakeholder relationships, employee satisfaction, and innovation. CSR initiatives also align with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), addressing critical global issues such as poverty, inequality, hunger, and environmental degradation, while promoting education and healthcare access.

In India, CSR has transitioned from traditional philanthropy to a structured framework emphasizing stakeholder engagement and legal mandates. The Companies Act, 2013, requires eligible companies to allocate 2% of their average net profits from the preceding three years to CSR initiatives, ensuring efforts are planned, measurable, and aligned with national priorities.

Key developments in India's CSR landscape include:

- **Structured Planning**: CSR efforts are systematically designed and targeted.
- **Focus on Social Challenges**: Initiatives address pressing issues such as poverty, education, healthcare, gender equality, and environmental sustainability.
- **Encouragement of Innovation**: Companies adopt innovative approaches to maximize social returns and develop scalable solutions.
- **Collaborative Efforts:** Partnerships with NGOs, government agencies, and local communities to enhance program effectiveness.
- **Accountability:** Transparency and accountability are emphasized through mandatory reporting of activities, expenditures, and outcomes.

CSR in India exemplifies the transformative potential of corporate contributions to sustainable development. Initiatives like the Centralized Kitchen Project in Kakinada demonstrate how strategic interventions improve education, health, equity, and community resilience while addressing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

2.2. Aurobindo Pharma Limited

Aurobindo Pharma Limited, founded in 1986 by Mr. P. V. Ramprasad Reddy, Mr. K. Nityananda Reddy, and a team of professionals, is a leading pharmaceutical company in India. Commencing operations in 1988-89 with a single unit manufacturing Semi-Synthetic Penicillin in Pondicherry, the company has since expanded into therapeutic areas such as neurosciences, cardiovascular diseases, anti-retroviral, anti-diabetics, gastroenterology, and antibiotics.

The company's growth is driven by its state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities, diversified product portfolio, and robust research and development capabilities. Operational excellence, vertical integration, and regulatory expertise enable Aurobindo Pharma Limited to deliver high-quality, affordable medicines globally. As one of India's top pharmaceutical companies, Aurobindo Pharma Limited remains committed to corporate social responsibility, contributing to community welfare through initiatives that improve quality of life and sustainability.

2.3. Aurobindo Pharma Foundation

The Aurobindo Pharma Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Aurobindo Pharma Limited, implements the CSR activities focusing on education, healthcare, hunger eradication, drinking water availability, poverty alleviation, and environmental sustainability. By aligning with national, as well as global policies, the Foundation ensures inclusive growth and long-term impact for the communities it serves. Its initiatives emphasize transparency, accountability, and collaborative partnerships with community groups, NGOs, and government agencies. Through its responsible approach, the Foundation exemplifies Aurobindo Pharma's commitment to social welfare, inclusive growth, and sustainability.

2.4. About Hare Krishna Movement Charitable Foundation

The Hare Krishna Movement Charitable Foundation (HKMCF) is a registered Trust operating across Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. It is implementing programs like Bhojana-Amritam, Annapurna, Saddimoota, and Swasthya Ahara, providing 65,000 meals aiming to increase to 2.5 lakh meals per day. The Swasthya Ahara program commenced on 1 September 2017 benefitting more than 400 school children at Nehru Memorial School at Malakpet, Hyderabad. The enhanced nutritional value among the children is the prominent vision of Swasthya Ahara and to uphold the vision, HKMCF fostered the breakfast program to ensure ideal growth and development of the mind and body.

2.5. Centralised Kitchen at Perumallapuam, Kakinada

On April 22, 2022, Aurobindo Pharma Foundation (APF), the philanthropic arm of Aurobindo Pharma Ltd, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Hare Krishna Movement Charitable Foundation (HKMCF) to establish a centralized kitchen in the SEZ area of Perumallapuram village, Kakinada district, Andhra Pradesh. This project,

with an investment of ₹9.63 crore, encompasses the construction of a 5,500-square-foot kitchen on a two-acre plot donated by Kakinada SEZ Limited. The facility is designed to prepare and distribute hot, nutritious breakfast meals to students in 40 government schools across 38 villages in the U. Kothapalli and Thondangi mandals, with the capacity for future expansion.

MoU Signing between APF and HKMCF

This initiative is APF's fourth collaboration with HKMCF, following the success of similar kitchens in Narsingi and Mahabubnagar in Telangana, and Srikakulam in Andhra Pradesh. Through this partnership, both organizations aim to create lasting social impact by promoting nutrition and improving the health of children in underserved communities.

The kitchen was inaugurated on 16 December 2022 by dignitaries from Aurobindo Pharma Foundation and Hare Krishna Movement Charitable Foundation. Though originally envisaged the free breakfast program for 40 schools, currently the program, branded as **"Swasthya Ahara,"** serves students in 46 government schools within a 25-30 km radius. This program complements the state's Mid-Day Meal Scheme, encouraging school attendance and reducing dropout rates by addressing hunger and malnutrition among underprivileged children.

Speaking at the inauguration, Sri Satya Gaura Chandra Dasa Swamiji, President of HKMCF, emphasized their commitment to ensuring no one goes hungry within a 10-mile radius of their centres. Sri K. Nithyananda Reddy, Managing Director & Vice Chairperson of

Aurobindo Pharma Ltd, highlighted the initiative's role in promoting education, reducing malnutrition and contribution to better health and school attendance among children.

Inauguration of the Centralised Kitchen

Inauguration of the Centralised Kitchen

3. Methodology and Approach

3.1. Evaluation Framework

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Development Assistance Committee (DAC) criteria provide a robust framework for evaluating the effectiveness and impact of development projects. The key criteria are:

Relevance: Assesses the alignment of the project with the actual needs of the target population and stakeholder priorities, ensuring contextually appropriate goals that address pressing issues.

Coherence: Assesses how well the project aligns with other interventions, broader policies, and strategies, ensuring complementarity and overall harmony in the region.

Effectiveness: Measures the extent to which the project achieved its intended outcomes within the defined timeline and scope.

Efficiency: Assesses the optimal use of resources, including time, money, and personnel, in delivering outputs and achieving value for the resources invested.

Impact: Examines the long-term effects of the project, considering both intended and unintended outcomes and the project's contribution to social, economic, or environmental development.

Sustainability: Assesses the project's long-term viability, considering local capacity, ongoing funding, and the resilience of outcomes.

These criteria provide a comprehensive framework for evaluating development initiatives, ensuring that they achieve immediate goals and deliver sustainable, long-term improvements that are well-coordinated with other efforts in the region.

3.2. Data Collection Tools

The following data collection tools are used in the study:

Interviews: Structured interviews with headmasters of schools and the kitchen staff

Questionnaires: Administered to a sample of students.

Focus Group Discussions (FGDs): Conducted with teaching and non-teaching staff, students, and their parents to assess their perception and awareness.
Observation: Physical verification of facilities and infrastructure.

Table 3: Sample Size

Category of Respondents	**Interviews**	**Focus Groups**	**Tools**
	Sample Size		
Schools visited	5	-	Observation
Head Masters	5	-	Interview Questionnaire
Kitchen Staff	2	-	
Teaching & non-teaching staff		32	Check list for FGD
Students (78 girls & 72 boys)	-	150	
Parents	-	38	
Total Sample (232)	**12**	**220**	

3.3. Sample Size and Data Collection

The total sample size comprised 232 respondents across diverse categories, selected through purposive sampling to ensure comprehensive insights from directly impacted stakeholders. The study utilized both primary and secondary data collection methods:

- **Primary Data**: Gathered through Key Informant Interviews, FGDs and Observations
- **Secondary Data**: Sourced from literature reviews, annual action plans, project reports, media coverage and website of both APF and HKMCF.

A team of three members visited the field and engaged with the stakeholders. The team also visited the Centralised Kitchen and held discussions with the staff to understand the operations, equipment utilization, distribution system and maintenance. Team also took photos during the visits to authenticate the assessment process. The data analysis was done to derive meaningful insights and draw informed conclusions.

Table 4: Field Visits

#	Mandal	Village	Name of the School/ Kitchen	Respondents
1	Thondangi	Danavaripeta	Zilla Parishad High School	Headmaster, teaching and non-teaching staff, students, and parents
2		A V Nagaram	Zilla Parishad High School	
3		A V Nagaram	Mandal Praja Parishad School	
4		Gaddipeta K	Zilla Parishad High School	
5	U Kothapalli	Mulapeta	Zilla Parishad High School	
6	Thondangi	Perumallapuram	Centralised Kitchen	Kitchen staff

3.4. Limitations

Sample Size: Limited to 232 respondents, which might not capture the full spectrum of experiences and impacts across all schools.

Time Constraints: The assessment focused on the short-term impacts, potentially overlooking long-term sustainability issues.

Generalisability: Findings are specific to the breakfast program in two mandals of Kakinada district and may not be fully applicable to other regions or institutions.

Focus Group Discussion with students, ZPHS, Mulapeta

4. Findings and Analysis

4.1. Objectives of Impact Assessment

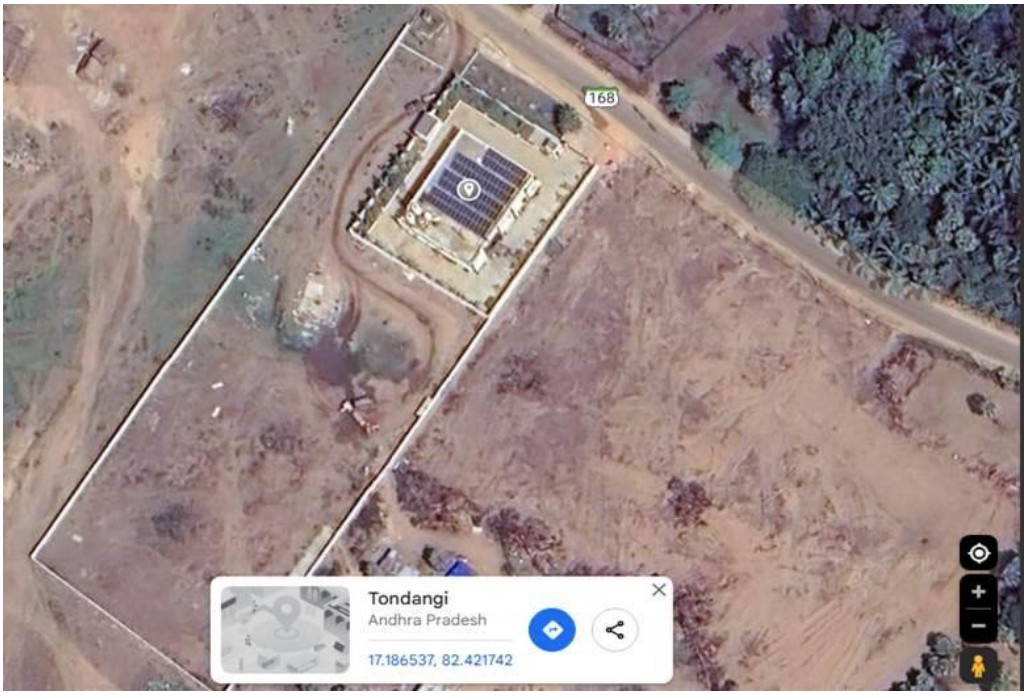
The **Impact Assessment study** aims to evaluate the CSR project in Perumallapuram, Kakinada, focusing on its relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability. Utilizing the REESI Framework from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the study seeks to:

- Assess the relevance, operational efficiency, and effectiveness of the centralized kitchen while maintaining hygiene standards.
- Measure satisfaction levels among school students receiving breakfast, emphasizing food taste, variety, and nutritional quality.
- Analyze the project's sustainability and its impact on students' education and concentration by gathering teacher feedback.
- Evaluate stakeholder feedback on food quality, delivery timing, quantity, and overall benefits to students and communities.

4.2. Centralised Kitchen Project in Kakinada

Introduction: Aurobindo Pharma Foundation (APF) and the Hare Krishna Movement Charitable Foundation (HKMCF) collaborated to set up a centralized kitchen in Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh, by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on April 12, 2022. The project aims to address malnutrition, food security, and sustainable development by providing nutritious meals to school children from marginalized communities.

Aerial view of the centralised kitchen in Perumallapuram, Kakinada:



Project Overview: The kitchen, located in the SEZ area of Perumallapuram, was inaugurated on December 22, 2022. It has a built-up area of 5,500 square feet and RO water plant with 1000 litres per hour capacity spread across two acres of land donated by Kakinada SEZ Limited. With a capacity to produce 6,000 breakfast meals daily, the facility was created to supply breakfast to 40 government schools in 38 villages from U Kothapalli and Thondangi mandals of Kakinada district. The project, with an outlay of ₹9.63 crore, includes construction costs, infrastructure, equipment, and operational expenses for four years.

Idly Batter Equipment Inside the Centralised Kitchen

Sustainability Features: The kitchen operates solely on solar energy, making it the first of its kind among HKMCF's kitchens in India. This reflects the commitment of Aurobindo Pharma Foundation towards environmental sustainability. Equipped with sophisticated automated equipment such as an idly batter dispenser, dough kneader, sambar cauldron (1,200 liters) with auto-dispensing setup, and a sterilization stand, it upholds high standards of hygiene, quality, and speed. These innovations ensure the nutritional value of meals while promoting environmental sustainability.

Table 5: Operational Process

#	Stage	Details
1	Quality Control	▪ Raw materials are inspected daily by the stores In-charge ▪ A detailed packaging sheet is prepared, outlining delivery locations, vehicles, and quantities
2	Preparation	▪ Operations begin at 3 a.m., starting with washing vegetables in three phases using water and chlorination. ▪ Vessels are cleaned with steam & machines are sterilized by 4 am ▪ Cooking is completed by 6 am and packed in the carriers

3	Delivery	▪ The kitchen uses a fleet of four vehicles for food delivery, to ensure smooth and timely operations. ▪ Meals are delivered within 3-4 hours of cooking to ensure freshness. Drivers at distribution centres record delivery details, and empty cans are collected after distribution.
4	Quality and Safety Standards	▪ Staff in the kitchen adhere to Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), wearing protective gear such as hairnets, gloves, safety shoes, and aprons. ▪ Regular checks are conducted to maintain hygiene and safety standards. ▪ Weekly temperature checks ensure food safety. ▪ Internal and external audits are held to maintain equipment efficiency. ▪ Waste management practices include using leftover food for animal rearing, reflecting a commitment to sustainability.
5	Procurement	▪ The Quality and Stores In-charge oversees the required raw materials daily. ▪ Furnished with this information, the requirement is sent to the Head Office in Hyderabad ▪ Head Office takes necessary steps to procure the materials required for the kitchen and ensures timely procurement and supply of necessary raw materials
6	Maintenance	▪ Small repairs are handled by the Kitchen In charge and the Supervisor with the support of local technicians ▪ Major repairs are handled by the Head Office and actions are taken immediately

The images below demonstrate how meals are hygienically packaged, safely transported, and served, as well as the cleaning processes for vessels and the kitchen.

Packing of Breakfast Meals in Sterilised Vessels

Loading of Vessels in the Vehicle

Vehicle leaves for distribution of free breakfast meals

Free Breakfast is served at schools

Vessels are getting cleaned

Cleaning of Kitchen and Equipment

Legacy of Success: Aurobindo Pharma Foundation (APF) and the Hare Krishna Movement Charitable Foundation (HKMCF) have a history of successful collaborations in establishing centralized kitchens. Prior projects in Narsingi (Hyderabad), Mahabubnagar (Telangana), and Srikakulam (Andhra Pradesh) have collectively produced approximately

95 million meals to date. These facilities have set high standards for quality, efficiency, and sustainability, a tradition that the Kakinada project continues.

Conclusion: The centralized kitchen in Kakinada district plays a crucial role in providing hygienic, nutritious meals to students, helping combat malnutrition, improve health, and reduce dropout rates. Designed with sustainability in mind, it fosters community well-being while ensuring efficient meal distribution. By adopting best practices and leveraging technology, the kitchen ensures fresh, hot, and safe meals daily. Beyond nutrition, this initiative eases the financial burden on families and supports education, reinforcing its role in regional development. A baseline survey conducted in September 2022 assessed school attendance, malnutrition, and student performance. A follow-up impact study in December 2024 confirmed significant improvements in these areas, demonstrating the program's success.

4.3. Project Achievements – Key Findings

The data collected from the 232 respondents belonging to five schools and the centralised kitchen was analysed. The key findings of the listed parameters are given below.

Table 6: Key Findings of listed Parameters

#	Parameters	Students	HM & Teachers	Parents
1	Overall Satisfaction – taste, quality & quantity	97%	100%	100%
2	Quantity of breakfast	96%	100%	100%
3	Quality of the breakfast	95%	100%	100%
4	Taste of the breakfast items provided	97%	99.5%	98%
5	Hygiene ensured in cooking and serving	100%	100%	100%
6	Varieties	92%	95%	98.4%
7	Program's efficiency	98%	100%	100%
8	Timely delivery of breakfast which facilitates smooth operations in the schools	98%	100%	100%
9	Enhanced energy levels for students	95%	99%	100%
10	School attendance (regularly) – punctual	100%	99.6%	100%
11	Improved nutritional outcomes	97.2%	100%	100%
12	Improved focus of students in classrooms (participation, concentration, performance)	100%	100%	100%
13	Sufficient to meet nutritional needs	98.7%	100%	100%
14	Reducing malnutrition (health impact)	98.4%	97.5%	100%
15	Supporting growth and development	98%	99%	100%
16	Positive impact on overall well-being	98%	97.5%	100%
17	Reducing work burden for parents	100%	100%	100%
18	Reducing economic relief for parents	100%	100%	100%

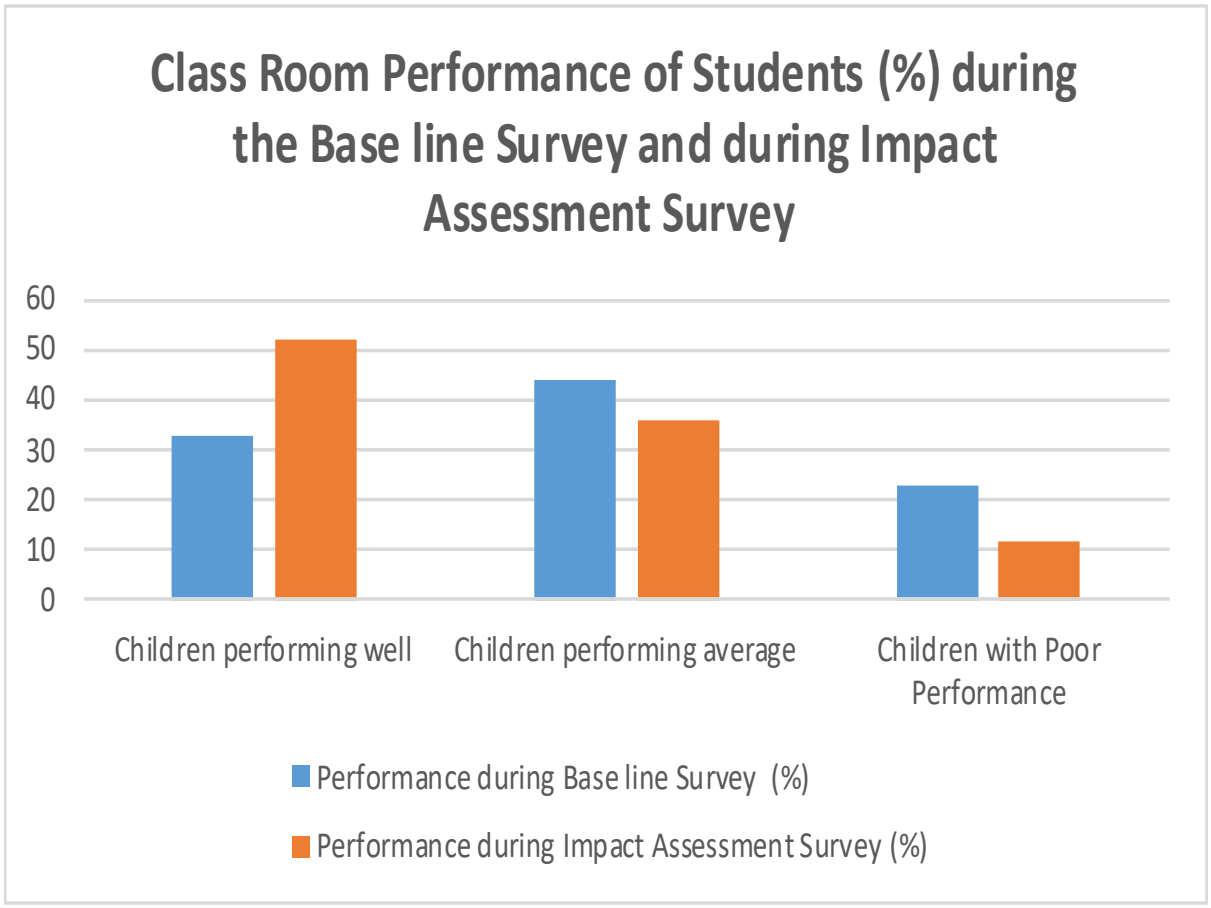
19	Awareness on Hare Krishna Movement Charitable Foundation	100%	100%	95%
20	Awareness on Aurobindo Pharma Foundation	100%	100%	97.6%
21	Responsiveness of the kitchen to feedback	100%	100%	Nil

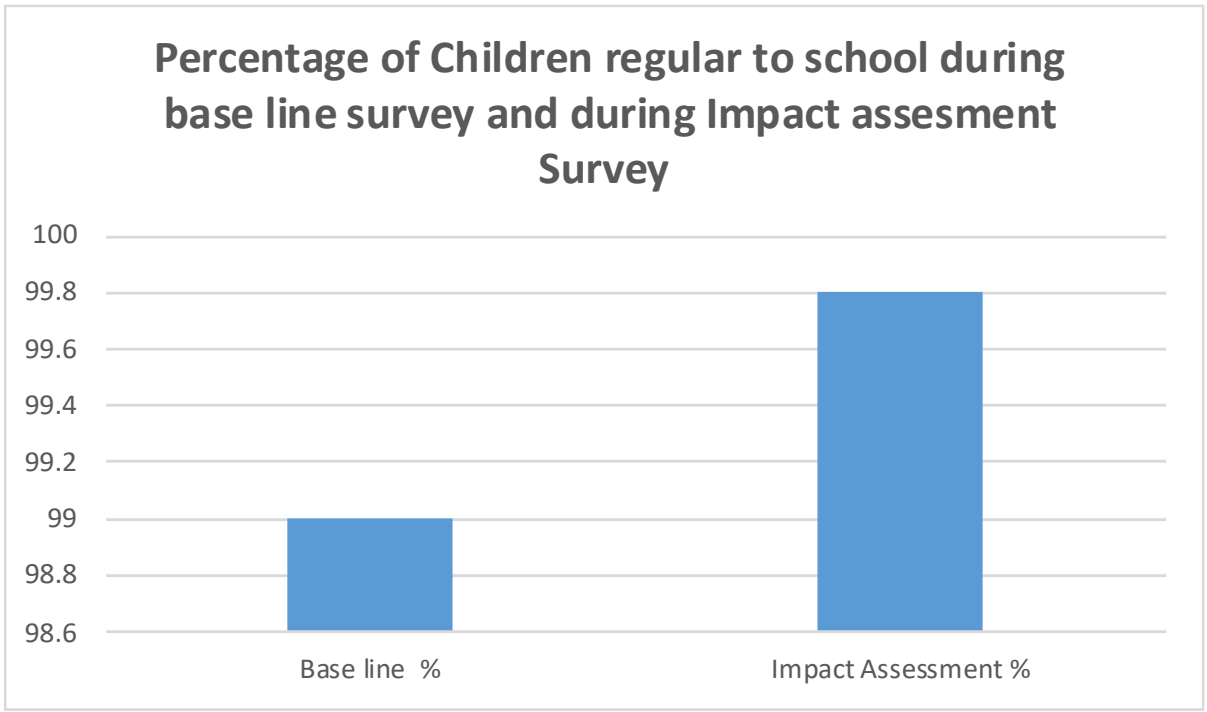
From the above data and the findings, certain key parameters are analysed and compared with the baseline data in terms of improved attendance, educational and nutritional outcomes and economic relief to parents. These four key parameters are detailed below.

Educational Outcomes: Recognizing the direct link between nutrition and cognitive development, the project has improved educational outcomes for children by providing them with nutritious meals. The details are given in the table below and in two graphs.

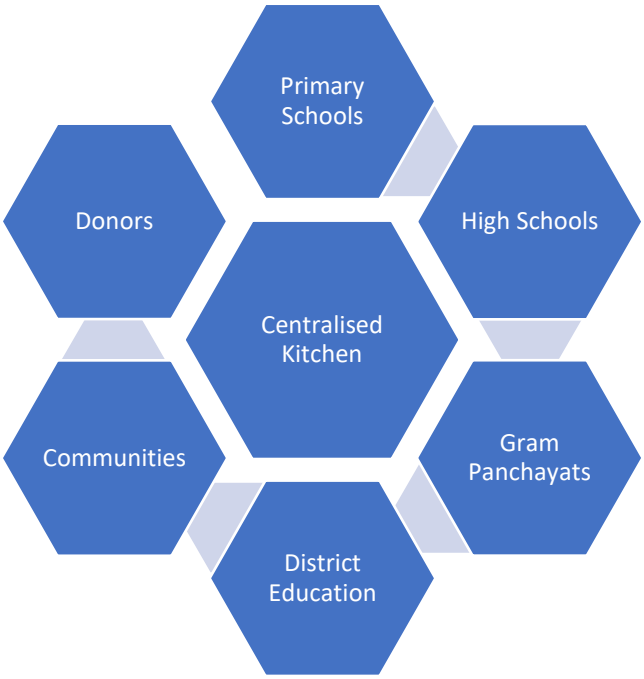
Table 7: Educational Outcomes

Performance Levels	Base line (%) Sept 2022	Impact Assessment (%) Dec 2024
Children performing well	33	52
Children performing average	44	36
Children with Poor Performance	23	12
Children regular to school	99	99.8
The percentage of children demonstrating strong academic performance has increased significantly from the baseline status of 33% to 52%, reflecting notable progress in their learning outcomes. Meanwhile, the proportion of children performing at an average level has declined from 44% to 36%, indicating an overall improvement in academic proficiency. Additionally, the percentage of children categorized as poor performers has reduced substantially from 23% to 12%, showcasing the effectiveness of targeted interventions and support mechanisms. Furthermore, student attendance has seen a remarkable improvement, rising from an already high 99% to an impressive 99.8%. This increase suggests greater engagement, motivation, and participation in learning activities, likely influenced by enhanced teaching methodologies, a supportive learning environment, and parental involvement. These positive trends underscore the impact of educational initiatives aimed at fostering academic excellence and holistic student development.		


Class Room Performance of Students (%) during the Base line Survey and during Impact Assessment Survey
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
Children performing well
Children performing average
Children with Poor Performance
Performance during Base line Survey (%)
Performance during Impact Assessment Survey (%)


Percentage of Children regular to school during base line survey and during Impact assesment Survey
100
99.8
99.6
99.4
99.2
99
98.8
98.6
Base line %
Impact Assessment %

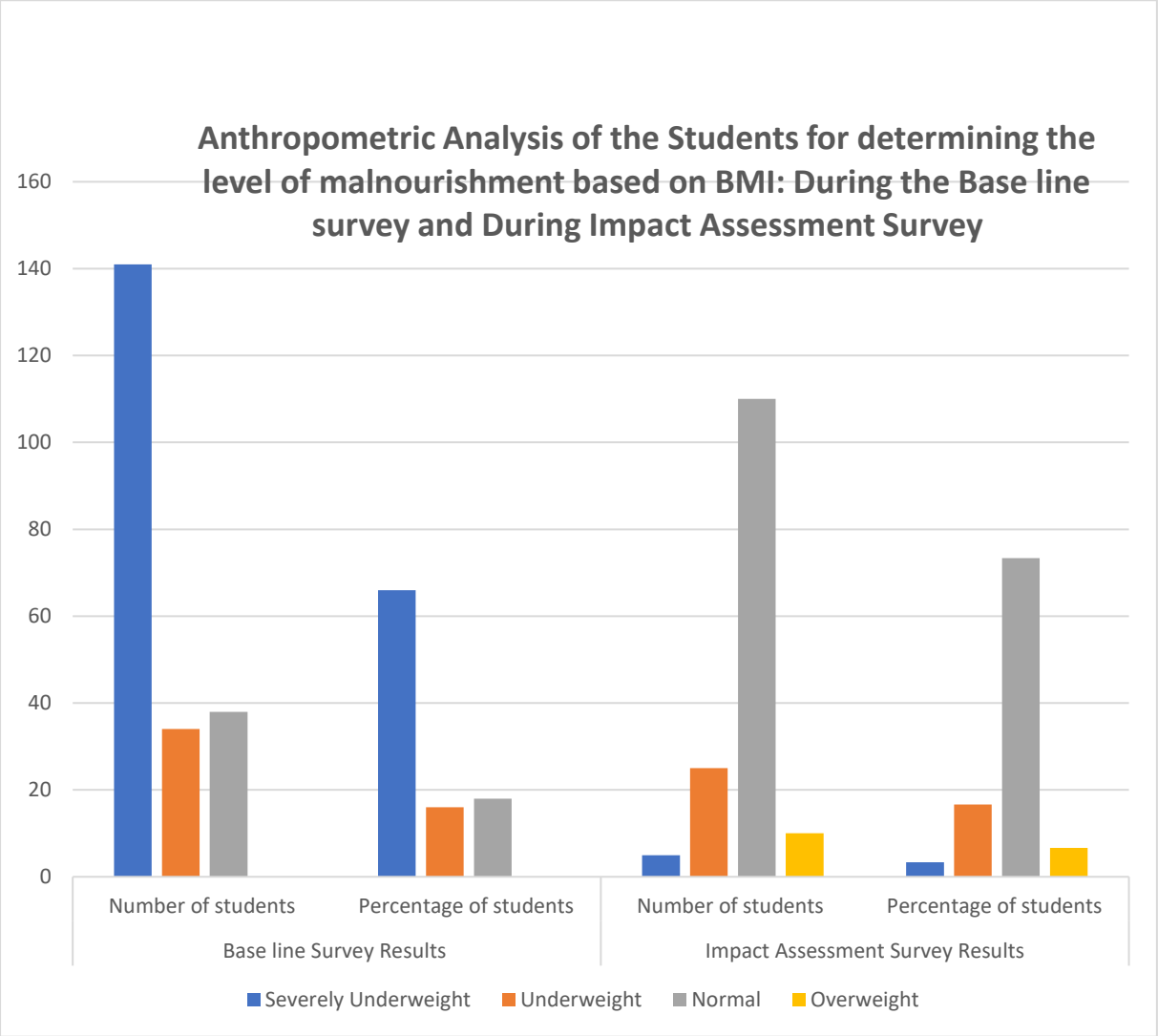
Collaboration and Stakeholder Engagement: The synergy between APF's corporate resources and HKMCF's food distribution expertise created a sustainable and impactful food security program through active collaboration with the schools, local authorities, and communities.



Addressing Malnutrition and Hunger: The program aims to serve hot, healthy, and nutritious (including millet-based meals) breakfast meals to government school children. By targeting vulnerable children studying in government schools, the initiative ensures that students receive essential nutrients to start their day, thereby enhancing their learning capabilities and overall health. It is observed from the data and discussion that the children taking breakfast meals experienced an increase in the nutritional outcomes as given below.

Table 8: Nutritional Outcomes

Anthropometric Analysis of the Students for determining the level of malnourishment based on BMI: Base line Survey Vs Impact Assessment Survey				
Nutritional levels	**Base line Survey Results**		**Impact Assessment Survey Results**	
	Number of students	**Percentage of students**	**Number of students**	**Percentage of students**
Severely Underweight	141	66%	5	3%
Underweight	34	16%	25	17%
Normal	38	18%	110	73%
Overweight	0	0%	10	7%



Severely Underweight: The number of students classified as severely underweight decreased dramatically from 141 (66%) in the Baseline Survey to 5 (3%) in the Impact Assessment Survey.

Underweight: While there was a slight increase in the number of underweight students from 34 (16%) to 25 (17%), this change is relatively minor compared to the substantial reduction in severe underweight cases.

Increase in Students with Normal BMI: Students with a normal BMI increased markedly from 38 (18%) to 110 (73%), indicating a significant shift towards healthier weight statuses among the student population.

Emergence of Overweight Students: Notably, the Impact Assessment Survey identified 10 students (7%) as overweight, a category that was absent in the Baseline Survey.

The substantial reduction in severe underweight cases suggests that targeted nutritional interventions have been effective in addressing acute malnutrition. The significant increase in students achieving a normal BMI reflects overall improvements in dietary

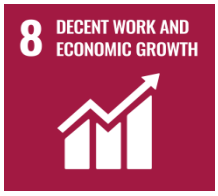
intake and health education. However, the emergence of overweight students, though a minority, indicates the need for balanced nutritional programs that prevent both undernutrition and overnutrition. These positive trends observed in the Impact Assessment Survey underscore the effectiveness of the implemented nutritional strategies.

Hygiene and Food Safety: HKMCF's expertise ensures that the breakfast provided meets the high hygiene standards, guaranteeing nutritious and safe meals. With experience in food preparation and distribution, HKMCF ensures that the breakfast meals are not only nutritious but also safe for consumption, which is vital for maintaining public health. The breakfast is prepared to reach temperatures between 90°C to 98°C during cooking. After cooking, meals are packed in steam-sterilized, stainless steel 304-grade vessels and transported in specialized, insulated vehicles designed to minimize temperature loss. This process ensures that meals are served to children at an optimal temperature of 65°C, as there is a direct correlation between meal temperature and consumption—the hotter the meal, the higher the consumption.

Support Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): The project contributes directly and indirectly to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). How it contributes to different SDGs is given in the table below.

Table 9: Contribution to SDGs

SDGs	Impact	Contribution
	Breakfast programs address hunger and food insecurity by ensuring that children receive at least one nutritious meal per day, improving their overall nutritional status.	Reduced hunger supports children's physical and cognitive development in underprivileged communities.
	Nutritious breakfasts improve physical health, reduce malnutrition, and enhance immune systems. It also reduces the risk of chronic illnesses associated with poor diet.	Healthy children are more likely to perform well in school and remain active in their communities.
	Providing breakfast improves student concentration, memory, and energy levels, which enhances learning outcomes and academic performance.	It boosts school attendance and reduces dropout rates, particularly among marginalized groups.

	In many communities, girls are often tasked with household chores, including preparing meals. This program alleviates this burden, enabling more girls to attend school.	It reduces gender disparities in education and supports equal opportunities for boys and girls.
	Local sourcing of food for breakfast programs supports farmers and small businesses, creating jobs and boosting local economies.	Well-nourished children are more likely to grow into productive adults, contributing to long-term economic growth.
	Breakfast program targets vulnerable and marginalized groups, ensuring that all children have equal access to nutrition & educational opportunities.	Reducing inequalities in health and education creates a more inclusive society.
	Breakfast programs can promote sustainable food practices, including reducing food waste and sourcing locally produced, seasonal foods.	It encourages responsible food production and consumption behaviours among students and communities.
	Implementing a school breakfast program involves collaboration between Corporate, Charitable organisations, Schools, local authorities, and local communities.	These partnerships strengthen global and local efforts toward achieving multiple SDGs.

Sustainable Impact and long-term vision: The project aligns with APF and HKMCF's long term goals of promoting health, education, fostering resilience and community empowerment. The Centralized Kitchen Project goes beyond immediate relief by promoting sustainability and community engagement. The centralized kitchen and local distribution systems ensure a consistent supply of breakfast to schools creating a lasting impact through efficient food management.

Conclusion: The Centralized Kitchen Project exemplifies the power of collaborative philanthropy, where corporate and charitable entities join forces to create meaningful and lasting societal impact. Through this initiative, Aurobindo Pharma Foundation and Hare Krishna Movement Charitable Foundation demonstrate their commitment to improving the quality of life in the communities they serve by addressing critical needs in the food security and education. Providing breakfast to students is a multifaceted approach that

not only addresses immediate nutritional needs but also catalyses long-term advancements in education, health, equity, and economic development.

Besides contributing to SDGs, the breakfast scheme also helped strengthen the overall resilience of communities to food-related challenges. By aligning business goals with the pressing needs of society, the project made a meaningful impact on the socio-economic development of communities in the region.

4.4. Relevance

The centralized kitchen project addresses critical nutritional and developmental needs of government school students in U Kothapalli and Thondangi mandals, Kakinada district. These 46 government schools across 38 villages face challenges related to rural poverty and malnutrition. Families in this region predominantly engage in agriculture, fishing, weaving, and related occupations. Malnutrition among children, especially in vulnerable populations, is a pressing issue that hinders their educational and overall development. To combat these challenges, the centralized kitchen delivers free hot, nutritious breakfasts to approximately 4,500 children in these schools. Operating within a 25-30 km radius, modern food transportation ensures hygienic meal distribution. Data from five schools (232 respondents) highlights the project's strategic importance and high relevance in addressing malnutrition, improving child health, and supporting education.

Interaction with the kitchen staff: Briefing on the functioning of the Kitchen

Table 10: List of Schools Covered in 2024-25

#	Name of the School	Boys	Girls	Total
1	Gorsapalem	25	31	56
2	Wakadaripeta	25	26	51
3	SV Peta	10	11	21
4	Pampadipeta	17	12	29
5	Avaldarupadu	6	18	24
6	Avulamanda	9	14	23
7	Gaddiepta	19	24	43
8	P. Chodipallipeta	41	64	105
9	K. Chodipallipeta	34	30	64
10	Hukumpeta	32	35	67
11	Talapantipeta	5	20	25
12	PP Puram	12	9	21
13	KP Puram	0	19	19
14	K Kodada	13	18	31
15	Kodada Colony	8	5	13
16	P Kodada	14	14	28
17	Av Nagaram Main	14	10	24
18	Av nagaram Sc	20	18	38
19	Ravikampadu MPP 1	20	22	42
20	Ravikampadu MPP SC	3	0	3
21	Danavaipeta	10	12	22
22	Narsipeta	29	29	58
23	Yallayyapeta	56	59	115
24	Ontimamidi	63	59	122
25	Tatiakulapalem	12	28	40
26	Kothapakalu	12	11	23
27	Konapapapeta	37	56	93
28	Konapapapur	20	24	44
29	Kothamulapeta	61	50	111
30	Seelamvaripalem	16	13	29
31	Sri Rampuram	32	30	62
32	Mummidivarappadu	0	10	10
33	Ramanakkapeta Main	3	6	9
34	Ramanakkapeta SC	15	10	25
35	Mulapeta Main	18	25	43
36	Mulapeta prakash nagar	35	34	69
37	Mulapeta VB Peta	13	19	32
38	Ponnada SC	17	19	36
39	Ponnada Main	17	9	26

40	AV Nagaram ZPH School	83	69	152
41	Gaddipeta ZPH School	311	219	530
42	Konapapapeta ZPH School	345	347	692
43	Ramanakkapeta ZPH School	55	74	129
44	Mulapeta ZPH School	507	556	1063
45	Ravikampadu ZPH School	89	89	178
46	Danavaipeta ZPH School	338	291	629
	Grand Total	**2521**	**2548**	**5069**

There are 46 schools in 38 villages of two mandals and the strength of the students is 5069. Out of 5069, about 4500 (89%) children are taking breakfast meals every day. Eleven percent of the children are absent to the school due to several reasons.

4.5. Coherence

The breakfast project aligns with the government and stakeholder priorities for addressing child malnutrition and fostering education. The project also complements other schemes that are being implemented by the Aurobindo Pharma Foundation in the region such as infrastructure development in schools, distribution of cycles to girls, vocational training (computers and tailoring), provision of safe drinking water, road construction, and strengthening primary health centers. The project also integrates seamlessly with local needs and aligns with global development goals. It also complements the mid-day meals provided by the government to the school children.

4.6. Effectiveness

The breakfast scheme was assessed for its effectiveness based on feedback from headmasters, teachers, students, and parents. Respondents unanimously agreed that the meals provided met high nutritional standards, with appropriate portion sizes and balanced nutritional value. The majority found the meals tasty and enjoyable, although tamarind rice received mixed feedback.

The program demonstrated a positive impact on students' academic performance, with enhanced focus, attentiveness, and learning outcomes observed (table 7 on educational outcomes and related graphs).

Additionally, the meals contributed to improved physical well-being, health, and vitality among students (table 8 on nutritional outcomes and a graph).

Stock Room in the Kitchen

Interaction with Parents

Survey data revealed that 100% of respondents believed the meals improved focus and participation in the classrooms, while 98.2% agreed that the program increased school attendance from 99% to 99.8%. Furthermore, 97.8% felt motivated to attend school regularly because of the scheme. The provision of breakfast by the HKMCF kitchen was unanimously regarded as effective, with all respondents highlighting its role in meeting nutritional needs and positively influencing students' academic performance and overall well-being (table 6 and 7 on educational and nutritional outcomes). This indicates that the breakfast program has successfully achieved its intended objectives.

Interaction with Students and Parents

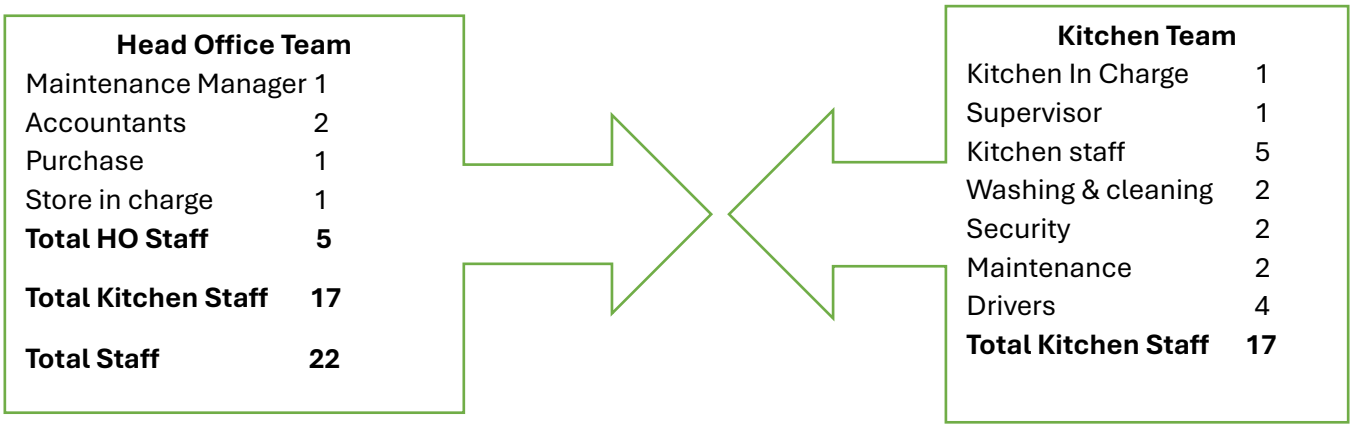
Table 11: Assessment of Breakfast Scheme Effectiveness

Category	Feedback	Response	Response by
Nutritional Standards	Meals meet nutritional needs with appropriate portion sizes and balanced value.	100%	Teachers and students
Meal Enjoyment	Meals are enjoyable, except tamarind rice which received mixed feedback.	Majority Agreement	Students
Academic Performance	Enhanced focus, attentiveness, and learning outcomes.	100%	Teachers
Health Impact	Improved students' physical well-being, health, and vitality.	Majority agreement	Teachers and Students
Improved Focus	Meals improved focus and class participation	100%	Teachers and Students
School Attendance	Breakfast increased school attendance.	99%	Teachers and Students
Motivation to Attend	Students feel motivated to attend school regularly due to the program	98%	Students
Kitchen Performance	Meals from the HKMCF kitchen were effective in maintaining nutritional needs and positively impacting academic performance and focus	Unanimous Agreement	Teachers, Students

Reduced burden	The parents are relieved from the work and economic burden since breakfast is provided at schools, and they are able to focus on their work.	100%	Parents

4.7. Efficiency

The operational efficiency of the breakfast program is a key strength, driven by an efficient team of 22 staff members managing diverse roles such as cooking, chopping, cleaning, sterilizing, quality control, distribution, and maintenance. Among them, seventeen staff work at the Perumallapuram kitchen and 5 at the Head Office in Hyderabad.



Teachers unanimously affirmed the program's efficiency, with 100% agreeing that timely meal delivery ensures smooth school operations and endorsing the staff's proficiency in managing meal-related tasks. Additionally, 97.5% acknowledged the kitchen's responsiveness to feedback, highlighting its adaptability and commitment to program improvement. Robust planning and execution further enhance the kitchen's operational efficiency, making it a cornerstone of the program's success.

Interaction with the Headmaster

Table 12: Operational Efficiency of Breakfast Program

Aspect	Details	Response	Response by
Timely Delivery	Meals delivered on time, ensuring smooth school operations	100%	Students and Teachers
Staff Proficiency	Staff managing classes matching with students' enthusiasm and energy levels	100%	Students
Responsiveness	Kitchen staff responsive to feedback and adaptable to concerns.	97.5%	Headmasters and Teachers

4.8. Sustainability

The Perumallapuram kitchen stands as a model of environmental and operational sustainability, being the first of its kind among many kitchens built by HKMCF across the country to operate solely on solar energy. This pioneering initiative underscores the commitment of Aurobindo Pharma Foundation to environmental conservation. The

kitchen is equipped with advanced automated systems, including an idly batter dispenser, dough kneader, sambar cauldron with a 1,200-liter double-jacketed auto-dispensing setup, and a vessel sterilization stand, ensuring high standards of hygiene, quality, and efficiency in meal preparation.

The technological advancements maintain the nutritional integrity of the meals and align with sustainable practices by reducing energy dependency and promoting renewable energy use. The focus on delivering free nutritious meals with precision and speed has significantly contributed to reducing school dropouts and improving the overall well-being of students, creating a sustainable impact on education and health outcomes.

4.9. Impact

The Centralized Kitchen has had a profound impact on the nutritional status, satisfaction, and overall well-being of students, aligning with its broader objectives of eradicating malnutrition and fostering education. The ultra-modern kitchen, equipped with advanced facilities, has been widely recognized for its ability to deliver hygienic and nutritionally balanced meals, significantly influencing various aspects of student life. The initiative has fostered social cohesion within schools, eliminating cultural biases and creating an inclusive environment. Respondents affirmed that the availability of free, nutritious meals has addressed students' dietary needs and inspired enthusiasm for education, contributing to a more conducive and equitable learning atmosphere.

Table 13: Impact of the Breakfast Program

Impact Area	Description	Response	Response by
Attendance	Increased school attendance from baseline 99% to 99.8% due to provision of nutritious breakfast meals	98.2%	Headmaster and Teachers
Focus and motivation	Improved concentration and participation in class, enhancing cognitive performance	97.8%	Headmaster, Teachers and Students
Nutritional Adequacy	Meals recognized as diverse, hygienic, and nutritionally balanced	98.8%	
Reduced burden	Families are relieved from work burden and economic burden	100%	Parents

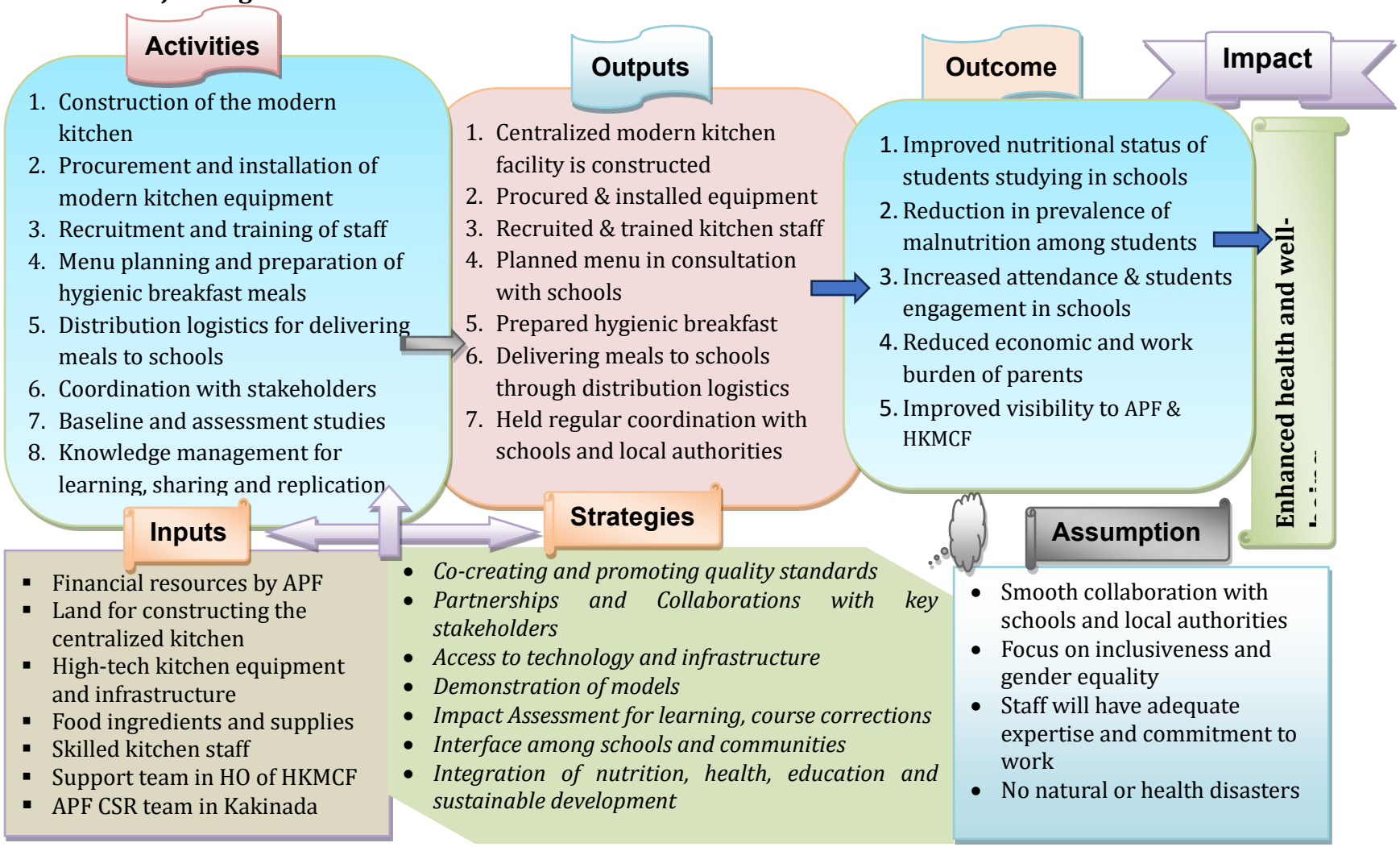
Survey data underscores the project's success, with 98.2% of respondents reporting increased school attendance, 97.8% observing improved focus and class participation, 98.8% expressing meals provided are diverse and nutritionally adequate and 100% agreeing reduced work and economic burden for the parents, especially women. The Centralized Kitchen is a resounding success, effectively addressing malnutrition while fostering education through the provision of diverse, hygienic, and balanced meals. The initiative has positively influenced attendance, academic performance, and health

outcomes, demonstrating the transformative potential of strategic interventions in nurturing future generations.

4.10. Project Logical Framework

The flow chart table below gives bird's overview of the 'theory of change' – Inputs, Activities, Strategies, Outputs, Outcomes, Impact and Assumptions.

Table 14: Project Logical Framework



5. Recommendations and Conclusions

5.1. Key Recommendations

Recommendations to Hare Krishna Movement Charitable Foundation

- A baseline study was conducted in September 2022. Conduct a midline to measure the progress in key indicators such as nutritional status, health, and school enrolment. This will provide the project's impact over time.
- Incorporate an endline assessment by end of the project period to provide a comprehensive understanding of its impact
- Organise student centric activities such as drawing, essay and speech competitions to gather their perspectives, satisfaction levels and suggestions regarding breakfast meal provisions.
- Enhance the feedback system to capture students' preferences for breakfast meal varieties, ensuring inclusivity in meal planning.
- Use feedback to adapt the menu, maintaining nutritional quality while catering to student tastes and preferences.
- Regularly upgrade kitchen facilities and practices to maintain high standards of hygiene, quality, and efficiency.
- Foster stronger community involvement through regular communication, engagement events, and capacity-building initiatives to ensure the program aligns with local needs and expectations.
- Strengthen partnerships with educational institutions, government bodies, and philanthropic organizations to scale the initiative's reach and impact.

Recommendations to Aurobindo Pharma Foundation

- Ensure implementing partners consistently collect data on key metrics such as student health, nutritional status, and school enrollment to enable evidence-based comparisons during impact assessments over time.
- Expand the use of renewable energy, replicating the solar-powered kitchen model in other locations to ensure environmental sustainability.

5.2. Conclusions

The Centralized Kitchen initiative, a joint effort by the Hare Krishna Movement Charitable Foundation (HKMCF) and Aurobindo Pharma Foundation, has emerged as a pathbreaking intervention in addressing malnutrition, food insecurity, and educational disparities.

Key Achievements

1. **Nutritional and Health Benefits**: Balanced and hygienic breakfast meals have significantly improved students' nutritional status, reducing anaemia cases and enhancing overall health metrics like BMI.

2. **Food Security and Economic Relief**: By providing daily meals, the program has mitigated food insecurity for vulnerable families, reducing financial strain and positively impacting their livelihoods.
3. **Educational Impact**: The provision of nutritious meals has incentivized school attendance, particularly in marginalized communities, and improved students' concentration, attentiveness, and academic performance.
4. **Community Collaboration**: The initiative exemplifies successful partnerships between philanthropic organizations, corporate CSR wings, and grassroots movements, leveraging resources and expertise for impactful outcomes.
5. **Stakeholder Satisfaction**: Positive feedback from school principals, teachers, and community members highlights the initiative's success in addressing critical challenges with quality and efficiency.
6. **Reduced Burden**: The initiative enabled the families especially women in terms of reducing their work and economic burden and concentrate on their livelihoods.
7. **RO Plant**: At the time of the kitchen's inauguration, a Reverse Osmosis (RO) water plant with a capacity of 1,000 liters per hour was installed as an integral part of the facility's construction. This advanced water purification system plays a crucial role in ensuring the safety and quality of the meals prepared, particularly breakfast.

The project demonstrates the transformative power of strategic interventions in combating malnutrition and fostering education. By blending innovative practices with community engagement, it has not only nourished young minds and bodies but also nurtured aspirations for a better future.

Centralised Kitchen View

RO Plant inside the Kitchen Campus

While the program's successes are evident, opportunities for enhancement remain. Sustained commitment to data-driven decision-making, community feedback, and environmental sustainability will ensure its continued relevance and scalability. This initiative stands as a testament to the impact of collaborative efforts in building a healthier, more equitable society and serves as a model for addressing the interconnected challenges of nutrition, education, and social well-being.

5.3. Testimonials

Prasanna Kumari, a resident of Mulapeta, has witnessed significant positive changes in her family's daily life over the past two years, thanks to the free breakfast program implemented at Zilla Parishad High School (ZPHS), Mulapeta, where her children are enrolled in the 8th and 10th grades.

"In the last two years, the school has been providing breakfast meals to my daughter and son studying in 8th and 10th class respectively in ZPHS, Mulapeta," she shares. "I do not have any pressure now to plan and prepare breakfast for my children."

The impact on her daughter has been particularly noteworthy. "My daughter has put on 3 kgs of weight in the last two years, and her energy levels are good," Prasanna notes. "She has been participating in sports thrice a week in the school."

Her son also expresses enthusiasm for the program. "My son loves the breakfast provided in the school, and he enjoys coming to school without any absence," she adds. As a mother, Prasanna Kumari feels immense gratitude and happiness for the positive changes brought about by the school's breakfast initiative.

The free breakfast program is part of a broader effort to enhance student health and academic performance by ensuring access to nutritious meals. Such programs have been shown to improve students' nutritional status, increase attendance rates, and alleviate

economic burdens on families. By providing balanced meals, schools create a supportive environment that fosters both educational success and overall well-being for students.

Ch. John Prasad, an 8th grade student at Zilla Parishad High School (ZPHS) in Danavaripeta, has experienced a significant positive change in his academic life due to the school's free breakfast program. He expresses appreciation for the variety of breakfast options provided, noting that they leave him feeling energetic and better able to concentrate in class. This improvement in focus and energy levels has enhanced his learning experience.

The breakfast program has also alleviated the morning workload for his mother, who previously spent considerable time preparing his breakfast. With this responsibility lifted, she is now engaging in other productive activities.

John Prasad hopes for the continuation and expansion of such breakfast program to all government schools, recognizing the substantial benefits they offer to students and their families.

Alamuru Ammaji, a student at Zilla Parishad High School (ZPHS), AV Nagaram used to arrive late to school because she had to assist her mother with household chores, especially preparing breakfast. This responsibility often delayed her arrival at school, impacting her punctuality and academic performance.

The introduction of a free breakfast program at her school, facilitated by the Aurobindo Pharma Foundation in collaboration with the Hare Krishna Movement Charitable Foundation, has been transformative for Alamuru. With breakfast now provided at school, she no longer needs to help prepare the morning meal, allowing her to arrive on time and focus better on her studies. This initiative is part of the 'Swasthya Ahara' program, which aims to provide nutritious breakfast meals to underprivileged children in government schools, enhancing their health and academic performance.

In addition to the breakfast program, Alamuru has benefited from the distribution of bicycles to girl students, an initiative by the Aurobindo Pharma Foundation to promote education among girls in rural areas.

Expressing her gratitude, Alamuru shared, "I used to come late to school earlier since I supported my mother in preparing household tasks, especially breakfast. Now I am on time to school since breakfast is provided in the school. I am benefited in a double manner—bicycle and breakfast. I am so thankful to the school and Aurobindo Pharma Foundation."

These initiatives have not only improved Alamuru's daily routine but have also positively impacted on her educational experience, underscoring the significant role of community support in empowering students.

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Impact Assessment of the Construction of Government Junior College (Girls) and Material Infrastructure Support at Sangareddy Town & District, Telangana

Supported by Aurobindo Pharma Foundation (a Philanthropic arm of Aurobindo Pharma Ltd under Corporate Social Responsibility)

Submitted to

AUROBINDO PHARMA FOUNDATION

Submitted by

apmas

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Abbreviations

APF	Aurobindo Pharma Foundation
APMAS	Andhra Pradesh Mahila Abhivruddhi Society
BA	Bachelor of Arts
BC	backward Caste
Bi. PC	Biology, Physics and Chemistry
CCTV	Closed Circuit Television
CEC	Commerce, Economics, Civics
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
HEC	History, Economics, Civics
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
MPC	Maths, Physics, Chemistry
NABARD	National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PWD	People with Disabilities
REESI	Relevance, Efficiency, Effectiveness, Sustainability, and Impact
SC	Scheduled Caste
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SSA	Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan
ST	Schedule Tribe
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
TSEWID	Telangana State Education and Welfare Infrastructure Development Corporation

Acknowledgements

On behalf of APMAS, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Aurobindo Pharma Foundation for the opportunity to conduct the impact assessment of the construction of the Government Junior College (Girls) in Sangareddy, Telangana. This initiative, comprising 17 rooms and supporting infrastructure, has significantly transformed the learning environment, providing students and staff with a spacious, well-ventilated, and comfortable space. It stands as a remarkable step toward inclusive development and women's empowerment.

We sincerely appreciate Principal Ms. Sunita for her invaluable support and guidance throughout the assessment process. Her facilitation of interactive discussions with key stakeholders greatly enriched our understanding of the project's impact.

A special thanks to the teaching and non-teaching staff for their patience, enthusiasm, and willingness to share insights on how the improved infrastructure has enhanced their teaching efficacy and the students' overall performance.

We also acknowledge the invaluable contributions of parents, alumni, and community members who openly shared their perspectives and experiences, helping us gain a well-rounded view of the initiative's impact. Their cooperation ensured the effectiveness and clarity of our assessment.

Above all, we deeply appreciate the vibrant and enthusiastic students, past and present, for their eagerness to share their experiences and connection with the college. Their stories reflect the true success of this initiative.

The newly constructed Government Junior College (Girls) is a testament to the power of collaboration in strengthening education. We sincerely thank the Aurobindo Pharma Foundation and all involved partners for their significant contribution to advancing girls' education, empowerment, and fostering inclusivity in society.

We are truly honoured to have been part of this impactful journey.

With deepest gratitude

Team APMAS!
January 2025

1. Executive Summary

Project Overview: A new college has been established in Sangareddy town with an investment of ₹5.4 crores, aiming to enhance access to high-quality education for girl students. The college comprises a total of 17 classrooms, including 10 newly constructed ones, along with a library, two laboratories, a principal's chamber, a staff room, an administration room etc., and sanitation facilities. To further enrich the learning environment, the infrastructure has been equipped with 200 dual desks, 17 tables, 17 chairs, and 17 greenboards.

The Mahila Abhivruddhi Society, Andhra Pradesh (APMAS), conducted an impact assessment of this initiative using the comprehensive REESI Framework. Employing a mixed-method research design that integrated both quantitative and qualitative approaches, the study involved 35 respondents—including faculty, students, parents, and other stakeholders—selected through purposive sampling. Data collection methods encompassed interviews, focus group discussions, observations at the junior college, and a review of records and reports. The key outputs and outcomes of the initiative are;

Key Outputs

- **Infrastructure Expansion:** Construction of 10 new classrooms, well-equipped Botany and Zoology laboratories, a library, a chamber for the principal and administrative and staff rooms.
- **Hygiene & Accessibility**: Provision of separate washrooms for male and female staff including facilities accessible to persons with disabilities (PWDs)
- **Furniture & Electrification**: Provision of 200 dual desks, 17 tables, and 17 chairs and 17 Green Boards to enhance classroom learning environment.
- **Vocational Training Integration**: Introduction of Kung Fu training for self-defence of girls, leading to empowerment and employment opportunities.

Impact and Key Outcomes

- **Increased Enrollment:** A 45% rise in student intake post-construction, from 600 to 873 students.
- **Reduced Dropout Rates:** Dropout rates have declined from 20% to 10%, ensuring better student retention.
- **Lower Absenteeism:** A 40% reduction in daily absenteeism due to improved classroom conditions.
- **Operational Efficiency:** The dedicated infrastructure has improved staff workflow and enhanced the student learning environment, leading to increased efficiency.
- **Impact on the teaching methods:** The new, more spacious classrooms equipped with sufficient dual desks and green boards and electrification have improved visibility and audibility fostering greater interaction between teachers and students.
- **Enhanced Learning Experience:** Improved teacher-student interactions, increased audibility and visibility, and better academic performance.
- **Women Empowerment:** Self-defence training has led to employment opportunities, as students engaged in martial arts coaching at government school

Alignment with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): The initiative aligns with key SDGs, including:

- SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being
- SDG 4: Quality Education
- SDG 5: Gender Equality
- SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth
- SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities
- SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

Sustainability and Challenges

- **High Relevance & Effectiveness:** The project aligns well with its objectives and has a transformational impact on women's education and empowerment, focussing on inclusivity, with more than 90% of students from low-income groups.
- **Substantial Positive Impact:** The project significantly benefits students, faculty, and the community by enhancing education, employability, and empowerment.
- **Moderate Sustainability:** Continued funding for maintenance, vocational program expansion, and community engagement is required to ensure long-term benefits.

Recommendations:

- Implement digital learning tools, smart boards, e-libraries etc to enhance the learning experience
- Partner with businesses and training institutes to provide internships and skill-based programs aligning education with market job needs
- Collaborate with partners to provide scholarships and stipends, ensuring financial barriers don't hinder education for economically disadvantaged students

Conclusion: The comprehensive infrastructure development at Government Junior College (Girls), Sangareddy, spearheaded by the Aurobindo Pharma Foundation, has led to significant advancements in educational quality and women's empowerment. These developments have resulted in a 45% increase in student enrollment, a reduction in dropout rates from 20% to 10%, and a 40% decrease in daily absenteeism.

The initiative has significantly enhanced educational access, improved learning conditions, and provided empowerment opportunities for young women. Its alignment with key Sustainable Development Goals underscores its broader societal impact. To ensure the longevity and continued success of these advancements, it is crucial to secure ongoing funding for maintenance, expand vocational programs, and foster community engagement. With these efforts, the project can serve as a sustainable model for future educational initiatives, promoting inclusive education and women's empowerment.

2. Introduction

2.1. Introduction to CSR Activities in India

India is a diverse nation with significant socio-economic disparities. While the country has made remarkable strides in economic growth, millions of people still grapple with poverty, illiteracy,

unemployment, and inadequate access to basic amenities such as healthcare and education which indirectly lead to distress and social unrest.

The need for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) arises from the imperative to bridge these gaps and ensure inclusive development. Businesses, as integral components of society, are uniquely positioned to drive positive change by leveraging their resources, expertise, and influence to address pressing issues.

CSR has emerged as a pivotal aspect of modern business practices, especially in a rapidly developing economy like India. It represents the commitment of businesses to contribute positively to societal and environmental development while maintaining their profitability. In India, CSR has transitioned from being a voluntary practice to a mandated legal obligation under the Companies Act, 2013. This shift underscores the growing recognition of the need for businesses to play a proactive role in addressing social, economic, and environmental challenges.

2.2. Importance of CSR in India

The importance of CSR in India extends beyond philanthropy; it is a strategic tool for fostering sustainable development. CSR initiatives help build stronger communities, improve the quality of life, and address environmental concerns. For businesses, CSR enhances brand reputation, fosters customer loyalty, and attracts socially conscious investors. Moreover, it strengthens employee engagement by instilling a sense of purpose and pride in contributing to societal well-being. In a globalized world, socially responsible practices also help Indian businesses align with international standards and maintain competitiveness.

Companies are encouraged to align their CSR activities with national priorities, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), thereby contributing to India's progress on the global stage. With evolving societal needs, the scope of CSR continues to expand, encouraging innovative approaches and long-term impact.

2.3. About Aurobindo Pharma Limited

Aurobindo Pharma Limited, established in 1986 by Mr. P. V. Ramprasad Reddy and Mr. K. Nityananda Reddy, is an Indian multinational pharmaceutical company headquartered in Hyderabad, Telangana. The company commenced operations in 1988–89 with a single unit manufacturing semi-synthetic penicillin in Puducherry. It became a public company in 1992 and listed its shares on Indian stock exchanges in 1995. Aurobindo Pharma has a significant presence in key therapeutic segments, including neurosciences, cardiovascular, anti-retroviral, anti-diabetics, gastroenterology, and antibiotics. The company exports to over 150 countries, with more than 90% of its revenues derived from international operations.

2.4. About Aurobindo Pharma Foundation

Aurobindo Pharma is committed to contributing to societal well-being through its CSR initiatives, primarily implemented via the Aurobindo Pharma Foundation, a Section 8 company wholly dedicated to CSR activities. The company's CSR policy focuses on several key areas:

- **Promoting Education**: Construction and renovating government schools and colleges and funding educational programs to enhance learning outcomes.

- **Healthcare Initiatives**: Promoting preventive healthcare, eradicating hunger, poverty, and malnutrition, and ensuring access to safe drinking water.
- **Sustainable Agriculture and Environment**: The Foundation is involved in activities that support small and marginal farmers and also promote environmental sustainability, ecological balance, and conservation of natural resources.
- **Rural Development:** Efforts include the development of rural infrastructure, supporting rural athletes, setting up old age homes, sports, setting up old age homes, and other initiatives aimed at improving the quality of life in rural areas.

Through these comprehensive CSR initiatives, Aurobindo Pharma aims to drive community empowerment and deliver holistic social value, aligning its business operations with the broader goal of sustainable development.

2.5. Need for Impact Assessment of the CSR Projects

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) has become a cornerstone of sustainable business practices, aimed at fostering societal growth, environmental sustainability, and economic development. Companies with a CSR budget of 10 Crore or more in any fiscal year are mandated to undertake impact assessment of their CSR projects completed on or after 22 January 2021 and for all projects with outlays of 1 Crore or more, at least one year after programme implementation is complete. The impact assessment assures effectiveness and accountability of CSR activities fostering transparency while optimizing resource utilization, aligning with the organizational goals and enhancing brand reputation.

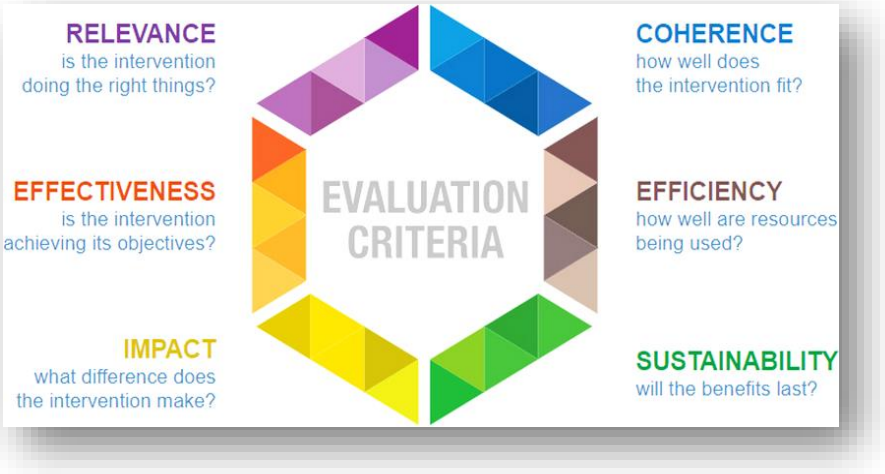
In its 2021–22 annual action plan, Aurobindo Pharma Foundation allocated ₹3.5 crores for the construction of 17 classrooms at the Government Junior College (Girls) in Sangareddy, scheduled from October 2021 to June 2023, to enhance women's education. However, due to rising costs, the total expenditure increased to ₹5.4 crores, including investments in material infrastructure. Recognizing the project's long-term impact and sustainability in empowering women's education, the Foundation willingly exceeded its initial budget to ensure the successful completion of the infrastructure.

The following sections outline the methodology and key highlights of the project's impact assessment.

3. Methodology And Approach

3.1. Evaluation Framework

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Development Assistance Committee (DAC) criteria provided the basis for assessing the impact of CSR initiatives. These criteria ensure a structured and comprehensive approach.



Relevance measures the extent to which the project **aligns** with the needs of the target population and broader stakeholder priorities.

Coherence evaluates how well the project aligns with existing interventions, policies, and strategies to ensure a harmonized and complementary approach.

Effectiveness examines whether the intended outcomes were achieved within the specified timeline and scope.

Efficiency assesses the optimal use of resources, including time, funds, and human capital, to deliver the desired outcomes.

Impact focuses on the long-term effects of the project, including its intended and unintended consequences on social, economic, and environmental dimensions.

Sustainability reviews the long-term viability of the project outcomes, considering the capacity for ongoing support, funding, and resilience.
This framework ensures that the CSR initiatives not only achieve their immediate goals but also deliver sustainable and transformative benefits for the community.

3.2. Sample Size and Data Collection

A two-member team conducted field visits to the Government Junior Girls College, from 4 to 5 December 2024 and engaged in discussions with primary and secondary stakeholders, covering a total of 35 respondents.

Table 1: Sample Size

Category of Respondents	**Interviews**	**Tools**
Governments Junior College (Girls)		Observations
Principal	1	
Teachers (5) and Non-Teaching (4)	9	
Parents	3	Questionnaire
Current Students	5	
Community	5	
Old Students (focus group discussion)	12	Checklist
Total Sample	**35**	

To ensure diverse perspectives from impacted groups, the assessment employed a purposive sampling method, intentionally selecting participants based on specific characteristics relevant to the study. This approach is effective in qualitative research for identifying and selecting information-rich cases related to the phenomenon of interest.
Primary data was collected through key informant interviews, focus group discussions (FGDs), and on-site observations. Secondary data sources included project documents, annual action plans, media coverage, and reports.

Interaction with various stakeholders of the college during data collection

3.3. Limitations

This approach ensured the thorough assessment of CSR projects, balancing the need for comprehensive data collection with time and logistical constraints.

Sample Size: The study was limited to 35 respondents, which may not capture the full spectrum of experiences and broader impacts.

Time Constraints: The assessment focused on short-term impacts, potentially overlooking long-term sustainability issues.

Generalizability: Findings are specific to the Government Junior College (Girls) in Sangareddy district and may not be universally applicable to other regions. Purposive sampling, while effective for targeted insights, often limits the ability to generalize results to broader populations.

4. Assessment Findings

4.1. Purpose of the Impact Assessment

The impact assessment was carried out to assess the following aspects:

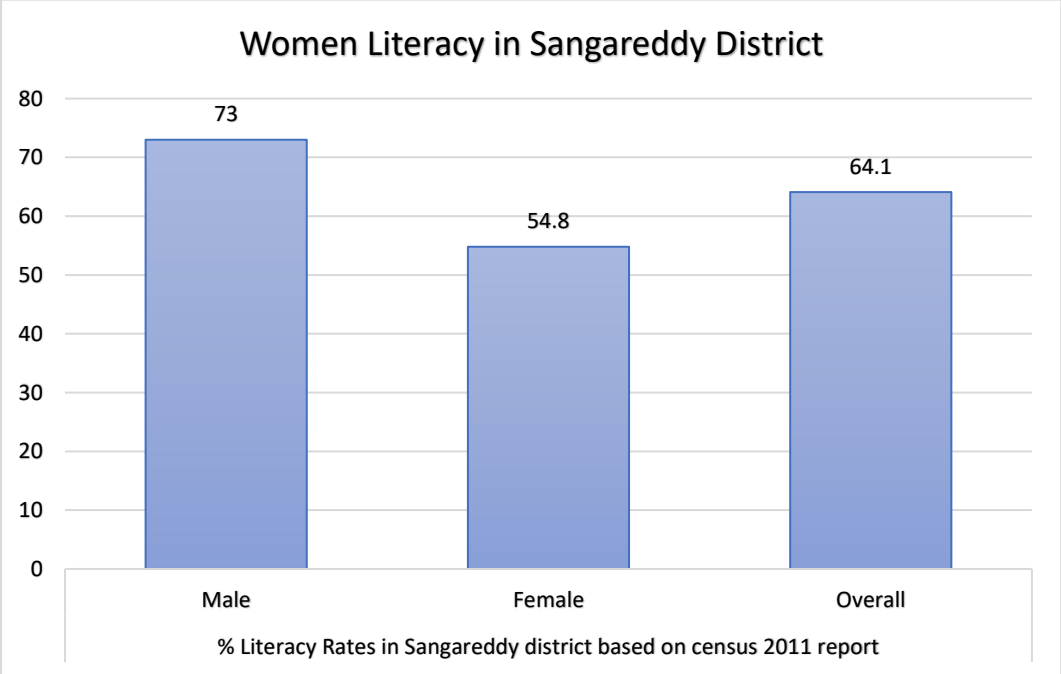
- Assess the effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability of the infrastructure development for the Government Junior College
- Understand how building construction has impacted education and empowerment of the women
- Provide recommendations for future enhancements and scalability.

4.2. Women Education in the Sangareddy District

Sangareddy serves as the headquarters of Sangareddy district, which was formed from the erstwhile Medak district during the reorganization of districts following the formation of Telangana in 2016. Despite its proximity to the urban Hyderabad region, women's education in the district remains significantly low, highlighting the need for focused efforts to bridge the gender gap and improve educational access for women.

The overall literacy rate in Sangareddy is 64.08%, which is lower than the state average of 66.54%. The male literacy rate stands at 73.02%, while the female literacy rate is 54.84%.

This data highlights a significant gender gap in literacy, with women's literacy (54.84%) being notably lower than that of men (73.02%). This underscores the need for continued efforts to promote women's education in the district.



4.3. About the Government Junior College (Girls), Sangareddy

Established in 1982, the Government Junior College (Girls) in Sangareddy began in a modest facility originally designed to provide basic skill training for women. The initial infrastructure comprised eight rooms with asbestos sheet roofing, offering a significant opportunity for girls aspiring to pursue higher education after completing their Secondary School Certificate (SSC).

By 1985, the college expanded its curriculum to include courses in MPC (Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry), Bi. PC (Biology, Physics, Chemistry), CEC (Civics, Economics, Commerce), and HEC (History, Economics, Civics) in Telugu medium, as well as Bi. PC and HEC in Urdu medium. Additionally, a vocational course in Office Assistance was introduced, all within the same campus. Over the years, the institution became a preferred choice for students from neighbouring villages, particularly due to the availability of hostel facilities for students from Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), and Backward Classes (BC) categories.

However, with rising enrollment, the existing infrastructure became inadequate, forcing students to sit outside due to limited classroom space. This challenge was further exacerbated by adverse weather conditions—leaking roofs during the rainy season and intense heat in summer due to asbestos roofing, creating an uncomfortable and unhealthy learning environment. Additionally, the absence of protective mesh on windows occasionally led to snake intrusions, posing a serious safety risk to students and faculty.

Recognizing these limitations, the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) constructed four additional classrooms in 2015, while the College Development Committee contributed by building two more classrooms. Despite these efforts, the need for further expansion remained critical.

4.4. CSR Support from the APF to address the Challenges

To address the challenges faced by the Government Junior College (Girls) in Sangareddy, the Aurobindo Pharma Foundation (APF), a philanthropic arm of Aurobindo Pharma Limited, undertook a significant infrastructure project. This involved demolishing the original eight classrooms, established in 1982, and constructing 17 new classrooms. The initiative commenced in October 2021 and was completed by June 2023, ensuring the new facilities were ready for the academic year. The official inauguration took place on September 16, 2023.

The construction adhered to high-quality standards, as approved by the Telangana State Education and Welfare Infrastructure Development Corporation (TSEWIDC). In addition to the new classrooms, APF provided material infrastructure support, significantly enhancing classroom comfort and creating a conducive learning environment.

This initiative has greatly improved educational access, safety, and infrastructure, reinforcing the college's role in empowering young women through education and fostering inclusive development.

Table 2: Stakeholders

#	Stakeholder	Role in the Project
1	Government of Telangana	Land for the construction in the old college building area
2	Aurobindo Pharma Foundation	Construction of building and infrastructure
3	Administrative, teaching and non-teaching staff	Support through monitoring and supervision and Cooperation
4	Students of the Government Junior College (Girls)	Cooperation and adjustment to the circumstances
5	Architects & Contractors	Construction of the College Building

4.5. Physical Infrastructure and Material Support

The building construction was executed in three phases to minimize disruption to ongoing classes. To accommodate the increasing student population and enhance the learning experience at the Government Junior College in Sangareddy, the Aurobindo Pharma Foundation (APF) implemented a comprehensive infrastructure development plan. This plan was executed in three phases to minimize disruption to ongoing classes:

- **Phase 1 (October 2021 – July 2022):** Construction of eight classrooms was completed before the start of the next academic year.
- **Phase 2:** An additional eight classrooms and washrooms were constructed.
- **Final Completion (June 2023):** The entire infrastructure was handed over, ensuring uninterrupted academic activities from the following academic year.

The new classrooms were built to high-quality standards, as approved by the Telangana State Education and Welfare Infrastructure Development Corporation (TSEWIDC). Each classroom features green boards and elevated podiums, enhancing visibility, audibility, and engagement between teachers and students. Enhanced electrification ensures proper lighting and electrical connections, creating a comfortable learning atmosphere. Separate washrooms for male and female staff were equipped with PWD-friendly western commodes, ensuring accessibility and hygiene.

This initiative has significantly improved educational access, safety, and infrastructure, reinforcing the college's role in empowering young women through education and fostering inclusive development.

The construction up to the room number 8 were done in the phase 1

The construction starting from room number 9 was done in the phase 2

Media Coverage: The event received extensive coverage in the print media, highlighting the positive impact of the project on the educational landscape. The media attention not only celebrated the immediate benefits of the initiative but also raised awareness about the importance of supporting education in rural areas, especially for girls.

In addition to constructing new classrooms, the Aurobindo Pharma Foundation (APF) provided 200 dual desks, 17 tables, and 17 chairs to the Government Junior College (Girls) in Sangareddy. This contribution significantly enhanced classroom comfort and created a conducive learning environment.

Research indicates that well-designed classroom furniture positively impacts student engagement and learning outcomes. For instance, appropriate furniture can lead to increased classroom engagement among both students and faculty, higher attendance rates, and improved academic performance.

By improving comfort, accessibility, and functionality, these enhancements contribute to a better educational experience for both students and staff.

Table 3: Infrastructure and Material Support

#	Type of Infrastructure	Number
1	Class Rooms	10
2	Principal Chamber	1
3	Staff Room	1
4	Library	1
5	Administration Room	1
6	Botany and Zoology lab with partition	1+1
7	Toilet for the Staff	1
8	Dual desks	200
9	Tables	17
10	Chairs	17
11	Green Boards	12

4.6. Key Outputs of the Improved Infrastructure

The infrastructure enhancements at Government Junior College (Girls), Sangareddy, have significantly bolstered academic quality, administrative efficiency, faculty well-being, and hygiene facilities. The key outputs of these developments include:

Classroom Expansion (10 New Classrooms)

- Increased seating capacity, eliminating the need for students to sit outside.
- Spacious, well-ventilated, and comfortable learning spaces.
- Furnished with 200 dual desks, 17 tables, and 17 chairs, enhancing the learning experience.

Library Room (1)

- Dedicated space for academic resources, reference materials, and self-learning.
- Enhanced book collection and better seating arrangements for students.
- Encourages independent study, research, and reading habits.

Principal's Chamber

- Well-equipped office for decision-making, student-faculty meetings, and administrative leadership.
- Formal setting for discussions with parents and external stakeholders.

Staff Room (1)

- Dedicated space for faculty to prepare lessons and engage in discussions.
- Comfortable seating and storage facilities for teachers.
- Enhances faculty collaboration and morale.

Administrative Room (1)

- Structured and functional space for record-keeping, admissions, student support, and documentation.
- Improves workflow efficiency and grievance redressal mechanisms.

Botany & Zoology Laboratories (2 Rooms)

- Upgraded laboratory infrastructure with modern equipment for practical learning.
- Proper specimen storage, lab instruments, and workstations for hands-on experiments.
- Encourages scientific inquiry and experiential learning among students.

Toilets for Male and Female Staff (1 Room)

- Separate, hygienic washrooms for male and female faculty members, ensuring better comfort and sanitation.
- Improved water supply and maintenance, promoting health and hygiene.

4.7. Key Outcomes/Achievements

1. Designated principal's chamber and administrative room has streamlined operations, leading to better management efficiency in handling student records, admissions, and queries.
2. The staff room provides a comfortable workspace, allowing teachers to prepare lessons and collaborate effectively.
3. Students now have better-equipped classrooms and labs, fostering higher engagement and improved academic outcomes.
4. The library provides additional learning resources, encouraging self-directed study and research skills.
5. Botany and Zoology labs enhance scientific learning, enabling students to apply theoretical concepts in practical settings and students are able to gain hands-on experience in scientific experiments.
6. Enhances practical knowledge and prepares students for higher education and careers in science.
7. The library and science labs provide additional learning spaces, reducing academic pressure on regular classrooms.
8. The addition of separate male and female staff toilets has significantly improved sanitation for faculty members.

9. A more structured and secure learning environment, with better ventilation, furniture, and safety provisions.
10. The college can now accommodate more students, leading to increased enrollment and retention rates.
11. The upgraded infrastructure ensures sustainability and longevity, benefiting future generations of students and faculty.

Government Junior College (Girls), Sangareddy- a testament to the commitment of Aurobindo Pharma Foundation for Education and women empowerment

4.8. Impact of the Building and Infrastructure Facilities

The project has led to several significant impacts:

Introduction of English Medium Instruction: Starting in the 2022-23 academic year, English medium instruction for MPC, Bi. PC, and CEC courses was introduced, expanding opportunities for students.

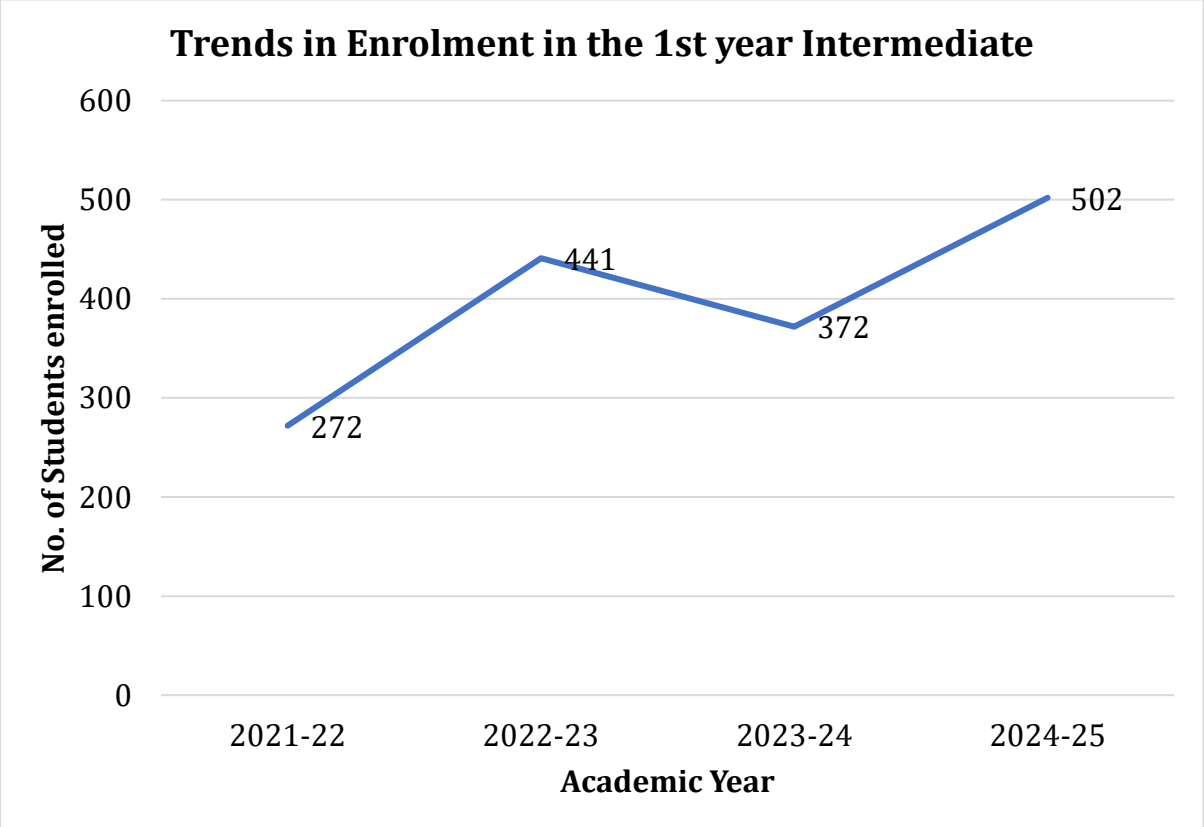
Kung Fu Training Program: A six-month Kung Fu training course was implemented, significantly enhancing self-defence skills and boosting confidence among female students.

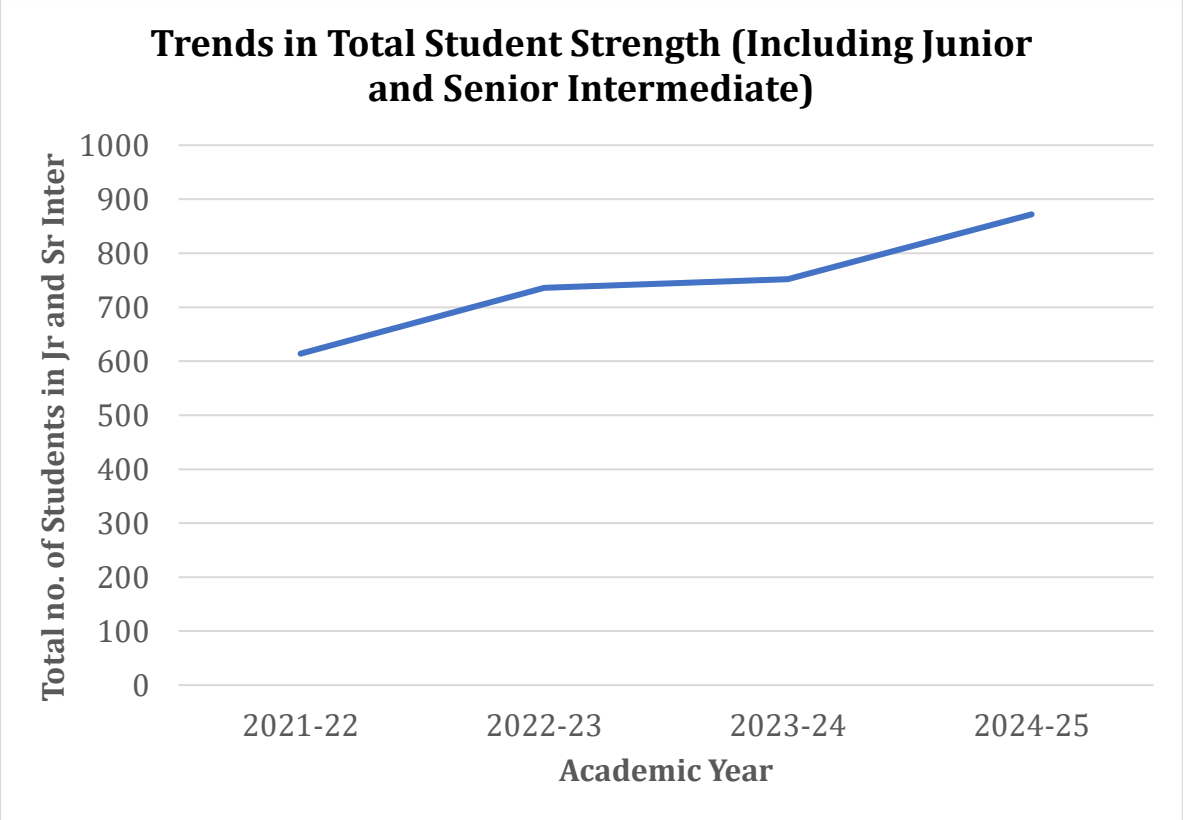
Employment Opportunities: Some students have become Kung Fu instructors under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) in government schools, earning ₹5,000 per month for two months per school, teaching one hour daily. This opportunity allows them to engage with multiple schools throughout the year, providing a sustainable source of income.

Increased Enrolment: The total student strength considering year 1 and 2 of intermediate increased by 42% from 2021-22 to 2024-25 academic years (from 614 to 872). Surprisingly, when fresh enrolments to the year 1 intermediate are considered, there is 84.5% increase from 2021-22 to 2024-25 (From 272 to 502).

Table 4: Enrolment of Students in the 1st year Intermediate and Total Student Strength from both the Junior and Senior Intermediate in the Academic Years 2021-22 to 2024-25

Academic Year	Enrolment in the 1st year Intermediate	Total Student Strength (Including Junior and Senior Intermediate)
2021-22	272	614
2022-23	441	736
2023-24	372	752
2024-25	502	872

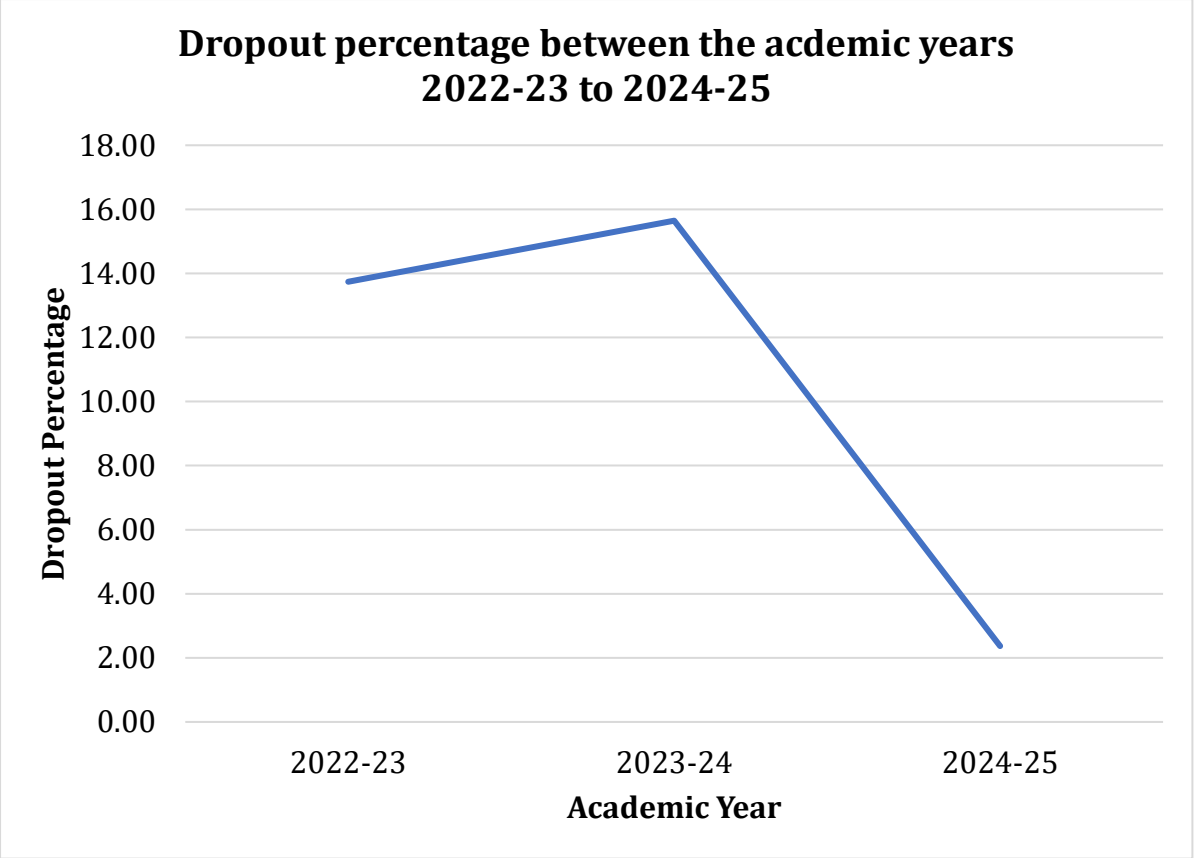




Reduced Dropout Rates: The dropout percentage is the percentage of students discontinuing from junior intermediate to senior intermediate. The reasons are plenty including socio economic backgrounds of the parents and the early marriage system. The dropout rate was previously 15 to 20% across both years but has now dropped to below 15%. The data below showcases astonishing results in the dropout percentages which have reduced very steeply after the construction of the college building by the APF.

Table 5: Dropout percentage during the academic years 2022-23 to 24-25

Academic Year	Drop out percentage
2022-23	13.74
2023-24	15.65
2024-25	2.37



Decreased Absenteeism: The number of daily absentees has decreased by 40%, indicating improved student motivation, comfort, and accessibility. Previously, nearly 15% absenteeism was observed every day, which has now reduced to 10 to 12%.

Support for Economically Disadvantaged Students: 93% of the beneficiaries come from families of farmers and daily wage labourers facing financial hardships. The upgraded facilities help them overcome unique socio-economic challenges and pursue education in a safe, encouraging environment.

These outcomes underscore the transformative impact of the infrastructure improvements on the educational experience and overall well-being of the students and faculty at Government Junior College (Girls), Sangareddy.

4.9. Feedback and Reflections

Feedback from various stakeholders is crucial in evaluating the impact of the infrastructure development at Government Junior College (Girls), Sangareddy. Insights from the Principal, teachers, students, parents, community members, and non-teaching staff help assess whether the new facilities have improved learning experiences, administrative efficiency, and the overall campus environment.

Principal's Perspective: The Principal has observed a notable improvement in administrative efficiency and student engagement following the infrastructure enhancements. The addition of a dedicated administrative room has streamlined operations, leading to better management of student records, admissions, and queries. The Principal also highlighted that the new classrooms

and laboratories have created a more conducive learning environment, fostered higher student engagement and improved academic outcomes.

Teachers' Feedback: Teachers have reported that the spacious, well-ventilated classrooms equipped with modern amenities have significantly enhanced the teaching and learning experience. The built-in blackboards and elevated podiums have improved visibility and audibility, facilitating better teacher-student interactions. The upgraded laboratories have enabled more effective practical sessions, allowing students to apply theoretical concepts in a hands-on setting.

Students' Experiences: Students have expressed appreciation for the improved learning environment. The new classrooms provide comfortable seating and ample space, reducing distractions and enhancing focus. The upgraded laboratories offer opportunities for practical learning. The library's enhanced resources and better seating arrangements encourage independent study fostering a culture of self-directed learning.

Parents' and Community Members' Observations: Parents and community members have noted the positive changes in the college's infrastructure and its impact on students' academic performance and well-being. They appreciated the Foundation's efforts in providing a safe and conducive learning environment for their children. The community acknowledges that the improved facilities have made the college a more attractive option for higher education, contributing to increased enrollment and retention rates.

Non-Teaching Staff's Input: The non-teaching staff have reported that the new administrative spaces and facilities have improved their workflow and efficiency. The structured and functional administrative room has facilitated better record-keeping and student support services. The addition of separate, hygienic washrooms for staff has also enhanced their comfort and well-being.

Overall, the feedback from all stakeholders indicates that the infrastructure development has had a positive impact on the college community, enhancing educational access, improving learning conditions, and providing empowerment opportunities for young women.

4.10.Contribution to Sustainable Development Goals

The CSR project at Government Junior College (Girls), Sangareddy, supports seven key SDGs, as mentioned in the table 6 below reinforcing the commitment of the APF to education, gender equality, health, economic empowerment, and sustainable community development. Building infrastructure for the government junior college (girls), where the students are from poor economic background, meets directly the **Sustainable Development Goal of quality education (SDG 4), '**gender equality' (SDG 5), 'Good Health and well-being' (SDG 3) and '**Decent work and economic growth' (SDG 8)** by fostering skill development and employability among youth. Additionally, the project can impact **'reduced inequalities' (SDG 10)** by providing education opportunities to marginalized communities.

Table 6: Alignment of the CSR project with the SDGs

SDGs	Alignment
	New classrooms and improved facilities enhance access to quality education. Science labs and vocational courses improve practical learning. Increased enrolment, reduced dropout rates, and decreased absenteeism ensure better educational access.
	Investment in girls' education ensures equal learning opportunities. Kung Fu training empowers female students with self-defence skills. Education of girls from marginalized backgrounds promote gender equality.
	Improved sanitation and separate washrooms (including PWD-friendly facilities) enhance hygiene and health. Proper ventilation, electrification, and seating improve classroom comfort, reducing fatigue.
	Vocational training (Kung Fu training for self-employment) provides income opportunities. Students earn through Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), promoting economic independence. Infrastructure upgrades create jobs in construction, maintenance, and teaching support.
	93% of students belong to economically weaker sections, ensuring education reaches disadvantaged communities. Hostel facilities and improved infrastructure provide access to quality education. English-medium instruction bridges the urban-rural education divide
	Sustainable infrastructure in education contributes to community progress. Safer and more inclusive learning spaces enhance social development. School infrastructure designed to meet safety and hygiene standards ensures long-term sustainability.

	Encourage public-private partnerships (PPPs) and civil society participation. The construction of building for the Government Junior College stands as a testament to the public-private partnership for the well-being and empowerment of women.

5. Challenges

The Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative undertaken by Aurobindo Pharma Foundation at the Government Junior College (Girls) in Sangareddy has led to significant improvements in educational infrastructure and student outcomes. However, several challenges were encountered during the project's planning and execution phases:

Budget Overruns: The initial budget of ₹3.5 crores escalated to ₹5.4 crores due to inflation and rising construction costs.

Unplanned Expenditures: Additional costs for electrification, furniture, and sanitation were not fully anticipated in the original budget.

Phased Construction Impact: The multi-phase construction from 2021 to 2023 caused disruptions in regular classes, as students had to use temporary learning spaces.

Supply Chain Issues: Shortages of raw materials and labour, especially during monsoon seasons, delayed the construction timeline.

Medium of Instruction Transition: Introducing English-medium instruction faced resistance from some students and teachers accustomed to Telugu or Urdu.

Vocational Training Acceptance: The implementation of Kung Fu training required time to gain acceptance among students and parents due to initial doubts about its relevance.

Socioeconomic Barriers: With 93% of students coming from families of farmers and daily wage labourers, financial and social pressures posed challenges to sustained enrollment.

Cultural Expectations: Societal norms and family expectations often pressured young girls to discontinue education, affecting the long-term impact of the improved infrastructure.

Maintenance of Facilities: Ensuring the upkeep of new classrooms, laboratories, and sanitation facilities requires ongoing funding and oversight.

Durability of Resources: Proper handling and maintenance of furniture and equipment are essential to ensure their longevity.

Coordination with Government Bodies: Aligning the project with regulations from the Telangana State Education for Women and Infrastructure Development Corporation (TSEWIDC) necessitated additional approvals, leading to delays.

Staff Engagement: Encouraging effective utilization of new spaces like staff rooms and laboratories required continuous engagement with faculty and staff.

Addressing these challenges through sustainable maintenance plans, financial support mechanisms, and increased stakeholder collaboration is essential for the project's long-term

success. This aligns with broader observations in CSR initiatives within India's education sector, where issues such as budget constraints, stakeholder engagement, and sustainability are common.

6. Recommendations and Way forward

6.1. Recommendations to the College

The infrastructure enhancements at Government Junior College (Girls), Sangareddy, have significantly bolstered academic quality, administrative efficiency, faculty well-being, and hygiene facilities. To ensure the sustainability and further advancement of these improvements, the following recommendations are proposed:

Diversify Funding Sources

- **Collaborate with Government Bodies and NGOs**: Engage with governmental agencies and non-governmental organizations to secure additional funding for ongoing maintenance and future infrastructure upgrades.
- **Corporate Sponsorships**: Seek partnerships with corporations under their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives to fund specific projects or programs.

Alumni and Community Support

- **Establish an Alumni Network**: Create a platform for former students to stay connected and contribute to the college's development through mentorship or financial support.
- **Community Fundraising Initiatives**: Organize events and campaigns to raise funds within the local community, fostering a sense of ownership and involvement.

Annual Maintenance Fund: Set aside a specific portion of the college's budget exclusively for the upkeep of classrooms, laboratories, furniture, and sanitation facilities to ensure longevity and functionality.

Student and Staff Engagement: Form a committee comprising faculty, students, and non-teaching staff to oversee the proper use and maintenance of facilities, promoting a culture of responsibility.

Digital Learning and Smart Classrooms: Implement smart boards, e-libraries, and other digital tools to enhance the learning experience and make full use of the upgraded infrastructure.

Strengthen Vocational Training

- **Expand Self-Defence Programs**: Build upon existing self-defence courses by introducing additional techniques and related disciplines.
- **Introduce Vocational Courses**: Offer programs in computer literacy, financial management, and spoken English to equip students with diverse skills relevant to the job market.

Industry and Skill Partnerships: Partner with businesses and training institutes to provide internships and skill-based programs, aligning education with market needs.

Encourage STEM Education: Further develop existing labs and introduce programs in basic coding, robotics, and environmental science to foster interest in STEM fields.

Community Awareness: Conduct sessions to educate parents on the importance of girls' education, aiming to reduce dropout rates influenced by socio-economic pressures.

Scholarships and Financial Aid: Collaborate with entities to offer scholarships and stipends to students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, ensuring financial constraints do not hinder education.

Flexible Learning Modules: Provide after-school tutoring, peer mentoring, and remedial classes to assist students who may need additional help with the curriculum.

Women's Health and Hygiene Awareness: Organize health camps, menstrual hygiene sessions, and mental health counselling to promote overall well-being among students.

Safe Campus Initiative: **Enhance Security Measures**: Install CCTV cameras, establish grievance redressal systems, and form self-help groups to ensure a secure learning environment for female students.

Government Partnerships: Work closely with the Telangana State Education and Welfare Infrastructure Development Corporation to ensure compliance with policies and to seek additional support.

Teacher Training: Organize regular training sessions and workshops for teachers to improve teaching methodologies and enhance student engagement.

By implementing these strategic recommendations, the college can achieve sustainable growth, long-term impact, and holistic development, ensuring that the infrastructure enhancements translate into meaningful educational outcomes.

7. Scoring Matrix and Conclusion

7.1. Scoring Matrix

The OECD Scoring System is a structured framework developed by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to evaluate projects, policies, and development interventions based on key performance indicators.

Table 7: OECD-DAC Scoring Matrix

OECD DAC Criteria	Description	Score	Rating Based on Score
Relevance	Alignment of the project with local educational needs and national/global priorities.	5	1-2: Low Relevance, 3: Moderate Relevance, 4: High Relevance, 5: Fully Relevant
Effectiveness	Achievement of intended outcomes such as increased enrollment, reduced dropout rates, and improved academic performance.	4.5	1-2: Low Effectiveness, 3: Moderate Effectiveness, 4: High Effectiveness, 5: Fully Effective
Efficiency	Optimal use of resources in delivering project outcomes within budget and timeframe.	4.5	1-2: Low Efficiency, 3: Moderate Efficiency, 4: High Efficiency, 5: Excellent Efficiency
Impact	Long-term benefits on students, faculty, and the community in terms of education, employability, and empowerment.	4.5	1-2: Low Impact, 3: Moderate Impact, 4: Significant Impact, 5: Transformational Impact
Sustainability	The likelihood that project benefits will continue without external support in the long run.	4	1-2: Low Sustainability, 3: Moderate Sustainability, 4: High Sustainability, 5: Fully Sustainable

Relevance (Score: 5 – Fully Relevant)

- The project is highly aligned with local educational needs and national/global priorities, particularly in women's education and infrastructure development.
- This indicates that the intervention directly addresses the challenges faced by students and contributes meaningfully to the goal of inclusive education.

Effectiveness (Score: 4.5 – High Effectiveness)

- The project has successfully increased enrolment, reduced dropout rates, and improved academic performance, indicating that the intervention is meeting its intended objectives.
- While effectiveness is high, continuous monitoring is needed to ensure sustained improvement in student outcomes.

Efficiency (Score: 4.5 – High Efficiency)

- The resources were well-utilized, and the project was completed within a reasonable timeframe and budget, despite cost escalations.
- This suggests that the implementation process was well-structured and cost-effective
- **Impact (Score: 4.5 – Significant Impact)**
- The project has made a substantial positive impact on students, faculty, and the community by enhancing education, employability, and empowerment.
- The introduction of vocational training (Kung Fu courses) and new learning facilities has helped students develop practical skills and financial independence.
- Further expansion of skill-based learning and industry partnerships can increase long-term socio-economic benefits.

Sustainability (Score: 4 –High Sustainability)

- The project has high sustainability, meaning that while the infrastructure will continue to benefit students, long-term financial and maintenance support is required.
- Establishing maintenance funds, community engagement programs, and partnerships with local organizations will ensure that the improvements remain functional and beneficial over time.

Based on the impact assessment scores, the CSR project for infrastructure development at the Government Junior College (Girls), Sangareddy, demonstrates strong performance in most evaluation criteria, with minor areas for improvement.

7.2. Overall Conclusion

The CSR project at Government Junior College (Girls), Sangareddy, stands as a testament to the transformative power of targeted educational interventions. It has yielded substantial positive outcomes across multiple dimensions. By addressing critical infrastructure needs and introducing innovative programs, the project has not only elevated the academic experience but also empowered female students to overcome socio-economic challenges. Overall, the CSR project is highly relevant, effective, efficient, and impactful. Continued focus on sustainability and stakeholder collaboration will be essential to maintain and build upon these achievements, ensuring lasting impact for future generations.

8. Case Study

Empowering Through Martial Arts – The Journey of Ms. B.R. Vijayalaxmi

Vijayalaxmi, a determined young woman from Vittu Nayak Thanda, Sangareddy District, is the eldest of three sisters. She completed her intermediate at Government Junior College (Girls), Sangareddy, where she discovered her passion for martial arts. Her journey began in her second year of intermediate when she enrolled in Kung Fu training, practicing rigorously before and after college hours. She continued practicing for an additional year, receiving free martial arts training under expert guidance. She pursued the black belt certification, eventually qualifying as a Martial Arts Trainer.

Vijayalaxmi's skills soon earned her prestigious accolades, including the International Kung Fu Championship (Sangareddy, 2024) and the Goa International Martial Arts Championship (2024). Her dedication was further recognized when she received an award from the Sangareddy Collector on Independence Day 2024 and a youth day felicitation by Yuvajana Services Sakha.

Now, she teaches Kung Fu at Andole and Sangareddy Government Schools, through the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan's self-defence training program, earning ₹10,000 per month, empowering young girls with self-defence skills. Alongside her martial arts career, she is pursuing a B.A. degree from Ambedkar Open University and has also learned stitching, earning an additional ₹2,000 per month. With her earnings, she self-funded a six-month computer basics course, showcasing her unwavering determination for continuous learning. Her ultimate dream is to become an IPS officer, proving that education, skill development, and perseverance can transform lives. Her story stands as a testament to women's empowerment and self-reliance, inspiring countless young girls to chase their dreams fearlessly.

Impact Assessment of Zilla Parishad High School, Mustabad, Rajanna-Sircilla District, Telangana

Constructed by Aurobindo Pharma Foundation (A philanthropic arm of Aurobindo Pharma Ltd, under Corporate Social Responsibility)

Submitted to

AUROBINDO PHARMA FOUNDATION

Submitted by

apmas

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Abbreviations

APF	Aurobindo Pharma Foundation
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
ZPHS	Zilla Parishad High School
UDISE+	Unified District Information System for Education Plus
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SSA	Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan
ABP	Ayushman Bharat Programme
RBSK	Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram
SMC	School Management Committee
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
BPL	Below Poverty Line

Acknowledgements

On behalf of APMAS, we would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Aurobindo Pharma Foundation, a Philanthropic arm of Aurobindo Pharma Ltd, giving us the opportunity to conduct the impact assessment of the Zilla Parishad High School, Mustabad. This has been a unique and meaningful experience, allowing us to observe and document the transformative changes brought about by this CSR initiative in providing Infrastructure facilities to underprivileged students in and around Mustabad village.

We sincerely thank the Headmaster of Zilla Parishad High School, Mustabad, **Sri. Raji Reddy**, for his invaluable support and leadership during the assessment process. His guidance and openness in sharing key insights about the project have been instrumental in shaping this report. We are also deeply grateful to **Sri Anandam**, whose expertise and input added great value to our understanding of the initiative's impact. Additionally, we acknowledge the efforts and cooperation of all the teachers, Students, and parents who patiently shared data, perspectives, and experiences to support our assessment.

We would also like to express our gratitude to the students and their families, who willingly shared their personal stories and feedback with us. Their testimonies provided crucial insights into the human aspect of this project and its profound impact on their education.

This assessment would not have been possible without the cooperation and support of all the stakeholders involved in the ZPHS Mustabad project. Their willingness to share information, respond to our queries, and provide access to facilities ensured that we could carry out our work effectively and with clarity.

The newly constructed ZP High School, Library & Dining Hall in Mustabad stands as a remarkable testament to the power of collaboration and compassion in addressing critical educational needs. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Aurobindo Pharma Foundation, a Philanthropic arm of Aurobindo Pharma Ltd and all associated partners for their significant contribution to improving access to quality education through their CSR activities. It is truly an honor to have been part of this transformative journey.

With deepest gratitude

Team APMAS!

January 2025

1. Executive Summary

Project Overview

A new school building block was built with 18 classrooms, a headmaster's office, a staff room, and a training hall, as well as a dining hall, separate toilet blocks, a library and modern science and computer labs, essential furniture and learning resources to improve the facilities and enhance access to high quality education for underprivileged students.

An outlay of ₹5.5 crores was provided by Aurobindo Pharma Foundation to establish the school with all facilities. This Zilla Parishad High School (ZPHS) Mustabad, established in 1953, has been a crucial educational institution for students from Mustabad and neighboring villages. Over the years, deteriorating infrastructure led to a sharp decline in student enrollment, dropping from over 550 students to just 62 in the 2023-24 academic year. This alarming situation underscored the urgent need for infrastructure development to restore the school's appeal and effectiveness.

The UDISE+ report (2019-20) for Telangana highlighted a broader trend: while 70.5% of the state's schools are government-run, only 40.9% of students attend them. A major factor for this preference shifts toward private schools is inadequate infrastructure in government schools. In response to such challenges, Aurobindo Pharma Foundation, a Philanthropic arm of Aurobindo Pharma Ltd, stepped in through its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative to revamp ZPHS Mustabad, ensuring better facilities and access to quality education.

Project Objectives and Implementation

The APF-led infrastructure development project aimed at:

- Enhance educational infrastructure to provide a conducive learning environment.
- Improve student retention and enrollment rates by addressing facility deficiencies.
- Foster equitable access to modern learning resources, especially in STEM education.
- Strengthen community confidence in government education.

Key Findings and Impact

The project has had a transformative impact on the school and community, as observed through both qualitative and quantitative indicators:

1. Improved Enrollment and Student Retention

- Student enrollment increased from 62 to 120, reflecting a 94% growth.
- Attendance improved from 72% to 98%, indicating increased student engagement.

- The dropout rate was reduced from 5 to 2 students, showing better retention
- Increased girl student enrolment from 34 % to 68% owing to separate hygiene toilets

2. Enhanced Learning Environment

- Modern classrooms and well-equipped labs have fostered experiential learning in STEM subjects.
- The library and digital tools have encouraged independent learning and academic curiosity.
- Teachers now have better resources, leading to improved pedagogy and student outcomes.

3. Infrastructure and Facility Upgrades

- The number of classrooms increased from 4 to 18, allowing for better class management.
- Construction of separate toilets and a dining hall has improved hygiene and student well-being.
- The school now provides sanitation facilities, addressing critical needs.

4. Positive Social and Community Impact

- Increased parental confidence in government schooling, reversing migration to private institutions.
- Gender inclusivity enhanced through separate toilet facilities, encouraging higher girl student retention (Girls Dropouts reduced from 2 to 1) and enrollments (Girls' enrollment increased from 34% to 68%).
- A stronger school-community relationship, fostering greater stakeholder involvement.

Challenges and Areas for Improvement for School Authorities

Despite significant progress, some challenges persist:

- Underutilization of upper-floor facilities (labs, library, dining hall) due to limited operational planning.
- Security concerns due to gaps in the compound wall, making the school vulnerable to trespassing.
- Playground must be developed, impacting on students' recreational activities.
- Lack of essential resources such as computers, science lab equipment, and additional library books.
- Competition from a nearby girls' high school, which absorbed many students during ZPHS's infrastructure decline.

Recommendations and Way Forward

To ensure long-term sustainability and full utilization of facilities, the following measures are suggested to the school management:

- Collaboration with the Nearby Girls' High School – Organize joint initiatives and competitions to create a harmonious academic ecosystem rather than a competitive divide.
- Resource Mobilization – Seek CSR and government funding to enhance digital infrastructure, lab equipment, and library books.
- Operationalizing Unused Spaces – Establish a structured timetable for utilizing the labs, library, and dining hall for academic and extracurricular activities.
- Strengthening Campus Security – Close the compound wall gap and install CCTV cameras to deter trespassing.
- Playground Improvement – Improve playground and install playing equipment's.
- Community Engagement and Branding – Strengthen awareness programs to attract students, ensuring sustained enrollment.

Conclusion

The ZPHS Mustabad project has not only enhanced student enrolment and attendance but also instilled confidence in parents for sending their children to government school, thereby ensuring access to quality education for underprivileged students. The project aligns well with SDGs (SDG 4: Quality Education, SDG 5: Gender Equality, and SDG 9: Infrastructure Development) and has been successfully executed within budget and timeline constraints.

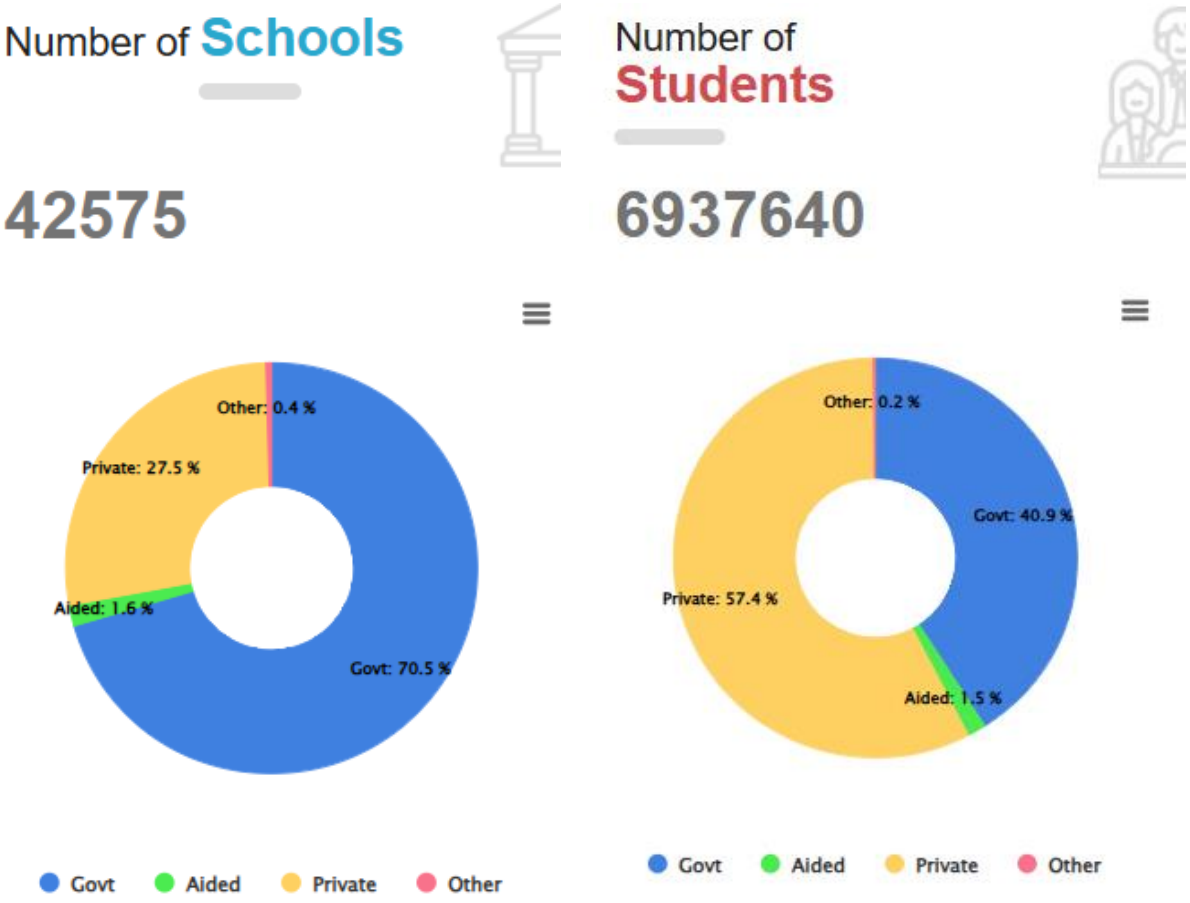
Recommendations

- Organize joint initiatives and competitions with the nearby Girls High School to create a harmonious academic ecosystem rather than a competitive divide
- Seek support from CSR and government authorities to enhance the digital infrastructure, lab equipment and library resources

2. Introduction

2.1 Introduction

The UDISE + report of Telangana State for the year 2019-20 stated that 70.5% of schools (30,001) are government Schools out of total schools of 42,575 schools. However, the number of students studying in government schools is only 40.9% (28,37,635) out of 69,37,640. The numbers are a clear testament to students'/ parents' disinterest in government schools.



One of the primary reasons for this disinterest in government schools has been the lack of adequate basic infrastructure and facilities, which are essential for providing a conducive learning environment. Poorly maintained classrooms, inadequate sanitation, lack of drinking water, and insufficient teaching resources have historically deterred many parents from enrolling their children in government schools.

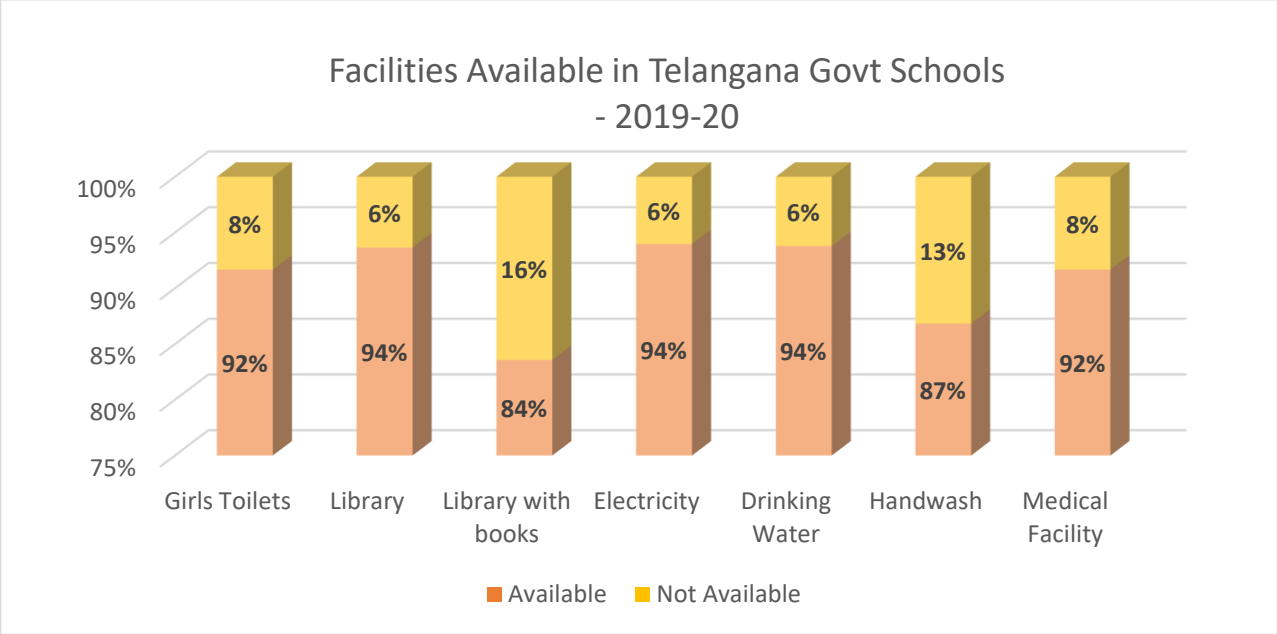
Recognizing this issue, the government, corporate entities, and various stakeholders have taken serious initiatives to improve infrastructure in government schools. Significant investments have been made to upgrade school buildings, provide digital learning tools, improve sanitation facilities, and ensure access to clean drinking water. Various public-private partnerships and CSR (Corporate Social

Responsibility) initiatives have also played a crucial role in transforming the quality of government schools.

These efforts have started yielding positive results, but sustained commitment and further improvements are necessary to restore confidence in the government school system and ensure equitable access to quality education for all children.

Table: Basic Facilities available in Telangana government Schools:

Facility	Available	Not Available	Total	% Of Availability
Girls Toilets	27,502	2,499	30,001	91.67
Library	28,095	1,906	30,001	93.65
Library with books	25,070	4,931	30,001	83.56
Electricity	28,189	1,812	30,001	93.96
Drinking Water	28,136	1,865	30,001	93.78
Handwash	26,046	3,955	30,001	86.82
Medical Facility	27,502	2,499	30,001	91.67



The statistics are witnessing the efforts of various stakeholders including governments, corporates, NGOs and others to revive the government educational systems by improving the infrastructure facilities. However, schools like ZPHS - Mustabad are still lacking improvement and facing drastic dropouts.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) has become a key part of running responsible businesses in today's world. In India and globally, companies

understand the need to give back to society, protect nature, and support sustainable growth. In a country like India, where challenges like poverty, inequality, lack of healthcare, and environmental damage are common, CSR plays an important role in addressing these issues.

The Companies Act, 2013, made CSR mandatory for certain businesses in India. This law brought more transparency and responsibility to how companies contribute to society. It has encouraged companies to plan and organize their CSR activities to meet the real needs of communities.

CSR also improves a company's public image. When businesses genuinely support social and environmental causes, they earn trust and respect from customers, employees, and the public. This builds a positive reputation, inspires employees, and attracts people who prefer socially responsible brands.

In short, CSR is more than just business—it's a commitment to improving the world. In India, CSR projects, especially in healthcare, help tackle important challenges and support sustainable development. By focusing on CSR, companies become a force for good, helping build a fair, literate, healthy, and sustainable future for everyone.

2.2 Importance of CSR in India

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) has played a pivotal role in the development of Indian education infrastructure, especially in government schools. With an increasing focus on bridging the gap in education quality and access, companies have leveraged their CSR initiatives to address systemic issues in the education sector.

Key Contributions of CSR in Indian Education Infrastructure Development

1. **Building and Upgrading Infrastructure**

- Construction and Renovation: Many corporates have invested in building classrooms, libraries, laboratories, and sanitary facilities in government schools.
- Smart Classrooms: CSR initiatives often focus on integrating technology into classrooms, such as providing digital boards, projectors, and other e-learning tools.
- Access to Basic Amenities: Companies address infrastructural deficiencies by constructing toilets, installing drinking water facilities, and ensuring clean and safe school environments.

2. **Enhancing Learning Resources**

- Provision of Educational Materials: Companies provide textbooks, notebooks, and learning aids to underprivileged students.
- Technology Integration: CSR programs often include computers, tablets, and internet access to enhance digital literacy among students.

- Library Establishment: Many CSR initiatives include setting up libraries with a diverse collection of books to foster a culture of reading.

3. Teacher Training and Capacity Building

- Corporations fund and organize teacher training programs to enhance pedagogical skills and adapt innovative teaching methods.
- Some CSR initiatives sponsor exchange programs or workshops to empower teachers with modern teaching practices.

4. Scholarships and Financial Aid

- Many companies provide scholarships for meritorious and underprivileged students to encourage academic excellence.
- CSR funds are often used to sponsor school uniforms, midday meals, or transport facilities, reducing the financial burden on students' families.

5. Promoting Girl Child Education

- Special emphasis is placed on increasing enrollment and retention of girls in schools by addressing gender-specific challenges, such as building separate toilets or distributing menstrual hygiene products.

6. Skill Development and Vocational Training

- CSR programs often include skill-based training and vocational education for students in higher grades, preparing them for employment opportunities.
- Workshops and awareness programs are organized to align students' education with industry needs.

7. Community Engagement and Awareness

- Companies engage with local communities to promote the importance of education and improve enrollment rates.
- Programs often focus on encouraging parental involvement in their children's education.

2.3 About Aurobindo Pharma Limited

Aurobindo Pharma Limited, founded in 1986 by Mr. P. V. Ramprasad Reddy, Mr. K. Nityananda Reddy, and a group of dedicated professionals, is a leading pharmaceutical company based in India. Commencing its operations in 1988-89 with a single unit manufacturing Semi-Synthetic Penicillin (SSP) in Pondicherry, the company has grown to become a prominent player in the pharmaceutical industry. In 1992, Aurobindo Pharma became a public company and listed its shares on Indian stock exchanges in 1995.

With a vision to make a positive impact on healthcare and human well-being, Aurobindo Pharma has achieved significant success and leadership in various

therapeutic segments, including neurosciences, cardiovascular, anti-retroviral, anti-diabetics, gastroenterology, and antibiotics, among others. The company's strengths lie in its large manufacturing facilities approved by leading regulatory bodies, a diversified product portfolio, and a robust research and development facility in India for formulations and active ingredients. Emphasizing operational excellence, Aurobindo Pharma embraces vertical integration, regulatory expertise, and advanced technology for specialty formulations.

2.4 About Aurobindo Pharma Foundation

Aurobindo Pharma Foundation is the philanthropic arm of Aurobindo Pharma Limited, dedicated to fostering the social and economic growth of the nation through its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) program. Committed to improving social, environmental, and economic practices, the foundation collaborates with community groups and implements initiatives that benefit society and enhance the country's institutions.

Focused on sustained excellence and responsible business practices, Aurobindo Pharma Foundation operates and adheres to essential social and environmental policies. The foundation's CSR initiatives encompass various intervention areas, such as promoting education, rural development, supporting preventive healthcare, eradicating hunger, and poverty, ensuring safe drinking water availability, encouraging environmental sustainability, conserving natural resources, and establishing old-age homes and many more. Through its responsible and compassionate approach, Aurobindo Pharma Foundation exemplifies the commitment of Aurobindo Pharma Limited towards social welfare, sustainability, and inclusive growth, aligning its efforts with the needs of the communities it serves and the well-being of the nation.

2.5 About Zilla Parishad High School, Mustabad

Zilla Parishad High School, Mustabad was founded in 1953 and is one of the oldest government schools in the state. The School is a co-educational school and offers Higher Education i.e. 06th to 10th grades in English Medium.

Students from Mustabad, Maddikunta, Moraipalle and Gudur get free education from ZPHS, Mustabad. The school had student strength of 550+ per academic year in the past but the student strength reduced to 62 during the academic year 2023-24 due to lack of basic infrastructure facilities.

2.6 Project Background

Considering the need of infrastructure development to prevent further dropping of students, the then Headmaster of the school along with parents and other stakeholders approached Aurobindo Pharma Foundation for support to construct a new modern school building with separate toilet blocks, Dining Hall, Library, Science and Computer labs. As part of CSR projects executed by the Aurobindo Pharma Foundation, a new school building in 2 acres with 18 rooms (Class rooms, Headmaster room, Staff Room and Training Hall) and toilets in one block (2 storied)

and Dining Hall, Library, Computer & Science labs in another block (2 storied) with plinth area of 17,610 square feet were proposed to construct with a budget outlay of Rs 5.5 Crores.

2.7 Objectives of the Impact Assessment

The Impact Assessment study for the ZPHS – Mustabad is designed to comprehensively evaluate the effectiveness and significance of this CSR initiative in enhancing the infrastructure facilities in the school. The study focuses on key objectives, including assessing the project's outcomes, analyzing its societal benefits, and understanding its long-term impact on the community.

7. **Assess Project Outcomes:** To evaluate the extent to which the project has achieved its intended goals in enhancing the school's infrastructure and improving the learning environment for students.
8. **Analyze Societal Benefits:** To understand the broader societal benefits, including the impact on students' academic performance, overall well-being, and community engagement.
9. **Measure Long-Term Impact:** To assess the initiative's sustainability and its potential to create enduring positive changes for the school and the surrounding community.
10. **Identify Success Factors and Challenges:** To document key factors contributing to the project's success and highlight challenges or gaps that may require further attention or action.
11. **Provide Actionable Recommendations:** To offer evidence-based recommendations for scaling, replicating, or improving similar initiatives in the future.

3. Methodology and Approach

3.1 Evaluation Framework

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Development Assistance Committee (DAC) criteria provide a framework for evaluating the effectiveness and impact of development projects, particularly in the context of international aid and development assistance. The key criteria are:

Relevance: This assesses the alignment of the project or program with the actual needs of the target population and the priorities of stakeholders. It ensures that the project's goals are contextually appropriate and effectively address the most pressing issues.

Coherence: This criterion assesses how well the project or program aligns with other interventions in the area. It evaluates consistency with broader policies, objectives, and strategies, ensuring that the initiative complements with other activities in the region for overall harmony and effectiveness.

Effectiveness: This measures the extent to which the project achieved its intended outcomes. It looks at how successfully the objectives were realized and whether the expected results were delivered within the defined timeline and scope.

Efficiency: This assesses the optimal use of resources, including time, money, and personnel. It focuses on cost effectiveness in delivering outputs and achieving value for the resources invested.

Impact: This examines the long-term and broader effects of the project, considering both intended and unintended outcomes. It highlights the project's contribution to social, economic, or environmental development over time.

Sustainability: This assesses the project's benefits after completion and the local capacity, ongoing funding, and the resilience of the intervention's effects to ensure long-term viability.

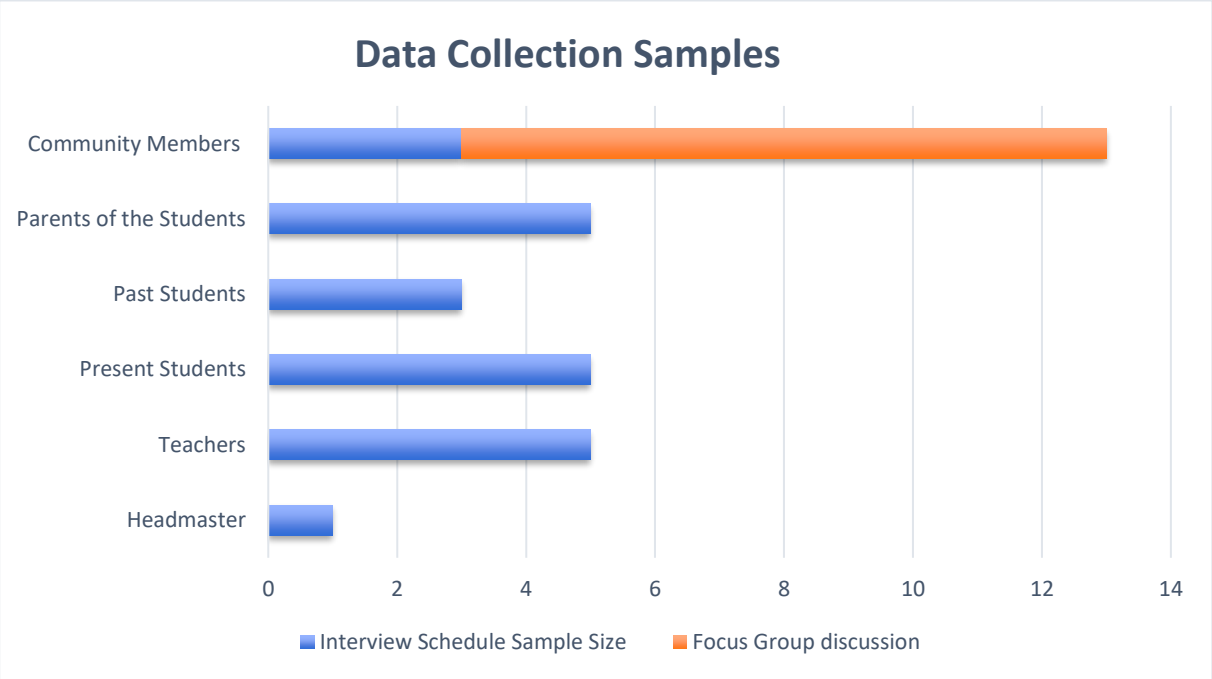
Together, these criteria provide a comprehensive framework for evaluating development initiatives, ensuring that they not only achieve immediate goals but also deliver sustainable, long-term improvements that are well-coordinated with other efforts in the region.

3.2 Data Collection Tools

- **Interviews:** Structured interviews with key stakeholders such as the headmaster, doctors, teachers, Non-Teaching Staff, Students & family members of students.
- **Questionnaires:** Administered to a sample of current and past students.
- **School Records:** Gathered data on Enrolments, Drop – outs, Exam Performance etc.
- **Focus Group Discussions (FGDs):** Conducted with community members to assess public perception and awareness.
- **Observation:** Physical verification of facilities and infrastructure.

3.3 Sampling Size

Total respondents are 32 across diverse categories, including community members in FGDs.



Category of Respondents	Interview Schedule	Focus Group discussion	Tools
	Sample Size		
Headmaster	1		Interview & Questionnaire
Teachers	5		Records, Interview & Questionnaire
Present Students	5		Interview & Questionnaire
Past Students	3		
Parents of the Students	5		
Community Members (10 members for FGD)	3	10	
Total	**22**	**10**	

3.4 Sampling Method

Purposive Sampling: Targeted selection of respondents directly impacted (e.g., Students, staff) and stakeholders who could provide in-depth insights.

3.5 Data Analysis

Quantitative Analysis: Data from School records was analysed to assess trends in student intake, increase in enrolments, and reduction in dropouts and assessed the numbers post-construction versus pre-construction.
Qualitative Analysis: Thematic coding of interview responses to evaluate satisfaction, accessibility, and challenges, and analysis of FGD insights to identify impacts.

3.6 Limitations

Limited Sample Size: The small number of respondents (22 individuals) may not fully capture the diverse perspectives of all stakeholders, such as a broader section of parents, community members, or alumni.
Subjectivity in Responses: Responses from interviews and questionnaires may be influenced by personal biases or the respondent's interpretation of questions, potentially affecting the accuracy of findings.
Short-Term Focus: The study may not fully capture the long-term impacts of the CSR initiative, as some benefits (e.g., improved academic performance or community engagement) might take years to materialize.
Dependence on Records: The reliance on school records for data may introduce inaccuracies if the records are outdated, incomplete, or inconsistent.
Scope of Assessment: The study focuses primarily on infrastructure improvements, potentially overlooking other critical factors like teaching quality, curriculum development, and extracurricular activities.

Challenges in Measuring Intangibles: It may be difficult to quantify intangible benefits such as improved morale, community pride, or the social impact of better infrastructure on the community.

Unanticipated External Factors: External influences like changes in government policies, socio-economic conditions, or unforeseen events (e.g., natural disasters) may skew the perceived outcomes of the initiative.

Cultural and Communication Barriers: Differences in language, literacy levels, or cultural contexts among respondents might impact the clarity and reliability of collected data.

Overemphasis on Quantitative Data: The study may place greater emphasis on measurable outcomes, potentially underrepresenting qualitative insights like community satisfaction or emotional well-being.

4. Findings and Analysis

Thematic Area	Project Name & Location	Overall Objective	Key Activities
Promoting education, including special education and employment enhancing vocation skills especially among children**,** women, elderly, and the differently abled and livelihood enhancement projects; [item no (ii) schedule VII of Companies Act 2013]	Construction of School Building, Dining Hall, Library, Science & Computer Labs in Zilla Parishad High School – Mustabad, Siricilla (D), Telangana	▪ Provide a high-quality learning environment for students from rural or underprivileged backgrounds, ensuring equitable access to education resources. ▪ Provide modern, well-equipped facilities to support academic excellence and cater to the needs of students and teachers. ▪ Facilitate access to subject-specific resources such as science and computer labs, enabling hands-on learning and skill development in critical areas like STEM education. ▪ Establish a library and dining hall to promote intellectual growth and ensure the well-being of students by addressing their nutritional needs.	**Infrastructure:** ▪ Construction of a new 2 storied school building in 2 acres with 18 rooms (Classrooms, Headmaster room, Staff Room and Training Hall) and toilets in one block and Dining Hall, Library, Computer & Science labs in another block with plinth area of 17,610 square feet were proposed to construct with a budget outlay of Rs 5.5 Crores. ▪ Providing Benches for students and chairs for the teachers and staff. ▪ Construction of boundary wall and toilet blocks.

Key Outputs	Key Outcomes	Impact
Construction of Infrastructure • A new school building with adequate classrooms and facilities. • A fully functional dining hall with appropriate seating	**1. Enhanced Access to Quality Education** Improved access to educational infrastructure for children from rural and underprivileged backgrounds. **2. Skill Development in STEM and Digital Literacy** Students gain hands-on experience in science and computer	1. **Career and Life Preparedness** Students are better prepared for higher education and employment opportunities, especially in technology-driven sectors. 2. **Social Equity and Community Development** Reduction in the education gap for rural and underprivileged

and kitchen facilities. • A well-stocked library with books, digital resources, and study materials. • Modern, fully equipped science laboratories. • Advanced computer labs with adequate hardware and internet connectivity. **Facilitating Resources** • Furniture, lab equipment, computers, and other essential materials. • Nutritional support through the dining hall. • Books and digital tools for library use.	applications, improving problem-solving and critical thinking skills. **3. Holistic Student Development** Intellectual growth through library access and improved nutrition through dining facilities. Improved health and concentration levels among students due to better nutritional support. **4. Equity in Education** Increased enrollment and retention rates among marginalized groups, including girls and differently abled students. **5. Improved Teaching and Learning Environment** Teachers are better equipped to deliver engaging and effective lessons.	children, fostering inclusive growth. 3. **Sustainability of Educational Ecosystem** Creation of a self-sustaining learning environment that benefits future generations. 4. **Positive Community Perception** Enhanced reputation of Zilla Parishad High School as a center for quality education, encouraging community support and participation. By addressing both academic and social needs, the project will address the challenges faced by the government education sector in the community.

4.1 Relevance

Relevance measures how effectively a programme is aligned with the goals and policies of the Government and aims to know if the programme is relevant to the needs of the beneficiaries. The program's relevance is understood in this context in terms of community needs as well as linkages to existing Government operations.

The high relevance of the project stems from its critical role in addressing the basic right to education for underprivileged children, ensuring that poverty does not become a barrier to accessing quality education.

i. Education as a Fundamental Necessity:

Education is a primary necessity for every individual, forming the foundation for personal growth, social inclusion, and economic empowerment. Denying access to education due to poor infrastructure perpetuates the cycle of poverty and inequality.

ii. Critical Condition of ZPHS Mustabad

At the time of the proposal, ZPHS Mustabad faced severe challenges:

- Lack of Classrooms and Seating Arrangements: Students were forced to study in substandard conditions, compromising the quality of education.
- Absence of Key Facilities: No functional library, laboratories, or adequate toilet blocks, which are essential for a safe and conducive learning environment.
- Declining Enrollment: With students migrating to better-equipped schools, the sustainability of ZPHS Mustabad was under threat.

iii. Gap in Infrastructure Compared to Other Schools

While 90% of government schools in Telangana now boast basic facilities like drinking water, electricity, toilets, and libraries, ZPHS Mustabad lagged significantly behind. This disparity highlighted the urgent need for intervention to bridge the gap and restore the school's functionality.

iv. Relevance to Prevent Dropouts and Ensure Educational Equity

The lack of infrastructure forced students to migrate to private or other government schools, leaving ZPHS Mustabad with a dwindling enrollment. Without immediate improvement:

- Many children, particularly from underprivileged backgrounds, risk being left without education.
- The school would fail to fulfill its role as an accessible and equitable education provider in the region.

v. Ensuring Sustainability of the School

Investing in infrastructure development was critical for:

- Retaining Students: Creating a safe and appealing environment to prevent dropouts and migration.
- Building Community Confidence: Encouraging local families to trust the school as a viable education provider.
- Restoring Operational Stability: Addressing immediate challenges and laying the groundwork for long-term growth.

4.2 Coherence

Coherence refers to the compatibility of the intervention with other interventions in a country, sector, or institution. It measures the extent to which other interventions (particularly policies) support or undermine the intervention, and vice versa.

Alignment of the programme with National Priorities – Sustainable Development Goals

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), commonly recognized as the global goals, were established in 2015 by all United Nations members with the purpose of eradicating poverty, protecting the environment, and ensuring that everyone lives in peace and prosperity by 2030. India was a significant contributor to the development of the SDGs and is committed to achieving them by 2030.

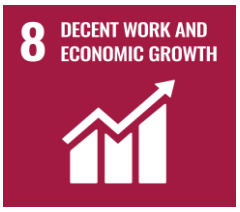
The project's aim mainly contributes to **SDG 4: Quality Education**: The project ensures equitable access to quality education, modern learning resources, and infrastructure, which is central to the global education agenda.

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

- **Access to Education**: By improving classrooms, labs, and other facilities, the project ensures equitable access to education for underprivileged students.
- **Enhanced Learning Environment**: Modern facilities like science and computer labs enable students to develop critical STEM skills, fostering academic excellence.
- **Reducing Dropout Rates**: Adequate infrastructure, including toilets and a dining hall, creates a safe and welcoming environment, particularly benefiting girls and vulnerable groups.

Other SDGs that are covered are:

SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities **Equity in Education:** The project bridges educational disparities by providing quality facilities to students from rural and underprivileged backgrounds. **Opportunities for All:** Ensuring no child is left behind due to financial constraints or inadequate infrastructure.	

SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth **Skill Development**: By equipping students with digital and STEM skills through computer and science labs, the project enhances their future employability, contributing to long-term economic growth. **Local Employment Opportunities:** The construction phase of the project generates jobs for local workers, supporting the community economically.	
SDG 1: No Poverty **Education as a Pathway:** By improving access to quality education, the project helps students from poor families break the cycle of poverty and build a brighter future.	
SDG 5: Gender Equality **Gender-Inclusive Infrastructure:** Separate toilet blocks for girls ensure privacy, hygiene, and dignity, helping to retain girls in school and encouraging higher enrollment. **Empowering Girls through Education:** Improved facilities and resources create a supportive environment for gender equity in learning opportunities.	
SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being **Healthier School Environment**: The construction of proper toilets and the provision of clean drinking water and hygiene facilities promote the health and well-being of students. **Nutritional Support**: A dining hall encourages better nutrition practices through the midday meal program, improving students' physical and cognitive development.	
SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure **Building Resilient Infrastructure**: The construction of modern classrooms, labs, and libraries aligns with the need for quality infrastructure in rural education. **Fostering Innovation:** Access to computer labs and digital tools nurtures creativity and technological aptitude among students.	

The project is in line with various government education support schemes such as:

- **Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA):** The Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan includes components like the construction of toilets, drinking water facilities, and school infrastructure development. The project complements these efforts by addressing infrastructure gaps.
- **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (Save the Girl Child, Educate the Girl Child):** The project promotes gender equity by providing separate toilet blocks for girls, ensuring their dignity and safety, and creating an inclusive learning environment. It Increases enrollment and retention rates of girls in school, empowering them through education.
- **Poshan Abhiyaan (National Nutrition Mission):** Through the dining hall and better midday meal facilities, the project indirectly supports Poshan Abhiyaan's focus on improving nutritional levels among children.
- **Ayushman Bharat Programme (ABP):** The Ayushman Bharat initiative emphasizes health and wellness through its school health program. The project creates the necessary infrastructure, such as handwashing stations and hygienic dining spaces, to support health and hygiene education.
- **Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK):** This child health program focuses on the early detection and treatment of diseases in children. The project creates a hygienic environment conducive to the implementation of school health check-ups under RBSK.
  The project Promotes early intervention for health issues and improves the overall well-being of students.

4.3 Effectiveness

Effectiveness is defined as an assessment of the factors influencing progress toward outcomes for each stakeholder as well as validation of the robustness of systems and processes.

It aids in ensuring that the implementation and monitoring processes are sturdy to achieve the greatest possible social impact. The efficacy of the programme is established by examining how well the program's activities were carried out as well as the effectiveness with which the program's systems and processes were implemented.

The Zilla Parishad High School (ZPHS) Mustabad Infrastructure Development Project aimed to enhance access to quality education for rural and underprivileged students by providing modern infrastructure and facilities. To successfully achieve these outcomes, the project adopted the following measures:

Identification of the problem:

- The primary issue identified was the drastic decline in student enrollment and retention, which dropped from 550+ to 62 students due to a lack of basic infrastructure.

- The ZPHS Mustabad was in dire need of facilities such as classrooms, science and computer labs, a library, dining facilities, and proper sanitation.
- The Aurobindo Pharma Foundation (APF), in collaboration with stakeholders like the headmaster and community members, identified these gaps and developed a tailored project to address them.

Process-Driven Implementation Strategy:

- The project was implemented strategically, focusing on constructing a two-block school building with 18 classrooms, labs, a library, dining hall, and modern sanitation facilities across a 17,610 sq. ft. area.
- Special attention was given to ensuring compliance with quality standards and aligning the infrastructure with the specific needs of the school and students.
- Regular monitoring and progress evaluation were conducted to maintain efficiency and ensure timely project completion.

Qualified Implementation Team

- The APF team, alongside expert construction and educational consultants, ensured the project met the highest quality benchmarks.
- Their collective expertise helped design and implement a state-of-the-art educational infrastructure that catered to students' holistic learning needs.
- The project benefited from the involvement of experienced educators who provided insights into making the facilities child-friendly and conducive to learning.

Targeted Beneficiaries

- The primary beneficiaries were rural students from underprivileged backgrounds in Mustabad and nearby villages (Maddikunta, Moraipalle, and Gudur), who had limited access to quality education.
- The project specifically targeted reducing the dropout rate, increasing enrollment, and ensuring equitable access to education for all students, including girls.
- By addressing gender-specific challenges such as inadequate sanitation, the project successfully encouraged the enrollment and retention of girl students.

4.4. Efficiency

The efficiency criterion seeks to determine whether the project was completed in a cost-effective and timely way. The purpose is to establish whether the inputs—funds, knowledge, time, etc.—were efficiently employed to achieve the outcomes. This evaluation criterion attempts to determine whether the programme was completed on schedule and within budget. The project has been efficiently implemented with the support of key stakeholders.

- **Timeliness of delivery or implementation of project interventions:** The programme was implemented within the given time with support from APF CSR team.
- **Cost efficiency of project activities:** Interaction with the APF and ZPHS - Mustabad staff revealed that there was no budget overflow and that all the activities were successfully carried out within the allotted budget. Payment milestones were clearly defined as such, and interventions were implemented in consultation with the key stakeholders.
- **Duplication/ overlap of project activities:** Duplication of effort arises when similar interventions are needlessly undertaken within the same community/ location due to poor knowledge management and inadequate coordination of projects, thereby resulting in fund and resource inefficiencies. There is no such duplication/ overlap of project activities in the nearby areas, as there is no such co-education government school with all these facilities in the villages from which the students are getting education.

4.5. Impact

Impact is assessed based on the proportion of respondents who reported experiencing significant changes in their lives due to the project. The goal of this measurement is to evaluate the project's primary and secondary long-term effects, whether direct or indirect, intentional or unintentional. It also considers unintended consequences, which may be either favorable or harmful, providing a comprehensive understanding of the intervention's overall influence.

Qualitative Impact:

1. **Improved Learning Environment**

- The construction of modern classrooms, science and computer labs, and a library has created a conducive learning environment.
- The availability of subject-specific facilities has enabled hands-on learning, fostering curiosity and a deeper understanding of STEM concepts.
- Students now have access to a broader range of learning materials, promoting intellectual growth and holistic education.

2. **Increased Student Enrollment and Retention**

- The new infrastructure has helped reverse the declining trend of enrollment and retention.
- Parents are now more inclined to enroll their children in the school, knowing they will receive quality education in a safe, well-equipped environment.
- The inclusion of gender-sensitive facilities, such as separate toilet blocks, has particularly encouraged girl students to continue their education.

3. **Empowerment of Rural Communities**

- The project has instilled a sense of pride and ownership among the local community.

- Parents and stakeholders feel more invested in the school's future, leading to increased engagement and support for education.
- The improved school infrastructure has motivated students and their families to prioritize education over early marriage or child labor, particularly in underprivileged households.

4. Enhanced Teaching Quality

- Teachers are now better equipped to deliver quality education, thanks to the availability of subject-specific resources such as science labs, computer labs, and a library.
- The improved environment has boosted teacher morale, enabling them to adopt innovative teaching methods and focus on student-centered learning.
- Training sessions and workshops conducted as part of the project have further enhanced teachers' professional skills.

5. Nutritional and Health Benefits

- The construction of a dining hall has ensured that students have a dedicated space for meals, promoting hygiene and proper nutrition.
- This has had a positive impact on students' physical health and concentration on studies.
- The provision of clean and safe sanitation facilities has improved overall hygiene and reduced absenteeism due to health-related issues.

6. Positive Social Change

- The project has contributed to changing perceptions about government schools in the region, making them more appealing to parents and students.
- It has demonstrated the value of public-private partnerships in addressing critical social issues, encouraging further investments in education by other stakeholders.
- The focus on equity and inclusion has reinforced the importance of education as a tool for social mobility and empowerment.

7. Alignment with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- By fostering lifelong learning opportunities and building modern infrastructure, the project has significantly advanced the goal of quality education (SDG 4).
- The project has contributed to reducing inequalities (SDG 10) by providing equitable access to quality education for underprivileged children.
- It has promoted gender equality (SDG 5) by addressing barriers to girls' education.

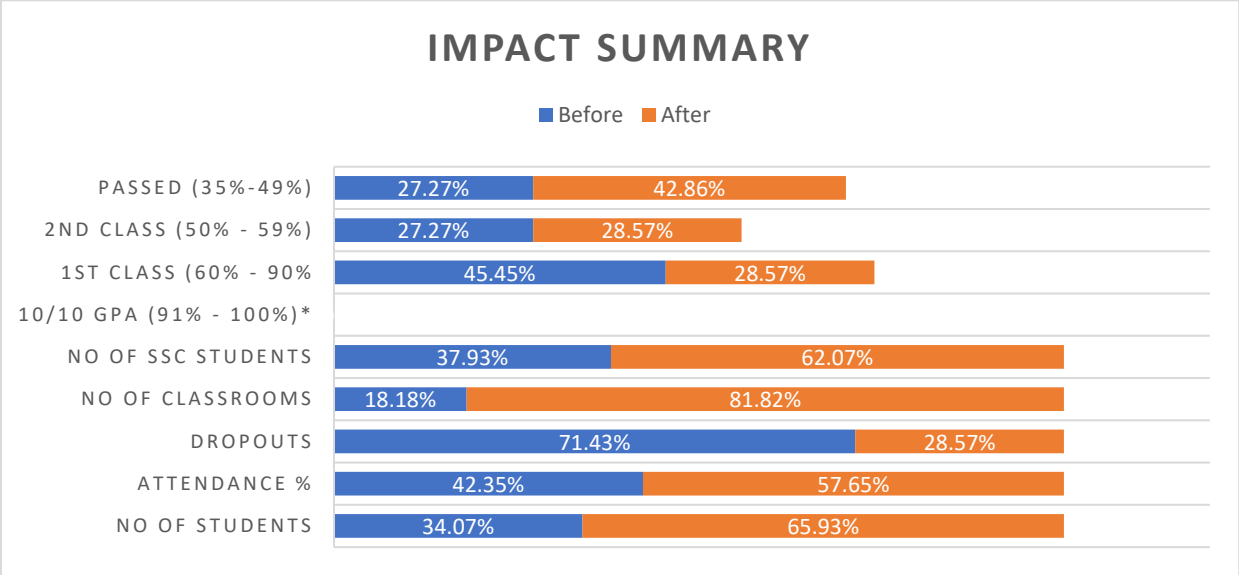
8. Strengthened Community-School Relationship

- The project has deepened trust and collaboration between the school and the community.
- Regular involvement of parents and stakeholders in the project's development has encouraged a culture of shared responsibility for the school's success.

Quantitative Impact:

Table: Before and After Analysis of ZPHS – Mustabad School Building Project

Particulars	Before	After	Impact/Change
No of Students	62	120	93.5%
Attendance %	72	98	36.0%
Dropouts	5	2	(60%)
No of Classrooms	4	18	350%
No of SSC Students	11	18	39%
10/10 GPA (91% - 100%)*	0	0*	0%
1st Class (60% - 90%	5	4*	(20%)
2nd Class (50% - 59%)	3	4*	33%
Passed (35%-49%)	3	6*	100%
*After Results are from SA1 Exams (Half yearly) as the 1st batch after completion of School building has not attended SSC Public Exams			



The infrastructure and resource development project at ZPHS Mustabad has brought about a notable improvement in the school's quantitative metrics, reflecting its positive impact. Although the outcomes are not based on SSC public exam results (since the first batch is yet to appear in March 2025), the interim improvements signify a strong upward trend in academic and infrastructural progress. Key observations include:

1. **Enrolment Growth**
   - The number of students increased from **62 to 120**, showing a **94% growth**. This demonstrates a substantial rise in community trust and preference for the school.
2. **Improved Attendance**
   - Attendance percentage rose from **72% to 98%**, a **26% improvement**, indicating better engagement and interest among students due to improved facilities.
3. **Reduced Dropouts**

- The number of dropouts decreased from **5 to 2**, reflecting an enhanced retention rate supported by a more conducive learning environment.

4. **Enhanced Infrastructure**
   - The number of classrooms increased from **4 to 18**, enabling the school to accommodate more students and provide a better teaching-learning experience.
5. **Increased SSC Enrolment**
   - The number of SSC students rose from **11 to 18**, showing a growth of **64%**, which highlights the school's growing academic strength.
6. **Academic Performance Trends**
   - While public exams are yet to occur, internal assessments suggest:
     - A **slight decrease** in the number of students achieving 1st Class (60%-90%) from **5 to 4**.
     - An **increase** in 2nd Class (50%-59%) students from **3 to 4**.
     - A **doubling** of students in the Passed category (35%-49%), from **3 to 6**, suggesting an improvement in overall pass rates.

Conclusion

The quantitative improvements in student enrolment, attendance, and infrastructure highlight the effectiveness of the interventions at ZPHS Mustabad. While some academic performance categories show minor declines, this is likely due to transitional challenges, with overall indicators pointing toward long-term sustainable progress. The results underscore the potential for the upcoming SSC public exam batch to perform well, further solidifying the school's role as a pillar of education in the community.

4.6. Sustainability

Sustainability refers to the continuation of positive effects after the cessation of development or aid. This critical evaluation criterion considers key elements, such as the likelihood of sustained benefits, risk tolerance, and the presence of robust frameworks. Achieving sustainability requires a well-structured governing framework, a sound financial model, and an efficient operating system.

The ZPHS – Mustabad school is operated by the Telangana government. All operational expenses are funded through the state government's budget, ensuring financial stability and governance security. By providing free-of-cost higher education services to underprivileged individuals, the school addresses educational needs without financial or operational threats.

To further strengthen sustainability, adequate numbers of teachers have been deployed to maintain the optimal teacher-to-student ratio.

This proactive approach ensures that the ZPHS – Mustabad school remains a reliable and sustainable pillar in providing free education, long-term benefits to students and the community at large.

4.7. Branding and Visibility

The physical verification of the ZPHS – Mustabad School confirms the prominent visibility of the "Aurobindo Pharma Foundation" branding. The name is displayed at multiple strategic locations across the facility, ensuring high visibility and recognition. A dedicated Foundation Stone (*Silaphalakam*) further highlights the contribution of the Foundation.

Feedback collected from stakeholders indicates that the "Aurobindo Pharma" branding is not only appropriate but also leaves a satisfying impression, reflecting the Foundation's commitment to impactful community initiatives.

5. Challenges

The project for the development of Zilla Parishad High School (ZPHS) Mustabad has faced several challenges that impact its effectiveness and the full utilization of its facilities. These challenges are as follows:

Non-usage of Upper Block Classrooms, Library, Dining Hall, and Labs

- The upper-floor facilities, including classrooms, library, dining hall, and computer & science labs, are underutilized.
- Lack of clear operational plans or structural accessibility issues could discourage stakeholders from utilizing these spaces effectively.

Easy Access through the Gap Between the Compound Wall and Main Gates:

- The security of the school premises is compromised due to an unguarded gap between the compound wall and the main gates.
- This poses a safety risk for the school infrastructure, especially during night hours and holidays increases the possibility of trespassing or unauthorized entry.

Lack of Essential Resources (Computers, Science Lab Equipment, Library Books)

- The absence of computers, science lab equipment, and library books undermines the effectiveness of the newly built infrastructure.

Competition with the Nearby Girls' High School

- The existence of girls' high school nearby presents competition for student enrollment.
- Though the school is named and intended for Girls, it is offering the education for both girls and boys.
- Due to lack of infrastructure before the project and during the new school building construction many students migrated to the girl's high school.

Drinking Water Facilities

- At present purified water is being purified by a RO plant in the village.
- The absence of dedicated drinking water facilities within the school is a significant challenge for students, teachers, and staff at the school. Inadequate access to clean and safe drinking water can impact a student's health.

Addressing these challenges is crucial to ensuring the long-term success and effectiveness of the project. Each issue requires targeted interventions to maximize the utilization of resources and foster a positive learning environment for the students.

6. Recommendations and Way Forward

To address the challenges identified and ensure the long-term success of the project at Zilla Parishad High School (ZPHS) Mustabad, the following recommendations and strategies are proposed:

Maximize Usage of Upper Block Classrooms, Library, Dining Hall, and Labs:

- Consider providing the classes up to 12th (10+2 As per the new education policy).
- Increase student's strength by conducting awareness camps
- Develop a structured timetable to allocate specific activities or classes in the underused spaces.
- Organize workshops, extracurricular activities, and community programs in the library and labs.

Enhance Campus Security:

- Close the gap between the compound wall and the main gates with sturdy construction.
- Install CCTV cameras and deploy a security guard to ensure safety.

Make the Playground Usable:

- Playground should be improved.
- Basic sports equipment's should be provided.

Provision of Essential Resources:

- Procure computers, science lab equipment, and library books through CSR funding, government grants, or NGO donations.
- Partner with technology companies for digital tools and teacher training.

Address Competition with the Nearby Girls' High School:

- Highlight ZPHS's unique offerings through outreach campaigns.
- Provide skill development courses, personality development and career guide programmes.

Build a Sustainable Management Framework:

- Strengthening the School Management Committee (SMC) with representatives from teachers, parents, and the community.
- Conduct regular meetings to discuss the problems and developments.
- Develop a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework to track progress and resource utilization.

Way forward:

To ensure sustainable growth and optimal utilization of the facilities at ZPHS Mustabad, several measures can be implemented.

- Teachers should be trained to integrate the library, labs, and dining hall into their lesson plans, while student-led initiatives such as science clubs and reading groups can encourage active use of these spaces.
- Regular inspections of the compound wall and gates, along with the engagement of parents and community volunteers, are essential for maintaining campus security.
- Playground development can be achieved by seeking support from local government or CSR partners for funding improvements and organizing sports events to promote physical activity and community involvement.
- To address resource gaps, a resource-sharing model with nearby schools can optimize utilization, while a maintenance plan will ensure the longevity of acquired resources.
- Enrollment challenges can be tackled by engaging local leaders and parents to highlight the school's facilities, and by organizing joint programs or inter-school competitions with the nearby Girls' High School to foster collaboration and goodwill.
- Teacher development and retention can be strengthened through the introduction of an evaluation system to track and reward performance and through partnerships with educational organizations for continuous capacity building.

Finally, sustainable management practices can be established by scheduling regular School Management Committee (SMC) meetings to address emerging challenges, strategize improvements, and publish periodic reports to stakeholders, showcasing the school's progress and achievements.

7. Conclusion

In conclusion, the infrastructure development project at Zilla Parishad High School, Mustabad, undertaken by Aurobindo Pharma Foundation under its CSR activities is a significant step toward addressing educational inequalities and ensuring equitable access to quality education for students from underprivileged backgrounds. By providing modern facilities such as classrooms, a library, science and computer labs, and a dining hall, the project addresses critical gaps in the school's infrastructure, enhancing the learning environment and promoting holistic student development.

While challenges such as resource inadequacies, security issues, and competition with nearby schools remain, the proposed recommendations and way forward provide a clear roadmap for maximizing the impact of this initiative. By fostering active utilization of facilities, strengthening community engagement, improving teacher capacity, and ensuring sustainable management practices, the school can serve as a model for government educational institutions striving for excellence.

This project underscores the importance of collaborative efforts between stakeholders, including CSR partners, local communities, and government bodies, in building a brighter future for the students and contributing to broader sustainable development goals.

8. Scoring Matrix

The scoring matrix was used to evaluate and score performance of the Project. The following table provides the overall rating across the defined parameters:

OECD Parameters	Indicators	Weightage	Score Achieved	Combined Weightage	Weighted Average Score
Relevance	Need assessment report	20%	20%	W1: 40%	**40%**
	Relevance to Students	50%	50%		
	Alignment with SDGs	30%	30%		
	Alignment with national policies	50%	50%		
Coherence	Alignment with Aurobindo CSR policy	50%	50%		
Efficiency	Timeline Adherence: Project Completion	40%	40%	W2: 40%	**34%**
	Adherence: Budget	40%	40%		
	Duplication of project	20%	20%		
Effectiveness	Target achievement	100%	100%		
Impact	Cost Savings for students	25%	25%		
	Increased No of Students	25%	20%		
	New and Modern Equipment	25%	15%		
	Quality of Mid-day Meals	25%	25%		
Sustainability	Sustainability mechanism	50%	30 %	W3: 10%	**6%**
	Maintenance and Usage	50%	30%		
Branding	Branding/visibility	100%	100%	W4: 10%	**10%**
Score= W1*Average (Relevance, Coherence) + W2*Average (Efficiency, Effectiveness, **Impact) + W3* (Sustainability)** + W4 (Branding)					**90%**

The project ZPHS – Mustabad School scored an **average of 90 %**. The project was aligned to APF's CSR policy and SDGs and was relevant to the needs of the community. The completion rate was 100% for the project and as per the discussion with the stakeholders from APF & ZPHS Mustabad School, the project catered to the needs of Students from Mustabad and surrounding villages. Impact is rated at 80% as the infrastructure has not been put fully to use. Sustainability is rated at only 60% due to the need for improved maintenance mechanisms and other challenges such as security and improvement of the playground. The total score of the project is **90%** due to which this project can be rated as **"Highly Impactful"** in nature.

CSR PROJECT IMPACT:
- HIGHLY IMPACTFUL
AUROBINDO PHARMA FOUNDATION
90%
90%
SCIENCE LABS

9. Testimonials

Testimonial 1:

"The transformation of Zilla Parishad High School, Mustabad, has been remarkable. The construction of new classrooms, labs, library, and dining hall has rejuvenated the school, attracting students back to government education. The modern facilities are helping us deliver quality education, and the enthusiasm among students is heartwarming. I am deeply grateful to Aurobindo Pharma Foundation for their vision and support. This project has truly empowered our community and given our children the opportunity to dream big."

N. Raji Reddy, Headmaster.

Testimonial 2:

"Teaching at ZPHS Mustabad has become a fulfilling experience since the infrastructure upgrade. The new classrooms and modern teaching tools have significantly improved students' focus and performance. The labs allow us to integrate practical learning, which makes concepts in math and science come alive. I have seen students gain confidence, and their interest in learning has grown exponentially. It's inspiring to be a part of this journey where education is becoming a game-changer for rural children."

A. Kishan, Maths Teacher.

Testimonial 3:

"As the Chairperson of the Amma Aadarsha Patashala Committee, I have witnessed a remarkable transformation at ZPHS Mustabad. The improvements in infrastructure, including new classrooms, labs, and library facilities, have created an inspiring environment for students to learn and grow. This initiative has not only boosted enrolment but has also given parents renewed confidence in government schools.

The efforts to ensure inclusivity and access to quality education for underprivileged children are commendable. Seeing students engage in academics with enthusiasm and teachers being empowered with the resources they need has been truly fulfilling. I firmly believe that ZPHS Mustabad is now on the path to becoming a model school, and I am proud to be associated with this incredible journey of progress."

Mrs. Mamata, Chairperson, Amma Aadarsha Patashala Committee.

10.Case Study

Case Study: Donta Anjaiah and Family – A Journey of Educational Transformation

Background:

Donta Anjaiah, a tailor and part-time Sanskrit teacher, resides in Mustabad with his wife and three children. His family belongs to the below-poverty-line (BPL) category, with limited financial resources. Despite his economic challenges, Anjaiah has always prioritized education for his children, believing it to be the key to a better future. However, financial constraints often made it difficult for him to provide quality education comparable to corporate schools.

Children's Educational Achievements:

• Elder Daughter: Amruta Vani

Amruta Vani, the eldest daughter, was a topper of Zilla Parishad High School (ZPHS) Mustabad in its old premises. She completed her studies at the school two years ago and is currently pursuing higher education in the Sanskrit language, inspired by her father's interest in the subject.

• Son: Dayanand

Dayanand, Anjaiah's only son, was also a class topper during his time at ZPHS Mustabad. Currently, he is pursuing his intermediate education in Bi.P.C at the Government Junior College in Mustabad, further reflecting the family's commitment to academic excellence.

• Younger Daughter: Sruthi Deepika

The youngest daughter, Sruthi Deepika, is presently studying at ZPHS Mustabad. She is a consistent class topper, and her teachers are confident that she will achieve a perfect 10/10 GPA in her Class 10 board examinations.

Challenges Faced:

Before the intervention of the Aurobindo Pharma Foundation, ZPHS Mustabad faced severe infrastructure deficiencies. The school lacked basic amenities such as:

- Proper classrooms
- Seating arrangements
- Washrooms
- Laboratories for practical learning

These challenges limited the learning experience for students and made it difficult for them to compete with peers from better-equipped schools.

Impact of Aurobindo Pharma Foundation's Intervention:

The transformation brought about by Aurobindo Pharma Foundation has significantly impacted the school and the lives of students like Anjaiah's children. The school now boasts:

- Modern classrooms with proper seating arrangements
- Separate washrooms for boys and girls
- A laboratory for practical experiments
- A dining hall and kitchen for mid-day meals
- Enhanced overall infrastructure for a conducive learning environment

This transformation has not only uplifted the school's standards but also provided hope to families like Anjaiah's, who can now access quality education without the need for expensive corporate schooling.

A New Ray of Hope:

The improved facilities at ZPHS Mustabad have reignited Anjaiah's belief that his children can achieve their dreams despite financial hardships. He feels grateful that his children can now receive quality education in a school that provides holistic development opportunities.

Conclusion:

Donta Anjaiah's story exemplifies how the right support can transform lives. The Aurobindo Pharma Foundation's intervention has empowered families like his, proving that quality education can be accessible to all, regardless of economic background. Anjaiah's unwavering commitment to his children's education, coupled with the support from ZPHS Mustabad, is a testament to how educational transformation can break the cycle of poverty and inspire academic excellence.

Impact Assessment of Vedasadanam Block, Sri Sankara Gurukula Veda Patasala, Ponnala Village, Shameerpet, Telangana

Constructed by Aurobindo Pharma Foundation (a Philanthropic arm of Aurobindo Pharma Ltd under Corporate Social Responsibility)

Submitted to

AUROBINDO PHARMA FOUNDATION

Submitted by

apmas

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On behalf of APMAS, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to Aurobindo Pharma Foundation (a Philanthropic arm of Aurobindo Pharma Ltd) for entrusting us with the opportunity to conduct the impact assessment of Sri Sankara Gurukula Veda Patasala, located in Ponnala Village of Shameerpet Mandal, Medchal–Malkajgiri District, Telangana. This has been a truly unique and enriching experience, allowing us to witness and document the transformative changes brought about by this remarkable CSR initiative. The provision of the spacious and well-equipped 'Vedasadanam Block' has significantly enhanced the Patasala's infrastructure and its capacity to nurture Vedic education.

We extend our sincere thanks to the Trustee of Sri Sankara Gurukula Veda Patasala for his invaluable support and cooperation throughout the assessment process. His openness in sharing key insights and his unwavering commitment to the project have been instrumental in shaping this report.

We are deeply grateful to the dedicated teachers and enthusiastic students of the Patasala. Their invaluable inputs and personal experiences have added immense depth to our understanding of the initiative's profound impact. We also acknowledge the collective efforts and patience of everyone who shared their perspectives, helping us gain a comprehensive view of this transformative journey.

Finally, we commend Aurobindo Pharma Foundation for their visionary efforts in preserving and promoting the timeless wisdom of the Vedas and Vedic education. The commitment to this noble cause is a beacon of inspiration, and we are truly honoured to have been a part of this impactful journey.

With the deepest gratitude!

Team APMAS!
January 2025

1. Executive Summary

1.1. Project Overview

Aurobindo Pharma Foundation, under the theme of promotion of national heritage, art, and culture, provided support of ₹ 3 crores for the construction of 3-storied building featuring classrooms, student accommodations, bathrooms, customized washrooms with running water, and fire safety measures in the newly expanded campus of Sri Sankara Gurukula Veda Patasala.

Veda Patasala was established in 1984 in the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad by Bhashya Ratna Sri R. Venkatrama Ghanapadigal, a distinguished Vedic scholar. Inspired by his tenure as Principal at the Veda Patasala in Tirumala, he founded the institution with three students to promote Vedic education by adopting traditional Gurukulam method. The Patasala is dedicated to propagating all four Vedas, preserving the oral recitation tradition, and fostering peace and welfare through Vedic knowledge.

1.2. Growth and Evolution

Over the years, the Patasala expanded, earning widespread recognition for its commitment to Vedic education. A trust was established to formalize its operations, and the institution moved to Veda Bhavan in Chandragiri Colony, Secunderabad, to accommodate its growing needs. The generosity of donors, notably Dr. Suri Santha, who donated four acres of land in Ponnala village, Shameerpet Mandal, facilitated the construction of a new campus. With architectural plans prepared voluntarily by M/s Satyavani Projects, the initiative overcame challenges, including obtaining NOC (No Objection Certificate) clearance from defence authorities, with assistance from Mr. Satish Reddy, then Chairperson of DRDO (Defence Research & Development Organisation).

With the initial building completed, the Patasala approached the Aurobindo Pharma Foundation (APF) to construct an additional block in three phases, estimated at ₹24.09 crores. In 2021, under their CSR initiative, the Foundation contributed ₹3 crores for the first phase. This newly constructed three-storied building features classrooms, student accommodations, bathrooms, customized washrooms with running water, and fire safety measures. After completing the well-equipped and aesthetically designed structure, the APF handed it over to the Patasala management, marking a significant milestone in its journey to advancing Vedic education. This development not only enabled construction but also increased the value of surrounding lands, benefiting local villagers.

With its state-of-the-art facilities, the new building, “Vedasadanam Block,” was inaugurated on 18 March 2023 by Vice-Chairman & Managing Director, Aurobindo Pharma Ltd., and Director, Aurobindo Pharma Foundation Sri K. Nityananda Reddy, Sri P. Sarath Chandra Reddy, Director and Sri S. Sadananda Reddy, CSR Head. This milestone marked a significant achievement in enhancing the infrastructure and educational environment of the Patasala.

1.3. Holistic Facilities

Subsequently, the Patasala received additional contributions from other generous donors. These included a solar hot water facility, a centralized RO water purifier for drinking water, a modern kitchen, almarahs for students, and separate accommodations for visitors and parents. These amenities have further enriched the living and learning experience for students and visitors, strengthening the Patasala's commitment to holistic development and Vedic education.

Consequently, all the students were relocated from the rented premises at Safilguda Patasala to the newly constructed building in Ponnala. The transition marked a new chapter for the institution, offering an environment designed to meet the holistic needs of students and teachers alike. The teachers and students were thrilled with the modern and comfortable facilities provided. These included a noise and pollution-free environment, spacious classrooms, boarding and lodging facilities, uninterrupted hot water, purified drinking water, ample washrooms, and a playground for recreational activities. The enhanced amenities have significantly improved the living and learning conditions, reinforcing the Patasala's mission of providing high-quality Vedic education in a serene and supportive setting.

1.4. Academic Excellence

The Patasala has gradually developed its Vedic curriculum, enabling students to advance through structured stages of learning. The curriculum spans 10 years, comprising three stages: Brahmanam (3 years), Aranyakam (3 years), and Samhita (3 years). Students typically enroll at the age of 6 to 7 years. Additionally, some students pursue advanced courses such as Krama (Graduation) and Ghana (Post Graduation), which require an additional 10 to 12 years to complete. It is noteworthy that the Patasala has produced an impressive 150 Ghanapatis to date.

Graduates of the Patasala are highly regarded, with many securing professional positions as Veda Teachers in esteemed Veda Patasalas across India and abroad. This widespread recognition underscores the Patasala's reputation as a premier institution for Vedic education. Remarkably, many of the current faculty members are alumni who, having completed their studies, returned to contribute as dedicated teachers, further enriching the legacy of Sri Sankara Gurukula Veda Patasala.

The student strength has increased from 90 to 130 due to facilities made available to the students. The number of students pursuing higher Vedic Studies also has been increasing every year.

1.5. Recommendations

The Patasala management, teaching faculty, and students expressed their deep gratitude for the state-of-the-art facilities provided in the newly constructed "Vedasadanam Block," made possible through the generous support of Aurobindo Pharma Foundation. They fondly recalled the challenges of earlier days when they had to adjust with limited

accommodations in the city center, grappling with noise pollution and inadequate space for separate classrooms and accommodation. These constraints often hindered focused learning and limited their ability to fully engage in Vedic studies.

Now, with the excellent facilities in a serene and pollution-free environment, students can concentrate better on their learning. The expanded space has also enabled the Patasala to conduct daily rituals such as Homams and Yagams on auspicious occasions with greater ease and reverence. Additionally, the students now have access to a playground where they can unwind and rejuvenate after classes, promoting a healthy balance between study and recreation.

- Seek additional support from CSR organizations to expand the facilities to include a meditation hall, Vedic Research Centre and Goshala.
- Obtain ISO certification to enhance the credibility of the Patasala and gain further recognition
- Ensure community engagement through outreach programs, awareness campaigns, and events to generate local support and interest.

1.6. Conclusion

Looking ahead, the Patasala management is planning to initiate Phase 2 and Phase 3 of the development with the support of prospective donors. Key components of these phases include establishing a Vedic Research Centre, a Dakshinamurthy Auditorium, a Goshala, staff quarters, and a fully equipped playground. These additions aim to further enrich the institution's infrastructure and enhance the learning environment for students. The management is actively exploring partnerships with CSR foundations, including potential continued support from Aurobindo Pharma Foundation, to realize these aspirations.

Vedabhavan Block – Shameerpet

2. Introduction

2.1. The Vedas – Eternal Glory of Our Tradition

The Vedas are regarded as divine revelations from the cosmic space, perceived by ancient Rishis in profound states of spiritual realization. These sacred scriptures are considered authorless, existing eternally in subtle vibrations within the cosmos. In ancient Yugas, the Vedas encompassed a vast body of knowledge, much larger than what remains today. Sage Vyasa classified this immense knowledge into four principal groups: Rig, Yajur, Sama, and Atharva Vedas. Subsequently, Sage Patanjali further divided these into numerous branches, or Shakhas.

Originally, Rig Veda had twenty-one, Yajur Veda had one hundred and eight, Sama Veda had one thousand and Atharva Veda had nine shakhas. However, due to passage of time most of these have been lost to the present world. Of the remaining, one is of Rig Veda, six are of Yajur Veda, three are of Sama Veda and two are of Atharva Veda available now. Despite this reduction, it is well-established that the Vedic Mantras possess the power to bring peace, prosperity, and well-being to the world. It is our profound responsibility to preserve and cherish the Vedas, the very roots of our cultural heritage, ensuring they flourish for future generations.

Individual lockers for students

Sri Sankara Gurukula Veda Patasala is a revered institution established under the divine command and blessings of His Holiness Sri Paramacharyal of Kanchi. The Patasala has also received the esteemed blessings of both the Acharyals of Sringeri and Kanchi, further enriching its spiritual foundation and mission to uphold and propagate Vedic knowledge.

2.2. About Sri Sankara Gurukula Veda Patasala

Sri Sankara Gurukula Veda Patasala was founded in 1984, under the divine grace of His Holiness Sri Paramacharyal of Sri Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam, in the twin cities of

Secunderabad and Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh. The Patasala began with three Vidyarthis (students) and was established by Bhashya Ratna Sri R. Venkatrama Ghanapadigal, one of the most esteemed Vedic scholars in the country. The institution initially operated from his residence, following the traditional Gurukula system of Vedic education.

As the strength of the Patasala continued to grow, Sri Paramacharyal directed the establishment of a separate trust to ensure the further development and maintenance of the Patasala. In response to this directive, a Trust was constituted and registered in 1992 as a Non-Profit Charitable Trust under the Indian Trusts Act. With the increasing number of Vidyarthis, the Patasala was eventually relocated to Veda Bhavan, a building owned by Sankara Bhaktha Sabha, a sister organization founded by Sri Paramacharyal in 1968. The new location was situated in Chandragiri Colony, Neredmet, Secunderabad, providing a more suitable environment for the growing needs of the institution.

2.3. Aims and Objectives of the Trust

- Impart Vedic Sciences and Sastras in the Traditional Gurukulam method and other related subjects in depth, conducting daily classes, holding meetings and publishing Books to promote Vedic knowledge.
- Establish, maintain, run the Gurukula Veda Patasalas in various parts of the country and to produce Vedic Scholars to propagate all the four Vedas.
- Enforce spiritual studies by augmenting Spiritual Training and Yoga centres for General Public, fostering a holistic approach to spiritual growth.
- Establish and maintain Libraries for Vidyarthis, Scholars and General Public as well as facilitating access to Vedic literature and promoting research and learning.

2.4. Vision of the Trust

- **Preservation of ancient culture and tradition** through the oral recitation of Vedas in the traditional Gurukula system, ensuring the continuity of this sacred knowledge.
- **Promotion of higher Vedic studies**, such as Veda Bhashyam, Shadangam, Srowtham, Smartham, Kavyam, Samskritam, and Ithihasa Puranam, for Vidyarthis who have completed their basic studies, advancing their understanding and expertise.
- **Incorporation of modern education** by teaching Vidyarthis subjects like mathematics, social sciences, modern science, and technological education, while also fostering their development as responsible citizens with strong social values and awareness.

2.5. Progress and Achievements of Veda Patasala

The Patasala has achieved remarkable success in producing skilled students (Vidyarthis) who have excelled in various Vedic examinations conducted by prestigious institutions like Kanchi Mutt, Sringeri Mutt, and other renowned Vedic institutions across Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu. The students have earned recognition in Vedic Sadas and institutions all over India for their accomplishments.

- **More than 150 students** have studied in the Patashala and passed with distinction.
- **Over 100 students** have successfully passed the challenging Ghana stage.
- **50 students** have passed the Krama stage, enabling them to pursue stable and fulfilling livelihoods.
- **12 students** have become teachers at other Vedic Patasalas.
- **5 students** have passed the Veda Bhashyam exam with outstanding results.
- **3 students** have pursued the Lakshana Pariksha and achieved the prestigious title of Salakshana Ghanapatis.
- **4 students** are currently pursuing advanced studies in Meemamsa, Nyaya, and other aspects of Shadanga (the six auxiliary branches of the Vedas).

These accomplishments reflect the Patasala's commitment to nurturing Vedic scholars and ensuring the propagation of Vedic knowledge across generations.

2.6. Funding and Financial Support

The primary source of funds for maintaining and running the Patasala is through donations from well-wishers, philanthropists, and charitable institutions. Over the years, a Corpus Fund has been built; however, it is no longer sufficient to meet the growing expenses due to the increasing strength of the Patasala and the drastic reduction in bank interest rates.

Currently, the maintenance expenses of the Patasala, including boarding, clothing, accommodation, medical care, and infrastructure, amount to an average of Rs. 20 lakhs per month. In addition to monetary donations, the Patasala also accepts contributions in kind, such as rice, dal, oil, and other essentials, to help support these activities. All forms of contributions, regardless of size, are welcomed and greatly appreciated to sustain the institution's ongoing operations.

Patasala Site Plan

3. Methodology and Approach

3.1. Evaluation Framework

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Development Assistance Committee (DAC) criteria are a widely used framework for evaluating the effectiveness and impact of development projects, especially in the context of international aid and development assistance. These criteria help assess various dimensions of a project, from its design to its long-term outcomes. The key criteria are:

Relevance: This assesses the alignment of the project or program with the actual needs of the target population and the priorities of stakeholders. It ensures that the project's goals are contextually appropriate and effectively address the most pressing issues and contribute to development goals.

Coherence: This criterion assesses how well the project or program aligns with other interventions in the area. It evaluates consistency with broader policies, objectives, and strategies, ensuring that the initiative complements with other activities in the region for overall harmony and effectiveness.

Effectiveness: This measures the extent to which the project achieved its intended outcomes. It looks at how successfully the objectives were realized and whether the expected results were delivered within the defined timeline and scope.

Efficiency: This assesses the optimal use of resources, including time, money, and human resources in achieving the project's outcomes. It focuses on cost effectiveness in delivering outputs and achieving value for the resources invested.

Impact: This examines the long-term and broader effects of the project, considering both intended and unintended outcomes. It highlights the project's contribution to social, economic, or environmental development over time.

Sustainability: This examines whether the benefits of the project are likely to be maintained after the project's completion. It considers factors such as local ownership, the availability of resources, and the capacity of the community or government to continue the work initiated by the project.

Together, these criteria provide a comprehensive framework for evaluating development initiatives, ensuring that they not only achieve immediate goals but also deliver sustainable, long-term improvements that are well-coordinated with other efforts.

3.2. Data Collection Tools

Interviews: Structured interviews conducted with key stakeholders such as the Trustees of the Veda Patasala, the Teachers, and the students. These interviews focused on understanding the perspectives of the individuals directly involved in the operations and learning process of the Patasala. Key areas of discussion will include their experiences, challenges, and views on the effectiveness of the teaching methods, facilities, and overall

environment provided for the students. Additionally, interviews explored how well the objectives of the Patasala align with the needs of the students and their communities.

Questionnaires: Administered to a sample of Teachers and Students to collect quantitative and qualitative data. The questionnaires included both closed and open-ended questions to assess the impact of the Patasala's educational programs, the satisfaction of students with the facilities, and their future aspirations after completing their studies. Teachers were asked to provide feedback on the curriculum, teaching methods, student performance, and the overall functioning of the institution and how the new block has contributed to these aspects.

Veda Patasala Website: Data was gathered from the official website of the Veda Patasala to better understand its purpose, objectives, vision, and mission. This helped in aligning the project's findings with the institution's long-term goals and strategies. Information such as the history of the Patasala, key milestones, and the ongoing initiatives to promote Vedic studies were explored. Additionally, the website provided insight into the Patasala's outreach efforts, collaborations with other institutions, and any future plans for growth or development.

Focus Group Discussions (FGDs): FGDs were conducted with Teachers and Students to assess their experiences with the services and facilities provided by the new infrastructure/building. The discussions focused on gathering in-depth qualitative data regarding the impact of the newly constructed facilities on their daily activities, learning experiences, and overall satisfaction. Specific areas of interest included the effectiveness of the new classrooms, boarding and lodging facilities, recreational spaces, and the availability of amenities such as purified drinking water, hot water, and clean washrooms. Additionally, the discussions explored any improvements in concentration, engagement, and participation in learning activities due to the enhanced infrastructure.

Observation: Physical verification of the facilities and infrastructure was carried out to ensure that the actual condition of the new building matches the reported services provided. This includes assessing the quality of classrooms, common areas, accommodations, washrooms, and recreational spaces. Observations were focused on cleanliness, functionality, space utilization, and overall upkeep of the facilities. Additionally, the verification process ensured that the infrastructure is fully equipped to meet the needs of the teachers and students for both educational and personal activities, as well as maintaining a conducive learning environment.

3.3. Sample Size and Sampling Method

The total number of respondents are 8 individuals, with 2 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) conducted across diverse categories, including the Trustee, Teachers, and Students. The sampling method used was purposive sampling, which involves the targeted selection of respondents who are directly impacted by the changes in the Veda Patasala's infrastructure and services. This approach ensures that the respondents are those with relevant experience and insights into the effects of the new facilities.

- Trustee: 1 respondent was selected to provide a top-level perspective on the strategic objectives, funding, and overall impact of the new infrastructure.
- Teachers: 2 respondents were selected to understand the teachers' experiences with the new facilities and their impact on teaching effectiveness, learning environments, and daily operations.
- Students: 5 respondents were selected to capture the students' perspectives on the improvements in facilities, their ability to focus on studies, and how the new infrastructure has affected their daily routines and overall well-being.

The FGDs involved both teachers and students to ensure that their experiences and views are appropriately represented, allowing for detailed discussions on how the infrastructure changes have impacted their educational and living experiences.

Category of Respondents	**Interviews**	**Focus Groups**	**Tools**
	Sample Size		
Veda Patasala Building	-	-	Observation
Trustee	1	-	Interview Questionnaires A, B & C
Teachers	2	-	
Students	5	-	
Teachers	-	2	Check list for FGD - D & E
Students	-	5	
Total Sample (15)	**8**	**7**	

3.4. Data Analysis

Quantitative Analysis: Data from the Veda Patasala's records were collected and analysed to assess trends related to student enrollment, academic progress, infrastructure utilization, and other relevant metrics. The analysis compared the services and facilities provided before and after the construction of the new building to identify improvements in areas such as student accommodation, learning environments, and overall satisfaction.

Qualitative Analysis: Thematic coding was applied to the responses from structured interviews with key stakeholders (Trustee, Teachers, and Students) to evaluate themes such as satisfaction with the new infrastructure, accessibility of resources, and any challenges faced. Key areas of analysis included the impact of the new facilities on teaching quality, learning experiences, and the overall well-being of students. Focus Group Discussion (FGD) insights were also analysed to identify collective impacts and issues raised by the participants, helping to draw a comprehensive understanding of the community's experience with the new infrastructure. This approach allowed for a nuanced understanding of how the changes have affected the daily functioning of the Veda Patasala.

3.5. Limitations

Sample Size: The assessment is based on a limited sample size of 8 respondents and 2 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs). This may not fully capture the diversity of experiences and impacts across all stakeholders within the Veda Patasala, such as other students, teachers, or administrative staff.

Time Constraints: The study primarily focuses on the short-term impact of the newly constructed infrastructure. As a result, it may not account for longer-term sustainability issues or how the changes will influence the Veda Patasala over a more extended period, such as the impact on future generations of students or long-term operational challenges.

Generalizability: The findings from this study are specific to the Veda Patasala in question and may not be directly applicable to other similar institutions or regions.

Guest Rooms for Guests, Parents and Visitors

Students studying in the classroom

4. Findings and Analysis

4.1 Relevance

The focus on Vedas and the Vedic education is not being prioritized in the present society. As a result, the present generation is completely missing the awareness on the importance of our culture taught in the Vedas long ago and the dire need for adapting & upholding traditional values. Consequently, the future generations would completely be missing out the relevant awareness on the greatness of Indian culture. The existing Vedapatasalas in Telangana and the country are being maintained with the support of

CSRs & some interested donors. However, the Vedic education learning requires well equipped infrastructure like capacious class rooms for learning & oral practising the lessons openly, comfortable accommodation for the students & teachers complimented with wash rooms with abundant running water facilities, kitchens with modern features to cook fast in larger volumes. But such amenities needs more funding support by the foundations/donor agencies which are committed to help Vedapatasalas abundantly.

In such a scenario, Aurobindo Pharma Foundation team understood the key requirements of Sri Sankara Gurukula Vedapatasala for expanding the Institution to enroll more students who seek to join and were determined to help appropriately. The support rendered by Aurobindo Pharma Foundation under its CSR activities is at par with the requirements of Sri Sankara Gurukula Veda Patasala. The Foundation's objectives have appropriately supported the Veda Patasala in terms of the extended infrastructures viz., Vedasadanam block with optimal amenities – Classrooms & Accommodation for the students, Modern kitchen, dedicated place for Veda Adhyayan rituals etc., and such facilities helped the Veda Patasala in reaching its Goal, Vision & Mission.

Modern Kitchen

4.2 Coherence

Development of any infrastructure would usually pave way for further development in the location as well as the surroundings. The basic facilities like roads, electricity etc., are provided by the respective Government departments as per the community's request. As a result, the location (village/town) would be connected and mainstreamed with the nearby Mandal/District headquarters. Further, the local household members would get benefited through an increased number of livelihood opportunities viz., in construction activities, shop establishments (provisional stores, clothing stores, medical shops etc.).

The local farmers have also benefited through increased demand for their produce such as vegetables, fruits, milk, etc.

In the same manner, Aurobindo Pharma Foundation's initiatives also influenced the Veda Patasala getting few more facilities with other donors' support like hot water through Solar system, Safe drinking water plant. In particular, the clearance by the Defence department paved way for the development of Ponnala Village surroundings.

Solar water heaters

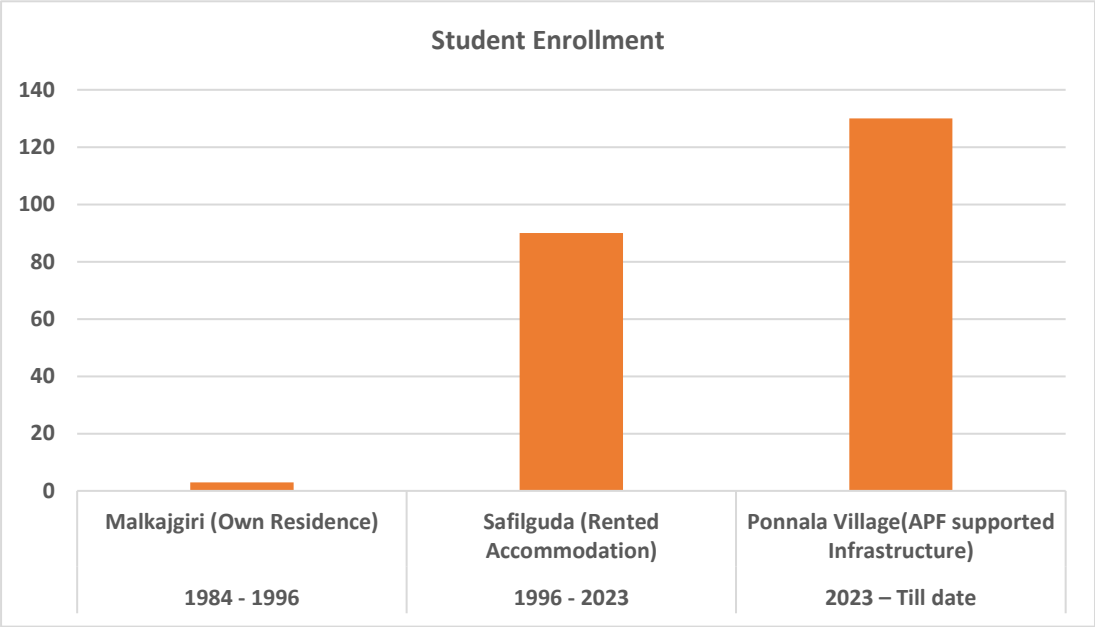
RO water plant

4.3 Effectiveness

Effectiveness of any project would depend on its accomplishment of the objectives spelled out. Aurobindo Pharma Foundation has determined to support Sri Sankara Gurukula Veda Patasala through construction of Vedasadanam Block at Ponnala Village, Shameerpet Village, Medchal – Malkajgiri District, Telangana State. Thus, the foundation wanted to promote Vedic Education through enrolment of more interested students supported with all the required facilities. It has been aligned with the Patasala's vision and the future plans.

The Veda Patasala management has envisaged a greater number of students joining to study Vedas in a peaceful environment with appropriate facilities. As a result of Vedasadanam block construction by Aurobindo Pharma Foundation, the enrolment of students in the Patasala has been enhanced effectively.

#	Year	Place	Students
1.	1984 – 1996	Malkajgiri (Own Residence)	3
2.	1996 – 2023	Safilguda (Rented Accommodation)	90
3.	2023 – Till date	Ponnala Village (APF supported Infrastructure)	130



4.4 Efficiency

Vedasadanam block constructed by Aurobindo Pharma Foundation is being utilised by Sri Sankara Gurukula Vedapatasala management optimally. The new building has been providing opportunity for the Teachers & the students to save their time efficiently. To quote an example, a greater number of running tap outlets were provided in the washrooms which is providing opportunity for more students at a time.

The spacious classrooms, accommodation, hygienic kitchen, sound & air pollution free environment has been contributing to the students in learning Vedic education efficiently. The designated place of Homams in the campus has seen increased active participation of students to observe and learn. The utilization of the infrastructure provided by the Foundation is very much addressing the needs of the Vedapatasala

Students in Classrooms

Students' daily rituals and studying

4.5 Impact

As a result of Vedasadanam Block, the Vedapatasala has opened its gates for more Vedic education aspiring students to join for exploring Vedas. The campus is air and sound pollution free and most of the parents are willing to join their children at Sri Sankara Vedapatasala without hesitation. The impact of the Project is visible through students' focussed learning, scope for further expansion in the form of Dakshinamurthy auditorium, Meditation centre etc., with the possible support by Aurobindo Pharma

Foundation & other committed donors. On the other hand, accessibility to Ponnala village has been improved and made the way for other establishments & trades in the village.

4.6 Sustainability

The maintenance and ownership of Patasala infrastructure & other amenities is appreciable. The Patasala management is keen in taking forward the Institution's mission effectively in a sustainable manner with a greater number of students. The initial phase of the new Patasala complex (Vedabhavan) at Ponnala Village, Shameerpet has been completed. The phase of the Project comprises Patasala Building Block (Classrooms), Pantry & Kitchen and Toilet & Maintenance Blocks. For the next phase, the Patasala management is envisaging to expand through construction of Dakshinamurthy Auditorium (Prayer Hall), Goshala, Accommodation for Adhyapaks and Library.

Aurobindo Pharma Foundation, as part of their CSR initiatives have been supporting different educational, health and other institutions through development of infrastructures. Such initiatives have provided opportunities for a greater number of students to join the schools, more patients to avail improved healthcare services etc. One such support was provided to Sri Sankara Gurukula Veda Patasala located in Ponnala Gram Panchayat, Shameerpet Mandal, Medchal-Malkajgiri District, Telangana.

Provisions Store and Modern Kitchen

The Trustee's father Late Bhashya Ratna Sri R. Venkatraman, Salakshana Ghanapati. He has worked as a Principal in the Vedapatasala, Tirupati, which has inspired him to start such Patasala after his retirement. This Vedapatasala was started in the year 1984 with about 3 students at his residence in Malkajgiri, Hyderabad. Later, in the year 1996, it was moved to a separate small building in Safilguda, Hyderabad and was conducted till 2023. The patasala at Malkajgiri has been running as a day scholar and the one at Safilguda was a residential one. Since the two locations were in the heart of the city and the rooms were congested in a noisy environment, the Patasala management has proactively explored the

possibilities for a better location. Dr. Suri Santha has donated 4 acres of land in Ponnala Village, Shameerpet Mandal, Medchal – Malkajgiri District, Telangana.

Upon Aurobindo Pharma Foundation's request, an impact assessment was carried out by APMAS team on 3rd December 2024. The main purpose of the task is to take stock of the present status of the Aurobindo CSR supported Vedapatasala's infrastructure, to understand the impact and assess the importance of the intervention.

4.7 Interviews and Focus Group Discussions

As part of the assessment, individual interviews with the Patasala Trustee, 2 teachers and 5 students and one focus group discussion each with the teachers and students were conducted. It was noticed that all of them have actively participated in their interactions with the visiting team. The outcome of the interviews and the FGDs are below:

Interaction with the Trustee: The Trustee shared that the Veda Patasala was initiated in 1984 with the primary goal of preserving and promoting our rich cultural heritage and customs. Initially, the Patasala operated at two locations in Hyderabad—Malkajgiri and Safilguda. Over the past year, it has been functioning from its new premises in Ponnala Village, Shameerpet Mandal. This relocation to the new Vedasadanam building, constructed with the generous support of the Aurobindo Pharma Foundation at a cost of INR 3 crores has significantly enhanced the Patasala's capacity and facilities.

Discussion with the Trustee

The Trustee highlighted the meticulous planning and construction of the new building, which addresses the specific needs of Vedic education. For instance, recognizing the students' requirement to wash their hands and legs after using the restroom, ample taps have been installed to facilitate this practice. This attention to detail has created an environment conducive to Vedic learning, leading to a 20% increase in student enrolment. As of December 2024, the Patasala accommodates around 130 students pursuing Vedic education, which is offered in courses of 6, 9, or 12 years, depending on the individual's aptitude and parental guidance.

Students are housed in rooms accommodating ten individuals, and the teaching staff comprises 15 highly dedicated teachers selected through a rigorous interview process. The Trustee emphasized the close, almost fatherly relationship these teachers maintain with the students, ensuring a nurturing environment. Each teacher works with a small group of students to maintain the quality of instruction. Many graduates of the Patasala return to contribute as teachers, reflecting the institution's enduring impact. While most teachers commute from Hyderabad, one or two stay overnight as wardens to oversee the students.

The new facility also includes a spacious and well-protected area for daily Homams, enhancing the spiritual and educational experience for students. Looking ahead, the Trustee expressed the Trust's vision of expanding the Patasala further. Plans are underway to establish a Vedic Research Centre and a Dakshinamurthy Auditorium, for which the Trust is seeking continued support from CSR contributors like Aurobindo Pharma Foundation. Additionally, the Trust aspires to obtain ISO certification to enhance the Patasala's credibility and standards.

Interaction with the Teachers: The teachers at the Veda Patasala expressed their deep commitment to preserving the Vedas and their unwavering belief in the transformative benefits the Vedas bring to society. This dedication is the driving force behind their choice to pursue Vedic teaching as a lifelong vocation. They noted that the Aurobindo Pharma Foundation-supported Vedasadanam building has significantly contributed to the Patasala's growth and success.

In the older premises at Malkajgiri and Safilguda, student enrollment was limited to around 60–70 students due to space constraints. However, the new facility has enabled enrollment to increase to 150 students, further enhancing the Patasala's reputation and making it a prominent center of Vedic education recognized across India.

The teachers also commended the Patasala management for its proactive approach to student welfare. In case of medical emergencies, a qualified doctor is readily accessible nearby, and video consultations are arranged when necessary. Additionally, Vijaya Health Care serves as the nodal hospital affiliated with the Patasala. Blood donation camps are occasionally organized to support broader health initiatives. Daily essentials for the Patasala's kitchen—such as milk, vegetables, and provisions—are supplied by various vendors. In a notable act of generosity, Vijaya Milk authorities provide 15 litres of cow milk every day, free of cost. This collective effort ensures the students' well-being and allows them to focus on their Vedic studies in a nurturing environment.

Interaction with the Students: The students at the Veda Patasala generally come from families with a Vedic background or possess a strong personal interest in learning the Vedas. In many instances, the students' fathers, who lacked similar opportunities in their youth, have encouraged their sons to pursue Vedic education and take advantage of the resources available today.

Discussion with the Student

The students expressed their satisfaction with the Vedasadanam Block, noting that its spacious design effectively meets all their daily ritualistic and educational needs. It provides designated areas for performing *Sandhyavandanam* three times a day, separate classrooms for chanting the Vedas aloud, and facilities for conducting *Homams*. The availability of firewood for *Homams* within close proximity to the Patasala further supports their daily practices.

Yoga and meditation are integral to the students' routine, with a teacher from outside the campus visiting regularly to provide guidance. The students practice these disciplines daily, enhancing their physical and mental well-being. While the students are deeply immersed in their Vedic studies, they expressed a desire for additional exposure, particularly through computer orientation programs. They believe this would equip them with modern skills, broadening their perspectives and enabling them to integrate traditional knowledge with contemporary tools.

Focus Group discussion with Teachers: The teachers shared their positive experiences regarding the Vedasadanam building, highlighting its numerous benefits for students. The new facility provides spacious classrooms, a modern kitchen, an ample playground, and an increased number of bathrooms and washrooms, creating a more conducive environment for learning and daily activities.

The teachers expressed gratitude for the strong support they receive from the Patasala management, which allows them to teach with passion and focus on preserving and transmitting Vedic knowledge to future generations. They appreciated the trust placed in them, as they are given the freedom to teach without being closely monitored. Furthermore, all teachers are covered under a health insurance policy, ensuring their well-being and financial security.

The management's vision for expanding the Patasala's infrastructure was also discussed. Plans are underway to construct additional facilities, including the Dakshinamurthy Auditorium, a research centre, staff quarters, a *Dhyana Mandiram* (meditation hall), a *Goshala* (cow shelter), and a designated playground. These developments are expected to further enhance the quality of education and overall experience for both students and staff.

Discussion with the Teachers

The teachers noted a visible improvement in student admissions, which they attributed to the new building's modern amenities and the serene environment. The Patasala's location, away from the main village and free from sound pollution, has been particularly appealing to parents seeking a peaceful and focused educational setting for their children.

Focus Group discussion with Students: The students expressed their satisfaction with the existing Veda Patasala building, describing it as a conducive environment for concentrated learning, boarding, and lodging. They highlighted the modern kitchen, which efficiently caters to daily cooking needs, and the neatly maintained facilities, including sufficient washrooms on each floor, consistent water availability, and a designated playing area.

The students shared that their experience at the Patasala has been enjoyable, with none feeling bored or homesick. They attributed this to the comprehensive amenities and the affectionate treatment they receive from their Gurus (teachers). The presence of hot water through a solar system and safe drinking water available 24/7 further enhances their comfort and well-being.

FGD with students

The students emphasized that the new building is far superior to the previous one, which they found congested and less accommodating. The spacious and thoughtfully designed infrastructure has created a more comfortable and engaging atmosphere for learning and living. Additionally, the Patasala ensures access to quality health services. A doctor residing nearby visits regularly and is available for emergency consultations, further reassuring students and their families about their well-being during their time at the Patasala.

4.8 Data Analysis

The data collected through individual interviews and focus group discussions, the following analysis is drawn.

#	Parameter	Trustee	Teachers	Students
1.	% of key team members at the Veda Patasala who are well-informed about the purpose and inspiration behind its establishment	100%	100%	100%
2.	% of effectiveness and efficiency in the selection process of teachers by the Trustee, as well as students by the teachers	100%	90%	----
3.	% of the impact & Influence on local economic development (economic growth, infrastructure development, job creation etc.,)	80%	70%	----
4.	% observed impact in environmental management across areas such as water resource conservation, premises maintenance, waste	95%	95%	100%

	reduction, and overall sustainability practices."			
5.	% of improvements achieved in infrastructure, including classrooms, accommodation, drinking and running water facilities, safe sanitation, and related amenities	100%	95%	100%
6.	% of progress observed in identifying and engaging potential donors to enhance funding opportunities."	100%	90%	50%
7.	% of progress made toward achieving high standards, including efforts aligned with attaining ISO certification.	100%	90%	75%

(0 – 50% Average ; 51 – 75% Good ; 76 – 90% Very Good ; 91 -100% Excellent)

The interaction and detailed discussion with the Trustee, Teachers & the Students, it was noticed that almost all of them have very fair understanding on the purpose of the Veda Patasala and the effectiveness of the selection procedures. Further, they are well aware of the developments within the Patasala premises like New building block, water & sanitation facilities etc. In terms of the economic developments outside the campus, the Trustee & the Teachers have good understanding whereas the students have limited knowledge being their limited accessibility to such premises.

4.9 Testimonials

Sri B. Sreeram - "Veda adhyayanam (Vedic study) is very much important. I have been associated with this patasala since 1999 in which my father has admitted me. As a result of adhyayanam, it is good for the entire society as well as the universe.

Sri Harihara Ghanapati – Vice Principal: I have admitted in this patasala as a student (1994 -2002) and after completion of my course, joined as a teacher in 2008 and presently serving as Vice Principal. Vedas are for the welfare of the society and one and all. There is still a need to expand the patasala with further infrastructure.

Manikantha - Student: Our patasala used to be conducted in Malkajgiri in a congested place. Thanks to Aurobindo Pharma Foundation for supporting us in constructing this new patasala building, which is convenient for more number of students aspiring to study Vedas.

Kripasagaran – Student: I have been in this patasala for the last 9 years and able to learn effectively. The support provided by Aurobindo Foundation for Vedasadanam is very useful for many of the students. If there is possibility, I would like to serve here as a teacher.

4.10 Case Stories

Sricharan (14) studied up to the 4th grade in Mumbai, Maharashtra. His father, who is employed, wished for his son to pursue Vedic studies. After performing Sricharan's Upanayanam, he enrolled him in Sri Sankara Gurukula Veda Patasala at the age of 11. The Vedapatasala trustees, teachers, and students warmly supported Sricharan, helping him adjust comfortably. As a result, he never experienced homesickness or felt distanced from his parents. In his own words: "The Patasala is like my family, and I am deeply attached to my teachers and fellow students. We are grateful to the Aurobindo Pharma Foundation for providing excellent facilities for our education, accommodation, and hygienic sanitation."

"I appreciate the Vedapatasala management's concern for both teachers and students," exclaims **Sri Harihara Subrahmanyam**, one of the distinguished teachers at the Patasala. His motto is to contribute to society through Vedic students, and he is deeply committed to his role as a member of the teaching faculty. He firmly believes that Vedic education has the potential to reduce negativity in society. Having studied Vedic education at this institution, he joined as a teacher due to his strong conviction in the Patasala's mission to promote and strengthen the Vedas in society. Students who complete the Vedic courses here receive commendable opportunities, both within India and abroad. The Patasala actively encourages students with a passion for Vedic education, as evidenced by the presence of international students currently enrolled. The timely support provided by

Aurobindo Pharma Foundation is exemplary to other CSRs. As a result, the enrolment of students has been enhancing year by year.

5. Recommendations and Conclusion

5.1. Key Recommendations

Sri Sankara Gurukula Veda Patasala has effectively leveraged the Vedasadanam Block, constructed with the support of Aurobindo Pharma Foundation, to significantly enhance its operations. The classrooms, living spaces, kitchen, and other facilities are exceptionally neat, well-maintained, and efficiently managed.

#	Description	No. of Units	Status
	Phase - I		
1.	Vedasala	30 Class Rooms	Completed
2.	Kitchen, Pantry & Dining	300	Completed
	Phase - II		
1.	Residence Block	15 Flats	Not Started
2.	Meditation Hall	1 (Temple)	Not Started
	Phase - III		
1.	Student accommodation & Library	27 Rooms	Completed
2.	Toilet Block – 1, 2 and Maintenance Block	300 Students	Completed
3.	Goshala	1	Not Started

Planned Expansions: Given the increasing student enrolment and rising prominence of the Patasala, the management has proposed the construction of additional infrastructure such as the Dakshinamurthy Auditorium, Vedic Research Centre, and other facilities. The Patasala premises have sufficient space to accommodate these expansions, which will further contribute to its holistic development. These enhancements will not only bolster infrastructure but also strengthen the Patasala's capacity to preserve and propagate Vedic knowledge effectively.

Observations and Impact: The improved infrastructure, such as the Vedasadanam Block, has already led to significant growth in student enrolment, rising from 90 in 2023 to 130 by the end of 2024. Feedback from teachers and students indicates high satisfaction and comfort with the enhanced facilities at the Ponnala Village premises. This underscores the critical role that well-planned infrastructure plays in attracting and retaining students while providing a conducive learning environment.

Recommendations: The following are recommended to support the Patasala's mission and growing societal needs and impact.

Continued Support for Infrastructure Development

- Construction of the Meditation Hall (Dakshinamurthy Auditorium).
- Establishment of the Vedic Research Centre.
- Completion of the Residence Block and Goshala.

Support for ISO Certification in Vedic Education: Achieving ISO certification will enhance the credibility and recognition of the Patasala's educational standards, fostering further enrolment and support.

Long-Term Vision Alignment: The Aurobindo Pharma Foundation's continued support will not only aid in infrastructure development but also strengthen the Patasala's ability to preserve and advance Vedic knowledge, making a lasting societal impact.

The exemplary efforts of the Sri Sankara Gurukula Vedapatasala management deserve recognition and sustained backing, ensuring the Patasala continues to grow as a beacon of Vedic education and cultural preservation.

5.2. Conclusion

Sri Sankara Gurukula Veda Patasala, located in Ponnala Village of Shameerpet Mandal, Medchal–Malkajgiri District, Telangana, began its journey with just three students. Over time, with timely and consistent support, the enrolment has steadily increased. By the end of December 2024, the Patasala has grown to accommodate 150 students pursuing Vedic education.

The institution has a distinguished history of producing extraordinary Vedic scholars, including Ghanapatis, and has earned its place as one of the most prestigious Veda Patasalas in the country. Its unwavering commitment to preserving and advancing the Vedas has made it a vital institution in the field of traditional education.

Given its commendable efforts to uphold and disseminate the wisdom of the Vedas while contributing to the welfare of society, it is essential for organizations like Aurobindo Pharma Foundation to continue supporting Sri Sankara Gurukula Veda Patasala. Such support will enable the Patasala to sustain its mission of preserving ancient knowledge, fostering holistic education, and promoting societal well-being for generations to come.

Impact Assessment of Financial support to Sri Kalyana Venkateswara Veda Patasala Trust, Thummalagunta Village, Tirupati District, Andhra Pradesh

Supported by Aurobindo Pharma Foundation (A Philanthropic arm of Aurobindo Pharma Ltd under Corporate Social Responsibility)

Submitted to

AUROBINDO PHARMA FOUNDATION

Submitted by

apmas

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Acknowledgements

On behalf of APMAS, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Aurobindo Pharma Foundation for entrusting us with the opportunity to conduct the impact assessment of the Sri Kalyana Venkateswara Veda Patasala Trust, located in Thummalagunta Village, Tirupati District, Andhra Pradesh. This unique and enriching experience has allowed us to witness and document the transformative changes brought about by this remarkable CSR initiative towards protection of our Heritage, Art, Culture, and Traditions. The foundation's generous funding has significantly improved the Patasala's infrastructure, enhancing its ability to nurture and promote Vedic education.

We sincerely thank the Chairperson and Trustee of Sri Kalyana Venkateswara Veda Patasala for their invaluable support and cooperation throughout the assessment process. Their openness in sharing key insights and their unwavering commitment to the project were instrumental in shaping this report.

Our deepest gratitude goes to the dedicated teachers and enthusiastic students of the Veda Patasala. Their contributions and personal experiences have provided invaluable insights, enriching our understanding of the initiative's profound impact. We also acknowledge the collective efforts of everyone who shared their perspectives, offering us a comprehensive view of this transformative journey.

Lastly, we commend the Aurobindo Pharma Foundation for their visionary commitment to preserving and promoting the timeless wisdom of the Vedas and fostering Vedic education. Their dedication to this noble cause serves as a beacon of inspiration. We are truly honoured to have been a part of this impactful journey.

With the deepest gratitude!

Team APMAS!
January 2025

1. Executive Summary

1.1. Project Overview

Under the theme of protection of national heritage, art and culture, Aurobindo Pharma Foundation has provided support of ₹ 1 crore to Sri Kalyana Venkateswara Vedapatasala for constructing classrooms, residential facilities, and other essential infrastructure in Thummalgunta village, Tirupathi district. The Foundation has also been supporting the monthly maintenance with an amount of ₹ 4 lakhs per month.

1.2. Growth and Evolution

The word "Veda" in Sanskrit means knowledge, while "Vedanta" signifies the culmination of knowledge, embodying the theme of wisdom. To preserve and propagate the Vedas and Vedic literature, the **Sri Kalyana Venkateswara Veda Patasala Trust** was established in 2014 in Thummalagunta Village, Tirupati District, Andhra Pradesh. The Trust is committed to fostering Vedic education, including the study of the Vedas, Agamas, Smartham, and Sanskrit.

The origins of the Veda Patasala trace back to Yerpedu Village, near Tirupati. Recognizing the need for sustainable operations and growth, the Trust Chairperson facilitated its relocation to Thummalagunta Village. Motivated by a deep respect for the Vedas and the need for their propagation, the Patasala began its journey with just two students in 2014. By 2016, enrolment increased to 40 students.

1.3. Academic Excellence

The Patasala has developed a structured 10-year Vedic curriculum, encompassing three stages: **Brahmanam** (3 years); **Aranyakam** (3 years) and **Samhita** (4 years). Students typically enroll at the age of 6 or 7, with some pursuing advanced courses like **Krama** (Graduation). In addition to the Vedic curriculum, students are taught Sanskrit and English, ensuring a holistic education. The academic calendar begins in June, with admissions conducted from the 1st to the 15th followed by the commencement of classes.

The Patasala's library is a treasure trove of Vedic and Sanskrit literature. Among its most notable collections is **Divya Veda Vani**, a Telugu compilation of the four Vedas—**Rigveda, Yajurveda, Samaveda, and Atharvaveda**. This invaluable resource is actively utilized by teachers and remains a source of inspiration for students. The library is exemplary as it contains many precious books of Vedas and Sanskrit. To quote an example, in Telugu - Divya Veda Vani (*Asalaina Aadi Grandham*) comprising the four Vedas (Rigvedam, Yajurvedam, Samavedam & Adharvanvedam) is a huge book on Vedas and preserved for reference. The Teachers are proactively referring and utilizing the book. This is one of the attractive and enthusiastic book for one and all.

The student strength has increased from 40 to 140 due to facilities made available to the students. The number of students pursuing higher Vedic Studies also has been increasing every year.

1.4. Recommendations

The Patasala's management, faculty, and students expressed deep gratitude for the Aurobindo Pharma Foundation's funding, which has facilitated the construction of classrooms, residential buildings, and other essential facilities. They recalled past challenges, including insufficient space for dining and accommodation, which hindered focused learning. Today, these issues have been addressed, providing students with a comfortable and enriching environment. The Trust has acquired 20 acres of land adjacent to the Patasala. Plans are underway to develop 10 acres into a **Gurukulam model**, featuring: additional classrooms, administration building, meditation hall, residential facilities for students and staff, a hospital, dining hall, dhobi ghat, Homam/Yagasala, playground for students and goshala, The following are the key recommendations.

- Seek additional support from CSR organizations to expand the facilities to include a hospital, dining hall, and goshala.
- Strengthen ties with local communities and encourage more families to enroll their children in the Vedapatasala.
- Ensure community engagement through outreach programs, awareness campaigns, and events to generate local support and interest.
- Regularly update and enrich the curriculum to meet modern educational standards while preserving traditional Vedic knowledge. This may include offering language courses, Sanskrit studies, and other cultural enrichment activities.

1.5. Conclusion

Sri Kalyana Venkateswara Veda Patasala is poised for its next phase of development. With a vision to establish a traditional **Gurukulam model**, the management is exploring partnerships with CSR foundations, including continued support from the Aurobindo Pharma Foundation, to bring this vision to life. This commitment to preserving and promoting Vedic wisdom is a testament to the Patasala's enduring legacy and its significant contribution to society.

2. Introduction

2.1. The Vedas – Eternal Glory of Our Tradition

The Vedas are revered as divine revelations, perceived by ancient Rishis during profound states of spiritual realization. These sacred texts, considered authorless, are eternal and exist as subtle vibrations within the cosmos. In earlier eras, the Vedas encompassed a vast body of knowledge far exceeding what is accessible today. Sage Vyasa categorized this immense wisdom into four principal groups: **Rig, Yajur, Sama, and Atharva Vedas**, while Sage Patanjali further divided them into numerous branches, or **Shakhas**.

Originally, there were 21 Shakhas of Rig Veda, 108 of Yajur Veda, 1,000 of Sama Veda, and 9 of Atharva Veda. Over time, most of these branches have been lost. Currently, only one Shakha of Rig Veda, six of Yajur Veda, three of Sama Veda, and two of Atharva Veda remain. Despite this reduction, Vedic Mantras retain their timeless power to foster peace, prosperity, and well-being. It is our solemn responsibility to preserve these treasures of Sanatana Dharma for the benefit of future generations.

The **Sri Kalyana Venkateswara Veda Patasala Trust** stands as a beacon in this mission, offering unwavering support to students pursuing Vedic education. A pivotal step in this journey was the relocation of the Patasala from Yerpedu to Thummalagunta in Tirupati District, facilitated by one of the trustees. Through dedicated efforts and proactive fundraising from donors & CSR funds, the Patasala has steadily grown in capacity and reach.

2.2. About Sri Kalyana Venkateswara Veda Patasala

Sri Kalyana Venkateswara Veda Patasala Trust was established in the year 2014 with a noble object of preserving and propagating Vedas and Vedic Literature. The main motto of the trust members was to provide more opportunities for students pursuing Vedic education at Sri Venkateswara Vedic University, Tirupati. As the good thoughts yields good deeds, the Veda Patasala has been gradually improving its student enrolment – 2 in the year 2014 to 140 in 2024.

Likewise, the management has put in enormous efforts in improving the Patasala through construction of student classrooms, accommodation, kitchen etc., with the support of funds donated by Aurobindo Pharma Foundation and other Donors. To accommodate its ambitious vision for further growth, the Trust has acquired 10 acres of land, planning for a comprehensive Gurukula-style infrastructure.

2.3. Objective of the Trust

The objective of the Trust is to provide the facilities for educational activities such as running schools / colleges at such place or places as decided by the trustees and social & cultural activities and other aligned amenities, and also to provide such other amenities for the said public, as may be necessary to fulfil the above objectives.

2.4. Vision of the Trust

The objectives are derived based on the following Vision of the Trust

- Cultural Preservation: Continuity of ancient traditions through oral recitation in the Gurukula system.
- Advanced Studies: Facilitating higher studies in disciplines such as Samaveda, Rigveda, Agamas, Jyotisha, Vastu Shastra, traditional music, and yoga.

2.5. Achievements of Veda Patasala

The Patasala has achieved remarkable success in producing skilled students (Vidyarthis) who have excelled in various Vedic examinations conducted by prestigious institutions like Kanchi Mutt, Sringeri Mutt, and other renowned Vedic institutions across Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu. At the time of the assessment, there are 140 students on the roll and actively pursuing the Vedic education. The Patasala's commitment to nurturing Vedic scholars and ensuring the propagation of Vedic knowledge across generations is commendable.

2.6. Funding Support

The primary source of funds for maintaining and running the Patasala is through donations from well-wishers, philanthropists, and charitable institutions. Presently, the maintenance expenses of the Patasala, including boarding, clothing, accommodation, medical care, and infrastructure, amounts to around INR 15 lakhs per month. Part of these expenses are being subsided by Aurobindo Pharma Foundation. Besides the INR 1

crore, Aurobindo Pharma Foundation has also been supporting the monthly maintenance with an amount of INR 4 lakhs per month since 2019. Other donors also supporting at their best for the noble cause of Veda Patasala.

3. Methodology and Approach

3.1. Evaluation Framework

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Development Assistance Committee (DAC) criteria are a widely used framework for evaluating the effectiveness and impact of development projects, especially in the context of international aid and development assistance. These criteria help assess various dimensions of a project, from its design to its long-term outcomes. The key criteria are:

Relevance: This assesses the alignment of the project or program with the actual needs of the target population and the priorities of stakeholders. It ensures that the project's goals are contextually appropriate and effectively address the most pressing issues and contribute to development goals.

Coherence: This criterion assesses how well the project or program aligns with other interventions in the area. It evaluates consistency with broader policies, objectives, and strategies, ensuring that the initiative complements with other activities in the region for overall harmony and effectiveness.

Effectiveness: This measures the extent to which the project achieved its intended outcomes. It looks at how successfully the objectives were realized and whether the expected results were delivered within the defined timeline and scope.

Efficiency: This assesses the optimal use of resources, including time, money, and human resources in achieving the project's outcomes. It focuses on cost effectiveness in delivering outputs and achieving value for the resources invested.

Impact: This examines the long-term and broader effects of the project, considering both intended and unintended outcomes. It highlights the project's contribution to social, economic, or environmental development over time.

Sustainability: This examines whether the benefits of the project are likely to be maintained after the project's completion. It considers factors such as local ownership, the availability of resources, and the capacity of the community or government to continue the work initiated by the project.

Together, these criteria provide a comprehensive framework for evaluating development initiatives, ensuring that they not only achieve immediate goals but also deliver sustainable, long-term improvements that are well-coordinated with other efforts.

3.2. Data Collection Tools

Interviews: Structured interviews were conducted with key stakeholders, including Trustees, Teachers, and Students of the Veda Patasala. These interviews focused on:

- Understanding the perspectives of those directly involved in the Patasala's operations and learning process.
- Exploring experiences, challenges, and views on the effectiveness of teaching methods, facilities, and the overall environment.
- Assessing the alignment of the Patasala's objectives with the needs of students and their communities.

Questionnaires: Questionnaires were administered to a sample of Teachers and Students to gather both quantitative and qualitative data. These included closed and open-ended questions to:

- Assess the impact of the Patasala's educational programs
- Measure satisfaction of the students with facilities.
- Understand future aspirations of students and feedback from Teachers on curriculum, teaching methods, and institutional functioning.

Observation: Physical verification of the facilities and infrastructure was conducted to ensure that the actual condition of the new building matches the reported services provided. This includes assessing the quality of classrooms, common areas, accommodations, washrooms, and recreational spaces. Observations were focused on cleanliness, functionality, space utilization, and overall upkeep of the facilities. Additionally, the verification process ensured that the infrastructure is fully equipped to meet the needs of the teachers and students for both educational and personal activities, as well as maintaining a conducive learning environment.

3.3. Sample Size and Sampling Method

The total sample size consisted of 11 respondents, selected through purposive sampling to target those directly impacted by the changes in the Veda Parasala's infrastructure and activities. This approach ensured relevant insights and experience were captured. The categories of respondents were:

- **Trustee:** 1 respondent to provide a strategic perspective on objectives, funding, and overall impact of the new infrastructure
- **Teachers:** 5 respondents to share experiences regarding teaching effectiveness, learning environments, and daily operations.
- **Students:** 5 respondents to provide perspectives on improved facilities, study focus, and overall well-being.

Category of Respondents	Interviews	Focus Groups	Tools
	Sample Size		
Veda Patasala Building		-	Observation
Trustee	1	-	Interview Questionnaires A, B & C
Teachers	5	-	
Students	5	-	
Total Sample (11)	**11**	-	

3.4. Data Analysis

Quantitative Analysis: Data from the Veda Patasala's records were collected and analyzed to assess trends related to student enrollment, academic progress, infrastructure utilization, and other relevant metrics. The analysis compared the services and facilities provided before and after the construction of the new building to identify improvements in areas such as student accommodation, learning environments, and overall satisfaction.

Qualitative Analysis: Thematic coding was applied to the responses from structured interviews with key stakeholders (Trustee, Teachers, and Students) to evaluate themes such as satisfaction with the new infrastructure, accessibility of resources, and any challenges faced. Key areas of analysis included the impact of the new facilities on teaching quality, learning experiences, and the overall well-being of students. This approach allowed for a nuanced understanding of how the changes have affected the daily functioning of the Veda Patasala.

3.5. Limitations

Sample Size: The assessment is based on a limited sample size of 11 respondents. This may not fully capture the diversity of experiences and impacts across all stakeholders within the Veda Patasala, such as other students, teachers, or administrative staff.

Time Constraints: The study primarily focused on the short-term impact of the newly constructed infrastructure. As a result, it may not account for longer-term sustainability issues or how the changes will influence the Veda Patasala over a more extended period, such as the impact on future generations of students or long-term operational challenges.

Generalizability: The findings from this study are specific to the Veda Patasala in question and may not be directly applicable to other similar institutions or regions. Differences in local contexts, resources, or institutional structures could limit the broader applicability of the results.

4. Findings and Analysis

4.1 Relevance

Vedic education, which holds the essence of India's rich cultural and spiritual heritage, is not adequately prioritized in the present-day society. The diminishing focus on the Vedas has led to a generational gap in understanding the values and teachings embedded in these ancient scriptures. This lack of awareness about the cultural and traditional significance of the Vedas has profound implications for the future, potentially leading to a complete erosion of this invaluable heritage over time.

While there are existing Vedapatasalas in Andhra Pradesh and across India, many struggle to sustain themselves due to limited financial resources. These institutions often rely on support from corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives and a handful of dedicated donors. However, the unique requirements of Vedic education call for more than just basic infrastructure. To facilitate effective learning and oral recitation of the Vedas, institutions require:

- Spacious classrooms that allow open and immersive oral practice.
- Comfortable accommodations for students and teachers, supported by modern amenities such as clean and abundant running water.
- Well-equipped kitchens with advanced facilities to prepare large volumes of food efficiently.

Providing these essential facilities requires substantial and consistent funding, which is often challenging to secure. Recognizing the critical need for infrastructural

enhancement, Aurobindo Pharma Foundation stepped forward to address the key requirements of Sri Sankara Gurukula Vedapatasala. The Foundation's commitment to supporting initiatives that preserve and promote cultural heritage aligns perfectly with the objectives of the Veda Patasala.

Under its CSR initiatives, Aurobindo Pharma Foundation extended timely and targeted support to Sri Kalyana Venkateswara Veda Patasala by:

1. Constructing a new building with optimal amenities, including capacious classrooms conducive to Vedic learning and recitation.
2. Providing comfortable accommodations for students and teachers to foster a supportive living and learning environment.
3. Equipping the Patasala with a modernized kitchen to streamline food preparation and ensure hygienic practices.

These contributions have significantly enhanced the Patasala's capacity to fulfill its mission. The improved infrastructure not only meets the immediate needs of the institution but also supports its vision to enroll more students who are eager to embrace Vedic education.

Aurobindo Pharma Foundation's efforts serve as a model for how CSR initiatives can play a pivotal role in sustaining and advancing traditional education systems. Their support ensures that the timeless teachings of the Vedas continue to inspire and guide future generations, preserving India's cultural and spiritual legacy for years to come.

4.2 Coherence

Aurobindo Pharma Foundation's support for the Sri Kalyana Venkateswara Veda Patasala in Thummalagunta Village resulted in addressing critical infrastructure needs - such as the construction of a new building with modern facilities, accommodations, and a fully equipped kitchen - the Foundation laid the ground for further community development. This initiative not only benefitted the Patasala but also had far-reaching effects on the surrounding area:

1. **Encouraged Additional Donor Contributions**: Inspired by the infrastructure improvements, other donors supported the installation of a safe drinking water plant, further enhancing the quality of life for the students and the local population.
2. **Associations with other Vedic Institutions:** The Veda Patasala is having close association with TTD's Vedic University where the students are pursuing higher education.
3. **Strengthened Local Economy**: The rising demand for agricultural produce, coupled with new business opportunities, has bolstered the local economy, and provided sustainable income streams for residents.

The comprehensive development spurred by Aurobindo Pharma Foundation's interventions demonstrated the power of targeted infrastructure support. By addressing

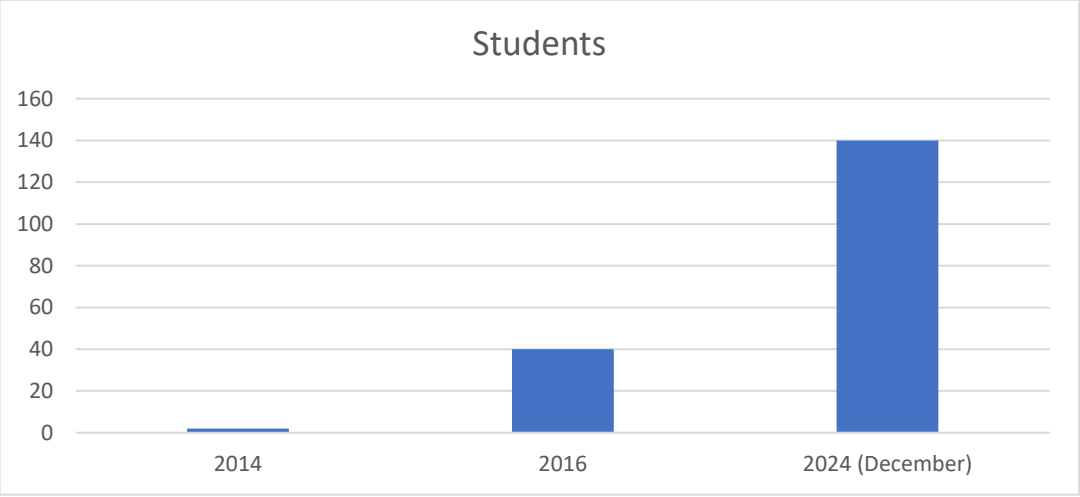
the specific needs of the Veda Patasala and its community, the Foundation enabled a virtuous cycle of growth and development, ensuring that both the institution and the surrounding village flourish in tandem.

4.3 Effectiveness

The effectiveness of any project is measured by its ability to achieve the objectives set out at its inception. Aurobindo Pharma Foundation's support to Sri Kalyana Venkateswara Veda Patasala in Thummalagunta Village, Tirupati District, Andhra Pradesh, exemplifies a successful intervention focused on infrastructure improvement to promote Vedic education.

- Enhanced the infrastructure of the Veda Patasala, thereby supporting its mission to promote Vedic education by enrolling more students and providing them with an environment conducive to focused learning.
- The construction of the new building aligns seamlessly with the Patasala's vision to create a peaceful and well-equipped environment for Vedic studies, ensuring that students are supported with essential facilities such as classrooms, accommodations, and kitchen amenities.
- There is substantial increase in student enrolment over the years, showcasing the effectiveness of the initiative. It demonstrates how a supportive infrastructure can attract and retain students interested in Vedic education.

Year	Number of Students
2014	2
2016	40
2024	140



The project supported by Aurobindo Pharma Foundation has been highly effective in achieving its objectives. By aligning with the Veda Patasala's vision and providing critical infrastructure, the Foundation has played a pivotal role in promoting Vedic education and enabling the institution to expand its reach and impact.

4.4 Efficiency

The newly constructed building, funded by Aurobindo Pharma Foundation, has been optimally utilized by the Sri Kalyana Venkateswara Veda Patasala Trust. The enhanced infrastructure has significantly improved the efficiency and convenience for both teachers and students, enabling them to focus on their primary objective of Vedic education. The key benefits are:

1. **Time Efficiency**: The availability of additional rooms for classrooms and accommodation has streamlined the daily routines of students and teachers, allowing more time to be dedicated to teaching and learning.
2. **Comprehensive Facilities**:
    - **Spacious Classrooms**: Provided an ideal setting for students to engage in Vedic studies, enhancing concentration and productivity.
    - **Comfortable Accommodation**: Ensured students to have a peaceful and secure environment for rest and self-study.
    - **Hygienic Kitchen**: Facilitated the preparation of nutritious meals efficiently, supporting the health and well-being of residents.
3. **Enhanced Learning Environment**: The serene, sound, and air pollution-free surroundings of the campus create a conducive atmosphere for learning, helping students focus on their Vedic lessons without distractions.
4. **Increased Capacity**: The ample space within the campus accommodates more students, enabling the Patasala to cater to a larger number of aspiring learners effectively.
5. **Impact of Infrastructure Utilization:** The improved infrastructure directly addressed the needs of the Veda Patasala by supporting the daily operations and academic goals of the institution and ensuring sustainable growth and well being of students.

The infrastructure developed with the support of Aurobindo Pharma Foundation has been a cornerstone in fulfilling the objectives of Sri Kalyana Venkateswara Veda Patasala. The optimal utilization of these facilities has enabled the Patasala to continue its mission of preserving and promoting Vedic education efficiently, ensuring long-term benefits for the institution and its students.

4.5 Impact

As a result of new building construction, the Vedapatasala has opened its gates for more Vedic education aspiring students to join for exploring Vedas. The campus is air and sound pollution free and most of the parents are willing to admit their children to Sri Kalyana Venkateswara Vedapatasala without hesitation. The impact of the Project is visible

through students' focussed learning, scope for further expansion in the form of Gurukulam model Patasala with all additionally required amenities like more separate classrooms, student accommodation, Hospital, Administration Building, Dining Hall, Dhobi Ghat, Homam / Yagasala, playground for students, Goushala etc., with the possible support by Aurobindo Pharma Foundation & other committed donors.

1. **Enhanced Vedic Education**: The new building has enabled Sri Kalyana Venkateswara Vedapatasala to admit more students aspiring for Vedic education. The serene and pollution-free environment fosters focused learning and supports the institution's goal of preserving and propagating Vedic knowledge.
2. **Increased Parent Confidence**: The upgraded facilities and improved infrastructure have reassured parents, making them more willing to enroll their children at the Vedapatasala. About 65% of the parents interacted with have expressed their confidence in the wellbeing of their children who are perusing vedic education in the Veda Patasala.
3. **Placement opportunities**: Most of the students have yet to complete their stipulated course (10 to 12 years). However, it was observed that the Veda Patasala students would have better placement opportunities after completion of their course. Around 70% of the teachers opined that the students would be well placed and develop professionally in future.
4. **Potential for Expansion**: The project has created opportunities for further development into a comprehensive Gurukulam model, with plans for additional facilities such as classrooms, accommodations, a dining hall, a hospital, and other essential amenities, contingent on continued support from donors like the Aurobindo Pharma Foundation.
5. **Intangible impact:**

- The Veda Patasala located area has seen upgrades in the local facilities.
- Construction activities created immediate job opportunities, while the establishment of shops such as provision stores, clothing outlets, medical shops, and eateries offered longer-term employment and entrepreneurial prospects.
- Farmers found new markets for their produce, including vegetables, fruits, and dairy, driven by the increased demand from growing populations and businesses.

The project's focus on Vedic education not only preserves traditional knowledge but also promotes cultural heritage, making it a cornerstone for future generations. Overall, the project has brought transformative changes to both the Vedapatasala and the local community, with long-term benefits for education, economic development, and cultural preservation.

4.6 Sustainability

The sustainability of the Sri Kalyana Venkateswara Vedapatasala project is underpinned by several key factors:

1. **Effective Management**: The Patasala's management is committed to maintaining and further developing the infrastructure and amenities. Their proactive approach ensures that the institution operates efficiently, supporting its mission of Vedic education.

2. **Expansion Plans**: The Patasala management has a clear vision for future growth. The next phase involves expanding the Vedapatasala into a Gurukulam model, which will include additional classrooms, sufficient accommodations, and specialized facilities like a Homam/Yagasala. These developments will accommodate a larger student base and ensure that the institution can meet growing demand.

3. **Support from Aurobindo Pharma Foundation**: As part of their CSR initiatives, Aurobindo Pharma Foundation has been instrumental in supporting educational and healthcare infrastructure. This support has already allowed for the construction and enhancement of facilities, enabling the school to serve a greater number of students. Such ongoing CSR involvement is key to the project's long-term sustainability, as it ensures continuous investment in the Patasala's growth and development.

4. **Opportunities for Expansion and Development**: The Patasala's plans for future growth, such as adding more classrooms, student accommodations, and cultural spaces, reflect its commitment to improving and expanding its offerings. With support from organizations like Aurobindo Pharma Foundation and other donors, these initiatives will contribute to the long-term sustainability of the Patasala, ensuring it continues to serve as a hub for Vedic education.

5. **Community and Educational Impact**: The infrastructure improvements funded by CSR initiatives have a lasting impact, not just on the Vedapatasala, but also on the local community. The enhanced educational facilities attract more students and contribute to the overall development of the area. By creating a robust educational environment, the Patasala ensures that the local community and future generations will continue to benefit from its existence.

6. **Ongoing Monitoring and Impact Assessments**: An impact assessment conducted by the APMAS team in December 2024 reflects a focus on understanding the current state of the infrastructure and identifying future expansion needs. This kind of monitoring ensures that the project remains aligned with its long-term sustainability goals and adapts to changing needs over time.

In conclusion, the sustainability of the project relies on effective management, strategic expansion plans, consistent support from CSR partners like Aurobindo Pharma Foundation, and a long-term vision for growth and community impact. The Vedapatasala is well-positioned to continue its mission of Vedic education and community development, ensuring its lasting presence in the region.

4.7 Interviews

As part of the assessment, individual interviews with one of the Patasala Trustee, 5 teachers and 5 students were conducted. It was noticed that all of them have actively participated in their interactions with the visiting assessment team. The outcome of the interviews are below:

Interaction with the Trustee: The Trustee shared that the Veda Patasala was initially located in Yerpedu Village near Tirupati but was facing some problems in its regular and effective maintenance. Hence, the Trustee has facilitated its relocation to Thummalagunta Village, Tirupati District in the year 2014. At that time, only 2 students were on roll in the Patasala. To take forward the Vedas and Vedic Literature uninterruptedly, Sri Kalyana Venkateswara Veda Patasala Trust was formed in that year (2014). Consequently, the Veda Patasala has gradually been improved by the Trust and its members. The spur for the Institution was seen with Aurobindo Pharma Foundation's support of INR 1 Cr for the construction of new building to facilitate spacious classrooms and student accommodation. The Foundation's generosity is being applauded as the Patasala has been provided INR 4 Lac monetary support every month for the maintenance since 2019.

The Trustee highlighted the timely support for the construction of new building (infrastructure) by the Foundation which addresses the specific needs of Vedic students. For instance, to make the students more comfortable, the Trust has constructed the new building with the financial support by Aurobindo Pharma Foundation. As a result, now the students are able to get accommodated sufficiently in the classrooms as well as the accommodation (hostel). This can be witnessed as the enrolment of the students as of December 2024 has risen to 140.

Students are housed in rooms accommodating ten individuals, and the teaching staff comprises 11 highly dedicated teachers selected through a rigorous interview process.

The Trustee emphasized the close, almost fatherly relationship these teachers maintain with the students, ensuring a nurturing environment. Each teacher works with a small group of students to maintain the quality of instruction. All the teachers were provided rent free accommodation next to the Patasala and are taking keen interest in supporting the students even after the school timings in terms of clarifying the lessons. The Patasala management has provided a room for medical clinic and the doctor & other related medical staff are available to take care of the students' health ailments.

The new building includes a spacious and well-protected classrooms and accommodation along with hygienic kitchen for enhancing the spiritual and educational experience for students. Looking ahead, the Trustee expressed the Trust's vision of expanding the Patasala further. Hence, the Trust Chairperson has procured 20-acre land and they are planning to develop 10 acres as a traditional Gurukulam with all the facilities for which the Trust is seeking continued support from CSR contributors like Aurobindo Pharma Foundation.

Interaction with the Teachers: The teachers at the Veda Patasala expressed their deep commitment to preserving the Vedas and their unwavering belief in the transformative benefits the Vedas bring to society. This dedication is the driving force behind their choice to pursue Vedic teaching as a lifelong vocation. They noted that the Aurobindo Pharma Foundation-supported new infrastructure (building) has significantly contributed to the Patasala's growth and success.

The enhanced facility in the form of new building has enabled more enrolment of Vedic students and reaching up to 140. The teachers also commended the Patasala management for its proactive approach to student welfare. In case of medical ailments, the Patasala has provided space for primary health clinic in the Patasala premises with a qualified

doctor & other concerned supporting health team. For other emergencies, the Patasala has made arrangements in a nearby hospital.

Interaction with the Students: The students at the Veda Patasala generally come from families with a Vedic background or possess a strong personal interest in learning the Vedas. In many instances, the students' fathers, who lacked similar opportunities in their youth, have encouraged their sons to pursue Vedic education and take advantage of the resources available today.

The students expressed their satisfaction with the construction of new building at Sri Kalyana Venkateswara Veda Patasala, noting that the classrooms are spacious for their effective learning and the accommodation is sufficient for their stay. As a result of more no. of classrooms, they are able to learn and utter the Vedas. The spacious hall is accommodative for their *Sandhyavandanam* thrice in a day.

The Yoga & Meditation are taught by a visiting teacher from time to time. The students practice these disciplines daily, enhancing their physical and mental well-being. Apart from the same, English is also being taught to get them equipped for contemporary learnings like computer skills in the future. The students are deeply immersed in their Vedic studies supported by parental support as well as Trustee and the Teachers.

4.8 Data Analysis

The data collected through observations, individual interviews and focus group discussions, the following analysis is drawn.

#	Parameter	Trustee	Teachers	Students
1.	% of the Veda Patasala key team members well aware the purpose and Inspiration for starting the Vedapatasala	100%	100%	100%
2.	% of Effectiveness & Efficiency in selecting Teachers by the Trustee & Students by the Teachers	100%	90%	----
3.	% of the impact & Influence on local economic development (economic growth, infrastructure development, job creation etc.,)	80%	70%	----
4.	% observed impact in environmental management across areas such as water resource conservation, premises maintenance, waste reduction, and overall sustainability practices."	95%	95%	100%

5.	% of improvements achieved in infrastructure, including classrooms, accommodation, drinking and running water facilities, safe sanitation, and related amenities	100%	95%	100%
6.	% of progress observed in identifying and engaging potential donors to enhance funding opportunities."	100%	95%	50%

(0 – 50% Average ; 51 – 75% Good ; 76 – 90% Very Good ; 91 -100% Excellent)

The interaction and detailed discussion with the Trustee, Teachers & the Students, it was noticed that almost all of them have very fair understanding on the purpose of the Veda Patasala and the effectiveness of the selection procedures. Further, they are well aware of the developments within the Patasala premises like new building block, water & sanitation facilities etc. In terms of the economic developments outside the campus, the Trustee & the Teachers have good understanding whereas the students have limited knowledge being their limited accessibility to such premises.

4.9 Testimonials

Sri Brahmaji – Principal: "Vedas need support to take forward else it would become history. There is much need to align Vedas with Science. The Veda Patasala Trust is deeply committed to protect Vedas and Vedic literature. As a teacher, we are all supporting to strengthen their ideal efforts."

K. Manikantha Teja Sarma – Student : "The Veda Patasala Trustee and the Teachers are taking care of all the students. Due to their parental affection and concern, we do not feel that we are away from our homes. Instead, all our requirements like clothes, books, etc., also being provided free of cost apart from our food & accommodation."

4.10 Case Stories

Surya Ganesh Sarma (16) hails from Visakhapatnam. Along with his family members, he happened to come to Tirumala and also visited Sri Kalyana Venkateswara Veda Patasala. After observing the Patasala and the crucial Veda education, he got interested. Accordingly, he has joined in the Patasala in the year 2018 and completed five years of Vedic education. He is overwhelmed by the care & concern shown by the Patasala management as well as his peer students.

Sri Rishabh Dixit has been associated with the Veda Patasala as a Teacher since November 2021. He has great knowledge about Vedas due to his prior collaborations with other Vedic Institutions. "The Patasala management is very much cooperative and supportive for the Teachers & the students. To quote an example, I am able to pursue my Ph. D in the Vedic University, Tirupati while holding my job as a teacher at the Veda Patasala and also needed support from the management in terms of flexible teaching schedules as well as special permission to attend important Ph. D related seminars & meetings" exclaimed Sri Dixit.

5. Recommendations and Conclusion

5.1. Key Recommendations to Veda Patasala

Here are key recommendations for the Sri Kalyana Venkateswara Veda Patasala to ensure its continued growth, sustainability, and impact:

1. **Strengthen Infrastructure Development**
    - **Classrooms and Accommodation**: Accelerate the development of additional classrooms and accommodation facilities to cater to the growing number of students. Ensuring adequate living and learning spaces will help maintain a comfortable and conducive environment for students.
    - **Holistic Facilities**: Expand essential facilities like the Homam/Yagasala, a hospital, dining hall, and a Goushala. These additions will not only meet spiritual needs but also enhance the overall experience for students and faculty.
2. **Diversify Funding Sources**
    - **Broaden Donor Network**: While Aurobindo Pharma Foundation is already supporting the Patasala, it would be beneficial to explore additional CSR partnerships, grants, and donations from other corporations, philanthropic organizations, and individuals to secure ongoing funding for expansion and maintenance.
    - **Self-Sustaining Revenue Models**: Develop revenue-generating activities like offering Vedic education certifications, running workshops, or organizing cultural events. This can help build financial independence in the long term.

3. **Promote Community Engagement and Awareness**

   - **Involve Local Communities**: Strengthen ties with local communities and encourage more families to send their children to the Vedapatasala. Community engagement through outreach programs, awareness campaigns, and events can generate local support and interest.
   - **Alumni Networks**: Establish an alumni network to build relationships with former students who can provide financial support, mentorship, or resource support. Alumni could also assist in promoting the institution and raising awareness in other regions.

4. **Emphasize Quality Education and Teacher Development**

   - **Curriculum Development**: Regularly update and enrich the curriculum to ensure it meets modern educational standards while preserving traditional Vedic knowledge. This might include offering language courses, Sanskrit studies, and other cultural enrichment activities.
   - **Faculty Training**: Continuously invest in the professional development of teachers to ensure they are equipped with modern pedagogical techniques and subject matter expertise. This would enhance the quality of education provided to students.

5. **Strengthen Governance and Management**

   - **Transparent Financial Management**: Establish robust systems for financial transparency, accountability, and resource allocation. Regular audits and monitoring will ensure that the funds are used effectively for infrastructure development, staff welfare, and educational activities.
   - **Long-term Planning**: Develop a detailed, long-term strategic plan for the expansion and sustainability of the Vedapatasala, outlining goals, timelines, and funding needs for each phase of growth.

6. **Enhance Student Welfare and Holistic Development**

   - **Student Support Services**: Provide additional support services for students, such as counselling, career guidance, and leadership training, to ensure their holistic development. These services will help students thrive academically and personally.
   - **Health and Well-being**: Establish a healthcare facility or partnership with nearby healthcare providers to ensure the physical well-being of students and staff.

7. **Foster Digital Integration and Innovation**

   - **E-learning Opportunities**: Integrate digital learning tools into the curriculum to enhance students' educational experience. This could include providing access to online resources, virtual classes, or Vedic studies-related digital content.

- **Create an Online Presence**: Develop a website and social media platforms to share the activities, achievements, and events of the Vedapatasala, attracting a wider audience and potential donors or students.

8. **Monitor Impact and Gather Feedback**

- **Regular Impact Assessments**: Conduct periodic evaluations to assess the effectiveness of infrastructure, education, and community outreach. Gathering feedback from students, parents, and staff will help improve the programs and facilities.
- **Adopt Continuous Improvement**: Use the data from impact assessments to implement necessary improvements in infrastructure, academic programs, and administrative processes.

By implementing these recommendations, the Sri Kalyana Venkateswara Vedapatasala can continue to grow, provide high-quality Vedic education, and contribute positively to the community, ensuring its long-term sustainability and success.

5.2. Conclusion

The Sri Kalyana Venkateswara Veda Patasala, located in Thummalagunta Village, Tirupati District, Andhra Pradesh, has demonstrated remarkable growth and dedication since its inception. From starting with just two students, the Patasala has expanded significantly, currently accommodating 140 students pursuing Vedic education by December 2024.

This growth is a testament to the institution's strong commitment to preserving and advancing Vedic knowledge, and its role as one of the most respected Veda Patasalas in the region.

The Patasala’s contributions extend beyond education, fostering the welfare of society through its focus on holistic development and the dissemination of ancient wisdom. The ongoing support from organizations like Aurobindo Pharma Foundation has played a pivotal role in this journey, ensuring the sustainability and expansion of the institution's infrastructure and educational offerings.

For Sri Kalyana Venkateswara Veda Patasala to continue its vital work and sustain its mission, it is crucial for such support to persist. This will not only enable the institution to further its goals of preserving the Vedas but also contribute to the wider societal benefit by producing well-rounded Vedic scholars. As the institution moves forward, continued partnerships and investments in infrastructure, education, and community engagement will be key to its long-term success and impact.

In conclusion, the Sri Kalyana Venkateswara Veda Patasala stands as a beacon of traditional education and cultural preservation, and its future is bright with the ongoing support from dedicated partners.

Impact Assessment Report of Digital infrastructure and STEM education in 10 Govt High Schools in Srikakulam and Vizianagaram districts, Andhra Pradesh

Supported by Aurobindo Pharma Foundation (A Philanthropic arm of Aurobindo Pharma Ltd under Corporate Social Responsibility)

Submitted to

AUROBINDO PHARMA FOUNDATION

Submitted by

apmas

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Abbreviations

AIF	American India Foundation
APMAS	Mahila Abhivruddhi Society, Andhra Pradesh
AP	Andhra Pradesh
APF	Aurobindo Pharma Foundation
BPL	Below Poverty Line
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
DEF	Digital Equalizer Foundation
DEO	District Education Officer
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
HM	Headmaster
MLA	Member of Legislative Assembly
SA	School Assistant
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
SKLM	Srikakulam
VZM	Vizianagaram
ZPHS	Zilla Parishad High School
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

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First and foremost, we express our sincere thanks to the **Aurobindo Pharma Foundation (APF)** for their visionary leadership and unwavering support in championing this transformative initiative to enhance digital infrastructure and STEM education in 10 government schools across the Vizianagaram and Srikakulam districts.

We deeply appreciate the collaborative efforts and technical expertise of the **American India Foundation (AIF)** and the **Digital Equalizer Foundation (DEF)** in implementing this project. Their commitment to excellence and grassroots-level engagement ensured the impactful execution of this initiative.

Our special gratitude goes to the District Education Officers, **Smt. G. Nagamani (Vizianagaram)** and **Smt. K. Chandrakala (Srikakulam)**, for their invaluable guidance, encouragement, and timely approvals. Their leadership was instrumental in seamlessly integrating this program within the education system.

We are profoundly thankful to the **headmasters, teachers, students, and parents** of the ten participating schools. Their enthusiastic involvement, valuable feedback, and unwavering cooperation enriched this study and contributed to its success.

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We extend our deep appreciation to all **stakeholders and community members** who supported and contributed to this initiative. Your collective efforts inspire us to remain steadfast in our mission to improve education and create brighter futures for young learners.

Finally, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to all those who contributed to the successful completion of this assessment study.

With deepest gratitude

Team APMAS

January 2025

1. Executive Summary

1.1 Project Overview

The Aurobindo Pharma Foundation in partnership with the American India Foundation, embarked on a transformative journey to elevate the quality of education in rural Andhra Pradesh. This ambitious Corporate Social Responsibility initiative aimed to integrate digital infrastructure and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education into 10 government high schools in the Srikakulam (SKLM) and Vizianagaram (VZM) districts, Andhra Pradesh. The project with an outlay of ₹1 crore aimed to bridge the digital divide and foster an equitable, technology-driven learning environment for students in underserved communities.

1.2. Methodology

The impact assessment study was designed using the comprehensive REESI Framework (Relevance, Efficiency, Effectiveness, Sustainability, and Impact). A mixed-method research design was adopted, integrating both quantitative and qualitative approaches. The study involved 80 respondents from six schools, including the faculty, students, parents, and others selected through purposive sampling. Data collection methods included interview questionnaires, focus group discussions, observations at the schools, and a review of records and reports. The Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) assessed included accessibility and affordability of the programs, improvement in students' knowledge and skillsets, and community perceptions on the impact.

1.3 Genesis of the Initiative

Following extensive consultations with district education officials, the project gained formal approval in April 2021. Six schools in the Vizianagaram district and four in the Srikakulam district were selected for implementation based on their strategic locations. With approvals secured from key stakeholders, including Smt. G. Nagamani, DEO of VZM, and Smt. K. Chandrakala, DEO of SKLM, the groundwork for the initiative was laid in February 2021. The budget incurred was ₹.1,00,28,700 for 2 Financial Years for 10 schools including the cost for four coordinators who worked with DEF.

1.4 Program Components and Implementation

The program commenced with the establishment of cutting-edge digital infrastructure in the selected schools. Each school was equipped with a computer lab featuring 10 desktop computers, a projector, speakers, furniture, and internet connectivity. These resources aimed to modernize traditional classrooms and introduce students to interactive, technology-driven learning.

To ensure effective utilization of these facilities, DEF conducted intensive training sessions for 60 teachers. These sessions focused on building teachers' capacities to integrate STEM education into their pedagogy, leveraging digital tools to enhance conceptual understanding and student engagement. A two-day orientation program, organized by the AIF team outlined the program's objectives and equipped teachers with strategies to foster impactful learning.

Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent school closures, the program adapted swiftly. Through virtual engagement activities, a total of 1,112 students across

the 10 schools continued to benefit from the initiative, showcasing its resilience and commitment to educational excellence.

1.5 Community Engagement

The program was formally launched in July 2021 with a significant event attended by prominent figures from the district, local leaders, and the CSR team of Aurobindo Pharma Foundation. This collaborative effort underscored a shared vision of empowering students with the tools and skills necessary for a brighter future.

1.6. Outcomes and Broader Impact

- The digital infrastructure with STEM-focused training has directly impacted approximately 2097 students (976 girls and 1121 boys) from grades 6 to 10 from all ten schools.
- Improved academic performance by 15% when to other schools without digital infrastructure
- Encouraged students to participate in inter school competitions to demonstrate practical skills and confidence they have gained through the project
- Beyond academics, the program incorporated essential elements like WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) education and life skills development, fostering a comprehensive approach to learning. Interactive modules emphasized personal hygiene, leadership, self-awareness, and problem-solving, preparing students to navigate challenges in their personal and academic lives.

An impact assessment conducted by DEF in March 2022 revealed remarkable outcomes. DE-implemented schools achieved scores 15% higher than their non-DE counterparts, highlighting the program's success in enhancing academic performance and engagement. For students from Below Poverty Line (BPL) families with limited resources, access to digital tools proved transformative, opening doors to new opportunities and aspirations.

1.7 Recommendations

Expansion of Coverage: Extend the program to additional schools in the region to scale its impact and reduce educational disparities.

Sustainability Measures: Establish a maintenance fund for digital infrastructure and provide ongoing technical support to ensure longevity.

Teacher Training: Conduct regular refresher courses and advanced training sessions for teachers to keep them updated on the latest teaching methodologies and digital tools.

Community Involvement: Strengthen engagement with parents and local communities to foster a supportive learning ecosystem and encourage student participation.

Monitoring and Evaluation: Implement a robust Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework to track progress and adapt the program based on feedback and evolving needs.

Integration of Advanced Modules: Introduce advanced STEM modules, coding workshops, and career guidance sessions to prepare students for future career opportunities.

Policy Advocacy: Work with local government and education departments to integrate digital and STEM education as a standard in all schools.

1.8 Conclusion

This CSR initiative exemplifies the potential of technology and holistic development in transforming education in rural areas. By equipping government schools with state-of-the-art infrastructure and empowering teachers with modern pedagogical tools, the program has set a benchmark for educational excellence and equity in Andhra Pradesh. The remarkable improvements in academic performance, digital literacy, and life skills among students demonstrate the effectiveness of the initiative. While data pertaining specifically to digital literacy is not maintained, the students' improvement in academic performance is based on the perceptions of teaching staff.

Scaling and sustaining such initiatives will require continued collaboration among stakeholders, including corporate donors, educational institutions, and local communities. The success of this program is a testament to the transformative power of technology-driven education, paving the way for a brighter future for underserved communities.

Discussion with Students and the faculty in the computer lab

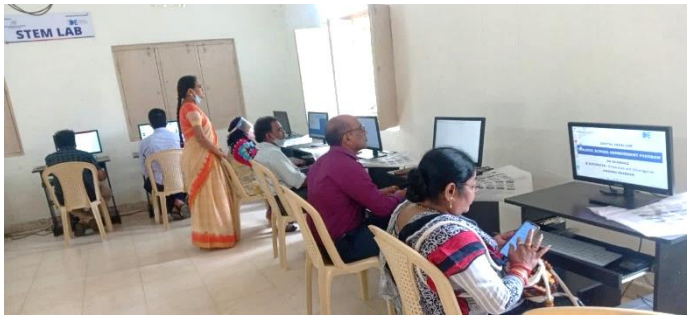
2. Introduction

After extensive discussions with government education officials, a proposal to implement the Digital Equalizer (DE) program in six high schools in the Vizianagaram district was submitted to Smt. G. Nagamani, DEO, on April 18, 2021. The permission for the program was granted on April 24, 2021. Subsequently, on July 8, 2021, Smt. K. Chandrakala, DEO of Srikakulam, approved the implementation of a holistic school improvement project in four high schools in the district. The program was officially launched in July 2021 with a formal event attended by district level officials, community leaders, and the CSR Team of Aurobindo Pharma Foundation. This collaboration marked a significant step toward transforming the education landscape in the districts.

This project, supported through a collaboration between the Aurobindo Pharma Foundation (APF) and the American India Foundation (AIF), was executed by the Digital Equalizer Foundation (DEF). Ten high schools were selected (Patharapalli, Pydibheemavaram, Kosta, Ranasthalam, Pusapatirega, Govindapuram, Rellivalasa, Denkada, Mopada, and Bhogapuram) and the necessary government approvals were secured for implementation of the project.

The procurement of infrastructure needed for each of the ten schools was completed and distributed to schools; 10 desktop computers, a projector, screen, speakers, table and chairs, iron cupboard and active internet connections. DEF recruited one district and three cluster coordinators and conducted extensive training for 60 teachers, focusing on building their capacities to effectively use digital tools and deliver Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM) based education. These coordinators also have conducted classes directly to the students on financial and digital literacy, life skills and WASH. A two-day orientation program for teachers was conducted by the AIF team who outlined the program's objectives, deliverables, and strategies to enhance teacher competencies and student engagement.

Due to lockdown imposed because of the increasing cases of COVID-19, the schools had to be shut down. But with the DEF initiation, a total of 1112 students were reached across all the 10 schools through the virtual engagement activities.



Training of teachers for the Digital Equalizer program

2.1 Objective of the Project

Provide Standardized Digital Content: Deliver state-curriculum-aligned digital content, including videos and worksheets, to support effective teaching and learning.

Integrate Techno-Pedagogy: Incorporate technology-driven pedagogical practices into the teaching-learning processes in the selected government schools

Enhance Teachers' Technical Skills: Strengthen the technical skills of teachers by providing customized capacity-building programs, enabling them to effectively integrate ICT (Information and Communication Technology) into their teaching methodologies and processes.

3. Methodology

This section outlines the approach taken to assess the impact of the Aurobindo Pharma Foundation's (APF) CSR project of the Digital Equalizer (DE) program across ten schools in the Vizianagaram and Srikakulam districts of Andhra Pradesh.

3.1 Objectives of the Impact Assessment

This study aims to evaluate the impact of the initiative and its effectiveness in addressing the needs of the students. The specific objectives include:

1. Assess the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, and accountability of the project.
2. Assess the tangible and long-term effects of the project on the student communities.
3. Measure the project's outputs, outcomes/results, and overall impact on the students
4. Recommend strategies to enhance the project's impact and sustainability.

3.2 Evaluation Framework

The evaluation framework was designed to measure the alignment of project outcomes with its stated objectives. The key performance indicators (KPIs) included:

Accessibility and Affordability: Evaluating the ease of access to and affordability of the program for stakeholders.

Improvement in Knowledge and Skills: Assessing the enhancement of students' competencies and employment prospects.

Community Perception: Understanding the broader community's perspective on the initiative's impact.

3.3 Sampling Size and Data Collection

A team of two evaluators conducted field visits to six selected Government Zilla Parishad High Schools in the Vizianagaram (VZM) and Srikakulam (SKLM) districts. The visited schools included ZPHS Kosta, ZPHS JR Puram, ZPHS Govindapuram, ZPHS Rellivalasa, ZPHS Pusapatirega, and ZPHS Denkada. During these visits, evaluators engaged with stakeholders, conducted interviews, and documented the findings through photographs to authenticate the observations.

The assessment involved 80 respondents, ensuring representation from diverse stakeholder groups, including headmasters, teachers, students, and parents. Purposive sampling was employed, and data was collected using both primary and secondary methods, including

interviews, case studies, and testimonials. Both quantitative and qualitative analyses were conducted to derive meaningful insights and informed conclusions.

Table 1: List of schools visited

#	District	Mandal	Name of the School
1	Srikakulam	Kosta	ZPHS Kosta
2	Srikakulam	Ranasthalam	ZPHS JR Puram
3	Vizianagaram	Govindapuram	ZPHS Govindapuram
4	Vizianagaram	Padmanabham	ZPHS Rellivalasa
5	Vizianagaram	Pusapatirega	ZPHS Pusapatirega
6	Vizianagaram	Denkada	ZPHS Denkada

Table 2: Sample Size Overview

Category of Respondents	Sample Size	Tools
Headmasters	5	Interviews
School Staff	5	
Students	5	
Parents	5	
Students in 6 schools@10-15	60	Checklist for FGD
Total	**80**	

3.4 Limitations

Sample Size: The study was limited to 80 respondents, which might not fully capture the full spectrum of experiences and impacts

Time Constraints: The assessment primarily focused on the short-term impacts, potentially overlooking long-term sustainability issues.

Generalizability: The findings are specific to the sampled schools and may not be applicable to other schools in other regions

4. Findings and Analysis

4.1 Digital Infrastructure

In February 2021, the Aurobindo Pharma Foundation (APF), in collaboration with the Digital Equalizer Foundation (DEF) and the American India Foundation (AIF), launched a significant initiative to enhance digital and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education across ten Government Zilla Parishad High Schools in Vizianagaram (VZM) and Srikakulam (SKLM) districts. This intervention focused on equipping schools with the necessary

digital tools and resources to foster interactive and technology-driven learning environments. The following resources were provided to each of the ten schools:

Desktops: Ten desktop computers with updated software, including Windows 7, MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and basic programming tools such as C language.

Multimedia Equipment: A projector and speakers to facilitate interactive learning sessions and teacher-led multimedia presentations.

Infrastructure Support: A dedicated storage rack for the proper maintenance and safekeeping of equipment, computer table and chair.

Internet Connectivity: Active Wi-Fi connections were installed to ensure seamless access to digital educational content and online resources.

Trained Staff Deployment: Each school was assigned a trained staff member to oversee and facilitate computer-based sessions, ensuring effective use of the provided infrastructure. The initiative laid a solid foundation for integrating technology into the educational framework of the selected schools, marking a transformative step in improving digital literacy and STEM education for students.

Students in the computer lab

The list of ten schools with the number of students is given below.

Table 3: List of Schools

#	Mandal	Name of the School	District	Students	Total
1	Ranasthalam	ZPHS Pydibheemavaram	Srikakulam	Boys: 546	Girls: 976
2	Ranasthalam	ZPHS Pathara palli	Srikakulam		
3	Ranasthalam	ZPHS Ranasthalam	Srikakulam	Girls: 463	

4	Ranasthalam	ZPHS Kosta	Srikakulam		
5	Pusapatirega	ZPHS Pusapatirega	Vizianagaram	Boys: 575	Boys: 1121
6	Pusapatirega	ZPHS Pusapatirega	Vizianagaram		
7	Bhogapuram	ZPHS Bhogapuram	Vizianagaram		
8	Pusapatirega	ZPHS Rellivalasa	Vizianagaram	Girls: 513	
9	Denkada	ZPHS Denkada	Vizianagaram		
10	Denkada	ZPHS Mopada	Vizianagaram		
				Total	**2097**

Table 4: Infrastructure and furniture provided to ten schools

Desktop (100 units with AMC (Lenovo or Acer with AMC)	Projectors (10 units with AMC)	Furniture (For each school)
• Intel i3 10th Gen • 8 GB Ram • 1 B Hard Disk • Windows 10 • 22 Monitors • UPS • 10 Desktops for each school	• Epson EB-X05 • Wall Mount Screen • Overhead projector fixture and accessories	• 10 Computer Tables • 40 Chairs • 1 Iron Cupboard

4.2. Observations from Field Visits

During the assessment, six out of the ten high schools were visited, comprising four schools in Vizianagaram (VZM) district and two in Srikakulam (SKLM) district. The observations below provide insights into the implementation and impact of the Digital Equalizer (DE) program:

Integration of Digital Tools: All visited schools effectively incorporated the provided digital tools into their teaching-learning processes, integrating technology into classroom activities seamlessly.

Scheduled Computer Classes: Weekly timetables allocated two computer classes per week for students from 8th to 10th standards. This consistent schedule ensured regular access to digital learning opportunities.

Utilization of STEM Laboratories: STEM laboratories were actively used during subject-specific classes, such as Biology, Physics, and Mathematics. This integration of technology into the core curriculum enhanced conceptual understanding and practical application of lessons.

Student Enthusiasm: Students demonstrated high levels of enthusiasm and eagerness during their weekly computer classes. They showcased a keen interest in exploring and learning through digital resources.

Collaborative Learning: Group discussions revealed effective utilization of digital resources for collaborative learning. For example, a group of students developed a project using the provided computers, which they successfully showcased at an inter-school competition, highlighting creativity and teamwork.

Interactive Teaching with Digital Panel Boards: The installation of digital panel boards in classrooms transformed the teaching process, making lessons more interactive, engaging, and visually appealing for students.

Student Confidence and Motivation: Students appeared confident and motivated, displaying competence in using digital tools for learning. Their ability to adapt to technology reflected their growing digital literacy.

Fostering Creativity and Innovation: The provision of digital and STEM resources encouraged creativity and innovation among students. Several school projects highlighted students' ability to think critically and apply their learning effectively.

4.3. Relevance of the Project

The intervention is highly relevant as it directly addresses critical educational gaps in the selected schools, particularly in digital literacy and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education. Its relevance can be elaborated through the following aspects:

Bridging Digital Literacy Gaps

- Many students, especially in underserved schools, lack exposure to basic digital skills, which are essential in today's technology-driven world.
- By providing computers, digital tools, and internet connectivity, the intervention equips students with foundational knowledge in digital literacy, empowering them to use technology for learning, research, and communication effectively.

Fostering STEM Education

- STEM education is increasingly recognized as a cornerstone for fostering problem-solving, critical thinking, and innovation skills.
- The introduction of digital tools enables interactive learning experiences, such as simulations, coding exercises, and project-based learning, which are key to mastering STEM concepts.
- This focus prepares students for a future where STEM-related careers are in high demand.

Targeting a Critical Age Group

- The focus on students from 8th to 10th grades is strategic, as these are formative years when students make critical decisions about their educational and career paths.
- Enhancing their digital and STEM skills during this period boosts their confidence and readiness for higher education and competitive exams that increasingly incorporate technology-based assessments.

Addressing the Demand for Technology-Integrated Education

- Education systems worldwide are transitioning towards technology-integrated learning environments, making digital tools an indispensable part of modern education.

- By introducing these resources, the intervention ensures that students and schools are aligned with contemporary educational trends, avoiding the risk of being left behind in a rapidly evolving global education landscape.

Equalizing Opportunities

- Students in under-resourced schools often lag behind their peers in access to technology, perpetuating educational inequality.
- This initiative not only levels the playing field but also enhances inclusivity, ensuring that all students have the tools needed to succeed in a digital age.

Enhanced Engagement and Learning Outcomes

- Digital tools provide interactive and engaging learning methods that can improve retention, comprehension, and application of knowledge.
- The integration of internet connectivity enables access to a vast repository of online educational resources, enriching the curriculum and encouraging self-paced learning.

Empowering Educators

- The provision of digital tools also supports teachers in adopting innovative teaching methodologies.
- Teachers can leverage technology to create dynamic lesson plans, conduct virtual experiments, and provide personalized feedback, leading to a more impactful teaching-learning process.

4.4. Coherence of the Project

The initiative demonstrates a high level of coherence by seamlessly integrating with the existing school curriculums and aligning with the broader educational goals of key stakeholders, including school administrations, educators, and policymakers. This coherence is reflected in its thoughtful design, which ensures that the intervention enhances rather than disrupts current teaching practices. Here is an elaboration:

Alignment with Existing School Curriculums

- The initiative complements the standard curriculum by incorporating digital tools and STEM education in a manner that reinforces the subjects already being taught.
- Digital panel boards, STEM laboratories, and computer classes are designed to provide practical and interactive learning experiences that align with the theoretical concepts outlined in the curriculum.
- For example, digital tools can be used to teach complex concepts in science and mathematics through simulations, animations, and interactive experiments, making lessons more engaging and easier to understand.

Integration of Resources into Regular Teaching Methods

- The introduction of weekly computer classes ensures that digital literacy is not treated as an extracurricular activity but as an integral part of the academic schedule.
- STEM laboratories offer hands-on learning opportunities, enabling students to apply their knowledge in real-world scenarios and fostering critical thinking and creativity.

- Digital panel boards serve as a bridge between traditional teaching and modern pedagogical approaches by supporting multimedia content delivery, interactive discussions, and collaborative learning.

Support for Educators

- The initiative provides teachers with access to digital tools and training, enabling them to effectively incorporate technology into their regular teaching methods/practices. This not only enhances their instructional methods but also ensures that the intervention is implemented consistently and coherently across classrooms.
- Teachers are empowered to use the provided resources to design lesson plans that are both innovative and aligned with the existing curriculum.

Alignment with Stakeholder Goals

- The initiative resonates with the broader goals of educational stakeholders, such as enhancing digital literacy, improving STEM proficiency, and reducing educational disparities.
- For policymakers, it supports national and regional objectives for integrating technology in education, thereby ensuring coherence with systemic priorities.
- For school administrations, it complements their vision of preparing students for a digital future while improving overall academic performance.

Unified Approach to Digital Education

- The use of complementary resources—digital panel boards, STEM labs, and weekly classes—ensures a holistic and unified approach to digital education.
- These components work together to provide students with a consistent and immersive learning experience that integrates seamlessly into their daily routines.
- The intervention also creates a feedback loop where students' experiences and outcomes can inform future refinements to teaching methods and resource allocation.

Encouraging Collaborative Learning

- The initiative promotes collaboration among students, and between teachers and students by using technology to facilitate group projects, discussions, and problem-solving exercises.
- This aligns with the educational goal of fostering teamwork and communication skills, which are critical for success in both academic and professional settings.

Sustainability and Scalability

- The integration of these resources into existing teaching practices ensures the sustainability of the initiative.
- By aligning with the curriculum and leveraging existing infrastructure, the program can be scaled to other schools with minimal disruption.

4.5. Effectiveness of the Project

The project has successfully achieved its objectives by equipping schools with essential digital tools and fostering digital literacy among students. Its effectiveness is evident through various qualitative and quantitative outcomes that highlight the transformative impact on students, teachers, and the school ecosystem. Below is an elaboration:

Achievement of Objectives

- Schools now have access to critical resources such as computers, STEM laboratories, digital panel boards, and internet connectivity, bridging the technological gap in underserved areas.
- These tools have enhanced the teaching and learning environment, making it more interactive, practical, and engaging.
- Weekly computer classes ensure that students regularly practice and develop digital skills.
- The inclusion of basic to advanced digital literacy topics (e.g., typing, internet usage, coding, and multimedia creation) has enabled students to confidently navigate and use digital platforms.

Positive Reception of Weekly Computer Classes and STEM Laboratory Sessions

- Students have shown enthusiasm and active participation in computer classes and STEM sessions, which offer hands-on, experiential learning opportunities.
- Teachers report increased student engagement, with many students demonstrating a keen interest in exploring modern technologies and STEM concepts beyond the classroom.
- STEM labs have provided practical exposure, reinforced theoretical knowledge, and helped students understand complex scientific and mathematical concepts through experiments and real-world applications.

Improved Student Outcomes

- Students have acquired essential 21st-century skills, including digital literacy, coding, problem-solving, and critical thinking.
- These skills not only enhance their academic performance but also prepare them for future educational and career opportunities.
- Students have successfully applied their learning by participating in inter-school competitions, displaying their proficiency in coding, robotics, and other STEM-related fields.
- Their success in these competitions reflects both the quality of training they received and their ability to compete at a broader level.

Impact on Teachers

- Teachers have benefited from training sessions on using digital tools and STEM resources, improving their confidence and ability to deliver technology-integrated lessons.
- The availability of digital tools has enabled educators to adopt innovative teaching methodologies, such as interactive presentations, virtual experiments, and collaborative projects.

Increased Awareness and Engagement

- The project has created awareness among students, parents, and the community about the importance of digital literacy and STEM education in the modern world.
- Parents have expressed satisfaction with the enhanced learning opportunities provided to their children, recognizing the value of the initiative in preparing them for a digital future.

Enhanced Academic Performance

- Access to digital tools and STEM labs has improved students' academic performance, particularly in science, mathematics, and computer-related subjects. As mentioned earlier, the improved performance of the students is based on the perception of the teaching staff.
- Students are now better equipped to understand and tackle complex problems, contributing to overall improvements in classroom learning outcomes.

Real-World Applications of Learning

- Students have started applying their learning in practical scenarios, such as creating digital projects, coding simple programs, and understanding engineering concepts through robotics.
- The ability to connect theoretical knowledge with real-world applications is a testament to the effectiveness of the program.

Long-Term Impact

- The skills and knowledge imparted through this project have a lasting impact, empowering students to pursue higher education and careers in technology and STEM fields.
- The project has laid a solid foundation for fostering innovation and creativity among students, preparing them to adapt to an ever-evolving digital landscape.

4.6. Efficiency of the Project

The project has demonstrated efficiency in deploying resources and integrating them into the school ecosystem, ensuring their effective utilization while addressing key areas of improvement for long-term sustainability. Below is an elaboration on its efficiency and recommendations for enhancing it:

Efficient Deployment of Resources

- The project strategically deployed essential hardware, including computers, digital panel boards, and STEM laboratory equipment, to maximize impact while minimizing waste or redundancy.
- Software solutions, such as learning management systems and coding platforms, were carefully selected to align with the curriculum and meet diverse educational needs.
- The availability of trained educators and support staff has been a cornerstone of efficiency.
- Teachers received targeted training to integrate digital tools and STEM resources into their lessons, ensuring a smooth transition to technology-enabled teaching without compromising instructional quality.

Optimized Time Allocation

- Weekly computer classes and STEM sessions have been seamlessly incorporated into the school timetable, ensuring consistent exposure to digital literacy and hands-on STEM learning.
- This structured approach ensures that the resources are utilized fully while balancing other academic requirements.
- By prioritizing students in grades 8 to 10, the project has concentrated its resources on a demographic that stands to benefit most from early exposure to digital skills and STEM concepts, optimizing both time and impact.

Cost-Effective Resource Utilization

- The project leveraged existing infrastructure, such as classrooms and electrical systems, to integrate the new tools, avoiding unnecessary expenditures.
- Shared use of facilities, such as STEM labs being accessible to multiple classes, has ensured resource efficiency while promoting collaboration and inclusivity among students.

The project's efficient deployment of resources, integration into academic schedules, and cost-effective utilization strategies have contributed to its success. While it has optimized the use of available tools and facilities, periodic software updates, regular equipment maintenance, and feedback-driven adjustments could further enhance efficiency and sustainability. By addressing these areas, the project can ensure long-term impact, maintain its relevance, and serve as a model for similar initiatives.

4.7. Impact of the Project

The intervention has had a transformative impact on students, teachers, and schools by improving digital literacy, fostering innovation, and enhancing academic performance. Its influence extends beyond individual outcomes, contributing to a broader cultural shift toward technology-integrated education. Below is a detailed elaboration of its impact:

Empowerment Through Digital Literacy

- Students have become adept at using digital tools, such as computers, presentation software, coding platforms, and online resources. This was amply demonstrated by the students during our visit.
- Regular exposure to technology has demystified complex digital concepts, making students more confident in navigating and applying them in academic and personal contexts.
- The project has provided equitable access to technology for students from diverse socio-economic backgrounds, reducing disparities and ensuring that all students are equipped to thrive in a digital era.
  Note: The changes brought about by introducing digital facilities are as expressed by the students and teaching staff. As there is no systematic database capturing the changes in academic performance and other changes related to Digital Equalizer program, the impact could not be quantified.

Integration of Technology into STEM Education

- The integration of technology into science and mathematics has encouraged students to think creatively and approach problems with innovative solutions.
- For instance, students have designed simple engineering models, conducted virtual experiments, and explored coding, robotics, and 3D printing in STEM labs.
- Hands-on activities in STEM laboratories have enabled students to apply theoretical knowledge to real-world challenges, improving their analytical and critical-thinking skills.
- Collaborative projects have further honed their teamwork and communication abilities, essential for success in modern academic and professional environments.

Tangible Outcomes Through Projects and Competitions

- The initiative has enabled students to conceptualize, design, and execute projects that demonstrate their understanding of digital tools and STEM concepts.

- Examples include programming simple applications, constructing working models of machines, and creating digital presentations on scientific topics.
- Students' participation and success in inter-school competitions highlight the practical skills and confidence they have gained through the project.
- Winning accolades in coding challenges, robotics competitions, and STEM fairs is a testament to the project's ability to foster excellence and prepare students for competitive environments.

Improved Academic Performance

- Technology has made abstract concepts more accessible and engaging, leading to better comprehension and retention among students.
- Teachers report significant improvements in subjects like mathematics and science, where digital tools have provided visual and interactive learning aids.

Impact on Teachers and Teaching Methods

- Teachers have adopted innovative pedagogical methods, such as interactive multimedia presentations and simulation-based lessons, to enrich classroom experiences.
- The intervention has also empowered teachers to design student-centric activities that align with modern educational trends.
- By fostering collaboration between teachers and students, the project has created a dynamic and inclusive learning atmosphere that encourages active participation and mutual learning.

Cultural Shift in Schools

- The successful implementation of this project has set a precedent for integrating technology into other areas of education, fostering a culture of innovation and adaptability.
- Schools have begun to view technology as a fundamental aspect of education rather than an auxiliary tool.
- The visible success of this project has inspired administrators to consider scaling similar programs to benefit more students and schools.

Broader Socio-Economic Impact

- By equipping students with essential digital skills, the project has prepared them for higher education and careers in technology-driven fields, contributing to their long-term socio-economic mobility.
- Early exposure to STEM education has sparked interest in future professions in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, addressing skill gaps in these critical areas.
- The initiative has increased awareness among parents and communities about the importance of digital and STEM education, encouraging broader support for similar educational interventions.

Long-Term Impact

- The skills and confidence gained through this project will have a lasting impact on students, empowering them to adapt to an ever-evolving technological landscape.
- By fostering creativity, innovation, and problem-solving, the intervention has laid the groundwork for students to become active contributors to society and the global economy.

The intervention has achieved a profound and measurable impact on students and schools, transforming the way education is delivered and experienced. Students have not only developed technical skills but also the creativity, confidence, and problem-solving abilities necessary to excel in both academic and real-world contexts. The successful completion of projects and stellar performance in competitions underscore the project's tangible outcomes, while its broader cultural and socio-economic contributions ensure its relevance and sustainability in the long term.

Students in the digital class

4.8. Sustainability of the Project

The sustainability of this initiative is essential to ensure the continued benefits of digital literacy and STEM education for students and schools. While the project has delivered promising results, several factors must be addressed to maintain its momentum and maximize its long-term impact. Below is an elaboration on the key aspects of sustainability:

While the initiative has made significant strides in enhancing digital literacy and STEM education, its long-term success hinges on continuous support, proactive maintenance, and stakeholder collaboration. By addressing the key aspects of sustainability, including equipment upkeep, training, funding diversification, and policy integration, the project can ensure its impact endures for years to come. Building a solid foundation of ownership among schools, local authorities, and communities will further enhance its ability to thrive independently and inspire similar initiatives elsewhere.

The schools have recruited additional teachers which would also ensure the sustainability of the digital education program and STEM education to students in the long run.

Table 5: Enrolment of Teachers

District	Male	Female	Enrolled Teachers
Srikakulam	21	11	41
Vizianagaram	26	15	32
Total Teachers	**47**	**26**	**73**

4.9. Branding of the Project

Effective branding of the intervention is critical to highlight the collaboration between the **Aurobindo Pharma Foundation**, **Digital Equalizer Foundation (DEF)**, and the **American India Foundation (AIF)** while amplifying the impact and reach of the initiative. Below is a detailed elaboration on the existing branding efforts and recommendations for enhancement:

Students working on a project

Visibility Through Digital Infrastructure

- The intervention's branding is already evident through logos and acknowledgments displayed on digital tools, STEM lab equipment, and computer labs.
- Including co-branded login screens, wallpapers, and introductory messages on digital devices reinforces the partnership.
- Clearly marked signboards at school entrances and labs indicating "Digital Education Center" or "STEM Learning Hub" powered by the initiative give the intervention a physical presence.
- Prominent branding reinforces the association in the minds of students, teachers and parents

4.10. Contribution to SDGs

Digital literacy and STEM education contribute significantly to multiple **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** by equipping individuals with knowledge, skills, and tools to address global challenges. Here is an outline of the SDGs they impact and how:

SDG 4: Quality Education

- Increase the number of people with relevant skills for decent jobs and entrepreneurship. Digital literacy and STEM education provide students with 21st-century skills, enabling access to better jobs, innovation, and career growth.
- Eliminate disparities in education. Programs can address gender, regional, and economic gaps in access to technology and STEM opportunities.

SDG 5: Gender Equality

- Enhance the use of technology to promote women's empowerment.
- Promoting digital literacy and STEM education among girls and women empowers them to participate equally in the workforce and leadership roles in tech and innovation.

SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

- Achieve higher economic productivity through diversification and technological upgrading
- STEM fields drive innovation and technological advancements, boosting development.
- Reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education, or training.
- Digital and STEM education align youth with emerging job markets

SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure

- Enhance research and upgrade technological capabilities.
- STEM education nurtures future scientists, engineers, and innovators to lead research and technological advancements.
- Increase access to information and communications technology.
- Digital literacy initiatives ensure equitable access to the internet and digital tools

SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities

- Empower and promote social, economic, and inclusion.
- By providing underserved communities access to digital tools and STEM education, opportunities are created for economic and social mobility.

SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

- Implement integrated policies to mitigate climate change and disaster risks.
- STEM education fosters understanding of sustainable technologies and urban planning, enabling students to design eco-friendly, resilient solutions.

SDG 13: Climate Action

- Improve education, awareness, and capacity on climate change.
- STEM emphasizes renewable energy and sustainable technologies to address climate change

SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

- Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development using technology & innovation.
- Digital literacy fosters global collaboration through access to shared knowledge

5. Challenges, Recommendations and Conclusion

5.1. Challenges

Addressing the challenges in implementing digital literacy and STEM education project requires proactive strategies and planning.

Limited Exposure of Teachers to Advanced Digital Tools: Teachers may lack familiarity with innovative technologies, hindering their ability to integrate them effectively into classrooms.

Absence of a monitoring and evaluation system: A periodic evaluation of the impact of this digital equalizer project would have enabled quantified data facilitating more scientific impact evaluations in future.

Maintenance and Updates of Equipment: Outdated software (e.g., Windows 7) and hardware can hinder the learning experience and reduce program efficiency.

Restricted Use of Resources: STEM labs and digital tools are often limited to specific grades and subjects, leaving younger students without early exposure to STEM education.

Dependency on a Trained Facilitator: Programs heavily rely on a trained facilitator, and their absence can disrupt the program's continuity and impact.

Digital Divide: Unequal access to digital devices and the internet, especially in rural or economically disadvantaged areas, exacerbates educational inequities.

Resistance to Change: Teachers, students, or parents may resist adopting technology or STEM approaches due to unfamiliarity or traditional mindsets, slowing program effectiveness.

Insufficient Funding: Limited budgets with schools restrict the purchase of equipment, infrastructure upgrades, and hiring of trained facilitators, resulting in outdated resources and reduced learning opportunities.

Lack of Customized Content: Generic digital and STEM materials often fail to align with local curricula, reducing engagement and relevance for students and teachers.

Overemphasis on Technology: Excessive focus on tools and devices rather than foundational concepts and critical thinking skills leads to superficial learning outcomes.

Language Barriers: Digital resources and STEM materials available in languages like English can exclude students who are more comfortable with regional languages like Telugu.

Sustainability of Programs: Many initiatives rely on short-term funding, risking their longevity and diminishing benefits once funding ends or resources degrade.

Limited Focus on Soft Skills: STEM programs may neglect the development of critical soft skills like teamwork, communication, and problem-solving, which are essential for holistic education.

5.2. Key Recommendations for Schools

Monitoring and Feedback

- Regularly review program effectiveness through feedback from students, teachers, and facilitators
- Use data-driven insights to adjust strategies and prioritize resource allocation.

Community Engagement

- Involve parents and local communities to support and sustain initiatives.
- Host events to highlight the benefits of STEM education and digital literacy, fostering local interest and commitment.

Capacity Building

- Conduct regular professional development workshops on advanced digital tools and STEM teaching methods.
- Create peer mentorship programs where tech-savvy teachers mentor others.
- Provide access to online learning platforms like Coursera and Khan Academy for self-paced teacher training.

Integrated Curriculum and Resource Utilization

- Develop STEM curricula with age-appropriate activities for all grades.
- Encourage interdisciplinary use of STEM labs to enrich learning across subjects.
- Implement flexible schedules or mobile STEM labs to maximize resource accessibility.

Sustainability and Maintenance

- Establish a regular maintenance schedule for hardware and software updates.
- Transition to cloud-based tools to reduce dependency on local systems.
- Partner with tech companies or NGOs for affordable hardware upgrades and software licenses.

Community Ownership and Funding

- Encourage schools to integrate initiatives into long-term development plans.
- Engage parents, alumni, and local communities to generate additional resources and support.
- Seek funding from CSR programs, government grants, and public-private partnerships.

Branding and Visibility

- Organize awareness campaigns and STEM exhibitions to enhance program visibility.
- Use branded materials like certificates, posters, and student uniforms to promote the initiative.
- Share success stories through media, social platforms, and testimonials to inspire replication and sustained support.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Implement robust systems to track resource usage, student outcomes, and teacher feedback.
- Conduct annual evaluations to identify gaps and guide improvements.

Environmental Sustainability

- Incorporate eco-friendly practices like e-waste recycling and energy-efficient hardware.
- Promote awareness about sustainability among students and teachers.

5.3. Key Recommendations for Aurobindo Pharma Foundation

Here are a few recommendations for the Aurobindo Pharma Foundation to build on the success of their CSR initiative:

Expand the Program: Extend the initiative to more schools and regions, focusing on areas with limited access to quality education and digital resources.

Teacher Support: Offer continuous professional development opportunities for educators, including advanced training on emerging technologies and innovative teaching methodologies.

Incorporate Advanced STEM Modules: Introduce advanced STEM concepts like robotics, artificial intelligence, and coding to further enrich the curriculum and prepare students for future technological advancements.

Periodic Impact Assessments: Conduct regular evaluations of the program's outcomes and effectiveness, gathering feedback from stakeholders to refine and improve interventions.

Focus on Inclusivity: Ensure the program is accessible to differently abled students and those from highly marginalized communities, providing tailored resources to meet their needs.

Strengthen Life Skills and Employability: Expand the life skills curriculum to include financial literacy, leadership, and career readiness programs to better equip students for the future.

5.4. Conclusions

The Aurobindo Pharma Foundation's CSR initiative, in collaboration with IAF and DEF, has successfully transformed education in underserved communities by bridging the digital divide and integrating STEM education. This program has elevated academic outcomes, fostered critical skills, and inspired innovation and resilience among students.

Key interventions such as blended learning, teacher training, life skills integration, and WASH components have created a holistic and impactful learning environment. The program has significantly enhanced digital literacy and critical thinking, with students demonstrating enthusiasm and active participation in competitions.

This initiative exemplifies how strategic and collaborative CSR efforts can drive sustainable change, serving as a model for similar programs nationwide. The success of this project reaffirms the transformative power of education and technology in shaping a brighter and more equitable future.

5.5. Testimonials

The computer lab is very helpful to my students for digital learning, which creates a platform connecting them globally. Students are eager to learn e-content with the help of the lab. Mostly poor students benefit from STEM education. There is a positive response from students to the STEM lab, which has models and apparatus for experiment. We are happy to use the STEM lab. We need some chemicals for the lab.

B. Ramanaiah, Headmaster, ZPHS, Ranasthalam

5.6. Case Stories

Case Story 1: From Learner to Village Star

G. Jyothsna, a bright and determined 14-year-old girl, lives in a remote village (Boddavalasa village) VZM district, with her parents and three siblings. As the youngest child, she carries the hopes of her family, being the first to attend school while her elder brothers missed education due to financial and social constraints.

In her 7th standard, Jyothsna's life took a transformative turn when her school became part of the Aurobindo Pharma Foundation's digital education initiative. For a girl growing up in a humble village with limited resources, the introduction of digital tools, interactive learning methods, and exposure to STEM education opened a world of opportunities she had never imagined.

With access to these facilities, she developed a deep love for learning. Her academic performance soared, and she discovered new interests through extracurricular activities. Encouraged by her teachers and peers, she actively participated in various school events, earning accolades and recognition. Her confidence grew, and she soon became a role model for her classmates and the pride of her school.

Jyothsna's success story began to ripple through her village. Parents, inspired by her achievements, started rethinking the importance of education. Families who once hesitated to send their children to school now saw the value of the improved facilities and the opportunities they could offer. Her neighbours, who had previously considered education a luxury, began enrolling their children in the same government school.

Today, Jyothsna is not just a student but a beacon of hope for her community. Her journey is a testament to how access to quality education and the right resources can change lives. Thanks to the Aurobindo Pharma Foundation's initiative, Jyothsna's story has sparked a cultural shift in her village, fostering a renewed belief in the power of education to transform futures.

Case Story 2: ''Empowering Young Minds Through Digital Transformation"

"My name is G. Suresh Naidu, and I have been serving as the Head Master of ZPHS, Rellivalasa, for the past five years. The initiative by the Aurobindo Pharma Foundation is truly commendable. Their vision of bringing digital education to government schools has been transformative. Government schools often cater to the poorest of the poor, and providing these children with access to digital education, knowledge on WASH, life skills, and financial literacy is invaluable.

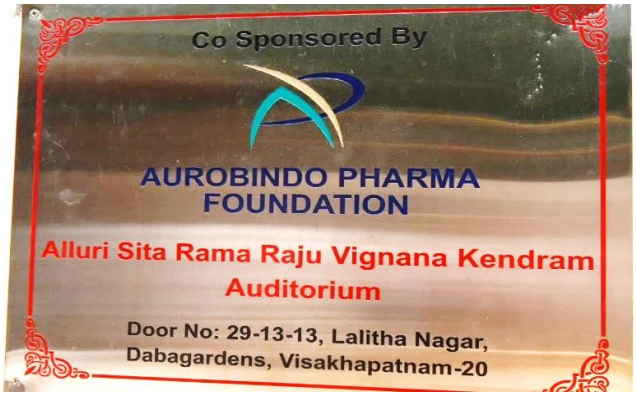
Through this initiative, students are gaining skills that were once unimaginable in government schools. For instance, they are now learning about banking procedures like savings and loans at an early age, equipping them with practical knowledge that will benefit them in the future. During my school days, such facilities were unavailable in

government schools, and private schools offering similar amenities were beyond our reach. This intervention has not only enhanced the quality of education but has also increased our school's enrollment post-COVID-19. It is heartening to see other organizations, such as Dr Reddy's Foundation, following Aurobindo's example and contributing digital facilities to our school. On behalf of our students and staff, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Aurobindo Pharma Foundation for their impactful initiative, which is shaping brighter futures for our children.

Impact Assessment of Alluri Sitaramaraju Vignana Kendram Development Centre, Visakhapatnam,

Andhra Pradesh

Constructed by Aurobindo Pharma Foundation (A Philanthropic arm of Aurobindo Pharma Ltd under Corporate Social Responsibility)



Submitted to

AUROBINDO PHARMA FOUNDATION

Submitted by

apmas

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Abbreviations

AI	Artificial Intelligence
APMAS	Mahila Abhivruddhi Society, Andhra Pradesh
APF	Aurobindo Pharma Foundation
ASR	Alluri Sita Rama Raju
ASVK	Alluri Sitaramaraju Vignana Kendram
BNR	Botta Narasinga Rao
BHEL	Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited
BSNL	Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited
B Tech	Bachler of Technology
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
COVID	Corona Virus Disease of 2019
DSE	Directorate of School Education
DSC	District Selection Committee
IAS	Indian Administrative Service
IPS	Indian Police Service
IT	Information Technology

KPIs	Key Performance Indicators
LIC	Life Insurance Corporation of India
M & E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NGO	Non-Government Organization
HPCL	Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited
REESI	Relevance, Efficiency, Effectiveness, Sustainability, and Impact
TET	Teacher Eligibility Test

Acknowledgments

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Aurobindo Pharma Foundation (APF) for entrusting Mahila Abhivruddhi Society, Andhra Pradesh (APMAS), with the responsibility of conducting this impact assessment of their CSR initiative supporting the extension of Alluri Sitaramaraju Skill Development Center (ASVK). This partnership underscores the shared commitment to fostering equitable access to education, skill development, and cultural enrichment for underserved communities in Visakhapatnam.

We sincerely thank the leadership and team members of APF for their steadfast support, guidance, and invaluable insights throughout this assessment. Their unwavering dedication to community welfare and sustainable development has been a cornerstone of the success of this initiative.

Our deepest appreciation goes to the management, staff, and volunteers of ASVK, whose tireless efforts and unwavering commitment have driven the center's remarkable achievements. Their dedication to providing affordable education, skill development programs, and cultural opportunities has significantly transformed the lives of marginalized communities in Visakhapatnam.

We are profoundly grateful to the students, beneficiaries, and their families for sharing their experiences, feedback, and perspectives, which have enriched the findings of this assessment. Their stories of resilience and progress serve as a powerful testament to the transformative impact of ASVK's initiatives.

Special thanks to the community representatives, stakeholders, and local leaders for their cooperation and collaboration in facilitating the assessment process. Their active engagement and support in fostering a sense of collective ownership have been invaluable.

Lastly, we acknowledge the exceptional efforts of the field teams and supporting staff. Their meticulous attention to detail, dedication, and commitment to excellence were instrumental in presenting meaningful insights and actionable recommendations in this report.

This assessment stands as a reflection of the collective vision and tireless efforts of everyone involved. Together, we aspire to create a brighter, more inclusive future for the underserved communities of Visakhapatnam.

With deepest gratitude

Team APMAS

January 2025

1. Executive Summary

This assessment report, conducted by Mahila Abhivruddhi Society, Andhra Pradesh (APMAS), evaluates the Aurobindo Pharma Foundation's (APF) CSR project supporting the extension of the Alluri Sitaramaraju Skill Development Center (ASVK) in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. Despite the city's rapid urban development, Visakhapatnam continues to face challenges in providing adequate educational and vocational opportunities for underserved communities.

1.1 Project Overview

The Alluri Sitaramaraju Vignana Kendram Trust (ASVK) was founded by Sri Botta Narasinga Rao, a prominent freedom fighter and registered as a Society in 2016. It was inaugurated on 19 May 2022 at Dabagardens, Visakhapatnam. ASVK has a longstanding legacy of empowering economically disadvantaged communities through education, healthcare, and skill development initiatives. A significant milestone was achieved with the completion of a modern auditorium, funded with ₹1.5 crores from Aurobindo Pharma Foundation's (APF) CSR initiative. The auditorium has become a transformative space for hosting training sessions, workshops, cultural activities, and public health programs. The funding also played a crucial role in completing the Skill Development Center, which empowers youth and adults by equipping them with essential skills for employment and entrepreneurship.

1.2. Methodology

The impact assessment study was designed using the comprehensive REESI Framework (Relevance, Efficiency, Effectiveness, Sustainability, and Impact). A mixed-method research design was adopted, integrating both quantitative and qualitative approaches. The study involved 27 respondents, including the faculty, students, parents, and others selected through purposive sampling. Data collection methods included interview questionnaires, focus group discussions, observations at the center, and a review of records and reports. The Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) assessed included: accessibility and affordability of training programs; improvement in beneficiaries' skillsets and employment prospects and community perceptions on the impact.

1.3 Key Achievements

Alignment with Community Needs: ASVK effectively addresses the critical needs of economically weaker sections by providing affordable coaching for competitive examinations (Group I, II, Civil Services, Police, Railway, etc.), vocational training (tailoring, IT), and cultural programs. These initiatives align seamlessly with the project's objective of enhancing educational and skill development opportunities for underserved communities.

Impact on Employability: ASVK's coaching programs have significantly improved employment outcomes. A high success rate (over 85% has cleared the preliminary stage of group 1&2) among beneficiaries in clearing competitive examinations has led to better job prospects and increased earning potential, directly enhancing the livelihoods of individuals and families in the target communities.

Community-Oriented Approach: ASVK serves as a vital community hub, hosting social and cultural events in its auditorium. This inclusive approach fosters social cohesion and addresses pressing societal issues, strengthening the community's social fabric.

Affordable Services: ASVK maintains a strong commitment to affordability, charging nominal fees for its services. This ensures accessibility for economically disadvantaged individuals who might otherwise be excluded from quality education and training opportunities.

Volunteer-Driven Model: The active involvement of volunteers and socially conscious individuals contributes to the Kendram's operational efficiency and sustainability. This model not only reduces operational costs but also fosters a sense of community ownership and engagement.

Positive Community Impact: ASVK has made a significant positive impact on the socio-economic and cultural landscape of Visakhapatnam. The activities are benefiting around 20,000 individuals annually in education, healthcare, and skill development.

#	Skills	Details
1	Tailoring Centres	30 centres (139 sewing & 30 zig-zag machines)
2	Beneficiaries (Tailoring)	2031 women
3	Beneficiaries (Computer Basics)	1112 women and men
4	Evening Tuition Centres	40 locations in slums
5	Students benefitted from tuitions	1186 students in 40 tuition centres in slum areas
6	Competitive exams and film making courses	1500 women and men
7	Health Camps	5000 women, men and children
8	Cultural events	8000 children

1.4 Recommendations

Increase Outreach: Conduct targeted awareness campaigns in slums, tribal areas, and rural communities using social media, local media channels, and community networks to effectively disseminate information about ASVK's programs and services and expand outreach.

Infrastructure Expansion: Expand facilities to accommodate the growing demand for coaching and training programs. Recruit additional full-time staff or part-time trainers to reduce dependence on volunteers and ensure operational sustainability.

Addressing Emerging Market Needs: Include courses like data analytics, artificial intelligence, digital marketing, cybersecurity and other high-demand skills. Partner with industry leaders to align courses with current job market requirements and secure job placements for trainees.

Resource Diversification: Limited resources may constrain the Kendram's ability to scale operations and meet the growing demand for its services. It is essential to diversify funding from CSR contributions, government grants, and philanthropic support. Also consider implementing a tiered fee structure where those who can afford to pay slightly more, can subsidize programs for economically weaker sections.

Monitoring and Evaluation: Establish a robust framework to track program outcomes, measure impact, and identify areas for improvement. Use data-driven insights to refine program delivery and guide decision-making.

Strategic Collaborations: Strengthen partnerships with institutions like Andhra University to design and deliver specialized programs. Collaborate with local governments and NGOs to expand ASVK's reach and influence.

Branding and Visibility: Develop a branding strategy to position ASVK as a leader in community development and skill enhancement. Highlight success stories and testimonials from beneficiaries to build trust and attract partners and donors.

Focus on Women and Youth Empowerment: Expand programs targeting women and youth, including entrepreneurship and innovation programs.

Digital Learning Options: Introduce online and hybrid learning models to reach a broader audience, especially in remote areas and develop e-learning content tailored to the needs of aspirants preparing for government and industry examinations.

1.5 Conclusion

This project exemplifies the transformative potential of well-planned CSR initiatives. The collaboration between Aurobindo Pharma Foundation and the Alluri Sitaramaraju Vignana Kendram Trust demonstrates how strategic investments in infrastructure and capacity building can address critical community needs while fostering sustainable development. The auditorium, skill development center, and healthcare initiatives are more than just facilities—they are enablers of change, fostering resilience, self-reliance, and progress among the underserved populations of the region. This partnership serves as an inspiring model of how CSR funds can create long-lasting, tangible benefits for society, contributing to the socio-economic upliftment of Coastal Andhra Pradesh.

2. Introduction

The Alluri Sitaramaraju Vignana Kendram (ASVK), established by the Alluri Sitaramaraju Vignana Kendram Trust, is dedicated to empowering economically disadvantaged communities in Visakhapatnam. Through its diverse range of services and programs, ASVK fosters educational and cultural advancement while addressing the critical needs of marginalized populations. ASVK provides comprehensive coaching for various competitive government and industry examinations, including Group I and II, Civil Services, Police, Railway, Insurance, Banking, Visakhapatnam Dockyard, DSC, and other public sector opportunities. Vocational training and cultural enrichment programs further enhance its offerings. Coaching programs are promptly initiated upon the release of official vacancy notifications to maximize their relevance and utility.

ASVK charges nominal fees, ensuring its services remain accessible to economically weaker sections, including residents from rural and tribal areas (Rs. 1500 for teacher training, Rs. 2000 for Group I and II, Rs. 300 for film workshops and free for computer training, tailoring, tuition and health camps). The Kendram features a state-of-the-art auditorium with a seating capacity exceeding 400, offering an acoustically designed, air-conditioned space equipped with advanced audio systems. This facility hosts a wide range of community events and awareness programs addressing pressing social and cultural issues. Emphasizing inclusivity and harmony, ASVK strictly prohibits events based on religion, caste, or other forms of social divisiveness.

In collaboration with Andhra University, ASVK actively engages in addressing social and cultural challenges. Additionally, ASVK provides a 2–3-month tailoring course aimed at equipping participants with essential vocational skills. Serving a population of over 7 lakh residents across 793 slums in Visakhapatnam, ASVK has become a vital resource for marginalized communities. Its success is attributed to the dedication of its staff, many of whom are volunteers, retirees, or socially conscious individuals working for nominal pay. This reflects ASVK's core values of social responsibility and commitment to community service.

2.1. Objectives of the Impact Assessment

This study seeks to evaluate the impact of ASVK's initiatives and their effectiveness in meeting the needs of economically weaker sections while fostering social and cultural development. The specific objectives include:

1. Assess the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, and accountability of the project.
2. Assess the tangible and long-term effects of the project on the target communities.
3. Measure the project's outputs, outcomes/results, and overall impact on the communities.
4. Recommend strategies to enhance the project's impact and sustainability.

3. Methodology

This section outlines the approach taken to assess the impact of the Aurobindo Pharma Foundation's (APF) CSR project for the extension of the Alluri Sitaramaraju Skill Development Center. The methodology focuses on evaluating the project's effectiveness in addressing the educational and skill development needs of underserved communities in Visakhapatnam.

3.1 Evaluation Framework

The evaluation framework was designed to measure the alignment of project outcomes with its stated objectives, focusing on educational access, employability, and community empowerment. This framework integrated quantitative measures for tracking progress and qualitative methods for capturing beneficiary experiences and feedback. Key performance indicators (KPIs) included:

- Accessibility and affordability of training programs.
- Improvement in beneficiaries' skillsets and employment prospects.
- Community perceptions of the initiative's impact

3.2 Sampling Size and Data Collection

The assessment included sample size of 17 participants, ensuring adequate representation across various demographic groups, including urban youth, marginalized communities, and vocational trainers. The sample was selected through purposive sampling to ensure comprehensive insights from directly impacted stakeholders. A team of two evaluators visited the Skill Development Center, engaging with stakeholders and documenting the process with photographs to authenticate the findings. The study utilized both primary and secondary data collection methods and the following tools were used to gather data:

Interviews: Structured interviews with management and staff.

Questionnaires: Administered to a sample of students.
Focus Group Discussions: Conducted with students and their parents to assess perceptions
Observation: Physical verification of facilities and infrastructure.

Table 2: Sample Size Overview

Category of Respondents	Sample Size	Tools
Management	3	Interviews
Staff	3	
Students (current)	6	
Parents	3	
Community members	2	
Total	**17**	

The data analysis was done to derive meaningful insights and draw informed conclusions by using both quantitative and qualitative methods:

Quantitative Analysis: Descriptive statistics highlighted trends in enrollment, skill acquisition, and employability.

Qualitative Analysis: Thematic analysis of FGD and interview transcripts identified recurring patterns, beneficiary challenges, and opportunities for improvement.

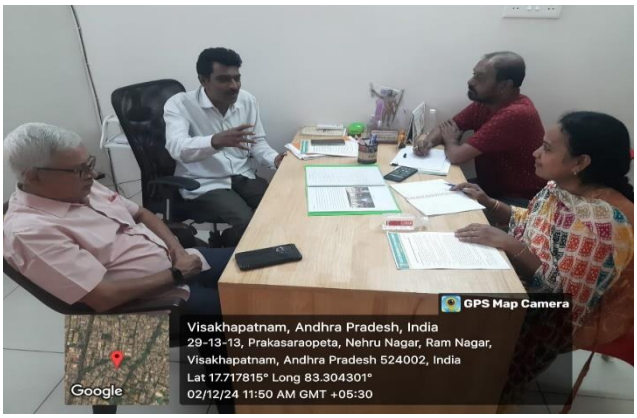
Triangulation: Findings from surveys, interviews, and secondary data were cross verified to ensure accuracy and consistency.

3.3. Limitations

Sample Size: Limited to 25 respondents, which might not capture the full spectrum of experiences and impacts

Time Constraints: The assessment focused on the short-term impacts, potentially overlooking long-term sustainability issues.

Generalizability: Findings are specific to the Skill Development Centre in Visakhapatnam and may not be applicable to other regions or institutions.



4 Findings and Analysis

The impact assessment of the Alluri Sitaramaraju Vignana Kendram (ASVK) reveals significant contributions to the socio-economic and cultural development of Visakhapatnam's underserved populations. Below are the key findings and the analysis:

4.1 Targeted Services for Economic Empowerment

Findings: The Kendram provides affordable coaching for competitive examinations, targeting aspirants from economically weaker sections, including rural and tribal communities. The fees are nominal and primarily cover the cost of training materials, making it accessible to individuals who cannot afford private coaching institutes, the one-time charges for the courses are Rs.1500 for teacher training, Rs.2000 for Group I and II and other competitive exams, Rs.300 for film making, and free for computer training, tailoring, tuition and health camps.

Analysis: By offering cost-effective and high-quality coaching, ASVK addresses the critical gap in access to educational and skill development opportunities. This initiative empowers marginalized groups to compete for public sector jobs, promoting economic mobility and reducing unemployment in the region.

4.2 Inclusive Community Resource

Findings: ASVK serves as a hub for community engagement through its well-equipped auditorium, which hosts events on social and cultural awareness (Balostavam for children, memorial events of freedom fighters and activists etc). The Kendram disallows religious or caste-based events, ensuring inclusivity and alignment with its founding principles.

Analysis: The Kendram's emphasis on inclusive activities fosters unity and social harmony. Collaborations with Andhra University enhance its impact by addressing key cultural and social issues through events and awareness programs.

4.3 Vocational and Technical Training

Findings: The newly established computer lab and tailoring courses provide skill-building opportunities. The computer lab focuses on emerging IT and web technologies, while the tailoring course offers practical vocational training. Both programs are offered at minimal fees, making them accessible to low-income groups.

Analysis: These initiatives cater to diverse skill development needs, equipping individuals with employable skills. The courses align with market demands, enabling participants to secure better employment or start entrepreneurial ventures, thereby enhancing livelihoods.

4.4 Accessibility to Marginalized Communities

Findings: With over 700,000 residents in 793 slums, Visakhapatnam's underserved communities benefit significantly from the Kendram's accessible location and affordable and high-quality services.

Analysis: ASVK effectively bridges the gap in service delivery for slum dwellers, providing them with education, training, and cultural exposure. Its strategic location and affordable programs ensure a broad reach within disadvantaged populations.

4.5 Infrastructure and Facilities

Findings: The Kendram's auditorium and other facilities are state-of-the-art, yet the charges remain nominal, reflecting its social orientation.

Analysis: High-quality infrastructure combined with affordability enhances community participation and Kendram's reputation as a trusted resource.

4.6 Volunteer-Driven Model

Findings: Out of 17 staff members, 10 are volunteers or retirees who work on nominal pay, motivated by social consciousness and a sense of responsibility.

Analysis: The volunteer-driven approach ensures cost-effectiveness while maintaining service quality. This model demonstrates the power of community-driven initiatives in achieving sustainable development.

4.7 Relevance

The initiatives undertaken by ASVK align closely with the needs of the economically weaker sections of Visakhapatnam, including marginalized communities in slums and tribal areas. Kendram's focus on affordable education, skill development, and vocational training addresses critical gaps in access to resources, particularly for aspirants seeking government or industry jobs. The relevance of its services is further highlighted by the increasing demand for competitive exam preparation and emerging IT skills in the job market. Conducting coaching for DSC, civil services and for other competitive exams for employment in public sector organizations closely follows notifications issued for job applications.

4.8 Coherence

ASVK's programs are well-integrated and complementary, addressing various dimensions of community development. The collaboration with Andhra University and the prohibition of divisive events ensure that its activities align with the principles of inclusivity and cultural advancement. Furthermore, the Kendram's partnerships with stakeholders, including APF, demonstrate coherence in achieving shared objectives for social empowerment and skill enhancement.

4.9 Effectiveness

The Kendram has been effective in delivering need-based coaching and training services at nominal costs, benefiting a wide demographic. The well-utilized auditorium and other facilities reflect strong community engagement, while the introduction of a computer lab and tailoring courses demonstrate adaptability to emerging needs. The consistent involvement of volunteers and socially conscious staff has contributed significantly to the Kendram's operational success.

4.10 Efficiency

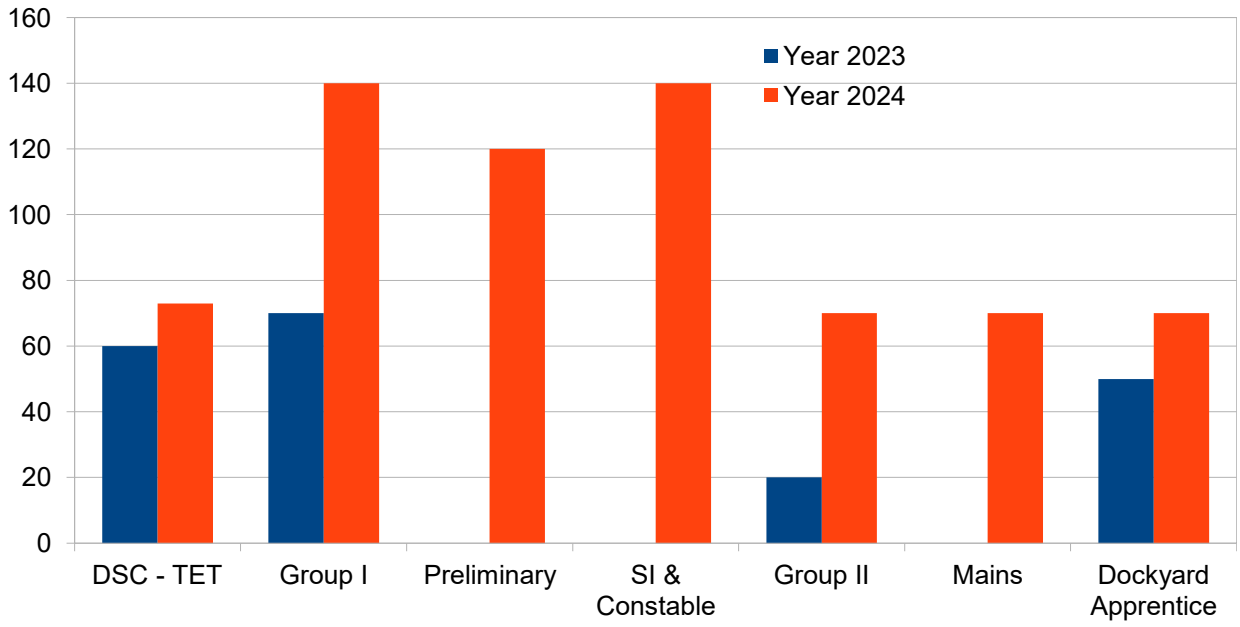
ASVK operates on a cost-effective model, leveraging volunteer contributions and nominal fees to maintain high-quality services. The effective use of CSR funds from APF has enabled Kendram to expand its facilities and reach. However, limited resources and reliance on volunteers may constrain its ability to scale operations and meet the growing demand for its programs.

4.11 Branding of the Intervention

ASVK has established itself as a trusted and respected community resource in Visakhapatnam. Its commitment to inclusivity, affordability, and quality services enhances its reputation and credibility. To strengthen its brand further, ASVK can engage in targeted outreach and promotional efforts, highlighting its success stories and unique value proposition to attract additional stakeholders and beneficiaries.

4.12 Impact

The Kendram has made a tangible impact on the socio-economic and cultural landscape of Visakhapatnam. Its coaching services have improved the employability of aspirants, while vocational training has enhanced livelihood opportunities for disadvantaged groups. The Kendram's emphasis on inclusivity and social awareness has fostered community cohesion, making it a transformative force for marginalized populations.



4.13 Sustainability

The Kendram's volunteer-driven model and nominal fees ensure affordability and operational continuity. However, long-term sustainability may require diversifying funding sources and exploring partnerships to mitigate resource limitations. Strengthening awareness campaigns and building capacity for future growth are crucial steps toward ensuring sustained impact.

Table 3: List of Courses and Students

#	Course	Year 2023	Year 2024
1	DSC TET	60	73
2	Group I	70	140
3	Preliminary		120
4	SI and Constable		140
5	Group II	20	70
6	Mains		70
7	Dockyard Apprentice	50	70
	Total	**200**	**683**

5. Challenges, Recommendations and Conclusion

5.1. Challenges

The following are the few challenges that need to be addressed.

- Limited capacity to accommodate the growing demand for coaching and training programs due to resource constraints.
- Dependence on volunteer staff might limit scalability and sustainability in the long term.
- Awareness of Kendram's services among some sections of the population remains low, requiring targeted outreach efforts.

Based on the above findings and challenges, the following recommendations are proposed to enhance the impact, sustainability, and reach of the Alluri Sitaramaraju Vignana Kendram (ASVK):

5.2 Recommendations to Alluri Sitaramaraju Vignana Kendram

Enhance Resource Mobilization

- Explore diversified funding avenues, including partnerships with additional CSR contributors, government grants, and philanthropic organizations, to address resource constraints.
- Consider introducing tiered fee structures where those who can afford to pay slightly more, enabling subsidies for economically weaker sections.

Strengthening Infrastructure and Capacity

- Expand infrastructure to accommodate the growing demand for coaching and trainings
- Recruit additional full-time staff or part-time trainers to reduce the Kendram's heavy reliance on volunteers, ensuring scalability and continuity of services.

Awareness and Outreach

- Conduct awareness campaigns in slums, tribal areas, and rural communities to increase participation and inform potential beneficiaries about available services.
- Utilize social media platforms and local media channels to promote the Kendram's initiatives, success stories, and achievements.

Focus on Emerging Skills and Market Needs

- Expand the portfolio of training courses offered in the computer lab to include emerging fields such as data analytics, AI, digital marketing, and cybersecurity.
- Partner with industry players, especially the IT sector in Visakhapatnam, to design courses aligned with current market demands and secure job placements for trainees.

Institutionalize Monitoring and Evaluation

- Establish a robust monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework to track the outcomes of coaching and training programs.
- Collect data on beneficiary progress, employment rates, and community impact to identify areas for improvement and measure long-term effectiveness.

Build Strategic Collaborations

- Strengthen partnerships with academic institutions like Andhra University to design and deliver specialized programs.
- Collaborate with local government bodies and NGOs to expand the Kendram's reach and influence in addressing community challenges.

Promote Sustainability Initiatives

- Develop a sustainability roadmap to ensure the long-term impact of initiatives. This could include creating an endowment fund or seeking multi-year CSR commitments
- Introduce environmentally sustainable practices, such as energy-efficient infrastructure and paperless operations, to align with global sustainability goals.

Enhance Branding and Visibility

- Develop a strategic branding plan to position ASVK as a leader in community development and skill enhancement.
- Highlight impactful stories and testimonials from beneficiaries to build trust and credibility among potential partners and donors.

Focus on Women and Youth Empowerment

- Expand the tailoring program and include additional vocational training options specifically targeted at women to promote gender empowerment.
- Design youth-focused programs that foster entrepreneurship and innovation, providing them with resources to start their ventures.

Introduce Digital Learning Options

- Incorporate online and hybrid learning models to reach especially in remote areas.
- Develop e-learning content tailored to the needs of aspirants preparing for government and industry examinations.

Implementing these recommendations could encourage Aurobindo Pharma Foundation to continue providing annual grants, supporting ASVK in further strengthening its mission to empower disadvantaged communities and create a lasting socio-economic and cultural impact in Visakhapatnam and beyond. ASVK has made a remarkable contribution by offering affordable education, vocational training, and cultural enrichment to economically weaker sections of society. Its inclusive approach, volunteer-driven model, and emphasis on accessibility have established it as a critical resource for marginalized communities. Tackling challenges such as resource limitations and raising awareness will further enhance its effectiveness and scalability.

5.3. Conclusion

The impact assessment of the Aurobindo Pharma Foundation's CSR project for the ASVK highlights the significant strides made in addressing the educational and skill development needs of Visakhapatnam's underserved communities. The Centre has successfully leveraged its resources to create a sustainable platform for youth empowerment and capacity building. The key achievements include:

- **Access to Quality Education and Skill Development:** ASVK has effectively bridged the gap for economically disadvantaged groups, offering affordable, need-based coaching and vocational training programs. Its emphasis on competitive examinations and vocational courses has enhanced employability, particularly for aspirants from tribal and rural backgrounds.
- **Infrastructure and Facilities:** The state-of-the-art auditorium and advanced computer lab have not only supported educational activities but also enabled social and cultural engagement, promoting inclusivity and community harmony.
- **Community Engagement and Collaboration:** Strong partnerships with entities like Andhra University and the involvement of socially conscious volunteers have amplified the Kendram's impact, ensuring a community-driven approach to addressing social challenges.

However, challenges such as limited awareness among the broader population, resource constraints for expanding outreach, and evolving market demands for skillsets must be addressed to sustain and enhance the Kendram's impact.

The findings of this assessment reaffirm the relevance and effectiveness of the ASVK initiative in fostering equitable access to education and skill development. By addressing existing gaps and adapting to the evolving needs of the community, the Kendram, with

the support of the Aurobindo Pharma Foundation, can continue to be a beacon of hope and opportunity for marginalized communities in Visakhapatnam.

5.4. Case Stories and Testimonials

Testimonial 1: My name is ***Dilip Kumar***, and I am a B. Tech graduate with an unwavering passion for filmmaking. For someone like me, who has always dreamed of bringing stories to life through the lens, attending a workshop at the Alluri Sitaramaraju Vignana Kendram was nothing short of a turning point.

Through this incredible platform, I not only acquired invaluable knowledge but also built meaningful connections within the short filmmaking industry. Kendram's commitment to nurturing young talent was evident in every session.

One of the most remarkable opportunities I received was working as a cinematographer and editor on a project titled *'Ban Plastic'*. This experience was transformative, allowing me to apply my skills to a socially impactful cause and gain hands-on experience in a real-world setting. It was a significant milestone in my journey, offering me the chance to grow as a creative professional.

What truly sets the Alluri Sitaramaraju Vignana Kendram apart is its dedication to empowering aspiring filmmakers. By organizing regular workshops and providing a platform for us to showcase our work on screen, the Kendram has created an ecosystem that fosters growth, innovation, and inspiration.

I am immensely grateful to the Alluri Sitaramaraju Vignana Kendram for being the catalyst in my creative journey. More than just a center, it is a gateway to endless possibilities, helping aspiring talents like me realize our dreams and make a meaningful difference in the world.

Testimonial 2: My name is ***Durga Shankar Silapara Setti,*** and my passion for filmmaking found its wings through the short film association at the ASR Skill Development Center. This incredible platform provided me with invaluable experiences that have been instrumental in shaping my journey. At ASR, I had the rare opportunity to meet film industry professionals and attend their insightful classes. Interacting with film celebrities and learning directly from them was nothing short of a dream come true. Their guidance and encouragement fuelled my passion and gave me the confidence to pursue my filmmaking dreams with determination.

One of the most thrilling moments of my life was watching my own movie on the big screen. It was a surreal experience that fulfilled a significant part of my dreams and reaffirmed my belief in the power of persistence and opportunity.

None of this would have been possible without the unwavering support of the ASR Skill Development Center. This platform has not only empowered me to chase my passion but also turned challenges into stepping stones toward success. I am deeply grateful to ASR for making this journey possible and for being a beacon of inspiration for aspiring filmmakers like me. It is a place where dreams are nurtured and transformed into reality.

Testimonial 3: My name is Abhinav, and I am honored to work as a faculty member for competitive exams at the Alluri Sita Rama Raju (ASR) Skill Development Center. Over the years, I have witnessed this extraordinary institution become a beacon of hope for unemployed youth in our region, offering them the tools to build brighter futures.

The Alluri Study Circle, a vital part of ASR, is more than just a coaching institute—it is a mission to empower young minds. In an era where quality education is often out of reach due to high costs, ASR Skill Development Center breaks the norm by providing top-notch education at little to no cost. This initiative is nothing short of transformative for vulnerable youth who aspire to achieve their dreams despite financial and social challenges.

However, even remarkable endeavours like this face hurdles. One of our most pressing challenges is the lack of residential facilities. Many of our students travel long distances from remote areas to attend classes, yet we cannot accommodate them due to limited infrastructure. Addressing this issue would ensure that every student, regardless of location, can access the full spectrum of opportunities offered by ASR.

I am deeply grateful to the Aurobindo Pharma Foundation (APF) for their generous contributions toward the development of this centre. Their support has been pivotal in advancing our mission. At the same time, I earnestly appeal for continued and expanded assistance to help us create residential facilities and further improve our infrastructure.

With the right resources, ASR Skill Development Centre can evolve into a powerhouse of learning and empowerment, unlocking the potential of countless young individuals and transforming the youth in Uttar Andhra. Together, we can pave the way for a brighter, more inclusive future.

Testimonial 4: My name is ***K. Radha***, and I am a housewife living near the Alluri Sita Rama Raju (ASR) Skill Development Center. My journey with this remarkable institution began when I learned about it through our watchman, whose daughter, Jhansi, had joined the center to prepare for police constable examinations. Curious about the center's reputation, I decided to explore its offerings further.

What I discovered exceeded my expectations. ASR Skill Development Center is not just a coaching institute; it is a hub of holistic development. Beyond academic coaching, the center organizes various initiatives such as medical camps, summer camps, and evening tuition for school students. The dedication of the faculty and staff to guiding and nurturing their students is truly inspiring. Their commitment motivated me to enroll my son, a B. Tech graduate, in the Group-I coaching program.

The results speak for themselves. My son not only qualified for the preliminary examinations but is now preparing for the mains. This achievement has filled our family with pride and hope, and we are deeply thankful to ASR for its role in his success.

While the centre is doing phenomenal work, I believe that a few enhancements could make it even more effective. Establishing a computer lab would allow students to gain hands-on experience and access online resources, an essential need in today's competitive world. Additionally, a canteen on the premises would save students valuable time and allow them to concentrate better on their studies without the hassle of stepping out for meals.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Aurobindo Pharma Foundation for their generous support in constructing this centre. Their contribution has created a space that is transforming the lives of unemployed youth. With continued support and the addition of these facilities, I am confident

that ASR Skill Development Centre will empower even more students to achieve their dreams and build brighter futures.

Case Story 1: From Passion to Profession - A Journey of Courage and Transformation

My name is ***S. Durga Rao,*** and I reside in Chinaa Valtair, Visakhapatnam, with my parents and my wife. Ever since I can remember, I have been captivated by the art of storytelling and filmmaking. The power of films to evoke emotions, narrate compelling stories, and inspire people which fascinated me. However, my passion for filmmaking often became a source of conflict within my circle of friends and family. Many dismissed it as an impractical pursuit, questioning my career path and leaving me feeling isolated and judged.

Social gatherings and family functions turned into uncomfortable experiences, filled with questions and skepticism about my dreams. Yet, I couldn't abandon the one thing that gave me a sense of purpose. Even as doubts surrounded me, I remained steadfast, albeit unsure of how to turn my passion into something tangible. My thoughts about filmmaking were scattered, and I lacked the clarity and structure to translate my dreams into action.

During this period of uncertainty, the **Alluri Sita Rama Raju Skill Development Center** became a beacon of hope. The center provided me with the structure, knowledge, and mentorship I desperately needed. Through its thoughtfully designed programs, I learned the essentials of cinematography, scripting, and storytelling. The hands-on training sessions helped me refine my skills and build confidence.

The trainers at the center were more than instructors; they were mentors who truly understood the struggles of aspiring filmmakers. They encouraged me to persevere, to view challenges as opportunities, and to remain steadfast in my passion. Their unwavering support helped me overcome the self-doubt that had held me back for so long.

Armed with newfound clarity and skills, I began working on short films. Each project became a stepping stone, teaching me invaluable lessons about the art and craft of filmmaking. Slowly but surely, my work began to gain recognition. The practical knowledge I acquired from the skill development centre not only enhanced my technical abilities but also gave me the confidence to navigate the complexities of the film industry.

Eventually, this journey led to an incredible opportunity: a position as an Assistant Professor of Cinematography at Andhra University. This role allowed me to blend my love for filmmaking with the joy of teaching and mentoring others. Guiding students who share the same spark and ambition that once drove me has been immensely fulfilling.

Looking back, I realize how pivotal the Alluri Sita Rama Raju Skill Development Center was in shaping my career and my life. It transformed my passion into a profession and gave me the courage to defy the naysayers and follow my dreams.

Today, I am not only a filmmaker but also an educator, helping others embark on their own cinematic journeys. My story is a testament to the power of belief, learning, and perseverance. To anyone who feels lost or uncertain about their path, I want to say: believe in yourself, embrace opportunities to learn, and never give up on what you truly love. Your passion can become your purpose, just as it did for me.

Case story 2: From Dreams to Destiny: My Journey to Civil Services

My name is ***G. Kiran Kumar,*** a 28-year-old hailing from a lower-middle-class family in Bheemunipatnam, Visakhapatnam district. Like many others from humble backgrounds, I nurtured a dream of achieving something significant in life: securing a civil service job. This aspiration was not only a pathway to personal growth but also a platform to serve society and make a meaningful impact.

However, the journey toward my dream was far from easy. Preparing for the Group-II examinations felt like climbing a mountain with no guide or clear path. Studying alone was challenging, with a constant struggle to stay motivated and focused. Moreover, the high costs of enrolling in reputed coaching centres were beyond my family's financial reach. For a while, I felt stuck, teetering on the edge of hopelessness, unsure of how to move forward.

In the midst of this uncertainty, a chance encounter with a newspaper notification changed everything. The Alluri Sita Rama Raju (ASR) Skill Development Centre had announced affordable coaching for 70 students. They offered printed materials and sessions led by experienced faculty. Intrigued and hopeful, I immediately inquired and decided to enrol.

Although the program was non-residential, I was determined to make it work. I relocated to Visakhapatnam, staying with friends at Andhra University to ensure uninterrupted attendance.

A Transformational Learning Experience

From the very first day at ASR, I realized this was no ordinary coaching program. Classes began as early as 6:00 AM, sometimes extending late into the day, yet the energy and enthusiasm of the faculty never wavered. Their teaching methodology was exceptional, emphasizing clarity and practical application.

One of the standout features of ASR was the involvement of esteemed government officials, including IAS and IPS officers. These seasoned professionals shared their journeys, challenges, and insights, providing us with a glimpse of what it truly takes to succeed in civil services. Their stories were a source of immense inspiration, rekindling my determination each day.

Despite being a non-residential program, ASR fostered a strong sense of camaraderie among the students. We were a community of like-minded individuals, united by our dreams and mutual encouragement. This support system, combined with the dedicated guidance of the faculty, created an environment where success felt attainable.

The intensive coaching and unwavering support paid off. Out of our batch of 70 students, 12—including me—qualified for the mains examination. This milestone was not just an individual achievement but a testament to the transformative power of ASR's program.

Reflecting on my journey, I feel a deep sense of gratitude to ASR Skill Development Center and the Aurobindo Pharma Foundation for their support in infrastructure development. Their initiative has opened doors for aspirants like me, proving that financial constraints should never be a barrier to education or success.

However, I believe more students like me need to know about such life-changing opportunities. Greater awareness of ASR's programs can empower countless aspirants from underprivileged backgrounds to pursue their dreams.

Today, as I continue my journey toward civil services, I look back with pride and gratitude. ASR Skill Development Centre was the turning point in my life—a beacon of hope that transformed my dreams into a tangible reality. Their commitment to creating opportunities for all, irrespective of financial status, is truly commendable.

I hope my story inspires others to seize opportunities, persevere through challenges, and believe in the power of determination and community support. Let ASR be the guiding light for many more aspirants striving to achieve their dreams.

Impact Assessment of CSR Projects of Aurobindo Pharma Foundation in Kakinada District, Andhra Pradesh

Implemented by Aurobindo Pharma Foundation (A Philanthropic arm of Aurobindo Pharma Ltd under Corporate Social Responsibility)

Submitted to

AUROBINDO PHARMA FOUNDATION

Submitted by

apmas

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Abbreviations

APF	Aurobindo Pharma Foundation
API	Aurobindo Pharma Limited
APMAS	Mahila Abhivruddhi Society, Andhra Pradesh
AWC	Anganwadi Centre
BPL	Below Poverty Line
CC	Cement Concrete
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
DTP	Desktop Publishing
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
HOD	Head of the Department
IDI	In depth Interview
KSEZ	Kakinada Special Economic Zone
LPH	Litres per hour
MPUP	Mandal Parishad Upper Primary School
NGO	Non-Government Organisations
NPO	Not for Profit Organisations
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
Ph	Potential of Hydrogen
PHCs	Primary Health Centres
PRI	Panchayati Raj Institution

PPP	Public Private Partnership
RO	Reverse Osmosis
SDC	Skill Development Center
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SHG	Self Help Group
SWM	Solid Waste Management
ZPHS	Zilla Parishad High School

Acknowledgements

On behalf of APMAS, we express our heartfelt gratitude to the Aurobindo Pharma Foundation for entrusting us with the opportunity to assess the impact of its four CSR projects in Kakinada district. These initiatives including skill development (computer literacy and tailoring), education (additional classrooms, lab and sports materials, basic infrastructure and bicycles to girls), health (health clinics, equipment for PHCs, solid waste management, and RO water plants) and rural development (CC roads and drainage) have enabled us to document the transformative changes they have brought to the community.

We extend our sincere thanks to the Kakinada CSR team, for their guidance and unwavering support throughout the assessment. Their openness in sharing insights was instrumental in shaping the outcomes of this report and enriched our understanding of the initiatives' profound impact.

Our appreciation also goes to the teachers, students, parents, doctors, patients, trainers, trainees, headmasters, local officials, family members, frontline functionaries and community leaders who generously shared their experiences and perspectives. Their cooperation and willingness to provide information and access to facilities ensured the precision and clarity of our assessment. Their dedication to these initiatives has been pivotal in achieving meaningful outcomes.

We are truly inspired by the Aurobindo Pharma Foundation's vision and its commitment to empowering communities. These impactful initiatives stand as a testament to the power of collective action and compassion.

It has been an honor and privilege for Team APMAS to witness and contribute to this inspiring journey of empowerment and transformation.

With deepest gratitude

Team APMAS!
January 2025

1. Executive Summary

1.1. Project Overview

Aurobindo Pharma Foundation has undertaken several initiatives aimed at the holistic development and betterment of communities in the Thondangi, U. Kothapalli, Tuni and Pithapuram Mandals of Kakinada district. The budget outlay for the following four initiatives was ₹36.9 crores.

1. Skill Development Centre
2. Education
3. Health and Sanitation
4. Rural Development

1.2. Impact Assessment

The impact assessment was guided by the comprehensive REESI Framework, which evaluates Relevance, Coherence, Efficiency, Effectiveness, Sustainability, and Impact. A mixed-method research design was employed, integrating both quantitative and qualitative approaches to ensure a holistic evaluation. Primary and secondary stakeholders were engaged using the following data collection methods:

- **Interview Questionnaires:** Conducted with students, teachers, parents, doctors, patients, frontline functionaries, and community leaders.
- **Focus Group Discussions:** Structured checklists to gather collective insights.
- **Observations:** Recorded during site visits to capture real-time project outcomes.
- **Document Review:** Records, registers, and reports were examined to validate findings.

Fieldwork was conducted between 9 and 12 December 2024 by a three-member team of APMAS. The team visited all project sites and engaged directly with stakeholders to assess the tangible and intangible benefits derived from these CSR projects.

1.3. Key Findings

The assessment revealed that all four CSR projects addressed critical community needs and demonstrated significant outcomes.

Skill Development Centre

- The skill development initiatives are highly relevant, addressing the need for practical skills and career opportunities among youth and women.
- The Prathibha and Vocational Training Center at Mulapeta offers courses in basic computer literacy (MS Office, Tally, and Photoshop) to youth and tailoring to rural women free of cost.
- A total of 878 trainees from both centers (519 in computer literacy and 359 in tailoring) completed their training and received certificates.
- Trainees highlighted the modern teaching methods and course design, which enabled many to secure self-employment or jobs. These interventions have directly contributed to reducing unemployment and improving livelihoods.
- 73% of the trainees that received tailoring training are either self-employed or working.

- Skill Development Centres contribute to achieving SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities). By promoting social inclusion regardless of sex, religion, or economic status, these centres equip individuals with essential skills, promote gender equality, foster economic growth, and reduce inequalities.

Education

- Investments in physical infrastructure, such as additional classrooms and renovations in government schools, colleges and Anganwadi centres has significantly improved the learning environment and attendance by up to 98%
- The provision of 750 bicycles for girl students of 11 high schools and 1 degree college was widely appreciated and addressed mobility challenges, particularly for rural girls' students.
- Equipment, including computers, sports kits, and science lab materials, enhanced learning experiences and supported holistic student development.
- This initiative contributes to SDG 4 (Quality Education) by enhancing educational quality through improved infrastructure; SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure) by investing in projects that promote innovation and education; and SDG 17 (Partnerships) by exemplifying effective collaboration among various stakeholders.

Health and Sanitation

- The supply of equipment to Government Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and the establishment of health clinics have reduced waiting times by 30%, thereby improving diagnostic and operational efficiency
- Monthly patient numbers have increased from 1000 to 1250 (25% increase) reflecting improved capacity to meet growing health needs
- Through the Solid Waste Management project, 46,750 kgs of plastic waste have been collected so far, of which 32,414 kgs were recycled—significantly reducing soil, water, and air pollution, improving the rural environment, and enhancing health by reducing breeding grounds for insects such as mosquitoes.
- The establishment of RO (Reverse Osmosis) water plants has provided access to safe drinking water, directly contributing to a reduction in the incidence of waterborne diseases among the rural population.
- These activities reduced referral rates, enhanced the diagnostic capacity of Government PHCs, and improved patient outcomes in both PHCs and Aurobindo Health Care Centres aligning with the goal of strengthening healthcare infrastructure.
- Strengthening government primary health centres contributes to SDG 3: "Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages." This goal emphasizes the importance of access to quality essential healthcare services, aiming to reduce maternal mortality, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under five, and combat diseases

Rural Development

- The laying of CC roads in 35 villages across three mandals has significantly improved mobility for auto drivers, farmers, students, and residents—providing safer, faster, and more reliable travel while reducing dependency on bullock carts and bicycles

- The improved road network has enabled farmers to transport their goods more efficiently, enhancing their livelihoods. Transportation costs have decreased due to the timely delivery of perishable goods like milk, vegetables, and fruits to markets.
- Improved roads and connectivity have helped increase school attendance among children and enhanced access to healthcare services.
- The installation of drainage channels has improved sanitation by preventing waterlogging and reducing health risks associated with stagnant water, thereby positively impacting the overall quality of life in the villages.
- Implementing effective solid waste management practices contributes to SDG 6: "Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all." Additionally, it contributes to SDG 11: "Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable" by reducing pollution and enhancing the sustainability of urban environments.

1.4. Recommendations

The following strategic interventions could be considered to further enhance the positive outcomes of ongoing CSR initiatives.

Skill Development: The youth have immense potential to drive economic progress. By introducing targeted skill development programs tailored to industry demands, such as digital marketing, coding, and artificial intelligence—alongside sessions on communication skills and behavioral aspects, the Foundation can equip young individuals with the necessary competencies to meet industry needs. Capacity building on financial literacy, business planning and micro-enterprise promotion can help women achieve financial independence. Additionally, initiatives focusing on health, hygiene, maternal care, and child nutrition will improve their overall well-being and create a ripple effect within their communities.

Education: Improve the quality of education by supporting infrastructure development in schools, introducing smart classrooms, and organizing teacher training programs. Scholarships for meritorious students and programs to address learning gaps caused by the pandemic will ensure equal opportunities for all children.

Health and Sanitation: Expanding outreach through health camps, awareness campaigns on preventive healthcare, and targeted initiatives to combat malnutrition and anemia—particularly among women and children. Collaborating with local health departments can further enhance the effectiveness of these efforts. Additionally, improving access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities will contribute to better health outcomes, enhanced livelihoods, and the overall well-being of rural communities.

Rural Development: Focus on developing rural areas through the construction of roads, installation of solar-powered lighting, and establishment of multipurpose community halls to support social, educational, and economic activities.

Strategic Partnerships with government agencies, local NGOs, and community-based organizations can maximize the impact of CSR efforts. Aligning with government schemes like the National Skill Development Mission and educational initiatives will create synergies and amplify outcomes.

Conclusion: Aurobindo Pharma Foundation has made a significant impact on the social and economic development of Thondangi, U. Kothapalli, Tuni and Pithapuram Mandals in Kakinada district. By intensifying its CSR initiatives and focusing on youth empowerment, women's

development, child education, health, sustainable livelihoods, and community infrastructure, the Foundation can create a lasting legacy of sustainable progress. A holistic and collaborative approach will not only address immediate community needs but also foster long-term resilience and self-reliance, paving the way for vibrant and empowered communities that thrive for generations to come.

2. Introduction

2.1. Corporate Social Responsibility

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) refers to the voluntary commitment of companies to integrate social, environmental, and ethical considerations into their business operations. By prioritizing sustainable and inclusive growth, businesses contribute to societal well-being and address pressing global challenges while benefiting their stakeholders. Over time, CSR has evolved from a philanthropic concept into a strategic approach, guided by international frameworks like the UN Global Compact and the Global Reporting Initiative. These frameworks emphasize aligning corporate objectives with societal progress and sustainable development goals. Modern CSR goes beyond profitability and regulatory compliance, serving as a bridge between business goals and societal needs. Companies engaging in CSR benefit from:

- **Cost Savings** through efficient resource utilization.
- **Regulatory Compliance** by adhering to legal mandates.
- **Enhanced Brand Reputation** and consumer trust.
- **Stronger Stakeholder Relationships**, fostering collaboration and loyalty.
- **Employee Satisfaction** through meaningful engagement in societal causes.
- **Innovation**, driving scalable and impactful solutions to social challenges.

CSR initiatives are instrumental in advancing the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which address critical global issues such as poverty, inequality, education, healthcare, and environmental sustainability. In India, CSR has transitioned from traditional philanthropy to a structured and legally mandated framework. The Companies Act, 2013, requires eligible companies to allocate 2% of their average net profits from the preceding three financial years to CSR activities. This legislation ensures that CSR efforts are planned, measurable, and aligned with national priorities. Key developments include:

- **Structured Planning**: Focused and systematic design of CSR programs.
- **Addressing Social Challenges**: Targeting issues such as poverty, education, healthcare, gender equality, and environmental sustainability.
- **Encouragement of Innovation**: Employing creative solutions to maximize social impact.
- **Collaborative Efforts**: Partnering with NGOs, government bodies, and local communities for greater reach and effectiveness.
- **Accountability and Transparency**: Mandatory reporting of activities, expenditures, and outcomes ensures credibility.

2.2. Aurobindo Pharma Limited

Aurobindo Pharma Limited, founded in 1986 by Mr. P.V. Ramprasad Reddy,

Mr. K. Nityananda Reddy, and a team of professionals, is a leading pharmaceutical company in India. Commencing operations in 1988-89 with a single unit manufacturing Semi-Synthetic Penicillin in Pondicherry, the company has since expanded into therapeutic areas such as neurosciences, cardiovascular diseases, anti-retroviral, anti-diabetics, gastroenterology, and antibiotics. As one of the top pharmaceutical companies, Aurobindo Pharma Limited remains

committed to corporate social responsibility, contributing to community welfare that improves quality of life and sustainability.

2.3. Aurobindo Pharma Foundation

The Aurobindo Pharma Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Aurobindo Pharma Limited, focuses on education, healthcare, environmental sustainability, hunger eradication, drinking water availability, and poverty alleviation. By aligning with national priorities and the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, the Foundation aims to create inclusive growth and long-term impact. It emphasizes transparency, accountability, and partnerships with NGOs, government agencies, and community groups, exemplifying Aurobindo Pharma's commitment to social welfare and sustainability.

2.4. About CSR Projects in Kakinada District

Table 1: List of CSR Projects

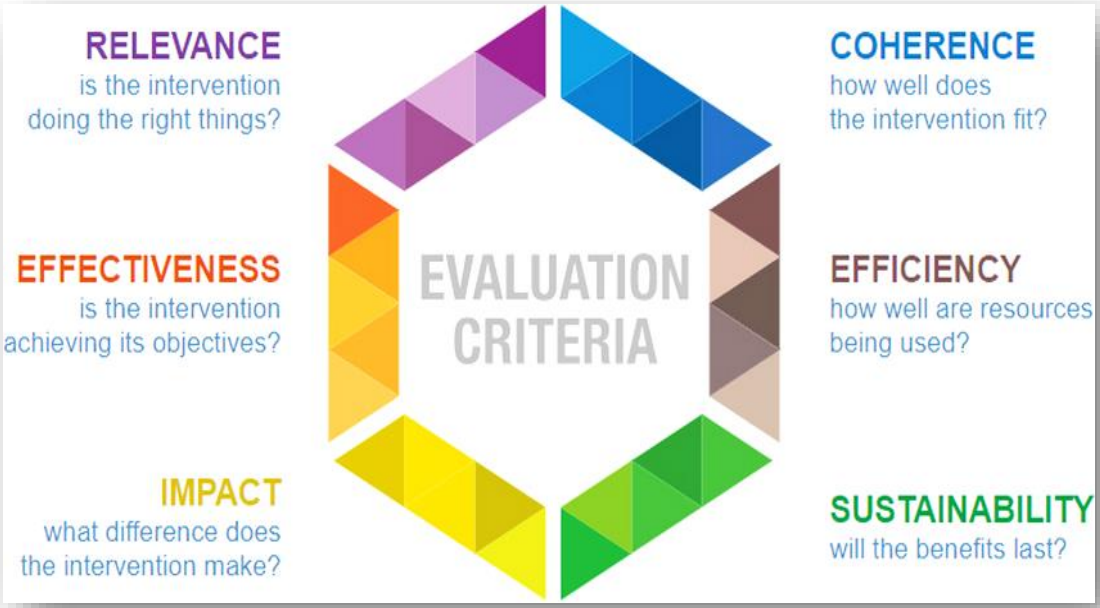
Project	Objectives
Skill Development Centres	Both computer literacy and tailoring skills improve individuals' and families' economic stability and are leading to better living standards in the rural communities
Education	Facilitate holistic learning, fostering mental and physical growth and improve academic performance
Health and Sanitation	• Equip government primary health centre and Aurobindo health clinics with modern tools and equipment to enhance the health care access to people in rural villages • Provide safe drinking water to improve community health • Promote proper waste segregation and collection to ensure health and hygiene of the people and the environment
Rural Development	Provide safer roads and facilitate better transportation and connectivity between villages, markets, schools, healthcare centers, and other essential services for the rural communities

An impact assessment study was conducted to evaluate the outcomes of these CSR projects. The study used a robust methodology, including field visits, stakeholder interviews, and progress tracking to assess the projects' effectiveness and relevance to community needs. The key findings are detailed in the subsequent sections.

3. Approach and Methodology

3.1. Assessment Framework

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Development Assistance Committee (DAC) criteria provided the basis for assessing the impact of CSR initiatives. These criteria ensure a structured, comprehensive approach to assessing CSR projects:
Relevance measures the extent to which the project aligns with the needs of the target population and broader stakeholder priorities.



Coherence evaluates how well the project aligns with existing interventions, policies, and strategies to ensure a harmonized and complementary approach.
Effectiveness examines whether the intended outcomes were achieved within the specified timeline and scope.
Efficiency assesses the optimal use of resources, including time, funds, and human capital, to deliver the desired outcomes.
Impact focuses on the long-term effects of the project, including its intended and unintended consequences on social, economic, and environmental dimensions.
Sustainability reviews the long-term viability of the project outcomes, considering the capacity for ongoing support, funding, and resilience.
This framework ensures that the CSR initiatives not only achieve their immediate goals but also deliver sustainable and transformative benefits for the community.

3.2. Sample Size and Data Collection

A three-member team conducted field visits to the skill development center, schools, college, health clinics, RO water plants, and solid waste management sites from 9 to 12 December 2024 and engaged in discussions with primary and secondary stakeholders, collecting observations and photographic evidence to validate findings.

The assessment covered 396 respondents, representing stakeholders across four CSR projects. A purposive sampling method ensured diverse perspectives from impacted groups. Primary data

was gathered through key informant interviews, focus group discussions (FGDs), and on-site observations, while secondary data was sourced from project documents, annual action plans, media coverage, and reports.

Table 2: Sample Size

Category of Respondents	Interviews	Focus Groups	Tools
	Sample Size		
Skill Development Centre			
Tailoring & Computer Centres	2 centres	-	Observation
Trainers	4	-	Questionnaire for Interactions
Trainees	3	-	
CSR team	5	-	
Trainees current		45	Check list for FGD
Family members	-	13	
Trainees previous		20	
Total Sample (90)	**12**	**78**	
Education			
Schools and college	6		Observations
Headmasters and Principal	6		Questionnaire for Interactions
Teachers	20		
Students	10		
Parents		25	Check list for FGD
Students		175	
Total Sample (236)	**36**	**200**	
Health			
PHC, Health Clinic, RO Plants, Solid Waste Management	5 Sites		Observations
Doctors	3		Questionnaire for Interactions
Nurses	5		
Technicians	3		
Patients	5		
RO plant operator	1		
Communities		25	Check list for FGD
Green agents		16	
Total sample (58)	**17**	**41**	
Rural Development			
Panchayat officials	2		Interactions
Communities		10	Check list for FGD
Total Sample (12)	**2**	**10**	
Grand total (396)	**67**	**329**	

Table 3: Field Visits

Date	Project	Activity	Place of Visit	Village
09.12.24	CSR Projects	Briefing by CSR Team	CSR office, VTC	Mulapeta
	Skill Development Centres	Computer Training	Prathibha	
		Tailoring	VTC	
	Education	Bicycles	ZPHS	
10.12.24	Education	Lab Materials	Degree College	Lakshamunudupeta
		Additional Classrooms	ZPHS	A.V.Nagaram
		Repairs and Renovation	ZPHS	A.V.Nagaram
			MPPS	A.V.Nagaram
		Sports Materials	ZPH School	Gaddipeta
		Computers	ZPH School	A.V.Nagaram
11.12.24	Health	RO Plant	Konapapapeta	Konapapapeta
	Health	Solid Waste Management	K.Perumallapuram	K.Perumallapuram
			A V Nagaram	A V Nagaram
		PHC Equipment	Primary Health Centre	A V Nagaram
		Health Clinic	APF-Arogyakendram	Talapantipeta
12.12.24	Rural Development	CC Roads and Drainage	S Annavaram	S Annavaram
		Panchayat Office	S Annavaram	S Annavaram
	CSR Team	Concluding Remarks	VTC	Mulapeta

3.3. Limitations

The following are the limitations.

Sample Size: Limited to 396 respondents, which might not capture the full spectrum of experiences and broader impacts.
Time Constraints: The assessment focused on the short-term impacts, potentially overlooking long-term sustainability issues.
Generalisability: Findings are specific to the Kakinada district and may not be universally applicable to other regions.

4. Assessment Findings

4.1. Skill Development Centre

Inauguration and Funding: The Skill Development Centre (SDC) was inaugurated on 1 April 2022 by Aurobindo Pharma Foundation. The total cost of the project was ₹1,16,78,000. Aurobindo Pharma Foundation meets the operational expenses of ₹1.6 lakh per month.

Location: The SDC in Mulapeta village, U Kothapalli mandal is easily accessible by public and private transport. The centre is well-equipped with two training halls and a library and internet/Wi-Fi facilities.

Training Facilities: The two Skill Development Centres (Prathiba and Vocational Training Centre) are well-equipped with 15 computers, 15 sewing machines, and separate halls for theoretical and practical sessions. The classrooms are spacious, well-ventilated, and feature modern infrastructure. Additionally, the facility includes separate restrooms for male and female trainees, access to safe drinking water, and a washbasin with a water connection for hand washing. The SDC provides incentives such as travel allowances and morning and evening tea to support and enable women trainees to attend tailoring courses.

Staff and Management: Three qualified faculty members with extensive experience manage the courses with assistance from a support team.

Prathibha: Enable youth especially those at the cross roads of their careers to make informed decisions that exist around them and prepare them to become self-reliant through education and employment opportunities.

Vocational Training Centre: Empower women for better and sustainable livelihood through skill training and to become self-reliant by starting their own business and earning.

నైపుణ్యాభివృద్ధి కేంద్రాలు పునఃప్రారంభం

మహిళల మొదటి బ్యాచ్‌కు టైలరింగ్‌లో శిక్షణ

ప్రజాశక్తి - యు.కొత్తపల్లి

అరబిందో ఫార్మా ఫౌండేషన్ కాకినాడ సెజ్ ప్రాంతంలో ఉన్న రెండు ముఖ్య మైన నైపుణ్యాభివృద్ధి కేంద్రాలను బుధవారం పునఃప్రారంభించింది. మహిళా నైపుణ్యాభివృద్ధి కేంద్రం, ప్రతిభ- యువత కోసం కెరీర్ కౌన్సెలింగ్, గైడెన్స్ సెంటర్‌లను అధికారికంగా బుధవారం ఆరోబిందో ఫార్మా ఫౌండేషన్ ఆధ్వ ర్యంలో మూలపేట గ్రామ సర్పంచ్ కంబాల మౌనిక లక్ష్మణరావు, ఎంపిటిసి లు అడ్డా పాప, లోవకుమారిలు పునఃప్రారంభించారు. కాకినాడ సెజ్ ద్వారా మహిళా నైపుణ్య అభివృద్ధి కేంద్రం మహిళలకు, యువతకు ఆర్థిక స్వావలం బనతో సొంత వ్యాపారాన్ని ప్రారంభించడానికి, తగిన నైపుణతను అందించి, ఉద్యోగావకాశాలు మెరుగు పరిచే ఉద్దేశంతో పునఃప్రారంభించి నట్లు తెలిపారు. మహిళా నైపుణ్యాభివృద్ధి కేంద్రంలో టైలరింగ్ కోర్సులో 25 మంది మహిళల బ్యాచ్‌తో కుట్టుపని, చీర పెయింటింగ్, డిజైన్ బ్లౌజ్‌లు కుట్టడం మొదలైన వాటిలో శిక్షణను ఇస్తున్నట్లు అరబిందో ఫార్మా ఫౌండేషన్ ప్రతినిధులు తెలియజేశారు.

టైలరింగ్ తరగతుల ప్రారంభిస్తున్న ఎంపీటీసీలు, సర్పంచులు అరబిందోఫార్మా ప్రతినిధులు

Selection Criteria: The trainees are selected based on the eligibility criteria:

1. **Computer Literacy**: Applicants must be at least 18 years old and have completed Intermediate education to join in Basic Computer Training. Those who successfully complete this training can proceed to advanced courses (Tally, DTP, and Photoshop).

Prathiba Centre

2. **Tailoring Course**: Women aged 18–40 years are eligible to join the program.

Vocational Training Centre

The centre has the capacity to enrol up to 30 trainees per batch. Comprehensive training is provided, combining theoretical knowledge with practical sessions. Weekly and monthly schedules, meticulously planned by the faculty, ensure a structured and effective learning experience.

Table 4: Selection of Candidates

	Outreach by mobilization team through community interactions, distribution of pamphlets focusing on unemployed, school dropout and communities below poverty line
	Selected beneficiaries are invited to visit the center.
	Applicants undergo the eligibility test to understand their specific cognitive, physical, and other capabilities
	Final interview by the team to assess candidates' family background, reason for choosing the course, interest of the student, and verification of stated status.

Strategies for Enrollment: The management has been following multiple strategies: i) Information about SDC through the employees of Aurobindo Pharma Foundation; ii) Distribution of brochures through students; iii) Visits to Government High Schools and Colleges at the end of academic year to share information about the training programmes; and iv) Participating in village level SHG meetings.

The trainees who successfully complete the training courses, maintain mandatory attendance, and actively participate are awarded certificates. Till 30 November 2024, a total of 878 trainees in 36 batches from both centers (519 computer literacy in 22 batches and 359 tailoring in 14 batches) completed their training and received certificates.

Table 5: Females and Males completed trainings

Course	Total	Male	Female
MS Office	436	129	307
Tally	41	15	26
DTP & Photoshop	42	17	25
Total	**519**	**161**	**358**
Tailoring	**359**	**0**	**359**
Total	**878**	**161**	**717**

Data indicates that out of 519 trainees enrolled in computer literacy courses, 358 are female (69%), while males make up 31%. This trend is consistent across batches, with an encouraging increase in the percentage of female trainees over the years. Of these 519 trainees, 436 were trained in MS Office (307 females and 129 males); 41 in Tally (26 females and 15 males); and 42 in DTP and Photoshop (25 females and 17 males). Additionally, 359 women were trained in the tailoring course. The graph below indicates the number of males and females trained in computer literacy and tailoring courses, respectively. The data is depicted in the graph below.

Females and Males trained in computer literacy and tailoring courses

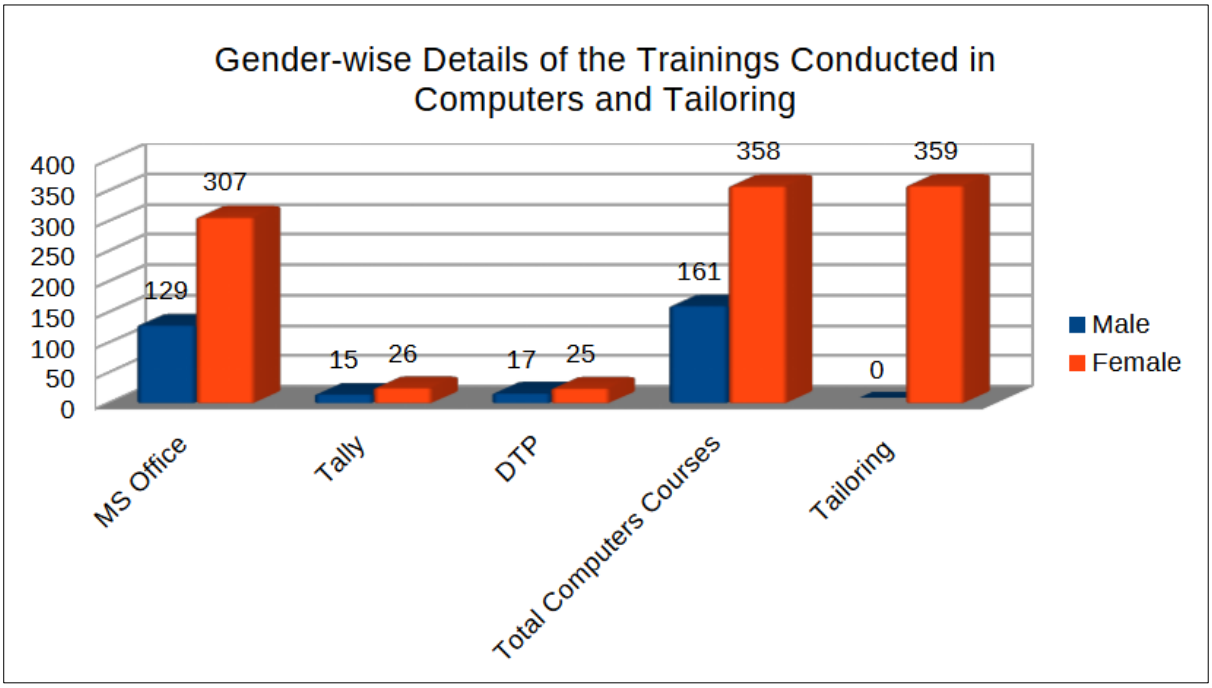
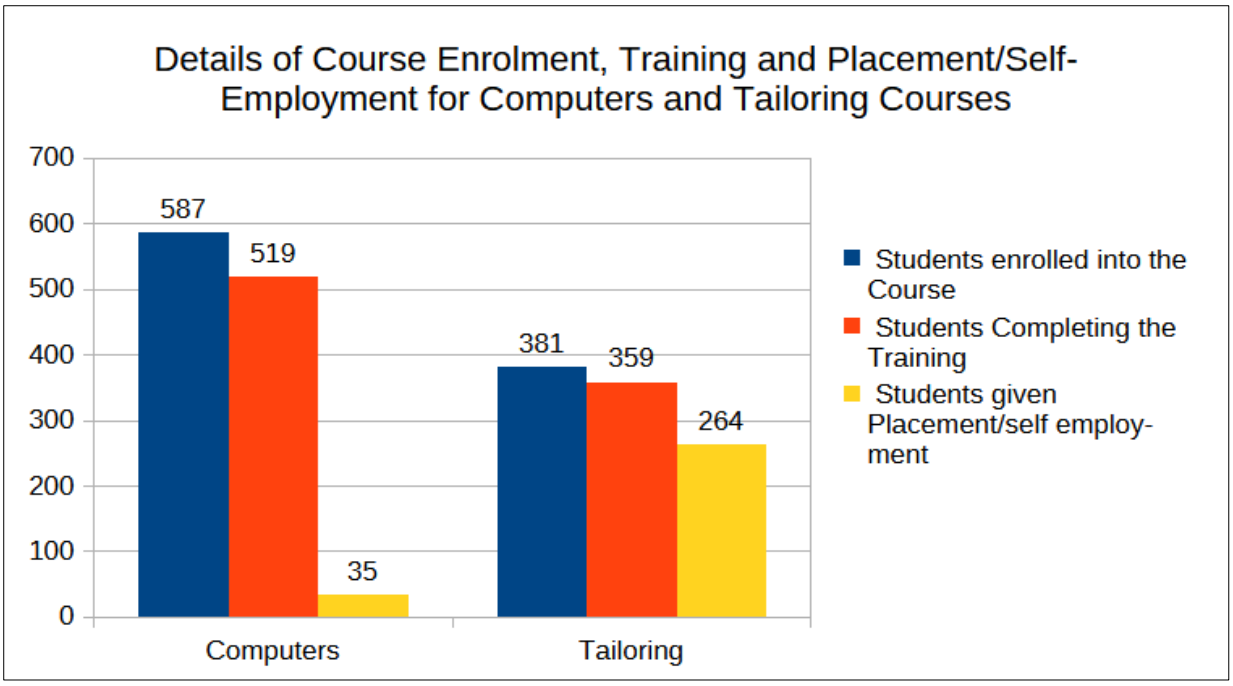


Table 6: Course-wise details					
#	**Course**	**Enrolled**	**Trained**	**Placement**	**(%)**
1	Computer*	587	519	35	7%
#	**Course**	**Enrolled**	**Trained**	**Self -employed**	**(%)**
2	Tailoring	381	359	264	74%
	Total	**968**	**878**	**299**	
**The placement is less in computer course since most of them are students and continuing their higher studies.*					



Course wise placements: The placement data reveals that a significant majority of women trainees (74%) have opted for self-employment, leveraging the skills gained through the training programs. Additionally, 7% of trainees trained in basic computer literacy have successfully secured formal placements, as majority of the trainees go on to seek higher education opportunities to expand their knowledge and skill set.

The Skill Development Centre organizes a formal 'Certification Ceremony' for graduating trainees. The dropout rates stand at 11.3% for computer courses and 5.3% for tailoring programs, while 88.7% and 94.7% of trainees, respectively, have successfully completed their training.

Trainees at Vocational Training Centre (Tailoring)

Voice of Stakeholders: The stakeholders have expressed their opinion on SDC functioning and its impact.

Table 7: Stakeholders' Views

Parameters	Opinion of students, Parents, faculty and HOD
Awareness about SDC	The trainees knew about the SDC through i) APF employees, ii) Sarpanch, iii) relatives and iv) SDC faculty's visits to Schools, Colleges and SHG meetings.
Building ambience	Stakeholders highly appreciated the centre's appearance, design, and construction quality. The location is praised for its serene environment, free from pollution or disturbances.
Training facilities	The training halls are spacious, well-ventilated, and furnished with necessary teaching aids such as whiteboards.
Labs	The labs are fully equipped, providing students with complete access to computers during practical sessions to ensure hands-on learning. The computers are in excellent condition and preloaded with essential software.
Water	Adequate drinking water facilities are provided with water cans placed in the campus
Toilets	Separate, well-maintained toilets are available for men and women, equipped with water connections and hand washing facilities.
Faculty	The faculty members are highly qualified, experienced, and have long-standing expertise in the field, earning immense appreciation from trainees and stakeholders.
Curriculum	Equal importance is given to both theory and practical. Theory classes are held in forenoon and practical sessions are in the afternoon. Trainees reported that the trainings result in i) knowledge building ii) hands on experience and iii) skills improvement to work and survive in any company
Hygiene	Management gives top priority in keeping the campus clean and green and maintaining exceptionally hygienic environment.

Key Outcomes

- The project aligns with the socio-economic needs of the community, benefiting trainees from low-income households with limited educational backgrounds. Before joining, 81% of participants had no income, highlighting the program's role in addressing financial hardships. The initiative successfully targets young job seekers, with 56% of trainees aged 18–21, reinforcing its impact on economic empowerment.
- The curriculum is practical and regularly updated, with 79% of trainees recognizing its relevance and 82% feeling their feedback is valued. The program's efficiency is evident in the effective use of resources, creating a conducive learning environment. The holistic approach of CSR activities in the region ensures synergy across interventions, amplifying their impact.
- A remarkable 74% of women trainees secured jobs post-training, while 75% reported increased confidence, and 76% felt empowered, demonstrating the program's transformative effect. The strong word-of-mouth promotion, with 77% of trainees learning about the initiative through referrals, reflects high satisfaction levels.

- Beyond individual success, the project has generated broader socio-economic benefits. Trainees have seen improvements in their financial stability, living conditions, and self-confidence. Notably, 72% secured jobs, 90% of them within Kakinada, showcasing the program's sustainability. Additionally, 96% of participants reported a stronger sense of social responsibility, reinforcing its lasting impact on families and the community.
- Beyond individual outcomes, the project has also generated broader socio-economic benefits within the community. A remarkable 95% of trainees expressed optimism about their future, reflecting the program's success in fostering empowerment and driving transformative change.
- **Alignment with SDGs: This initiative aligns with the following SDGs:**
  - SDG 4 (Quality Education): Enhances technical and vocational skills among youth, improving employment prospects.
  - SDG 5 (Gender Equality): Addresses gender disparities in technical and vocational training.
  - SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth): Provides productive employment opportunities for young people.
  - SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities): Promotes social inclusion regardless of sex, religion, or economic status.

By offering training in computer literacy and tailoring, this program equips individuals with essential skills, promotes gender equality, fosters economic growth, and reduces inequalities.

Discussion with Trainee who completed the course

Discussion with Parents of Trainees

Recommendations: The following recommendations are based on feedback from stakeholders and observations made by the assessment team:

1. **Awareness Programs**: Organize awareness drives in adjacent mandals within the district to boost enrolment and raise awareness about available training opportunities.
2. **Course Assessments and Feedback**: Regularly review periodical assessments and provide constructive feedback to trainees to help them improve their performance and address any learning gaps.
3. **Infrastructure Enhancement**: Invest in a projector or monitor display to improve access to training. Additionally, strengthen power backup systems and ensure annual maintenance of equipment to prevent issues such as computer damage.
4. **English Proficiency Training**: Offer specialized training in English communication (both oral and written) to better equip trainees for interviews and enhance their professional communication skills.
5. **Analysis Skills**: Allocate sufficient time during training for trainees to analyse and interpret results, which will deepen their understanding of course content and improve their analytical skills.
6. **Placement Coordination**: Strengthen coordination between the Skill Development Centre (SDC) and companies to broaden placement opportunities for trainees, ensuring a smoother transition into employment.
7. **Gender Awareness**: Organize gender-awareness sessions for trainees' families to encourage greater mobility for women, enabling them to attend training programs and pursue job opportunities beyond their local area.
8. **Updated Study Materials**: Procure and make available updated reading materials that align with the latest skills required for competitive exams, ensuring that the curriculum remains relevant and current.
9. **Hostel Facilities**: Establish hostel accommodation for trainees to:

- Increase enrolment by attracting students from other districts
- Support placements in APL (Aurobindo Pharma Limited) units
- Provide trainees with more study time
- Maximize lab usage for hands-on experience

10. **Increased Stipends**: Raise the monthly stipend to make training more accessible for women from economically weaker families, ensuring they can benefit from the program.
11. **Accreditation**: Seek accreditation for the SDC from a recognized agency to enhance the value of its courses and reputation. This will attract more companies and increase placement opportunities for trainees.
12. **Behavioural and Career Development Sessions**: Integrate two to three sessions on: a) Behavioural Change; b) Career Guidance; and c) Communication Skills. These will foster personal and professional growth among trainees.
13. **Market demands**: Offer courses as per the market demands such as digital literacy, coding, artificial intelligence etc. and advanced computerised designs in tailoring.

Conclusion: The Skill Development Centre plays a crucial role in enhancing the skills and employability of young men and women. Located in a serene environment with state-of-the-art infrastructure, the SDC is a valuable resource in the region. The qualified and experienced faculty imparts training on Basic Computer Literacy (MS Office, Tally, and Photoshop), career guidance, and tailoring. Through Prathibha and the Vocational Training Center in Mulapeta, the SDC provides free training to rural youth and women, particularly from Thondangi and U Kothapalli Mandals. This initiative significantly contributes to building human capital and improving livelihoods in rural communities.

4.2. Education

In July 2022, an education project was launched to provide critical infrastructure support to government schools, a degree college, Anganwadi Centers, and bicycles to girl students in the Thondangi and U. Kothapalli mandals of Kakinada district. The objective of the project was to enhance the learning environment, increase accessibility, and encourage higher education, particularly for young girls in rural areas.

Zilla Parishad School, AV Nagaram – Construction by APF

Key Activities:

- **Infrastructure Support:** The project focused on improving the physical infrastructure of government schools and Anganwadi Centers to create a more conducive learning environment. This included upgrading classrooms, providing essential educational materials, and ensuring better facilities for students and staff.
- **Bicycle Distribution:** Bicycles were provided to girl students to help them commute more easily to their schools and colleges. This initiative aimed to overcome the barriers of distance and safety concerns, ensuring that girls could attend school regularly and pursue their education with greater independence.
- **Support to Degree College:** The degree college in the region also received support through infrastructural improvements, making higher education more accessible and appealing to students from the surrounding villages.

Media Coverage: The event received extensive coverage in the print media, highlighting the positive impact of the project on the educational landscape of these mandals. The media attention not only celebrated the immediate benefits of the initiative but also raised awareness about the importance of supporting education in rural areas, especially for girls.

This project represents a significant step towards strengthening education and empowering students, particularly women, in Kakinada district. Through these initiatives, the program aims to break down barriers to education, foster gender equality, and create opportunities for a brighter future for young people in these communities.

Table 8: Additional classrooms, Repairs and Renovations, infrastructure

School	Village	Facilities Created	Cost Rs.	Benefits
Zilla Parishad High School	AV Nagaram	• 3 additional classrooms • Compound wall	60,87,800.54	Safety and protection to students
1.MPUP School 2.MPP School 3.KGBV(ZPHS) 4.MPUP School 5.MPP School 6.MPP School 7.MPP School 8.ZPH School 9.MPUP School 10.MPUP School 11.MPP School 12.MPP School 13.MPP School 5 Anganwadies	Gorsapalem Wakadaripeta Wakadaripeta Pampadipeta SV Peta Avulamanda Gaddipeta Gaddipeta P.Chodipallipeta Hukumpeta Talapantipeta PP Puram Gorsapalem	• New toilet blocks with running water facility • Repair works • New School Building	1,37,67,667	2920 students benefited with enhanced learning facilities
BC Girls Hostel	Gorsapalem	• Mattresses, Plates, glasses invertor • Toilet block • Repair works • Painting to Hostel building	2,18,575	36 girls

FGD with Parents, MPP School, AV Nagaram

Toilet Block, MPP School, Avulamanda

The interventions were widely appreciated by both students and parents, as it resulted in multiple transformative development activities that significantly improved the school environment.

- **Enhanced Learning Environment:** The addition of extra classroom space provided much-needed flexibility, enabling teachers to manage the classroom more effectively. This extra space allowed for better monitoring of student performance, fostering a more organized and productive learning environment.
- **Increased Stakeholder Engagement:** The various interventions prompted the entry of additional CSR activities from different stakeholders. These activities targeted other essential development needs of the schools, such as the provision of educational materials, improved sanitation facilities, and the establishment of extracurricular programs, further enhancing the overall school experience for students and faculty alike.

These efforts collectively contributed to the upliftment of the educational institutions, benefiting not just the students, but the entire community. The initiative also demonstrated how strategic interventions can catalyse broader support, ensuring sustainable development within the school ecosystem.

Table 9: Beneficiaries of Construction, repairs and renovation works

Village & Mandal	Details	Beneficiaries		
		Schools	AWC	Total
Pampadipeta / Thondangi	Compound wall, grills, new toilets, painting, repairs, and renovation at MPUP School	85	64	149
Srungavru Kshmpeta / Thondangi	Compound wall, painting, new toilets, repairs, and renovation at MPP School	57	0	57
Wakadaripeta / Thondangi	Construction of compound wall at MPP School	162	0	162
	Arranging main gate and syntex water tanks at KGBV girls residential school	204	0	204
Pathakodada / Thondangi	Repairs and renovation at Anganwadi Centre	0	54	54
Avulamanda / Thondangi	Construction of new toilets with running water facility at MPP Schools	62	0	62
Talapantipeta / Thondangi		44		44
AV Nagaram / Thondangi	Compound wall, toilets at MPP school, repairs and renovation at Anganwadi Centres, painting, repairs, and renovation at ZPH School	67	79	146
Gaddipeta / Thondangi	Cycle shed, dais, RO plant shed at ZPH School and 2 classrooms (G+1)for MPP School	854	0	854
Patha Perumallapuram / Thondangi	Compound wall, toilets, grills to verandah and other repairs and renovation at MPP School	42	0	42
Kotha Chodipallipeta / Thondangi	Repairs and renovation at Anganwadi Centre	0	115	115
Patha Chodipallipeta / Thondangi	Toilets construction, repairs, and renovation at MPUP School doors, tank, and toilets at Anganwadi Centres	170	72	242

Hukumpeta / Thondangi	Toilets construction at MPP School	84	0	84
Gorasapalam/ Thondangi	2 classrooms and renovation work at MPUP School and toilets and renovation work at BC Girls Hostel	189	132	321
Degree college	Repairs work for college toilets	384	0	384
Total		**2404**	**516**	**2920**

MPP School, AV Nagaram (repairs, painting, compound wall etc)

KGBV, Wakadaripeta

Govt Degree College, Permallapuram (Science lab equipment)

Donation of various items to 50 Anganwadi Centres, U. Kothapalli Mandal

Table 10: Lab Materials

College	Facilities Created	Cost Rs.	Students
Govt. Degree College at Lakshmunudupeta Village	Physics, Chemistry, Zoology & Botany labs	7,73,391	250
	Computers, computer tables and chairs, Xerox machine, iron racks, steel almirahs, black boards, amaron invertor with tubular battery, video camera, sound system	4,14,600	250

Table 11: Computers, Sports Materials, Furniture

School	Village/ Mandal	Facilities Created	Cost Rs.	Students benefited
KGBV- High school	Wakadaripeta U Kothapalli mandal	Computers, computer tables and chairs, printers, invertor, steel almirahs, iron racks, teachers tables, S chairs, sports material, instillation of main gate and repair works	Rs.4,14,600	220
41 Govt. schools	Thondangi & U Kothapalli Mandals	Computers, computer tables and chairs, printers, steel Almirahs, iron racks, teachers' tables, chairs and sports materials	Rs.35,45,296	5500
58 Anganwadi Centers	Thondangi & U Kothapalli Mandals	Steel almirahs, iron racks, stands, chairs, baby chairs, cooking utensils, play and academic materials	Rs.29,79,762	3000

Table 12: Materials Supplied to Institutions

#	Name of the Material	Quantity supplied
1	Computers	51
2	Computer Tables	51
3	UPS	51
4	Printer	41
5	Inverter	3
6	Epson Projector	1
7	Xerox machine	1
8	Steel Almirah for records	41
9	Iron file rack	41
10	Meeting chairs	51
11	Sports kits	41
12	Teachers table	34
13	S Chairs	34
14	Pigeonhole rack	6
15	Mattress	125
	Total	**572**

Computers, Printers, racks etc donated to 41 government schools

125 Mattresses donated to KGBV School, Wadadaripeta

Table 13: Bicycles Supplied to Girls

#	Name of the School	Bicycles
1	Govt. Degree College, Laxmanudipeta	148
2	MPUP School –Gorasapalem	15
3	MPUP Hukumpeta	1
4	MPUP School- K Kodada	4
5	MPUP School -Pathachodipallipeta	8
6	MPUP School- Srirampuram	8
7	ZPH School Danavaipeta	132
8	ZPH School- Konapapapeta	47
9	ZPH School, Gaddipeta	229
10	ZPH School, Mulapeta	96
11	ZPP Schools, A.V.Nagaram	33
12	ZPP School, Pamanakkapeta	29
	Grand Total	**750**

ZPH School, Mulapeta Village

ZPH School, Mulapeta Village

Donation of cycles to girls from government schools

In a significant initiative aimed at empowering girl students and promoting education, the Aurobindo Pharma Foundation donated 750 bicycles to girls across 11 high schools (6 ZPH schools and 5 MPUP schools) in the region. The bicycles were provided to students studying in 8 to 10 classes, as well as to girls attending the Government Degree College at Lakshmanudipeta.

This generous donation, with a total budget of Rs. 38,06,250, aimed to overcome the barriers of distance and transportation, ensuring that girls could attend school and college regularly and with greater independence. The initiative not only facilitated easier commutes for the students but also contributed to promoting gender equality by encouraging more girls to pursue their education without the constraints of long or unsafe travel routes.

Key Findings and Impact

1. **Reduction in Commute Time and Absenteeism**
    - The provision of bicycles significantly reduced commute times for school-going girls, leading to a decrease in the number of days they were absent from school.
2. **Empowerment and Self-Confidence**
    - Girls at schools that received bicycles reported increased empowerment.
    - Their "locus of control" (the degree to which they felt in control of their own lives) improved, and they exhibited greater pro-social behaviour, such as helping friends, participating in local sports, and gaining knowledge of local leadership.
    - Beneficiaries demonstrated a more positive self-image, with improvements in academic self-ranking and confidence in their future success, though this was only marginally statistically significant.
    - Their bargaining power within households increased, reflected in better access and control over resources and more open communication with parents.
3. **Parental Observations and Aspirations**
    - **Improved Learning Environment**
        - 88% of parents observed that improved equipment and facilities enhanced children's learning experiences and focus, making school more enjoyable for students.
        - Infrastructure improvements also contributed to better attendance rates in some schools, increasing from 85% to 98%.
    - **Shift in Mindset on Education:**
        - 72% of parents now aspire for their children to complete graduation or post-graduation, signalling a significant change in attitudes towards education in the villages.
4. **Socioeconomic Background of Beneficiaries:**
    - 93% of beneficiaries belong to families of farmers and daily wage labourers with poor to moderate financial backgrounds. This highlights the unique challenges these students

face in their academic journeys.

5. **Education Outcomes:**
   - The program did not find statistically significant impacts on grade transitions or dropout rates, although dropout rates were generally low across the entire sample.
6. **Sustainability of Facilities:**
   - The facilities provided under the project remain in good condition, contributing to an improved school environment and greater enjoyment of learning among children.

How Infrastructure and Equipment are Helping Children			
Betterment in learning and focus	**Enjoy going to school**	**Achieving good results**	**Learning new things**
43%	**7%**	**5%**	**45%**

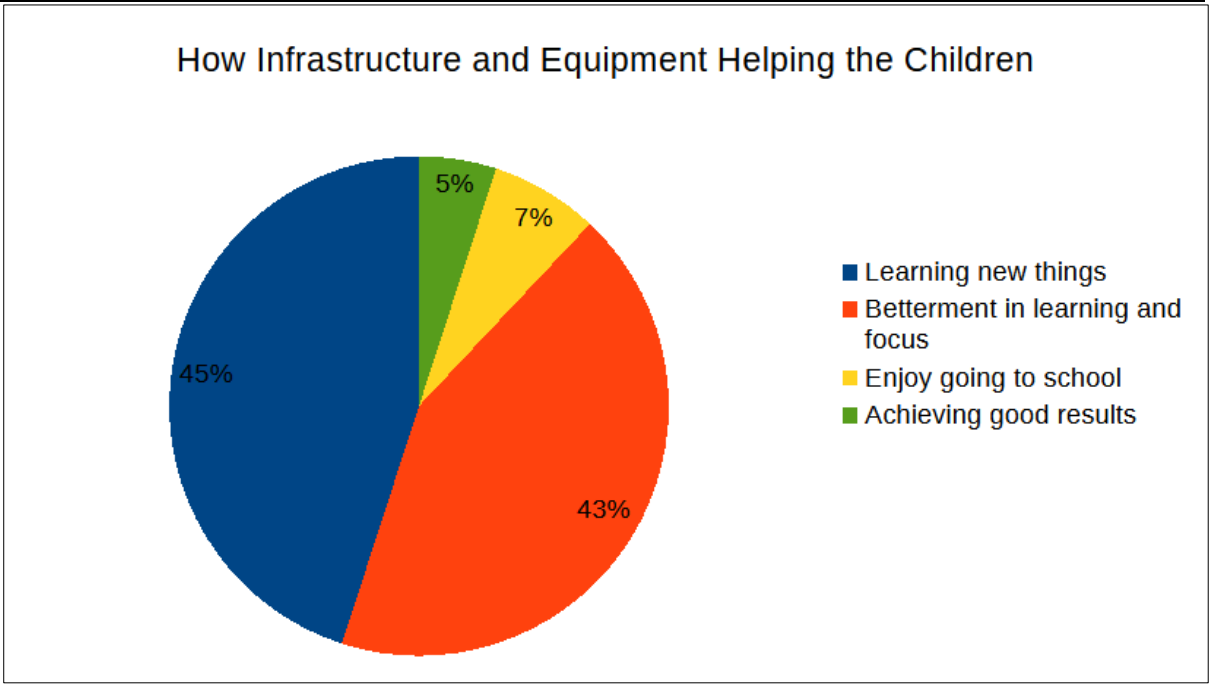


Table 14: Stakeholders Views

Stakeholder	Feedback summary
Headmaster, Teachers, and staff	Acknowledged collaborative efforts with Aurobindo Pharma Foundation, highlighting improvements in infrastructure and effective communication that contributed to an enhanced educational experience.
Students	Expressed enthusiasm for new facilities and learning environment fostered by CSR Projects
Parents	Noted increased confidence in the school due to positive changes brought by the project. Some parents actively volunteered, highlighting community satisfaction and involvement.

Alignment with SDGs: This initiative contributes to SDG 4 (Quality Education) by improving the quality of education with quality infrastructure; SDG 9 (Industry Innovation and Infrastructure) by investing in projects promoting innovation and education and SDG 17 (Partnerships) by demonstrating effective collaboration between various stakeholders.

Recommendations:

- **Establish a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework** to track the impact and effectiveness of ongoing initiatives. This should include key performance indicators (KPIs) aligned with school objectives, routine progress assessments, and a stakeholder feedback system to ensure relevance and continuous improvement.
- **Encourage Community Engagement**: Actively involve parents, alumni, local leaders, and civil society organizations in decision-making, planning, and implementing initiatives. Regular communication channels, feedback mechanisms, and collaborative platforms should be established to promote meaningful dialogue and share responsibility for the school's growth.
- **Infrastructural Design and Sustainability Measures**: Develop comprehensive maintenance protocols for timely repairs, replacements, and upgrades to preserve infrastructure and ensure its longevity.

Conclusion: The education program implemented in July 2022 significantly contributed to the development and transformation of educational institutions and student empowerment in Thondangi and U. Kothapalli mandals of Kakinada district. By focusing on infrastructure development, material supply, and providing bicycles to girl students, the program enhanced learning environments, reduced barriers to education, and promoted gender equality. The findings revealed that the program had a transformative impact on the community, with improved educational outcomes, better student-teacher engagement, and enhanced empowerment of girls. This program serves as a model for integrated education initiatives, demonstrating how targeted investments in infrastructure, resources, and student welfare can drive positive, sustainable changes in rural education systems.

4.3. Health and Sanitation

The project focused on providing essential medical services and infrastructure support to the communities in KSEZ operational villages. The interventions have had a significant positive impact on health access and facilities in the region.

Table 15: Beneficiaries

Particulars	Budget	Beneficiaries
Providing free medical services to the people of KSEZ operational villages through two health clinics at Talapantipeta & K Mulapeta	Rs. 214,06,144	17,000 patients have been availing health services per year
Donation of medical equipment to Govt. Area Hospital, Tuni	Rs.8,50,000	More than 60,000 patients avail health services
Supported with necessary infrastructure (Air conditioners, RO water unit, Chairs for patients, invertors etc.,) and medical equipment to Government PHCs at AV Nagaram & K Perumallapuram	Rs.16,25,234	More than 40,000 patients avail health services from surrounding villages

Government Primary Health Centre, K Perumallapuram

Government Primary Health Centre (equipment provided), AV Nagaram

Table 16: Equipment given to Government PHCs

Item particulars	PHC Gaddipeta	Total Amount	PHC AV Nagaram	Total Amount	Quantity	Total Amount
Operation theatre table – Hydraulic	1	58000		0	1	58000
Operation theatre LED light - mobile model	1	48000	1	48000	2	96000
Delivery table with mattresses stainless steel	1	26500		0	1	26500
Delivery table with mattresses mild steel	1	12480		0	1	12480
Examination Table, mattresses - stainless steel	1	15000		0	1	15000
Examination table, mattresses - mild steel	1	7800		0	1	7800
Hospital cot - plain type	6	41040		0	6	41040
Mattresses for hospital cot, plain	6	17280		0	6	17280

IV Stand - stainless steel	6	12900		0	6	12900
Bedside screens stand with cloth stainless steel	6	29160		0	6	29160
Bedside locker ABS	6	33480		0	6	33480
BP apparatus stand model diamond	3	19200		0	3	19200
Examination gloves - latex box	5	2700		0	5	2700
Haematology analyser	1	288000		0	1	288000
HBSAG	100	5400		0	100	5400
Focus Lamp		0	1	7800	1	7800
Episiotomy scissors		0	5	3400	5	3400
Instrument tray 12X10		0	5	4250	5	4250
Umbilical cord Scissors		0	5	2400	5	2400
Artery forceps straight 6"		0	5	3510	5	3510
Artery forceps Curved 6"		0	5	3510	5	3510
Dissecting toothed forceps 7"		0	5	1710	5	1710
Dissecting Plain forceps 7"		0	5	1710	5	1710
Sponge holding forceps 10"		0	5	4730	5	4730

Chital Forceps 10"		0	3	2850	3	2850
Disposable aprons		0	100	1800	100	1800
Weighing machine Manual		0	2	3160	2	3160
Auto clave 12X12 nut & Bolt		0	1	7800	1	7800
NIBP pulse oximeter		0	1	22000	1	22000
Glucometer		0	4	3400	4	3400
Strips – Glucometer		0	100	1100	100	1100
Thermal Scan		0	1	3500	1	3500
BP Apparatus Mercury		0	2	5200	2	5200
Thermometer Digital		0	5	900	5	900
Sub-Total		**616940**		**132730**		**749670**
2nd Phase						
Operation theatre table hydraulic			1	41418		
Carrier A/C			1	32000		
RO Water Plant			1	88000		
Sub-Total				**161418**		
Total		**616940**		**294148**		**749670**

Table 17: Villages Covered under Government PHC

Name of PHC and Mandal	Villages covered by PHC	No. of beneficiaries
K Perumallapuram	Gorsapalem	**27919**

(Gaddipeta), Thondangi	Wakadaripeta	
	SV Peta	
	Pampadipeta	
	Avaldarupadu	
	Avulamanda	
	Gaddiepta	
	P.Chodipallipeta	
	K.chodipallipeta	
	Hukumpeta	
	Talapantipeta	
	PP Puram	
	KP Puram	
	Buchaiapeta	
	Chintakayalapeta	
	Ramaraopeta	
	Danavaipeta	
	Tatiyakulapalem	
	Kothapakalu	
	Yellaiahpeta	
	Ontimamidi	
	Gollamusalaiahpeta	
	Vada Musalaiahpeta	
AV Nagaram, Thondangi	AV Nagaram	**22867**
	K Kodada	
	Kodada Colony	
	P Kodada	

	AK Mallavaram	
	AP Mallavaram	
	A Kothapalli	
	K Kothapalli	
	Kommanapalli	
	Seetharampuram	
Total		**50786**

Impact: The interventions in healthcare infrastructure and equipment support have yielded significant improvements in the quality and accessibility of health services in the region. Here are some key outcomes:

1. **Reduction in Patient Waiting Times**: The provision of diagnostic tools and better service coverage led to a 30% reduction in patient waiting times, enabling faster access to healthcare services.
2. **Increase in Patient Numbers**: The enhanced facilities and medical equipment led to increase in the number of patients served monthly from about 1000 to 1250 (25% increase), reflecting improved capacity to meet growing healthcare needs.
3. **Patient Satisfaction:** 80% of surveyed patients reported greater satisfaction with the healthcare services received, indicating improved quality of care and patient experience.
4. **Improved Diagnostic Accuracy**: The increased availability of diagnostic tools contributed to early disease detection and improved diagnostic accuracy across multiple Primary Health Centers (PHCs), helping to identify and treat conditions sooner.
5. **Cost Savings on Healthcare**: By supporting PHCs with essential medical equipment, the project helped reduce the financial burden on the community, making healthcare more affordable and accessible, especially for low-income families.
6. **Decreased Mortality Rates:** With more timely access to healthcare, particularly maternal and child health services, the intervention is likely to contribute to lower mortality rates, especially among pregnant women and young children, who are more vulnerable without proper healthcare access.
7. **Alignment with SDGs:** Strengthening government primary health centres in rural areas contributes to SDG 3: "Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages." This goal emphasizes the importance of access to quality essential healthcare services, aiming to reduce maternal mortality, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under five, and combat diseases.

Recommendations:

- Provide comprehensive and continuous training programs for healthcare staff on proper equipment usage and maintenance.
- Develop and implement a proactive maintenance and repair framework to reduce equipment downtime.
- Establish a centralized monitoring system to track equipment utilization and impact across all PHCs

Discussion with the Government PHC Staff, AV Nagaram

Conclusion: The healthcare infrastructure and equipment support project has made a substantial impact on improving healthcare access and service delivery in the region. The provision of essential diagnostic tools and medical equipment has significantly enhanced the capacity of Primary Health Centers (PHCs) to serve the community. With a reduction in patient waiting times, an increase in patient numbers, and greater patient satisfaction, the project has contributed to better healthcare outcomes.

Increased diagnostic accuracy and cost savings for healthcare have further strengthened the overall effectiveness of the project. Furthermore, by improving access to timely care, particularly in maternal and child health services, the project is poised to have a lasting positive impact on reducing mortality rates.

To sustain and build on these gains, it is crucial to implement the recommendations for staff training, proactive maintenance, and centralized monitoring. These steps will ensure the long-term success and continued benefit of the healthcare interventions, ultimately leading to healthier communities and more equitable access to healthcare services.

Solid Waste Management: Solid Waste Management (SWM) plays a crucial role in maintaining public health, protecting the environment, and promoting sustainability in urban and rural areas. Effective waste management is essential for creating a cleaner and healthier environment, particularly in villages and communities that often face challenges such as waste accumulation, improper disposal, and pollution. The project, initiated on 5 April 2023, with a budget of Rs. 1,18,32,000, aims to improve waste management services by reducing waste volume, enhancing collection and transportation systems, and establishing better disposal practices, including a waste-to-energy facility. The objective of this assessment is to evaluate the impacts of the SWM project in K Perumallapuram and AV Nagaram Panchayats.

Solid Waste Management, AV.Nagaram

Project Components

- **Waste Segregation at the Source:** Encouraging households to segregate waste into categories (wet, dry, and hazardous) at the point of disposal.
- **Expansion of Waste Collection Infrastructure:** Establishment of new waste collection routes and bins to cover more households and improve efficiency.
- **Establishment of Recycling and Composting Facilities:** Setting up facilities for recycling of dry waste and composting of organic waste to reduce landfill dependence.
- **Public Education and Awareness Campaigns:** Conducting community programs to educate residents on the importance of waste segregation, recycling, and the overall impact of waste on health and the environment.

Impacts of the Program

1. **Reduction in Landfill Usage**: The promotion of recycling and composting has significantly reduced the volume of waste directed to landfills, thus extending their lifespan and mitigating land degradation.
2. **Reduction in Pollution**: Effective waste management practices, such as improved waste collection and disposal, have minimized illegal dumping and reduced contamination of soil, water, and air. This helps curb environmental degradation from waste-burning and leakage of toxic substances into the environment. From 1.5.23 till date, 46750 kg pf plastic waste was collected, out of which 32414 kg was recycled and Rs.279472 was generated from recycled plastic waste.
3. **Recycling and Circular Economy**: The project has bolstered the recycling industry, reducing the demand for raw materials and conserving natural resources. This shift towards a circular economy has long-term positive effects on sustainability.
4. **Public Health Improvements**: Better waste collection and disposal systems have significantly reduced the risk of diseases caused by unmanaged waste, including vector-borne diseases like malaria and dengue, as well as respiratory illnesses from burning waste. The project has thus contributed to healthier living environments.

5. **Job Creation**: The project has created both direct and indirect employment opportunities in waste collection, sorting, recycling, composting, and the operation of the waste-to-energy plant. This has provided livelihood opportunities for local communities, particularly in rural areas.
6. **Community Awareness and Engagement**: The public education campaign has played a vital role in raising awareness about the importance of waste segregation and recycling. It has resulted in lasting changes in community behaviour, with residents now more committed to waste management and environmental protection.
7. **Waste Collection Timings**: The waste collection process has been optimized with early morning collections that minimize disruption to daily activities. Workers are trained and equipped with the necessary protective gear to ensure safe and effective waste management operations.
8. **Alignment with SDGs:** Implementing effective solid waste management practices contributes to SDG 6: "Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all." Additionally, solid waste management contributes to SDG 11: "Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable," by reducing pollution and enhancing the sustainability of urban environments.

Training Teams on Solid Waste Management Project, AV.Nagaram & Perumallapuram

Solid Waste Management Teams, AV.Nagaram & Perumallapuram

Recommendations: To enhance the success and sustainability of the SWM project, the following recommendations are proposed:

1. **Community Engagement**: Engage local communities in the design and implementation of the project to ensure their active participation and greater acceptance.
2. **Green Technologies**: Invest in environmentally friendly technologies to minimize environmental harm while maximizing operational efficiency. This includes using energy-efficient waste-to-energy plants and adopting sustainable practices in waste management.
3. **Eco-Friendly Collection Vehicles**: Use environmentally friendly vehicles - electric or CNG-powered trucks, for waste collection. This will reduce carbon emissions and improve the environmental sustainability of the waste management system.

Conclusion: The Solid Waste Management project has the potential to generate significant environmental, social, and economic benefits by improving waste collection systems, promoting recycling, and introducing waste-to-energy technology. Through effective mitigation measures, continued community engagement, and sustained investment, the project can contribute to a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable future. By addressing the challenges identified in this report and taking proactive steps, the project can make the villages plastic and garbage-free, benefiting both the local population and the environment.

RO Water Plants: The RO Water Plants are located in Konapapapeta, Ponnada Panchayat, U Kothapalli (M), Talapantipeta, and K Perumallapuram Panchayat in Thondangi Mandal. The project was executed during 22-06-2023 to 26-08-2023. The total budget incurred for the project is Rs. 19,27,857 to benefit nearly 15,000 people from surrounding villages. The objective of the project was to provide clean, potable water to communities facing water quality issues and limited access to freshwater sources.

Key Components

Water Intake and Pre-treatment: Raw water is sourced from groundwater and the water undergoes pre-treatment to remove large particles and impurities.

Reverse Osmosis Filtration System: A semi-permeable membrane filters out dissolved salts, bacteria, viruses, heavy metals, and other contaminants.

Impacts:

1. **Improved Access to Clean Drinking Water:** The RO plant improves the availability of clean, safe drinking water, which is crucial in areas with poor water quality or limited freshwater access.
2. **Improved Public Health:** Access to clean water reduces the incidence of waterborne diseases such as cholera, dysentery, and typhoid, leading to better public health outcomes.
3. **Empowerment and Education:** The project offers educational opportunities on water conservation and hygiene, empowering communities to maintain water quality and use resources sustainably.
4. **Cost Savings for Healthcare:** The reduction in waterborne diseases leads to lower healthcare costs by minimizing the treatment of illnesses caused by poor water quality.
5. **Reduction in work burden:** The provision of safe drinking water within the vicinity through RO water plant has reduced the burden and drudgery of women and girls who generally spend time in fetching water. The time and energy saved are used on other aspects of their daily life.
6. **Alignment with SDG:** Reverse Osmosis (RO) plant to provide safe drinking water directly supports SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation which aims to "ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all," addressing issues such as access to safe drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene.

RO Water Plant, Konapapapeta, U. Kothapalli Mandal

Recommendations

1. **Energy Efficiency**: Prioritize renewable energy options for powering the RO plant to reduce its environmental footprint and operating costs.
2. **Community Involvement**: Ensure robust community engagement to address local needs, improve accessibility, and avoid social inequalities.
3. **Sustainable Water Management**: Monitor and manage water extraction rates to ensure sustainable use of local water resources.
4. **Water Quality Monitoring**: Establish regular testing and monitoring of water quality to ensure it meets health and safety standards.

By addressing these factors, the **RO Water Plant** can significantly improve the quality of life for local communities while supporting long-term environmental and economic sustainability.

Conclusion: The establishment of the Reverse Osmosis (RO) Water Plant offers significant benefits by addressing water scarcity and improving access to clean, safe drinking water. The project helps reduce the risk of waterborne diseases, supports sustainable water management practices, and empowers local communities. However, to ensure long-term sustainability, it is essential to focus on energy efficiency, water resource management, and community engagement.

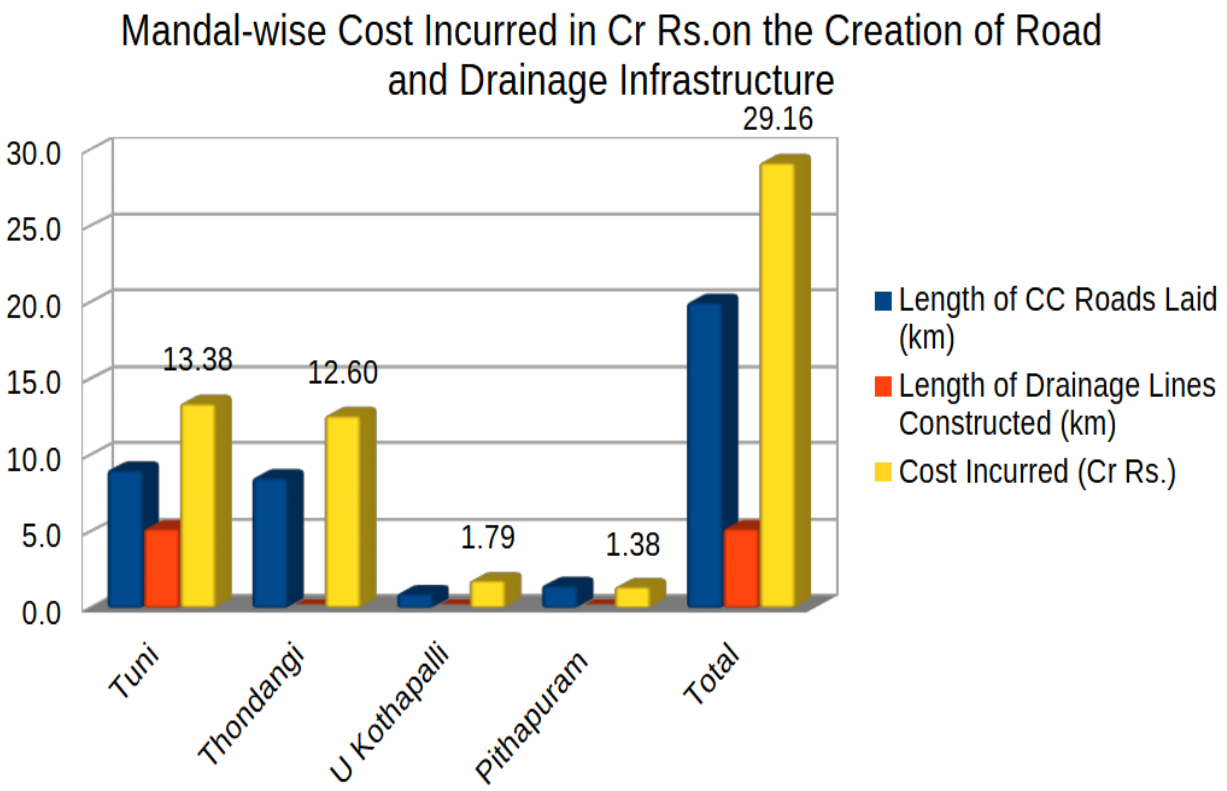
4.4. Rural Development (CC Roads and Drainage)

Project Background: As part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives, Aurobindo Pharma Foundation (APF) funded the construction of concrete (CC) roads and drainage channels in the rural areas of Tuni, Thondangi, and U.Kothapalli mandals. The objective of this project was to improve local infrastructure, enhance transportation, sanitation, and overall quality of life for the rural communities. The total budget allocated for the project was ₹29.16 crores, which was utilized for constructing 112 CC roads (spanning 20.2 kilometers) and 26 drainage systems (spanning 5.2 kilometers) across 35 villages in four mandals as given below in the table 17.

The villages were selected based on requests from the community, and these roads serve as link roads to the main road.

Table 18: Details of Roads and Drainage

#	Mandal	Number of Villages	CC Roads		Drains		Amount in Rs
			Number	Meters	Number	Meters	
1	Tuni	5	42	9050.7	26	5189.5	1338.32
2	Thondangi	19	50	8529	0	0	1259.86
3	U Kothapalli	4	10	956	0	0	179.3
4	Pithapuram	7	10	1485	0	0	138.43
	Total	**35**	**112**	**20020.7**	**26**	**5189.5**	**2915.91**



Drainage Systems, S. Annavaram

Concrete Cement Roads, S. Annavaram

Impact of the Project

Enhanced Mobility: The construction of CC roads has significantly improved mobility in these rural areas. Local auto drivers, farmers, and residents now experience faster, safer, and more reliable travel, reducing dependency on bullock carts and cycles. This improvement has also facilitated the transportation of goods such as milk, vegetables, and other agricultural produce to nearby markets.

Increased Market Access for Farmers: The improved road network has allowed farmers to transport their goods more efficiently, reducing transportation costs and ensuring that perishable goods like milk and vegetables reach markets without spoilage. This has led to better prices for their produce and improved livelihoods.

Better Access to Schools and Health Centers: The construction of roads has made it easier for children to reach schools, contributing to improved literacy rates. Additionally, better road connectivity has increased access to health services, making it easier for residents to visit nearby health centers and hospitals, resulting in improved healthcare outcomes.

Community Connectivity: The construction of roads and drainage channels has improved the social cohesion within these rural communities, allowing residents to come together more easily for social, cultural, and community activities. Women, in particular, have benefited from better roads, which has empowered them to gather more freely and actively participate in community discussions.

Improved Sanitation: The installation of drainage channels has improved sanitation by preventing waterlogging and reducing health risks associated with stagnant water. This has positively affected the overall quality of life in the villages.

Alignment with SDGs: Constructing concrete cement roads and drainage systems in a village aligns with several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as given below:

- SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure: Developing quality, reliable, sustainable, and resilient infrastructure supports economic development and human well-being. Concrete

roads enhance transportation networks, improving access to markets, healthcare, and education, thereby fostering economic growth.

- SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation: Proper drainage systems ensure the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation. They prevent water stagnation, reduce the risk of waterborne diseases, and manage wastewater effectively, contributing to improved public health.
- SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities: Enhancing infrastructure, such as roads and drainage, makes human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable. These improvements elevate living conditions, reduce environmental hazards, and support the sustainable development of rural communities.

Table 18: Details of Roads and Drainage

#	Mandal	Number of Villages	CC Roads		Drains		Amount in Rs
			Number	Meters	Number	Meters	
1	Tuni	5	42	9050.7	26	5189.5	1338.32
2	Thondangi	19	50	8529	0	0	1259.86
3	U Kothapalli	4	10	956	0	0	179.3
4	Pithapuram	7	10	1485	0	0	138.43
	Total	**35**	**112**	**20020.7**	**26**	**5189.5**	**2915.91**

Discussion with residents on CC Roads

Discussion with Panchayat Secretary

5. Case Studies and Testimonials

5.1. Skill Development Centre

Case Study 1: Empowering Careers through Computer Training
Name: Mr. Siddi Veerababu

Background: Mr. Siddi Veerababu, a resident of Mulapeta village, hails from a Below Poverty Line family. He completed his B.Sc., with his father, Mr. Siddi Sekhar, working as a weaver and his mother as a homemaker.

Journey: On the recommendation of a friend, Veerababu enrolled in the MS-Office course at the Pratibha Centre. Despite having no prior knowledge of computers, he committed himself to learning essential skills such as MS Office and typing over the course of two months. In addition to technical training, Pratibha provided valuable soft skills development, including public speaking, CV preparation, and interview techniques, which further enhanced his employability.

Outcome: On August 16, 2024, Veerababu attended an interview at Lyfius Pharma Pvt Limited. He successfully passed the Excel and typing tests and was appointed as a Computer System Operator in the Admin Department with a monthly salary of ₹18,000. Veerababu expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the Aurobindo Pharma Foundation and Pratibha staff for their support, which helped him secure a stable career and improve his family's living standards.

Case Study 2: Breaking Barriers in BPO Careers
Name: Ms Billakurthi Gandham

Background: Ms Gandham, a B.Sc. (Statistics) graduate from Nagulapalli village, comes from a low-income farming family. Her sister, Miss B. Maheswari, works as a volunteer in the Sachivalayam at Nagulapalli.

Journey: Encouraged by her sister, Gandham enrolled at the Pratibha Centre to learn MS Office. In addition to gaining technical skills, she actively participated in public speaking sessions and received valuable guidance on interview techniques and CV preparation. In November 2022, Pratibha informed her about a job fair in Kakinada, which she attended. She successfully cleared the first round of interviews and an online exam.

Outcome: Gandham was selected as an Executive at Cogenet BPO in Mangalore, earning ₹18,000 per month. With her newly acquired computer skills and enhanced confidence, she transformed her career trajectory. Gandham expressed sincere gratitude to the Aurobindo Pharma Foundation and the Pratibha staff for their unwavering support, which played a key role in her professional success.

Case Study 3: Transforming Lives through Tailoring
Name: Ms Sandula Lakshmi

Background: Ms. Sandula Lakshmi, a resident of Mulapeta village in U. Kothapalli Mandal, Kakinada district, comes from a low-income family.

Journey: Encouraged by a friend, Lakshmi enrolled in the Tailoring course at the Vocational Training Centre. She actively participated in the sessions and quickly acquired valuable tailoring skills, which paved the way for her success.

Outcome: Lakshmi now runs her own small tailoring business from home. This initiative not only provides a steady income but also contributes to her children's education. Her newfound confidence has empowered her, allowing her to feel independent and self-reliant. Lakshmi now aspires to inspire other women in her community to pursue similar opportunities. She expressed her heartfelt gratitude to the Aurobindo Pharma Foundation and the Vocational Training Centre staff for enabling her transformation.

These case studies highlight the remarkable impact of initiatives by the Aurobindo Pharma Foundation and its training centers in transforming lives. Through skill development, beneficiaries like Veerababu, Gandham, and Lakshmi are gaining not only confidence and financial independence but also the opportunity to inspire others and create lasting, positive change in rural communities.

5.2. Education

Testimonial 1: Koyya Anantha, Patha Perumallapuram

"Walking 2 kilometres every day to Gaddipeta ZPHS used to leave me tired and cut into my study time. But receiving a bicycle has completely changed my life. Now, I reach school on time, feel energized for my classes, and even have more time to focus on my studies. This support has not only enhanced my education but also boosted my confidence and independence. I am deeply thankful for this gift, which has had such a positive impact on my future.

Testimonial 2: Karri Keerthana, Pallipeta Village

The 2-kilometer walk to Mulapeta ZPHS was a daily struggle, but everything changed when I received a bicycle. Now, I can get to school on time, concentrate better on my studies, and travel independently with confidence. This simple yet powerful gift has truly empowered me and so many other girls in my community. I am incredibly grateful for this opportunity and the positive difference it has made in my life."

5.3. Health and Sanitation

Testimonial 1: P. Raju, Aqua Worker, AV Nagaram

"Managing diabetes used to be a challenge for me. I had to travel all the way to the city for regular blood sugar tests, which was both time-consuming and expensive. But thanks to the new diagnostic tools provided to our health centre in AV Nagaram, I can now monitor my health right here in my village. It has made a huge difference in my life. I feel more in control of my condition, and my overall health has improved. My heartfelt thanks to Aurobindo Pharma Foundation for making this possible and bringing quality healthcare closer to us."

Testimonial 2: N. Durga Devi, Spinning Factory Worker, AV Nagaram

"I recently needed a minor surgery, and I can't express how grateful I am for the new surgical bed at our local health centre. The comfort and stability of the bed made the whole experience so much less stressful. The doctors were able to perform the procedure smoothly, and I felt completely safe throughout. This equipment has truly elevated the quality of care in our health centre, ensuring that people like me don't have to travel far for proper treatment. The support from the PHC has been a blessing to our community, and I sincerely thank them for healthcare services in our area."

Interaction with the Government Primary Health Centre (PHC) staff at AV Nagaram village

Testimonial 3: Koyya Murali, Ex Market Yard Chairperson, AV Nagaram

"Implementing effective solid waste management in our village has transformed our community's health and environment. Before, waste was often discarded improperly, leading to pollution and health issues. Now, with organized waste collection and recycling programs, our surroundings are cleaner, and we've seen a significant reduction in illnesses. Proper waste management has not only improved our quality of life but also instilled a sense of pride among villagers. I am extremely happy and thankful to the initiative taken up by Aurobindo Pharma Foundation"

Testimonial 4: Yedidha Bujji, SC Colony, AV Nagaram

Our village has become a shining example of effective solid waste management, leading to cleaner and more organized surroundings. The roads are consistently clean, reflecting the community's commitment to proper waste disposal. This transformation has been achieved through a comprehensive program that has successfully changed residents' mindsets and behaviours. A dedicated team oversees the solid waste management initiatives, ensuring that waste is collected, and disposed efficiently. Their efforts have not only improved the village's cleanliness but have also fostered a culture of responsibility among residents. Everyone is now vigilant about disposing of waste properly, understanding the environmental and health implications of improper waste management.

Testimonial 5: Yanamala Srinu, Shopkeeper, AV Nagaram

"As a shopkeeper in our village, I used to struggle with the accumulation of plastic covers and other waste around my shop. It not only deterred customers but also posed health risks. Since the implementation of organized waste management, including regular waste collection and recycling initiatives, the surroundings have become cleaner and more inviting. This positive change has attracted more customers, boosted my sales and fostered a sense of community pride. I also ensure that the waste is disposed "

5.4. Rural Development

Testimonials from Ramana Moorthy, Durga and Jagadeswari

Testimonial 1: Ramana Moorthy, Farmer, Annavaram

"Agriculture is the backbone of our village, and these roads are the lifeline we needed. Reduced transportation costs mean we can sell our produce at better prices and bring in fertilizers and seeds more affordably. All-weather roads have cut down the time to transport perishable goods like milk and vegetables, saving us from losses. For the first time, we farmers feel like we can dream bigger and grow more. These roads have truly cultivated a new era for us."

Testimonial 2: P. Jagadeswari, Annavaram

"For years, gathering women in the evenings was a struggle because of the terrible roads, but that's a thing of the past. The CC roads and drainage work have broken cultural and social barriers, bringing our community closer. What once seemed like a distant dream is now a reality. Women like me now feel empowered to come together, voice our concerns, and celebrate our culture. And on a personal note, the value of my land has tripled since these roads were built—something I never imagined. My heartfelt thanks to the Aurobindo Pharma Foundation for making this possible."

Testimonial 3: K. Durga, S. Annavaram Resident

"The road network has transformed education in our village. Children no longer struggle to reach schools, and for the first time, we're seeing efficient and dedicated teachers choosing to work here. This has raised our literacy levels and given our children a brighter future. Roads may seem like a simple thing, but they have built a bridge to better education for our community."

Testimonial 4: Ch. Sathya Narayana, Local Leader

Health has always been a major challenge here, but the drainage work and road construction have turned things around. With better roads connecting us to towns and highways, health centers have become more accessible, and doctors are finally willing to work in our village. Fewer health problems, better services, and more hope—this is the kind of change we dreamed of. Life on the road has changed completely for us. About 8 kilometres of connected roads in S. Annavaram panchayat are enabled everyone to have smooth mobility. Farmers can now transport milk, vegetables, and eggs to markets quickly, ensuring better prices for their hard work. These roads have truly unlocked opportunities, allowing us to move faster and build a better life for our families. Thank you for paving the way to progress.

Impact Assessment Report: Distribution of Bicycles to 2550 girls from 30 rural and urban schools in Anakapalli district, Andhra Pradesh

Supported by Aurobindo Pharma Foundation (A Philanthropic arm of Aurobindo Pharma Ltd under Corporate Social Responsibility)

Submitted to

AUROBINDO PHARMA FOUNDATION

Submitted by

apmas

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Abbreviations

APMAS	Mahila Abhivruddhi Society, Andhra Pradesh
AP	Andhra Pradesh
APF	Aurobindo Pharma Foundation
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
FGD	Focus Group Discussions
GVMC	Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation
HM	Headmaster
MGGHS	Motijheel Govt Girls High School
MPHS	Mother's Pride High School
MPL	Minimum Proficiency Level
NGO	Non-government Organisation
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PM SHRI	Prime Minister's Schools for Rising India
SA	School Assistant
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
UN	United Nations

Acknowledgements

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Aurobindo Pharma Foundation (APF) for entrusting APMAS with the responsibility of conducting the impact assessment of their CSR initiatives. This collaboration highlights the shared commitment of both organizations to fostering sustainable development and enhancing the quality of life in communities across Andhra Pradesh.

We are immensely thankful to the Zilla Parishad High School (ZPHS) Headmasters, Drill Masters, and Village Sarpanches, whose active participation and coordination were integral to the successful completion of an impact assessment study on cycle distribution to 2550 female students in Anakapalli District, Andhra Pradesh. Their efforts in identifying beneficiaries, facilitating distribution, and supporting the initiative at the grassroots level have been invaluable.

We also appreciate the leadership and team members of APF for their unwavering support, guidance, and valuable input throughout this process. Their dedication to community development and the well-being of beneficiaries is truly commendable.

A special acknowledgment goes to the school authorities, parents, and community representatives for their cooperation and contributions, as well as to all the students, the primary beneficiaries of this initiative—who shared their experiences and feedback, enriching this assessment process.

We are deeply grateful to the field teams, researchers, and data analysts at APMAS for their diligent efforts and expertise, which were critical in ensuring the successful completion of this impact assessment. Their commitment to detail and accuracy has played a vital role in presenting meaningful insights and outcomes from this project.

Finally, we extend our gratitude to everyone who contributed to the success of this study. This assessment is a testament to the collective efforts and shared vision of creating a sustainable, inclusive, and equitable future for all.

With deepest gratitude!!

Team APMAS

January 2025

1. Executive Summary

1.1 Project Overview

The distribution of bicycles to 2,550 girl students of 8th, 9th and 10th class studying in 30 government high schools of Anakapalli Urban, Ankapalli Rural and Kasimkota mandals of Anakapalli district is a flagship program supported by the Aurobindo Pharma Foundation. This program covered 100% of eligible girls in the selected schools. The program budget was ₹1.22 crores. This initiative represents a significant step toward empowering girls with safer and more efficient transportation. By providing bicycles, the initiative enables girls to save valuable time and energy that would otherwise have been spent walking long distances to school. The bicycles offer a tangible solution to transportation barriers, allowing girl students to focus more on their studies and extracurricular activities, thereby improving their academic performance. This project exemplifies Aurobindo Pharma Foundation's commitment to the education of girl children and its dedication to bridging gaps in access to education.

The reactions of the recipients were heartwarming, with visible joy and excitement as they received their bicycles at their schools. This positive impact is expected to extend beyond immediate convenience by encouraging girls to pursue their education with greater enthusiasm and determination. By alleviating travel-related challenges, this thoughtful contribution has opened new opportunities for these young girls to thrive academically and socially.

Overall, the project highlights the transformative role, corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives can play in creating opportunities for marginalized communities. It underscores Aurobindo Pharma Foundation's dedication to supporting young girls' education and helping them realize their full potential.

1.2 Methodology

Conducting impact assessments of CSR projects is crucial for evaluating their effectiveness, optimizing resource utilization, and ensuring alignment with both corporate objectives and community needs. The methodology for this assessment included visits to six schools (four in rural and two in urban areas) in Anakapalli district and interactions with stakeholders, including headmasters, teaching and non-teaching staff, panchayat sarpanches, community leaders, girls studying in high schools, and their parents. The total sample size comprised 76 respondents across diverse categories, selected through purposive sampling to ensure comprehensive insights from directly impacted stakeholders. Data collection captured both quantitative and qualitative insights through one-to-one interviews and focus group discussions (FGDs). Guides and checklists were prepared to facilitate structured interviews and FGDs.

1.3 Perspectives of Students, Teachers and Parents

Students' Perspectives: The provision of bicycles has empowered girl students by offering them a sense of liberation and independence. Many expressed pride in their ability to ride a bicycle, viewing it as a newfound confidence booster. They appreciated not having to rely on family members for transportation or request money for public transport or autorickshaws. This independence has been particularly valuable in areas where public transport is infrequent or

overcrowded, enabling them to travel safely and efficiently. Regular cycling has contributed to their physical well-being, promoting better fitness levels and endurance. The girls felt empowered by their increased mobility, allowing them to attend school and extra classes, socialize with peers, and assist their families by running errands independently.

Teachers' Perspectives: Teachers observed significant improvements in school attendance by 1.2% and improved punctuality by 12%, increased enrolment by 3 to 5% and reduced dropouts by 0.5% among girl students. They noted that bicycles have made it easier for girls to participate in special classes held before or after regular school hours. This increased accessibility has encouraged many girls to attend school more consistently, fostering a positive impact on their education.

Parents' Perspectives: Parents recognized additional benefits of the bicycles beyond transportation. Cycling was viewed as good physical exercise for their children, and many families benefited from the girls' using bicycles for household chores, such as purchasing items from the market. This contribution has not only helped families financially by reducing transportation costs but also instilled a sense of responsibility and self-worth in the girls.

1.4 Recommendations

Expand the Initiative: Expand the cycle distribution initiative to cover remote regions with limited public transport to maximize the program's benefits and address the most pressing needs.

Basic Maintenance: Provide basic maintenance training for the girls to address common repair issues, ensuring the bicycles remain in good condition and are used optimally.

Support Infrastructure: Establish or collaborate with local repair and service facilities in remote areas to enhance the longevity and usability of the bicycles.

1.5 Conclusion

The cycle distribution program has proven to be a transformative initiative, addressing key barriers to education and mobility for high school girls in the Anakapalli district. The program has empowered girls with independence, increased school attendance, improved academic performance, and enhanced their overall quality of life. The initiative not only fostered a sense of confidence and self-reliance among the girls but also reduced the financial and logistical burdens on their families. Moreover, the positive ripple effects of the program extended beyond education, contributing to better physical fitness, time management, and family support.

2. Introduction

2.1. Corporate Social Responsibility

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) refers to companies' voluntary efforts to contribute to societal well-being and environmental sustainability. By integrating social and ethical considerations into their operations, businesses benefit stakeholders, address global challenges, and foster community development. Over time, CSR has evolved into a mainstream strategy shaped by international standards like the UN Global Compact and the Global Reporting Initiative, emphasizing the alignment of corporate goals with societal progress. In India, CSR has undergone

a significant transformation, shifting from traditional philanthropy to a structured and regulated framework. The Companies Act, 2013, mandates that eligible companies allocate at least 2% of their average net profits from the preceding three years to CSR activities. This legal requirement ensures that CSR initiatives are thoughtfully planned, measurable, and aligned with national priorities, addressing pressing social, economic, and environmental issues.

2.2 Aurobindo Pharma Foundation

The Aurobindo Pharma Foundation (APF), the CSR arm of Aurobindo Pharma Limited, focuses on key areas such as education, healthcare, hunger eradication, drinking water availability, poverty alleviation and environmental sustainability. By aligning its initiatives with national policies and global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), APF fosters inclusive growth and delivers long-term benefits to the communities it serves. Its approach emphasizes transparency, accountability, and collaboration with community groups, NGOs, and government agencies. Through these efforts, APF exemplifies Aurobindo Pharma's commitment to social welfare, sustainability, and inclusive progress.

2.3 Cycle Distribution Program

Among APF's flagship projects is the Cycle Distribution Program, which provided bicycles to 2,550 high school girls in the Anakapalli district during the 2022–23 academic year. With a budget of ₹1,22,40,000, this initiative aimed to address a critical challenge faced by students in rural and urban areas in limited access to reliable transportation. The program sought to improve punctuality to school, reduce dropout rates, provide quality education, and promote gender equity in education by empowering young girls with the means to travel to school safely and efficiently.

The APMAS team conducted an impact assessment of the program to evaluate its immediate and long-term effects. The assessment aimed to determine how the initiative contributed to APF's broader goal of refining its CSR strategies for greater community impact. The findings underline the importance of tailoring CSR initiatives to the specific needs and aspirations of communities, ensuring that they deliver maximum social and economic benefits.

3. Methodology

3.1. Evaluation Framework

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC) criteria provided the foundation for evaluating the effectiveness and impact of the cycle distribution program. The key evaluation criteria included:

Relevance: Evaluated the alignment of the project's goals with the actual needs of the target population and stakeholder priorities, ensuring that the initiative addressed critical issues in the local context.

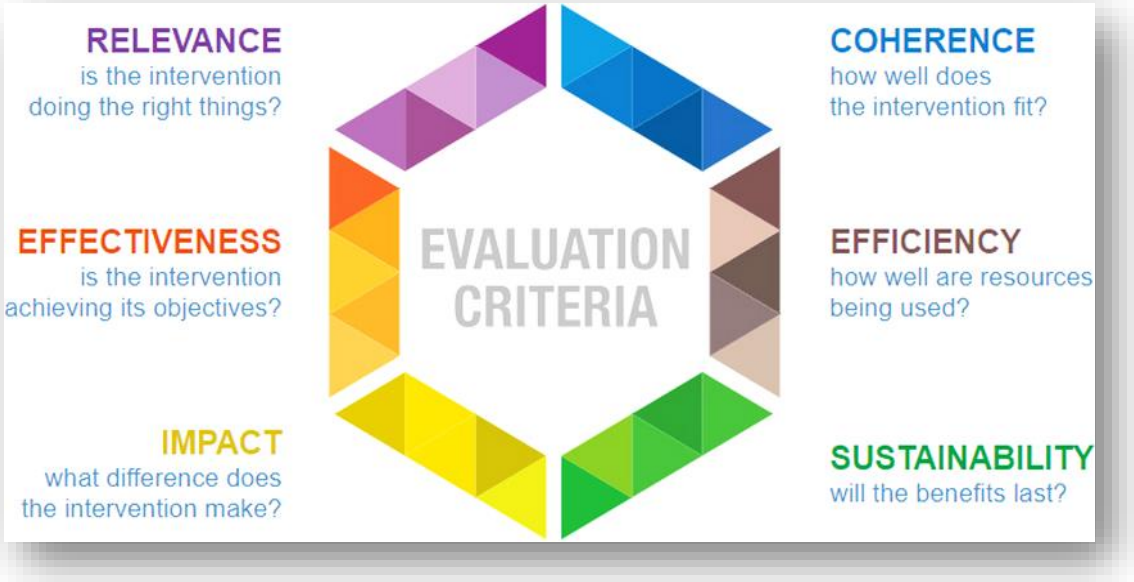
Coherence: Assessed the program's compatibility with other interventions, regional policies, and strategies to ensure complementarity and overall harmony in the region.

Effectiveness: Measures the extent to which the project achieved its intended outcomes within the defined timeline and scope.

Efficiency: Analyzed the optimal utilization of resources, including time, funds, and personnel, to deliver outputs and ensure value for the investment.

Impact: Examined the long-term outcomes of the project, both intended and unintended, and its contribution to social, economic, and educational development.

Sustainability: Assessed the long-term viability of the program's outcomes, considering local capacity, ongoing funding, and resilience.



These criteria offered a comprehensive framework to ensure the program's goals were met and its impact was sustainable and well-coordinated with other regional efforts.

3.2. Objectives of the Impact Assessment

The impact assessment aimed to achieve the following objectives of the cycle distribution program.

- Assess the **relevance**, **effectiveness**, **efficiency**, and **accountability** of the program.
- Evaluate the tangible and long-term effects of the initiative on beneficiary communities.
- Measure the outputs, outcomes, and impacts of the program.
- Identify strategies to enhance the impact and sustainability of similar initiatives in the future.

3.3 Tool Development

Robust tools were designed to collect qualitative and quantitative data, ensuring a thorough evaluation of the project. Tools included:

- **Questionnaires** for headmasters, teachers, and parents.
- **Interview guides** for stakeholders such as community leaders and the Sarpanch.

- **Observation checklists** to assess bicycle usage and beneficiary behaviour.
- **Data collection templates** for key metrics like school attendance, academic performance, transportation challenges, and social empowerment outcomes.

The tools were pilot tested to validate their reliability and accuracy before deployment.

3.4 Field Visits

Field visits were conducted to gather firsthand insights and understand ground-level realities. A team from APMAS visited six schools in the Anakapalli district, including both rural and urban settings. Interactions involved headmasters, teachers, non-teaching staff, students, and parents. These visits provided critical information on operational challenges, distribution effectiveness, and the initial impact of the program.

Table 1: Field Visits

#	Mandal	Village	Name of the School	Respondents
1	Anakapalli	Gavarapalem	Girls High School	Headmasters, teaching and non-teaching staff, students, and parents
2		Mamidipalem	PM Shri Zilla Parishad High School	
3		Thumpala	Zilla Parishad High School	
4		Seethanagaram	Zilla Parishad High School	
5		Anakapalli town	GVMC Girls High School	
6			GVMC High School	

3.5 Beneficiary Categorization

Beneficiaries were categorized on the following factors to ensure a comprehensive analysis;

1. **Geographical Location**: Rural and urban schools
2. **Educational Level**: Grades of high school students (8^{th}, 9^{th} & 10^{th})
3. **Socio-Economic Background**: Economic status and family income levels of the beneficiaries.

3.6 Sample Size and Data Collection

The total sample size comprised 76 respondents across diverse categories, selected through purposive sampling to ensure comprehensive insights from directly impacted stakeholders.

Total Beneficiaries: A subset of the 2,550 students who received bicycles

Diversity of Schools: Inclusion of rural and urban schools from the Anakapalli district

Stakeholders: Ensured participation from students, parents, teachers, and community leaders.

Table 2: Sample Size

Category of Respondents	Interviews	Focus Groups	Tools
	Sample Size		
Schools visited in Anakapalli mandal and Anakapalli town	6	-	Observation
Headmasters	6	-	Interview Questionnaire
Teachers	4	-	
Non-teaching staff	4	-	
Parents	5	-	
Community Leader	1	-	
Sarpanch	1	-	
Students (individuals)	15	40	
Students (FGDs)	-	40	FGD Checklist
Total Sample (76 respondents)	**36**	**40**	

- **Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)**: Conducted with groups of students
- **Interviews**: One-on-one discussions with key stakeholders - headmasters, teaching and non-teaching staff, parents, sarpanch and community leader
- **Observation**: On-site observation of bicycle usage and related behaviour

All data collection adhered to ethical standards, ensuring the privacy and confidentiality of respondents.

3.7 Limitations

Sample Size: The assessment covered only 76 respondents, which may not capture the full range of experiences and impacts.

Time Constraints: The assessment focused on short-term impacts, potentially overlooking long-term sustainability issues.

Generalisability: Findings are specific to the cycle distribution program in Anakapalli mandal of Anakapalli district and may not be fully applicable to other regions or initiatives.

4. Findings and Analysis

4.1 Cycle Distribution

Aurobindo Pharma Foundation continuing its legacy of impactful CSR projects, has distributed 2,550 bicycles to high school girls across 30 rural and urban government schools in two mandals (Anakapalli and Kasimkota) of the Anakapalli district of Andhra Pradesh during the academic year 2022–23. This initiative was executed with a budget of ₹1,22,40,000/ with the aim to enhance access to education for girls by addressing transportation barriers, a significant factor affecting school attendance and retention.

Table 3: Details of distribution of 2550 cycles to 30 Schools

#	Mandal	Village/Town	Name of the school	Cycles given
1	Anakapalli	Gavarapalem	Girls High School	81
2	Anakapalli	Mamidipalem	PM Shri ZPHS	178
3	Anakapalli	Thummapala	Zill Parishad High School	141
4	Anakapalli	Seethanagaram	Zill Parishad High School	99
5	Anakapalli	Anakapalli Town	GVMC Girls High School	425
6	Anakapalli	Main Road, Anakapalli town	GVMC High School	21
7	Anakapalli	Gandhavaram	MPHS Gandhavaram	98
8	Anakapalli	Anakapalli town	MGGHS Ward 27	158
9	Anakapalli	Bheemunigummam	Dr BR.AR MPL	20
10	Anakapalli	Dibbarapalem	ZPHS Dibbarapalem	79
11	Anakapalli	Kondupalem	ZPHS Kondupalem	35
12	Anakapalli	CH. N Agraharam	ZPHS CH.N Agraharam	34
13	Anakapalli	Maruturu	ZPHS Maruturu	52
14	Anakapalli	Kundram	ZPHS Kundram	92
15	Anakapalli	Marripalem	ZPHS Marripalem	57
16	Anakapalli	K.Koppaka	ZPHS K.Koppaka	146
17	Anakapalli	Akkireddipalem	ZPHS Tarakarama colony	91
18	Anakapalli	Satyannarayanapuram	AMAA EM HS	132

19	Kasimkota	Chowduwada	ZPHS Chowdawada	47
20	Kasimkota	Thallapalem	ZPHS Thallapalem	69
21	Kasimkota	Bayyavaram	ZPHS Bayyavaram	38
22	Kasimkota	Veduruparthy	ZPHS Veduruparthy	21
23	Kasimkota	Kothapalli	ZPHS Kothapalli	63
24	Kasimkota	Jammudupalem	ZPHS Jammudupalem	33
25	Kasimkota	A.S Peta	ZPHS A.S Peta	27
26	Kasimkota	Narasingabilli	ZPHS Narasingabilli	87
27	Kasimkota	Kasimkota	ZPHS Kasimkota	104
28	Kasimkota	Tegada	AP Model school	78
29	Kasimkota	Jampala	ZPHS Jampala	16
30	Kasimkota	Kasimkota	DPN Kasimkota ZPHS	28
			Total	**2550**

This systematic distribution targeted schools where transportation posed a significant challenge, ensuring resources were optimized. The highest allocation was to the GVMC Girls High School, Anakapalli Town (425 cycles) and lowest allocation was to Zilla Parishad High School, Jampala, Kasimkota (16 cycles).

4.2. Project Objectives and Achievements

The objectives of the cycle distribution programme were achieved to the high level of satisfaction.

Improve Access to Education

- **Reduce Dropout Rates:** Enabled girls to travel to schools that are far from their homes, reducing the likelihood of dropping out.
- **Timely Attendance:** Ensured that girls reach school on time, enhancing their academic performance. Now Girls do not depend on public transport like buses and shared autos which are irregular and unsafe.

Promote Gender Equality

- **Empower Girls:** Encouraged equal opportunities for education by addressing transportation barriers, a significant issue for rural and marginalized communities.
- **Safety and Independence:** Equipped girls with a means of safe and independent travel, fostering self-reliance and confidence.

Enhance Social and Economic Mobility

- **Bridge the Rural-Urban Divide:** Facilitated access to better educational resources, ultimately improving career prospects for girls in rural areas.
- **Relieve Financial Burdens:** Reduced transportation costs for families, making education more accessible. On average, a girl student pays Rs. 10 one way for either a bus or shared auto which amounts to Rs. 20 per day. The average working days for schools in Andhra Pradesh is 232. The savings in transportation costs is approximately Rs. 4640 per year. This amounts to a saving of 7.6% of the daily wage of a person living below the poverty line in Andhra Pradesh.

Encourage Higher Education

- **Retention and Transition:** Motivated girls to continue their education beyond high school by demonstrating community and institutional support.
- **Academic Achievement:** Alleviated the fatigue of walking long distances, enabling better focus and energy for studies.

Promote Health and Physical Activity

- **Active Lifestyles:** Encouraged physical exercise, contributing to better health and well-being.
- **Reduce Travel Fatigue:** Minimized the physical strain of walking long distances, especially in hot or rainy weather. Over 90% of the girls using the cycles can reach home safely and on time.

Support Inclusive Development Goals

- **Address Rural Challenges:** Recognized and mitigated the unique challenges faced by rural girls in accessing education.
- **Achieve SDGs:** Aligned with Sustainable Development Goals (e.g., quality education, gender equality, and reduced inequalities).

By distributing bicycles, the initiative played a vital role in breaking down barriers to education and empowering girls to achieve their full potential.

4.3. Alignment with SDGs

The project contributes directly and indirectly to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). How it contributes to different SDGs is given in the table below:

Table 4: Contribution to SDGs

SDGs	Contribution and Impact
	▪ Reduced the financial burden on families who might otherwise spend on transport for their daughters. ▪ Education facilitated by access to cycles helps girls break the cycle of poverty in the long term.
	▪ Promoted physical activity and improved fitness levels among girls who cycle regularly. ▪ Reduced mental stress related to safety concerns during long commutes.
	▪ Provided girls with a reliable mode of transportation to schools, especially in rural areas where schools are far from home ▪ Reduced dropout rates by 0.5% which are caused by long commutes, ensuring access to continuous education ▪ Encouraged enrolment and attendance, particularly at the secondary level

	▪ Empowered girls by removing barriers to education related to safety, mobility, and time. ▪ Helped bridge the gender gap in education by enabling more girls to attend school ▪ Challenged traditional gender roles by encouraging independence and confidence in girls.
	▪ Reduced inequality in access to education for girls in marginalized and rural communities. ▪ Improved mobility and access to resources that were previously challenging due to infrastructural or financial barriers.
	▪ Reduced carbon emissions by promoting cycling as a sustainable transport option instead of motorized vehicles.

4.4. Relevance

The distribution of bicycles to high school girls in rural and urban areas of Anakapalli district is a crucial intervention that addresses significant barriers to education. Limited transportation options disproportionately affect girls, particularly in rural areas where public transport is either unavailable or unreliable. This challenge often results in higher dropout rates, lower attendance, and decreased academic performance, perpetuating gender disparities in education. The key aspects of the program's relevance are outlined below:

Overcoming Distance Barriers: Many high schools are located far from villages, making daily commutes difficult for girls. Walking long distances is time-consuming and exhausting, often discouraging regular attendance. By providing bicycles, the program significantly reduces travel time and effort, enabling girls to attend school consistently.

Promoting Safety and Security: Traveling long distances on foot exposes girls to safety risks, including harassment and unsafe pathways. Bicycles provide a faster and safer mode of transport, alleviating these concerns and giving parents greater assurance about their daughters' safety.

Empowering Girls: Independent mobility fosters a sense of freedom and autonomy, boosting girls' self-esteem. It enables them to manage their time more effectively and participate actively in educational and extracurricular activities, encouraging personal growth and confidence.

Bridging the Gender Gap in Education: In many households, boys are prioritized over girls in access to education. This program directly addresses a barrier that disproportionately affects girls, ensuring equal opportunities for them to pursue education and achieve their potential.

Improving Educational Outcomes: Regular attendance and reduced commuting stress enhance academic performance. Girls who can reach school easily and on time are more likely to stay

engaged in their studies, complete their education, and explore higher learning or career opportunities.

Reducing Dropout Rates: Transportation challenges are a major reason for school dropouts among adolescent girls, especially in higher grades when schools are farther from their homes. Providing bicycles addresses this issue directly, encouraging girls to continue their education.

Broader Impact: Beyond immediate educational benefits, the program contributes to long-term societal development. Educated girls are more likely to delay early marriages, join the workforce, and contribute to the socio-economic growth of their communities. Additionally, the initiative sets a positive precedent, emphasizing the importance of girls' education and inspiring community support for similar efforts.

By offering a practical solution to transportation challenges, the cycle distribution program empowers girls and reinforces their right to education, making it a highly relevant and impactful intervention.

Interaction with students of ZP High School, Seethanagaram

4.5 Coherence

The cycle distribution program demonstrates strong coherence by aligning its objectives with broader goals of promoting gender equality, improving educational outcomes, and addressing systemic barriers to girls' education. This intervention integrates seamlessly with existing efforts to reduce dropout rates and enhance access to education in underserved areas.

Alignment with Educational Goals: The program directly supports national and state-level policies aimed at universalizing education and bridging the gender gap in schooling. By targeting transportation barriers—a significant impediment to educational access—the initiative complements broader reforms, such as those promoting infrastructure development, scholarships, and gender-sensitive programs.

Synergy with Community Needs: The intervention is tailored to the socio-economic realities of rural and urban Anakapalli. Transportation challenges disproportionately impact girls due to societal norms,

safety concerns, and financial constraints. By addressing a critical need identified by the community, the program ensures resources are directed where they have the greatest impact.

Integration with Broader Developmental Objectives: The program aligns with broader development frameworks, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 4 (Quality Education) and Goal 5 (Gender Equality). By empowering girls through education, it contributes to breaking the cycle of poverty and fostering inclusive development.

Stakeholder Collaboration: The program's success is amplified through collaboration with key stakeholders, including schools, local governments, and community groups. This collaborative approach ensures effective implementation, cultural appropriateness, and community support, enhancing its acceptance and impact.

Reinforcement of Social Norms Change: Beyond addressing practical challenges, the program fosters a shift in societal perceptions regarding the value of girls' education. By providing a visible and tangible form of support, it reinforces the message that investing in girls' education is essential for societal progress.

Through its clear alignment with educational policies, responsiveness to community needs, and integration with broader developmental goals, the cycle distribution program exemplifies strong coherence and impactful design.

4.6 Effectiveness

The distribution of bicycles has significantly improved girls' access to education, as evidenced by several key outcomes:

Increase in Enrolment and Attendance: The program has led to a 3-5 % rise in girls' school enrolment, even in cases where parents prefer private schools. By reducing the distance and time required for commuting, bicycles have eliminated a major barrier to regular school attendance, enabling girls to attend school more consistently.

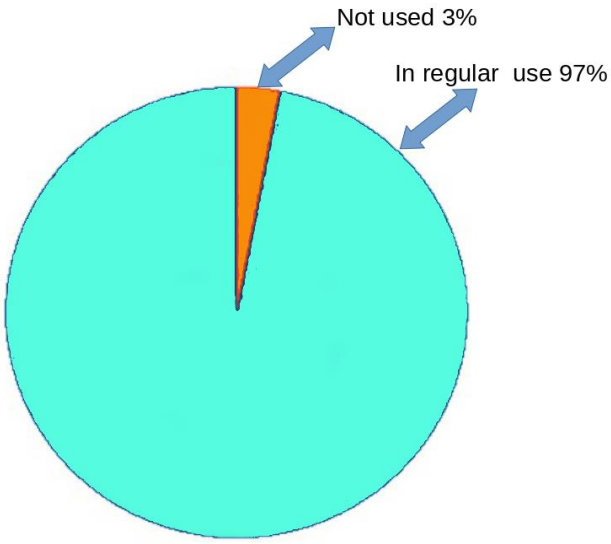
Improved Transportation Accessibility: Bicycles offer a faster, more reliable, and safer mode of transportation compared to the limited and often unsafe public transport options, such as overcrowded shared autorickshaws. This intervention has provided girls with greater independence, reducing dependency on external factors and ensuring timely school commutes.

Enhanced Autonomy and Time Management: Beneficiary feedback highlights broader impacts, including increased autonomy and better time management. Girls reported feeling more in control of their schedules, enabling them to balance school, household responsibilities, and other activities effectively. This empowerment has positively influenced their self-esteem and academic performance.

Cycle Usage: While most of the bicycles are in regular use, some challenges have impacted their full utilization. These include limited repair facilities, safety concerns on highways and occasional use of cycles by other family members.

In Regular Use: 97%
Not Used: 3%

The bicycle distribution program has proven effective in addressing transportation barriers and empowering girls to attend school more regularly. However, to maximize the intervention's impact, challenges related to safety, maintenance, and shared usage need to be addressed.



4.7 Efficiency

The cycle distribution initiative demonstrated a high level of efficiency in resource allocation and execution. With a budget of ₹1,22,40,000, the project successfully distributed 2,550 bicycles across 30 schools in three mandals. The efficient utilization of resources ensured that many girls benefited directly, contributing to the program's overall success.

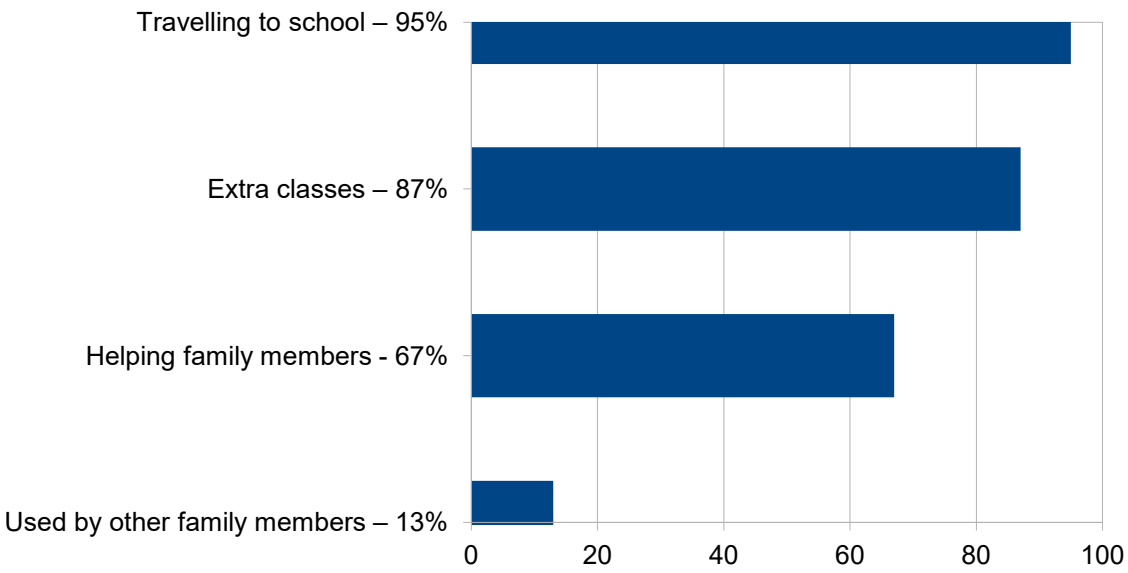
Multi-Purpose Usage of Bicycles: The bicycles provided under the program have been utilized for various purposes, indicating their versatility and value beyond school commutes. The study of 150 beneficiaries revealed the following usage patterns:

Table 5: Cycle Usage

#	**Particulars Cycle usage for different purposes (out of 150 approached during the study)**	**Percent**
1	Extra classes	130 (87%)
2	Helping family members	100 (67%)
3	Travelling to school	143(95%)
4	Used by other family members	20(13%)

Usage of cycles for difference purposes

(Out of 150 girls approached during the study)



- **Travelling to School:** 143 (95%) girls used bicycles to commute to school, highlighting their primary purpose in addressing transportation barriers.
- **Attending Extra Classes:** 130 (87%) girls reported using the bicycles to attend extra classes, showing the bicycles' role in enhancing access to additional learning opportunities.
- **Helping Family Members:** 100 (67%) girls used bicycles to assist their families for household tasks such as buying goods, showcasing their utility beyond education.
- **Used by Other Family Members:** 20% of bicycles were also used by other family members, reflecting the shared benefits of the intervention within households.

The project not only achieved its primary objective of improving school attendance but also delivered broader benefits to families and communities. This multi-purpose usage underscores the efficient and impactful deployment of resources, maximizing the value of the intervention for beneficiaries and their families.

4.8 Impact

The cycle distribution initiative has profoundly impacted the lives of high school girls, significantly (3-5%) reducing dropout rates and fostering self-reliance. Beyond educational benefits, the program has contributed to improved physical health, a sense of empowerment, and enhanced community participation. These wide-reaching outcomes highlight the intervention's transformative potential. The impact of using cycles by girl students is given below.

Table 6: Impact of using cycles

#	Particulars	Percent
1	Improved punctuality	8-12%
2	Reduced travel expenditure	7.6%
3	Timeliness in reaching home from school	> 90%
4	Increase in enrolment	3-5%
5	Improved school attendance	1.2%
6	Reduced dropout rate	0.5%

Reduced Dropout Rates & Fostered Self-Reliance: By addressing transportation challenges, the initiative has been pivotal in reducing school dropout rates among girls. Access to bicycles has enabled girls to continue their education, breaking the cycle of poverty by equipping them with knowledge and skills for future employment. The program has also fostered independence in commuting, allowing girls to actively participate in both academic and extracurricular activities.

Improved Physical Health: Regular cycling has contributed to the girls' physical well-being, promoting better fitness levels and endurance. The added physical activity not only enhances their overall health but also instils healthy lifestyle habits. This benefit extends beyond the classroom, positively influencing their daily lives.

Sense of Empowerment: Owning a bicycle has empowered the girls by giving them autonomy over their mobility. They no longer need to rely on others or seek financial support for transportation, enabling them to independently travel to school, attend extra classes, socialize with peers, and assist their families by running errands. This newfound independence has boosted their confidence and self-esteem, encouraging them to embrace more responsibilities and explore opportunities outside traditional norms.

Role Models in the Community: The beneficiaries have emerged as role models within their villages, inspiring peers, and younger children to prioritize education and challenge societal limitations. Their success demonstrates the transformative potential of targeted interventions, encouraging a cultural shift toward valuing girls' education and independence.

The cycle distribution program illustrates the profound impact of addressing transportation barriers for high school girls. By enhancing educational attainment, improving physical health, fostering empowerment, and promoting positive social change, the initiative has created a sustainable and far-reaching impact. It not only transforms the lives of individual beneficiaries but also contributes to the broader development of their communities.

4.9 Sustainability

The sustainability of the cycle distribution program is reflected in its potential for long-term benefits, including skill development, cultural transformation, and environmental contributions. However, the program must address certain challenges to ensure its enduring impact.

Skill Development and Mobility Enhancement: The program has indirectly promoted skill-building among girls by teaching them practical cycling skills, which can serve as a foundation for learning to ride two-wheelers in the future. This enhanced mobility will expand their opportunities and independence. Furthermore, the practical knowledge of maintaining bicycles ensures continued usage without reliance on external repair services, fostering self-reliance.

Time Management and Independence: Bicycles have significantly reduced travel time for girls, enabling better time management and flexibility in daily activities. This independence cultivates a sense of responsibility, preparing them to face future challenges and encouraging proactive participation in both educational and personal pursuits.

Cultural Shift: By addressing the mobility needs of girls, the initiative has contributed to a gradual cultural shift in communities, where education for girls is increasingly recognized as a priority. This change supports the program's long-term relevance and acceptance.

Health and Environmental Benefits: Regular cycling promotes physical health among the girls, and the use of bicycles as a non-motorized mode of transport contributes to environmental sustainability by reducing reliance on fuel-powered vehicles. This dual impact supports both individual well-being and broader ecological goals.

The cycle distribution program has laid a strong foundation for sustainable benefits by empowering girls, fostering cultural change, and promoting health and environmental consciousness. With targeted efforts to overcome operational challenges, the program has the potential to create lasting and transformative impacts.

4.10 Branding of the Intervention

Aurobindo Pharma Foundation's cycle distribution initiative has significantly bolstered its brand as a socially responsible organization committed to empowering communities and fostering gender equity. By addressing a critical barrier to education—transportation for high school girls—the initiative has positioned APF as a key advocate for inclusivity and equality in its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) efforts.

Reinforcement of APF's Commitment to Needs: The initiative reflects APF's deep understanding of grassroots challenges and its ability to devise practical, impactful solutions. By tackling transportation issues for rural and urban high school girls, APF has demonstrated its dedication to removing systemic barriers that hinder education, particularly for marginalized communities.

Visibility and Tangible Impact: The program's visible success—evident through improved 1.2% school attendance, reduced 0.5 % dropout rates, and enhanced empowerment among girls—has strengthened APF's reputation in the education sector. These measurable outcomes have amplified the organization's credibility as a leader in impactful CSR interventions, enhancing its visibility among key stakeholders.

Alignment with SDGs: By focusing on enabling education for girls and addressing gender disparities, the initiative aligns APF with global and national priorities, such as the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically Goal 4 (Quality Education) and Goal 5 (Gender Equality). This alignment strengthens APF's identity as a forward-thinking organization that supports broader developmental objectives.

Stakeholder Engagement: The program has fostered trust and goodwill among various stakeholders, including communities, local governments, and partner organizations. Positive feedback from beneficiaries and visible improvements in the lives of high school girls have further solidified APF's standing as a reliable and impactful contributor to community development.

Strategic Brand Positioning: The cycle distribution program serves as a milestone in APF's branding journey, positioning it as an organization that delivers sustainable, meaningful

outcomes. By addressing critical social issues with innovative and inclusive solutions, APF has strengthened its identity as a trusted leader in the CSR and education sectors.

Discussion with Headmistress, ZPHS, Gavarapalem

5. Challenges

The cycle distribution initiative faced a few challenges that affected its intended impact and the challenges identified by stakeholders, include:

Resource Diversion Within Families: Some beneficiaries handed their bicycles over to family members, particularly brothers, for non-educational purposes. This diversion stemmed from a lack of awareness among male family members regarding the program's focus on empowering girls. Consequently, the program's effectiveness in improving school attendance was affected. 10-12% of the respondents said that cycles were used by other members of their family occasionally.

Cycling During Menstrual Periods: Physical discomfort and societal stigmas associated with menstruation discouraged some girls from cycling during their menstrual periods. This led to interruptions in school attendance, indicating a need for supplementary efforts addressing menstrual health management and challenging cultural perceptions.

Infrastructure Issues: Rural areas often lack proper roads or have poorly maintained pathways, making cycling difficult and, in some cases, unsafe. Inadequate infrastructure limited the initiative's effectiveness in promoting consistent school attendance. 12% of students are facing this issue.

Lack of maintenance support: Families frequently struggled to maintain bicycles due to insufficient knowledge, tools, or financial resources. The absence of local repair shops exacerbated this issue, resulting in unused or poorly maintained bicycles.

Cost of Maintenance: Facilities to repair cycles are far from these villages and it involves a cost to transport the cycles to the repair facilities by auto. The bad condition of roads in some areas where there is stone mining damages the tires of the cycle frequently.

Shared Usage: In some cases, bicycles were shared among family members, reducing their availability for the intended purpose of supporting girls' education. This challenge highlights the need for greater community sensitization to prioritize girls' mobility needs.

Addressing these challenges often requires a multi-pronged approach, combining bicycle distribution with community sensitization, infrastructure development, and ongoing support for girls and their families.

6. Recommendations and Conclusions

6.1 Recommendations

The following recommendations are based on observations and discussions with various stakeholders and aim to enhance the program's effectiveness and sustainability:

Recommendations to Schools

- Conduct regular community awareness sessions to emphasize the program's goals and ensure that bicycles are used primarily for educational purposes.
- Organize workshops and sensitization programs focusing on overcoming stigma related to menstrual health, personal safety, and gender stereotypes that discourage girls from riding bicycles.
- Provide girls with self-defence training and awareness on safety measures to enhance their confidence and security while commuting
- Collaborate with local authorities to improve the safety of commuting routes, including adding cycling lanes, installing proper lighting, and implementing traffic regulation measures near schools.
- Work with local governments to construct or improve bicycle parking facilities at schools to prevent theft or damage
- Encourage the habit of savings among girls to use it for the maintenance and repairs of cycles
- Provide basic training to girls on bicycle maintenance and repair to handle minor issues
- Assess the program's usage, track the condition of bicycles, and measure its impact on school attendance, dropout rates, and academic performance.
- Engage families in the program's planning and implementation phases and organize parent-teacher meetings to highlight the program's progress and benefits, encouraging families to prioritize education for all children.
- Collaborate with law enforcement to ensure safe commuting routes and address concerns of harassment or bullying that might deter girls from using bicycles.
- Consider offering small incentives, such as academic awards or recognition, to encourage consistent attendance and motivate students to use the bicycles effectively.

Recommendations to Aurobindo Pharma Foundation

- Support women entrepreneurs to set up cycle repair shops to ensure the long-term usability of bicycles
- Prioritize the distribution of cycles in schools located in remote villages, with low enrolment, and high dropout rates. This will ensure that the benefits are optimized. The boys from vulnerable families also can be supported with bicycles.
- Provide safety gear like helmets and reflectors along with bicycles to ensure students' safety and security.

Continuous Support: Sustaining the benefits of the program requires continued engagement with beneficiaries, including follow-up support, capacity-building sessions, and periodic assessments to address emerging needs.

By implementing these recommendations, Aurobindo Pharma Foundation (APF) can significantly enhance the impact of its bicycle distribution initiative. This approach will address key challenges, foster inclusivity, and create long-term benefits for the educational and social development of girl students in the Anakapalli district. Such an inclusive strategy would reinforce APF's commitment to bridging educational disparities and empowering the youth to reach their full potential.

6.2 Conclusions

The provision of bicycles to school-going girls goes beyond just offering a mode of transportation—it is a transformative intervention that empowers young girls, builds their confidence, and challenges entrenched gender norms. These bicycles enable girls to attend school regularly and punctually, providing them with newfound freedom and mobility, reducing gender disparities, and offering them opportunities traditionally afforded to boys. Furthermore, bicycles carry significant social value, helping to break stereotypes by demonstrating that girls can move independently and confidently.

In regions where public transportation is inadequate, overcrowded, or unsafe, bicycles provide a safe, reliable, and affordable alternative, ensuring that girls are no longer dependent on unreliable means of transport. This enhanced mobility not only makes education more accessible but also promotes physical well-being by encouraging exercise, leading to better health, stamina, and overall fitness.

The intervention has also provided economic benefits, reducing transportation costs for families by 10-20 rupees daily and decreasing travel time. This enables girls to better manage their schedules, including focusing on homework, attending extra classes, or joining tuition sessions to improve academic performance. The bicycles have fostered a sense of self-reliance, with many girls learning to ride and acquiring practical skills, such as repairing chains and oiling pedals. Additionally, bicycles allow girls to visit other places during weekends and assist their mothers with household responsibilities, improving their quality of life and fostering a greater sense of empowerment.

This initiative represents a step toward a more inclusive and equitable society, where every girl can pursue her education and dreams without being constrained by logistical or societal barriers.

6.3 Testimonials

Transforming Lives through the Gift of Mobility: In the 2022 academic year, Aurobindo Pharma Foundation, through its CSR initiative, distributed 150 bicycles to the students of classes 8th to 10th of Zilla Parishad High School (ZPHS), Tummapala. This impactful gesture has brought remarkable changes in the lives of these schoolgirls and their families.

For many of these girls, who come from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, daily transportation costs—such as auto or bus fares—were a significant burden. The bicycles have alleviated this financial strain, allowing the girls to attend school regularly without the worry of being late or missing classes. Furthermore, bicycles have empowered them to attend evening tuition sessions, which are vital for their academic progress.

Beyond their academic benefits, bicycles have also contributed positively to the girls' physical well-being. Cycling has not only improved their fitness but also bolstered their confidence and sense of independence. These bicycles will continue to serve them beyond the 10th standard, aiding their pursuit of higher education as colleges are often located far from their villages.

The bicycle distribution program by Aurobindo Pharma Foundation stands as one of the most impactful CSR initiatives, providing not just mobility but also a pathway to a brighter future. Considering the significant positive changes it has brought to the lives of these girls; we humbly request that similar provisions be extended to boys as well. Ensuring equitable access to education for all students—regardless of gender—would further enhance school attendance and academic performance, particularly in underserved communities like ours.

DVSK Naidu, School Assistant (PT), Zilla Parishad High School, Tummapala

Testimonial from Head Mistress, ZPHS for Girls, Anakapalli

The Head Mistress of ZPHS for Girls in Anakapalli was highly appreciative of the initiative taken to provide cycles to the girl students. She felt that this initiative gave the girls a sense of independence and instilled confidence among them. It saves the girls from the time-consuming and often hazardous commute using public transport and overcrowded shared autorickshaws.

The girls using cycles are able to spend less time commuting, making more time available for studies and recreational activities. Regular cycling also improves their physical well-being as cycling is an excellent physical exercise.

She felt that the girls' parents were also happy about the provision of cycles. They now feel less anxious about their child compared to the earlier time when they used other means of transport. Cycling to school and back also saves them money which would have been otherwise spent on fares, which annually amounts to Rs. 4,400, which is substantial for most families.

6.4 Case Studies

Case Study 1: Pedalling Towards Confidence and Independence – K. Thanmai Journey

Student of ZP High School, Tumpala with her bicycle

K. Thanmai, a determined 10th-grade student from Tumpala High School, is the eldest daughter of Shiva, a carpenter, and Purna, who works at a small shop. She has a younger sister in 8th grade. In 2023, Thanmai's life underwent a significant transformation when she received a bicycle. Although the idea of cycling initially seemed daunting, Thanmai, with the encouragement and support of her younger sister, overcame her fears and learned to ride. Her persistence paid off, and soon, cycling became an enjoyable and essential part of her daily routine, especially on her way to school.

The bicycle brought more than just convenience—it transformed Thanmai's life in several ways. It made her punctual for school and enabled her to return home by 4:30 pm, a stark contrast to the late arrivals she previously experienced. This extra time allowed Thanmai to help her mother with household chores, focus on her studies during tuition sessions, and even enjoy some leisure time.

Thanmai's newfound independence had a ripple effect on her family life. She started accompanying her mother to the shop and took her younger sister to school, shifting the traditional family roles where men were typically expected to handle errands and transportation. Thanmai's contributions marked a shift in household dynamics, inspiring a sense of empowerment in her and her family.

Beyond academics, the bicycle gave Thanmai the freedom to explore new interests and take on additional responsibilities. It symbolized her self-reliance and determination, helping her grow in confidence both academically and personally.

Thanmai's story exemplifies how a simple intervention like providing a bicycle can empower young girls to challenge traditional norms, manage their responsibilities, and embrace opportunities with resilience and enthusiasm. Her journey highlights the far-reaching impact of such initiatives in shaping brighter futures, not only for individuals but also for entire communities.

Case Study 2: A Bicycle to Freedom: The Story of Dharani

Dharani - confidently rides her cycle to school

Dharani, a bright and ambitious 10th-grade student from a small village, Venkupalem in Anakapalli district, is the eldest of three siblings. Her father, Ramoji, is a daily wage labourer, and her mother, Anuradha, works as a tailor to support the family. Though Dharani was always eager to study, reaching school on time was a daily struggle. With no public transport in their village and no extra money for alternatives, she had to walk nearly four kilometres each way, often arriving at school late and exhausted. By the time she returned home in the evening, she was too tired to concentrate on her studies

In 2023, everything changed when Dharani received a bicycle. At first, she was hesitant—she had never ridden one before and feared falling. But her determination outweighed her doubts. With the support and encouragement of her younger brother, she practiced every evening, overcoming her initial fear. After weeks of persistence, she finally mastered cycling, and soon, the bicycle became her most prized possession.

The impact was immediate and transformative. What was once a tiring, hour-long walk was now a quick and enjoyable ride. Dharani could reach school on time, attend all her classes without feeling drained, and even participate in extracurricular activities. Her teachers noticed the change—she was more engaged in lessons, her grades improved, and her confidence soared.

The bicycle didn't just make school life easier; it also changed her role at home. With the time she saved on commuting, Dharani could help her mother with stitching clothes, assist her younger siblings with their homework, and still have time for her own studies. More importantly, the bicycle gave her a newfound sense of independence. No longer did she have to rely on her father or neighbours for transportation. She could run errands for her family, accompany her mother to the local market, and even take her younger siblings to school.

Dharani's story had a ripple effect on those around her. Her father, who once believed that girls should not travel alone, began to see things differently. Seeing Dharani manage her responsibilities with confidence, he started supporting her dreams more openly. Her younger siblings, inspired by her determination, also became more focused on their education. Even other girls in the village began to see cycling as a symbol of empowerment, breaking traditional barriers that once limited their mobility.

Dharani's journey is a powerful example of how a simple intervention like a bicycle can change lives. It gave her the freedom to pursue education without barriers, challenge societal norms, and inspire change within her family and community. Her story is a reminder that when young girls are given the right tools and support, they can rewrite their destinies and pave the way for a brighter future for all.

Interacting with the students to understand the impact of using cycles in the daily lives of students

Impact Assessment of Construction of Building for the Bharosa Centre in Sangareddy Town & District, Telangana

Supported by Aurobindo Pharma Foundation (A Philanthropic arm of Aurobindo Pharma Ltd under Corporate Social Responsibility)

Submitted to

AUROBINDO PHARMA FOUNDATION

Submitted by

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Abbreviations

ANM	Auxiliary Nurse-Midwife
APF	Aurobindo Pharma Foundation
APMAS	Andhra Pradesh Mahila Abhivruddhi Society
BCC	Behavioural Change Communication
CCIs	Child Care Institutions
CID	Criminal Investigation Department
CP	Commissioner of Police
CrPC	Code of Criminal Procedure
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
CWC	Child Welfare Committee
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
DCP	Deputy Commissioner of Police
DGP	Director General of Police
FIR	First Information Report

IPC	Indian Penal Code
KGBV	Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya
MSMEs	Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises
NCRB	National Crime Records Bureau
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisations
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PMU	Programme Management Unit
POCSO	Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act
PPP	Public Private Partnerships
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SEHADA	Socio Economic Health & Agricultural Development Association
SHGs	Self Help Groups
SP	Superintendent of Police
TP	Telangana State Police
TG	Telangana State
WSW	Women Safety Wing
WSW-TP	Women Safety Wing of the Telangana State Police

Acknowledgements

On behalf of APMAS, we would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Aurobindo Pharma Foundation for giving us the opportunity to conduct the impact assessment of the construction of building and other infrastructure support for the Bharosa Centre at Sangareddy, Telangana. This has been a unique and meaningful experience, allowing us to observe and document the transformative changes brought about by this CSR initiative in providing advanced and meaningful services to the women and child survivors against sexual abuse and harassment.

Our sincere thanks and regards to **Ms. Shikha Goel**, **the Director General of Police** (DGP) for the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) in Telangana State, Director of the Telangana Cyber Security Bureau and the Telangana Forensic Science Laboratory, leading the Women Safety Wing, overseeing initiatives like SHE Teams and Bharosa, for guiding and supporting us throughout the assessment process.

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We are also deeply grateful to **Ms. Deva Laxmi**, A**dministrative Head and Centre Coordinator, Bharosa Centre, Sangareddy**, whose experience and input added great value to our understanding of the initiative's impact. Her patient listening, understanding and attention to detail is of immense value in writing this report.

Additionally, we acknowledge the efforts and cooperation of all the staff members who patiently shared perspectives, and experiences to support our assessment. Their willingness to share information, respond to our queries, and provide access to facilities ensured that we could carry out our work effectively and with clarity.

The Bharosa Centre stands as a testament to the power of collaboration and compassion in addressing the physical and mental well-being of women and child survivors of sexual abuse. We thank Aurobindo Pharma Foundation and all associated partners for their significant contributions to improving women and child protection in our society. We are truly honoured to have been part of this impactful journey.

With deepest gratitude

Team APMAS!
January 2025

1. Executive Summary

Project Overview: A new Bharosa Centre building has been constructed on government-allotted land with a budget of ₹2 crores, funded by the Aurobindo Pharma Foundation (a philanthropic arm of Aurobindo Pharma Limited). Operated by the Telangana Women's Safety Wing, Bharosa Centres provide comprehensive support, including medical, legal, psychological, and other services to women and children affected by violence, all under one roof, offering a safe and supportive environment.

The actual construction started in August 2022 and inaugurated on 7 October 2023. The impact assessment of Bharosa Centre in Sangareddy has evaluated the effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability of the critical facilities in addressing the needs of survivors of violence, abuse, and trauma. The primary constraints in generating the report stem from restrictions on meeting and interacting with survivors and their guardians, as well as limited access to case reports. This is due to the strict emphasis on survivor privacy and the prevention of revictimization, which are core principles of Bharosa Centres. These centres are designed to minimize trauma by avoiding frequent retelling and repeated recollection of the abuse, ensuring a safe and supportive environment for survivors.

Key Outcomes: This impact assessment highlights the transformative role of the Bharosa Centre in enhancing survivor support, law enforcement training, judicial accessibility, and community confidence, ensuring a more responsive and survivor-centric approach to justice.

1. Service Delivery Expansion

- Increased case intake, with a 100% rise in survivors seeking support compared to the previous centre (from 12 to 15 per month to 30 to 35 cases per month)
- Trials conducted via video conferencing further safeguard the survivor's identity and enhance speedy accessibility to justice.
- Strengthened coordination among law enforcement, legal aid, and counselling services, resulting in faster case resolution and streamlined legal procedures. The survivor's statement during FIR filing, as well as the statement before the magistrate under Section 283 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (CrPC), are recorded directly at the Bharosa Centre, ensuring confidentiality and privacy.
- Comprehensive training for law enforcement and new police recruits on Bharosa Centre operations, POCSO Act (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act), appropriate police response to survivors and sensitivity in handling cases with respect and empathy.

2. Infrastructure Expansion

The newly constructed 5,600-square-foot facility spans two levels, significantly enhancing operational capacity. The ground floor houses essential services, including a Front-End Reception, dedicated rooms for the Centre Coordinator, Women Police Facilitation Officer, Legal Support Officer, Auxiliary Nurse-Midwife, Support Person cum Child Play Area, Statement Recording, Medical Investigation, and Counselling. The first floor features a Video Conferencing Room, Training Hall, a dedicated space for the She Team, and a Storage Room, with additional plans to allocate two rooms for Bharosa Family Counselling. The new infrastructure offers a secure, private, and trauma-sensitive environment, ensuring that survivors feel safe, respected, and supported throughout the process. The dedicated child play area allows children survivors to engage in a comfortable and interactive setting, enabling them to respond to queries in a non-intimidating manner, thereby reducing trauma while recalling and sharing their experiences.

3. Operational Efficiency

The dedicated infrastructure improves the work environment and staff efficiencies significantly. The upgraded ambience ensures a secure and comfortable environment, fostering trust and confidence among the survivors.

4. Survivor Empowerment

Bharosa Centre empowers survivors of violence by providing them with holistic support, legal assistance, psychological counselling, and rehabilitation services to rebuild their lives with dignity and confidence. The centre ensures that survivors are not just supported but empowered to reclaim their autonomy and future through

- Psychological and Emotional Empowerment
- Legal Empowerment
- Economic and Financial Empowerment
- Shelter and Rehabilitation Support
- Social Reintegration and Community Support

5. Access to improved Technology and Facilities

The integration of advanced technology has played a crucial role in enhancing service efficiency, legal processes, and security at the Bharosa Centre including

- Video conferencing for recording survivor statements, evidence collection reducing the need for survivors to visit court.
- Surveillance and security systems, ensuring safety within the premises while maintaining a secure environment.
- The PMU Ticketing System offers faster resolution, transparency and accountability by ensuring every case is documented and followed up until closure.

6. Alignment with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The initiative aligns with key SDGs, including:

- SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being
- SDG 5: Gender Equality
- SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure
- SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities
- SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities
- SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions
- SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

7. Judicial Support and Evidence Recording

The first statement for the FIR and the section 283 CrPC evidence recordings by the magistrate are conducted at the Bharosa Centre itself, eliminating the need for survivors to appear in court. Trials are facilitated via video conferencing, allowing survivors to participate in legal proceedings within the safe and secure environment of the Centre.

8. Survivor Outreach

The number of survivors seeking assistance has **doubled** since the new centre's establishment. Previously, the old Bharosa Centre handled 12-15 cases per month, whereas the new centre now registers 30-35 cases per month. The significant increase in the number of parents of 'children suspected of being abused' visiting the Bharosa centre for counselling and legal support, from 0 to 1 parent per month previously to 4 to 5 visits per month currently, reflecting the strengthened trust in the Bharosa Centre.

Recommendations

- Expand infrastructure to include dedicated shelter homes for temporary survivor protection
- Establish a survivor rehabilitation fund for financial aid, education and vocational training of survivors of violence
- Conduct awareness drives in schools, colleges and workplaces on women's rights and child protection

Conclusion: The establishment of the Bharosa Centre in Sangareddy, with significant support from the Aurobindo Pharma Foundation, has markedly enhanced the support system for survivors of violence and abuse. The state-of-the-art facility has not only doubled the intake of cases but also improved operational efficiency, service delivery, and inter-agency coordination. By integrating advanced technology and aligning with Sustainable Development Goals, the centre ensures timely, holistic, and dignified care for survivors, thereby fostering a more responsive and survivor-centric approach to justice.

2. Introduction

2.1. Introduction to CSR Activities in India

India is a diverse nation with significant socio-economic disparities. While the country has made remarkable strides in economic growth, millions of people still grapple with poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, and inadequate access to basic amenities such as healthcare and education which indirectly lead to distress and social unrest. The need for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) arises from the imperative to bridge these gaps and ensure inclusive development. Businesses, as integral components of society, are uniquely positioned to drive positive change by leveraging their resources, expertise, and influence to address pressing issues.

CSR has emerged as a pivotal aspect of modern business practices, especially in a rapidly developing economy like India. It represents the commitment of businesses to contribute positively to societal and environmental development while maintaining their profitability. In India, CSR has transitioned from being a voluntary practice to a mandated legal obligation under the Companies Act, 2013. This shift underscores the growing recognition of the need for businesses to play a proactive role in addressing social, economic, and environmental challenges.

2.2. Importance of CSR in India

The importance of CSR in India extends beyond philanthropy; it is a strategic tool for fostering sustainable development. CSR initiatives help build stronger communities, improve the quality of life, and address environmental concerns. For businesses, CSR enhances brand reputation, fosters customer loyalty, and attracts socially conscious investors. Moreover, it strengthens employee engagement by instilling a sense of purpose and pride in contributing to societal well-being. In a globalized world, socially responsible practices also help Indian businesses align with international standards and maintain competitiveness.

Companies are encouraged to align their CSR activities with national priorities, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), thereby contributing to India's progress on the global stage. With evolving societal needs, the scope of CSR continues to expand, encouraging innovative approaches and long-term impact.

2.3. About Aurobindo Pharma Limited

Aurobindo Pharma Limited, established in 1986 by Mr. P. V. Ramprasad Reddy and Mr. K. Nityananda Reddy, is an Indian multinational pharmaceutical company headquartered in Hyderabad, Telangana. It became a public company in 1992 and listed its shares on Indian stock exchanges in 1995. Aurobindo Pharma has a significant presence in key therapeutic segments, including neurosciences, cardiovascular, anti-retrovirals, anti-diabetics, gastroenterology, and antibiotics. The company exports to over 150 countries, with more than 90% of its revenues derived from international operations.

2.4. About Aurobindo Pharma Foundation

Aurobindo Pharma Ltd is committed to contributing to societal well-being through its CSR initiatives, primarily implemented by the philanthropic arm of Aurobindo Pharma Limited. The company's CSR policy focuses on several key areas:

- **Promoting Education**: This includes constructing and renovating government schools and colleges, providing infrastructure support, and funding educational programs to enhance learning outcomes.
- **Healthcare Initiatives**: Aurobindo Pharma Foundation undertakes projects aimed at promoting preventive healthcare, eradicating hunger, poverty, and malnutrition, and ensuring access to safe drinking water.
- **Sustainable Agriculture and Environmental Sustainability:** The Foundation is involved in activities that support small and marginal farmers and also promote environmental sustainability, ecological balance, and conservation of natural resources.
- **Rural Development**: Efforts include the development of rural infrastructure, supporting rural athletes, setting up old age homes, and other initiatives aimed at improving the quality of life in rural areas.

Through these comprehensive CSR initiatives, Aurobindo Pharma Foundation aims to drive community empowerment and deliver holistic social value, aligning its business operations with the broader goal of sustainable development.

2.5. Need for Impact Assessment of the CSR Projects

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) has become a cornerstone of sustainable business practices, aimed at fostering societal growth, environmental sustainability, and economic development. Companies with a CSR budget of 10 Crore or more in any fiscal year are mandated to undertake impact assessment of their CSR projects completed on or after 22 January 2021 and for all projects with outlays of 1 Crore or more, at least one year after programme implementation is completed.

Impact assessment assures effectiveness and accountability of CSR activities fostering transparency while optimizing resource utilization, meeting the organizational goals and enhancing brand reputation. Checking the compliance with regulatory frameworks and alignment with SDGs foster community trust and engagement aiming at continuous improvement and long-term sustainability of CSR activities.

2.6. Impact Assessment of Bharosa Centre

The Aurobindo Pharma Foundation has allocated Rs 2 crores for the construction of one Bharosa Centre and its maintenance in Sangareddy district in its annual action plan for FY 2021-22. The methodology adopted and the highlights of the impact assessment of the Bharosa Centre are detailed below.

3. Methodology And Approach

In the case of the Bharosa Centre, any visitor, including the assessment team was not permitted to directly interact with the primary beneficiaries (survivors and their parents/guardians) or the secondary beneficiaries (the community) to protect their identity and prevent re-victimization or re-traumatization. Consequently, the assessment was conducted entirely based on briefing provided by the Programme Coordinator, Centre Coordinator, staff members, and infrastructure observations.

3.1. Evaluation Framework

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Development Assistance Committee (DAC) criteria provide a robust framework for evaluating the effectiveness and impact of development projects. The key criteria are:

Relevance: Assesses the alignment of the project with the actual needs of the target and stakeholder priorities, ensuring contextually appropriate goals that address pressing issues.

Coherence: Assesses how well the project aligns with other interventions, broader policies, and strategies, ensuring complementarity and overall harmony in the region.

Effectiveness: Measures the extent to which the project achieved its intended outcomes within the defined timeline and scope.

Efficiency: Assesses the optimal use of resources, including time, money, and personnel in delivering outputs and achieving value for the resources invested.

Impact: Examines the long-term effects of the project, considering both intended and unintended outcomes and the project's contribution to social, economic, or environmental development.

Sustainability: Assesses the project's long-term viability, considering local capacity, ongoing funding, and the resilience of outcomes.

These criteria provide a comprehensive framework for evaluating development initiatives, ensuring that they achieve immediate goals and deliver sustainable, long-term improvements that are well-coordinated with other efforts in the region.

3.2. Sample Size and Data Collection

A team of two members visited the Bharosa Centre and engaged with the staff. The team visited the entire facility and held discussions following a questionnaire with the staff to understand the operations, equipment utilization and services provided. Team also took

photos during the visits to authenticate the assessment process. The data analysis was done to derive meaningful insights and draw informed conclusions.

The total sample size comprised 7 respondents associated directly with the operations and administration of the Bharosa Centre, to ensure comprehensive insights. The study utilized both primary and secondary data collection methods:

- **Primary Data**: Gathered through Key Informant Interviews and Observations
- **Secondary Data**: Sourced from literature reviews, media coverage

Table 1: Sample Size

Category of Respondents	**Interviews**	**Tools**
	Sample Size	
Bharosa Centre, Sangareddy	1	Observation
Programme Manager, Bharosa, T	1	Interview Questionnaire
Centre co-ordinator	1	
Other Core Staff	4	
Receptionist	1	
Total Sample	**7**	

Interaction with the Centre Co-ordinator and the state Programme Manager, Bharosa

3.3. Limitations

Sample Size: Limited to a total of 7 respondents who are the staff working for the Bharosa centres, which might not capture the full spectrum of experiences and impacts across all stakeholders.

Time Constraints: The assessment focused on the short-term impacts, potentially overlooking long-term sustainability issues.

Generalisability: Though the findings are specific to the Sangareddy Bharosa Centre, a few of them may be applicable to other centres.

Unmeasured Variables: Certain impacts, such as the creation of awareness on women and child abuse, the actual number of survivors reaching out, and survivor satisfaction were not quantitatively or qualitatively assessed.

4. Findings and Analysis

4.1. Purpose of the Impact Assessment

The impact assessment was carried out to assess the following aspects:

- Assess the effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability of Bharosa Centre's infrastructure development.
- Understand how building construction has impacted service delivery for survivors of violence.
- Provide recommendations for future enhancement and scalability.

4.2. Crime Against Women

Crimes against women, particularly adolescent girls and children, remain a critical societal concern worldwide. These crimes encompass physical, emotional, and psychological violence, including sexual assault, domestic violence, child marriage, trafficking, cyber exploitation, and gender-based discrimination.

Adolescent girls and children are especially vulnerable due to age, dependency, and lack of awareness of their rights. Factors such as patriarchal norms, poverty, lack of education, and weak law enforcement contribute to the rising number of cases. In many instances, survivors fear reporting abuse due to social stigma, retaliation, or lack of support systems. The tables below provide the details of increasing cases of women abuse year on year, including rape and kidnap and total crime against women.

Table 2: Rape and Kidnapping Cases in Sangareddy District: 2020 to 2024

Rape cases	36	57	72	90	131
Kidnapping and abduction	18	20	24	48	88

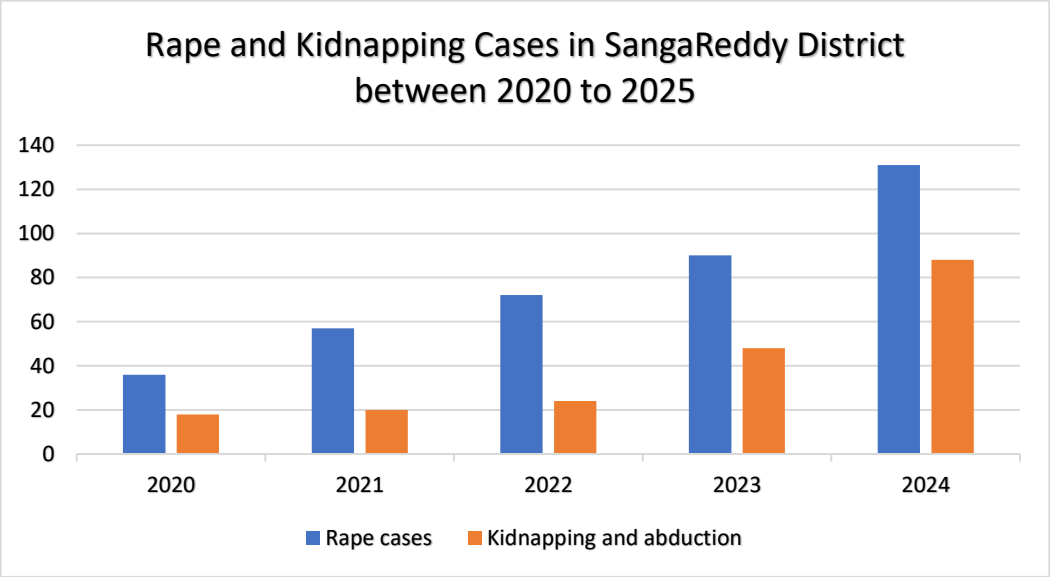
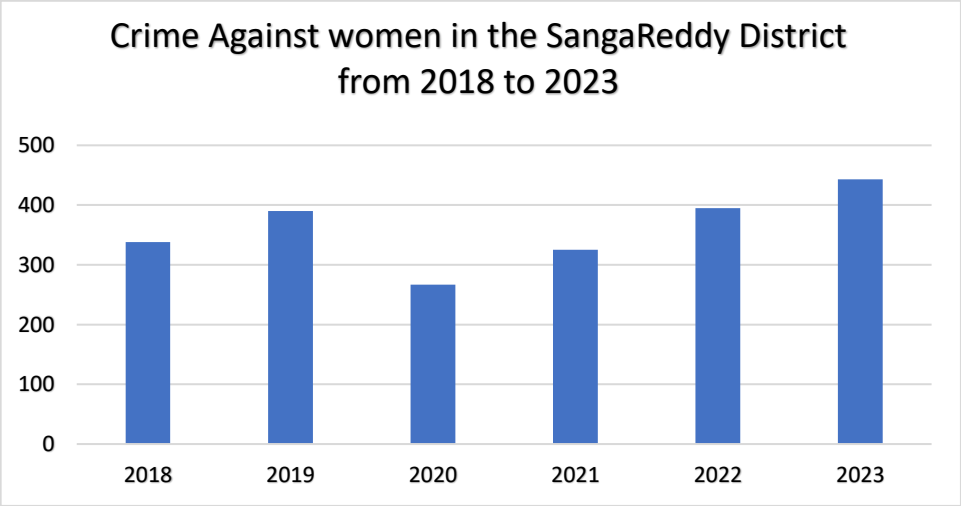


Table 3: Crime Against Women in Sangareddy District: 2018 to 2023

No. of Crime cases	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
	338	390	267	325	395	443



The increasing crime rates against women, including domestic violence, sexual assault, and cyber harassment, highlight the urgent need for initiatives such as Bharosa Centres, One-Stop Crisis Centres, child helplines, and legal aid programs playing a crucial role in ensuring justice and rehabilitation for survivors. With crimes against women rising, the integration of real-time support services offered by the Bharosa centres can lead to quicker interventions, improved conviction rates, and long-term social change. Such

centres act as one-stop solutions, empowering survivors and reinforcing institutional commitment to women's safety and justice.

4.3. About the Bharosa Centres

The Bharosa Centre is a significant initiative in India, designed to support survivors of violence, abuse, and trauma, with a focus on women, children, and the elderly. It provides a one-stop service for addressing the needs of survivors, including legal assistance, medical aid, psychological counselling, and rehabilitation services. This initiative aligns with broader reforms following the Nirbhaya case and the Justice Verma Committee's recommendations.

Bharosa Centres operate as integrated support hubs, with collaboration between law enforcement agencies, the judiciary, social welfare departments, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). These centres provide a safe, confidential space for survivors to report incidents, seek help, and receive various forms of assistance, reducing the need for survivors to navigate multiple systems. Key services include:

- **Legal Assistance**: Helping survivors understand and pursue their legal rights.
- **Psychological Counselling**: Trauma-informed care for emotional support.
- **Medical Aid**: Including forensic examinations when required.
- **Rehabilitation Services**: Helping survivors reintegrate into society.

Bharosa Centres incorporate child-friendly approaches, ensuring that minor survivors have access to specialized facilities like child psychologists and interview rooms. Technology is also employed, with video conferencing for court interactions and 24/7 helplines.

The centres are administered under the State Police Department, with senior officers like the Superintendent of Police (SP) or Commissioner of Police (CP) overseeing operations. The core team includes counsellors, legal advisors, police officers, medical professionals, and child welfare experts. Bharosa Centres also work closely with other government bodies and NGOs to offer comprehensive support.

The process for survivor support is structured and systematic. Upon arrival at the centre, survivors undergo an initial reception, followed by a preliminary assessment of their physical and emotional condition. They then receive counselling, legal aid, and medical assistance as required. If necessary, the survivor is provided shelter and rehabilitation. Throughout the process, confidentiality and a survivor-centric approach are prioritized.

For cases involving sexual violence, forensic medical examinations are conducted, and survivor statements are recorded under Section 164 of the CrPC. If the survivor's statement is not used in court later, it can still strengthen the case.

Bharosa Centres also support child survivors under the POCSO Act, providing financial aid at various stages of the legal process. The centre works with many other organizations, and the collaborative framework ensures that women and children receive timely and holistic support, addressing their immediate needs and facilitating their long-

term rehabilitation and empowerment. It facilitates the release and processing of funds through the District Welfare Offices and Child Care Institutions (CCIs), ensuring timely support to survivors and their families.

Monitoring and evaluation of the centres are carried out at the state and district levels. Regular feedback, training, and mentoring ensure continuous improvement in service delivery.

The Bharosa Society, in collaboration with law enforcement and government agencies, is responsible for screening, training, and appointing personnel with expertise in gender-sensitive support, trauma care, and legal procedures. It also conducts regular capacity-building programs to enhance staff efficiency, ensuring effective, survivor-centric service delivery.

4.4. Bharosa Centre, Sangareddy

The Sangareddy Bharosa Centre was the 4th Bharosa centre established in Telangana state during September 2020, in the premises of the town police station in an already existing infrastructure. One of the primary concerns was its inability to meet the technical and infrastructural requirements of a modern-day Bharosa Centre.

Additionally, due to its vicinity in the police station, there was a widespread perception that it was an extension of law enforcement, which inadvertently discouraged individuals—particularly women and children—from seeking support. In many parts of both urban and rural communities, visiting a police station is still viewed as a social taboo, often associated with legal troubles, stigma, and fear. As a result, those in need of counselling, legal aid, or rehabilitation services hesitated to approach the centre, fearing social repercussions or misunderstanding its role as a safe, neutral, and survivor-friendly space.

Additional SP, Sri Sanjeeva Rao, briefing the new police recruits

Recognizing these challenges and the need for a well-designed and well-equipped Bharosa Centre in a more accessible location, the Aurobindo Pharma Foundation, as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility initiative under the theme "Gender Equity and Women Empowerment," pledged to construct a new Centre with an outlay of ₹2 crore. The Police Department allocated dedicated land for the Bharosa Centre in the Old Town, Sangareddy, and the Aurobindo Pharma Foundation undertook its construction. The foundation stone for the permanent facility was laid on 22 August 2022, and the construction was successfully completed within 13 months. The inauguration was done on 7 October 2023 by the then Telangana State's Director General of Police, Anjani Kumar.

The APF has taken utmost care in designing the Bharosa centre to facilitate easy operations of counselling, medical examination, video conferencing, trainings to new recruitees etc.

The construction of a Bharosa Centre involved multiple stakeholders, each playing a crucial role in its development and functionality.

Table 4: Stakeholders

#	Stakeholder	Role in Project
1	Government of Telangana	Land for the construction of the Bharosa Centre and policy support for the establishment of the centre
2	Aurobindo Pharma Foundation	Construction of building and equipping it with infrastructure for the Bharosa Centre
3	Bharosa Centre, Telangana	Support through monitoring and supervision
4	Architects & Contractors	Construction of the Bharosa centre

The Centre is spanning 5,600 square feet across two levels, the facility comprises 8 rooms on the ground floor and 7 rooms on the first floor. The ground floor houses a front-end reception, along with dedicated rooms for the Centre Coordinator, Women Police Facilitation Officer, Legal Support Officer, Auxiliary Nurse-Midwife, Support Person cum Child Play Area, Statement Recording, Medical Investigation, and Counselling. The first floor includes a Video Conferencing Room, Storage Room, and a dedicated space for the She Team, with plans to allocate two additional rooms for Bharosa Family Counselling.

The previous facility had only 6 rooms, accommodating the Reception, Centre Coordinator, Women Police Facilitation Officer, Legal Support Officer, and a combined space for the Auxiliary Nurse-Midwife and Medical Investigation, along with a Video Conferencing Room. There was no dedicated Child Play Area, and the open space in front of the building was used for this purpose. The new infrastructure significantly enhances service efficiency, accessibility, and survivor support, reinforcing the Bharosa Centre's mission to provide comprehensive and trauma-sensitive care.

This shift would not only help overcome social barriers but also ensure a more welcoming and trauma-sensitive environment where survivors feel safe and empowered to seek the assistance, they need without fear or hesitation.

The figures in the following pages give a comparative picture of the old and new bharosa centres and showcase the additional features of child play room, legal counselling rooms etc.

Infrastructure facilities of Bharosa Centres at Sangareddy (Old and New)

1

2

3

1. Building
2. Reception Area
3. Medical Investigation room

Infrastructure facilities of Bharosa Centre at Sangareddy (Old and New)

4

5

6

7

4. Center Coordinator Chamber
5. Accounts Room
6. Video Conference Hall
7. Facilitating Officer Chamber

Child friendly Play area in the New Bharosa Centre

Overall, the CSR initiative has effectively addressed the need for a secure and comfortable premises for offering support to the survivors of abuse.

Table 5: Key Outputs and Outcomes

#	Key Activity	Key Outputs	Key Outcomes
1	Construction of a two-level building spanning 5,600 square feet. The facility comprises 8 rooms in the ground floor and 7 rooms in the first floor.	The old building had only total 6 rooms whereas the new building provides spacious and separate rooms for all the staff, including a separate play area, counselling room, a video conferencing facility, training rooms, storage areas etc, also sharing provision for the SHE Teams.	▪ Efficient staff work environment and performance ▪ Service delivery expansion ▪ Privacy and safety for survivors ▪ Improved access to technology ▪ Improved Inter agency co-ordination ▪ Increased capacity for awareness campaigns

4.5. Project Achievements

4.5.1. Improved Work Environment and Performance

Apart from providing comprehensive survivor support, the new Bharosa Centre ensures a secure and conducive environment for its all-women staff. The enhanced security measures, improved infrastructure, and well-equipped facilities have significantly contributed to their sense of safety, comfort, and confidence in carrying out their responsibilities and achieving survivor support satisfaction.

The new Bharosa Centre has significantly improved the work environment through:

- Dedicated workspaces for police officers, legal counsellors, and psychologists, ensuring smooth inter-departmental collaboration.
- Private consultation rooms, allowing staff to provide personalized support to survivors without external disruptions.
- Adequate break areas for staff, helping them maintain mental well-being, which is essential given the nature of their work.
- Training spaces for law enforcement and new recruits, allowing continuous capacity building and skill development.

4.5.2. Improved Privacy and Safety for Survivors

Ensuring privacy and safety is a core principle of the Bharosa Centre, and the new facility has been designed to provide a secure and trauma-sensitive environment. Key improvements include:

- Dedicated private rooms for evidence collection, counselling, legal consultations, and medical examinations, reducing exposure and discomfort for survivors.
- Restricted access areas, ensuring confidentiality while preventing unauthorized personnel from interacting with survivors.
- Child-friendly spaces, including a separate play area, allowing young survivors to communicate in a comfortable setting without added stress.
- Video conferencing for judicial proceedings, eliminating the need for survivors to attend court physically, thus preventing re-victimization and emotional distress.

These measures have enhanced the dignity, security, and emotional well-being of survivors, making it easier for them to come forward and seek support.

4.5.3. Service Delivery Expansion

The expansion of services at the new Bharosa Centre has significantly improved its capacity to assist survivors of violence and abuse and increased their trust and confidence in seeking justice. The upgraded infrastructure has allowed for:

- Increased survivor outreach with a rise in case intake by 100% compared to the previous centre. Previously only 12 to 15 cases were received per month which is now increased to 30 to 35 per month.

- Comprehensive training for new police recruits on the operations, key activities, and priorities of the Bharosa Centre to enhance their understanding of survivor centred approaches and effective case handling, almost 20 days in a month when the recruitments are fresh.
- Strengthened coordination among law enforcement, legal aid, and counselling services, resulting in faster case resolution and streamlined legal procedures.
    - The survivor's first statement during FIR filing, as well as the statement before the magistrate under Section 283 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (CrPC), are recorded directly at the Bharosa Centre, ensuring confidentiality and privacy.
    - Trials conducted via video conferencing, further safeguard the survivor's identity and enhance speedy accessibility to justice.
- Significant increase in visits by guardians and parents of suspected survivors, seeking counselling support from the staff, rising from almost zero to 5–10 visits per month. This growth reflects the strengthened trust in the Bharosa Centre's confidentiality, support services, and survivor-centric approach, encouraging families to seek counselling, guidance, and intervention for vulnerable individuals.

4.5.4. Improved Technology and Facilities

The integration of advanced technology has played a crucial role in enhancing service efficiency, legal processes, and security at the Bharosa Centre such as:

- Video conferencing for recording survivor statements for case filing, allowing magistrates to collect evidence remotely, reducing the need for survivors to visit court.
- Digital case management systems, streamlining case tracking, documentation, and coordination among law enforcement and legal teams.
- Surveillance and security systems, ensuring safety within the premises while maintaining a secure environment.
- The PMU Ticketing System at Bharosa Centre offers multiple benefits, including faster resolution, transparency and accountability by ensuring every case is documented and followed up until closure.

4.5.5. Increased Capacity for Awareness Campaigns

New Constable recruits attending a training session at the Bharosa Centre

Improved operational efficiency has enabled the staff to allocate more time and resources for conducting awareness campaigns in schools, colleges, and communities, fostering greater public awareness on women's safety, legal rights, and crime prevention. While only 1 campaign on an average was done in a month before shifting to new building, the campaigns increased to 2 per month after shifting.

4.5.6. Improved Inter agency Coordination

Collaboration with various organizations was enabled to facilitate women and children to receive timely and holistic support, addressing their immediate needs and facilitating their long-term rehabilitation and empowerment in a holistic manner.

Table 6: Inter agency Coordination

#	Organization	Collaboration
1	Sakhi	Provides short term shelter to survivors which may be extended to another 5 days.
2	SWAD NGO	Assists survivors of domestic violence and sexual abuse.
3	National Institute of Mental Health, Hyderabad	Comprehensive mental health services.
4	The National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences, Bengaluru	Comprehensive mental health services, including counselling and rehabilitation for individuals affected by various forms of abuse.

5	Socio Economic Health & Agricultural Development Association (SEHADA)	Organizing people for ensuring women rights, social justice and promote community development towards an enabling environment.
6	Child Welfare Committee (CWC)	To ensure the protection, rehabilitation, and legal support for children in distress, particularly those who are Survivors of abuse, neglect, trafficking, or violence.
7	The Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV)	KGBV schools support the girl survivors of abuse in pursuing academics.
8	The District Welfare Offices and Child Care Institutions (CCIs)	Child Care Institutions (CCIs), managed by the District Welfare Offices, provide shelter, care, and rehabilitation for survivors of abuse.

4.5.7. Empowerment of the Survivors

Psychological and Emotional Empowerment: Survivors receive trauma-informed counselling, support groups and peer counselling and psychological treatment through mental health professionals ensuring long-term emotional well-being and resilience.

Legal Empowerment: The centre assists in filing police complaints, FIRs, and Section 164 CrPC statements, ensuring survivors' voices are heard in the judicial process. Survivors are educated about their legal rights under laws such as Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, POCSO Act (for child survivors of sexual violence) and Criminal Laws (IPC Sections on Rape, Assault, Harassment). Free legal aid and representation ensure they can pursue justice confidently.

Economic and Financial Empowerment: Survivors are linked to skill development programs, vocational training, and employment opportunities. The financial support is given through government welfare schemes for entrepreneurship and self-help group initiatives which help survivors become financially independent.

Shelter and Rehabilitation Support

- Survivors in unsafe situations are provided temporary shelter and protection through government or NGO-run homes.
- Long-term rehabilitation plans include education, job placement, and relocation support if necessary.

Social Reintegration and Community Support

- Bharosa Centre works to eliminate stigma and reinforce survivor dignity through awareness campaigns and community outreach.
- Family counselling is provided to restore relationships and ensure social acceptance.
- The centre collaborates with NGOs, psychologists, legal experts, and financial institutions to provide survivors with well-rounded, sustained support.

The new Bharosa Centre has successfully expanded service delivery, strengthened survivor privacy and safety, integrated modern technology, improved the staff work environment and increased the capacity for awareness campaigns. These improvements have collectively enhanced the centre's ability to provide swift justice, comprehensive support, and a dignified experience for Survivors.

Custom oriented design of the new building and the facilities are tailored to specific needs, such as video conferencing, play rooms, counselling, medical investigation apart from accessible spaces for differently-abled individuals. The spacious interiors and good work environments enhance the spirit and efficiency of the staff helping in quality performance. This also provides an enabling environment for the survivors to reach out for help and support without hesitation.

4.6. Contribution to Sustainable Development Goals

The CSR funding for the construction of Bharosa Centre aligns with several **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** set by the United Nations. It supports a holistic approach to achieving multiple SDGs. These centres act as a cornerstone for gender equality, justice, well-being, and community empowerment, contributing significantly to the vision of a fair, inclusive, and sustainable society.

Table 7: Alignment of the CSR project with the SDGs

Goal	Alignment
	Target: Eliminate violence against women and girls in public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual exploitation. **Relevance**: Bharosa Centre is a safe space for women and children who are survivors of violence, providing legal, psychological, and medical assistance, which directly supports gender equality
	Target 16.3: Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all. **Target 16.1**: Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere. **Relevance**: Bharosa Centre enhances access to justice by offering integrated services, ensuring survivors receive prompt support and legal assistance, and reducing the trauma associated with judicial processes.
	Target 3.4: Promote mental health and well-being. **Target 3.8**: Achieve universal health coverage, including mental health care. **Relevance**: Bharosa Centre provides psychological counselling and mental health support for survivors, contributing to their overall health and well-being.
	Target 11.7: Provide universal access to safe, inclusive, and accessible green and public spaces.

	Relevance: By establishing well-equipped centres that serve as safe spaces, Bharosa Centres contribute to making cities and communities safer and more inclusive for vulnerable groups.
	Target 10.3: Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies, and practices. **Relevance**: Bharosa Centres work to empower marginalized groups, particularly women, children, and the elderly, ensuring they have access to justice and equal opportunities.
	Target 9.1: Develop quality, reliable, sustainable, and resilient infrastructure. **Relevance**: Funding for the construction and infrastructure development of Bharosa Centres directly supports the creation of resilient facilities that serve the needs of the community effectively.
	Target 17.17: Encourage public-private partnerships (PPPs) and civil society participation. **Relevance:** The construction of a resourceful building for the Bharosa Centre stands as a testament to the public-private partnership for the well-being of civilians.

5. Challenges

Women and child abuse remain a serious social concern in India despite legal frameworks and awareness initiatives. Crimes such as domestic violence, sexual assault, trafficking, child labour, and cyber exploitation continue to threaten the safety and dignity of vulnerable individuals. According to National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data, cases of violence against women and children have been steadily rising due to deep-rooted gender inequalities, socio-economic challenges, and gaps in law enforcement.

In Telangana, the government and law enforcement agencies have launched initiatives like Bharosa Centres, SHE Teams, and the Women Safety Wing to combat abuse. These programs provide legal aid, psychological support, and rehabilitation for survivors while ensuring swift justice through fast-track courts and digital case monitoring. However, the following challenges need to be addressed to ensure a safer and more equitable society.

Challenges Faced by Bharosa Centres:

Underreporting of Cases: Fear of social stigma, retaliation, and lack of trust in law enforcement prevent survivors from coming forward.

Delayed Justice and Legal Barriers: Lengthy legal proceedings, insufficient evidence collection, and low conviction rates discourage survivors from seeking justice.

Lack of Awareness: Many survivors and their families are unaware of their legal rights and available support systems.

Inadequate Support Services: Limited access to counselling, shelter homes, and rehabilitation programs weakens survivor recovery.

Cultural and Patriarchal Norms: Deep-rooted gender biases and societal pressure often normalize abuse, preventing timely intervention.

Cybercrime and Digital Exploitation: Rising cases of cyber harassment, child pornography, and online exploitation pose new threats.

Economic Dependence: Financial insecurity forces many women and children to remain in abusive environments.

Trafficking and Exploitation: Vulnerability to trafficking, forced labour, and sexual exploitation is often linked to poverty, illiteracy, and migration.

Gaps in Rehabilitation and Reintegration: Survivors struggle with mental health issues, employment challenges, and social acceptance post-abuse.

Rehabilitation programs and placement opportunities for survivors are essential and require support from philanthropic partners while ensuring confidentiality. Addressing these challenges demands a multi-faceted approach, including stronger law enforcement, awareness campaigns, fast-track legal proceedings, and enhanced survivor support services.

6. Recommendations and Way forward

To enhance effectiveness, sustainability, and outreach, Bharosa Centres must adopt multi-dimensional strategies to strengthen survivor support. Based on stakeholder feedback and assessment observations, the following recommendations are proposed:

1. **Strengthening Infrastructure and Facilities**
    - Expand infrastructure to include dedicated shelter homes for temporary survivor protection.
    - Secure public-private partnerships (PPPs) for infrastructure funding.
    - Integrate AI-powered systems for case tracking and survivor data management.
2. **Legal and Psychological Support Enhancement**
    - Conduct regular mental health and well-being programs for survivors and staff.
    - Partner with law colleges and legal aid organizations for continuous legal support.
3. **Financial Empowerment and Resource Mobilization**
    - Establish a Survivor Rehabilitation Fund for financial aid, education, and vocational training.
    - Seek CSR funding, government grants, and NGO collaborations for financial sustainability.
    - Provide microfinance and entrepreneurship support for survivors.
    - Link survivors to government welfare schemes and self-help groups (SHGs).

4. Capacity Building and Skill Development for Staff

- Implement regular training on gender sensitivity, trauma care, and legal procedures.
- Introduce stress management programs to prevent burnout among Bharosa staff.
- Develop a certification course for survivor assistance professionals.
- Collaborate with national and international experts for training programs.

5. Technology Integration for Better Service Delivery

- Implement AI-driven case tracking and automated escalation mechanisms.
- Use secure online platforms for anonymous crime reporting.
- Integrate helpline services with real-time tracking for emergency response.
- Partner with IT firms for tech-driven solutions and digital case monitoring.

6. Awareness and Outreach Programs

- Conduct awareness drives in schools, colleges, and workplaces on women's rights and child protection.
- Organize self-defence training workshops for women and adolescent girls.
- Leverage social media and media partnerships for widespread awareness campaigns.
- Integrate behavioural change communication (BCC) strategies into outreach efforts.

7. Strengthening Coordination with Law Enforcement and Judiciary

- Establish fast-track judicial cells for speedy case resolution.
- Train police and judicial personnel in trauma-sensitive survivor handling.
- Conduct quarterly review meetings with law enforcement and judiciary.
- Develop joint training modules for seamless coordination.

8. Rehabilitation and Reintegration Support for Survivors

- Provide long-term education and vocational training.
- Establish employment assistance programs through corporate partnerships.
- Create safe transitional housing for post-case support.
- Develop sustainable livelihood programs linked to industries and MSMEs.
- Form a survivor support network for social reintegration.

Implementing these strategies will enhance Bharosa Centres' ability to provide holistic support, ensuring survivors receive justice, rehabilitation, and empowerment for a secure future.

7. Scoring Matrix and Conclusion

The OECD Scoring System is a structured framework developed by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to evaluate projects, policies, and development interventions based on key performance indicators. It is widely used in impact assessments, program evaluations, and policy reviews, especially under the OECD-DAC (Development Assistance Committee) Evaluation Criteria.

Table 8: OECD-DAC Scoring Matrix for evaluating the impact of the Bharosa Centre.

Valuation Criteria	Definition	Scoring (1 to 5 Scale)	Indicators for Bharosa Centre Construction	Score
Relevance	Alignment with the needs of Survivors, law enforcement, and judicial processes.	**1 - Not Relevant** to **5 - Highly Relevant**	▪ Infrastructure supports survivor privacy & safety ▪ Accessibility for women, children, and differently abled individuals. ▪ Integration with law enforcement, judiciary, and medical facilities.	4.5
Effectiveness	Extent to which the infrastructure meets its intended purpose.	**1 - Ineffective** to **5 - Highly Effective**	▪ Increase in the number of cases handled before vs. after the new centre. ▪ Availability of essential services (legal aid, medical, counselling). ▪ Reduction in survivor processing time (e.g., FIR registration, medical, legal).	4.5
Efficiency	Optimal use of resources, cost-effectiveness, and timely execution.	**1 - Inefficient** to **5 - Highly Efficient**	▪ Timeliness of construction completion. ▪ Resource utilization (CSR funding, government support). ▪ Cost-effectiveness and sustainability of operational expenses.	4.5

Impact	Positive or negative long-term effects on Survivors, law enforcement, and the community.	**1 - No Impact** to **5 - Transformational Impact**	▪ Increase in reported cases due to improved survivor trust. ▪ Reduction in repeated victimization or trauma levels. ▪ Enhanced coordination between police, judiciary, and NGOs.	4.5
Sustainability	Longevity of the infrastructure's effectiveness and financial sustainability.	**1 - Unsustainable** to **5 - Highly Sustainable**	▪ Regular maintenance plans are in place. ▪ Long-term funding support (CSR, government, community). ▪ Ability to scale or replicate the model in other districts.	4
Average score				**4.4**

Scoring Guidelines

- **1-2 (Low Impact)**: Significant gaps in infrastructure design, operational inefficiency, or lack of survivor-centric approach.
- **3 (Moderate Impact)**: Infrastructure meets basic requirements but has limitations in accessibility, efficiency, or survivor experience.
- **4-5 (High Impact)**: Strongly supports survivor safety, enhances service delivery, and ensures long-term sustainability with measurable positive outcomes.

Conclusion: The CSR impact assessment of the Bharosa Centre construction underscores its effectiveness as a transformative intervention for women and children in distress. With an impressive average score of **4.4**, the initiative has significantly improved **infrastructure, service delivery, survivor support, and operational efficiency**, reinforcing its crucial role in **ensuring safety, rehabilitation, and empowerment**.

Moving forward, **scaling up this model across states, strengthening financial sustainability, integrating digital solutions, and expanding vocational programs** will further enhance its impact. The success of this CSR initiative highlights the power of corporate engagement in **advancing gender equality, justice, and long-term survivor support**, setting a benchmark for socially responsible investments in public welfare.

8. Testimonials

Ms. Deva Laxmi – Senior Counsellor cum Centre Co-Ordinator

"The construction of new facility for the Bharosa Centre has transformed our ability to provide trauma-informed care. With state-of-the-art counselling rooms and a more structured support system, we can offer survivors a safe and comforting environment and reduce the processing time for cases. Operational efficiency has been a game-changer. The integration of digital case management systems and better infrastructure has reduced administrative burdens and improved tracking of case progress. Staff morale has also improved because they can now focus more on service delivery rather than battling logistical challenges."

B Sowjanya – Legal Support Officer

"Legal assistance has never been more streamlined. The dedicated legal aid desk and trained professionals available at the Centre allow us to process cases faster. Survivors no longer have to shuttle between different agencies, as we provide end-to-end support. This improvement has built confidence among those who approach us for help. Earlier, the lack of proper infrastructure and centralized communication channels led to delays in investigation and victim support. Now, with real-time case updates we ensure swift action and better case outcomes."

V. Shalini - General Nurse – Midwife

"The upgraded medical facilities at the Bharosa Centre allow us to provide immediate medical attention in a survivor-friendly environment. With improved forensic capabilities and a dedicated examination area, we can conduct sensitive medical assessments with dignity and care. The impact of these changes is visible in the increased trust survivors place in our services."

R Maheswari – Support Person 1

"The Bharosa Centre has allowed us to expand our outreach programs. With better resources and community engagement tools, we have increased awareness about gender-based violence and legal rights. More people are now approaching us, which is a testament to the trust we have built through this enhanced facility."

Impact Assessment of Bachupally Modern Police Station, Medchal-Malkajgiri district, Telangana

Constructed by Aurobindo Pharma Foundation (A Philanthropic arm of Aurobindo Pharma Ltd, under Corporate Social Responsibility)

Submitted to

AUROBINDO PHARMA FOUNDATION

Submitted by

apmas

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Abbreviations

APF	: Aurobindo Pharma Foundation
CCTNS	: Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems
CCTV	: Closed-Circuit Television
CSR	: Corporate Social Responsibility
DAC	: Development Assistance Committee
HCs	: Head Constables
OECD	: Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
PCs	: Police Constables
PS	: Police Station
SDGs	: Sustainable Development Goals
SHG	: Self-Help Group
SHO	: Station House Officer
SIs	: Sub-Inspectors
TSPA	: Telangana State Police Academy

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On behalf of APMAS, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Aurobindo Pharma Foundation (APF)- a Philanthropic arm of Aurobindo Pharma Ltd, for providing us with the opportunity to conduct the impact assessment of the Bachupally Modern Police Station. This has been a unique and meaningful experience, enabling us to observe and document the transformative changes brought about by this CSR initiative.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the Station House Officer, **Sri J. Upender Rao, Inspector**, for his invaluable support and exemplary leadership throughout the assessment process. His guidance and willingness to share key insights about the project have been instrumental in shaping this report.

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We would also like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the visitors and their families, who generously shared their personal stories and feedback with us. Their testimonies offered crucial insights into the human aspect of this project and highlighted its profound impact on their lives.

A special mention goes to **Mr. Satya Vardhan and Mr. Mastan,** supporting staff, for their continuous assistance and commitment throughout our interactions during the study. Their efforts were instrumental in ensuring smooth communication and coordination with the police station staff, citizens, and victims.

This assessment would not have been possible without the cooperation and support of all the stakeholders involved in the Bachupally Modern Police Station project. Their openness in sharing information, responsiveness to our queries, and facilitation of access to facilities were invaluable in enabling us to conduct our work effectively and with clarity.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Aurobindo Pharma Foundation and all associated partners for their significant contributions towards enhancing the accessibility and effectiveness of law and justice for all.

We are truly honored to have been part of this impactful journey.

With deepest gratitude

Team APMAS!

January 2025

1. Executive Summary

Project Overview: A new Modern Polic Station building, spread over 21,000 square feet was constructed, with the budget of ₹ 3.56 crores, on government allotted land through Aurobindo Pharma Foundation's (a philanthropic arm of Aurobindo Pharma Ltd) support. The Modern Police Station consists of 36 functional rooms, dedicated facilities for women, a cybercrime desk, and advanced technological systems such as CCTV command centres.

The "Impact Assessment of Bachupally Modern Police Station," a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative by Aurobindo Pharma Foundation - a Philanthropic arm of Aurobindo Pharma Ltd, evaluates the socio-economic and operational implications of the Modern police station established at Bachupally, Hyderabad. This state-of-the-art facility was constructed, addressing critical infrastructure deficiencies and enhancing law enforcement capabilities in the region. The Bachupally Police Station serves a population of approximately 1.5 lakh across 18 square kilometers—a jurisdiction previously constrained by inadequate facilities. These upgrades aim to enhance police efficiency, public safety, and community trust.

Key Outcomes

1. **Crime Resolution:** The police station has swiftly resolved several high-profile cases, including a motorcycle theft ring, a tragic wall collapse incident caused by negligence, a complex revenge murder involving minors, and drug smuggling by police personnel, showcasing its operational effectiveness and commitment to justice.

2. **Streamlined operations** through advanced technological tools, such as the CCTV command centre and cybercrime desk, have improved the station's ability to handle complex cases with precision.

3. **Increased Public Trust** through enhanced safety measures, prompt grievance redressal, and active community engagement, paving the way for a stronger police-community partnership.

4. **Enhanced operational readiness** with well-designed facilities such as SI cabins, detention cells, and a record room, enabling efficient handling of administrative and investigative tasks. Modern amenities, including a well-equipped kitchen and separate restrooms for men and women, have significantly boosted police morale, productivity, and overall job satisfaction.

5. **Community-friendly** additions like a garden, RO drinking water, and a corporate aesthetic create a welcoming environment, fostering inclusivity, trust, and a sense of security for visitors.

6. **Improved access** to law enforcement for women and marginalized groups through dedicated help desks, separate amenities, and proactive outreach, making the police station a safe and approachable institution.
7. **Strengthened community engagement** via initiatives like drug awareness programs, self-defence workshops, and open-house discussions, empowering citizens and building mutual respect between law enforcement and the public.
8. **Enhanced responsiveness** to citizen complaints, with a noticeable reduction in response times and increased case closure rates.
9. **Elevated community perception of the police** force as a professional, approachable, and efficient body, fostering greater confidence in law enforcement.
10. **The police station serves as a role model** in creating a balanced environment where law enforcement and public welfare coalesce, showcasing the broader societal impact of CSR-led initiatives.

Sustainability and Challenges

The initiative strongly aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions), by fostering a robust law enforcement framework, and SDG 5 (Gender Equality), through dedicated facilities and programs that empower women and marginalized groups. The project has laid a solid foundation for creating a modern, community-focused police station model that can inspire similar initiatives nationwide.

However, challenges such as staffing shortages, consistent maintenance of infrastructure, and the need for periodic technological upgrades pose significant hurdles to its sustained success. Additionally, ensuring adequate training for personnel to effectively utilize advanced tools and fostering continuous community engagement are critical areas requiring attention.

Addressing these gaps through strategic planning, resource allocation, and collaborative efforts between stakeholders will be essential to maintaining the long-term viability of this initiative. Scaling this model to other regions will further demonstrate its replicability and amplify its impact on improving public safety, trust, and institutional effectiveness.

Recommendations

- **Expand CCTV Coverage:** Install additional CCTV cameras in strategic locations to enhance crime prevention and detection capabilities.
- **Strengthen Capacity Building:** Conduct regular training programs to upgrade the skills and knowledge of staff, ensuring effective utilization of modern technology and resources.
- **Increase Community Outreach:** Organize awareness campaigns to inform the public about the station's advanced facilities, community programs, and support services, thereby fostering greater engagement and trust.

- **Optimize Infrastructure Utilization:** Repurpose underutilized spaces, such as converting unused work desks into skill development centres or community interaction hubs, to maximize the station's impact.
- **Secure Sustained Funding:** Explore avenues for additional funding to address ongoing maintenance needs, technological upgrades, and staffing gaps, ensuring the station remains operationally robust and future ready.

Conclusion

The assessment concludes that the Modern Police Station stands as a remarkable example of a transformative CSR initiative, setting a new benchmark for law enforcement infrastructure in India. By addressing identified challenges through strategic interventions and sustained collaboration, this model has the potential to inspire similar projects nationwide, contributing to the development of safer, more inclusive, and equitable communities.

Bike thieves Arrested

Ganja sellers Arrested

2. Introduction

2.1 Introduction

The role of the police in today's developing society has become increasingly challenging. The pace of societal development is very rapid. Establishing peace, maintaining law and order, and fostering social coherence are responsibilities shared by both the police and the public. Socio-economic disadvantages often contribute to rising crime rates, with many crimes being driven by social evils.

A policeman or policewoman performs their duties diligently, even when others are celebrating festivals at home with their families. During riots, while people seek safety in their homes or elsewhere, police officers risk their lives to protect the public. The role of the police in society is both essential and indispensable. Friendly and cooperative relations between the police and the public are fundamental to a democratic system. Establish social security and peace, the police must focus on crime prevention and ensure that criminals are punished according to the due process of law and justice.

The phrase **"Always on Duty"** aptly describes the police force, as officers are always on duty, except when on leave or suspension. Research conducted by the Police Radio Training School (PRTS), Indore, reveals that over 80% of police personnel experience high stress levels. Factors contributing to this stress include long working hours, lack of time for family, inadequate infrastructure, and insufficient leadership sensitivity.

(Varun Kapur, IPS and Dr. Yamini Karmarkar – 2014, www.mppolice.nic.in)

Police stations are often the first point of contact for citizens during crises, yet the "Status of Policing in India Report, 2019" reveals a grim picture of inadequate infrastructure, lack of basic facilities, and resource shortages in the Police stations.

(Common cause – 2019, www.commoncause.in)

Furthermore, a survey revealed that women police officers often endure long periods without drinking water to avoid the need for urination due to the lack of appropriate facilities. Additionally, they face challenges in finding proper places to wash their clothes and even to dry their undergarments while on duty.

(Bureau of Police Research and Development and CRPF – 2016, www.economictimes.indiatimes.com)

In Telangana, data highlights significant challenges, including limited personnel strength, inadequate technological resources, and suboptimal working conditions. These systemic issues adversely affect the efficiency of law enforcement and erode public trust in police services.

The Bachupally Modern Police Station, developed by the Aurobindo Pharma Foundation as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives, marks a significant stride in addressing the infrastructural and functional challenges often faced by Indian police stations. With its state-of-the-art facilities, sustainable design,

and citizen-friendly spaces, the station aspires to set a new benchmark for police infrastructure. This initiative not only enhances operational efficiency but also fosters greater trust and collaboration between law enforcement and the community.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) has become an essential aspect of running responsible businesses in today's world. Companies, both in India and globally, recognize the importance of giving back to society, protecting the environment, and supporting sustainable growth. In a country like India, where challenges such as poverty, inequality, lack of infrastructure, and inadequate public services are widespread, CSR initiatives play a crucial role in addressing these gaps.

The Companies Act, 2013, made CSR mandatory for certain businesses in India, bringing greater transparency and accountability to how companies contribute to societal development. This legislation has encouraged businesses to plan and execute CSR activities that meet the real needs of communities, such as improving public infrastructure, enhancing safety, and fostering social equity.

CSR projects, like the establishment of the Bachupally Modern Police Station by Aurobindo Pharma Foundation, exemplify how businesses can contribute to societal well-being. By addressing critical gaps in law enforcement infrastructure, such initiatives not only enhance public safety but also build community trust and foster collaboration between the public and the police.

Investing in modern police facilities through CSR activities goes beyond fulfilling legal obligations. It reinforces a company's commitment to social responsibility, improving its public image and earning the trust and respect of stakeholders. Such contributions inspire employees, attract socially conscious partners, and demonstrate how businesses can be a force for positive change.

In summary, CSR initiatives that focus on enhancing public services, such as law enforcement, play a pivotal role in building a fair, safe, and sustainable future for communities. By supporting projects like modern police stations, companies help create an environment of peace, justice, and social harmony.

2.2 Importance of CSR in Law & Justice in India

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) has emerged as a key instrument for promoting public safety and welfare and addressing societal challenges in India. In the realm of law and justice, CSR plays an essential role in bridging gaps in infrastructure, resources, and community support systems that are crucial for ensuring a functional and equitable justice system. The significance of CSR in this domain can be highlighted through the following aspects:

Enhancing Legal Infrastructure: Many police stations, courts, and other justice delivery mechanisms in India face significant infrastructural challenges, including outdated facilities, insufficient technology, and limited accessibility. CSR initiatives, such as building or modernizing police stations, equipping courts with digital tools, and creating citizen-friendly spaces, help significantly improve the efficiency and functionality of legal institutions.

Promoting Access to Justice: CSR projects play a key role in promoting legal literacy and access to justice for marginalized communities. Initiatives like legal aid camps, pro bono services, and awareness programs funded through CSR enable underprivileged sections of society to navigate the legal system effectively and secure their rights.

Supporting Police Welfare: The welfare of law enforcement personnel is often overlooked despite their crucial role in maintaining law and order. CSR initiatives can address this by providing better living conditions, health facilities, stress management programs, and training opportunities for police personnel, thereby improving their morale and productivity.

Encouraging Judicial Reforms: CSR funds can support research and development in judicial reforms, including studies to reduce case backlogs, improve forensic capabilities, and explore alternative dispute resolution mechanisms. These initiatives contribute to systemic improvements that enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the justice delivery system.

Strengthening Community Policing: CSR-driven programs that encourage collaboration between police and communities can help build trust and reduce crime. Initiatives such as skill development for at-risk youth, community awareness campaigns, and victim assistance programs foster safer, more harmonious societies.

Technological Modernization: CSR contributions can expedite the modernization of law enforcement and judicial systems through investments in digital tools such as e-court systems, automated case management systems, surveillance technologies, and cybercrime units. These technologies are essential for tackling contemporary challenges like cybercrime and improving transparency.

Human Rights and Ethical Practices: Companies can also contribute to human rights education and promote ethical practices through CSR. Programs focused on gender sensitization, child protection, and the rehabilitation of offenders align with broader social justice goals and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

CSR in law and justice connects corporate interests with societal needs, creating a collaborative platform to strengthen the rule of law and improve justice delivery in India. By investing in infrastructure, community initiatives, and systemic reforms, CSR can play a transformative role in overcoming challenges faced by the Indian justice system, ensuring it remains accessible, efficient, and fair for all.

2.3 About Aurobindo Pharma Limited

Aurobindo Pharma Limited, founded in 1986 by Mr. P. V. Ramprasad Reddy, Mr. K. Nityananda Reddy, and a group of dedicated professionals, is a leading pharmaceutical company based in India. Commencing its operations in 1988-89 with a single unit manufacturing Semi-Synthetic Penicillin (SSP) in Pondicherry, the company has grown to become a prominent player in the pharmaceutical industry. In 1992, Aurobindo Pharma became a public company and listed its shares on Indian stock exchanges in 1995.

With a vision to make a positive impact on healthcare and human well-being, Aurobindo Pharma has achieved significant success and leadership in various therapeutic segments, including neurosciences, cardiovascular, anti-retroviral, anti-diabetics, gastroenterology, and antibiotics, among others. The company's strengths lie in its large manufacturing facilities approved by leading regulatory bodies, a diversified product portfolio, and a robust research and development facility in India for formulations and active ingredients. Emphasizing operational excellence, Aurobindo Pharma embraces vertical integration, regulatory expertise, and advanced technology for specialty formulations.

2.4 About Aurobindo Pharma Foundation

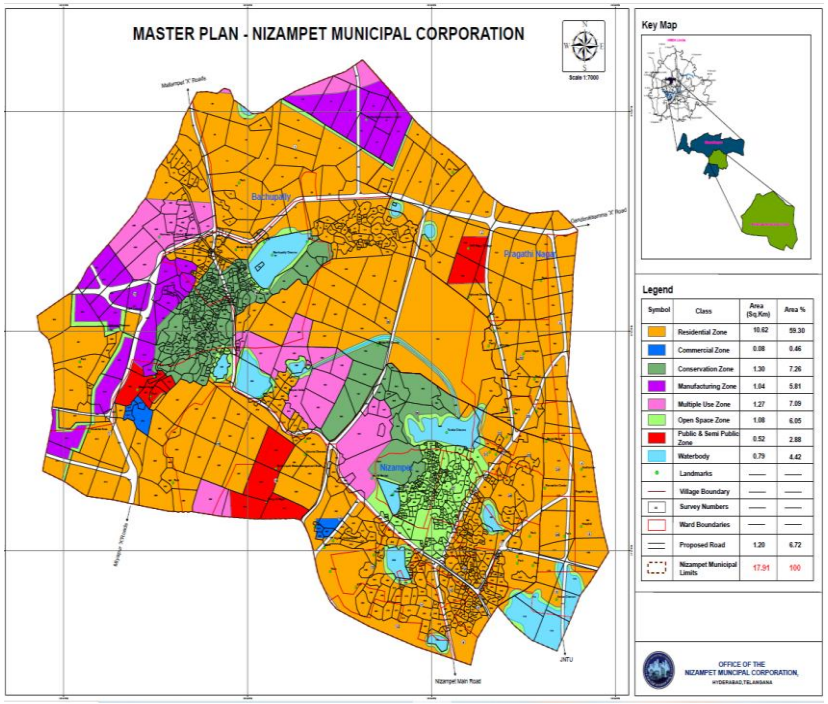
Aurobindo Pharma Foundation is the philanthropic arm of Aurobindo Pharma Limited, dedicated to fostering the social and economic growth of the nation through its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) program. Committed to improving social, environmental, and economic practices, the foundation collaborates with community groups and implements initiatives that benefit society and enhance the country's institutions.

Focused on sustained excellence and responsible business practices, Aurobindo Pharma Foundation operates and adheres to essential social and environmental policies. The foundation's CSR initiatives encompass various intervention areas, such as promoting education, supporting preventive healthcare, eradicating hunger, and poverty, ensuring safe drinking water availability, encouraging environmental sustainability, conserving natural resources, and establishing old-age homes and many more. Through its responsible and compassionate approach, Aurobindo Pharma Foundation exemplifies the commitment of Aurobindo Pharma Limited towards social welfare, sustainability, and inclusive growth, aligning its efforts with the needs of the communities it serves and the well-being of the nation.

2.5 About Bachupally Police Station

The Bachupally Police Station was established in 2016, succeeding the former KPHB Police Station under the Cyberabad Commissionerate. It serves the areas of Bachupally, Pragati Nagar, and Nizampet, covering approximately 1.5 lakh people and an area of 18 sq.km within the Nizampet Municipality of Medchal-Malkajgiri District. The station has 56 staff.

#	Rank	Staff
1	Inspector (SHO)	1
2	Sub Inspectors	6
3	Assistant Sub Inspectors	6
4	Head Constables	2
5	Women Police Constables	1
6	Police Constables	30
7	Home Guards	9
8	Special Police Officers	1



2.6 Project Background

The Bachupally PS was established specifically to address crime in Asia's largest Housing Board Colony, which has been rapidly growing and expanding. However, since its inception, the police station had been operating from a temporary structure. The accommodation was severely inadequate to house the entire police force and necessary facilities within the premises. Additionally, there has been a steady increase in visitors to the station due to the rise in crime-related complaints, further hindering its ability to function effectively.

As part of the CSR initiatives executed by the Aurobindo Pharma Foundation, the construction of the Bachupally Modern PS was carried out during 2021-22 and 2022-23 with a budget of ₹3,56,58,419. This state-of-the-art facility spans over 21,000 square feet and is equipped with 10 SI cabins, two jail rooms, SHO rooms on two floors with exclusive resting areas and toilets, writer rooms, a record room, and a CC Camera room. It also features a proper kitchen and dining area and is housed in a three-story building situated on a two-acre campus.

OLD P.S. BUILDING

NEW P.S. BUILDING

2.7 Objectives of the Impact Assessment

The Impact Assessment study for the Bachupally Modern Police Station aims to thoroughly evaluate the effectiveness and significance of this CSR initiative in improving law enforcement infrastructure and community safety. The study will focus on key objectives, which include assessing the project's outcomes, analyzing its societal benefits, and understanding its long-term impact on the community. The specific objectives are:

1. **Assessing Infrastructure Utilization:** Evaluate the operational effectiveness of the state-of-the-art infrastructure, including the 10 SI cabins, jail rooms, SHO offices, record room, CC Camera room, and other facilities, to determine their impact on daily police operations and service delivery.
2. **Measuring Community Impact:** Understand how the enhanced police station has contributed to the safety and security of the Bachupally community and surrounding areas, including the effectiveness of crime prevention and response times.
3. **Evaluating Workforce Efficiency:** Analyse the impact of modern amenities such as the kitchen, dining areas, and exclusive resting areas on the productivity,

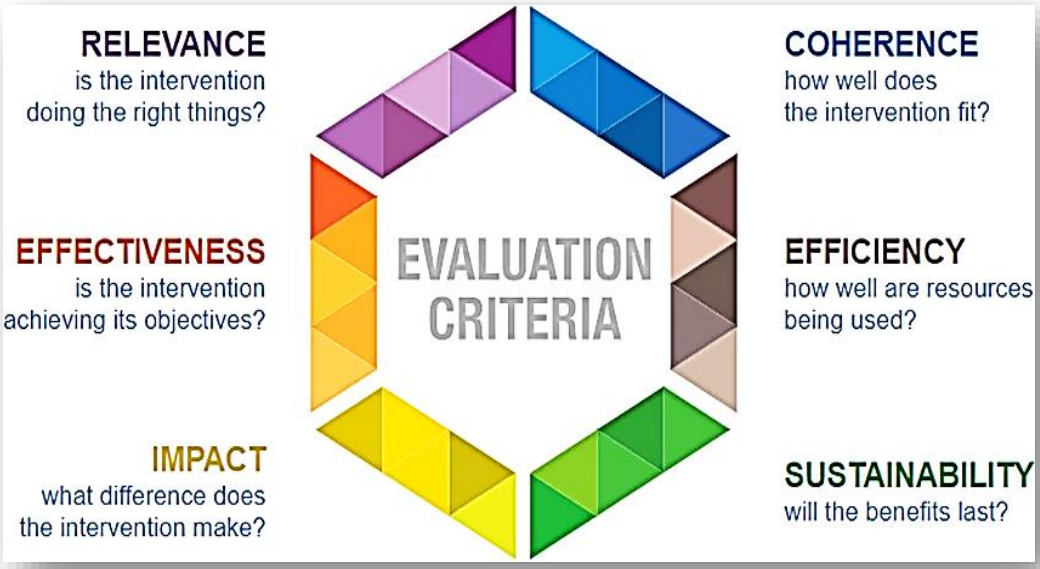
morale, and overall well-being of police personnel, and how these improvements influence operational efficiency.

4. **Societal Benefits:** Investigate whether the upgraded infrastructure has improved public accessibility to police services, enhanced trust in law enforcement, and positively impacted the community's perception of the police force in the region.
5. **Compliance and Sustainability:** Ensure that the project adheres to national and regional standards for public infrastructure projects and assess the sustainability aspects of the construction and ongoing operations to ensure long-term viability.
6. **Long-term Outcomes:** Assess the long-term impact of the project on crime management, response times, and community engagement within the Bachupally jurisdiction, including improvements in public safety and law enforcement effectiveness.
7. **Value for Investment:** Analyse whether the allocated CSR budget of ₹3,56,58,419 was utilized effectively to achieve the intended objectives, and assess the overall value delivered to the stakeholders, including the community and police personnel.
8. **Replication Potential:** Identify the best practices and key insights from the Bachupally Modern Police Station project that could serve as a model for replicating similar initiatives in other regions, promoting improvements in police infrastructure.

3. Methodology and Approach

3.1 Evaluation Framework

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Development Assistance Committee (DAC) criteria provide a framework for evaluating the effectiveness and impact of development projects, particularly in the context of international aid and development assistance. The key criteria are:



Relevance: This assesses the alignment of the project or program with the actual needs of the target population and the priorities of stakeholders. It ensures that the project's goals are contextually appropriate and effectively address the most pressing issues.

Coherence: This criterion assesses how well the project or program aligns with other interventions in the area. It evaluates consistency with broader policies, objectives, and strategies, ensuring that the initiative complements with other activities in the region for overall harmony and effectiveness.

Effectiveness: This measures the extent to which the project achieved its intended outcomes. It looks at how successfully the objectives were realized and whether the expected results were delivered within the defined timeline and scope.

Efficiency: This assesses the optimal use of resources, including time, money, and personnel. It focuses on cost effectiveness in delivering outputs and achieving value for the resources invested.

Impact: This examines the long-term and broader effects of the project, considering both intended and unintended outcomes. It highlights the project's contribution to social, economic, or environmental development over time.

Sustainability: This assesses the project's benefits after completion and the local capacity, ongoing funding, and the resilience of the intervention's effects to ensure long-term viability.

Together, these criteria provide a comprehensive framework for evaluating development initiatives, ensuring that they not only achieve immediate goals but also deliver sustainable, long-term improvements that are well-coordinated with other efforts in the region.

3.2 Data Collection Tools

Interviews: Structured interviews with key stakeholders such as the Station House Officer (SHO), Circle Inspector, Sub-Inspectors (SIs), Head Constables (HCs), and other police personnel, as well as visitors to the police station.
Questionnaires: Administered to a sample of police personnel and visitors to gather their perspectives on the new infrastructure.
Observation: Physical verification of the facilities and infrastructure, including the working conditions, visitor amenities, and overall functionality of the police station.

3.3 Sampling Size

Total respondents are 11 across diverse categories.

Category of Respondents	Interview Schedule	Tools
SHO, Circle Inspector	1	Questionnaire
SIs, HCs, Constables and other	5	Records, Interview & Questionnaire
Visitors	5	Interview & Questionnaire
Total	**11**	

3.4 Sampling Method

Purposive Sampling: Targeted selection of respondents directly involved with the police station operations and stakeholders who could provide in-depth insights into the infrastructure's impact.

3.5 Data Analysis

Quantitative Analysis: Data from various sources was analyzed to assess trends in visitor intake, reduction in wait times, improved response times, and operational efficiency post-construction compared to pre-construction.

Qualitative Analysis: Thematic coding of interview responses to evaluate satisfaction levels, accessibility of services, and challenges, helping to identify the broader impacts of the new infrastructure.

3.6 Limitations

Sample Size: Limited to eleven respondents, which might not capture the full spectrum of experiences and impacts across all stakeholders and visitors.

Time Constraints: The assessment focuses on the short-term impact, potentially overlooking long-term sustainability and operational challenges.

Generalizability: Findings are specific to the Bachupally Modern Police Station and may not be fully applicable to other police stations or regions.

Unmeasured Variables: Certain indirect impacts, such as improved community relations or psychological benefits for staff and visitors, were not quantitatively assessed.

Lack of Pre-construction Data: Comparisons rely on anecdotal or estimated data due to the unavailability of comprehensive pre-construction records.

4. Findings and Analysis

Thematic Area	Project Name	Overall Objective	Key Activities
Promoting gender equality, empowering women and measures for reducing inequalities faced by socially and economically backward groups [item no (iii) schedule VII of Companies Act 2013]	Construction of Bachupally Modern Police Station, near Bachupally X Roads, Bachupally Village	▪ **Reducing inequalities through providing law and justice for all -** Promote the law and justice for all including socially and economically backward groups. ▪ **Women Empowerment:** Promote gender equality and ensure the safety and dignity of women by providing dedicated facilities such as a women's helpdesk, separate toilets, restrooms, and secure cells, fostering a safe and supportive environment for women in the community.	**Infrastructure:** ▪ Construction of a 3-floor State-of-the-art 21,000 sq. ft. with 36 rooms ▪ Installation of critical systems like electricity, seating arrangements, parking area etc. ▪ Separate facilities for women staff and visitors

Key Outputs	Key Outcomes	Impact
▪ Completed a modern 3-floor police station covering 21,000 sq. ft. with 36 fully functional rooms. ▪ Critical systems have been installed, including electricity, seating arrangements, and a dedicated parking area. ▪ Created dedicated facilities for women, including separate toilets, restrooms, and a women's helpdesk ▪ Women-friendly spaces designed to accommodate female staff and visitors.	▪ Enhanced law enforcement capabilities in Bachupally and surrounding areas. ▪ Increased community trust in law enforcement due to improved infrastructure and services. ▪ Increased access for women to law enforcement services in a safe and secure environment. ▪ Better grievance redressal for women through the dedicated helpdesk and specialized facilities.	▪ A safer and more secure environment for residents of Bachupally village, promoting social stability and community well-being ▪ Enhanced confidence among women to seek justice and report grievances ▪ Creation of a supportive infrastructure that

		fosters gender equality and empowerment

4.1 Relevance

Relevance evaluates the needs of its intended beneficiaries. In this context, the Bachupally Modern Police Station project demonstrates profound relevance by addressing critical community needs and supporting the government's broader objectives for equitable justice.

Addressing Community Needs & Reducing Inequalities: In suburban areas like Bachupally, persistent inequalities based on caste, gender, and socio-economic status create barriers to accessing justice. The modern police station plays a pivotal role in bridging these gaps by:

- Providing timely, unbiased redressal of grievances, thereby fostering inclusivity and equality.
- Establishing facilities such as a dedicated women's helpdesk and separate amenities for female staff and visitors, which empower women in accessing law enforcement services.

Promoting Safety and Trust

- Marginalized groups are disproportionately affected by vulnerabilities to crime due to inadequate infrastructure.
- By offering state-of-the-art facilities designed with gender sensitivity, the station reinforces public trust and ensures the safety of all community members.

Improving Workplace Conditions: Female officers frequently face challenges due to inadequate facilities, such as the absence of private sanitation and changing areas. The modern infrastructure directly addresses these issues, ensuring a safe and dignified work environment for all personnel. (Source: Economic Times Article)

Alignment with Government Policies

Advancing Policy Goals: The initiative aligns seamlessly with the government's key policy frameworks, including:

- **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, particularly Goal 5 (Gender Equality) and Goal 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions).
- **Schedule VII of the Companies Act, 2013**, which encourages investments in public infrastructure and promotes social justice.
- The principle of **"Access to Justice for All,"** ensuring equitable access to law enforcement services for rural and suburban populations.

Strengthening Local Governance

- The police station integrates with local governance systems, strengthening law enforcement and creating a secure environment for all citizens.

- It enhances coordination between law enforcement and the community, fostering accountability and reinforcing the government's objectives of safer and more inclusive societies.

  A Transformative Initiative: The Bachupally Modern Police Station is a highly relevant and transformative intervention. It bridges long-standing gaps in infrastructure, promotes inclusivity, and aligns with national priorities for justice, equality, and development. By addressing pressing community needs and focusing on accessibility, gender sensitivity, and operational efficiency, the project sets a benchmark for future law enforcement initiatives in India.

4.2 Coherence

Coherence examines the compatibility of intervention with other initiatives at the national, sectoral, and institutional levels. It evaluates how well the intervention aligns with, complements, or is supported by existing policies, programs, and frameworks, and vice versa.

Alignment of the programme with National Priorities – Sustainable Development Goals

The Bachupally Modern Police Station project aligns strongly with India's commitment to the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, which aim to eradicate poverty, promote equity, and foster peace and prosperity by 2030. The project significantly contributes to the following SDGs:

The project's aim is mainly contributed to SDGs 16, 5, 10, 11 & 17

SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions

- **Subgoal 16.1:** The project enhances local law enforcement infrastructure, improving capacity to reduce violence and related death rates.
- **Subgoal 16.3:** It ensures equal access to justice, particularly for marginalized and vulnerable groups, through improved accessibility and inclusivity.
- **Subgoal 16.6:** By integrating modern facilities, the police station develops into an effective, accountable, and transparent institution.
- **Subgoal 16.7:** Facilities such as a women's helpdesk foster community engagement, ensuring responsive and inclusive decision-making.

SDG 5: Gender Equality

- **Subgoal 5.1:** The inclusion of gender-sensitive amenities and a dedicated helpdesk combats discrimination against women.
- **Subgoal 5.2:** Dedicated facilities and services address gender-based violence in both public and private spheres.

- **Subgoal 5.5:** By creating a supportive environment for female staff, the station encourages women's participation and leadership in law enforcement.

SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities

- The station provides an inclusive environment, addressing systemic inequalities and ensuring equitable access to justice.
- Efforts to prevent discrimination and provide services to marginalized groups promote equal opportunities.

SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

- **Subgoal 11.5:** The inclusion of medical emergency facilities enhances the Police Station's preparedness for disasters and emergencies.

SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

- Strategic collaboration with Telangana Police and the Government ensures the efficient use of resources and expertise to achieve shared goals.

Compatibility with Government Programs and Policies

Assistance to States for the Modernization of Police (MPF)

- **Purpose:** Provides financial aid for modernizing police forces with equipment, training, and technology.
- **Relevance:** The advanced facilities and modern design of the police station align seamlessly with the scheme's objectives.

Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955, and SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989

- **Purpose:** Prevent atrocities and discrimination against SC and ST communities.
- **Relevance:** The station's infrastructure ensures prompt grievance redressal and fosters trust among marginalized groups.

National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)

- **Purpose:** Offers social assistance to economically weaker individuals.
- **Relevance:** By maintaining law and order, the station provides a secure environment for vulnerable beneficiaries to access entitlements without fear of exploitation.

Nirbhaya Fund Scheme

- **Purpose:** Enhances women's safety through targeted infrastructure and programs.
- **Relevance:** Gender-specific facilities, including a helpdesk and separate amenities, align with the fund's goal of creating safer environments for women.

Women Helpline Scheme (181)

- **Purpose:** Provides round-the-clock emergency and support services for women in distress.
- **Relevance:** The women's helpdesk acts as a local extension of this initiative, offering immediate assistance and support to women in need.

The Bachupally Modern Police Station project is highly coherent, as it complements and integrates with existing policies, programs, and national goals. By addressing gaps in infrastructure, law enforcement, and gender equity, it not only strengthens the capacity of local governance but also aligns seamlessly with the broader policy framework of the Government of India and the Sustainable Development Goals. This synergy ensures that the intervention maximizes its impact while fostering systemic reforms.

4.3 Effectiveness

Effectiveness assesses the program's success in progressing toward its intended outcomes by examining the robustness of systems, processes, and implementation strategies. It evaluates how efficiently the program's activities have been executed and the extent to which the systems and processes support achieving the greatest possible social impact.

Key Goals of the Project and Their Implementation

1. Reducing Inequalities Through Law and Justice for All

Objective: Ensure equitable access to law and justice for all, including socially and economically disadvantaged groups.

Implementation:

- The police station is designed to be inclusive, with dedicated infrastructure to address the needs of marginalized communities.
- The integration of a transparent grievance redressal mechanism promotes trust and accessibility.
- The station fosters equal treatment by eliminating systemic barriers and biases in law enforcement practices.
- Training programs for law enforcement personnel emphasize sensitivity and responsiveness to the challenges faced by vulnerable groups.

Impact:

- Enhanced accessibility to justice for socially and economically backward communities has improved public confidence in the legal system.
- The intervention has reduced barriers to reporting crimes, enabling marginalized groups to seek timely redressal.

1. Women Empowerment

Objective: Promote gender equality and ensure the safety, dignity, and active participation of women within the community.

Implementation:

- Dedicated facilities for women, including a helpdesk, separate restrooms, secure cells, and private spaces, provide a safe and supportive environment.
- The establishment of a women's helpdesk facilitates quick and empathetic responses to gender-based grievances.
- Policies were introduced to encourage the recruitment and retention of female law enforcement officers, ensuring representation and inclusivity.
- Awareness campaigns and community outreach programs promote gender sensitivity and empower women to exercise their rights.

Impact

- Increased reporting of gender-based violence and crimes has been observed due to the safe and approachable environment.
- Women in the community feel more confident engaging with law enforcement, knowing their concerns will be addressed promptly and respectfully.
- Female staff members have a conducive work environment, fostering professional growth and encouraging more women to join the force.

3. Providing Better Facilities

Objective: Upgrade the infrastructure and amenities for both the police force and visitors, ensuring a conducive environment for the delivery of law and justice.

Implementation:

- Modernized infrastructure includes well-equipped workspaces for the police force, enhancing their operational efficiency.
- Visitor-centric amenities such as waiting areas, medical emergency facilities, and child-friendly spaces cater to the needs of diverse demographics.
- Digital tools and integrated systems streamline processes, reducing procedural delays and increasing the effectiveness of law enforcement operations.
- Advanced training rooms and technology support continuous skill enhancement for the police force.

Impact:

- The upgraded facilities have significantly improved the efficiency of law enforcement personnel, enabling quicker response times and better service delivery.
- Visitors, especially women and children, feel welcomed and secure, improving public trust in the institution.
- The integration of technology has reduced administrative bottlenecks, ensuring timely justice delivery.

Conclusion

The program demonstrates high effectiveness by successfully addressing its goals of reducing inequalities, empowering women, and upgrading facilities. The modernized police station serves as a model for community-centric law enforcement, ensuring that marginalized groups, women, and the public benefit from a safe, efficient, and inclusive environment. The robust implementation of systems and processes ensures that the program not only achieves its immediate objectives but also creates a lasting social impact.

4.4 Efficiency

The efficiency criterion evaluates whether the project was completed in a timely, cost-effective manner and if the resources—such as funds, time, and knowledge—were optimally utilized to achieve the intended outcomes. This assessment focuses on the alignment of inputs with outcomes, ensuring that the project objectives were met without unnecessary expenditures or delays.

- **Cost efficiency of project activities:** Interaction with the APF and Bachupally P.S. staff revealed that there was no budget overflow and that all the activities were successfully carried out within the allotted budget. Payment milestones were clearly defined as such, and interventions were implemented in consultation with the key stakeholders.
- **Duplication/ overlap of project activities:** Duplication of effort arises when similar interventions are needlessly undertaken within the same community/ location due to poor knowledge management and inadequate coordination of projects, thereby resulting in fund and resource inefficiencies. There is no such duplication/ overlap of project activities in the nearby areas, as it is the only modern P.S. in the Cyberabad circle.

Timeliness of Implementation: The project was implemented on schedule, ensuring that all planned activities were executed within the stipulated timeline. This was made possible by effective collaboration with the APF CSR team and the proactive engagement of stakeholders, minimizing delays and maintaining project momentum.

Cost Efficiency of Activities: Discussions with the APF and Bachupally Police Station staff confirmed that the project adhered strictly to its budget. Activities were meticulously planned, with payment milestones clearly defined and aligned with project objectives. By maintaining robust financial oversight and stakeholder consultations, cost overruns were effectively avoided, ensuring value for money in every phase of implementation.

Prevention of Duplication and Overlap: The project was carefully designed and executed to avoid redundancy, ensuring that resources were not wasted on overlapping initiatives. Since this is the only modernized police station in the Cyberabad circle, there were no similar projects in the vicinity that could lead to duplication of efforts. This strategic focus enhanced the project's unique contribution to the community and the region.

Conclusion: The project's efficiency was demonstrated through its timely delivery, adherence to budgetary constraints, and strategic planning to avoid redundancy. These factors collectively ensured that resources were utilized effectively, contributing to the successful achievement of the project's objectives while maximizing its impact.

4.5. Impact

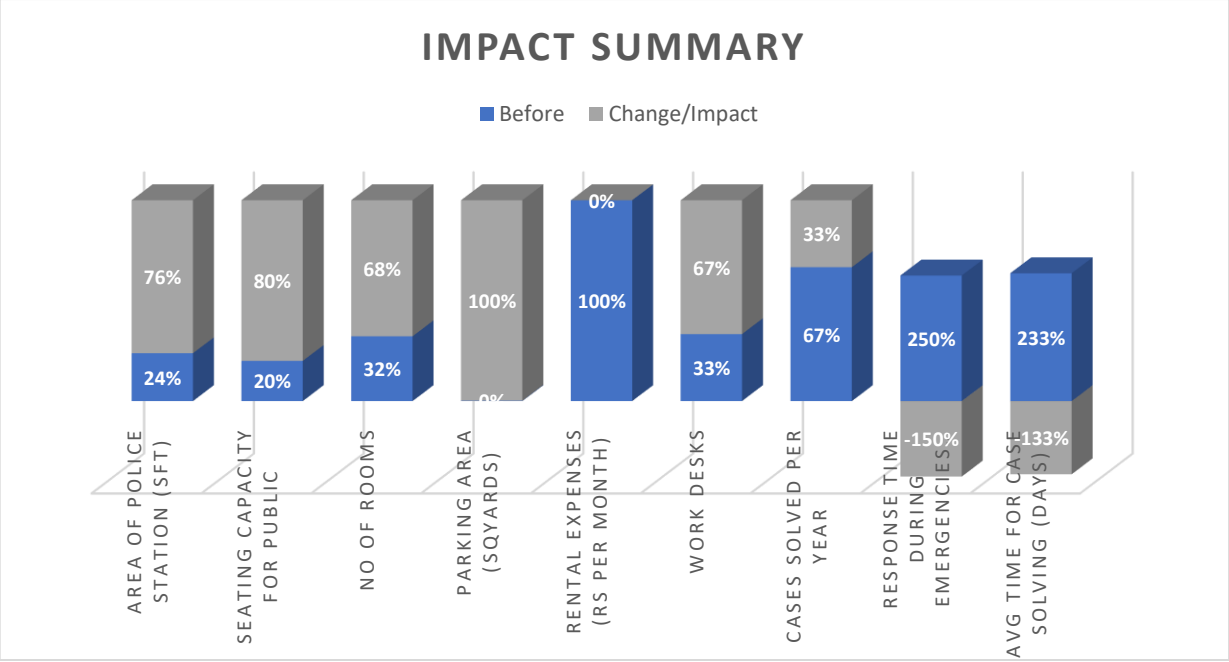
Impact is assessed based on the proportion of respondents who reported experiencing significant changes in their lives due to the project. The goal of this measurement is to evaluate the project's primary and secondary long-term effects, whether direct or indirect, intentional or unintentional. It also considers unintended consequences, which may be either favorable or harmful, providing a comprehensive understanding of the intervention's overall influence.

The **impact** of the Bachupally Modern Police Station is transformative, significantly enhancing safety, accessibility, and trust in law enforcement. Designed with cutting-edge facilities and a human-centric approach, the station serves as a beacon of modern policing and community engagement. By addressing primary and secondary outcomes, whether direct or indirect, intended or unintended, the station has set new benchmarks in law enforcement, governance, and public service.

State-of-the-Art Facilities for Service and Empowerment

Spanning an expansive **21,000 square feet** across three floors with thirty-six rooms, the Bachupally Modern Police Station represents a paradigm shift in law enforcement infrastructure.

Details	Before	After	Change/Impact
Area of Police Station (Sft)	5000	21000	76%
Seating Capacity for Public	10	50	80%
No of Rooms	10	31	68%
Parking area (Sq Yards)	0	500	100%
Rental Expenses (Rs per Month)	50000	0	-100%
Work Desks	5	15	67%
Cases Solved Per year	800	1,200	33%
Response Time during emergencies (Minutes)	20	8	-150%
Avg time for case solving (Days)	7	3	-133%



Women-Friendly Amenities: A dedicated women's helpdesk, separate restrooms, toilets, and secure detention cells ensure a safe and dignified environment for women officers and visitors alike.

Specialized Divisions: Cybercrime desks, crime-specific sections, and a counselling auditorium for vulnerable groups provide targeted and professional support.

Operational Efficiency: Command-control-integrated CCTV systems, biometric access, and CCTNS integration empower the police to act swiftly and effectively.

Community Spaces: A garden at the entrance, RO drinking water, a kitchen, dining facilities, and a corporate aesthetic that makes the station approachable and inclusive for all members of the community.

Empowering Women and Vulnerable Groups

The facility underscores a commitment to **gender equality** and safety, ensuring women officers and visitors feel secure and respected. The **auditorium for counseling** serves as a haven for survivors of violence, providing a supportive space for healing and justice.

The station emphasizes **gender equality and support for vulnerable populations**. Women officers and visitors feel safe and respected, thanks to thoughtfully designed spaces and proactive measures.

Technology-Driven Law Enforcement

With all CCTVs connected to a centralized command system, **biometric devices**, and **CCTNS integration**, the station leverages modern tools for crime prevention and investigation. **Cyber warriors** and dedicated desks enhance the station's capability to tackle cybercrime, while morale-boosting slogans displayed on glass panels inspire ethical practices.

A Catalyst for Community Engagement

The station's proactive approach includes community policing initiatives like **drug awareness programs**, **self-defense workshops**, and public-friendly activities such as volleyball tournaments. These efforts strengthen trust and cooperation between the police and the community.

Key Success Stories: Excellence in Action

Swift Justice in Motorcycle Theft: A theft ring was dismantled with the recovery of nine stolen bikes. This swift resolution, aided by the station's modern surveillance and streamlined operations, underscores its commitment to efficiency. *(Source: The Hans India)*

Accountability in Tragedy: After a wall collapse resulted in casualties, six individuals were arrested for negligence. The rapid response demonstrated the police's dedication to justice and accountability. *(Source: Deccan Chronicle)*

Complex Crimes Managed with Professionalism: A high-profile revenge murder involving fourteen individuals, including minors, was resolved with sensitivity and precision, highlighting the station's capacity to manage delicate cases. *(Source: Times of India)*

Standing Firm Against Corruption: Two police constables involved in drug smuggling were apprehended, showcasing the station's zero-tolerance stance against crime, irrespective of the perpetrators. *(Source: Siasat)*

Conclusion: The Bachupally Modern Police Station is not just a physical structure but a symbol of hope, trust, and transformation. It embodies a future where law enforcement is efficient, inclusive, and empathetic. Through its commitment to justice, community engagement, and technological excellence, it has redefined policing in the Cyberabad region, inspiring confidence in citizens and raising the standards of public service.

4.6. Sustainability

Sustainability refers to the continuation of positive effects after the cessation of development or aid. This critical evaluation criterion considers key elements, such as the likelihood of sustained benefits, risk tolerance, and the presence of robust frameworks. Achieving sustainability requires a well-structured governing framework, a sound financial model, and an efficient operating system.

The Bachupally Police Station was established with proper legal and administrative approvals, including land allocation by the Telangana Home Department (Memo No: 8911/Budget/A1/2020). This legally sound foundation mitigates potential legal risks.

Furthermore, the operational and maintenance expenses of the Police Station are integrated into the Telangana government budget. This ensures a stable and reliable funding source for its continued functioning.

Based on these factors, we conclude that the Bachupally Police Station exhibits **strong indicators of sustainability.**

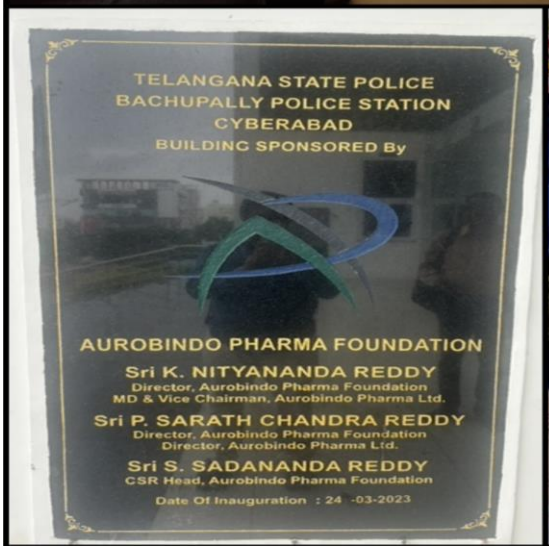
4.7. Branding and Visibility

Physical Presence: The "Aurobindo Pharma Foundation" branding is prominently displayed at multiple strategic locations within the Bachupally Modern Police Station, ensuring high visibility.

Foundation Stone: A dedicated Foundation Stone (Silaphalakam) further acknowledges the Foundation's significant contribution to the project. The name is displayed at multiple strategic locations across the facility, ensuring high visibility and recognition.

Inauguration Coverage: The live telecast of the inauguration ceremony, attended by local and state leaders, significantly increased public awareness of the project and the Foundation's involvement.

Media Coverage: Extensive coverage in local and national newspapers, including photographs and news articles, further reinforced the Foundation's branding and outreach.



Opening Ceremony Of Bachupally Police Station Today 24-3-2023
Watch later
Share
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5. Challenges

This section outlines several key challenges that may impact the long-term effectiveness of the Bachupally Modern Police Station:

Staffing Adequacy and Skill Development:

- The modern infrastructure necessitates a skilled workforce to effectively utilize advanced technologies, including the cyber desk, CCTV command systems, and other specialized equipment.
- A shortage of trained personnel or a lack of adequate skills among existing staff could significantly hinder operational efficiency and the realization of the station's full potential.
- Ongoing training programs and recruitment drives are crucial to ensure the availability of a competent and well-equipped workforce.

Maintaining Technological Systems:

- Regular maintenance of high-tech systems, such as CCTV cameras, biometric devices, and RO water purification systems, is essential for their continued functionality and optimal performance.
- A robust maintenance plan, including regular inspections, repairs, and software updates, is critical to prevent equipment failures and ensure the long-term sustainability of the infrastructure.

Building and Maintaining Trust:

- Overcoming historical mistrust between law enforcement agencies and marginalized communities requires sustained effort and a proactive approach to community engagement.
- Building trust necessitates transparency, accountability, and consistent efforts to address community concerns and ensure fair and equitable treatment of all citizens.

Reaching Vulnerable Populations:

- Many beneficiaries, particularly women and vulnerable groups, may remain unaware of the new facilities and services available to them at the modernized police station.
- Effective communication strategies, including community outreach programs, informative campaigns, and the use of local media, are crucial to disseminate information and ensure that all community members are aware of the resources available to them.

Securing Ongoing Funding:

- While the initial construction was funded through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives, ongoing operational expenses, such as the acquisition of additional security systems, the implementation of community

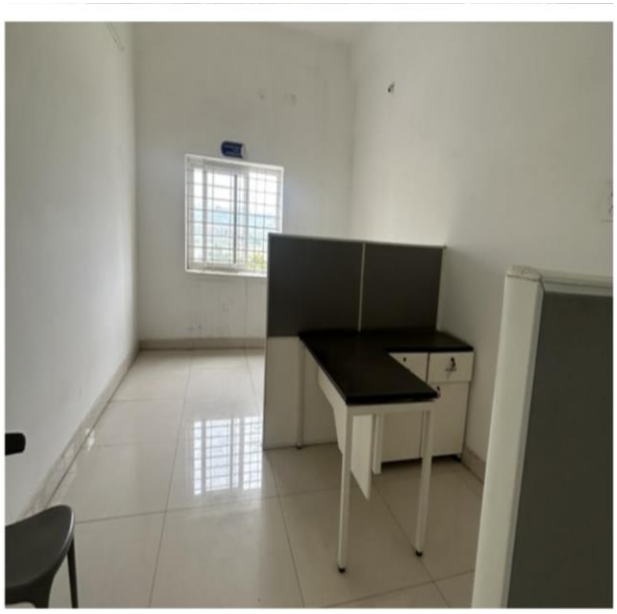
programs, and the maintenance of existing infrastructure, may pose a significant financial challenge.

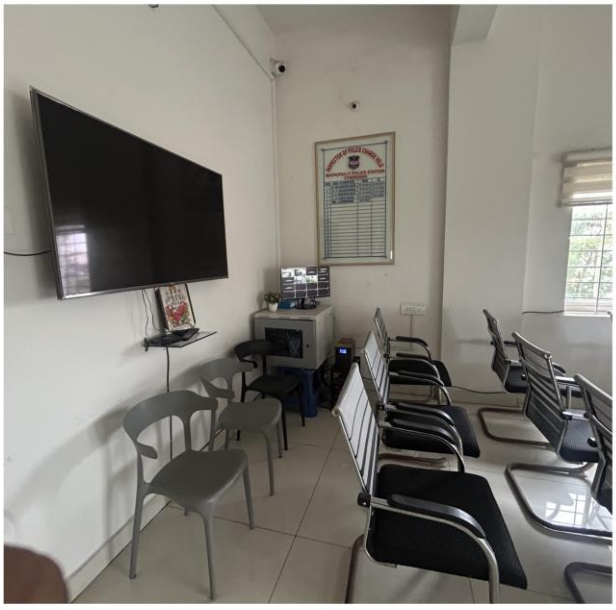
- Exploring alternative funding sources, such as government grants, partnerships with local organizations, and community-based fundraising initiatives, may be necessary to ensure the long-term financial sustainability of the station.

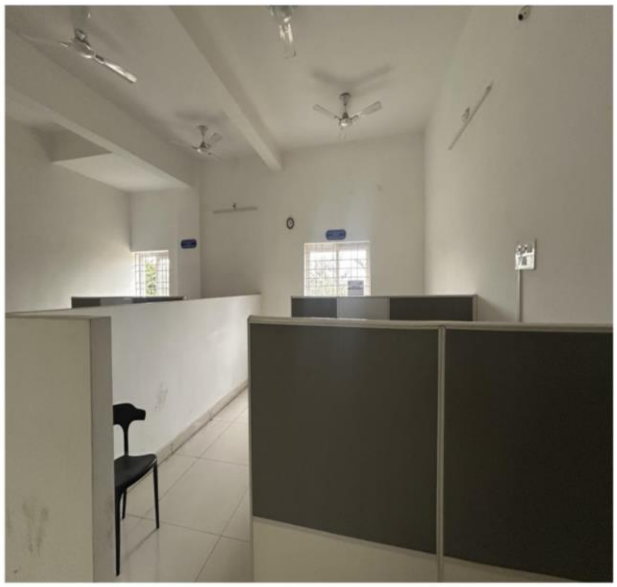
Technological Advancement

- The field of law enforcement is constantly evolving, particularly in areas such as cybercrime.
- The police station must be equipped to adapt to emerging technological challenges and threats.
- This may require frequent upgrades to existing technology, continuous training for staff on modern technologies and investigative techniques, and the development of proactive strategies to address evolving cyber threats.

By proactively addressing these challenges, the Bachupally Modern Police Station can effectively serve the community and fulfil its potential as a modern and efficient law enforcement agency.







6. Recommendations and Way Forward

The following recommendations and strategies are proposed to address the identified challenges and further enhance the impact and sustainability of the Bachupally Modern Police Station.

Optimizing Existing Infrastructure:

- **Re-purposing Unused Space:** Utilize unutilized work desks to establish a skill development centre for the children of police personnel, leveraging CSR funds for resources and training programs.
- **Developing the Children's Play Area:** Equip the designated children's play area with appropriate play equipment to provide a safe and engaging space for children accompanying their parents.
- **Capacity Building Initiatives:** Implement regular training programs for all staff members to effectively utilize modern technologies, including CCTV command systems, biometric devices, and cyber desks.
- **Collaborating with TSPA:** Partner with the Telangana State Police Academy (TSPA) to provide ongoing skill development opportunities and access to specialized training programs.
- **Community Outreach Programs:** Conduct targeted information campaigns to raise awareness among all community members, particularly women and marginalized groups, about the station's facilities and services.
- **Community Policing Initiatives:** Increase community policing efforts through workshops, self-defence training programs, and regular social events to foster stronger relationships between the police and the community.
- **Establishing a Maintenance Fund:** Create a dedicated maintenance fund to ensure the long-term upkeep of infrastructure and technological systems.
- **Exploring Additional Funding Sources:** Seek partnerships with other corporate entities to secure additional CSR funding for infrastructure upgrades, such as the installation of additional CCTV cameras and the acquisition of advanced cyber security tools.
- **Proactive Technology Upgrades:** Regularly assess and adapt to evolving technological advancements, particularly in the field of cybercrime, to ensure the station remains equipped to address emerging challenges.

Conclusion

The Bachupally Modern Police Station represents a significant step towards improving law enforcement and community engagement. By proactively addressing the identified challenges and implementing the recommended strategies, the station can evolve into a model for modern and effective policing, ensuring safety, justice, and empowerment for all stakeholders.

7. Conclusion

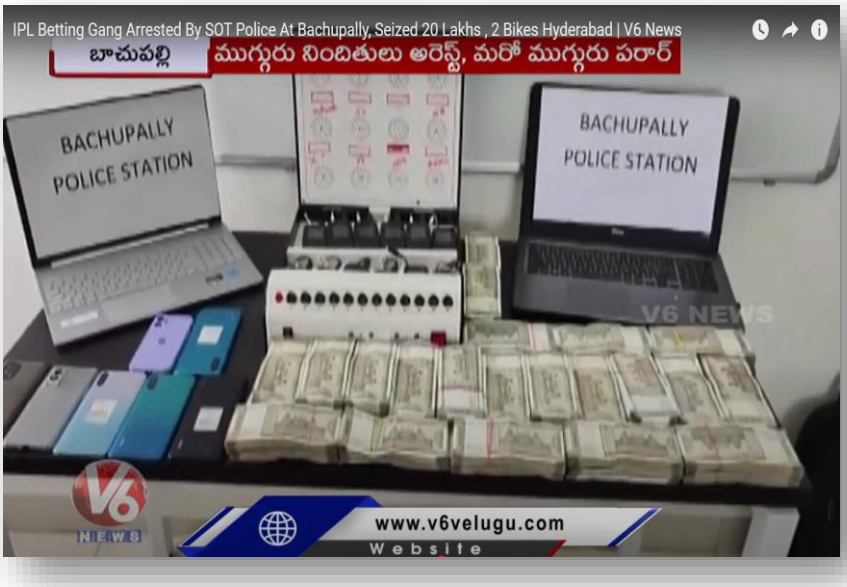
The establishment of the Bachupally Modern Police Station signifies a pivotal moment in advancing community-oriented policing and infrastructure development in India. This CSR initiative, undertaken by the Aurobindo Pharma Foundation, represents a successful model for addressing critical challenges faced by traditional police stations, including inadequate facilities, limited accessibility, and the specific needs of vulnerable populations.

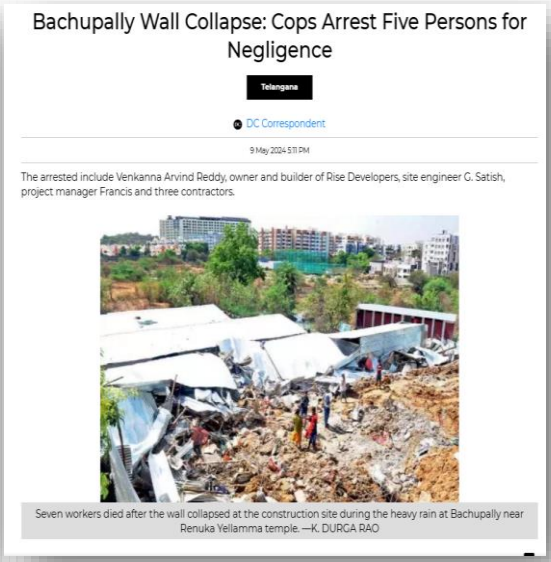
By prioritizing inclusivity, enhancing operational efficiency, and fostering strong community relationships, the Bachupally Police Station exemplifies how a collaborative approach between corporations, government agencies, and the community can lead to transformative outcomes. The project's alignment with Sustainable Development Goals 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions) and 5 (Gender Equality) underscores its broader societal significance.

While acknowledging the project's commendable achievements, it is crucial to recognize the ongoing need for continuous improvement. Addressing challenges such as staffing shortages, maintaining innovative technology, and ensuring long-term sustainability will require ongoing efforts.

The Bachupally Modern Police Station serves as a powerful testament to the transformative potential of collaborative CSR initiatives. By learning from the successes and challenges of this project, stakeholders can replicate this model across India, contributing to a safer, more equitable, and inclusive society for all.

In conclusion, the Bachupally Modern Police Station is more than a physical structure; it is a symbol of progress and a testament to the transformative power of collaboration between corporations, government bodies, and communities. By leveraging the insights and lessons from this initiative, similar projects can be




Bachupally Wall Collapse: Cops Arrest Five Persons for Negligence

Telangana

DC Correspondent

9 May 2024 5:11 PM

The arrested include Venkanna Arvind Reddy, owner and builder of Rise Developers, site engineer G. Satish, project manager Francis and three contractors.

Seven workers died after the wall collapsed at the construction site during the heavy rain at Bachupally near Renuka Yellamma temple. —K. DURGA RAO

undertaken nationwide, contributing to a safer, more equitable, and inclusive society.

8. Scoring Matrix

The scoring matrix was used to evaluate and score performance of the Project. The following table provides the overall rating across the defined parameters:

OECD Parameters	Indicators	Weightage	Score Achieved	Combined Weightage	Weighted Average Score
Relevance	Need assessment report	20%	20%	W1: 40%	**40%**
	Relevance	50%	50%		
	Alignment with SDGs	30%	30%		
	Alignment with national policies	50%	50%		
Coherence	Alignment with Aurobindo CSR policy	50%	50%		
Efficiency	Timeline Adherence: Project Completion	40%	40%	W2: 40%	**36%**
	Adherence: Budget	40%	40%		
	Duplication of project	20%	20%		
Effectiveness	Target achievement	100%	100%		
Impact	Esay access to visitors	25%	25%		
	Women friendly facilities	25%	25%		
	New and Modern Equipment	25%	20%		
	Optimum Utilization of facilities	25%	20%		
Sustainability	Sustainability mechanism	50%	50%	W3: 10%	**10%**
	Maintenance and facilities.	50%	50%		
Branding	Branding/visibility	100%	100%	W4: 10%	**10%**
Score= W1*Average (Relevance, Coherence) + W2*Average (Efficiency, Effectiveness, **Impact)** + **W3* (Sustainability)** + W4 (Branding)					**96%**

The project Bachupally Modern Police Station scored an **average of 96%**. The project was aligned to APF's CSR policy and SDGs and was relevant to the needs of the community. The completion rate was 100% for the project and as per the discussion with the stakeholders from APF & Bachupally P.S, the project catered to the law and justice needs of Bachupally, Pragati Nagar and Nizampet areas. Impact is rated at 90% due to the need for improved equipment and optimum utilisation of the building. The total score of the project is 96% due to which this project can be rated as **"Highly Impactful"** in nature.

9. Testimonials

The amenities provided by Aurobindo Pharma Foundation have elevated our ability to deliver justice. The auditorium for counseling sessions is a brilliant addition, providing a space to address sensitive cases with dignity and care. The state-of-the-art workstations, modern surveillance systems, and overall corporate appearance of the station reflect the professionalism we aim to uphold in our service. We will continue to explore the CSR opportunities or other funding sources to sustain these facilities and improve our services.

— J Upender Rao – Inspector of Police & Station In-Charge, Bachupally Police Station

As a woman in law enforcement, I have faced numerous challenges throughout my career. My previous posting at Chanda Nagar Police Station was fulfilling in many ways, but the lack of dedicated facilities for women officers often made our work more difficult.

When I was transferred to Bachupally Police Station three days ago, I was astonished by the infrastructure here. The thoughtfulness that has gone into creating this facility is evident in every detail—the separate restrooms, dedicated women's help desk, and even the comfortable restrooms for women officers. These amenities not only make our day-to-day duties more manageable but also create a sense of respect and acknowledgment for women in the police force.

I feel proud and privileged to work in an environment that values inclusivity and empowers women—both as officers and as members of the community. I believe this modern police station will inspire more women to join the force and strengthen our collective resolve to serve and protect."

— P. Saritha Reddy, Women Sub-Inspector, Bachupally Police Station

10. Case Studies

10.1. Resolution of a Ragging Incident at Bachupally Government School

Introduction: This case study examines a significant incident of school ragging that occurred at the Bachupally Government School. A ninth-grade student was subjected to severe physical and emotional abuse by a group of senior students. The incident escalated when the victim confronted his tormentors, leading to further physical assault. This case highlights the crucial roles of community support, law enforcement intervention, and comprehensive counseling in addressing and preventing such occurrences.

Details of the Incident

Ragging and Humiliation: The victim was subjected to a series of humiliating acts by a group of senior students, including verbal abuse and physical harassment.

Digital Exploitation: The incident was further aggravated by the recording and subsequent online dissemination of the ragging incident on social media platforms, causing significant emotional distress and public humiliation for the victim.

Retaliation and Escalation: When the victim attempted to assert himself by confronting his tormentors, he was met with further physical assault, exacerbating the situation, and potentially leading to long-term psychological trauma.

Swift Action: The victim's mother promptly reported the incident to the Bachupally Police Station. The police responded swiftly, initiating an immediate investigation, and summoning all parties involved, including the victim, the perpetrators, their parents, and school authorities.

Mediation and Counselling: The police facilitated a mediated resolution process, involving counselling sessions for all parties involved. These sessions aimed to address the underlying emotional and behavioural issues that contributed to the incident, promote empathy and understanding among the students, and facilitate a constructive dialogue between all stakeholders.

Reconciliation and Accountability: Through the mediation process, the senior students acknowledged the gravity of their actions and offered sincere apologies to the victim. A compromise was reached, emphasizing the importance of maintaining a harmonious and respectful learning environment.

Community and Institutional Implications

- **Role of the Police:** The proactive and empathetic approach demonstrated by the Bachupally police was instrumental in resolving the conflict effectively. This case highlights the crucial role of law enforcement in addressing school-related issues and fostering a safe and secure learning environment.
- **School Accountability:** The incident served as a wake-up call for the school administration to re-evaluate its existing anti-ragging policies and implement stricter measures to prevent such incidents in the future.
- **Parental Involvement:** The active participation of parents in the resolution process underscored the importance of family support in addressing and rectifying such issues.

Conclusion: This case study demonstrates the critical importance of prompt action, effective communication, and a multi-faceted approach in addressing school ragging incidents. The swift intervention by the Bachupally police, combined with the cooperative efforts of school authorities, parents, and the community, facilitated a peaceful and constructive resolution. This case serves as a valuable lesson for schools, parents, and law enforcement agencies across the country, emphasizing the need for proactive measures to prevent ragging and foster a safe and inclusive learning environment for all students.

10.2. Addressing a Fake Devotee Incident in Bachupally

Background: During the peak season of the Ayyappa Swamy pilgrimage, a group of vigilant devotees observed a 15-year-old boy soliciting money while wearing the sacred mala. He claimed to be collecting funds for his pilgrimage to Sabarimala, but his behavior raised suspicions among the devotees. Concerned about potential exploitation or the involvement of anti-social elements, the devotees promptly reported the incident to the Bachupally Police Station.

Incident Details:

- **Deceptive Solicitation:** The boy, posing as a genuine devotee, actively sought financial contributions from the public under the pretext of fulfilling his religious vows.
- **Confrontation and Admission:** When confronted by the vigilant devotees, the boy confessed that he was not a genuine devotee and had resorted to this deception as a means of earning money.

Actions Taken:

- **Thorough Investigation:** The Bachupally police conducted a thorough investigation to ascertain whether the boy engaged in a larger begging syndicate or coerced by any criminal elements.
- **Gathering Information:** The police diligently collected relevant information, including the boy's personal details, address, and contact information, as well as details about his parents.
- **Parental Involvement:** The police promptly contacted the boy's parents, informing them about the incident and the potential consequences of their son's actions.
- **Counselling and Guidance:** The police emphasized the importance of education and discouraged the boy from engaging in such deceptive activities. They offered to assist the family with any potential financial difficulties and encouraged them to enrol the boy in school.
- **Rehabilitation Focus:** Given the boy's age and the absence of any evidence of malicious intent or external influence, the police prioritized rehabilitation over punitive measures.

Community Response

- **Appreciation for Police Action:** The vigilant devotees expressed their gratitude to the Bachupally police for their swift response and the compassionate manner in which they handled the situation.
- **Raising Awareness:** The incident served as a valuable reminder for the public to remain vigilant and cautious about individuals who may exploit religious sentiments for personal gain.

Conclusion: The Bachupally police demonstrated an exemplary approach to resolving this sensitive issue. By prioritizing investigation, compassion, and rehabilitation, they effectively addressed the situation while ensuring the well-being of the minor involved. This case study underscores the importance of proactive policing, community involvement, and a comprehensive approach that

addresses the underlying vulnerabilities and fosters positive social change. The police's focus on rehabilitation and guidance for the boy and his family reflects a commitment to preventing future occurrences and ensuring the long-term well-being of all individuals within the community.

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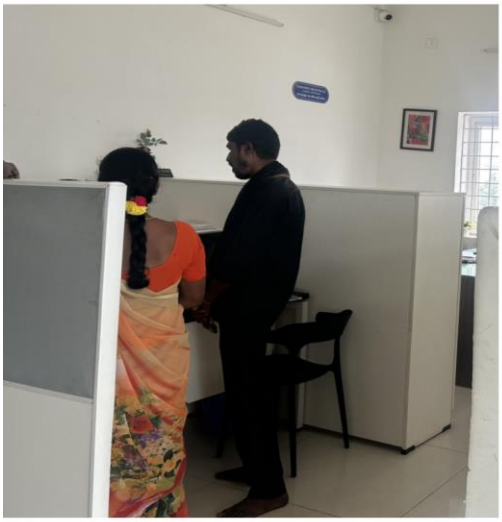

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Practical learning#visit to a police station#community helpers#our neighbourhood#education

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POLICE STATION

BELL OF ARMS
WAITING ROOM

VIDEO SURVEILANCE ROOM
TECH ROOM

PROPERTY
ROOM

RECORDS
ROOM

SI'S
REST ROOM

MEN
BARRACKS

POLICE STATION
BACHUPALLY
POLICE STATION

BACHUPALLY POLICE STATION,
CYBERABAD
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Commissioner of Police, Cyberabad
On 10-04-2021
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Project SAMPURNA
Synergy for Sustainable Futures

Joint initiative of
Aurobindo Pharma Foundation (APF)
&
Andhra Pradesh Mahila Abhivrudhi Society (APMAS)

Impact Assessment
by
Poverty Learning Foundation

March 2025

@APF 2025

Project SAMPURNA: Synergy for Sustainable Futures

DISCLAIMER

This document presents the findings of an impact assessment conducted by the Poverty Learning Foundation (PLF) for Project SAMPURNA. The project was implemented by APMAS with funding support from the Aurobindo Pharma Foundation (APF). The assessment aims to provide evidence-based insights into the project's effectiveness in empowering communities through sustainable development initiatives.

While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy and relevance of the analysis, the findings and recommendations are intended for informational and developmental purposes only. APF, APMAS, and PLF are not liable for any outcomes, direct or indirect, resulting from the interpretation or application of this report. Users are encouraged to consider these insights in context and adapt them thoughtfully to their specific needs. The authors reserve the right to revise or update the document as necessary.

CONCEPTUALISATION AND REPORT

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Finally, we sincerely thank all stakeholders who graciously shared their time and insights regarding various interventions under Project SAMPURNA. Your input has significantly enriched the depth and quality of our assessment.

PLF Team
March 2025

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Project **SAMPURNA** is a comprehensive rural development initiative implemented in **Pileru Mandal**, aimed at fostering inclusive and sustainable growth across agriculture, livestock, and health sectors. The project is built on three interconnected pillars: **enhancing farmer productivity and profitability**, **ensuring alternate livelihoods**, and **enabling access to safe drinking water** in public institutions. Through a participatory and evidence-based approach, the project has empowered farming communities, especially women, by creating resilient livelihoods and improving quality of life.

1. Enhancing Farmer Productivity and Profitability

This component focused on transforming local agriculture through **climate-resilient practices**, **low-cost inputs**, and **strengthened value chains**. A key strategy was the establishment of **demonstration plots** across multiple villages, showcasing best practices in crop management, organic methods, bio-fertilizer use, and integrated pest control. These **model plots served as practical learning sites**, encouraging peer-to-peer learning and faster adoption of sustainable methods.

Complementing these interventions were capacity-building sessions, access to quality inputs, and aggregation through Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs). These efforts led to significant gains in **productivity**, **cost efficiency**, and **market access**, directly improving **farmers' profitability** and confidence in collective enterprises.

2. Ensuring Alternate Livelihoods through Fodder and Livestock Management

To promote income diversification, the project implemented targeted interventions in **fodder development** and **livestock management**. Activities included:

- Distribution of **high-yielding fodder seeds/slips**
- **Demonstration plots** on fodder cultivation and silage-making
- Access to veterinary care, AI services, and shed improvement
- Training programs on animal health and milk productivity enhancement

Over **70% of beneficiaries reported satisfaction** with services, particularly due to visible improvements in milk yield, animal health, and reduced fodder shortages. These interventions created **sustainable livelihood options**, strengthened women's engagement in dairy activities, and improved **household food and income security**.

3. Enabling Access to Safe Drinking Water in Institutions

Project SAMPURNA prioritized health and hygiene by ensuring access to **safe drinking water** in government schools, junior colleges, and Anganwadi centres. The initiative deployed:

- **Water purification systems**
- **Rainwater harvesting structures**
- Hygiene education and awareness drives

The impact has been significant, with reported **reduction in waterborne diseases**, improved **institutional attendance**, and greater awareness among children, parents, and teachers. Community ownership and regular maintenance have helped ensure the **sustainability** of these water systems.

Conclusion

Project SAMPURNA has demonstrated how **convergent, community-centric development** can lead to tangible improvements in rural livelihoods. The use of **demonstration plots** has been a game-changer in promoting scalable best practices in both agriculture and fodder cultivation. By aligning efforts in productivity, livelihood diversification, and basic infrastructure, the project has enhanced economic resilience and social well-being in Pileru Mandal.

Future directions include:

- Deepening FPO capacity
- Expanding successful demo models
- Linking with government schemes and digital services

This integrated model offers a replicable pathway for sustainable rural transformation in similar geographies across Andhra Pradesh and beyond.

Chapter - 01

INTRODUCTION

Project SAMPURNA, which is supported by the Aurobindo Pharma Foundation (APF) and implemented by the Andhra Pradesh Mahila Abhivrudhi Society (APMAS), represents a comprehensive initiative focused on promoting sustainable development. The project seeks to empower local communities through a diverse range of innovative interventions. Its primary focus areas include enhancing farmer productivity and profitability, providing sustainable alternative livelihoods, and ensuring access to safe drinking water in schools. By addressing these critical issues, Project SAMPURNA aims to improve the socio-economic

conditions of the target communities and contribute to their overall well-being. This impact assessment evaluates the effectiveness of these interventions, employing specific objectives and methodologies to assess their impact on local communities.

1. ENHANCING FARMER PRODUCTIVITY AND PROFITABILITY:

> Objective: ***To measure the extent to which the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices and effective value chain management has contributed to increased productivity and profitability for local farmers.***

Description: This objective seeks to promote sustainable agricultural methods and enhance value chain management. By optimizing production processes and strengthening market linkages, the project aspires to significantly elevate crop yields, diminish input costs, and augment farmers' incomes.

2. ENSURING ALTERNATE LIVELIHOODS:

> Objective: ***To evaluate the effectiveness of fodder development and livestock management initiatives in providing sustainable alternative livelihoods for project beneficiaries.***

Description: This objective addresses the necessity for diversified income sources within rural households. By promoting fodder cultivation and implementing advanced livestock management techniques, the project aims to enhance the productivity of dairy and livestock farming. The study will assess the impact of these initiatives on household income, food security, and the overall sustainability of livelihoods. Additionally, it will examine beneficiaries' satisfaction levels and the adoption rates of these practices within the community, thereby providing evidence of the project's positive impact.

3. ENABLING ACCESS TO SAFE DRINKING WATER:

> Objective: ***To evaluate the accessibility, quality, and impact of safe drinking water initiatives in targeted government schools, colleges, and Anganwadi centers.***

Description: This objective emphasizes the provision of safe and reliable drinking water to educational and childcare institutions. The project encompasses the installation of water purification systems, the construction of rainwater harvesting structures, and the promotion of sound hygiene practices, underscoring a commitment to community health. The study will measure improvements in water quality, reductions in waterborne diseases, and the overall health benefits for students and children. Furthermore, it will assess community awareness and acceptance of these interventions.

Methodology

The evaluation employed a mixed-methods approach that integrated both qualitative and quantitative data collection techniques, ensuring a comprehensive analysis of the project's effectiveness. Data has been collected between March 3 & 5, 2025 from selected pockets of Pileru Mandal, Annamayya District, with multiple stakeholders (See Annexure).

3.1. Data Collection Techniques

1. Questionnaires/Checklist:

Semi-structured questionnaire cum checklist has been administered to a representative sample of farmers, students, and educators in the targeted areas. This measured key indicator - perceptions of provision of drinking water and its quality (as perceived by the users) before and after project implementation.

2. Focus Group Discussions (FGDs):

Targeted discussions were facilitated with selected groups, including farmers, FPO leaders, students, and educators, to gather qualitative insights regarding the perceived benefits and challenges associated with the project's interventions. These discussions allowed for a deeper understanding of community dynamics and stakeholder engagement.

3. In-Depth Interviews:

One-on-one interviews were conducted with key stakeholders, including project staff, and community leaders. These interviews provided expert perspectives on project implementation, community impact, and areas for potential policy influence.

3.2. Data Analysis

Quantitative Analysis:

- The quantitative data collected from questionnaire/checklist has been analysed using statistical methods (Atlasti) to identify trends, patterns, and correlations. Descriptive statistics and inferential analyses were employed to measure the extent of the project's impact.

Qualitative Analysis:

- The qualitative data obtained from FGDs and in-depth interviews were analysed using thematic analysis to identify recurring themes, key insights, and areas for improvement.

By integrating both quantitative and qualitative findings, this study provided a comprehensive evaluation of Project SAMPURNA's impact on the targeted communities. The results of the study were used to inform future project planning and implementation, ensuring that sustainable development initiatives continued to empower and uplift communities.

Chapter – 02

ASSESSMENT RESULTS

Project SAMPURNA, implemented under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) efforts of the Aurobindo Pharma Foundation in collaboration with the Andhra Pradesh Mahila Abhivruddhi Society (APMAS), is designed with three core objectives to foster sustainable and impactful community development.

First, the project aims to **boost agricultural productivity and profitability** by promoting sustainable farming practices, effective value chain management, fodder development, and livestock management. These interventions are integral to strengthening rural economies and empowering farmers, who play a central role in driving agricultural growth.

Second, it seeks to **address the critical need for access to safe drinking water in educational institutions**, including schools, colleges, and Anganwadis. By ensuring the availability of

clean water, the program enhances the health and learning environment for students, supporting their overall well-being and academic success.

Finally, Project SAMPURNA is committed to **enhancing livelihoods and empowering key community members** by integrating sustainable practices and building capacities. This objective reflects a holistic approach to development, emphasizing the importance of collaboration, knowledge transfer, and long-term resilience.

By aligning its activities with these objectives, Project SAMPURNA embodies the Aurobindo Pharma Foundation's commitment to creating measurable and lasting improvements in rural livelihoods and educational equity. Through the active involvement of APMAS, the program ensures effective implementation and stakeholder engagement, ultimately driving meaningful societal impact.

The impact assessment of the APMAS intervention is anchored in the OECD framework, which evaluates initiatives across six critical criteria (to possible extent based on the information available in the field): **Relevance, Coherence, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Impact,** and **Sustainability.** By employing this internationally recognized framework, the assessment offers a structured and comprehensive analysis of the program's outcomes. Each criterion provides unique insights into the program's alignment with community needs, its integration with existing systems, and the tangible and intangible benefits it has delivered to beneficiaries. The following analysis explores the three core objectives—through the lens of the OECD framework, offering a detailed narrative of the intervention's success and long-term implications. Objective wise impact assessment outputs are narrated in the following three sections.

Section 01

Objective 1: *Enhancing productivity and profitability of farmers by adopting sustainable agriculture and value chain management*

The cornerstone of Project SAMPURNA is its focus on **empowering farmers by improving agricultural productivity and profitability**. This objective is achieved through the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices, robust value chain management strategies, and the active involvement of federation of the Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs). Recognizing the critical role of farmers as custodians of rural development and food security, the project emphasizes building their capacity to embrace innovative and environmentally responsible techniques.

FPOs play a pivotal role in realizing this objective by serving as collective platforms that empower farmers to access resources, share knowledge, and achieve economies of scale. By aggregating the produce of small and marginal farmers, FPOs enable better price realization

and facilitate direct linkages with markets, reducing dependence on intermediaries. They also support farmers in adopting modern agricultural technologies, improving input procurement, and fostering collective decision-making.

Through sustainable agriculture, Project SAMPURNA promotes **resource-efficient farming methods that preserve soil health, conserve water, and reduce dependency on chemical inputs.** FPOs contribute to these efforts by advocating for best practices and facilitating capacity-building programs that equip farmers with the necessary skills and tools for sustainable farming. Additionally, the integration of fodder development and livestock management, supported by FPOs, diversifies income sources and strengthens economic resilience for rural households.

Value chain management bridges the gap between farmers and markets, ensuring fair pricing, reducing post-harvest losses, and increasing profitability. FPOs act as catalysts in this process by streamlining supply chain logistics and fostering partnerships with stakeholders across the value chain.

This objective reflects the broader commitment of the Aurobindo Pharma Foundation and its implementation partner, APMAS, to drive sustainable rural development by aligning economic growth with ecological stewardship and social equity. By integrating FPOs into the initiative, Project SAMPURNA ensures that farmers not only benefit from immediate interventions but also gain the capacity and resilience to thrive in the long term. Through these concerted efforts, farming is transformed into a profitable and sustainable livelihood for rural communities.

BACKGROUND

Challenges Facing Farmers – as perceived by the farmers during one-to-one interactions, FGDs and discussions with the project staff:

Farmers in Pileru encounter a myriad of challenges, **including volatile market prices, restricted access to modern agricultural techniques, high cost of inputs, and the adverse effects of climate change.** These factors have significantly impeded their productivity and profitability, rendering it increasingly challenging to secure sustainable livelihoods. In response to these pressing challenges, the SAMPURNA Project offers a strategic and effective solution.

The vision of the first objective is to **establish a flourishing agricultural ecosystem wherein farmers can optimize their productivity and profitability while embracing sustainable practices.** By integrating innovative technologies, efficient resource management including affordable inputs, robust market linkages, and the federation of FPOs, the project aspires to transform the agricultural value chain into a more resilient and inclusive system.

Key programmatic objectives:

i. ***Promotion of Sustainable Agriculture:*** Advocate for the adoption of environmentally friendly farming practices that conserve natural resources, minimize chemical usage, and improve soil health.

ii. ***Enhancement of Productivity:*** Implement advanced agricultural techniques, precision farming technologies, and high-yield crop varieties to increase productivity levels.

iii. ***Strengthening Value Chain Management:*** Develop efficient supply chains, upgrade storage and transportation infrastructure, and facilitate direct market access for farmers.

iv. ***Federation of FPOs:*** Support the establishment and empowerment of FPOs to foster cooperation among smallholder farmers and enhance their knowledge and collective bargaining power.

v. ***Capacity Building Initiatives:*** Provide training and resources to farmers on sustainable practices, modern technologies, and financial literacy.

vi. ***Facilitation of Market Linkages:*** Establish strong connections between farmers and markets to ensure equitable pricing and mitigate the influence of intermediaries.

Implementation Strategy:

i. ***Training and Education for Farmers:*** Organize workshops, field demonstrations, and training sessions aimed at educating farmers about sustainable practices and modern agricultural techniques, as well as the advantages of FPO membership.

ii. ***Integration of Technology:*** Utilize digital tools, precision agriculture technologies, and mobile applications to furnish farmers with real-time information and support.

iii. ***Development of Infrastructure:*** Enhance storage facilities, transportation networks, and access points to markets, thereby ensuring effective back-to-back value chain management.

iv. ***Support and Federation of FPOs:*** Promote the formation of FPOs, provide necessary technical and financial assistance, and encourage the federation of these organizations to bolster collective bargaining power and resource sharing.

v. ***Establishment of Collaborative Partnerships:*** Engage with governmental bodies, non-governmental organizations, research institutions, and private sector entities to deliver comprehensive support to farmers and FPOs.

vi. ***Promotion of demo plots:*** Agri-demo plots are designated areas where innovative agricultural practices, technologies, and techniques are demonstrated to farmers and stakeholders. They serve as practical learning tools and play a crucial role in improving agricultural productivity and sustainability.

vii. ***Monitoring and Evaluation Framework:*** Implement a robust system for tracking progress and assessing challenges, ensuring continuous improvement throughout the project lifecycle.

OUTPUTS OF OBJECTIVE 01 STRATEGIES (Synthesis of observations made by PLF team)

Strategy 01:
***TRAINING AND EDUCATION FOR FARMERS:* Farmers' Field Schools - Empowering Farmers with Knowledge and Innovation**

As part of training and education for farmers, Farmers' Field Schools (FFS) have emerged as an **effective platform for disseminating knowledge and enabling hands-on learning opportunities for farmers in the operational area.** These schools foster enthusiasm among participants, encouraging them to apply innovative practices to their own farmlands. Two notable outcomes from this initiative exemplify the transformative impact of FFS on agricultural practices.

Relevance: The Farmers' Field Schools (FFS) directly address the need for innovative agricultural practices and knowledge dissemination among farmers. By introducing techniques such as mosquito control methods and proper seed-spacing practices, FFS aligns closely with Project SAMPURNA's goal of promoting sustainable agriculture and enhancing farmer capacities. The intervention is designed to cater specifically to the challenges faced by smallholder farmers, ensuring its relevance to their livelihoods.

Coherence: The FFS initiative integrates traditional farming practices with modern, evidence-based techniques. This balance ensures the intervention is well-received by the farming community and complements ongoing agricultural development programs under Project SAMPURNA. The collaborative and participatory approach further strengthens the coherence of this initiative within the broader framework of rural development.

Effectiveness: The FFS program has demonstrated tangible improvements in farming practices, as evidenced by the adoption of mosquito control techniques and seed-spacing

methods. One farmer, M. Pedda Reddappa Reddy, remarked, *"The new mosquito control method resulted in the elimination of insects/flies, which subsequently enhanced crop yields. On my farmland, it appears that growth is proportional to the elimination of pests: more elimination leads to more growth."* He highlighted an increase in paddy yields from 30 bags to 40 bags per season, showcasing the effectiveness of these interventions.

Similarly, the adoption of seed-spacing practices has yielded healthier and bushier plant growth, earning praise from women farmers. N. Anasuyamma, T. Revathi, and K. Bharathi shared their perspective, stating, *"The distance between seeds leads to healthy and robust vegetative growth, and this principle of purposeful spacing also applies to human relationships. Just as maintaining ideal distance benefits seeds and soil, it can also foster harmony in human interactions."*

Efficiency: The FFS platform efficiently delivers knowledge and skills to farmers through structured and cost-effective methods. By introducing low-cost tools like sticky traps for pest control and promoting practical sowing techniques, the program ensures maximum impact with minimal resources. The participatory nature of FFS encourages farmers to implement these techniques effectively on their own farmlands, enhancing the efficiency of the initiative.

Impact: The initiative has significantly impacted the farming community by improving agricultural productivity and reducing labor intensity, particularly for women farmers. Enhanced yields, better pest control, and improved crop health have resulted in increased confidence and motivation among farmers to embrace innovation. The philosophical reflections of farmers, such as their analogy between seed-spacing and human relationships, highlight the broader social and cultural resonance of the program's teachings.

Sustainability: The FFS program promotes sustainable practices by introducing environmentally friendly methods, such as natural pest control and efficient seed-spacing techniques. These practices contribute to long-term agricultural resilience while fostering a deeper understanding of sustainable resource management among farmers. By empowering farmers with knowledge and skills, the initiative ensures that the benefits are sustained beyond the program's duration.

Through the inclusion of farmer reflections and its alignment with Project SAMPURNA's objectives, the FFS initiative exemplifies a model that is relevant, coherent, effective, efficient, impactful, and sustainable. It lays a strong foundation for achieving long-term agricultural success and fostering resilient farming communities.

MEMBER EDUCATION AND AWARENESS MEETINGS: IMPACT AND OUTCOMES

Knowledge and Awareness The Farmer Producer Organization (FPO) under the APF-APMAS project has strategically focused on empowering its members and board of directors through education and awareness initiatives. Three core priorities have guided the FPO's operations:

1. **Retention of Farmer Members**: With most members being small or marginal farmers and leaseholders, retaining them for long-term engagement has been pivotal. These farmers aspire to accelerate business growth and receive dividends on their share capital. Active involvement in FPO activities has provided members with gainful opportunities to achieve these goals.
2. **Market Penetration and Product Distribution**: Efforts to strengthen market penetration have empowered FPO members to negotiate better terms with product manufacturers, ensuring favourable pricing and continuous supply. Simultaneously, several board members have advocated for sustainable practices such as Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) and organic farming, as evident in villages like Nunevandlapalli and Regallu, where farmers, including women, have adopted chemical-free methods.
3. **Fodder Cultivation and Livestock Development**: Members have embraced Napier fodder cultivation on small plots, ensuring regular green fodder supply to land-based farmers, cow-farmers, and goat-farmers. Support from the veterinary team and project management has positively impacted animal health and productivity, demonstrating the holistic nature of FPO interventions across three revenue mandals in Annamayya district.

This educational focus has fostered awareness at two levels—abstract and quantum. At the abstract level, farmers have developed a deeper understanding of innovative methods in farming, fodder development, and cultivation techniques. At the quantum level, this enhanced cognizance has translated into tangible outcomes such as increased milk production, improved milk-fat content, and higher fodder yields.

Engagement and Participation: Over 1,100 farmers participated in various awareness meetings organized during the project cycle, surpassing the original target of 1,000 participants. Each member attended at least one or two sessions, ensuring broad-based dissemination of knowledge.

Two key outcomes of participation have emerged:

1. **Intergenerational Learning**: Farmers often brought their children to these meetings, encouraging the involvement of the next generation in sustainable practices. This has cultivated a culture of intergenerational knowledge transfer, ensuring continuity and refinement of farming methods.
2. **Technical Inquiry**: Young farmers actively sought technical details on farm and fodder practices, signalling a shift in attitudes toward learning and information-seeking. This growing curiosity has expanded the contours of understanding among FPO members.

Exposure Visits Farmers participating in exposure visits reported three major takeaways:

1. Knowledge of new seed varieties and cropping methods.
2. Hands-on experience with training methodologies, enabling farmers to implement practices back home.
3. Access to IEC (Information, Education, and Communication) material in local languages, facilitating broader dissemination within communities.

Farmers acknowledged the exposure trips as instrumental in widening their perspectives and fostering new relationships with technical personnel and peers from other regions. Despite challenges in applying the acquired knowledge due to ground realities, several farmers have successfully cultivated new crops and utilized soil-friendly products, reflecting the practical impact of these visits.

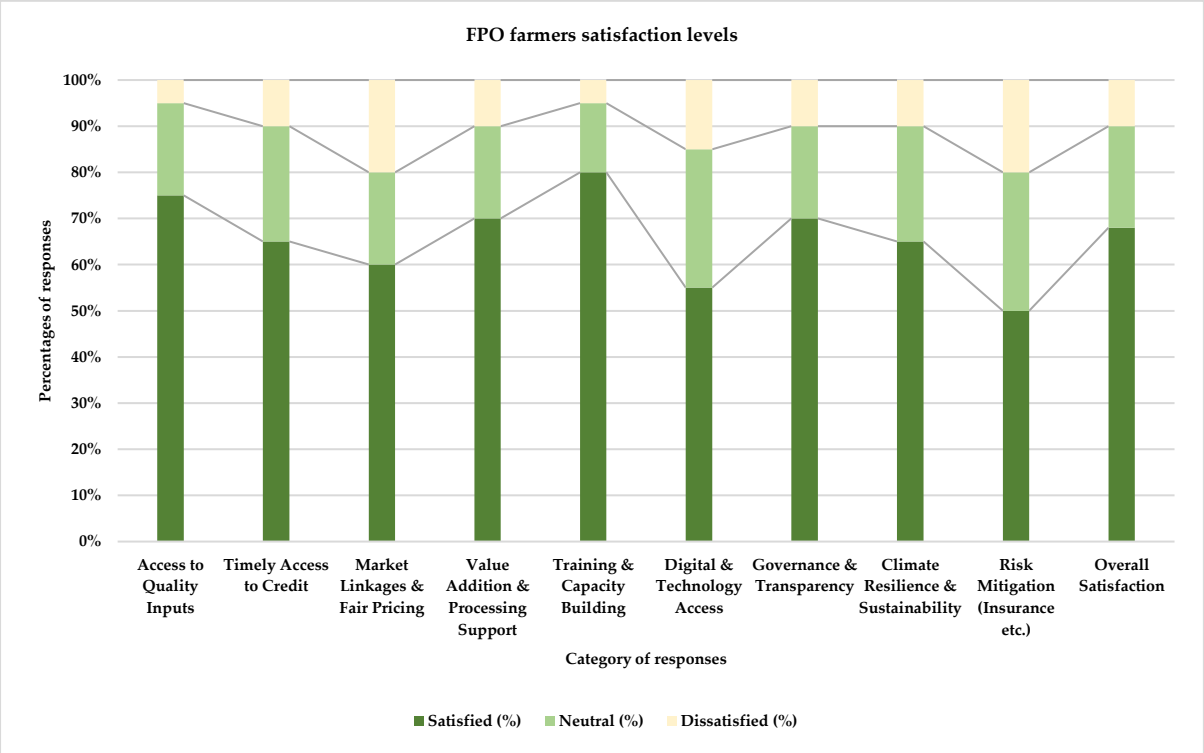
FPO CEO Visit to IPL Biologicals Limited The FPO leadership's visit to IPL Biologicals Limited provided valuable insights into governance, diverse biological products, and rural-urban community-industry connections. This experience catalysed several transformative initiatives:

1. **Knowledge Dissemination**: Learnings from the visit were shared with board members and individual farmers through formal meetings and casual interactions at the FPO godown. Simplified communication in vernacular languages ensured widespread understanding of soil-friendly products and practices.
2. **New Partnerships**: The FPO initiated potential collaborations with manufacturers like Tata and local experts such as Shaik Bodesha. These partnerships have facilitated the introduction of innovative bio-products for vegetative and reproductive growth among crops.
3. **Operational Development**: Farmers actively engaged in monitoring, disseminating, and negotiating product applications, exemplifying the dynamic results of knowledge sharing. Senior project manager Vinayaka Reddy highlighted this as a significant outcome of interrelated interventions.

Impact on the FPO The educational and exposure programs have fostered visible progress in FPO operations. Farmers have adopted sustainable practices, built robust partnerships, and embraced innovative techniques, ensuring both individual and collective growth. Dr. Bhargavi, a project manager, praised the contributions of women farmers and cooperative members, stating, “The results are both expected and extraordinary, driven by the dedication and attentiveness of farmers and women stakeholders.”

By equipping farmers with knowledge, resources, and collaborative opportunities, the APF-APMAS project has positioned the FPO as a transformative force in rural development, driving sustainability and progress across its operational areas.

SATISFACTION LEVELS



Under Project SAMPURNA – Synergy for Sustainable Futures, the satisfaction levels of farmers associated with FPOs indicate a largely positive experience, with 68% of respondents expressing overall satisfaction. Farmers reported the highest levels of satisfaction with training and capacity building initiatives, particularly appreciating the focus on youth and women. Access to quality inputs was another strong area, with 75% of farmers satisfied due to bulk procurement mechanisms that reduced costs and ensured timely availability. Value addition and processing support also received favorable feedback, with 70% of farmers noting improved income from better post-harvest handling and packaging.

Governance and transparency within the FPOs were seen as strengths, with democratic decision-making and collective planning enhancing trust and participation. Access to credit, climate resilience efforts, and sustainable agriculture practices received moderate satisfaction levels, though issues like procedural delays and uneven implementation were noted.

However, there are some critical areas that need attention. Digital and technology access remains a challenge, with only 55% of farmers satisfied. Many still lack smartphones or digital literacy, limiting their ability to benefit from advisories and market information. Risk mitigation mechanisms, particularly crop insurance, also showed lower satisfaction due to confusion around claims and limited awareness.

Overall, the matrix reflects a strong foundation laid by the FPO model under Project SAMPURNA, while also highlighting the need for targeted interventions in digital inclusion, insurance literacy, and more robust market linkage systems to ensure sustained and equitable benefits for all members.

Strategy 02

Promotion of Demonstration Plots:

The results from the demonstration plots under Project SAMPURNA have presented a mix of outcomes, reflecting both progress and challenges. While the introduction of new methods represents a novel intervention, it has not entirely replaced the traditional knowledge systems embedded within the grassroots farming community. Crop yields have shown varied results, with visible improvements in plant quality and healthy growth on the farmlands. However, a significant increase in production quantity remains indiscernible at this experimental stage, as the breeding process is still underway.

Relevance: The demonstration plots under Objective 1 represent a strategic intervention aimed at showcasing innovative agricultural methods to farmers. The initiative directly

addresses the need for improving crop quality and promoting sustainable farming practices, making it highly relevant to the overarching goals of Project SAMPURNA.

Coherence: The introduction of new methods in demonstration plots integrates thoughtfully with grassroots farming practices, ensuring a balance between modern techniques and traditional knowledge systems. Farmers have embraced these interventions as a complement to their existing methods, creating a coherent pathway for gradual adoption.

Effectiveness: While the experimental phase has shown visible improvements in plant quality and healthy growth, a significant increase in production quantity remains to be realized. The breeding process is still in progress, and sustained efforts will be required over the coming seasons to fully capitalize on the potential of these innovations. The introduction of organic crop varieties has been positively received, highlighting the effectiveness of the intervention in promoting healthier and more sustainable options for farming.

Efficiency: Demonstration plots have proven to be a cost-effective tool for experimentation and learning. They offer farmers an opportunity to observe and assess new techniques in real-world conditions, enabling them to make informed decisions about their applicability without risking large-scale investments.

Impact: The initiative has fostered optimism among farmers, who view the intent of the intervention as commendable. However, mid-level and economically constrained farmers face challenges due to delayed financial returns, which underscores the duality in their approach: continuing experimental practices for personal use while relying on conventional methods for commercial purposes. This dichotomy reflects the complex realities of transitioning to organic farming.

Sustainability: The demonstration plots provide a valuable platform for promoting sustainable agricultural practices. While challenges such as lower yields in organic farming and erratic monsoonal rainfall persist, the initiative lays the groundwork for long-term resilience. By addressing these obstacles through capacity-building and structured support mechanisms, the intervention can contribute significantly to sustainable development in farming communities.

Through continued engagement, collaborative efforts, and adaptive strategies, the promotion of demonstration plots within Project SAMPURNA highlights the importance of bridging traditional knowledge with modern innovations. This initiative serves as a critical step in enabling farmers to achieve both economic viability and environmental sustainability.

Strategy 03

PRODUCTIVE INPUTS – (i) **Promotion of Kitchen Gardens: Empowering Women Farmers and Supporting Family Nutrition**

Under the initiatives implemented in the operational areas, every woman farmer has been provided with seeds to establish and maintain kitchen gardens. This intervention has been embraced by the women farmers, who have diligently cultivated their gardens to the best of their abilities.

Relevance: The promotion of kitchen gardens directly addresses the nutritional and financial needs of women farmers and their households, making it a highly relevant intervention. By providing seeds for vegetables that are daily dietary staples, the initiative ensures access to essential nutrients while reducing dependence on external food purchases, thereby aligning with the goals of Project SAMPURNA to enhance livelihoods and well-being.

Coherence: This initiative integrates seamlessly with rural agricultural practices by encouraging the cultivation of leafy and commonly consumed vegetables in homestead spaces. The strategy is consistent with traditional gardening methods while introducing improvements through organized seed distribution and capacity building. This coherence with existing practices fosters ease of adoption among women farmers.

Effectiveness: The intervention has proven effective in meeting household nutritional requirements, with families relying on their kitchen gardens for vegetables for approximately

7–8 months annually. This has reduced the financial burden on women farmers, eliminating the need for frequent vegetable purchases. The complete elimination of chemical fertilizers and pesticides in the process further ensures the safety and quality of the produce.

Efficiency: Kitchen gardens demonstrate efficient use of available resources by enabling women farmers to grow vegetables for household consumption without incurring additional input costs. The intervention maximizes the utility of small-scale, localized gardening efforts to deliver tangible benefits over an extended period.

Impact: The initiative has empowered women farmers by providing them with tools to take charge of their family's nutritional security. This empowerment not only improves dietary health but also instils a sense of self-reliance and financial independence. Furthermore, the shift toward chemical-free cultivation practices positively impacts environmental sustainability by reducing chemical usage.

Sustainability: As a time-tested and widely accepted practice, the promotion of kitchen gardens represents a sustainable approach to rural development. By encouraging natural and cost-effective methods of cultivation, the initiative ensures long-term benefits for both households and the environment. Its alignment with environmentally friendly and community-centric principles underscores its durability as an intervention.

This initiative within Project SAMPURNA exemplifies the strategic integration of traditional agricultural practices with modern resource optimization, resulting in an enduring impact on nutrition, household finances, and sustainable farming in rural communities.

(ii) Impact of PMDS Kits (Plant Microbiome Development Solutions Kits)**: Enhancing Agricultural Productivity and Soil Health**

As part of Project SAMPURNA, the experimental implementation of PMDS Kits represents a targeted intervention aimed at enhancing agricultural productivity and promoting sustainable farming practices. With a mix of 26 varieties, these kits were distributed to ten farmers and applied over an area of ten acres at a rate of six kilograms per acre, resulting in noteworthy outcomes across multiple dimensions of relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability.

Relevance: The PMDS Kits address critical challenges in agricultural productivity and soil health by introducing innovative microbiome-based solutions. This intervention directly responds to the needs of farmers for improved crop growth and sustainable resource management, aligning closely with the objectives of Project SAMPURNA.

Coherence: The initiative integrates seamlessly into the operational areas, particularly in mango orchards where the kits were predominantly applied. Farmers have connected their use to pre-monsoon dry sowing practices, highlighting the relevance of these kits to existing farming cycles and traditional methods.

Effectiveness: The application of PMDS Kits has led to two significant changes in plant morphology: healthier, vertical growth and robust, bushy leaf development. These outcomes signify an enhancement in the nutritional value of both soil and crops, reaffirming the efficacy of this intervention. Farmers have widely acknowledged visible improvements in the quality of their plants, underscoring the practical benefits of the kits.

Efficiency: The use of the PMDS Kits has demonstrated efficient resource utilization by fostering both plant and soil health. The observed increase in earthworm populations—a key indicator of soil fertility—further validates the intervention's effectiveness in enriching the soil microbiome, despite requiring additional confirmation in the next crop cycle.

Impact: The intervention's positive influence on plant growth and soil biodiversity aligns with Project SAMPURNA's broader goal of building resilient farming systems. Farmers have reported tangible benefits, including improved plant health and soil vitality, which collectively enhance the sustainability of agricultural practices.

Sustainability: The PMDS Kits have introduced an environmentally friendly approach to soil management by promoting organic enrichment. Despite challenges posed by erratic monsoonal rainfall patterns, the intervention showcases a sustainable model of soil health improvement that can adapt to variable climatic conditions.

By addressing these dimensions, the PMDS Kits initiative not only delivers immediate benefits to farmers but also establishes a foundation for long-term agricultural sustainability. Through continued experimentation, adaptive strategies, and expanded support, the initiative reinforces Project SAMPURNA's commitment to creating impactful and eco-friendly solutions for rural development.

(iii) Navadhanya Seed Kits: Supporting Sustainable Farming and Household Nutrition

As part of Project SAMPURNA, the distribution of Navadhanya Seed Kits aligns closely with the initiative's goal of empowering farmers, fostering sustainable agricultural practices, and enhancing rural livelihoods. This program reflects the foundational principles of relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability:

Relevance: The Navadhanya Seed Kits address the dual objectives of promoting sustainable farming and ensuring household nutritional security. By tailoring the intervention to meet the specific needs of the operational areas in Pileru Mandal, the project equips farmers with an invaluable resource for rainy-season cultivation and intercropping practices, directly linking it to Project SAMPURNA's mission of enhancing productivity.

Coherence: The initiative integrates seamlessly with the existing agricultural cycles and traditional practices. For example, farmers use these seeds during the rainy season, when the natural environment minimizes pesticide use, demonstrating a holistic and logical approach to sustainable farming under Project SAMPURNA's framework.

Effectiveness: The kits provide farmers with immediate relief from the financial burden of procuring seeds while ensuring they can meet domestic consumption needs through the produce of their Navadhanya crops. This satisfies the goal of bolstering livelihoods and addressing the economic challenges faced by small and marginal farmers.

Efficiency: By promoting partial avoidance of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides during the rainy season, the initiative optimizes resource utilization. Farmers are equipped to produce sufficient yields with a focus on minimal environmental impact, aligning with Project SAMPURNA's emphasis on eco-friendly practices and value chain management.

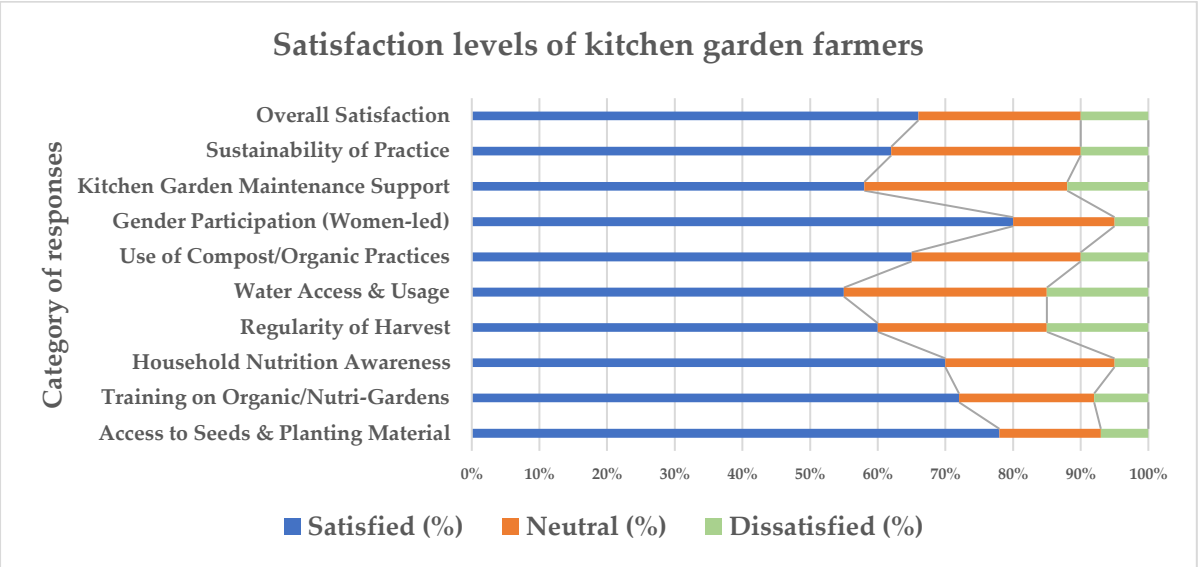
Impact: The intervention highlights the gradual shift among farmers towards adopting sustainable practices, particularly organic-induced farming methods. While challenges like reliance on traditional commercial methods during other seasons persist, the program lays a foundation for behavioural change and offers a pathway to improved soil health and environmentally conscious farming.

Sustainability: By encouraging organic farming during the rainy season and supporting intercropping with groundnut seeds, the Navadhanya initiative introduces practices that are environmentally sustainable and economically feasible. It embodies Project SAMPURNA's commitment to creating long-term resilience among farmers while fostering nutrition security for their households.

This initiative reflects the broader vision of Project SAMPURNA, which prioritizes empowering farmers with the knowledge, tools, and resources necessary to balance immediate economic needs with long-term sustainable development. Through strategic integration of Navadhanya Seed Kits, the project continues to drive positive change at the grassroots level.

Through these interventions, Project SAMPURNA demonstrates a holistic and integrated approach to promoting sustainable agriculture and rural livelihoods, driving meaningful and enduring change in farming communities.

SATISFACTION LEVELS OF KITCHENGARDEN FARMERS



Under Project SAMPURNA, the kitchen garden initiative has received a positive response, with 66% of beneficiaries satisfied overall. Access to seeds (78%) and training on organic gardening (72%) were highly appreciated, empowering especially women, who showed strong participation (80%).

However, challenges remain. Only 60% were satisfied with harvest regularity due to water scarcity, and just 55% expressed satisfaction with water access. Composting and organic practices saw good uptake (65%), though some found them labour-intensive. Support for maintenance was moderate (58%), with calls for more frequent extension visits.

In summary, kitchen gardens are improving nutrition and women's empowerment, but sustained success will require better water solutions, regular technical support, and long-term behaviour change strategies.

Case Story 01
Catharsis and Catalysis: Road to Sustainability
Land-Based Activities and Enterprising Farmers

The APMAS project in Pileru Mandal has set a transformational precedent in supporting farmers of all categories—small, mid-sized, large, and mixed. Particularly significant is the fourth category, the "mixed farmers," who combine traditional agriculture with animal farming, organic practices, and eco-friendly innovations. Farmers like Ratnakumar Reddy from Vepulabailu village and Obul Reddy from Regallu village exemplify this spirit of innovation and adaptability, embodying a holistic approach to land-based activities.

Inputs and Implementation

The APMAS intervention has provided farmers with training, support, and tools to break away from conventional farming methods and embrace progressive, sustainable practices:

1. **Capacity Building**: APMAS conducted training sessions and workshops, equipping farmers to explore Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF), crop diversification, and organic fertilization.
2. **Resource Support**: Farmers received new tools such as chaff cutters for animal fodder preparation and access to demo plots for experimentation.
3. **Fodder Development**: High-yield Napier fodder varieties (Black and Super) were introduced, ensuring year-round green fodder availability.
4. **Knowledge Sharing**: The program fostered interaction and collaboration among farmers, allowing them to share experiences and adopt successful practices.

Outputs and Outcomes

1. **Holistic Farming Practices**: Mixed farming activities, such as growing vegetables, cultivating fruit-bearing trees, and producing commercial crops like lemongrass, were integrated with organic fertilizer production and fodder cultivation. According to Ratnakumar Reddy, *"The Napier fodder has not only sustained my livestock but also enhanced*

the quality of cow dung, which, in turn, has enriched my soil for growing vegetables like cucumber, tomato, and chillies."

2. **Enhanced Productivity and Quality**: Farmers observed a marked improvement in soil fertility and crop yields. Obul Reddy highlighted, *"Using organic compost has been a game-changer for my fruit gardens and ZBNF vegetable farming. The impact on quality is undeniable."*
3. **Innovative Experiments**: Enterprising farmers like Ratnakumar Reddy took their initiatives further by cultivating a diverse range of plants, from Napier grass to mahogany trees. He has also become a regional supplier of Napier fodder "slips" (stems), empowering fellow farmers to adopt sustainable practices.
4. **Recognition and Empowerment**: Ratnakumar Reddy, who has been awarded the Best Farmer Award in Annamayya district three times, stated confidently, *"It's now time for APMAS members to learn from my experiences. Empowered farmers like me can contribute back to the system."* This statement underscores the empowerment that the project has fostered among its participants.

Long-Term Impact

1. **Economic Resilience**: Farmers have diversified income sources through practices like fodder sales and organic vegetable cultivation, reducing their dependency on single-crop farming.
2. **Sustainability**: Eco-friendly methods, such as ZBNF and organic composting, have reduced reliance on synthetic fertilizers, ensuring long-term soil health and productivity.
3. **Community Influence**: By sharing their knowledge, progressive farmers like Ratnakumar Reddy and Obul Reddy are inspiring others to adopt sustainable practices, creating a ripple effect of innovation and resilience across the region.
4. **Farmer-Centric Transformation**: The program has transformed farmers from passive beneficiaries into active contributors. As Ratnakumar Reddy proudly declared, *"Our efforts now define the future of farming in this region. APMAS has been the catalysing force for this transformation."*

Conclusion

The APMAS project's interventions exemplify how targeted support, training, and innovation can catalyse a new era in sustainable agriculture. By empowering farmers like Ratnakumar Reddy and Obul Reddy, the initiative not only addresses immediate challenges but also lays the foundation for a resilient, eco-friendly agricultural ecosystem in Pileru Mandal. Through their determination and ingenuity, these farmers symbolize the enduring success of land-based sustainability efforts.

TESTIMONIALS FROM FARMERS:

Enhancing Productivity, and Profitability of Farmers

'Farmers' Field School exposure trip has benefitted us considerably. I specifically refer to mosquito control sticks introduced to us during the exposure trip. Using these sticks we have controlled mosquito menace in our fields and improved farm output. For me, it is a kind of death-induced growth favouring farmers.' M. Pedda Reddappa Reddy, Farmer, Nunevandlapalli Village

'Subsidy offered by APMAS on purchase of animals (sheep/goats) has helped me freely rotate my investment without borrowing from external sources. Money saved in the form of subsidy is the money invested profitably. I am thankful to all' Mrs. Munemma, Tenant Farmer, Vepulabylu Village

'Formation and management of FPO at Kalikiri has infused real business spirit into the mind of ordinary farmers. We are hopeful that the FPO will soon rise to the occasion and provide considerable returns to every single shareholder of the FPO.' M/s. S. Amul Bee, Srilatha and Chandrakala, Board of Directors, Kalikiri FPO

Section 02

Objective 2: Ensuring alternate livelihoods through fodder development and livestock management

Project SAMPURNA places significant emphasis on fostering alternate livelihoods by integrating fodder development and livestock management into rural development strategies. This objective is aimed at diversifying income sources for farmers and rural households while addressing their economic vulnerabilities. By recognizing the intrinsic link between agricultural practices and livestock, the project facilitates sustainable livelihood models that enhance financial stability and community resilience.

Fodder development is a cornerstone of this approach, ensuring the availability of nutritious and cost-effective feed for livestock. This intervention not only optimizes livestock productivity but also reduces dependency on expensive external inputs. Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) play a critical role in the adoption and scaling of fodder cultivation, offering technical guidance, access to quality inputs, and platforms for resource-sharing among farmers.

Livestock management complements fodder development by enabling households to establish profitable enterprises through milk production, poultry farming, and other allied activities. Through capacity-building programs, farmers are trained in modern techniques for livestock care, disease management, and breeding practices, ensuring both productivity and animal welfare. FPOs and community collectives act as enablers by streamlining market linkages and facilitating access to veterinary services and credit support, thereby creating a robust ecosystem for livestock-based livelihoods.

This objective aligns with the collaborative vision of the Aurobindo Pharma Foundation and APMAS to empower rural communities through sustainable economic diversification. By equipping farmers and households with the tools, knowledge, and networks needed to thrive, Project SAMPURNA reinforces its commitment to creating measurable and lasting impacts on rural resilience and development.

Addressing the Challenge:

Farmers in the rural region of Pileru experience significant income vulnerabilities due to their reliance on seasonal agriculture, fluctuating yields, and uncertainties associated with climatic conditions. Livestock, an essential component of rural households, frequently remains underutilized due to insufficient fodder resources and outdated management practices. Consequently, the potential of livestock as a reliable source of income is substantially limited.

The Vision

The SAMPURNA project aspires to diversify the income streams of farmers by enhancing livestock productivity and establishing resilient livelihoods. By integrating fodder development and modern livestock management practices into existing farming systems, the project envisions the creation of a robust and sustainable rural economy characterized by comprehensive resource management.

Key Objectives

1. Promoting Fodder Development:

i. Introduce high-yield and drought-resistant fodder varieties to ensure year-round availability.
ii. Encourage farmers to allocate specific plots for fodder cultivation as an integral part of farm planning.
iii. Decrease livestock feed costs through the local production of fodder resources.

2. Strengthening Livestock Management:

i. Improve animal health services, including routine vaccinations, deworming, and nutritional care.
ii. Promote enhanced breeding practices to yield higher productivity and better quality results in milk, meat, or wool.
iii. Educate farmers on hygienic practices and suitable housing facilities to improve the well-being of livestock and reduce disease outbreaks.

3. Capacity Building for Farmers:

i. Provide training for farmers on best practices in fodder cultivation, livestock management, and integrated farming systems.
ii. Offer support in financial literacy and entrepreneurship to empower farmers to leverage livestock as a viable economic asset.
iii. Introduce digital tools for tracking livestock health and monitoring.

4. Market Integration:

i. Establish market linkages for milk, meat, and other livestock products to ensure fair pricing.
ii. Create platforms for Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) to collaborate and negotiate collectively in livestock product markets.
iii. Explore value-added opportunities, including dairy processing, organic manure production, and the utilization of by-products.

Implementation Strategy

Fodder Resource Development: Promote the establishment of fodder nurseries, encourage community-based initiatives for shared resources, and integrate fodder cultivation into crop cycles.

Livestock Service Delivery: Facilitate veterinary camps, establish mobile health services, and provide extension services to farmers.

FPO Involvement: Strengthen existing FPOs by incorporating livestock-focused initiatives, enabling collective ownership and management of fodder banks and processing units.

Collaborative Partnerships: Forge partnerships with government agencies, research institutions, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to ensure technical, financial, and knowledge support.

Sustainability Focus: Promote environmentally friendly practices that include organic feed production and sustainable manure management.

OUTPUTS OF OBJECTIVE 02 STRATEGIES (Synthesis of observations made by PLF team)

Strategy 01
Animal Health Camps

Animal health camps in the rural locations had three major positive implications. First, fogging (spraying of medicated liquid streams of water) relieved the animals from dermatological problems. Secondly, provision for calcium supplement in the form of Delgrove led to increase in milk production. Thirdly, these camps provided economical doses of AI (artificial insemination). In addition, doubts of animal farmers are always clarified by the veterinary doctors. And, these rural camps are always conducted in the joint mode where doctors from APMAS project and government staff join in providing services. This synergy is health for

animals as well as project's progress. Examining this intervention using OECD impact assessment Lense is as follows:

Relevance: The animal health and livestock management initiatives under Project SAMPURNA address vital concerns for rural farming communities, particularly the health and productivity of their livestock. The interventions—such as fogging for dermatological issues, provision of calcium supplements, affordable artificial insemination doses, deworming of calves and small ruminants, and the introduction of high-yield fodder varieties like Napier—are designed to meet the pressing needs of animal farmers. These measures ensure healthier livestock, improved milk yields, and better economic opportunities, reflecting their relevance to the farmers' immediate and long-term livelihoods. By aligning these efforts with the broader goal of sustainable rural development, the project demonstrates a thorough understanding of the challenges faced by farming households.

Coherence: The initiatives demonstrate strong coherence within the overall framework of Project SAMPURNA. The integration of veterinary services with awareness programs, fodder cultivation, and economic activities highlights a comprehensive and well-structured approach. The collaboration between APMAS veterinary staff and government officials ensures that expertise and resources are pooled effectively. Furthermore, the inclusion of both 'sole shepherds' (dedicated goat-rearing farmers) and 'subsidiary shepherds' (farmers combining goat-rearing with agriculture) ensures that the interventions are inclusive and cater to diverse community needs. This coherence is evident in the seamless way these activities complement one another to achieve the shared objective of empowering rural farmers.

Efficiency: The efficient delivery of veterinary services and resources stands out as a critical success factor in the project. Regularly organized animal health camps provide doorstep veterinary services, medicines, and AI doses, minimizing logistical challenges for farmers. The deworming interventions have been cost-effective and impactful, significantly improving the health of livestock with minimal input costs. Similarly, the introduction of Napier fodder, cultivated even in small landholdings, has enabled farmers to meet their cattle's nutritional needs without incurring high costs or labor. The sharing of Napier fodder among farmers further underscores community-driven efficiency and resource optimization.

Effectiveness: The interventions have been highly effective in delivering tangible results. Farmers have reported healthier livestock, with reduced incidence of diseases, increased productivity, and improved reproductive outcomes. For instance:

- Calcium supplementation through Delgrove has led to measurable increases in milk yields, complemented by higher SNF values (rising from 3.7 to approximately 5), which in turn elevated milk procurement rates from ₹30 to ₹35 per litre.
- Deworming interventions have alleviated abdominal discomfort and reduced general infections among animals, resulting in vibrant and active livestock. Shepherds from

Vepulabailu and Regallu villages corroborated these outcomes, citing reduced contagious infections.

- The widespread adoption of Napier fodder has ensured year-round availability of green feed, directly influencing animal health and reducing feeding costs. Even cultivation on small plots (10–20 cents) has proven sufficient to support household livestock throughout the year.

The targeted training and awareness programs have significantly enhanced farmers' capacity for livestock management. For instance, goat farmers have adopted better feeding, grazing, and health-check practices, boosting goat-rearing efficiency. Farmers like Munemma from Vepulabailu reported increased lamb sales, which added value to their modest domestic economies.

Impact: The impact of these interventions is multidimensional and transformative. By improving livestock health, productivity, and reproduction, the initiatives have contributed to a substantial increase in farmers' incomes. Notable outcomes include:

- Enhanced milk quality and higher procurement prices, leading to economic benefits. Farmers estimated annual savings of approximately ₹5000 due to reduced fodder procurement costs.
- The introduction of Napier fodder has resolved long-standing concerns about feed availability, reducing the financial and logistical burden on farmers.
- Goat-rearing has emerged as a significant supplementary economic activity, particularly among 'subsidiary shepherds.' Increased lamb sales and reproductive success among goats have strengthened rural household incomes.

The collaborative engagement of farmers in health camps and awareness sessions has fostered a sense of ownership and self-reliance. Farmers actively participate in disseminating knowledge about livestock health and management to others in their communities, amplifying the project's outreach and impact.

Sustainability: The interventions exhibit strong elements of sustainability. The promotion of high-yield Napier fodder has provided a renewable, cost-effective solution for livestock nutrition, ensuring long-term resilience in feed availability. Regular veterinary health camps and the distribution of affordable medicines support preventative care, reducing dependency on reactive treatment approaches.

The adoption of improved practices—such as feeding schedules, deworming, and reproduction management—empowers farmers to maintain livestock health independently. The community-driven sharing of fodder and dissemination of knowledge indicate the creation of a self-reinforcing ecosystem that sustains project benefits at the grassroots level.

Additionally, the strategic inclusion of both agricultural and livestock-rearing farmers ensures that the interventions are economically viable and socially inclusive. The absence of dissent among farmers regarding these initiatives underscores their wide acceptance and potential for scalability.

Conclusion: The animal health and livestock management initiatives under Project SAMPURNA exemplify a holistic and integrated approach to rural development. By addressing immediate challenges and fostering long-term sustainability, these interventions have delivered meaningful economic and social benefits to farming communities. The transformative impact of healthier livestock, higher milk yields, reduced costs, and increased incomes reflects the success of a strategic, farmer-centric program. With continued support and adaptive strategies, these initiatives promise to create enduring improvements in rural livelihoods and community resilience.

With the implementation of the SAMPURNA project, farmers in rural Pileru can anticipate a diversification of their income streams, as livestock and related activities will provide an additional and reliable source of income, thereby reducing their vulnerability to the uncertainties of seasonal agriculture. The project aims to empower farmers and FPOs by strengthening their capacities and collective bargaining power, enabling better access to markets and opportunities and enhancing their control over their economic futures.

Sowbhagya Biotech Product Trials: Delgrove and Its Impact

Effectiveness of Delgrove - The experimental intervention with Delgrove, a liquid calcium supplement aimed at enhancing milk production, was conducted among progressive animal farmers in Nunevandlapalli village. Participants included M. Anasuyamma, M. Sridevi, N. Lakshmi Devi, N. Sridevi, and N. Vasantha, all of whom unanimously reported significant improvements in milk productivity and animal health. Specifically, milk production increased by **2–3 litres per day**, and no cases of infectious diseases were observed in the treated livestock. Delgrove, heralded as the "game changer" in this trial, has demonstrated clear benefits for both animals and farmers.

A further indicator of the intervention's success was the improvement in the **Solids-Not-Fat (SNF)** content of the milk. Before using Delgrove, SNF values were typically around **3.7**, but post-intervention values ranged between **4.0 and 5.0**, signalling a qualitative enhancement in milk composition. This improvement directly translated into financial gains, as farmers reported an increase in the selling price of milk, from **₹30 per litre to ₹35 per litre**, due to better quality.

The farmers particularly emphasized Delgrove's ease of use, noting its liquid form simplifies administration to livestock. Reflecting on their experience, the women farmers strongly

recommended extending the use of Delgrove to other regions, citing its potential to uplift the farming community universally.

Adoption, and Scaling - The positive outcomes of the trial have garnered significant interest from other women farmers in the community, who expressed their enthusiasm for adopting Delgrove. As one participant commented, "Delgrove has put us all in a different groove and on a new pedestal," reflecting its transformative impact.

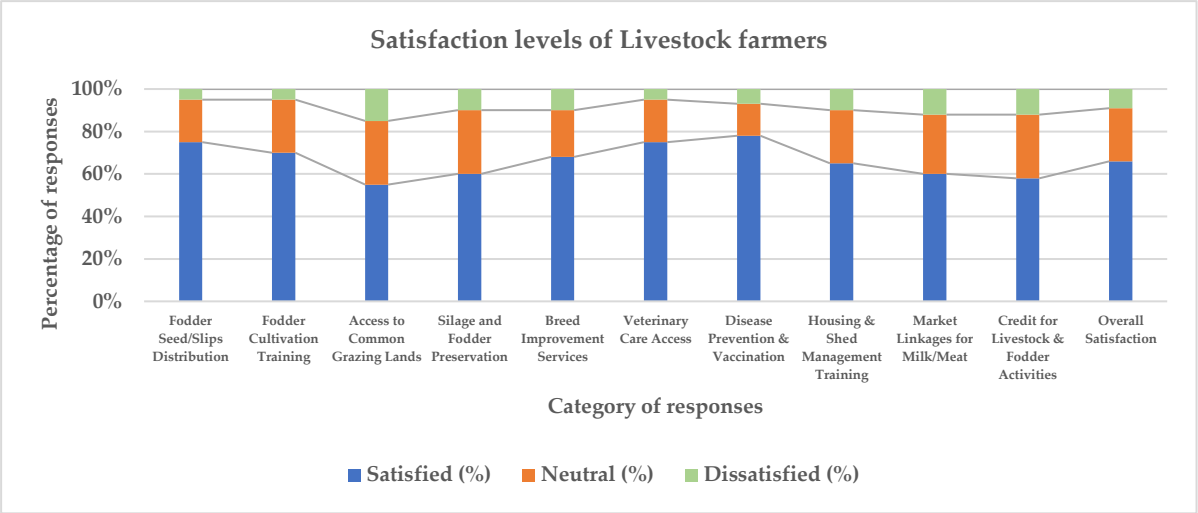
However, initial challenges were encountered in the procurement of Delgrove. As a newly introduced product by the Project Management Unit (PMU) of the APMAS project, its availability was limited, causing logistical hurdles. Given the promising results, the PMU is actively working to address these issues by establishing a sustainable supply chain, ensuring regular and accessible distribution of Delgrove.

To further capitalize on the success of this intervention, APMAS has developed plans to **scale up the use of Delgrove**. These plans include creating permanent linkages between suppliers and end-users, enabling seamless delivery of the product even after the project's conclusion. Collaboration with public veterinary officials and village-based paravet workers is also being prioritized to facilitate widespread adoption.

Future Plans, and Vision - The ultimate goal of the intervention is to introduce Delgrove as a farmer-friendly product throughout the district within the next few years. By focusing on supply chain mechanisms and strategic partnerships, APMAS aims to build a scalable and sustainable model that enhances livestock productivity and benefits the broader farming fraternity.

This trial underscores Delgrove's potential as an impactful solution for livestock health and productivity. With its emphasis on scalability and sustainability, the intervention sets a strong precedent for addressing challenges in rural livestock management and promoting economic gains for farmers. Through innovative approaches and community engagement, APMAS is paving the way for improved livelihoods and rural development.

SATISFACTION LEVELS OF LIVESTOCK FARMERS



The chart shows that livestock farmers under the program are largely satisfied, with 65–70% overall satisfaction. Veterinary care, disease prevention, and fodder seed distribution received the highest approval, indicating strong service delivery in these areas. However, lower satisfaction levels were noted in access to grazing lands, silage and fodder preservation, and credit and market linkages, pointing to infrastructure and support service gaps. While core livestock health services are performing well, improvements in resource access, storage solutions, and financial and market connectivity are essential to boost overall farmer satisfaction.

Case Story 02
Livestock Management: The 'S4 Model'
Mechanics of Fodder Development, Animal Health, and Sustainability

The APMAS intervention in livestock management has successfully introduced an innovative approach to animal health, fodder development, and sustainable farming through its strategic 'S4 Model'—Subsidy, Sustenance, Sanitation, and Surplus. This model has profoundly impacted farmers across the operational mandals of Annamayya district, delivering both economic and environmental benefits.

The intervention began with the introduction of Napier grass, a high-yielding green fodder variety, to address fodder sufficiency among farming families. Farmers were encouraged to sow Napier on small plots to ensure a year-round supply of high-quality fodder. However, the sturdy stems of Napier often went unused as livestock would only consume its leaves. Recognizing this challenge, APMAS introduced subsidies for chaff-cutting machines, enabling farmers to process the entire plant into small, edible pieces. Viswanath Reddy, a farmer who adopted the chaff-cutter with a subsidy of ₹5,000 and a personal contribution of ₹15,000, noted that this innovation significantly improved fodder utilization and livestock nutrition. His success encouraged other farmers in his village, which now has five chaff-cutters in operation.

The use of chaff-cutters not only enhanced fodder usage but also resolved issues related to sanitation. Previously, leftover stems mixed with dung created hygiene concerns and led to wastage. With animals now consuming the entire fodder, dung collection became easier, resulting in cleaner environments. V. Bujjamma, an experienced animal farmer, highlighted how this intervention improved hygiene, reduced wastage, and optimized resources, emphasizing the critical role of APMAS in driving these changes.

Subsidies were also offered for livestock purchases, fostering economic opportunities for farmers. Munemma, a 45-year-old farmer, used a ₹5,000 subsidy, combined with her own contribution of ₹7,000, to buy a pair of sheep. Within six months, she sold the sheep for ₹30,000, reinvesting half the amount in additional livestock and Napier cultivation. Her sustainable approach reflects the practical application of a circular economy, which she humorously refers to as her "animal economics."

The S4 Model's interconnected elements have proven transformative. Farmers like Ratnakumar Reddy, a recipient of the Best Farmer Award three times, have adopted sustainable practices such as ZBNF, organic composting, and diversified farming. Ratnakumar's innovation extends to being a regional supplier of Napier fodder slips, empowering neighbouring farmers to embrace similar practices. His confidence in the program is evident as he states, *"It's time for APMAS staff to learn from my experiences too."*

The long-term impact of the S4 Model is evident in the economic resilience and sustainability it fosters. By integrating fodder development, improved animal health, and eco-friendly practices, the program has laid a strong foundation for sustainable rural livelihoods. C. Reddemma, a 62-year-old farmer from Vepulabailu village, aptly summarized the program's impact, saying, *"I like all the program components because they offer single-window solutions to all animal farmers in the village."* This holistic approach has not only transformed individual lives but also driven community-wide progress, positioning APMAS as a catalyst for change in rural development.

TESTIMONIALS FROM LIVESTOCK FARMERS:

Ensuring Alternate Livelihoods through Fodder Development and Livestock Management

"Introduction of Chaff Cutters and subsidy offered to farmers by APMAS have gone a long way in protecting animal farmers from extra expenditures and wastage of grass fodder. On the other hand, Napier seed (Super and Black) has yielded enough fodder for all. These twin aspects have saved time and money for ordinary framers" V. Viswanath Reddy, Farmer, Vepulabylu Village

'Conduct of regular animal health camps in the villages and supply of farm needs such as seed, fertiliser etc. at an economical rate to member-farmers have been appreciated by all including public functionaries. In addition, proper and timely advice by APMAS on horticulture plantations has relieved farmers from stress. These outcomes are there before us to be verified and to get satisfied.' C. Obul Reddy, Plantation Farmer, Regallu Village

Section 03

Objective 3: Enabling students in accessing Safe drinking water (20 Schools, 2 Colleges & 8 Anganwadi Centres)

Project SAMPURNA prioritizes the health and well-being of students and young children by addressing the critical need for access to safe drinking water. This objective is implemented across 20 schools, 2 colleges, and 8 Anganwadis, reflecting a comprehensive effort to create a healthier and more supportive learning environment. By tackling this essential challenge, the initiative acknowledges the vital connection between access to clean water, educational outcomes, and community well-being.

The program emphasizes infrastructural development and maintenance to ensure a sustainable water supply, complemented by awareness-building efforts that educate students

and staff about the importance of hygiene and sanitation. Such interventions are essential in reducing waterborne diseases, enhancing attendance rates, and fostering a conducive atmosphere for academic growth and personal development.

Collaborative partnerships with local institutions, community stakeholders, and implementation partner APMAS play a pivotal role in ensuring the successful delivery and sustainability of these interventions. These efforts not only directly impact the health and productivity of students but also inspire community-wide adoption of safe water practices.

This objective aligns seamlessly with the overarching vision of the Aurobindo Pharma Foundation to drive equitable development and long-term societal benefits. By improving access to safe drinking water, Project SAMPURNA reinforces its commitment to nurturing the potential of the younger generation, ensuring that they thrive in a healthy and empowering environment.

ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGE

Water safety constitutes a critical concern within numerous educational institutions, including schools, colleges, and Anganwadis (rural childcare centers). The prevalence of unsafe drinking water, often characterized by contamination or inadequacy, significantly jeopardizes the health, attendance, and academic performance of students. This issue is particularly pronounced in rural and underserved regions, where limited awareness and insufficient infrastructure further aggravate the circumstances. These challenges obstruct the comprehensive development of children and young learners, necessitating urgent intervention.

Here the vision is to represent a comprehensive initiative designed to ensure consistent access to safe and clean drinking water for students across 20 schools, 2 colleges, and 8 Anganwadis. By rectifying deficiencies related to water quality and infrastructure, the project aims to establish healthier, more inclusive, and supportive educational environments. This intervention not only enhances health outcomes but also upholds principles of equity, dignity, and sustained educational achievements for all students, reflecting meticulous planning and execution.

KEY OBJECTIVES

1. Ensuring Clean Water Infrastructure:

i. Establish Reverse Osmosis station and supply purified water to educational institutions in Pileru town.

ii. Ensure drinking water from reliable water purification systems (Reverse Osmosis filters) to all educational establishments in Pileru town.

iii. Establish durable storage and distribution systems to safeguard water quality and availability.

iv. Conduct regular maintenance and quality assessments to assure long-term functionality.

2. Promoting Awareness and Education:

i. Facilitate health and hygiene workshops for students, educators, and caregivers to emphasize the importance of safe drinking water.

ii. Integrate water-related health education into school curricula to cultivate enduring habits regarding safe water usage.

iii. Engage local communities to bolster awareness and participation in water safety initiatives.

3. Monitoring and Evaluation:

i. Develop a comprehensive framework to monitor water quality and evaluate the impact of the intervention on student health and academic performance.

ii. Introduce feedback mechanisms to ensure responsiveness and facilitate continuous improvement.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

Infrastructure Upgradation: Deploy tailored water purification systems to meet the specific needs of each institution, ensuring proper installation by qualified professionals.

Community Engagement: Involve parents, local authorities, and community leaders in the planning and sustainability of water safety measures.

Integration with FPO Federations: Collaborate with farmer and community organizations to advocate for shared resources and decentralized water safety initiatives.

Strategic Partnerships: Form partnerships with health and sanitation agencies, technology providers, and non-governmental organizations to secure technical and financial support for implementation.

Sustainability Emphasis: Prioritize eco-friendly solutions such as rainwater harvesting and solar-powered purification systems to minimize environmental impact.

OUTPUTS OF OBJECTIVE 03 INTERVENTION STRATEGIES (Synthesis of observations made by PLF team)

Strategy 01

RO Plant and supply of Safe Drinking Water

APMAS has installed RO Plant at Pileru town and supplying safe drinking water to schools, colleges and Anganwadi centres in Pileru Toun.

Relevance: The provision of safe drinking water to government schools, colleges, and Anganwadis under Project SAMPURNA addresses a critical need for health, hygiene, and accessibility among students and staff. With 220 working days recommended for schools in Andhra Pradesh, the intervention ensures a consistent and safe water supply, which is indispensable for fostering a conducive learning environment. The initiative directly aligns with the goals of improving public health and strengthening educational institutions in rural areas, making it highly relevant to the needs of the community.

Coherence: This intervention aligns seamlessly with the broader objectives of Project SAMPURNA, emphasizing sustainable community development and public health improvements. The program's consistent water supply over the last 7–8 years has fostered strong linkages between civil society organizations, such as APMAS, and public institutions. The collaboration with schools, government bodies, and teacher unions reflects a coherent and unified approach to addressing water access challenges.

Effectiveness: The initiative has proven highly effective in delivering tangible outcomes. According to head-teachers of Zilla Parishad High Schools in Pileru Mandal, two key indicators highlight the program's success:

i. **Increased water consumption** by students reflects the improved accessibility and quality of drinking water.
ii. **No reported cases of water-borne diseases** over the last 7–8 years signify the efficacy of the intervention in ensuring safe, contamination-free water supply.

Additionally, anecdotal evidence highlights that children have developed a heightened awareness of water quality, testing for pollutants and dirt at home. This behavioural change underscores the intervention's influence on fostering health-conscious attitudes among students, which extends beyond the school environment.

Efficiency: The intervention has demonstrated remarkable efficiency in maintaining a continuous and reliable supply of safe drinking water over an extended period. Despite a minor breakdown of 4–5 days, the consistent availability of safe drinking water has minimized disruptions and ensured uninterrupted access for students and staff. The timely and hygienic filtration processes further enhance the efficiency of the program, making it a cost-effective and impactful solution for rural schools and Anganwadis.

Impact: The program's impact is far-reaching, with significant improvements in health, education, and community engagement:

i. **Health Benefits**: The absence of water-borne diseases among students reflects the direct health benefits of the intervention. The reliable availability of safe drinking water has reduced stress and concern among teachers and staff, contributing to a healthier school environment.
ii. **Educational Outcomes**: Increased water consumption by students has promoted better hydration, which positively impacts focus, learning, and overall well-being.
iii. **Community Engagement**: The initiative has strengthened the school-community connection, earning appreciation from government teacher unions and fostering a culture of collaboration. Parents have also expressed immense satisfaction with the behavioural changes observed in their children, reinforcing the program's credibility and effectiveness.

Sustainability: The intervention is inherently sustainable due to its long-term focus on public health and hygiene. The consistent and contamination-free water supply over the past 7–8 years demonstrates the robustness of the program's infrastructure and operational model. The behavioural changes among students, such as testing water quality at home, indicate a lasting impact on health awareness and personal responsibility. Additionally, the strong institutional support and collaboration with civil society organizations ensure the sustainability of the program's benefits.

Conclusion: The provision of safe drinking water to government schools, colleges, and Anganwadis under Project SAMPURNA exemplifies a model intervention that is relevant, coherent, efficient, effective, impactful, and sustainable. By addressing a fundamental need, the program has improved health outcomes, enhanced educational experiences, and fostered meaningful community engagement. Its long-term success underscores the importance of sustained investment in public health infrastructure and community partnerships.

This objective under the SAMPURNA project exemplifies a commitment to creating equitable, inclusive, and sustainable development solutions. By prioritizing safe drinking water, the initiative addresses a fundamental necessity and establishes a foundation for healthier, more empowered future generations.

Strategy 02

Placing Drinking Water Outlets (Water Kiosks / Chalivendrams): A Lifeline During Scorching Summers

Access, and Usage - The establishment of water kiosks, popularly known as **Chalivendrams**, under the APF-APMAS project has become a vital intervention for the communities of Pileru Mandal, especially during the intense summer season. Each water outlet caters to approximately **200 individuals daily**, ensuring easy access to clean drinking water for daily commuters and the general public, regardless of socio-economic background. Strategically located at high-footfall public spaces such as traffic signal junctions, government hospitals, and bustling marketplaces, these kiosks serve as a cooling relief in the sweltering heat.

By addressing the hydration needs of commuters, patients, and schoolchildren, the water kiosks have become indispensable during peak summer months, offering respite to those most vulnerable to heat-related ailments.

Maintenance, and Reliability - The consistent operation and cleanliness of these water kiosks have been instrumental in maintaining community trust. The project enjoys **support from grassroots public health workers**, including ANMs, ASHA workers, and MPHWs, who collaborate with the APF-APMAS staff to monitor the cleanliness and functionality of the facilities. These public health workers have even volunteered to assist with cleaning efforts, reinforcing a sense of shared ownership and community participation.

The intervention stands out for its **eco-friendly design**. The use of **earthen pots** as water storage containers is a noteworthy feature. These pots not only ensure the water remains pollutant-free but also naturally cool the water due to their porous structure, making them an environmentally sustainable alternative to conventional methods. The project's continuous supply of uncontaminated water from a dedicated treatment plant further guarantees reliability, while manual handling is entirely avoided, preserving the hygiene and quality of the drinking water.

Significance During Summer Season - The summer months amplify the importance of these kiosks, as temperatures soar and access to safe drinking water becomes critical to prevent dehydration and heat-related illnesses. With **free and immediate access to clean, naturally cooled water**, the kiosks provide a vital solution to those commuting under the blazing sun.

Informal discussions with stakeholders have revealed the kiosks' far-reaching impact. Local residents, hospital staff, commuters, police personnel, and school-going children have expressed appreciation for the intervention. In particular, a notable drop in patients seeking treatment for diarrhoeal illnesses at the local government hospital is attributed to the availability of clean and safe drinking water through these kiosks.

Impact on Community - The project uniquely blends **traditional practices with modern water treatment methods**, reflecting a harmonious integration of "technology vs. tradition." By utilizing seeds to purify the water in earthen pots, the intervention ensures a safe and eco-friendly drinking water supply. These kiosks have been widely recognized as a simple yet highly impactful solution during summer, bringing comfort and relief to thousands.

While modest in scale, the intervention's impact has been monumental. By effectively addressing the hydration needs of the community, the kiosks have not only enhanced public health outcomes but have also improved daily life for commuters and residents alike. The establishment of a kiosk at the government hospital, in particular, highlights its role as a preventive measure against heat-related illnesses and waterborne diseases.

Conclusion - The water kiosks installed by the APF-APMAS project embody the principles of accessibility, eco-consciousness, and community well-being. Their significance during the harsh summer months cannot be overstated, as they offer a lifeline to those in need. With access to hygienic, naturally cooled drinking water, and consistent community participation in their maintenance, the intervention exemplifies a holistic approach to rural development and public health in Pileru Mandal. This thoughtful initiative ensures that "**thirsty travellers**" **receive not just water, but a sip of care and sustainability in every drop**.

Case Story 03

Healthy Futures: Advancing Student Well-Being Through Clean and Safe RO Drinking Water

Since 2018, Project SAMPURNA, facilitated by APMAS, has revolutionized access to safe drinking water in schools, colleges, and Anganwadi centers in Pileru Mandal. By introducing RO-purified water facilities, this initiative addresses critical needs for health, education, and hygiene, leaving a transformative impact on public learning spaces.

Inputs and Implementation

- **RO Plant Installation**: RO water purification units were installed at strategic locations, such as MPPS in G V Nagar, on land provided by the Grama Panchayat. These plants ensure consistent purification and proximity to learning institutions.
- **Water Distribution**: 20-liter water cans are distributed to schools for 220 working days annually, guaranteeing reliable access to clean, safe drinking water.
- **Collaborative Stakeholder Efforts**: The intervention involved APMAS, local authorities, and school administrations, ensuring proper implementation and maintenance.

Outputs and Outcomes

i. **Economic Relief**: Schools saved approximately ₹6000 per month on water expenses. Headmaster R. Surendranath Reddy of ZPHS Pileru affirmed, *"The continuous supply of safe water by APMAS has been a financial and administrative blessing for our schools."*

ii. **Health Benefits**: Students now consume 1–1.5 litres of water daily, and no water-borne diseases have been reported in the past 7–8 years. Teacher N. Udayasree of ZP Girls' High School, Pileru, commented, *"This intervention has kept our children healthy, with no illnesses linked to water quality."*

iii. **Behavioural Change**: Students have developed eco-conscious habits, including avoiding water wastage and ensuring cleanliness at home. Parents observed that children often test water quality before drinking. Teacher Bhaskar Reddy of MPPS, G V Nagar, noted, *"The awareness and responsibility instilled in our children because of this initiative are remarkable."*

iv. **Academic Participation**: Improved hydration has enhanced students' cognitive alertness and participation. Female students, including Sunitha, Gayatri, Laxmi, and Saraswati from ZP Girls'

High School, Kotapally, expressed, *"Adequate hydration keeps our minds sharp and bodies refreshed, enabling us to fully focus on academics."*

Impact The project has substantially improved student well-being, with measurable enhancements in health, reduced absenteeism, and stronger academic engagement. Teachers like K. Renuka Devi have praised the intervention, noting, *"Students trust the quality of APMAS water so much that they resist drinking anything else, even choosing to go home for water when it's unavailable."*

The reach of the program extends beyond schools, influencing household habits and fostering a broader sense of water hygiene awareness. Children carry these lessons home, encouraging families to adopt cleaner, safer water practices.

Sustainability With durable RO infrastructure and strong community collaboration, the project ensures long-term viability. Continued monitoring, coupled with behavioural shifts among students, guarantees its impact will persist. As teacher Y. Reddappa Reddy remarked, *"This project is not just about water; it is about instilling lifelong health and hygiene values in our students."*

Conclusion The initiative under Project SAMPURNA exemplifies how access to clean drinking water can transform educational spaces and communities, creating healthier, more aware, and academically empowered generations. Through sustained efforts, it has left a legacy of improved health, responsible behaviour, and academic vitality in Pileru Mandal.

R. Surendranath Reddy (ZPHS), Y. Reddappa Reddy, N. Udayasree, and K. Renuka Devi (ZP Girls' High School), and Bhaskar Reddy (MPPS, G V Nagar) were in the group discussion along with students while documenting this case story.

TESTIMONIALS FROM SCHOOL STAFF:

Enabling Students in Accessing Safe Drinking water

i. *'Awareness about safe drinking water is taken to the logical end. Children are the change agents. During school vacations, they have influenced their parents to procure clean water cans from market for use at home. This is a striking reality observed by school staff in recent times.'* Mrs. N. Udayasree, Staff Member, ZP Girls' High School, Kotapally, Pileru

ii. *'Safe drinking water project is a game changer in government schools for two reasons. First, personal hygiene of students has improved considerably. Secondly, intake of sufficient drinking water has been noticed. These two outcomes are in favour of student health in the recent times. We are thankful to APMAS.'* R. Surendranath Reddy, Headmaster, ZP High School, Pileru

Chapter 03

OBJECTIVE WISE INTERVENTIONS OUTCOME ANALYSIS:

The assessment team has formulated a hypothesis that implementing these practices will enhance crop yields, improve resource management, and increase farmers' financial returns. To test this hypothesis, information has been collected using a mixed-methods approach, integrating quantitative data—such as crop yields and income levels—with qualitative feedback obtained from interviews with farmers in FPOs and analyse the outcomes. The summarised matrix of outcome analysis is as follows:

Objective 1: *Enhancing productivity and profitability of farmers by adopting sustainable agriculture and value chain management*

Critical Indicators	Expected Outcomes	Real-Time Outcomes	Impact
Increased Productivity Levels	Adoption of sustainable practices and advanced technologies will lead to improved crop yields and productivity.	FPO members adopted **Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF)**and Napier fodder cultivation, boosting crop yields and productivity.	Sustained increase in productivity among FPO members due to widespread use of advanced techniques and sustainable practices.
Enhanced Profitability	Farmers will achieve greater profitability through reduced costs and better market prices.	FPOs helped farmers negotiate better deals, increasing profits through improved milk quality (higher SNF values) and market linkages.	Greater economic stability and financial independence for farmers, driven by collective FPO bargaining power and diversified income streams.
Empowered Farmers and FPOs	Improved knowledge, skills, and access to resources will help farmers and FPOs make better decisions.	Over **1,100 farmers** participated in training and exposure visits, gaining technical expertise and building intergenerational knowledge.	Empowered FPO members, particularly women, are now leading sustainable initiatives, promoting community development and resilience.
Strengthened Agricultural Value Chains	Improved infrastructure and market connections will result in efficient and resilient agricultural systems.	Strategic partnerships with corporates like Tata and IPL Biologicals improved market linkages and ensured reliable supply chains.	Enhanced agricultural value chains fostered resilience and efficiency, enabling sustained growth and innovation within the FPO ecosystem.

Conclusion: Objective One of Project SAMPURNA has successfully advanced sustainable farming practices, empowered farmers, and bolstered agricultural value chains. The holistic approach has created measurable benefits in productivity, profitability, environmental sustainability, and economic independence, with women farmers emerging as key stakeholders in driving change. The interventions laid the foundation for long-term growth, resilience, and impactful rural development.

Objective 2: Ensuring alternate livelihoods through fodder development and livestock management

Critical Indicators	Expected Outcomes	Real-Time Outcomes	Impact
Increased Livestock Productivity	Improved fodder availability and better management practices will lead to healthier livestock and higher yields.	Milk productivity increased by **2–3 liters/day per cow** with Napier fodder and better livestock nutrition.	Consistently higher milk production and improved income for farmers through sustainable livestock management practices.
Improved Community Resilience	Diversified farming practices will reduce dependence on mono-cropping and seasonal agriculture.	Farmers integrated livestock and fodder cultivation, reducing risks from seasonal farming dependency.	Economic stability improved as diversified practices created more reliable and sustainable income streams for rural households.
Environmental Sustainability	Adoption of eco-friendly practices will lead to efficient resource use and sustainable rural development.	Use of chaff-cutters and organic compost reduced wastage and improved soil health.	Long-term soil fertility and eco-friendly livestock management practices promoted sustainable and environmentally sound farming.

Conclusion

Objective Two of Project SAMPURNA has achieved measurable success in enhancing livestock productivity, building resilience among farming communities, and promoting environmental sustainability. By integrating innovative practices and fostering self-reliant approaches, the project has established a sustainable framework for rural development that can be scaled and replicated in other regions.

Objective 3: Enabling students in accessing Safe drinking water (20 Schools, 2 Colleges & 8 Anganwadi Centres)

Critical Indicators	Expected Outcomes	Real-Time Outcomes	Impact
Improved Student Health	Reduction in waterborne diseases and improved overall health among students, contributing to better attendance and engagement.	Students in schools with RO facilities experienced a decline in waterborne illnesses, such as diarrhea, with cleaner and safer drinking water.	Enhanced health outcomes improved attendance rates, enabling students to focus more effectively on learning and academic activities.
Hygiene Practices in Schools	Provision of safe water will foster awareness about hygiene and cleanliness, particularly among students.	Safe water availability encouraged the adoption of better hygiene practices, including proper hydration and water consumption habits in schools.	Students developed better hygiene habits, and this awareness extended to families, creating a broader culture of cleanliness and health.
Safe Water for General Public	Access to uncontaminated water at public locations like hospitals, market yards, and bus stands will reduce health risks.	Water kiosks served approximately 500 individuals daily, alleviating dehydration and providing clean water for commuters, patients, and vendors.	Reduced incidence of dehydration and waterborne illnesses, particularly during peak summer seasons, highlighting the critical role of accessible clean water.

Conclusion

By addressing critical indicators, Project SAMPURNA effectively ensured clean and safe drinking water in schools, fostering better student health and hygiene practices. Extending this intervention to public spaces such as hospitals, market yards, and bus stands provided much-needed relief, particularly for vulnerable groups. These efforts not only supported immediate health outcomes but also laid the groundwork for long-term community resilience and sustainability.

Chapter 04

Comprehensive Summary, Conclusions & Suggestions

Comprehensive Summary

Project SAMPURNA, driven by APMAS and supported by the Aurobindo Pharma Foundation, has addressed three critical areas—**Farmer Producer Organization (FPO) development**, **livestock management**, and **safe drinking water access**. Each of these objectives has contributed to the overarching goal of holistic rural development. Below is a detailed summary of the core objectives, followed by recommendations to sustain and expand the initiative.

Summary of the Three Objectives

1. **Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs):** FPOs have played a transformative role in empowering small and marginal farmers, particularly women, by promoting sustainable practices and building strong market linkages. With over 1,100 farmers adopting advanced methods like **Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF)** and Napier fodder cultivation, productivity and profitability have improved. Partnerships with corporates like Tata and IPL Biologicals have further strengthened agricultural value chains, ensuring long-term growth and resilience. Empowered by knowledge and skills, FPO members are now active agents of change in their communities.
2. **Livestock Management:** The innovative **S4 Model**—Subsidy, Sustenance, Sanitation, and Surplus—has driven significant improvements in livestock productivity and economic stability. Napier fodder cultivation and tools like chaff-cutters have ensured optimal fodder use, resulting in healthier livestock and increased milk production (2–3 liters/day per cow). Farmers have embraced sustainable practices, reducing costs and environmental impact. The calcium supplement **Delgrove** has further boosted milk quality and profits. These interventions have collectively enhanced community resilience and sustainable rural development.
3. **Safe Drinking Water:** The installation of RO facilities in schools and water kiosks in public spaces has ensured reliable access to clean drinking water. Students in schools have benefitted from improved hydration and reduced waterborne diseases, fostering better attendance and academic focus. Public water kiosks have catered to approximately 200 individuals daily, reducing dehydration and illnesses in hospitals, market yards, and bus stands. Eco-friendly solutions like earthen pots have enhanced hygiene and sustainability, addressing critical health needs during peak summers.

Critical gaps

Project SAMPURNA faced critical gaps that limited its outcomes, including the absence of a comprehensive baseline report and process documentation, making it challenging to accurately measure impact and replicate success. The over-reliance on external funding jeopardized the sustainability of key interventions like water kiosks and Delgrove trials. Community ownership and infrastructure maintenance mechanisms for assets such as RO plants were not fully established. Geographic and logistical constraints led to inconsistent access to training, creating disparities among farmers. Cultural and structural barriers hindered women's participation in leadership roles within FPOs, reducing the project's inclusivity. Inefficient supply chains delayed resource distribution, while limited scalability confined the project's benefits to specific regions. Addressing these gaps through robust monitoring, local ownership, gender equity, and expanded coverage can significantly enhance the project's sustainability and transformative impact.

1. Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs): Empowering Communities

The FPOs under Project SAMPURNA have strengthened the capacities of smallholder farmers, especially women, by enhancing governance, building technical knowledge, and facilitating market linkages.

i. **Inputs**: Training sessions and workshops were conducted on sustainable farming practices, market engagement, and governance. Exposure visits provided hands-on learning about innovative farming techniques, while collaborations with corporates like Tata and IPL Biologicals ensured access to quality products.
ii. **Outputs and Outcomes**:
    a. Over **1,100 farmers** actively participated in FPO activities, surpassing the target of 1,000 members.
    b. Adoption of practices such as **Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF)** and **Napier fodder cultivation** reduced costs while improving yields.
    c. Young farmers, along with their families, benefited from intergenerational learning and developed a keen interest in technical innovations.
    d. Partnerships facilitated better negotiations, improving the profitability of farmer enterprises.
iii. **Long-Term Impact**: FPOs have become a hub for collaboration, innovation, and community leadership. Women farmers have emerged as key stakeholders, furthering inclusion and equity.

2. Livestock Management: A Sustainable Model

Livestock management, guided by the innovative **S4 Model—Subsidy, Sustenance, Sanitation, and Surplus**, has catalysed improvements in animal health, productivity, and farmer income.

i. **Inputs**: Subsidies for livestock purchases, Napier fodder cultivation, and chaff-cutting machines. Training sessions focused on improved animal health, waste management, and cost-effective solutions like organic composting.
ii. **Outputs and Outcomes**:
    a. Increased milk productivity by **2–3 litres per day per cow**, improving farmer profits.
    b. Napier fodder cultivation ensured sustainable and year-round livestock nutrition.
    c. Farmers adopted chaff-cutting machines, ensuring full utilization of fodder and improving sanitation.
    d. Calcium supplement trials with **Delgrove** significantly improved milk quality, with **SNF values rising from 3.7 to 4.0–5.0**, fetching better prices.
iii. **Long-Term Impact**: The intervention reduced reliance on chemical fertilizers and expanded opportunities for women farmers to lead and innovate. The economic resilience of farming households has visibly improved, fostering rural prosperity.

3. Safe Drinking Water: Ensuring Health and Hygiene

Access to safe drinking water was prioritized through **RO drinking water facilities** in schools and Anganwadi centers and **water kiosks** (Chalivendrams) in public spaces.

i. **Inputs**: Installation of **RO plants** in schools and **water kiosks** at high-traffic locations such as marketplaces and hospitals. Use of eco-friendly earthen pots for storage and seamless water supply ensured eco-conscious delivery.
ii. **Outputs and Outcomes**:
    a. RO drinking water systems benefitted over **10,000 children**, eliminating waterborne diseases and improving hydration levels.
    b. Water kiosks served approximately **500 individuals per day**, providing relief during scorching summers.
    c. A reduction in diarrhoea cases at hospitals was linked directly to the availability of clean, safe drinking water.
iii. **Long-Term Impact**: Improved health outcomes and the promotion of eco-friendly water storage practices underscore the program's holistic approach to public health and community well-being.

Recommendations for APMAS

a) Expand FPO Outreach and Capacity-Building

- Extend FPO activities to neighbouring mandals, replicating successful models like ZBNF and Napier fodder cultivation.
- Focus on leadership development programs, especially for women, to enhance inclusivity and equity.
- Strengthen partnerships with corporates and knowledge institutions for sustained growth and innovation.

b) Scale-Up Proven Livestock Management Practices

- Expand the adoption of the S4 Model, providing more farmers access to subsidies, training, and resources.
- Develop a district-wide strategy for Delgrove supplementation and continuous fodder innovation to improve livestock productivity.

c) Strengthen Monitoring and Evaluation

- Use standardized frameworks, such as the **OECD model**, to monitor outcomes and inform decision-making.
- Document and publish case studies to share learnings and inspire further innovation.

Recommendations for Aurobindo Pharma Foundation

a) Commit to Long-Term Support

- Provide extended funding to scale interventions, including water kiosks, RO systems, and Delgrove trials.
- Allocate resources for the expansion of FPO programs and infrastructure.

b) Invest in Sustainability and Technology

- Introduce solar-powered systems for water kiosks and RO plants to enhance energy efficiency.
- Explore technological solutions for real-time monitoring of water quality and livestock health.

c) Foster Public-Private Partnerships

- Collaborate with government bodies, corporates, and NGOs to ensure consistent supply chains and resource distribution.

- Initiate tie-ups for the development and distribution of new bio-friendly agricultural and livestock products.

d) Focus on Community Empowerment

- Support initiatives that empower women and youth, promoting participation and leadership in FPO activities.
- Ensure feedback mechanisms are in place to align future projects with the evolving needs of the community.

CONCLUSION

Project SAMPURNA stands as a beacon of holistic rural development, addressing the pressing challenges of safe drinking water access, sustainable livestock management, and empowering Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs). By integrating innovative approaches such as RO water facilities, the S4 Model for livestock management, and dynamic FPO education and market linkages, the initiative has successfully transformed Pileru Mandal into a model of health, equity, and sustainability.

Key achievements, including enhanced academic outcomes in schools through access to clean drinking water, significant gains in livestock productivity, and the adoption of eco-friendly farming practices, showcase the project's profound impact on communities. These efforts have not only improved living standards but also fostered resilience, economic empowerment, and inclusivity—particularly among women farmers.

As the initiative progresses, its ripple effects will continue to enhance public health, nurture sustainable agriculture, and strengthen the socio-economic fabric of rural communities. Project SAMPURNA demonstrates the power of collaboration between APMAS, the Aurobindo Pharma Foundation, local governance, and community stakeholders. It sets a replicable precedent for addressing systemic issues through innovation, strategic planning, and inclusivity, ensuring a brighter, sustainable future for generations to come.

Annexure

i. Stakeholders participated in the impact assessment

List of Participants		
1	R. Surendranath Reddy	Headmaster, ZPHS, Pileru
2	Y. Reddappa Reddy	Headmaster, ZPHS, Kotapally, Pileru
3	N. Udayasree	Teacher, ZPHS, Kotapally, Pileru
4	K. Renuka Devi	Teacher, ZPHS, Kotapally, Pileru
5	M. Sridevi	Farmer, Nunevandlapalli
6	N. Anasuyamma	Farmer, Nunevandlapalli
7	R. Muniratnam	Farmer, Nunevandlapalli
8	D. Yella Reddy	Farmer, Nunevandlapalli
9	M. Krishnamma	Farmer, Nunevandlapalli
10	M. Anasuyamma	Farmer, Nunevandlapalli
11	D. Chinna Reddamma	Farmer, Nunevandlapalli
12	N. Vasantha	Farmer, Nunevandlapalli
13	T. Revathi	Farmer, Nunevandlapalli
14	D. Shyamala	Farmer, Nunevandlapalli
15	N. Nadipi Reddappa	Farmer, Nunevandlapalli
16	R. Ramachandra	Farmer, Nunevandlapalli
17	N. Surendra	Farmer, Nunevandlapalli
18	N. Sridevi	Farmer, Nunevandlapalli
19	N. Kumari	Farmer, Nunevandlapalli
20	K. Bharathi	Farmer, Nunevandlapalli
21	N. Amaravathi	Farmer, Nunevandlapalli
22	L. Saraswathi	Farmer, Nunevandlapalli
23	M. Saraswathi	Farmer, Nunevandlapalli
24	T. Bhavana	Farmer, Nunevandlapalli

25	M. P. Reddappa Reddy	Farmer, Nunevandlapalli
26	N. Madhu	Farmer, Nunevandlapalli
27	M. Pratyusha	CEO, FPO, Pileru
28	G. Poojitha	Accountant, FPO, Pileru
29	V. Viswanatha Reddy	Farmer, Vepulabailu Village
30	Munemma	Farmer, Vepulabailu Village
31	V. Bujjamma	Farmer, Vepulabailu Village
32	C. Reddemma	Farmer, Vepulabailu Village
33	P. Ratnasekhar Reddy	Farmer, Vepulabailu Village & Best Organic Farmer Awardee
34	B. Ratnakumar Reddy	Farmer, Vepulabailu Village
35	C. Obul Reddy	Farmer, Regallu Village
36	P. Nagaraju	Farmer, Regallu Village
37	P. Kadirappa	Farmer, Regallu Village
38	Bhaskar Reddy	Teacher, MPPS, G V Nagar, Pileru
39	Leela Kumari	Master Trainer (Tailoring, Kakinada)
40	Pavithra	Tailoring Trainer, SDC, Gorantlapalli Village
41	Kavitha	Tailoring Trainer, SDC, Gorantlapalli Village
42	Vishnu Teja	CEO, FPO & FDC, Kalikiri
43	Rami Reddy	Board Member, FPO, Kalikiri
44	Krishna Reddy	Board Member, FPO, Kalikiri
45	Govinda Reddy	Board Member, FPO, Kalikiri
46	Sudhakar Reddy	Board Member, FPO, Kalikiri
47	Dwarakanath Reddy	Board Member, FPO, Kalikiri
48	Sunitha	Accountant, FPO, Kalikiri
49	S. Amulu Bee	Board Member, FPO, Kalikiri
50	Srilatha	Board Member, FPO, Kalikiri
51	Chandrakala	Board Member, FPO, Kalikiri
52	Vinayaka Reddy	APMAS, Madanapalle
53	Dr. Bhargavi	APMAS, Pileru

Report

Jai Kisan Agriculture Producer Society and Custom Hiring Centre at Borapatla-Reddy Khanapur village, Hathnoora mandal, Sangareddy district, Telangana state: Strengthening Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Empowerment

Joint initiative of
Aurobindo Pharma Foundation (APF)
&
Andhra Pradesh Mahila Abhivrudhi Society (APMAS)

Assessment by

Poverty Learning Foundation

Hyderabad

March 2025

Acknowledgement

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to Aurobindo Pharma Foundation (APF) for its steadfast support and commitment to the success of this initiative.

We also extend our sincere gratitude to Sri Damodar Reddy, the Founding Chairman of the Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO), whose visionary leadership and efforts have laid the foundation for empowering farmers and advancing agricultural practices in the region. Their collaborative contributions have been instrumental in the project's achievements and its meaningful impact on the farming community.

Poverty Learning Foundation

March 2025

Evaluation team from PLF:

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Photo credits: Dr. Kompalli HSS Sundar

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INTRODUCTION

The Jai Kisan Agriculture Producer Mutually Aided Co-operative Society Ltd., along with the newly inaugurated Custom Hiring Centre (CHC), represents a pivotal initiative for transforming Borapatla and Reddy Khanapur villages in Hathnoora Mandal, Sangareddy district, Telangana. Supported by Aurobindo Pharma Foundation and in partnership with Mahila Abhivruddhi Society, Andhra Pradesh (APMAS), this project aligns with the vision of sustainable rural development. By providing affordable access to high-quality farm machinery, training farmers on sustainable agricultural practices, and enabling collective decision-making through Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO), it aims to improve agricultural productivity, alleviate resource constraints, and empower small and marginal farmers. With the potential to mobilize approximately 1,000 farmers under the FPO, this initiative is poised to act as a model for rural development across the region.

Objectives of the Project

◎ Enhance **Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability**: Provide small and marginal farmers with subsidized access to advanced farm machinery and educate them on sustainable farming practices, improving efficiency and promoting eco-friendly methods.

◎ Empower **Farmers Through Collective Support**: Strengthen the Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO) by mobilizing farmers, enhancing their access to resources, institutional support, and collective decision-making.

◎ Foster **Long-Term Rural Development**: Transform Borapatla into a model village through comprehensive rural strategies, leveraging support from government departments and encouraging replication in neighbouring communities.

Introduction of Assessment

The Poverty Learning Foundation (PLF) conducted an assessment of the Jai Kisan Agriculture Producer Mutually Aided Co-operative Society Ltd. and Custom Hiring Centre intervention.

The objective of the evaluation was to understand the impact of the project on farmers' productivity, economic gains, and rural development, while also identifying strengths and areas for improvement to refine the model for future replication.

Assessment Methodology

Given the operational constraints that limited direct engagement with farmers, the Poverty Learning Foundation (PLF) employed an alternative approach to ensure the assessment remained effective and insightful. The methodology included the following steps:

1. **Focused Group Discussion (FGD)**:
    - Conducted an FGD exclusively with the Board of Directors of the Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO) to gather comprehensive insights.
    - The discussion centered on the board's perspectives on the project's progress, challenges, and outcomes, providing valuable qualitative data.
2. **Case Story Development**:
    - The findings from the FGD were structured into a case story model, offering a narrative-based evaluation.
    - This model highlighted key achievements, operational challenges, and the overall impact of the intervention on the community.

ASSESSMENT OUTPUTS

The **Jai Kisan Farmers Producing Organisation (FPO)** has delivered several critical outputs that have significantly contributed to improving the livelihoods of its member farmers. One of the most notable achievements is the empowerment of small and marginal farmers by organizing them into a collective group. This has enabled better access to quality inputs such as seeds and fertilizers through bulk procurement at reduced costs, while also facilitating the shared use of machinery, thereby lowering individual capital investments.

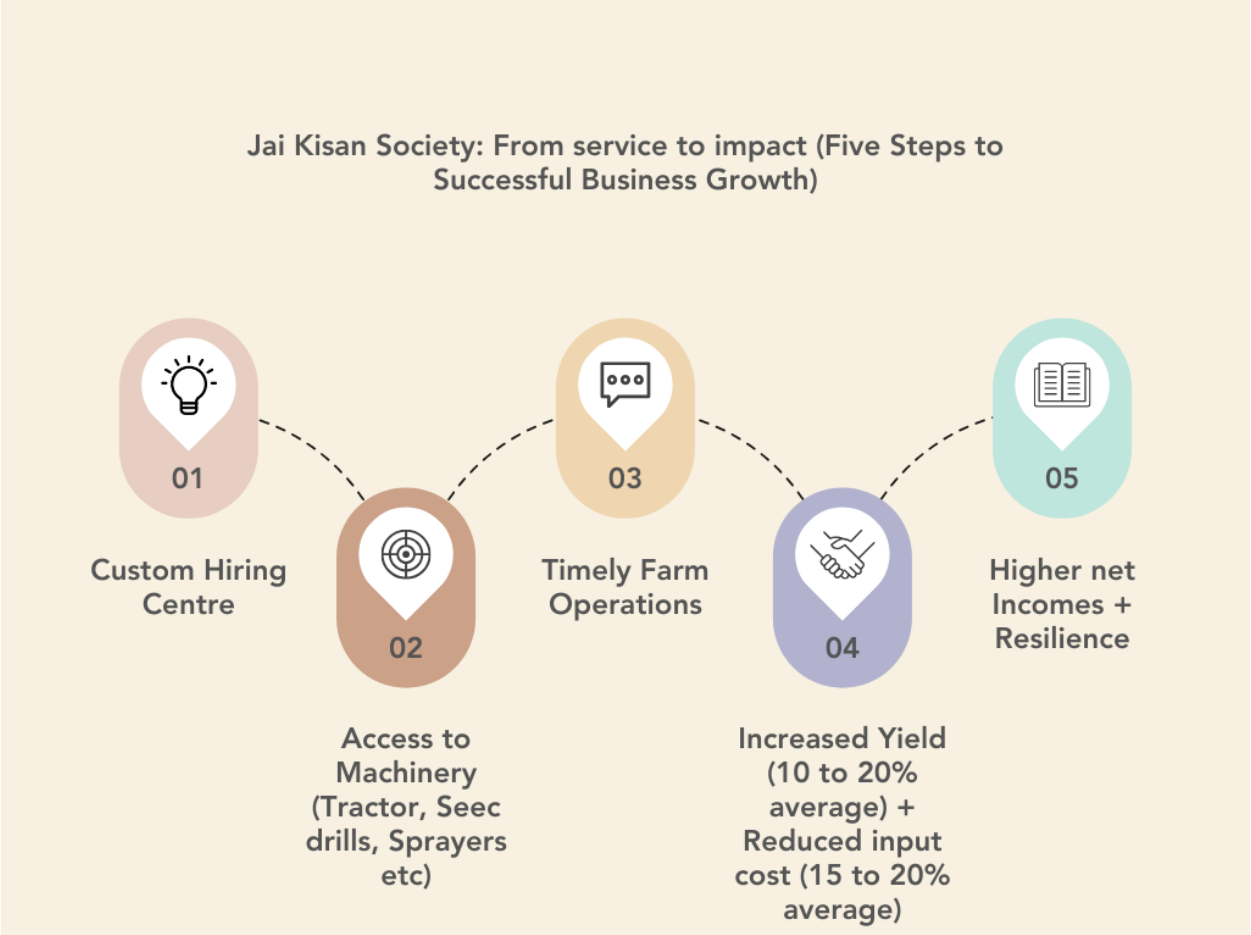
Through its efforts, Jai Kisan FPO has strengthened market linkages by directly connecting farmers with buyers, retailers, and agro-industries. This has minimized the role of middlemen and improved price realization at the farm gate. The organization has also taken steps to build a common brand for its produce, enhancing market visibility and consumer trust.

Capacity building has been another key area of impact. The FPO has regularly conducted training programs to educate farmers on modern agricultural practices, sustainable techniques, and post-harvest management. These initiatives have not only improved productivity but also fostered entrepreneurship, particularly among rural youth and women.

Value addition has been promoted through the establishment of facilities for grading, sorting, packaging, and minimal processing of agricultural produce. This has enabled farmers to move up the value chain and secure better margins. In parallel, Jai Kisan FPO has facilitated access to credit by mobilizing financial support from banks and linking members with government schemes and subsidies.

Technology adoption has been actively encouraged, with farmers introduced to mobile-based advisory services, digital record-keeping, and weather forecasting tools. These interventions have improved decision-making and resilience in the face of climate variability. The FPO has also promoted sustainable agricultural practices, such as organic farming and water conservation, contributing to long-term environmental and economic sustainability.

Furthermore, the FPO has supported livelihood diversification through allied activities like dairy farming and poultry, ensuring year-round employment and income stability for member households. Overall, Jai Kisan FPO has played a transformative role in enhancing agricultural productivity, reducing risks, and increasing the net incomes of rural farmers through collective action and strategic interventions.



The five key steps of the Jai Kisan Society's approach to transforming service into impactful business growth. Here's a summary of each step:

1. **Custom Hiring Centre**: Establishing centers that provide farmers with access to machinery and equipment.
2. **Access to Machinery**: Ensuring farmers can utilize essential machinery such as tractors, seed drills, and sprayers.

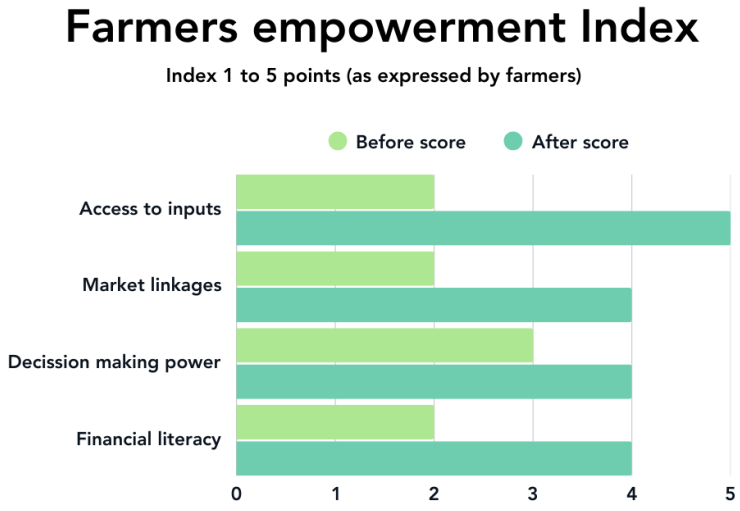
3. **Timely Farm Operations**: Promoting efficient farm management by scheduling timely activities.
4. **Increased Yield & Reduced Input Costs**: Achieving higher crop yields (10-20% average) while lowering input costs (15-20%), optimizing productivity and profitability.
5. **Higher Net Incomes and Resilience**: Resulting in greater net earnings and improved resilience for farmers, fostering sustainable growth.

This framework emphasizes how strategic support at each step can lead to successful and sustainable business growth for farmers.

THE FARMERS EMPOWERMENT INDEX across four key areas, comparing scores before and after interventions:

Access to inputs: Notable improvement with the score increasing from below 2 to close to 5, indicating farmers gained significantly better access to inputs after the intervention.

Market linkages: Slight improvement, with scores rising from below 2 to around 4, suggesting enhanced market connectivity.



Decision-making power:

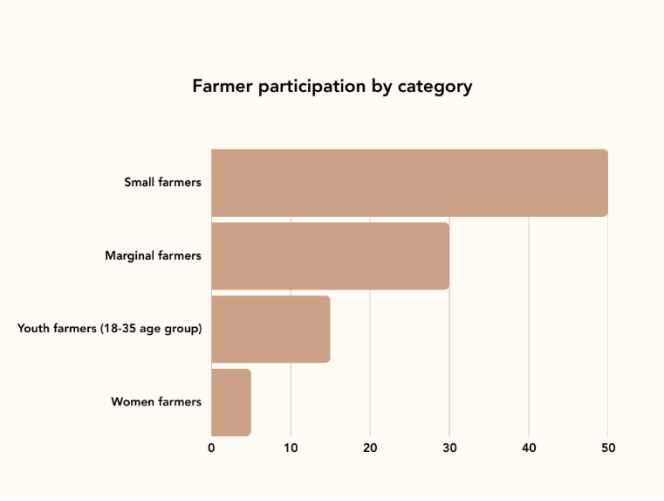
Improved from around 2 to over 4, highlighting increased farmer confidence and autonomy in making decisions.

Financial literacy:

Significant enhancement, with scores moving from approximately 2 to close to 4, showing increased understanding of financial concepts among farmers.

Overall, the chart demonstrates a positive impact of the initiatives on empowering farmers across all four dimensions, with the most notable improvements seen in access to inputs and financial literacy.

THE PARTICIPATION LEVELS of different categories of farmers:



Small farmers:

The highest participation, with around 45-50 farmers involved, indicating strong engagement from small landholding farmers.

Marginal farmers:

Moderate participation, approximately 25-30 farmers, suggesting steady involvement but less than small farmers.

- **Youth farmers (18-35 age group):** Lower participation, around 10-15 farmers, showing room for increased youth engagement.
- **Women farmers:** The least participation, with fewer than 10 farmers, highlighting a gender gap in involvement.

Overall, small farmers constitute the largest group participating, reflecting their prominence in the farming community. The data suggests potential opportunities to boost participation among youth and women farmers.

TESTIMONIALS FROM FARMERS:

Strengthening Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Empowerment

a. *'One striking benefit and outcome in the post-formation period of the FPO at Reddy Khanapur Village is the control of black marketing of agri-inputs. This has been a major achievement realised by the combined resolve of all the FPO members. I thank APMAS and shareholders of the FPO for cooperating and coordinating the current intervention without any problems or hitches so far.'* C. Damodar Reddy, Founder President, Jai Kisan FPO, Reddy Khanapur Village

b. *'We are planning for more geographical outreach. We try our best to expand to 7-8 more village habitations in near future. The proposed geo-spatial expansion is expected to boost our sales and return encouraging profits to shareholders. We thank APMAS for its technical and material help.'* B. Laxmaiah, Sharholder, Jai Kisan FPO, Reddy Khanapur Village

c. *"By embracing organic farming practices, we have witnessed a significant increase in crop yields. The sustainable approach not only ensures healthier produce but has also boosted our annual income, transforming our economic outlook and securing a brighter future for our community."* C. Madhu, stakeholder

d. *"Switching to organic methods has reduced our dependency on costly chemical inputs and improved soil health. This transition has led to sustainable growth in our profits, empowering farmers with the knowledge and means to cultivate crops more responsibly and efficiently."* B. Yadgiri Reddy

CASE STORY

Jai Kisan FPO

Wheeling On and Treading On : Road To Progress and Prosperity

Ball on Roll, and Work on Wheel

With generous support and help from APMAS, the Jai Kisan FPO (Farmer Producers' Organisation) has steadily progressed in Borapatla village, Hathnoora mandal of Sangareddy

district thereby setting a local benchmark for similar initiatives and organisations. Established in 2018, it has diversified into various activities from the supply of fertilisers, pesticides, tarpaulin covers, and seeds to the supply of rental-implements facility offered at an economical price for the local farmers.

In the words of C. Damodar Reddy, the founding Chairman of the FPO, *'we are wheeling and moving. Our approach is holistic. FPO's help to the local ryots is continuous while we focus on the immediate needs of cultivators. Availability and accessibility have strengthened the immediate (short-term) interventions of the farmers and resulted in sustaining the mid-term and long-term efforts.'* FPO activities did not exhibit any decline in their seriousness even during the Covid pandemic period. The ball is set in motion and is rolling.

Inputs, and Implementation

Implements on rent: One of the unique efforts shouldered by the FPO is the provision for supply of important implements/units on rentals. For example, sprayers. Availability of spraying machines is reported to have relieved local peasants from a great stress during the growing season. The economical pricing (rental) of the sprayers is much appreciated by the farmers. Availability and accessibility are often the two controlling variables during farm activities from the time of bed-preparation.

Inputs, and supplies: The FPO's business-profile is the main pivot around which local farmers have built their hopes today. The FPO has inked agreements with production companies and wholesale dealers. The working agreements with the companies have led to regular supply of seeds, fertilisers, organic supplements, tarpaulin covers etc. Availability of all the required inputs has cemented the FPO and its members together without any major discrepancies. With its current strength pegged at **370 members**, the FPO is now active in **8 villages** and its services are actively utilised in all these habitations.

Networking, and Collaboration: The FPO has a dichotomous approach in its networking efforts. On one hand, advice, and technical support from APMAS has helped the FPO in sustaining the operations of the farmers' body. On the other hand, FPO's working relation and tie-up with production companies and suppliers of agri-inputs has been considered as an add-on value to the uninterrupted supply of agricultural operations.

Outputs, and Outcomes

Extended Outreach: MoU with agricultural department has come to the rescue of the FPO in terms of latest information, training, and exposure through government departments. Periodic visits by agricultural extension officers from the local government has been reported to be a major boost to the FPO activities in the initial stages.

Quality Contacts, and Contracts: 'Operation P4' adopted by the FPO is about Public-Private-Private-People Tie-up. The Jai Kisan FPO has successfully established working and business relations with four important stakeholders (one being the FPO itself): Public/Government, Private Agencies such as Mulkanoor Cooperative Society (Karimnagar) and People (farmers) who are immediately available as shareholders in the FPO. While the government bodies have

offered more knowledge and information, tie-up with other private agencies has resulted in supply of quality seeds. Purchase of seed from Mulkanoor Society has been reported beneficial by many shareholders of the Jai Kisan FPO. Young farmers in the group (for example, Linga Reddy and Jagan) have referred to the germination of almost all seeds purchased from Mulkanoor. Rami Reddy, a senior shareholder, and a seasoned farmer from Reddy Khanapur village beams sufficient confidence in his gaze and looks when he says, 'MoU and tie-ups have worked to the advantage of individual ryots as well as Jai Kisan FPO.'

Behavioural Change: One significant and striking change observed by the FPO management (and a few conscientious shareholders too) is the impact created by digital knowledge. Young shareholder C. Anil Reddy equates it with 'smart messaging process'. Use of digitised interpersonal communication system is novel for the members and shareholders. The digital promotion through new WhatsApp Group announcing the availability of inputs such as fertiliser, seed, pesticides etc. has led to a major attitudinal change in the farmer-members of the FPO. Instantaneous communication about availability of inputs has revolutionised the thinking processes at the grassroots level.

Economic benefit: The flowing economic benefits are bifurcated in nature: At the outset, the FPO's business plan (getting license for sale of agri-inputs and actual sale of inputs) has benefitted the society at large. According to the members of the Jai Kisan FPO, inputs are sold keeping a maximum of 10% margin. In other words, cost-cost management of the FPO (operational costs) and lowest minimum dividend for shareholders are kept in view while

selling the products. So also, the FPO receives further benefit by renting out sprayers to individual farmers (Rs. 500 per day). The rental is considered lowest in the entire operational region. On the other hand, uninterrupted supply of inputs has greatly benefitted the individual ryots by cutting the commutation costs and duration of time. They have saved time and money in the presence of Jai Kisan FPO. When all is well, everything ends well.

Impact

Many shareholders have confessed that black market (hoarding of agri-inputs) is controlled to a major extent. When this is under control, it automatically ensures uninterrupted supply of inputs and removes monopoly of a few. Thus, FPO's establishment and maintenance of a business kiosk has triggered a beneficial chain reaction. The Chairman of Jai Kisan FPO refers to this process as user-friendly and hails the concept of inter-linked FPO activity plan as promoted and supported by APMAS.

Sustainability

One immediate fallout from the intervention is the sustained supply of inputs for agricultural operations. This has been achieved through sales promotion by the FPO. Availability of feed, fertiliser, pesticide, rental-implements has been rated as 'sustaining variables' that will promote future activities without break.

FPO's growing strength (presently 370 member-base) is expected to sustain farmer interest in agriculture in the face of fast growing industrial activity in the region. Though the industrial sector absorbs many productive youths into their operations, tradition-minded farmer-elders are bent upon involving youngsters from their families and villages in agrarian operations. They are presently confident of their extended efforts in this regard.

Plans of spatial outreach are believed to strengthen and sustain FPO operations without any major problems. In addition to the current 8 villages, the Jai Kisan FPO plans to extend its coverage to a few more villages in near future. The contemplation behind the current plan is to rope in more willing farmers into the network and business operations. With many farmers interested and willing to join the FPO, sustainability of FPO is guaranteed at the grassroots level.

Conclusion

The only minor irritant at present is the fact that many of the farmers did not yet understand the difference between government cooperative body and private cooperative body. The

concept of ownership (government vs. private) is not properly understood. Private cooperative is more open to quick decision-making. Hence, according to the Chairman C. Damodar Reddy, more awareness is needed in this respect at present.

Borapatla is now more industrial than agricultural. Many are employed in the factories (beneficial to both factory owners and householders). One immediate concern is the availability of labour for agriculture. The local farmers are maturing plans to tide over the new problem. They plan to involve the youths in agri-related activities on a part-time consideration. This is expected to rejuvenate their interest in land-based and human-friendly economic routines at the village-level. On the other, the local factory managers are in regular contact with the APMAS and its donor Aurobindo Pharma Foundation to try and complement the process and help the cause to the best of their abilities.