

Annual Report 2024

*“Every effort counts,
every life matters — this
year proved it.”*



SAATH SAATH FOUNDATION

“Creating smiles that last beyond the moment.”

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ABOUT SAATH SAATH FOUNDATION.....

Saath Saath Foundation (SSF) was established in 2021 by Mona Almeida, and Usha Donolikar. Our mission is to connect dedicated volunteers with institutions that need their service. Volunteers can contribute in various forms and for any duration, with only one requirement: a genuine intent to serve. SSF aims to ignite a volunteerism movement, creating lasting impacts on both volunteers and the NGOs they support.

Saath

Saath Foundation is a registered non-profit organization with all necessary certifications, including 80G and 12AA. Our mission is to support and uplift the Adivasi villages primarily focusing on Chaudharwadi, Mograz, Ambivali, Pinglas, Anandwadi, Malegaon, and Dhamni in Karjat. These remote locations, situated 25 kilometers inland, suffer from limited transportation and lack basic amenities like tap water connections in homes.

Join us in shaping a world where giving back is not just an occasional act, but a way of life. Discover the true essence of volunteering and the social sector with the Saath Saath Foundation. Together, let's bridge the gap and create a world where knowledge, skills, and compassion flourish in harmony.

OUR FOUNDERS



Mona Almeida

Mona Almeida, a postgraduate in Development Management from the prestigious S. P. Jain Institute of Management Studies, has over a decade of experience in the development field. She has served as a trustee for an NGO supporting trafficking survivors and

women distress for over 8 years and has a rich background in corporate and entrepreneurial settings. Mona's leadership and communication skills have enabled her to lead dedicated teams and manage volunteer programs effectively. A passionate volunteer for 20 years, she has contributed to diverse areas such as child education and women's rehabilitation.

With 20 years of corporate experience, Usha Donolikar transitioned to the social sector six years ago and has since made significant contributions. Known for her compassion and



Usha Donolikar

dedication, Usha excels in relationship management, accounting, and administration. Her close connection to grassroots initiatives and her persistent nature have brought remarkable results, even in challenging circumstances. Usha's efforts have made a tangible difference in the lives of individual beneficiaries.



OUR VISION

We envision a world where every person, regardless of their circumstances, has the opportunity to grow, succeed, and lead a healthy, fulfilling life through continuous support and empowerment.



OUR MISSION

At Saath Saath Foundation, we aim to uplift marginalized communities, particularly the tribal populations, by providing comprehensive education, healthcare, and sustainable development opportunities. We are committed to fostering unity, celebrating diversity, and ensuring inclusive growth for all.



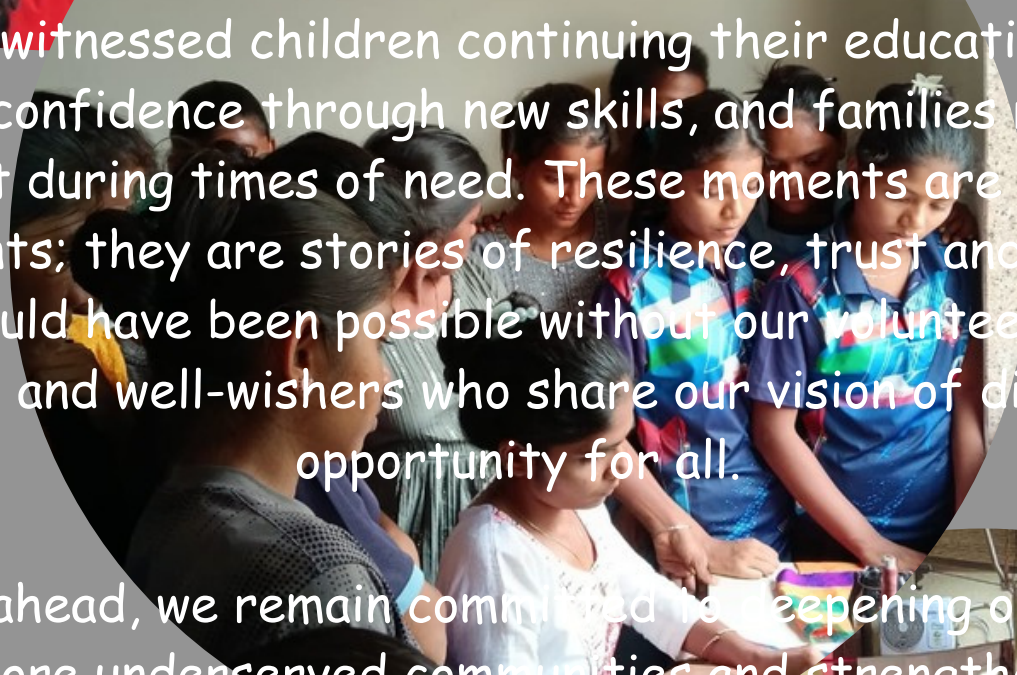
OUR GOAL

Our goal is to empower communities through education, preventive health awareness and skill development, ensuring that every individual has the opportunity to grow, learn and live with dignity.

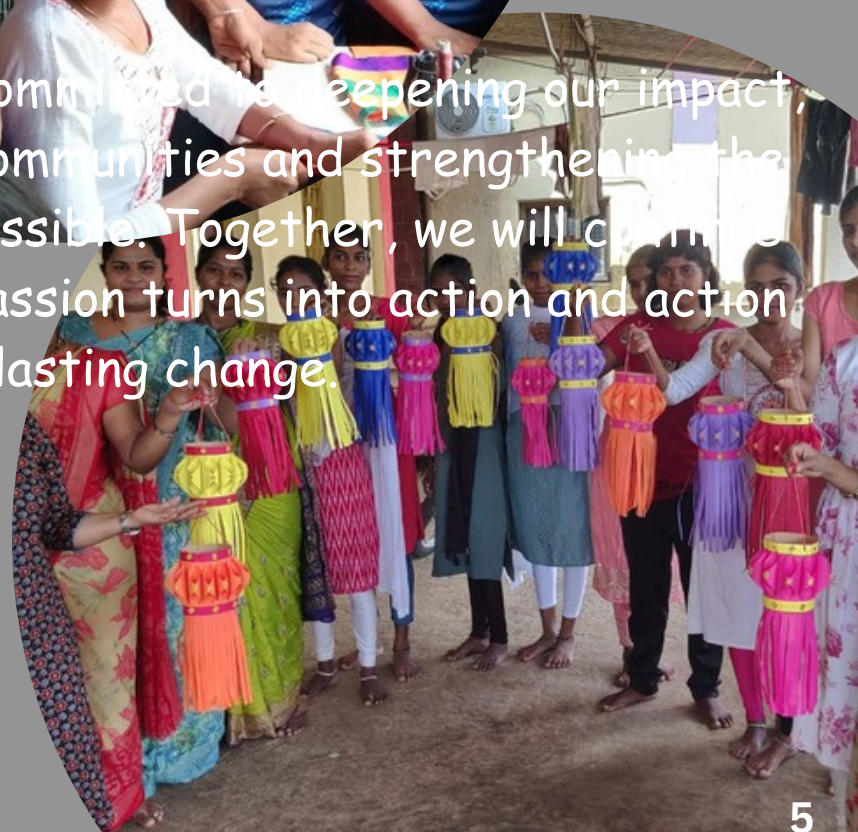
A group of women are gathered around a table in a community meeting. Some are looking at papers, while others are engaged in conversation. The setting appears to be a simple, possibly outdoor or semi-outdoor, structure.

MESSAGE FROM SSF

This year has been a powerful reminder of what is possible when a community stands together. Every initiative we undertook — from education support and health awareness to women's skill development and family assistance — was driven by a simple belief: meaningful change happens when we walk saath saath with the people we serve.

A group of children are gathered around a table, looking at a book or document. They are wearing colorful, patterned shirts. The scene suggests a learning or activity session.

We have witnessed children continuing their education, women gaining confidence through new skills, and families receiving support during times of need. These moments are not just achievements; they are stories of resilience, trust and hope. None of this would have been possible without our volunteers, donors, partners and well-wishers who share our vision of dignity and opportunity for all.

A group of women are standing in a line, holding up colorful, tasselled items that look like small bags or pouches. They are wearing traditional Indian clothing, including sarees and blouses. The scene suggests a display of their work or a celebration.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to deepening our impact, reaching more underserved communities and strengthening the bonds that make this work possible. Together, we will continue building a future where compassion turns into action and action turns into lasting change.

2024 AT GLANCE

Health awareness & thalassemia screening in 2 locations



Menstrual hygiene support in schools & hostel

Education support through teachers, devices & supplies



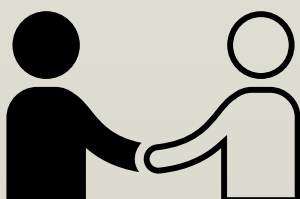
Mobility support: bicycles & bus passes
rition

Women's skill development programs



Grocery, clothing & nutrition distribution

Grassroots community welfare support reaching vulnerable families



Strong partnerships with donors & institutions

Health, Nutrition & Hygiene Initiatives



Thalassemia Awareness Drive

These initiatives educated families about genetic blood disorders and the importance of early testing, while awareness sessions on mouth and uterine cancer encouraged preventive health behaviour and timely medical attention.

SSF also prioritised menstrual hygiene by installing sanitary pad vending machines at **PNP High School, Ashram Shaala and a girls' hostel**. This initiative ensured that adolescent girls have safe and reliable access to hygiene products, reducing absenteeism and promoting dignity in school environments.



Installation of Pad Vending Machine

Through these combined initiatives, SSF reinforced its commitment to building healthier communities by promoting awareness, access and compassionate support at the grassroots level. By integrating education, prevention and direct assistance, SSF continues to move toward a model of holistic community health.

Health and hygiene remained a key focus area for SSF this year, with efforts centered on awareness, prevention and essential support for underserved communities. Recognising that access to health information and basic hygiene resources is often limited in rural and tribal regions, SSF organised targeted initiatives to promote early detection, dignity and well-being.

A major step was the thalassemia and cancer awareness drive conducted in collaboration with the **Rotary Club of Navi Mumbai Flamingo City**, along with **screening camps at Mograz village and Ashram Shaala**.



Thalassemia camp at Mograz village

In addition to awareness programs, SSF extended direct health and nutrition support to vulnerable families. Medication assistance was provided to those unable to afford treatment, and a large-scale **donation of juice from Dabur** was distributed across the region to improve nutritional intake. These efforts helped address both immediate needs and long-term well-being.



Donation of Juice by Dabur

Education Access & Academic Support

Education remained a central pillar of SSF's work this year, with a focus on strengthening learning environments and reducing barriers faced by rural and tribal students. Many children in these communities struggle with access to resources that urban schools consider basic. SSF's efforts aimed to bridge this gap by providing tools, encouragement and consistent support so that education remains a priority for every child.



SSF organised spoken English classes to help students develop communication skills and confidence. These sessions created a safe learning space where children could practice speaking without hesitation. Improved language skills not only support academic growth but also expand future opportunities for higher education and employment. The program has encouraged regular participation and visible improvement in student confidence.

Spoken English Classes at SSF Centre



Digital Learning Support to Schools

To strengthen classroom learning, **SSF donated a laptop to Ambivali ZP School** and a **Smart TV to Mograz ZP School**. These tools enabled teachers to introduce audio-visual learning, making lessons more interactive and engaging. Digital access helped students experience modern education methods, improving understanding and attention in classrooms that previously relied only on textbooks.

School bags were distributed to students in ZP schools to support their daily educational needs. For many families, purchasing school essentials is a financial burden. By providing basic supplies, SSF ensured that children attend school prepared and motivated, without feeling disadvantaged among peers.



Distribution of School Supplies



Distribution of Chocolates

Beyond individual events, SSF continued to support underprivileged families with education-related needs, groceries and essentials. This consistent assistance ensured that children are not forced to drop out of school due to economic hardship. The organisation remains committed to standing with families so that education remains uninterrupted.



Through these initiatives, SSF reinforced its belief that education is the foundation of long-term community development. By investing in children today, SSF is helping build a more confident and capable generation for tomorrow.

Women Empowerment & Livelihood Generation

Women empowerment remained a strong pillar of SSF's work this year, with focused efforts on skill development, financial independence and confidence building. In many tribal and rural communities, women have limited access to income opportunities despite their talent and willingness to learn. SSF's programs aimed to transform traditional skills into sustainable livelihood options while creating safe spaces for women to learn and grow.

- **Vocational Tailoring Training**



SSF conducted vocational tailoring training for girls and women, equipping them with practical income-generating skills. Participants learned stitching techniques that can support home-based employment and small-scale entrepreneurship. The training not only enhanced financial independence but also strengthened self-confidence among participants.

- **Sewing Machines for Skill Development**

Through community fundraising during Ganesh Chaturthi, sewing machines were arranged for the skill development program at **Ashram Shaala Bhaktachiwadi**. Access to proper equipment ensured that women could continue practicing and applying their skills beyond training sessions, turning learning into livelihood.



- **Kandil (Diwali Lantern) Workshop**



A festive kandil-making workshop provided women with an opportunity to create decorative products for the Diwali season in **Raspewadi**. The workshop combined creativity with entrepreneurship, encouraging women to produce handmade items for sale.

- **Pre-Diwali Sales Stall Collaboration**

Lok Udaan Group organised a stall featuring kandils made by the participants. This initiative transformed training into real income opportunities and exposed women to market experience. Selling their own handmade products gave participants a strong sense of pride and achievement.



- **Lipan Art Training**



Volunteer Kanchan Kukreja conducted Lipan art sessions **with women from Pinglas village**. This initiative revived traditional craft skills while creating opportunities for artistic expression and potential income generation through handmade artwork.

- **Women's Day Exhibition at SEBI Bhavan**



Hand-stitched bags created by tribal women were showcased at a Women's Day exhibition organised by employees at SEBI Bhavan. This platform gave rural artisans urban exposure, appreciation and recognition for their craftsmanship.

- **Textile Quality Awareness Workshop**



A specialised workshop conducted by **Advitya Foundation** introduced women to the fundamentals of textile quality, fabric types and material selection. Participants learned how to identify durable threads, understand stitching standards and choose appropriate fabrics for different products. This technical exposure is rarely accessible in rural settings, yet it plays a critical role in producing market-ready goods. By understanding quality control, women are better equipped to create professional

products that can compete in local markets and attract buyers. The workshop bridged the gap between traditional craft skills and commercial standards, helping participants move toward sustainable entrepreneurship.

Through these initiatives, SSF strengthened women's economic participation while nurturing confidence, creativity and independence. Skill development programs not only generate income opportunities but also shift social perceptions by recognising women as contributors to household stability and community progress. Many participants expressed increased self-belief and motivation to continue learning beyond the training sessions

Empowered women become leaders within their families and role models for younger girls. By investing in women's growth, SSF is investing in the long-term resilience of entire communities. The organisation remains committed to expanding livelihood programs that enable women to transform skills into dignity, stability and lasting empowerment.

EMPOWERING WOMEN IS
EMPOWERING THE
FUTURE.

Community Support

Supporting vulnerable families during times of need remained a core responsibility of SSF this year. Many households in rural and tribal areas struggle to meet basic necessities due to financial instability. SSF responded with compassionate, on-ground assistance aimed at ensuring dignity, nutrition and daily survival for families facing hardship.

- **Grocery Distribution Drives**



SSF organised grocery distribution for local villagers to support families struggling with food security. Essential food supplies helped households manage daily nutrition and reduce financial pressure during difficult periods. These drives reached families who often fall outside formal support systems.

The initiative prioritised the most vulnerable households, including daily wage earners and families with school-going children, ensuring that no one was forced to choose between food and education expenses. Community volunteers played an important role in identifying beneficiaries and coordinating fair distribution, strengthening trust between SSF and the villages it serves.

Beyond immediate relief, the program reinforced a sense of solidarity, reminding families that they are supported during times of hardship.

- **Essential Support to Families**

SSF organised grocery distribution for local villagers to support families struggling with food security. Essential food supplies helped households manage daily nutrition and reduce financial pressure during difficult periods. These drives reached families who often fall outside formal support systems. The initiative prioritised the most vulnerable households, including daily wage earners and families with school-going children, ensuring that no one was forced to choose between food and education expenses. Community volunteers played an important role in identifying beneficiaries and coordinating fair distribution, strengthening trust between SSF and the villages it serves. Beyond immediate relief, the program reinforced a sense of solidarity, reminding families that they are supported during times of hardship.



- ***Clothing Distribution Initiatives***



Clothing drives were conducted for both students and community members. Proper clothing is closely linked to dignity and self-respect. By distributing clothes to those in need, SSF helped families redirect limited income toward education and health expenses.

The initiative ensured that children could attend school with confidence and that adults had access to essential wear suitable for daily work

and social participation. Special care was taken to distribute clean, usable and season-appropriate garments, maintaining respect for every beneficiary. These drives not only addressed a material need but also reinforced a sense of inclusion, reminding families that they are valued members of the community.

- ***Community Kitchen Support***

The Rotary Club of Flamingo City donated a roti maker machine to Ashram Shaala, strengthening meal preparation for students. This equipment significantly improved efficiency in the school kitchen, allowing staff to prepare fresh meals faster while maintaining hygiene standards.

The machine supports regular, nutritious food service for children staying at the school, many of whom rely on hostel meals as their primary source of daily nutrition. By easing the workload of kitchen staff and ensuring consistency in food preparation, the initiative contributes directly to students' health, energy levels and overall well-being, creating a more supportive learning environment.



Through these efforts, SSF reaffirmed its role as a dependable support system for the community. By addressing basic needs with dignity and respect, the organisation continues to build trust and long-term relationships with the families it serves. Each intervention goes beyond immediate relief, creating a sense of security and belonging among beneficiaries and reminding them that they are not alone in times of hardship. SSF's approach centres on empathy, responsiveness and sustained engagement, ensuring that support is not a one-time act but part of an ongoing commitment to community well-being. This consistent presence strengthens confidence within the community and encourages families to seek help without hesitation.

Child & Youth Mobility Support

Transportation remains one of the biggest barriers to education in rural and tribal areas. Many students travel long distances to attend school, and lack of safe, affordable transport often leads to absenteeism or dropout. Recognising this challenge, SSF focused on mobility support to ensure that distance does not stand in the way of learning. Access to reliable transportation is not just a convenience — it is a critical factor in educational continuity, safety and student confidence.

- **Bicycle Donation Campaign**



As part of the continued success of SSF's cycle donation initiative, **15 bicycles were donated by Mr. Nitin Samant to students of Ashram Shaala.** In addition, **the Rotary Club of Navi Mumbai Flamingo City contributed 8 refurbished bicycles** to further strengthen the campaign. For many children, a bicycle is more than a vehicle — it represents independence, dignity and equal opportunity. Students who once spent hours walking can now reach school faster and with less fatigue, improving concentration in classrooms. Teachers have observed better attendance patterns and increased engagement among recipients. The bicycles have also become a long-term asset for families, supporting access to tuition classes, markets and essential services.

- **Monthly Bus Pass Support**



SSF sponsored monthly ST bus passes for 9 underprivileged Adivasi students who could not afford transportation costs. This consistent support ensured uninterrupted school attendance and relieved financial pressure on families already managing limited resources. Reliable transport created a sense of routine and stability for students, allowing them to participate fully in academic and extracurricular activities. Parents expressed relief knowing their children could travel safely without daily financial stress.

Community Events & Inclusion

Community celebrations play an important role in building unity, belonging and emotional well-being. SSF actively organised and participated in events that brought children, families, schools and volunteers together, creating joyful spaces that strengthen social bonds. These gatherings go beyond celebration – they reinforce identity, shared pride and collective participation in community growth.

- **Participation in Kanyathon**



SSF participated in Kanyathon, promoting awareness around the empowerment and well-being of girls. The event served as a public platform to advocate for girls' education, safety and confidence. Through visibility and participation, SSF reaffirmed its commitment to gender equality and encouraged families to invest in the future of young girls. The experience inspired students and volunteers alike, showing how community movements can create lasting social change.

- **Independence Day Celebration**



Independence Day was celebrated at Ashram Shaala Pinglas, where SSF was invited as a chief participating organisation in recognition of its continuous support to the school. The celebration included cultural performances, patriotic activities and student-led programs that highlighted talent and unity. SSF's presence symbolised a strong partnership with the institution and reinforced the importance of collaboration in educational development. The event created pride among students and acknowledged the shared journey of growth between the school and the organisation.

- **Community Bonding Activities**



A simple yet memorable community moment was created when intern Akash Tiwari prepared a traditional litti choka meal for everyone at the centre. What began as a casual gesture turned into a joyful shared experience, with students, staff and volunteers coming together over food and laughter. Moments like these reflect the spirit of SSF – where interns are not outsiders but quickly become part of the family. Their active participation strengthens relationships, builds trust and adds warmth to the centre’s everyday life. Such experiences reinforce that SSF is not just an organisation, but a living community built on care, inclusion and shared responsibility.

- **Festive & Cultural Engagement**



SSF also supported creative and cultural expression through activities such as the Diwali Kandil workshop, where women and girls learned craft skills and produced handmade decorations. These workshops not only celebrated tradition but also encouraged creativity, teamwork and confidence. Products created during the workshop were later showcased through community stalls, giving participants pride in their work and visibility within the wider community.

These moments of celebration remind the community that development is not only about resources, but also about joy, inclusion and shared experiences. By nurturing emotional well-being and cultural participation, SSF strengthens the social fabric that allows communities to grow with dignity and unity.

Partnerships & Supporters

SSF's work is made possible through the generosity of institutions, community groups and individual supporters who believe in grassroots change. Partnerships strengthened outreach, resources and impact throughout the year. Each collaborator brought unique strengths — from funding and equipment to awareness and volunteer energy — enabling SSF to respond to diverse community needs with greater reach and efficiency.

- **Rotary Club of Navi Mumbai Flamingo City**



The Rotary Club of Navi Mumbai Flamingo City played a meaningful role in supporting SSF's health and education initiatives. Their contribution included refurbished bicycles for students and participation in health awareness efforts, expanding access to essential services. Their involvement reflects a shared commitment to sustainable community development and youth empowerment.

- **Inner Wheel Club of Shinning Stars**

The Inner Wheel Club extended generous support toward Malegaon ZP School, strengthening educational resources for students. Their contribution demonstrated the importance of civic organisations in uplifting local institutions and improving learning environments for children from underserved communities.



- **Lok Udaan Group**



Lok Udaan Group organised a pre-Diwali stall to showcase products created during SSF's Kandil workshop. This platform not only generated funds but also celebrated the skills and creativity of women participants. The collaboration promoted dignity through livelihood and connected community craftsmanship to a wider audience.

- **Advitya Foundation**



Advitya Foundation conducted a textile quality awareness workshop, exposing women to knowledge about cloth threads, materials and product standards. This training expanded their understanding of market expectations and strengthened vocational confidence, supporting long-term livelihood opportunities.

- **Dabur**

Dabur contributed a large container of juice that was distributed across the region. This donation supported nutrition access for children and families, demonstrating how corporate partnerships can create immediate, large-scale positive impact when directed toward community welfare.



- **Mr. Nitin Samant**



Through his personal contribution of bicycles for students, Mr. Nitin Samant directly supported educational access and student mobility. His generosity highlights the powerful role individuals play in creating tangible change at the grassroots level.

- ***Singhi Community Initiative***



During the Ganapati festival, the Singhi community took a heartfelt initiative to raise funds from visitors and devotees. The funds collected were dedicated to purchasing sewing machines for SSF's skill development program at Ashram Shaala Bhaktachiwadi. This effort transformed a cultural celebration into an opportunity for empowerment, directly supporting women's livelihood training and long-term self-reliance.

- ***Community Donors & Volunteers***

In addition to institutional partnerships, SSF benefited from numerous community donors and volunteers who contributed groceries, clothes, school supplies and time. Their continued engagement reinforces a culture of shared responsibility and collective compassion.

These partnerships reflect the power of collective action. Every contribution, whether large or small, plays a role in sustaining long-term impact. Together, these supporters form a network of trust that allows SSF to expand its reach and deepen its commitment to the communities it serves.

Media Coverage & Outreach

Media and outreach play an important role in amplifying community voices and bringing visibility to grassroots work. During the year, SSF's initiatives gained recognition beyond the immediate community, helping spread awareness about the organisation's mission and impact.



A significant moment was the visit of Adivasi journalist Motiram Padhir, who interviewed the team and documented SSF's activities for an Adivasi newspaper. His coverage highlighted the organisation's work in education support, health awareness, women's empowerment and community welfare. This feature ensured that the stories of local families and beneficiaries reached a wider audience, strengthening trust and transparency.

SSF also continued outreach through community networks, local institutions and collaborative events. Public participation in workshops, health camps and festive initiatives helped build stronger connections with neighbouring villages and partner organisations. These interactions increased awareness about available support systems and encouraged more families to engage with SSF's programs.

Media visibility not only validates grassroots efforts but also inspires collective participation. By sharing stories of resilience and progress, SSF expands its circle of support and reinforces the message that meaningful change grows when communities are seen, heard and supported.

Impact Stories from the Field

• A Bicycle That Changed a School Journey

A student from Ashram Shaala used to walk several kilometres daily to reach school, often arriving tired and late. After receiving a bicycle through SSF's mobility initiative, her routine transformed. She now reaches school on time, participates actively in class and even stays back for extracurricular activities. Her teachers noticed improved concentration and attendance. For her family, the bicycle reduced worry and reinforced their belief that education is possible despite hardship.

• A Sewing Machine, A New Confidence

A group of women participating in SSF's tailoring and skill training program shared how vocational learning gave them more than income — it gave them confidence. One participant expressed pride in earning her first independent income through stitching work. With the sewing machines supported by community fundraising, women began contributing to household expenses. This small shift strengthened their voice within their families and encouraged them to dream bigger for their daughters.

• A School Kitchen Made Stronger

At Ashram Shaala, the donated roti maker machine improved meal preparation for students living at the hostel. Kitchen staff reported faster cooking and better consistency in meals, allowing children to receive warm food on time. Students expressed excitement about improved meal routines, showing how infrastructure support directly impacts well-being and school life.

Acknowledgements.....

SSF extends heartfelt gratitude to every individual, institution and community member who stood beside us this year. Our work is sustained by the trust, generosity and shared belief that meaningful change is possible when people come together for a common purpose.

We sincerely thank our partners, donors, volunteers, schools and local leaders who supported our initiatives with resources, time and encouragement. From health camps and educational support to women's livelihood programs and community welfare drives, every effort was strengthened by collaboration. Special appreciation goes to grassroots volunteers and interns whose dedication brings life and warmth to our daily work.

We are deeply thankful to the families and communities we serve for welcoming us into their lives and allowing us to grow alongside them. Their resilience and participation inspire our mission every day.

This year's achievements belong to everyone who contributed – directly or indirectly. Together, we continue to build a future rooted in dignity, opportunity and compassion.

The Road Ahead...

As SSF looks toward the future, our commitment remains rooted in strengthening access to education, health, livelihood and dignity for underserved communities. The coming year will focus on deepening existing programs while expanding outreach to reach more families who continue to face social and economic barriers.

We aim to scale women's skill development initiatives, strengthen educational support systems for rural students and continue health awareness and nutrition programs. Building stronger partnerships with schools, local institutions and supporters will remain a priority to ensure sustainable impact. SSF also seeks to create more youth engagement opportunities, encouraging the next generation to participate in community leadership and social responsibility.

Our vision moving forward is not only growth in numbers, but growth in quality, trust and long-term transformation. Every step ahead will be guided by the voices of the communities we serve. With collective support, SSF will continue working toward a future where opportunity is accessible, dignity is protected and every family has the chance to thrive.

The work continues, the vision remains strong, and the future is brighter because we build it together.....