



Community Reconstruction of Social Service

(A comprehensive report of the projects, programmes and activities of the Society during the Financial Year 2023-24 starting with the period 01-April 2023 and ending on 31-March-2024)

History & Background

Community Reconstruction of Social Service (CROSS) is a grassroots nonprofit organization rooted in the values of justice, dignity, and equity. Established in 1994 in Chittoor district, Andhra Pradesh, CROSS was born out of a deep commitment to addressing the systemic marginalization and social exclusion of Dalits, tribal communities, women, children, and other vulnerable groups. Over the past three decades, CROSS has steadily evolved from a small community-based initiative into a recognized civil society organization working across multiple thematic areas with a rights-based, inclusive, and participatory development approach.

The early years of CROSS were focused on community mobilization, literacy campaigns, and access to basic entitlements. Gradually, our scope expanded to address the structural barriers faced by disadvantaged groups, integrating themes such as human rights education, sustainable livelihoods, women's empowerment, climate resilience, access to education, and child protection. Our model emphasizes grassroots leadership, community ownership, and intergenerational change, and is guided by strong field presence and continuous dialogue with the people we serve.

Today, CROSS's interventions span over 297 villages in Chittoor district and adjoining regions, reaching thousands of families through a wide network of community workers, women leaders, youth volunteers, and partner organizations. We are especially known for our work in tribal development, Dalit empowerment, organic and climate-resilient agriculture, Clean energy projects and education support for first-generation learners.

CROSS is a legally registered organization under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, and maintains full compliance with statutory norms. We hold valid certifications under the Income Tax Act, including 12AA and 80G, allowing donors to avail tax exemptions. Our commitment to transparency and accountability is further demonstrated by the successful renewal of our FCRA (Foreign Contribution Regulation Act) registration, which is valid from April 1, 2024, for a period of five years. This enables us to collaborate with global partners and supporters in our shared mission to create lasting social change.

Vision:

An empowered society where education, sustainability, and economic growth work together for a better future.

Mission:

To drive positive change by providing education, promoting green initiatives, and creating livelihood opportunities that improve lives and protect the environment.



Founders Note:

As Founder of CROSS, I take immense pride in presenting our Annual Report for FY 2024–25. This year has been a defining one for us as we deepened our commitment to transforming lives at the grassroots level. From expanding education support to rural and tribal children to enabling women with entrepreneurial training, our work touched many lives despite ongoing challenges.

We saw hundreds of children benefit from study centres and girl-child education materials. Our women-focused livelihood programs in tailoring, jute bag stitching, and entrepreneurship enabled self-sufficiency and confidence. Through sustained partnerships, we upheld our biogas work, ensuring clean energy access to thousands of households while strengthening our carbon credit readiness for the upcoming CER validation.

CROSS has also made major strides in internal strengthening this year. Our engagement with Dhvani Foundation helped us enhance board involvement and governance systems. We also celebrated prestigious recognitions received by our Founder, which reflect the credibility and impact of our work across Chittoor district.

This year, CROSS's activities demonstrated our deep commitment to aligning grassroots interventions with long-term sustainability. Each project we implemented focused on both immediate impact and structural transformation—whether through access to education, financial independence for women, or ecological conservation. We also took deliberate steps to invest in local leadership, technology adoption, and inclusive governance.

With renewed energy, we step into the future grounded in our community roots, committed to justice, equity, and sustainability. I invite all our stakeholders to walk with us as we continue to build a more inclusive and empowered society.



“At CROSS, we believe in empowering the last and the least through love, justice, and participation. Our journey is rooted in the people, and every step forward belongs to them.”

– Dr. P. Bhupathi

Founder/ Executive Director

CROSS

Programs & Projects (FY 2024–25)

Distribution of Educational Material to Poor Girl Children (OTF International, Canada)

Through the support of OTF International, CROSS provided educational kits to 30 girl children in Gangadhara Nellore village through Dy Educational Officer. These included school bags, notebooks, pens, pencils, and learning charts. Many of the children were at risk of dropping out due to economic challenges, and this intervention played a critical role in bringing them back to school. Regular follow-ups by our field team ensured improved attendance and motivation levels. Parents were also oriented on the importance of continuing girls' education, further strengthening the initiative.



Life Skills and Rights Education in Schools

We launched a comprehensive awareness program across six schools reaching 1,364 students. The curriculum included child rights, constitutional values, gender equality, personal safety, and emotional resilience. CROSS facilitators used creative methods such as storytelling, theatre, group discussions, and role-plays to make learning engaging. The sessions helped children recognize signs of abuse, express themselves confidently, and understand consent and respect. School authorities appreciated the initiative and requested that it continue. We also distributed easy-to-understand child rights posters that were displayed in classrooms for regular reinforcement.



Independence Day Celebration in Nellore

CROSS believes in building civic pride among children. At Nellore government school, we organized a vibrant Independence Day celebration that included a flag hoisting ceremony, cultural programs, and competitions in essay writing, drawing, and local games. 12 children were recognized with gifts for their talents. Speeches by teachers and CROSS facilitators emphasized freedom, democracy, and children's role in the country's future. The event also served as a platform for parents to witness their children's creativity and leadership.



Entrepreneurship Development Program for Rural Women (RSETI)

The General EDP training at Kotrakona empowered 35 rural women with foundational knowledge on entrepreneurship. Participants were selected from economically weaker sections with no prior exposure to business concepts. Over six days, women learned how to plan a small enterprise, handle finances, access government schemes, and market their products. The training was experiential, with business simulations, role-plays, and bank officer interactions. After certification, CROSS supported a few participants in submitting loan applications to start small grocery stores, tailoring units, and food stalls. This initiative is laying the foundation for confident women entrepreneurs in villages.





Child Resource Centres in 20 Villages

To bridge academic gaps, especially post-COVID, CROSS launched 20 volunteer-led Child Resource Centres. Located in remote hamlets, each centre supports 20–25 children with daily two-hour sessions covering basic literacy, numeracy, and science. Our volunteers are youth from the same villages who are trained by CROSS. They use activity-based methods and community-relevant content. Children improved their reading levels and began showing interest in regular school. In some villages, parents formed small committees to support the volunteers, showing strong community ownership. We plan to continue and expand this model.



Empowering Women through Skill Development: Jute Bag Tailoring Program @Vejjupalli

As part of our mission to promote women's economic empowerment and sustainable livelihoods, CROSS, with generous support from the Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RSETI), organized a 15-day intensive skill-building program during the year 2024–25. This initiative trained 35 rural women in the craft of jute bag making, providing them with both technical knowledge and a pathway to self-reliance.

The training was conducted in partnership with expert faculty from the tailoring sector, who delivered practical and hands-on modules covering:

- Types of jute bags – including shopping bags, office folders, and gift bags
- Fabric cutting techniques – ensuring minimal waste and maximum efficiency
- Stitching accuracy and finishing – improving durability and aesthetic appeal
- Cost estimation and pricing – helping women understand how to calculate fair prices
- Customer service and market linkage – introducing basic entrepreneurial skills



With RSETI's facilitation, the program combined technical training with motivational sessions on self-employment and financial discipline. The participants were formed into informal production groups, promoting mutual support and teamwork. Each woman received a starter kit comprising scissors, measuring tape, needles, thread, and assorted jute fabrics—allowing them to begin practicing immediately upon completion of each session.

To mark the culmination of the training, CROSS hosted a community-level exhibition, where the women showcased their first batch of handmade jute bags. The event was attended by local village leaders, shopkeepers, SHG federation members, and potential buyers. The display received enthusiastic appreciation, and a few women secured their first orders on the spot from nearby SHGs and local businesses.

Post-training, CROSS and RSETI provided follow-up support to ensure continuity of the initiative. Several participants began home-based production, while others teamed up to share equipment and raw materials. Encouraged by initial successes, a few women are now working toward establishing small micro-enterprises in their respective villages.

This program reflects the shared vision of CROSS and RSETI—to build capacity among women, promote sustainable livelihoods, and foster self-employment in rural areas. It has not only enabled participants to learn a new trade but has also uplifted their confidence, enhanced their decision-making capacity, and inspired their families and communities.

Moving forward, CROSS aims to strengthen these women-led production groups by connecting them with eco-conscious markets, linking them to bulk orders, and advocating for support through government and CSR initiatives.







Micro Scale Biogas Project Units Maintenance (FCN – ADATS- Indigo)

A major share of the organisation's funds are received by CROSS as grant-in aid supported by FCN. The FCN is an international platform of 28 grassroots NGOs and 16 support organisations including 13 subject matter expert members. This network tries to project the local environmental framework on Climate Change, as experienced by the rural poor negatively affected by erratic and unpredictable weather patterns. Under the Clean Development Mechanism project, FCN supported the construction and commissioning of 5,000 biogas plants in Chittoor district between 2014-17. Through biogas units, non-renewable biomass used for cooking and heating water can be replaced with methane produced from cattle and kitchen waste. These projects provided rural women with a smoke free cooking environment, ridding them of the necessity to gather firewood and dependence on kerosene through the public distribution system. between 2014 and 2017, CROSS built and commissioned about 5,000 micro biogas units in eight Mandals i.e G.D.Nellore, Vedurukuppam, Karvetinagaram, Puttur, S.R.Puram, Ramachandrapuram, Nagari and Pichatur. The beneficiary were shortlisted according to the criteria of having at least one cow and 15-20 Sq Ft space for construction of the unit. Each unit costs approximately Rs.25,000. During the reporting period, CROSS continued to maintain over 78% of the still functional biogas units through our team of trained volunteers. Each volunteer is provided with a biogas kit – a tool box of essential paraphernalia to maintain the units in working order by taking care of the regular repairs and fitments. Each volunteer is responsible for the maintenance of 30+ units over an allotted geographical area. These volunteers are supported by our project staff who monitor and supervise them and provide hand-holding assistance wherever necessary. The volunteers are incentivized through monthly stipends in appreciation for their services. We are also preparing monitoring documents for the upcoming validation round in June 2025, which will release new carbon credits. Women users reported reduced smoke-related illnesses and more time for other work.





NABFINS SHG Linkage & Monitoring

Under the NABFINS program, CROSS supported 80 SHGs across three mandals. We facilitated loan applications, negotiated better terms, and conducted financial discipline sessions. Women received funds for livestock, grocery vending, organic farming, and tailoring. Our team conducted monthly monitoring, checking repayment trends, business viability, and social cohesion. Special sessions on digital payments helped many members transition to mobile wallets and online banking. This program continues to be a cornerstone in increasing women's financial literacy and credit access in Chittoor's rural belts.





Holistic Village Development - Pilligundlapalli (LACIM France)

Our ongoing engagement in Pilligundlapalli, a remote Yanadi tribal hamlet in Chittoor district, has emerged as a strong example of integrated, community-led rural development. With generous support from 32 members of Montbrison, France, CROSS continued to operate a vibrant evening study centre for 18 Yanadi children. The centre provides academic support through culturally relevant and joyful learning methods, focusing on literacy, numeracy, and overall personal development. Each session includes nutritious snacks such as boiled eggs, fruits, millet-based items, and pulses, which have contributed to the children's physical well-being and increased concentration in studies. Community involvement has deepened, with local mothers occasionally engaging in storytelling and cultural activities, reinforcing both educational values and traditional identity. In addition to education, efforts to address water scarcity were undertaken through the reconstruction of the community well, a vital source of drinking and household water. The well was desilted and repaired, ensuring reliable access to clean water for the 22 families in the village. In collaboration with LACIM, livelihood support was extended to eight vulnerable households through seed capital for petty shops, goat rearing, and snack vending. These small enterprises have begun to create income opportunities, especially for women-headed families. As part of our dignity restoration efforts, 12 widowed women received new sarees in a community gathering that celebrated their strength and recognized their place in village life. Local youth also took part in painting colorful community murals, highlighting themes of unity, education, and tribal culture. These efforts have fostered a deep sense of ownership and pride among villagers. Today, Pilligundlapalli stands as a living model of what collaborative, holistic, and grassroots development can look like when education, livelihood, water access, cultural revival, and social dignity are addressed together. CROSS remains committed to deepening this work and replicating its model in other vulnerable tribal hamlets across the district.







Substance Abuse Awareness Program (NYKS)

As part of the national effort to combat the rising challenge of substance abuse among young people, CROSS organized a Substance Abuse Awareness Program under the aegis of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, in collaboration with Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS). The event was held at Karvetinagaram Government Degree College, attracting the active participation of 146 students and youth leaders from surrounding villages and institutions.

This awareness initiative was specifically designed to address the increasing vulnerability of youth to drug use, peer pressure, anxiety, and risky behaviors, particularly in semi-urban and rural settings. CROSS facilitators led interactive and powerful sessions using real-life testimonials, relatable case studies, participatory discussions, and engaging visual tools. Through these methods, youth were encouraged not only to reflect on the dangers of substance abuse but also to develop the personal and social resilience needed to resist such pressures.

The program focused on raising awareness of how drug addiction starts, its impact on families and communities, and the mental health toll it takes on young people. Trained volunteers distributed educational pamphlets, helpline numbers, and information on local support systems to ensure youth had access to immediate help and resources. A special emphasis was placed on the importance of mental well-being, self-esteem, and assertiveness, equipping students with practical tools to say “no” and to help friends who might be at risk.

What made this program particularly impactful was its peer-led prevention approach. Several youth participants showed great enthusiasm and voluntarily enrolled to serve as peer educators within their own colleges and communities. These youth champions will now receive further orientation and training to act as the first line of defense against substance abuse in their peer groups, with ongoing support from CROSS and NYKS.

This event marks an important step in addressing the hidden epidemic of drug addiction at the grassroots level, where awareness, early intervention, and youth leadership are key to building a drug-free future. CROSS is committed to continuing such programs across Chittoor district, creating safe spaces for open dialogue, and empowering young people to lead the charge against substance abuse in their own communities.





Governance

Board Engagement:

CROSS held regular board meetings this year with improved information sharing, as part of our organizational development process supported by Dhvani Foundation.

Recognitions:

- Founder Dr. P. Bhupathi received an Honorary Doctorate in Humanity from Jeeva Theological University, Chennai.
- He also received a Certificate of Merit on Independence Day 2024 from the Collectorate, presented by the Health Minister of Andhra Pradesh.

Finances:

By The End of the Financial Year 2024-25 The Finances Follows

S.No	Projects	Income	Expenses
1	Micro Scale Bio Gas Project	2735000	2735000
2	NABFINS	400000	400000
3	OTF	22400	22400
5	NYKS	12000	12000
6	Local Fund	175000	0
	6.1 Child Rights, LSE and Special Days	0	150000
	6.2 Consultancy		25000
	Total		3344400

Projected Finances for the Financial year 2025-26 Follows:

SI No	Thematic Area	Goals	Year (2025-26)
1	Environment	To enhance ecological balance, increase green cover, and contribute to climate resilience through community-led tree plantation across 1,500 acres in Chittoor district by planting 1,50,000 saplings	7500000
2	Education	To enhance academic performance, life skills, and overall well-being of marginalized rural and tribal children especially girls—through 25 village study centres, educational material support, and nutritional care	2400000



3	Women Empowerment	To promote economic independence, decision-making power, and dignity of rural and tribal women through skill development, livelihood promotion, and collective action.	1500000
4	Staff Salaries and Organization development	Strengthening staff with good salaries and skills and strengthening organization development.	1500000
Total			1.29 Cr

OUR PARTNERS

