

ANNUAL REPORT 2025-26

Segnamento
India
Foundation



Foreword from Directors

We are 4 years and still very young. We became eligible for CSR funds from this year.

Our first project Competitive Crew has completed 3 years and we have helped children from 4th to 6th standards. This project has given us very satisfying moments where we see our children appearing not only for the Scholarship exam but also attempting competitive exams like MTS Olympiad, Manthan, Aryabhata, Rahstrabhasha etc.

We worked with MKSSS teachers through workshops and hand holding sessions on how to conduct scholarship sessions.

We also launched a new project WordSmart in 2 schools this year. This project is an offshoot of project Competitive Crew and is conducted for standards 1st to 3rd.

We are continuing to work for other NGO's regarding their capacity building, policy development, proposals, reports etc.

Bhavana Kulkarni
(Board Member, Director)

Smita Joshi
(Director)



Introduction:

Segnavento India Foundation (SIF) was founded in 2022. We have completed 4 years. The following report outlines the work that was done by SIF in 2025-26.

Our mission is to maximise the outreach to underprivileged children for their educational and holistic development through self-intervention, incubation of projects and strengthening of the organizations working for this theme.

This year we have introduced a new project 'WordSmart' in 2 schools through which we are working with children from 1st to 3rd standard for vocabulary improvement in English and Marathi.

We would like to appreciate the support of our funding partners in our endeavours!

Our Projects:

1. Colabkey:

The objective of this project is to help small and mid-sized NGOs for various needs like capacity building, project mentoring, project designing, impact study etc. Under this project we worked with 2 organizations for different needs.

Akshar Paaul: SIF has been mentoring Akshar Paaul for last 4 years. We did the capacity building sessions for their staff. Some trainings were refresher's whereas 'Storytelling: A tool for comprehension' was an additional topic this year. We also reviewed their reports and suggested appropriate changes. Akshar Paaul has definitely become independent in proposal writing, report writing, case studies etc. This year we helped the management team for presenting proposals to new funding partners. We are also going to help them update some of their policies.

Aadhar Bahuuddeshiya Sanstha: An NGO working since 1997 in Northern Maharashtra region connected with us. They want to work with us on improving reports, brochures, website content etc. This year we have started with their Annual Report. We will be working with them in 2025-26 also.

2. Competitive Crew:

Introduction-

It has been observed that most of the underprivileged children are not aware of 'Competitive Exams'. They get to know about scholarship exam but nothing more than that. But we all are aware that competitive exams play a big role in today's world. Hence, we decided to work with the children in 4th standard and work with them for scholarship as well as other competitive exams like Olympiads, MTS, Manthan etc. The schools selected are of Semi-English medium where English is introduced from 1st standard. We will be conducting this project for 4 years in these schools and plan to hand over the said project to school so as to make it sustainable. **We have worked with 145 children of 4th standard and 199**

students of 5th standard and 153 children of 6th standard (total 497) from 9 schools this year.

The objective of this project is to create awareness regarding competitive exams among underprivileged children by conducting special practice sessions throughout the year for them in the school, providing study material, mock tests, tips and tools for attempting such exams and also by working with their parents who can be their support pillars.

Project Activities-

- Permissions were sought from the schools for 4 years.
- Each school gets 3 one-hour sessions per week for 4th and 5th standards respectively. Suitable timings of each school were finalised and sessions were designed.
- Baseline was conducted in the month of June for 565 children of 4th standard. We selected approximately 25 children from each school.
- The test administered was on English, Maths and Marathi and the format was based on competitive exam paper.
- Sessions for 5th std were started from last week of June. Some children who were not performing as expected were removed from the crew. Whereas few new admissions were tested and if qualified were included in the crew.
- Sessions for 4th std were started in the month of July. Each session started with Affirmations, session content, class work and then homework. The teachers randomly checked homework while the children did their classwork.
- For 5th std homework sheets were given every week which they solved and submitted after one week.
- For 6th std there were no special sessions. We gave them study material like Handout, Practise Paper etc throughout the year. The Practise papers submitted were checked and returned with appropriate input.
- Parent meetings were held twice in the year. Where we not only appraised them about their child's progress but also gave tips on how to help children study, how to check if they do homework, how competitive exams help in further studies and so on.



- The session content was based on syllabus which is common for any competitive exam. English, Maths, Marathi and Intelligence were the subjects taught.

- Intelligence was conducted as a part of every subject for 4th whereas for 5th it is taught as a separate subject.
- Regular assessments were conducted in form of monthly and semester tests. OMR sheets were introduced in 4th standard after Diwali.
- Online sessions were conducted during long breaks; like Ganpati festival, Diwali holidays etc.
- We distributed Self-study booklets and Practise booklets so as to increase retention.
- Children appeared for exams like MTS Olympiad, Scholarship exam, Manthan, I am Winner. We have received **MTS Olympiad results of 41 students. We have 5 Trophy winners, 13 Gold medals, 10 Silver medal winner, whereas the other have passed the exams.**
- We also conducted competition on 'Vachan Prerna Diwas' and a Maths table competition where we gave prizes to the winners.



- At the end of the year, we felicitated students who had regular attendance and showed progress in their grades.



- We were able to conduct 95% of the planned sessions for 4th std and 90% for 5th std.

Sustainability for us is not that the schools should adopt CC project as is but they should adopt the thought and practices involved in this project. We have been implementing project Competitive Crew in 9 schools of which 6 schools come under 'Maharshi Karve Stree Shikshan Sanstha' (MKSSS). MKSSS approached us with a proposal wherein we teach their teachers about project CC so that it can be implemented by them on their own. Though we

work with 6 schools of MKSSS they wanted teachers from their schools in Wai, Kamshet etc to know about project CC too.

Steps Taken

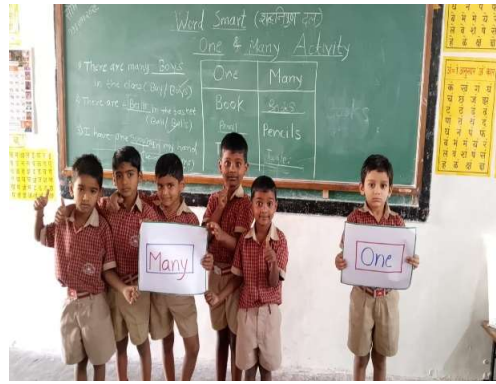
- An MoU was signed between SIF and MKSSS regarding the process to be followed.
- The 1st workshop of 2 days was conducted in June 2025. Teachers from 15 schools under MKSSS from Maharashtra participated in this workshop. We shared the thought behind the project, the framework of the sessions, observations of the Supervisor for quality maintenance, the record keeping, the study material given to students and the assessments conducted.
- The 1st meeting of the handholding process was conducted at the end of July 2025. 5 schools from Pune are working with SIF for the handholding phase.
- The 2nd meeting was conducted on 29th August 2025.
- The dedicated Coordinators shared their class observation forms and also issues faced, which were discussed and solution suggested.
- One on one session with each of the 5 schools were conducted. The subject teachers presented a topic each. SIF representative gave suggestions regarding how the methodology can be improved to suit more for competitive exam format. Discussions were also done on how the school teachers and SIF teachers can work in coordination.
- A 1-day workshop was conducted on 29th January 2026. 10 language teachers participated in the morning session whereas 11 teachers teaching Maths and Intelligence were present for the afternoon session.
- The morning session started with a presentation on 'Importance of Vocabulary and how to increase it' was conducted by SIF. Language, Maths and Intelligence were asked to analyze papers of last 3 years and present their findings as a group.
- After the group presentation SIF shared its findings too. The session was welcomed by all teachers.

3. WordSmart

Introduction: This newly launched project is an offshoot of Competitive Crew project. In 2024-25 we had conducted a vocabulary study of 4th standard students which showed that there was a lag in vocabulary strength of the students. Hence, we decided to address this issue.

Objective of WordSmart is to enhance English and Marathi vocabulary of children from standards 1st to 3rd by conducting special sessions, using vocabulary enhancing techniques to improve their general academic progress.

This being the first year we selected 2 schools where we are conducting project Competitive Crew. The project was initiated in 1 school in September 2025 whereas in the 2nd school it was initiated after Diwali vacations. We are covering **237 children** from 2 schools.



Project Activities:

- This project is conducted for standards 1st to 3rd.
- Each standard gets 3 sessions of 35 minutes every week.
- The sessions will be completely oral for 1st standard, in oral for 6 months for 2nd standard and then written work will be introduced. For 3rd standard the sessions will be in oral and written.
- Permission was sought from schools.
- Baseline tests were conducted for in oral for 1st and 2nd standard whereas for 3rd it was oral and written.
- The sessions are based on either story, song or games. Children learn a set of new words every session.
- Assessments are conducted at regular intervals.
- Endline test was conducted in April 2026. The results are awaited.
- In 2026-27 we will be able to start the sessions as soon as the schools reopen after vacation.

Trainings:

Storytelling a comprehension tool: Suvarna Iyyer a known author and translator for Tulika Publications conducted this session. She spoke about how storytelling can be used as a comprehension tool. She also spoke about key words, visualize, sensory aids, imagination and how to look at them to know about comprehension.

Office Etiquettes and Communication: Mahesh Joshi a professional having an experience of 35 years conducted this session. This helped our teachers to know about few office etiquettes and effective communication with school staff.

Computer Vision Syndrome: Bitwise Foundation, one of our funding partners organised an online session on the above subject. An ophthalmologist from National Institute of Ophthalmology (NIO), Pune spoke about how to identify the syndrome, how to avoid it and treatment for it.

Testimonials and Case Study:

- In October the schools received a GR stating that along with the regular scholarship exams of 5th and 8th standards, the government will be holding scholarship exams for 4th and 7th standards too. From academic year 2026-27, the scholarship exam will be conducted for 4th and 7th standards only.
- However, since this change was notified in October, the 4th and 7th standard children were not given any scholarship classes by school. But since we have conducted Competitive Crew sessions for them some of the schools have decided to motivate children to sit for the exams.
- **Vaishnavi Kavitate** is a 5th standard student of Mahilashram High School. She has studied in a ZP School up to 4th standard in her uncle's village. Now Vaishnavi has shifted to Pune and stays at the boarding facility provided by Mahilashram School. Vaishnavi has a younger brother (in Anganwadi) and a sister (in 4th std) who are also in school. Vaishnavi's parents are farm labourers. But they are very aware about their children's education.
Vaishnavi's primary teacher used to help her prepare for competitive exams but since Vaishnavi moved to Pune, she can no longer help her.
Vaishnavi was selected for the Competitive Crew. The teachers have observed that she is a good student. Vaishnavi's primary teacher and her mother contacted CC teachers and asked about her progress. The teachers observed that she lacks in English. Her confidence level is low; she has limited resources for English and lacks practise.
SIF teachers decided to help her. They encouraged her to participate more during English sessions. After Diwali vacations she was given 2 bilingual books every week to read, she was asked to use dictionary to get appropriate meanings, she was also

asked to make a list of new words that she came across. Then Vaishnavi was asked to make small sentences from these words. She was also paired with a study partner who is in 6th standard a Competitive Crew beneficiary and is good in English.



Vaishnavi has been given a practise paper specifically focusing on English for the upcoming summer vacation. Vaishnavi's mother has been informed about these efforts and we plan to continue the support over phone call if she needs it.

- Manisha Bhujbal is a teacher in Pratibha Pawar School. She has been a teacher for 25 years. She uses a very positive and innovative approach for teaching. Manishatai is a very good singer and encourages her students to participate in various activities related to music. She has also been awarded 'आदर्श गुणवंत, उपक्रमशील शिक्षिका'. Manisha tai's 3rd standard students appeared for MTS Olympiad exam in 2024-25 of which one of her students secured 85%. These children are now in 4th standard where SIF conducts Competitive Crew (CC) session. Manishatai has been very helpful to our teachers. She makes sure that the students do not miss any CC sessions. If any session is going to be missed due to any event in school, Manishatai either adjusts the time or day of the session. Recently there was a school visit by evaluating officer from outside. The officer also observed Manishatai's class (4th standard). She received a very good remark for her class. Manishatai has given the credit for this remark to project CC.

