

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025

SNEHAVARDHAINI SOCIAL TRUST

Empowering Lives



Snehavardhini Social Trust

PREPARED BY:
SR. CARMELITA NORONHA ACI
MRS. MICHELLE M. S. BHASKAR



SNEHAVARDHINI SOCIAL TRUST ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025

**“THE BEST WAY TO FIND YOURSELF, IS TO
LOSE YOURSELF IN THE SERVICE OF
OTHERS”.**


MAHATMA GANDHI

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we reflect on our journey alongside the tribal communities and those who have supported us in serving others, our hearts are filled with gratitude. Looking back, we cherish every moment we have contributed to uplifting individuals and empowering them to live with dignity.

The symphony of our mission has been playing since 1990, and we believe it will continue to resonate in harmony with the needs of the people we serve. We see ourselves as mere instruments, singing a song of hope and transformation. This year has been marked by both challenges and triumphs, yet our commitment to serving the community has remained steadfast.

One of our most notable achievements has been in the fields of education and livelihood. We have reached over 5,000 children across 24 villages, offering an educational approach that focuses on individuals, prioritizing their unique needs and foundational growth. Additionally, more than 20 individuals and groups have benefited from the livelihood opportunities provided by Snehavardhini. Through these initiatives, we have empowered women to stand on their own feet, fostering independence and self-reliance.



We have also strengthened our partnerships with local organizations, enabling us to expand our impact and reach more people in need. These collaborations have played a crucial role in implementing sustainable solutions that address the root causes of the challenges we face.

However, we recognize that there is still much work to be done. The obstacles ahead are complex and ever-evolving, but with your continued support, we are confident in our ability to overcome them and make a lasting difference.

As we look toward the future, we remain committed to our core values of integrity, compassion, and excellence. We are excited about the opportunities ahead and determined to build on our successes to create an even greater impact.

Thank you for being an integral part of our journey. Together, we shall continue to transform lives and build a brighter future for all.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Sr. Aleena Rodrigues ACI
Trusty.

INTRODUCTION:

Snehavardhini Social Trust is committed to the holistic development of marginalized communities, particularly the Kathkari tribal villages in Roha Taluka, Raigad District, serving over 5,000 people. Our initiatives focus on education, women's empowerment, youth development, access to government schemes, local governance, health, and environmental conservation.

With a dedicated team of 24 teachers and 3 social workers across 24 villages, we collaborate with local communities, NGOs, and government bodies to create sustainable change. This year, our emphasis has been on education, livelihood development, and land-related challenges, which are crucial for the well-being of these communities.

Through our efforts, we aim to build a brighter, self-sufficient future for the Kathkari Tribal communities, ensuring they have access to necessary resources and opportunities for long-term growth.


Vision: Holistic Development of the marginalized.

Mission: We commit ourselves to empowering the people through capacity-building programs, with the preferential option for the tribal communities of the Raigad District, with special concerns for the environment.

OBJECTIVES:

- Enhance self-esteem by fostering decision-making capacity.
- Educational empowerment.
- Empowerment of women.
- Enhance the implementation of Government schemes.
- Enable the restoration and promotion of the environment.

AREAS OF WORK:

- Education
 - Women
 - Health
 - Gavki
 - Government Schemes
 - Environment
 - Youth
- 

EDUCATION:

“Children must be taught how to think, not what to think.” - Margaret Mead

Snehavardhini Social Trust is currently running 24 supplementary classes to strengthen the weak educational foundation of tribal children. Each class has around 10 to 15 children who attend regularly and benefit from the program.

Monthly exams are conducted to evaluate students' learning levels and help both students and teachers adjust the syllabus according to their needs. This familiar format supports students in building a strong academic foundation for future success.

This year, 500 children attended their Zilla Parishad (ZP) schools regularly, achieving 100% attendance. Additionally, 25 students are enrolled in the 10th standard, 15 in the 12th standard, and 8 students in 15th standard.

Around 25 students are currently residing in hostels in Mangaon, Mahad, and Roha. Among them, one student is pursuing Social Work, three students are studying Nursing, and one boy has been selected as a Home Guard in the police force

In June, we distributed alphabet charts and ten thematic charts, including story and medical charts. These visual aids have proven to be helpful for both teachers and children in enhancing their learning experience.

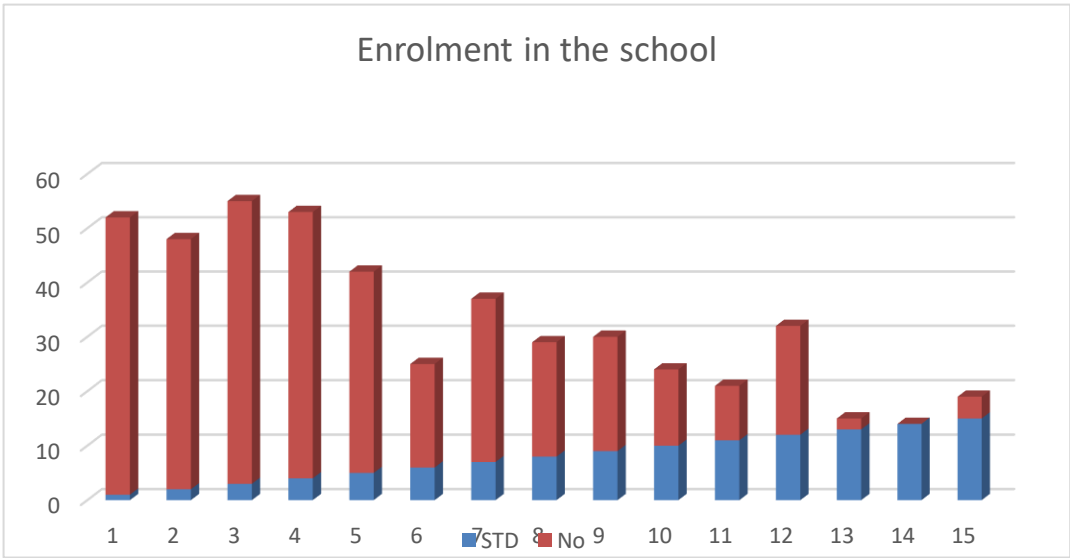
Our supplementary classes are designed to support children's development in emotional, social, psychological, and physical dimensions. Each class begins with exercises, yoga, or prayer. The children also participate in creative and reflective projects, including "My Dream Village," "Environment," "My Parents," "My Mother," "The Indian Woman," "Herbal Medicine," "My Freedom," and "Festivals of India."

This year marked a significant milestone for our villages, as local children and families participated in all ZP school activities for the first time. This was particularly evident during Independence Day on August 15th and Children's Day in November. One of our students delivered a speech at school and achieved the top rank in her class—an incredibly proud moment for both the center and the entire village.

Ten students from various villages participated in the scholarship examination, which greatly boosted their confidence. For the first time in many years, our children received scholarships. In the past, government teachers did not actively support this process. However, this year, due to increased awareness and empowerment among parents, they took the initiative to gather information and successfully secured scholarships for their children.

The following table chart from the 1st to the 15th standard.

STD	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
No	51	46	52	49	37	19	30	21	21	14	10	20	2	0	4





CHILDREN'S PARLIAMENT:


“WORK WHILE YOU WORK, PLAY WHILE YOU PLAY.”:

At Snehavardhini, we focus on instilling discipline and responsibility in children through balanced learning and meaningful engagement. Every Saturday, we hold special two-hour sessions that emphasize life skills and awareness rather than academics. At Snehavardhini, we focus on instilling discipline and responsibility in children through balanced learning and meaningful engagement. Every Saturday, we hold special two-hour sessions that emphasize life skills and awareness rather than academics. These sessions cover important topics such as child rights, health, savings, communication with government officials, and the effects of child marriage. As a result, children have begun to take initiative and responsibility within their communities.

For example, two groups from our Children's Parliament visited the Gram Panchayat with specific requests; one for installing a streetlight, and another for a fan and light in the Samaj Mandir.

The involvement of the Children's Parliament has spread awareness in their villages. Saturdays have become days of joyful learning, where children engage in games, fun activities, and new experiences—all while gaining valuable knowledge beyond textbooks.

Snehavardhini organized an exposure visit for the children to meet with government officials. During this trip, they learned about the operations of various public institutions, particularly the police station and the Gram Panchayat. This hands-on experience provided them with practical insights into how governance functions and encouraged them to become active, informed citizens.





DHAN UTSAV:

In October, we celebrated the Joy of Giving, as we do every year. This time, our children participated by preparing food and assisting in cleaning the homes of elderly community members. One important lesson they learned this year was the value of saving. The children saved their own money and used it to buy and donate ration supplies to an elderly couple in need. It was a heartwarming gesture that reflected their growing sense of empathy and social responsibility.

In November, we celebrated Children's Month with a series of special programs at both the cluster and center levels. At the center, we organized a Kabaddi tournament and a quiz competition, providing the children a platform to showcase their talents. It was a joyful and encouraging experience for everyone involved.

On November 30th, we held the culmination event of the month's celebrations. We invited members of the Child and Women Welfare Committee to engage with the children about education and their rights. This year, our chosen theme was "My Childhood is My Right." The entire month was filled with learning, fun, and a renewed sense of empowerment for the children.



ADOLESCENTS FOR THE GIRLS


Snehavardhini currently works with a group of 22 adolescents who come together every Saturday after the Children's Parliament sessions. These groups include both married and unmarried young women. We include everyone to ensure that all has access to important information and life skills.

The topics we cover with them include menstruation, savings, nutrition, social media awareness, and cybercrime. Our young women are actively engaged in these sessions—they participate alongside the adolescents and learn together. We provide them with education that empowers them to stand up for their rights and become self-reliant.

With the support of HPT, we have been organizing monthly special meetings focused on health and nutrition. In these sessions, we not only talk about different nutritional needs but also demonstrate how to prepare healthy meals at home. This has encouraged many of them to stop relying on outside food and start cooking nutritious meals themselves.

In October, we organized a "Dish Program" for adolescent girls and boys and took them on an exposure visit to the Manashakti Research Center. It was a wonderful experience for them, where they learned how to improve their study habits and enhance their concentration.

This year has also brought a remarkable achievement: there have been no cases of child marriage among the adolescents we work with. Additionally, at least 15 of these adolescents are now pursuing higher education, which represents a proud milestone for our community.



EDUCATIONAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:

This year, Snehavardhini Social Trust provided financial assistance to 45 individuals to pursue higher education. This support was extended not only to girls but also to boys, ensuring equal opportunities for all students.

This initiative has given them a sense of confidence and hope for a better future. As a result of this educational support, we are proud to share that the incidence of child marriage has dropped to 0% in our working areas—a significant achievement that reflects the power of education in transforming lives.

Education	Higher education	Nursing	Social Work	Diploma in Computer
Number	36	5	1	3



PARENTS:

“Parents are a child's first teachers and true role models.”

Children learn their earliest and most important lessons at home. At Snehavardhini Social Trust, we strive to strengthen the bond between parents and children. We help children understand that their parents play a vital role in their lives, not only by providing financial support but also by nurturing their overall growth and development.

In Adivasi communities, there is often a strong emotional bond between parents and children. However, education is typically not viewed as a shared responsibility. To change this perspective, we conduct monthly parent meetings where we discuss not only their responsibilities but also how they can actively contribute to their child's future, starting at home.

During a recent parent meeting, we conducted an activity using the metaphors of "a stone and an oasis." We explained that, like a stone that doesn't absorb water, children can be unresponsive, but an oasis absorbs water and gives life, just as children absorb values, knowledge, and behavior from their environment, especially from their parents.

This activity prompted deep reflection among the parents. They recognized that education encompasses more than academics; it also involves learning life skills, values, and emotional resilience from family. The session was interactive and enlightening. Many parents responded positively, expressing their commitment to placing greater importance on their child's education. Some even decided to send their children to hostels to ensure uninterrupted education, especially during migration periods.

Outcome of the education

- Improved attendance and performance in ZP schools.
- Regular child parliament and adolescent group sessions enhanced leadership and life skills.
- Better collaboration between teachers and parents.
- Reduced dropout and early marriage rates among youth.
- A cultural shift toward valuing education is now visible across villages.

Challenges:

- Irregular attendance due to seasonal migration of families.
- Lack of parental support in children's learning, especially among illiterate parents.
- Limited resources, such as teaching aids, digital tools, or proper classroom space, in some villages.
- Early dropouts, particularly among adolescent girls due to social norms or family responsibilities.



WOMEN:

“EACH TIME A WOMAN STANDS UP FOR HERSELF, WITHOUT KNOWING IT POSSIBLE, WITHOUT CLAIMING IT, SHE STANDS UP FOR ALL WOMEN”- MAYA ANGELOU

Women are true change-makers; they not only advocate for themselves but also gain the knowledge and confidence to transform their families and communities. The Snehavardhini Social Trust has been supporting women through their challenges and successes, fostering strength and self-reliance.

We currently have 41 Self-Help Groups (SHGs)—39 registered and 2 awaiting registration. All groups engage in monthly activities and livelihood initiatives. This year, the SHGs generated ₹3,39,000 in income, and many women received government financial support. Most are involved in seasonal farming, while some took loans from Snehavardhini for small enterprises. Notably, two women from Khargaon and Bathsai villages successfully engaged in fish cultivation, inspiring unity and motivation among the groups.

In Killa village, five women are involved in nutritional powder production, and in Khamb village, women are making Nirgudi oil. Women from the Revoli SHG cultivated 5 kg of val beans, which yielded 20 kg. They sold this at ₹200/kg and saved the earnings in their bank account. Additionally, they harvested 10 quintals of rice, marking a significant milestone in their self-reliance journey.

This year, all village women attended an exposure visit to the Pen Adivasi Office, gaining vital knowledge about government schemes and housing benefits. Many received equipment like sugarcane processing and chip-making machines, although they have yet to utilize them due to insufficient training. Snehavardhini is determined to provide the necessary training, ensuring these women can use the machines effectively and benefit from these resources.

Women also took up challenging cultivation projects in two villages. Through them, we've seen real progress in community development—five women are actively involved in facilitating programs when guests visit from Mumbai, managing food and accommodation. These responsibilities have boosted their confidence and pride in their culture.



On February 24th, we organized a Cultural Event to celebrate the rich traditions of the Katkari tribe. All 24 villages participated, showcasing tribal customs—from birth to death ceremonies, traditional medicines, vegetables, games, weddings, and more. The event was enlightening and deeply enriching. We awarded cash prizes to the best performers: ₹1,500 for the first prize and ₹1,000 for the second.


From October 1st to 7th, we celebrated Dhan Utsav (Joy of Giving Week). During this time, village women came together to clean the Zilla Parishad schools. This act of service impressed the school staff and fostered stronger ties with government officers. Every year, Snehavardhini builds this bridge of goodwill, helping tribal communities gain visibility and recognition.

In March, we observed Women's Month with sports events organized at the cluster level. On March 22nd, winners from the clusters gathered at the center for final competitions and a Food Exhibition, where women prepared and explained traditional dishes. We awarded cash prizes of ₹1,500 (1st), ₹1,000 (2nd), and ₹500 (3rd) to the best entries.

On March 17th, we held a session on ration rights, attended by 120 women. Mr. Sachin Wagh explained the ration distribution process, addressing common issues faced by the community. This session empowered the women with knowledge about accessing their rightful entitlements.

The Women's Day culmination program was held on March 29th at Khargaon village, with 300 women in attendance. Our guest, Mrs. Megha Lokhande, a councilor with the Department of Women and Child Development, shared vital information about POSCO and POSH laws, emphasizing safety and rights. The women performed skits and presentations on education, domestic violence, and more. It was a powerful event that left a lasting impact.

From October to January, we also implemented our Livelihood Program, organizing 11 sales exhibitions in Mumbai. Women sold vegetables, sweets, herbal medicines, and other handmade products. Each time, different women participated, gaining not just income but also valuable experience and confidence in marketing their products outside their village.

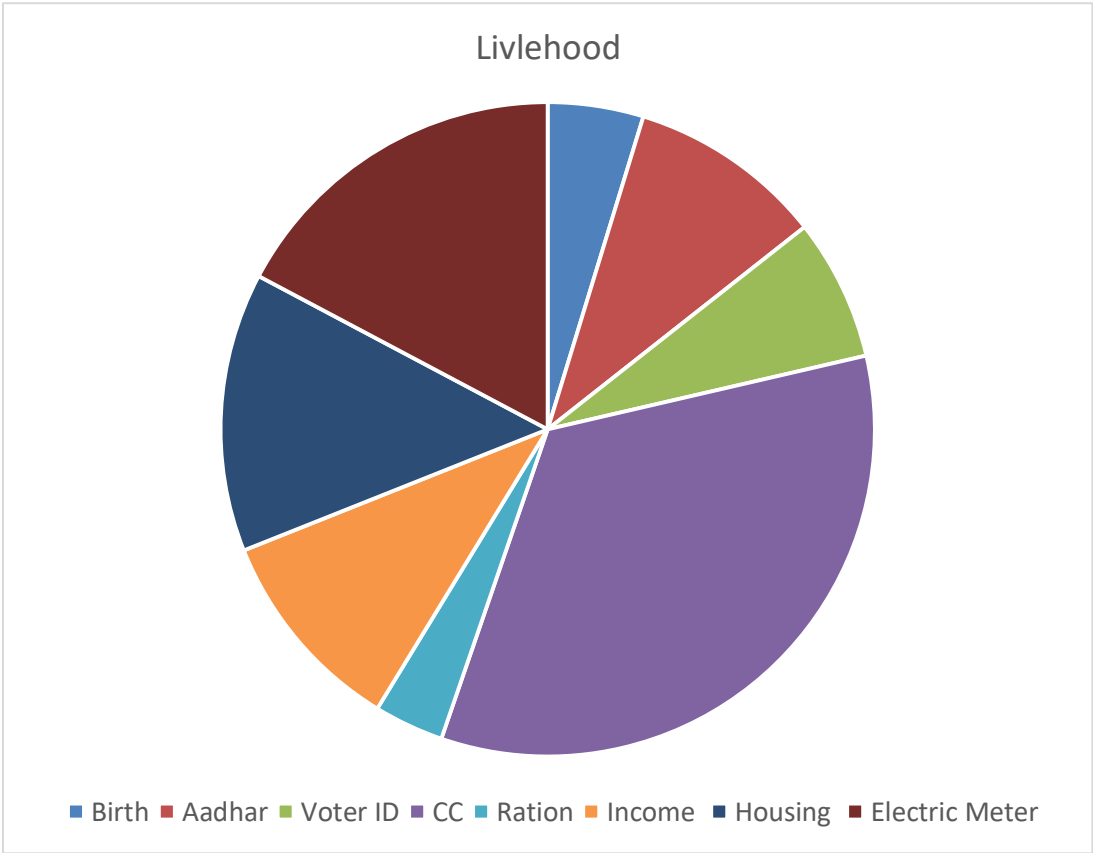






The following table can give you a clear idea of Livelihood

Vegetable Farming	Seasonal Farming	Fish Farming	Gran Farming	Tent	Banjo	Goat farming	Shop
238	52	2	57	1	1	21	4



Outcome:

- **Economic Empowerment:** Rural and tribal women earn, save, and manage their businesses with growing self-confidence.
- **Social Mobility:** Women are stepping outside their villages, interacting with officials, and representing their communities.
- **Skill Development:** From fish farming to sales exhibitions, women gained practical experience in enterprise and community leadership.
- **Legal Literacy:** Expert-led sessions significantly increased awareness of food rights, safety laws, and legal systems.
- **Community Pride:** Reviving and showcasing tribal culture has boosted confidence and preserved local heritage.
- **Reduction in Dependency:** Women have become active contributors to household income and decision-making.

Challenges:

- Patriarchal mindset and lack of confidence initially limited women's active participation.
- Fear and hesitation to approach government offices or speak up in public forums.
- Limited access to financial resources for income-generating activities.
- Gaps in scheme implementation, such as delays or confusion regarding women's financial aid programs.

GAVKI- LOCAL GOVERNMENT:


"When local communities make decisions, they own the outcome."-Elinor Ostrom

Gavki as a Platform for Community Empowerment

At Snehavardhini Social Trust, we believe in solving community issues through the people themselves, enabling them to grow in awareness and take charge of their development. This year, we continued working closely with the Gavki (village committee) to address important local concerns.

Last year, we conducted a Maha Gavki focused on Dali land rights, which significantly raised awareness about land ownership issues. Building on this momentum, the Gavki committees in all villages continued to emphasize land issues in their monthly meetings. In six villages, this led to active engagement, and in one particularly challenging case, a village successfully obtained its land ownership papers. This success was an inspiration to others, and now many communities are seeking guidance on how to secure their land documents, especially since the lack of land ownership prevents them from fully accessing their rights to build homes.

This year, we conducted approximately 15 Gavki meetings. These meetings addressed not only land issues but also broader concerns within the Adivasi community, such as housing, access to government documents, sanitation, and migration. Initially, these meetings were primarily attended by women. However, as the importance of land and government issues became evident, men began to participate as well. This shift made the meetings a truly inclusive platform for community decision-making. It was a proud moment when the villagers started to make and implement decisions for their welfare. SST is delighted to witness this growing sense of ownership, which is crucial for the long-term development of Adivasi communities and for empowering them to advocate for their rights.



SST.

YEAR 2024-25



WATER PROJECT SUCCESS THROUGH GAVKI

One of the most significant issues we tackled through Gavki this year was the village water problem. The villagers had access to a natural stream that flowed until the end of April, but they had to walk into the forest to collect water. After four Gavki meetings and coordinated efforts, the villagers submitted a formal request letter to construct a water chamber to bring water directly to the village. With the support of Snehavardhini Social Trust, Excel Company, and the Gavki, the project was completed. Now, the villagers no longer need to go into the forest: they have direct access to water, which has significantly improved their daily lives.

REBUILDING THE COMMUNITY HALL

One success story involved a community hall that remained incomplete even after receiving government funds. Due to a lack of awareness, the villagers were unable to utilize the funds effectively, leading to the project's abandonment. When the community approached SST with a request letter, we decided to support them. With the help of generous donors, the community hall was rebuilt. Today, it serves as a space for supplementary classes and village-level programs, becoming a valuable asset for the community.

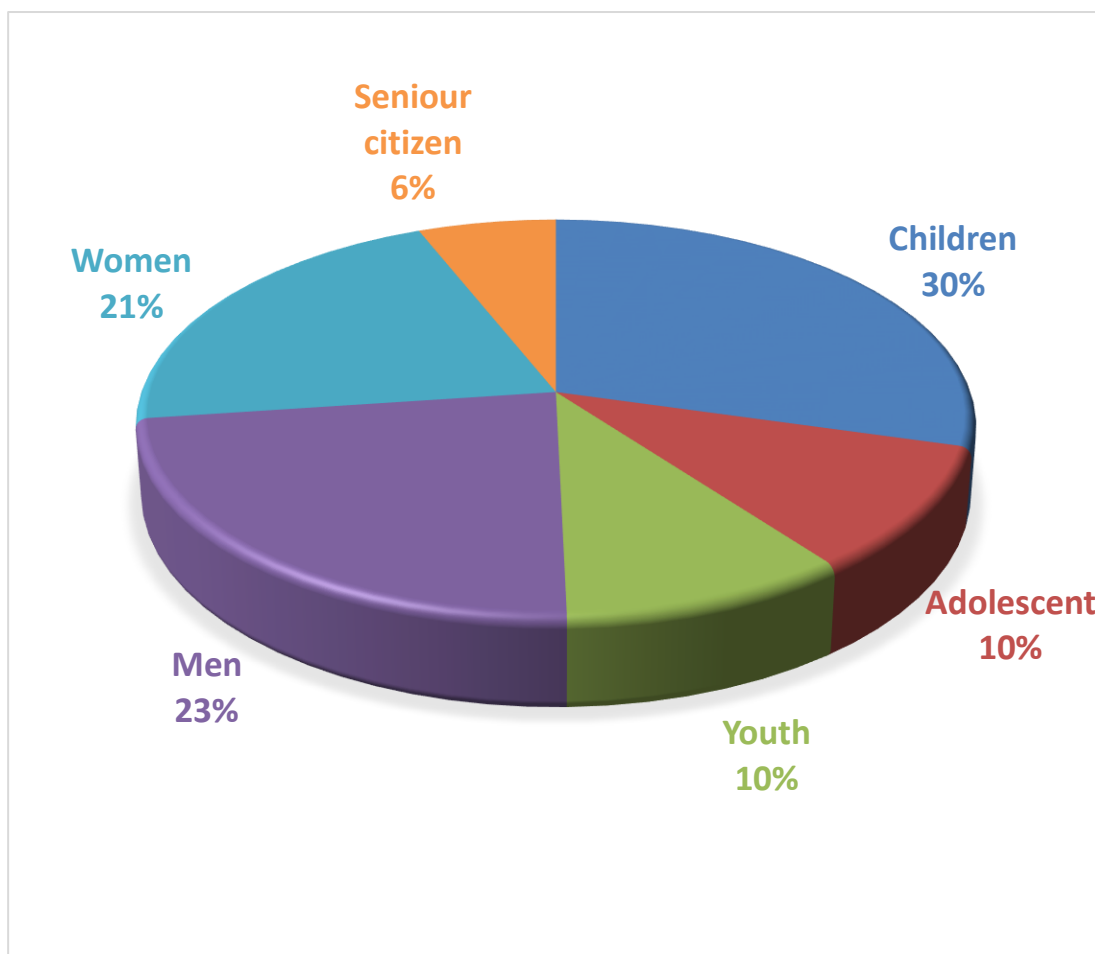
AWARENESS PROGRAMS ON CHILD MARRIAGE AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

This year, the Snehavardhini Social Trust, in collaboration with local villagers, decided to conduct awareness programs with the support of the Dhamini Pathak police cell. These initiatives aim to tackle serious issues such as child marriage and domestic violence. Awareness meetings, known as Gavki meetings, were held in all 24 villages, where police officers from the Roha and Kolad stations were invited to speak. These sessions had a significant impact on the community, raising awareness about the legal and social consequences of child marriage and how it negatively affects children's futures.

The result of this consistent engagement is visible—people are now more informed, proactive, and ready to stand for their rights. This transformation reflects the core mission of Snehavardhini: empowering communities to lead their development.

The population that we serve is as follows:

Children	Adolescent	Youth	Men	Women	Senior citizen
748	263	253	592	536	155



- **Strengthened Grassroots Democracy**

Community members are actively leading and participating in local decision-making processes through regular Gavki meetings, promoting collective problem-solving and accountability.

- **Empowerment through Awareness**


Villagers, particularly women and youth, have acquired essential knowledge about land rights, housing benefits, legal protections, and government schemes, empowering them to take informed action and decreasing their dependency.

- **Enhanced Access to Basic Services**

The successful implementation of the water chamber project and the revival of the community hall have improved the quality of life and created functional public spaces for learning and community engagement.

- **Legal Literacy and Behavior Change**

Awareness campaigns on child marriage and domestic violence resulted in increased reporting, enhanced social safeguards, and greater collective vigilance within the community.



· **Inclusive Participation**

Once woman-led, Gavki meetings are now inclusive forums involving men, women, youth, and elders, creating a more representative and balanced approach to governance.

· **Ripple Effect Across 24 Villages**

Each success story, like the land document achievement and water solution, has inspired neighboring villages to take action, multiplying the impact of a single initiative.

Challenges:

- Initial low male participation, with meetings being dominated by women.
- Lack of awareness about rights and procedures, especially around land ownership.
- Skepticism or resistance from some community members regarding the effectiveness of Gavki.
- Dependency on SST staff for initiating or pushing action steps.

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

“Development is not about urban growth alone—it must echo in every village and every home.”

The Snehavardhini Social Trust has a mission—to ensure that Adivasi communities can access and benefit from all available government schemes and facilities. Although we did not hold any formal camps for document-related schemes this year, our teachers and field staff have continuously assisted community members in filling out forms and completing the required processes. Often, our team accompanies villagers to government offices or banks to ensure that their applications are submitted correctly.

Sometimes, individuals encounter rejection or resistance from government officials. However, when they are accompanied by SST staff, the process tends to go more smoothly, increasing the likelihood of obtaining the necessary documents. A notable example of this is the issue of caste certificates.

For the past three years, many community members have applied without success. This year, after refilling and resubmitting the documents with support from SST, several individuals finally received their caste certificates.

Women's Visit to the Pen Adivasi Office

This year, women from our villages visited the Pen Adivasi Office to gather information about various government schemes. As a result, many of them received housing benefits and scholarships for their children. For many women, this was the first opportunity to express themselves freely and gain firsthand knowledge about these opportunities. This experience was incredibly empowering and filled with gratitude for them.

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·Village-Level Government Support and Infrastructure Development

Thanks to the growing awareness and leadership of women, this year brought several key developments across our 24 villages:

- Roads were constructed in 6 villages.
- Water facilities were provided in Khamb village.
- 7 new Anganwadis (childcare centers) were established.
- Repair work for Zilla Parishad (ZP) schools was carried out in 4 villages.
- A Primary Health Care Centre was opened in a village.

These improvements result from women's empowerment and their active participation in local development. Their leadership has played a crucial role in bringing about these changes.

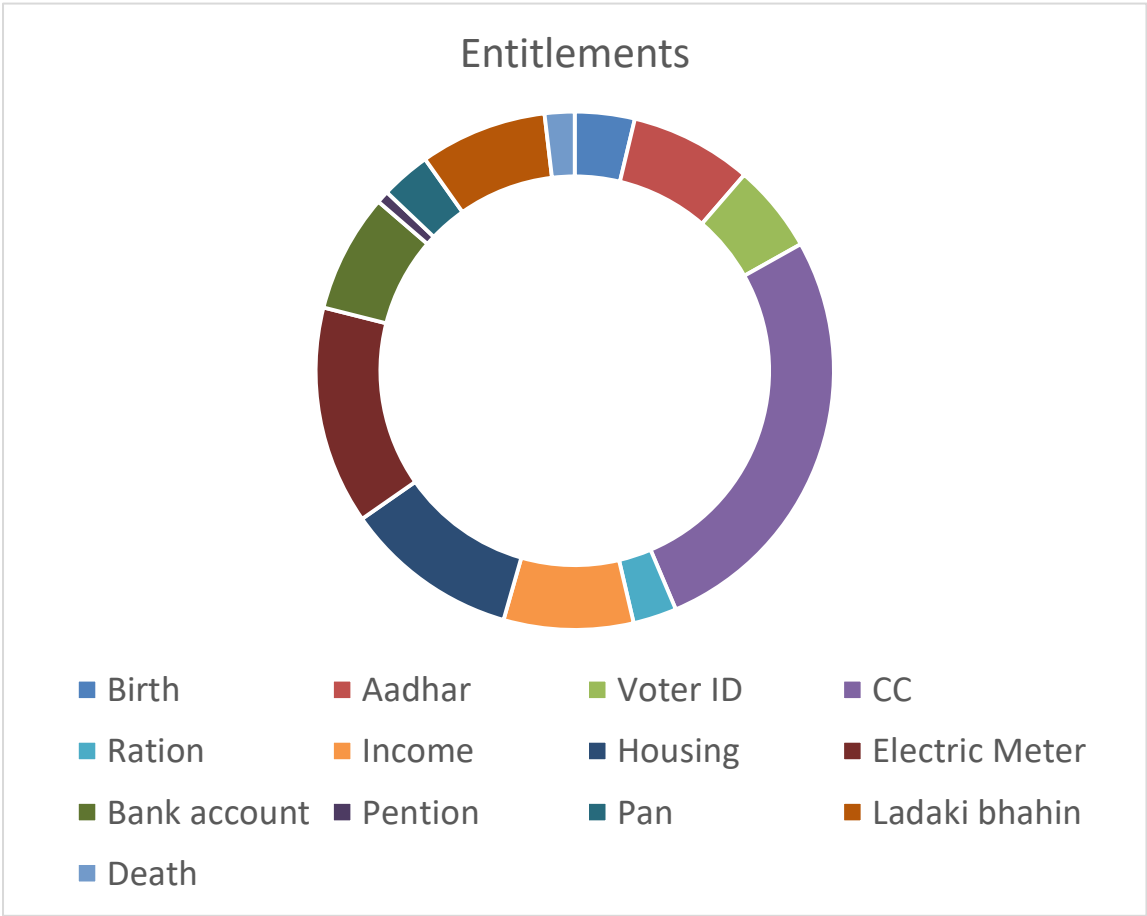
GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR WOMEN

This year, the government launched a scheme, Ladki Bahini Yojana, that provides ₹1,500 per month to women aged 21 to 65 years. While this financial support was a welcome initiative, there were some inconsistencies; many women reported not receiving the money when they needed it most, which led to confusion and disappointment within the community.

SST staff stepped in to explain the details of the scheme, the reasons behind payment delays, and how to follow up if payments were missed. Despite the challenges, most women appreciated the support and felt reassured after understanding the process.

WE HAVE GATHERED DATA ON GOVERNMENT SCHEMES FOR THE ADIVASI.

Birth	Aadhar	Voter ID	CC	Ration	Income	Housing	Electric Meter	Bank account	Pension	Pan	Ladaki Bhahini	Death
48	98	71	344	35	104	140	175	95	10	40	102	24



Outcome:

•Empowered First-Time Engagement with Government Systems

Many community members, especially women, visited government offices for the first time, overcoming hesitation and systemic resistance. This direct exposure boosted their confidence and understanding of their legal rights.

Support in Navigating Government Schemes

Women gained clarity and confidence around entitlements like the ₹1,500 monthly financial aid scheme, despite initial confusion. SST's field teams helped demystify delays and ensured follow-ups, restoring trust in the system.

Increased Financial Security for Families

Women accessed scholarships, housing grants, pensions, and “Ladki Bahin” scheme benefits (102 women), reducing economic vulnerability and enabling investments in education, health, and housing.

Shift Toward Sustainable Development

The visible shift from passive beneficiaries to active right-holders signals a sustainable transformation in how Adivasi communities view and access governance.

Inclusivity Across Life Stages

Support reached across generations—helping with 48 birth certificates, 24 death registrations, and 10 senior citizens receiving pensions, ensuring that no one is left out of the developmental fold.

Challenges:

- Complex and lengthy processes discouraged community members.
- Frequent rejections of documents like caste certificates without proper guidance.
- Resistance or negligence from some government officers during document processing.
- Lack of clarity and delays in receiving financial aid (e.g., ₹1500 scheme for women).



YOUTH

“Arise, awake, and stop not till the goal is reached”.

Swami Vivekananda

The tribal community in Raigad, particularly the youth of the Katkari tribe, is filled with potential and talent. Many young individuals work in various sectors, including companies and brick kilns. However, due to family responsibilities, they often lose sight of their aspirations at an early age, as they are burdened with the need to support their families.

With the guidance and support of Snehavardhini Social Trust, the youth have formed nine groups that meet regularly to strengthen their bonds and improve their skills. These young individuals actively participate in various sports, including cricket and kabaddi, and have even competed at the Taluka level, which has significantly boosted their confidence.



CURRENT EMPLOYMENT AND MIGRATION TRENDS:

- 35% of the youth are employed in companies as workers, though they are not permanent employees.
- 25% are involved in cultivation.
- 45% migrate to other places for work in brick kilns and other sectors.

One of our inspiring achievements is that a young member of our community has joined the Home Guard and has been actively serving there for the past six months. Additionally, we have observed that 25% of our youth are no longer marrying early, a practice that was common in the past. Instead, they are focusing on building their careers and choosing to marry later, which has contributed to a decline in child marriages. This shift represents a proud moment for us as it reflects a positive change in their mindset.

Looking ahead, we plan to establish a sports club under the Snehavardhini Social Trust. This initiative will enable the youth to organize sports events at the Taluka level, providing them with more opportunities for participation and encouraging healthy competition.

OUTCOME:

Snehavardhini Social Trust has empowered tribal youth to break free from traditional limitations, encouraging education, employment, and leadership through community engagement and sports. Youth show reduced interest in early marriage and greater focus on career and community roles.

· CHALLENGES:

- Migration pressures led many youth to prioritize income over education or skill development.
- Lack of stable employment opportunities; most jobs were informal or temporary.
- Early marriages (though decreasing) still disrupted aspirations for many.
- Limited exposure to career options or vocational guidance.

ENVIRONMENT:

“The Earth does not belong to us: we belong to the Earth”-

Marlee Matlin

When we belong to the earth, it becomes our responsibility to care for it. At Snehavardhini Social Trust, we organize and celebrate Environment Day with our children, women, youth, and the entire community. For the Katkari tribal community, the forest is sacred; it provides everything necessary for their survival, and they hold it in deep respect.

In June, we celebrate World Environment Day by distributing plants and seeds. This year, we distributed seeds to 24 villages to support their sustainability efforts. In one of the villages, we also provided plants to help sustain the forest. Each family contributed 5% of the cost, while SST covered the remaining 95%. This contribution was intended to instill a sense of ownership and responsibility in the villagers, encouraging them to take better care of what they received.

In one village, we provided flower pots to beautify the community. Each family planted flowers in these pots and placed them in front of their homes. This was a significant step, as it encouraged villagers to introduce flower plants in their surroundings, something that was previously uncommon in the area.



Additionally, we created the first garden in Khargao village, which became a symbol of growth and community pride.

Outcome:

- Snehavardhini's environmental efforts have fostered ecological awareness, community ownership, and pride by connecting tribal traditions with sustainable practices across 24 villages.
- Over 24 villages participated in the plantation and environmental initiatives.
- First community garden developed in Khargaon.
- Village beautification with potted plants encouraged care for the surroundings.

Challenges:

- Limited ownership or interest in environmental initiatives in some villages.
- Sustainability of the plantation and maintenance of distributed plants remained a concern.
- Cultural practices were supportive but lacked structured efforts or follow-up.

HEALTH:

“To keep the body in good health is a duty... otherwise we shall not be able to keep our mind strong and clear.”

-BUDDHA

When we fall ill, we typically visit a doctor. However, within our tribal community, there was a tradition of seeking medicinal plants from the forest or turning to black magic for healing. Fortunately, after raising awareness about health, many now understand the importance of seeking medical help from doctors. In severe cases, they also reach out to Snehavardhini for assistance.

This year, in collaboration with Snehavardhini and with the support of the Health Promotion Trust (HPT), we distributed nutritional kits to patients suffering from tuberculosis (TB). With the help of the government hospital, we identified 15 individuals affected by TB. These individuals had previously migrated and were not residing in the village, but this time, they returned to receive treatment, significantly aiding their recovery. Similarly, we provided nutritional food to 25 lactating mothers and 25 pregnant women, and 515 children received nutritional powder and nachani powder every 6th day of each month.

We also helped a small boy who had a health issue, with pus on his body. Through homeopathic treatment, we were able to cure him, and now he can walk and go to school. It was an operational case, but with consistent treatment, he fully recovered.

In another case, a woman from Nivi had severe uterine bleeding. Despite visiting a doctor, there was no cure. After a month, she requested help from the center to go to Mumbai. We decided to continue her treatment with homeopathic medicine. After one month of treatment, her bleeding stopped, and she was able to return to work.

Snehavardhini is always ready to assist those in need of healthcare, as we believe that when we take care of our bodies, we can achieve much more.

Our health workers offer regular training for women and girls in the village. They teach participants how to prepare a variety of nutritious meals at home using locally available vegetables, and all at a low cost. These training sessions are held monthly by HPT, and the women learn valuable skills that they can pass on to others in their communities. As we always say, "When one woman learns, she teaches the entire family."

OUTCOME:

Snehavardhini's health initiatives have empowered tribal communities to seek medical care, improved recovery rates among vulnerable groups, and fostered healthier habits through education and local nutrition.

- 15 TB patients identified and supported.
- 515 children, 25 lactating, and 25 pregnant women received regular nutrition support.
- Health cases resolved without surgical intervention through local support and homeopathy.

CHALLENGES:

- Initial reliance on traditional remedies or black magic delays proper treatment.
- Stigma around diseases like TB made it difficult to reach affected individuals.
- Limited access to nutrition, especially for pregnant/lactating women and children.
- Inadequate rural healthcare infrastructure required outside intervention




NETWORKING

"Networking is the process of sharing information with individuals who can assist you in your professional career."

At Snehavardhini Social Trust, we believe in the power of collaboration and networking. To create meaningful change in the lives of the Katkari people, we rely on the support of many helping hands. With this collective effort, we can work towards providing them with a better future.

This year, numerous NGOs, government organizations, companies, and individuals have come forward to assist us in various ways.

One significant partner is the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, who have made a difference in five villages by offering educational support, providing nutrition for children, and addressing health issues. They also play a crucial role in supporting higher education and livelihood programs, including assistance for the elderly. The Handmaids of the Sacred Heart continue to provide both moral and financial support through their main office, enabling us to carry out these activities effectively.



DSV: We receive CSR funds from DSV to support the education of tribal children in seven villages. Their contribution enables us to provide educational materials to these children. DSV representatives have also visited the villages to observe the progress of our work. Additionally, we conduct monthly training sessions for teachers to ensure high-quality education.

CSA (Centre for Social Action): CSA supports education, livelihood, Gavki, women's empowerment, and government schemes across twelve villages. They provide monthly training for Wadi Practitioners on various important themes, which are essential for our community development efforts.

Elppy Company: Has supported two villages by assisting with livelihood and educational initiatives for children. They have adopted these villages, and together we focus on community development, particularly through livelihood programs and women's empowerment.

Government Officers: We rely on government officers for assistance with official documents and other information. Without these documents, our community members would not have access to government facilities. The government's support has made the process much smoother for us.

Police This year, the police played a crucial role in our community outreach efforts. They visited each village to educate residents about the Protection of Children from Sexual Offenses Act (POSCO), the Prevention of Sexual Harassment (POSH), and the implications of child marriage. They also informed the community about the penalties for such offenses and reassured everyone that the police are available to help when needed.

HPT (Health Promotion Trust): HPT collaborates with the SST to provide essential training for our health workers, which includes techniques such as mud baths and massage. This year, the partnership helped provide nutritional support to 25 tuberculosis patients and lactating women in need.

We work with various branches, including the Tehsil Office, Panchayat Office, Government Hospitals, WPC/CWC, Police Stations, and Adivasi Prakash, to ensure a holistic approach to community development and empowerment.


Impact and outcome: Through strong and strategic partnerships with NGOs, government agencies, and corporations, Snehavardhini Social Trust has expanded its reach, enriched its programs, and empowered tribal communities with holistic support and resources.

Staffing: “Talent wins games, but teamwork and intelligence win championships.” – Michael Jordan

Snehavardhini Social Trust Team

Snehavardhini Social Trust has a dedicated team comprising 22 teachers, 3 social workers, a Project Coordinator, and our Chairperson. Our staff work on a contract basis for 11 months each year, with contracts being renewed yearly for all teachers and social workers. Throughout these 11 months, they work tirelessly and effectively for the betterment of the villagers.

June, we plan for the upcoming year in collaboration with our staff and community members. Then, in April, we evaluate our work alongside the villagers.



Team Building and Motivation

In June, we organized a team-building session at Vavhe village to kick off the year with positive energy. All the teachers enjoyed the experience and participated in a one-day session focused on Unity.

In September, we celebrated the hard work of our team. On Teacher's Day, the teachers had the opportunity to experience both the challenges and rewards of their roles, which proved to be a motivating experience for the teachers.

In February, we conducted Haldicucu and Vanbhojan as part of the new project in Khargaon village aims at promoting community development. This was followed by a boating trip and a shared meal, allowing team bonding.

Support and Empowerment

In October, our teachers contributed ₹2,000 to support a transgender individual. This turned out to be a genuinely eye-opening experience for both the teachers and staff. Mrs. Daniella shared her journey, discussing how education empowered her to overcome challenges and advocate for her rights. Many teachers initially held misconceptions and fears about transgender

individuals. However, after meeting Mrs. Daniella, they developed a much clearer understanding and felt grateful for the opportunity to learn from her experiences.

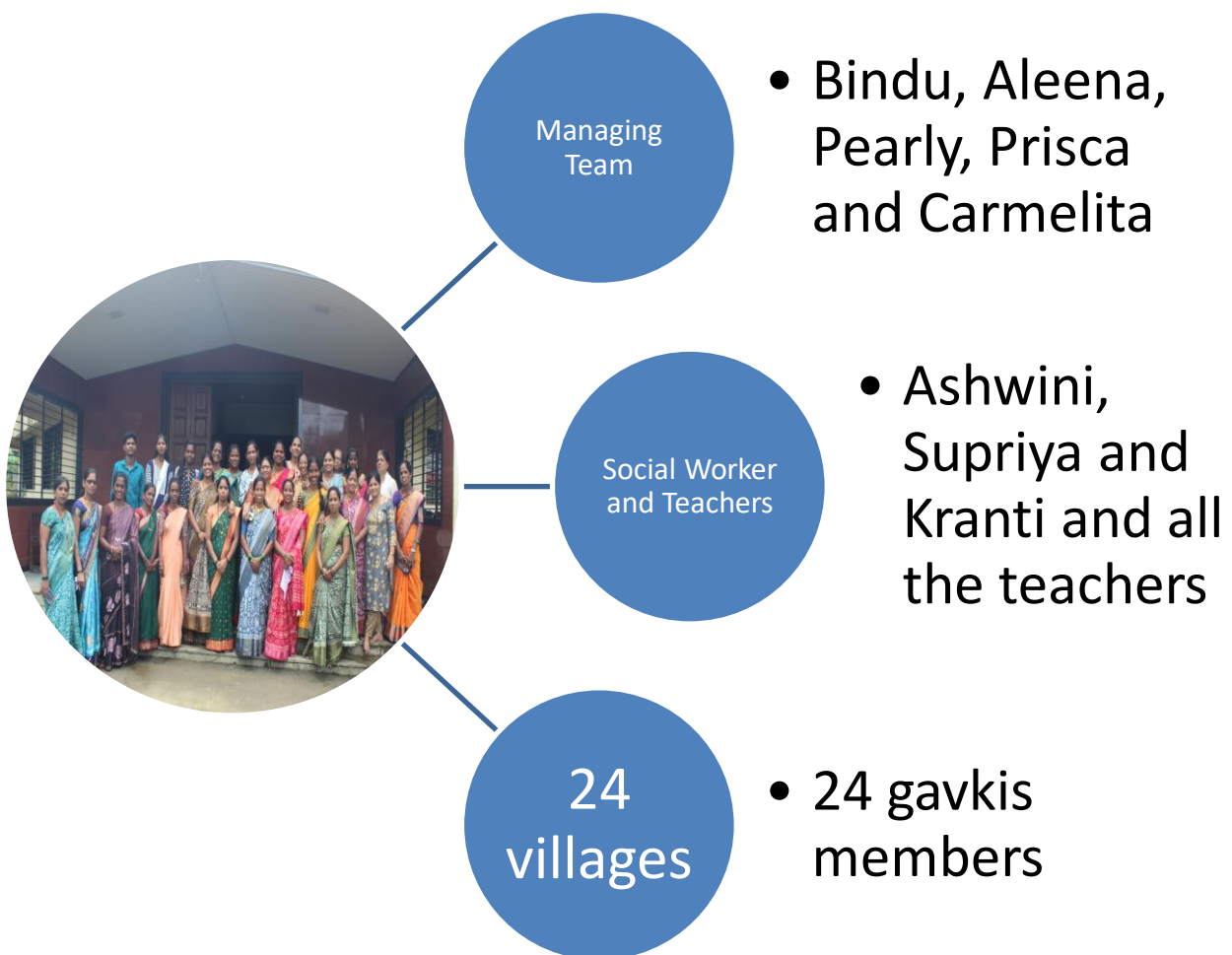
Outcome: By investing in continuous training, inclusive experiences, and strong team-building, Snehavardhini has cultivated a motivated, empathetic, and high-performing team committed to community transformation.



Sr. No.	Month	Session
1	June	Global Pact of Education
2	July	Syllabus to prepare/Dali/ Forest Issues
3	August	Cultural care
4	September	Synodality and Dhan Utsav
5	October	English Grammar/Math
6	November	Ration/ Mobile addiction
7	December	POSCO/Posh
8	January	Social media: How to handle?
9	February	Health of women and children
10	March	Strength of women
11	April	Evaluation

The Synergy of Snehavardhini Social Trust

Snehavardhini Social Trust is a family where both the staff and villagers feel at home. We have created an environment that fosters collaboration and empowerment, which is essential for working together to uplift the villagers.





Core Values:

Snehavardhini Social Trust believes in the holistic development and upliftment of human dignity. We prioritize universal values in our work and interactions with the community. The process through which we communicate these values is just as important as the values themselves, ensuring that they are deeply embedded in the lives of the people we work with.

Pedagogy of the Heart:
Love, forgiveness,
acceptance,
Encouragement, Peace
and Kindness

Cultureal and
Enviornmental Care,
Human dignity, Justice.

**Responsibility and
Courage**

**Happyiness and
Honesty,
Compqwwion,
Equality**

**Readiness, Optimism,
face the Challegeous**

THEORIES:

SST uses these strategies and methods to work with people. They are as follows

Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA):

The Snehavardhini Social Trust believes in empowering people to make decisions and solve their problems. Its annual planning engages Community-based Organizations (CBOs) like Self-Help Groups, local governance bodies, children's parliaments, and adolescents. Meetings at both village and central levels help identify and prioritize the center's annual plan, respecting the opinions and dignity of all participants.

People Led Empowerment (PLE):


Snehavardhini Social Trust applies the PLE method in all its intervention areas to achieve the empowerment goals.

The Process-oriented approach:

SST believes in the process-oriented method as it enhances the long-rooted development through the individual and collective formation of the target population. Personal and collective accompaniments are made available and enforced in every village and are carried out through the teachers, community workers, social workers, and the coordinators of the project

People-Led Development:

The Snehavardhini Social Trust applies the Participatory-Led Development (PLD) method to empower people to take responsibility for solving their problems.



Conclusion:

The years 2024–25 have been a journey of resilience, empowerment, and transformation for the Katkari tribal communities. Through initiatives focused on health education, women's leadership, and youth mobilization, Snehavardhini Social Trust has made a meaningful impact on the lives of these communities.

Despite facing systemic barriers, socio-economic struggles, and deeply rooted traditions, our community has demonstrated remarkable strength and adaptability.


The increasing participation of women in governance, youth pursuing their ambitions instead of early marriage, children regularly attending school, and communities actively engaging with government programs are all evidence of the power of collective effort.

These changes are not merely statistics but stories of hope, dignity, and reclaiming their rights.

The progress we have made is driven by the steadfast commitment of our team, the trust of the community, and the invaluable support from our partners and collaborators.

As we look to the future, we remain dedicated to our mission of standing by the most marginalized individuals, amplifying their voices, and walking alongside them as they shape their futures.

Together, we will move forward—step by step, village by village, and life by life—working to build a more just, aware, and empowered tribal society



SOME SUCCESS STORIES:

Success story 1: Adivasi Day Celebration:

Background: Adivasi Day was celebrated on August 9th. Previously, the event was held only in our villages, and only a few youths attended in Mangaone. This year marked the first time we celebrated it in Roha Taluka, thanks to the support of tribal leaders. Snehavardhini Social Trust and several like-minded NGOs collaborated to make this event a success. It was a significant occasion, as it was the first time our tribal community participated in such a wonderful program. During the initial meeting organized by the tribal At Snehavardhini, representatives from all 12 villages were present. It was a proud moment as the attendees showcased their empowerment through leadership. In all subsequent meetings, our villagers took the initiative and responsibility. Each village had a representative included in the committee, which helped boost their confidence.

Situation Before: "In Roha Taluka, the tribal community initiated a novel program for the first time. Initially, they were uncertain about how to approach the organization of the event, but they ultimately took on the responsibility. We communicated with the villages through WhatsApp messages, and the response was overwhelmingly positive. The community members also took charge of organizing the program and collecting contributions from the Gavki members. From our villages, they raised 12,000 rupees, and the people were very happy to participate in the event's organization."



Success story 2: Palekhurd: A Village Transformed by Water

For 24 years, Snehavardhini has been tirelessly working to improve the lives of the people in Palekhurd. A persistent challenge faced by the community was the scarcity of water, particularly during the dry months of April and May. Although a nearby stream flowed year-round, villagers had to trek into the forest to collect water, which was a time-consuming and arduous task.

Recognizing this pressing issue, the community sought assistance from the Centre. With support from Excel Company, a dedicated partner in providing water solutions to tribal villages, a plan was formulated. The villagers took ownership of the project, agreeing to contribute labor and a small fee for those unable to participate.

After careful examination, a new and more reliable water source was identified. With the necessary materials provided by Excel Company and Snehavardhini, the villagers worked diligently to construct a water chamber. This innovative solution has not only alleviated the water shortage but also ensured a consistent supply of fresh, clean water for the entire village.

The transformation of Palekhurd showcases the strength of community collaboration and the positive effects of sustainable water solutions. Through their collective efforts, the villagers have secured a brighter future for generations to come





Success story 3

Waste bin at Bathsai village.

Teacher: Sonali Kariwale

Population: 25 families in the Bathsai village at present.


Before:

Bathsai is the village where the Snehavardhini Social Trust has been providing services for the past 16 years. The community members engage in various livelihoods, including fishing, selling vegetables, and working as daily wage laborers outside the village. Most families reside within the village.

During a recent village meeting ("Gavki"), the women expressed their concerns about the urgent need for dustbins, as a significant amount of dry waste has been accumulating in and around the village. We addressed this issue during the meeting, and the villagers agreed to contribute Rs. 100 per household to help cover the costs. Snehavardhini will fund the remaining expenses, and the labor for the project will be carried out by the women of the village.

After:

Bathsai village has witnessed a remarkable increase in community cohesion. Villagers now come together for all matters, including Gram Panchayat meetings, a development directly attributed to the successful implementation of livelihood programs and the active participation of women in "Shramdan" (voluntary community service). This collective effort has fostered a strong sense of unity within the Bathsai community.





SUCCESS STORY -4

EMPOWERING WOMEN OF REVOLI VILLAGE

Village Name: Revoli

Teacher: Pradnya Mohita

Population: 34 families and 195 people

Before:

Snehavardhini Social Trust (SST) has been active in Revoli village for nearly 16 years. The village faced significant challenges, including a lack of water and job opportunities, which led to many residents migrating elsewhere. Although the youth and women were highly motivated, they lacked the support necessary to improve their circumstances. When SST started its work in the village, it focused on the importance of education. However, it wasn't until the launch of the Participatory Learning and Development (PLD) project that women truly began to take charge of their lives.

The women formed a Self-Help Group (SHG), and this year, they successfully cultivated two crops: rice and Val (a type of lentil). SST supported the women by providing 5 kg of Val seeds. The women from the SHG took the initiative, working together to cultivate the crops

After:

Today, the Self-Help Group (SHG) has expanded, and some women have chosen not to migrate anymore. They have decided to stay in the village and continue with their farming activities. From the group, six women have taken on the responsibility of selling and collecting the harvested Val. All the money they earn is deposited in the bank. One woman explained that instead of spending the money immediately, they are saving it for the future. She said, "If we spend it now, we will have to ask our Tai (SST) again next year. It's better to save it in the bank so we can use it when needed."

This decision reflects the empowerment of women and their increased ability to think about long-term sustainability. The women of Revoli have not only achieved financial independence but have also developed a vision for the future, demonstrating the positive impact of SST's support and their hard work.



SUCCESS STORY- 5

Fish cultivation at Batsai and Khargaon village.

Village names: Bathsai

Teachers: Sonali Karewali

Population: 25

Snehavardhini Social Trust has been active in Bathsai village for over 16 years. The residents do not migrate for work; instead, they engage in seasonal farming within the village and nearby forest areas. Some villagers also participate in fishing and various company-based activities.

Snehavardhini aimed to unite the women of the village. However, they faced a significant challenge: the women had lost trust in Self-Help Groups (SHGs) due to a past incident in which a former SHG leader misappropriated their funds. This incident resulted in considerable distrust among the members.

Throughout the year, Snehavardhini conducted regular visits, organized various training sessions, and held meetings to rebuild trust within the group.


During one of these discussions, we asked the women what could bring them together again. The women of the Self-Help Group (SHG) named "Ashirwad" suggested using a village well for fish farming. They believed that this activity could revive the group and help restore their confidence.

A meeting was called, and all the women unanimously agreed to start fish farming. In June, they purchased 400 fish for ₹2,000. Each member of the SHG took responsibility for feeding and caring for the fish. This initiative not only united the group but also fostered a sense of community throughout the entire village. Everyone took ownership of looking after the fish, which further strengthened their bonds.

Regular meetings and follow-ups were conducted to ensure everything ran smoothly. This initiative became a symbol of unity and resilience.

In April, the fish were harvested and sold for ₹10,000. The women felt immense joy and pride in what they had accomplished together.

This journey has been truly inspiring and serves as a remarkable example of how the women of the Ashirwad SHG took action to rebuild trust and bring their village together.





THIS REPORT HAS BEEN APPROVED BY.



Center In-Charge -
Sr. Carmelita Noronha Aci