



swades
FOUNDATION
Rural Empowerment

2025-26 ANNUAL REPORT



Committed to lifting one million rural Indians out of poverty
every five years through community-driven change

www.swadesfoundation.org

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Swa se Bane Des.... a message from our **Founders**

A village transforms when people come together with a shared belief that change is possible, and the determination to make it happen. That belief is why Swades Foundation exists. It is also why our greatest strength is not the infrastructure we build, but the communities who enable and sustain their transformation. Change begins with the communities who learn to believe in their own strengths and who serve with a joyful spirit of volunteering. Today, more than 12,000 trained community volunteers are creating a multiplier effect across the villages we serve. A Swades Mitra becomes the bridge between a family and quality healthcare. A Gyan Mitra equips communities with the knowledge and confidence to seize new opportunities. A Shasan Mitra helps a farmer navigate government schemes so that entitlements become realities.

We have learnt that there is no silver bullet to poverty alleviation and lasting change is never created in silos. When access to water improves, health outcomes improve. Better health keeps children in school. Stronger livelihoods create resilient families. By addressing the interconnected needs of a village through a holistic, community-driven approach, every intervention strengthens the next, creating impact that extends far beyond a single programme.

When communities lead, change multiplies. This year, that spirit enabled us to mobilise over ₹250 crore through govt schemes, unlocking resources beyond philanthropic funding. It strengthened our commitment to natural resource management, making villages more resilient to climate change while improving livelihoods. It also brought primary healthcare closer to people's doorsteps through expanded village health camps.

This is the multiplier effect in action. One trained volunteer inspires many. One empowered village influences another. Every contribution creates ripples that extend far beyond a single intervention.

As you read this report, you will see that our work is building local leadership, strengthening ecosystems, and creating communities that continue to thrive long after we step away. That is the true measure of sustainable development and the future we remain committed to building together.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our donors, partners, government departments, volunteers, and well-wishers who continue to believe in our mission. Most importantly, we thank the communities we are privileged to work alongside. Your trust, resilience, and leadership inspire us every day. Together, we are witnessing that when communities are empowered and partnerships are rooted in purpose, every effort multiplies into lasting change.

With gratitude,

Zarina & Ronnie Screwvala

Founders, Swades Foundation



A message from our CEO



FY 2025–26 was a year of steady progress, meaningful partnerships, and a deeper commitment to the communities we serve. The most significant milestone this year was our expansion into three new districts. It is a step toward greater reach, but more than that, it is a reaffirmation: lasting change is built through trust, collaboration, and sustained engagement, with the community at the forefront. Nashik, our second district, has walked a determined road since efforts began. What started as scattered work in a handful of villages has grown into steady momentum, and we are excited to see Dream Villages blossom here very soon.

Our core focus areas of water, sanitation, health, education, and economic development remain unchanged. But this year, we have innovated a great deal on the climate resilience front, scaling natural resource management to make development environmentally sustainable as well.

Community-driven change remains our guiding principle. Development cannot be delivered to communities, it must be created with them. Every initiative we undertake is shaped by local voices, strengthened through partnerships, and built for long-term resilience and self-reliance.

This Annual Report is built around one idea: the multiplier effect of good giving. A thoughtful act of giving does more than meet an immediate need. It creates opportunity, invites participation, builds confidence, and sets in motion change that outgrows its starting point. The pages that follow are proof of that, story after story of how collective, holistic effort compounds over time.

None of this would have been possible without our community members, development partners, donors, government agencies, employees, volunteers, and well-wishers. Every contribution, whether resources, expertise, or time, has strengthened our shared mission.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to expanding thoughtfully, deepening engagement, and creating room for communities to shape their own development journeys. When people come together with shared purpose, the impact of every effort multiplies.

Thank you for being part of Swades' journey, and for helping us create change that lasts.

With gratitude,

Mangesh Wange

CEO & Board Member, Swades Foundation

Who We Are

Our Vision

An empowered and poverty-free rural India where communities are capable of transforming their own lives.

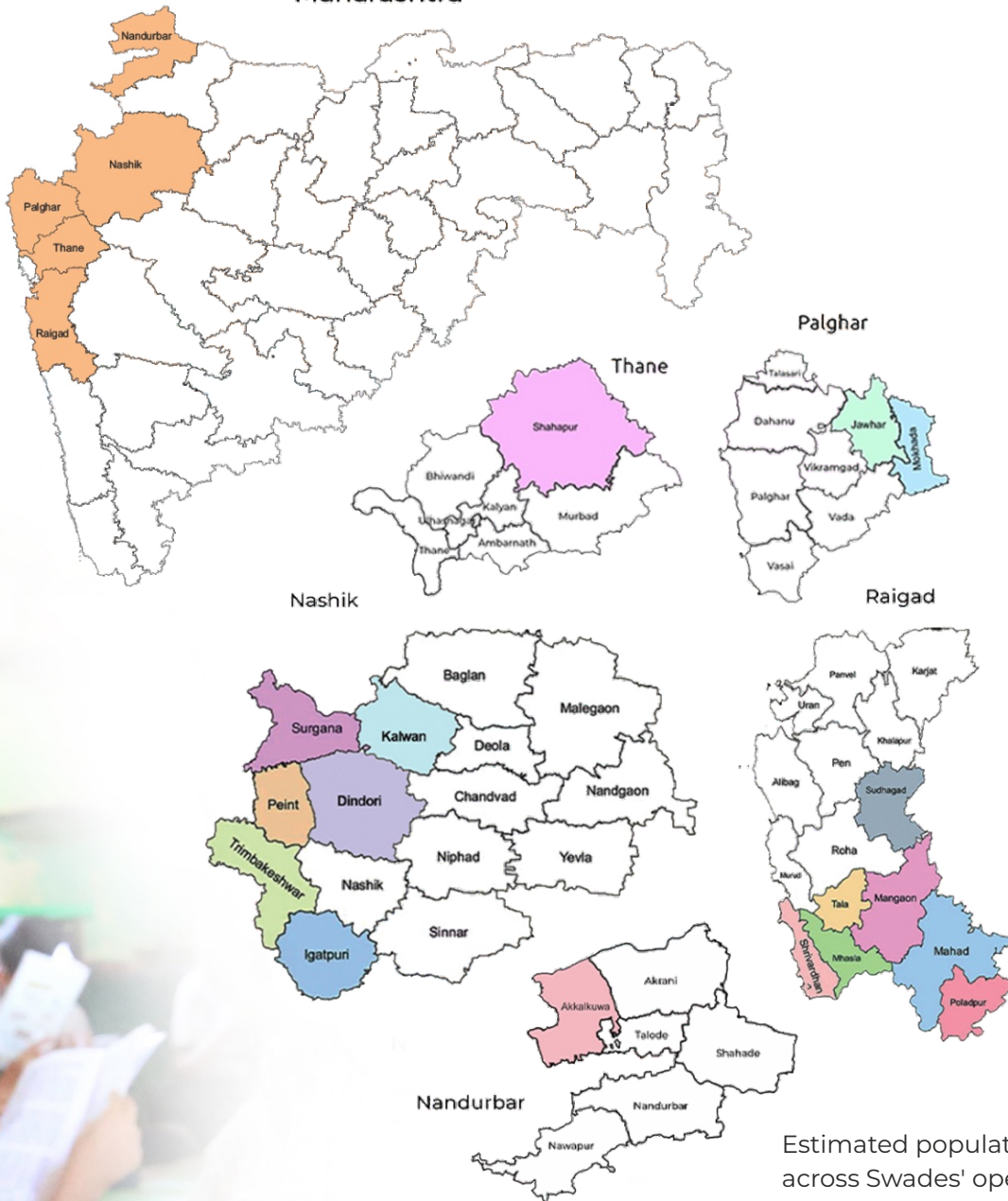
Our Mission

To lift a million people out of poverty in rural India every 5 years through a holistic approach to Health, Education, Water & Sanitation, and Economic Development - by creating a scalable, replicable and community-centric model of sustainable development.

Our Philosophy

At the Swades Foundation, we believe that the partnership of rural India with corporates, young urban India, the Government and other foundations is the key to create a permanent and irreversible change for good.





Estimated population
across Swades' operational
geography **23,63,038**

Our P

We are

We are currently working across 7 blocks in Raigad (Mahad, Mangaon, Mhasla, Poladpur, Shrivardhan, Tala, and Sudhagad) and 4 blocks in Nashik (Igatpuri, Trimbakeshwar, Surgana, and Peth). We have recently expanded into six new blocks across four districts - Jawhar and Mokhada in Palghar, Shahpur in Thane, and Akkalkuwa in Nandurbar apart from Kalwan and Dindori in Nashik. We have begun work in these regions and are currently in the initial phase of development interventions.

Our Journey



Laid the foundation for Swades' rural empowerment efforts in Raigad

2012

Adopted a holistic model of development

2013

Built 15,000 household toilets across Raigad

2017

2016

Evolved from a philanthropic 'push' to 'pull' strategy that encourages community participation

2018

Created the Village Development Committee (VDC) model to build community ownership



Aided COVID relief and recovery efforts in rural Maharashtra with vaccination drives and supporting medical equipment

2020-21

Expanded to Nashik

2019

Celebrated 75 Dream Villages to mark the 75th year of India's Independence

2022

2023

5,000+ youth skilled;
20,000+ cataract surgeries;
30,000+ toilets constructed

Kicked off second phase of Dream Village Celebrations; Registered with Social Stock

2024

250 crores mobilised through govt. partnerships for Dream Villages

2025

What is **Community-Driven Holistic Rural Development**, and why does it matter?

Real change is never linear, and mindful development never solves just one problem. When programs are designed to work in synergy with the community at its helm, a single investment sends ripples across systems, sectors, and generations. At Swades, our work is built on a fundamental philosophy that holistic, community-driven development is not just a delivery model, it is a multiplier.

What happens when communities lead the change?

- Community ownership builds resilient local institutions
- Stronger institutions sustain independent, long-term development
- Sustainable development generates deep economic and social value
- Active community agency unlocks vital government convergence and resources

Our Community-Driven **4E Model of Change**

Engage



We involve communities from the start, building relationships and understanding their needs before implementing any programs

Empower



We equip communities with the skills, knowledge, and resources to manage and sustain development initiatives

Execute



We implement programmes across water, sanitation, health, education and economic development, working with local partners and volunteers

Exit



After empowering communities and creating strong ecosystem leaders, we monitor community progress and provide support to ensure long-term sustainability and self-reliance



What happens when investment becomes a multiplier?

Catalytic investments

Multiplied Effect

Water, Sanitation and Green Initiatives

Invest in community-owned water, sanitation and climate-resilient infrastructure

Creates: Water & Sanitation Committees that operate and maintain assets.

45–60 million litres/day
drinking water capacity created

1,508 villages
declared ODF

7,700–7,800 T CO₂
emissions reduced annually

Health

Invest in community health systems and local volunteers

Creates: Swades Mitras who enable last-mile primary healthcare

~6,00,000 lives
served through preventive and primary healthcare

Education

Invest in school infrastructure and quality learning

Creates: Education Committees that sustain improvements

2,626 schools & anganwadis
strengthened with learning programmes and infrastructure

Catalytic investments

Multiplied Effect

Economic Development

Invest in livelihoods, skilling and enterprise development

Creates: Gyan Mitras who mentor and support rural livelihoods

₹600 Cr

contributed to the rural economy through livelihood interventions over the last six years

Government partnerships

Invest in community institutions that engage with government systems

Creates: Village Development Committees and Shasan Mitras that unlock public resources

₹250 Cr

in government funding leveraged for village development

Holistic Village Development

Invest in institution-building and integrated village planning

Creates: Village Development Committees that continue driving change beyond project completion

250+ Dream Villages

created, demonstrating sustainable, community-led development

9 Stages For a Dream Village Journey

From aspiration to sustainable change

Baseline Assessment

"We listen before we act."

A comprehensive baseline captures the village's current state across sectors and becomes the village's development fingerprint, and the honest starting point for everything that follows.

Stages 01

Convening Power Test

"Can this community lead its own change?"

Swades tests the village's readiness through a collective village activity. Villages that demonstrate this readiness move forward, ensuring every Dream Village is built on genuine intention.

Stages 02

Participatory Rural Appraisal

"The community maps its own reality."

Community members gather to map their own village: its assets, its gaps, its aspirations. The PRA produces a living document that belongs to the village, not to Swades.

Stages 03

Stages 04

Community Mobilisation

"The shift from recipient to owner."

Swades works alongside communities to shift mindsets — from waiting for external solutions to leading internal ones. Change in behaviour precedes change in outcomes.

Village Development Planning

"A village writes its own future."

Using the PRA as foundation, the community co-creates a Village Development Plan — a roadmap that sets priorities, assigns local ownership, and aligns government schemes with community needs.

Stages 05

Institution Building

"Structures that outlast us."

Village Development Committees, Water Committees, Education Committees, Farmer Collectives — institutions are formed, trained, and handed real decision-making power.

Stages 06

Implementation

"Action, convergence, momentum."

Programmes are activated in synergy. Government convergence is unlocked. Resources multiply. The village moves.

Stages 07

Dream Village Recognition

"A village celebrates itself."

When a village crosses 70% of 40+ parameters across all six pillars, it is recognised — by Swades, but most importantly, by itself. Recognition is not an endpoint, but a declaration of what is now possible. **250+ Dream Villages Celebrated.**

Stages 08

Sustainability

"The village leads itself."

Swades progressively withdraws. Institutions self-govern. Government schemes flow directly. The development engine now runs on community fuel.

Stages 09

What's Next?

Scaling the Dream Village Movement

Building on the success of our community-driven model, we are now embarking on our next ambitious journey. In partnership with the Government of Maharashtra, Swades aims to create 1,000 Dream Villages across the state, bringing holistic and sustainable rural development to thousands more communities.

On 5 September 2024, Swades Foundation and the Government of Maharashtra signed a Letter of Intent (LoI), marking a significant step towards scaling the Dream Village model and accelerating inclusive rural transformation across Maharashtra.



**Government of
Maharashtra**



The **6S** Framework

The 6S Framework serves as the foundation for Dream Villages, measuring progress across six interconnected dimensions — Swachh, Sundar, Swasth, Sakshar, Samruddh, and Srishti

Swachh Clean



Every household has access to toilets, safe drinking water, and effective waste management systems, enabling villages to become open defecation free and healthier places to live.

Sundar Beautiful



Villages are equipped with improved infrastructure including internal roads, solar streetlights, and cleaner public spaces that enhance safety and dignity.

Swasth Healthy



Communities demonstrate improved health-seeking behaviour with access to primary healthcare, trained Swades Mitras, institutional deliveries, and timely vaccinations.

Sakshar Educated



Children have access to quality education and functional school sanitation facilities, helping improve learning outcomes and reduce dropouts, especially among girls.

Samruddh Prosperous



Families earn dignified incomes through diversified livelihood opportunities across on-farm, off-farm, and non-farm sectors.

Srishti Climate



Villages adopt climate-conscious practices including water conservation, regenerative agriculture, renewable energy, soil restoration, and tree plantation.

6 Villages



Washihaveli's Clean Turnaround (Swachh)

Once known as a fishing village plagued by foul odour, Raigad's Washihaveli has transformed into a clean Dream Village. Community-installed wash basins across lanes and waste segregation at source have led to better hygiene, making cleanliness a shared responsibility in this ODF village.



Gaydhond, Painted in Prosperity (Sundar)

Gaydhond, Nashik's first Dream Village, is emerging as a model of prosperity led by its vibrant youth community. Homes painted in mango hues and adorned with traditional Warli art reflect the success of Sonchafa cultivation, a high-value, climate-resilient livelihood that can potentially generate an annual income of ₹50,000–₹1 lakh per acre while strengthening community pride and cultural identity.



Walls That Teach, in Hirdipada (Sakshar)

Speaking walls, Smart TVs and other digital learning tools—empowered through convergence with government schemes — have created an engaging environment where children learn every day in Hirdipada, Nashik.

6 Dimensions of Change

Kalune's Second Harvest (*Samruddh*)

Farm ponds, water for irrigation, vegetable cultivation, floriculture, goat rearing and second cropping have transformed livelihoods, enabling over half the farmers to cultivate an additional crop and build resilient incomes.



Adgaon, Restoring Health (*Swasth*)

With the support of a dedicated Swades Mitra, Adgaon has strengthened access to essential healthcare. A comprehensive health camp led to 17 senior citizens receiving cataract surgeries, alongside regular primary health check-ups and timely referrals, fostering a healthier community.



Community Stewardship of Natural Resources in Belpada (*Srishti*)

Recharge shafts, Jal Tara structures, Continuous Contour Trenches, farm ponds and voluntary shramdaan have ensured that wells retain water well beyond summer, while solar-powered drinking water systems, schools and irrigation infrastructure have strengthened climate resilience in this Nashik village.



Swades Holistic Model: Growing in Scale



1,50,000+

Households impacted



6,00,000+

Lives impacted



3,100+

Villages impacted



₹600+ CR

contributed to the rural economy
through livelihood interventions
over the last six years



10,000+

Students supported for
higher education



50,000+

Rural homes provided
with drinking water tap
in the house



39,000+

Household toilets
constructed



1,800+

Swades Mitras serving
~6,00,000 people

Swades Holistic Model: Deepening Impact

Swades interventions are
active across **3,100+** villages.



2500+ Villages
are empowered
with 3 or more
thematic areas



1800+ villages
are empowered
with all 4 thematic
areas

Of the 3,123 villages where Swades interventions are active, over 2,500 (80%) have received three or more interventions, while 1,867 (60%) have received four or more—reflecting the growing depth of the Dream Village model.

1,50,000+ households have benefitted
from Swades programmes

25,000+ households
are empowered with
all 4 interventions

40,000+ households
are empowered with
3 or more interventions

60,000+ households
are empowered with
at least 2 interventions

Of the 1,51,840 households reached by Swades interventions, 60,000 have benefitted from two interventions, nearly 40,000 from three or more, and around 25,000 from four or more—reflecting the progressive, multi-dimensional impact of the Dream Village model.

A Decade of **Holistic,** **Sustainable Transformation** in Dream Village, Nagloli

Since 2017, Swades Foundation and the people of Nagloli in Raigad have worked together to create a village where every intervention reinforces the next—ensuring healthier families, stronger livelihoods and a better quality of life.



127

Households
with access to
safe drinking water



100%

Households
with toilets
sustaining ODF
status



29

Solar street
lights in the
village



DIVERSIFIED

Livelihoods through
orchards, dairy, goat rearing
& poultry



"Our journey with Swades began in 2017 when every house received a tap with drinking water, and many homes got solar lights. When the Dream Village programme was introduced, the entire village came together with a shared commitment to achieve every parameter. Today, we segregate our waste and send recyclable plastic to Green Communities Foundation, while initiatives like goat rearing, orchard development and other livelihood programmes have strengthened our incomes. We are proud to have been certified as a Dream Village twice. We are deeply grateful to Swades for walking this journey with us."

— **Vijay Padave, VDC Member, Nagloli**





Water Security

127 households have access to safe drinking water through a community-managed water supply scheme, supported by a Swades-built pipeline network.



Sanitation and hygiene

Every household has a toilet, enabling Nagloli to sustain its 100% Open Defecation Free status through strong community ownership.



Health-seeking behaviour

A dedicated Swades Mitra serves as the village's first point of contact for primary healthcare—mobilising families for health camps, facilitating screenings and referrals, and strengthening the link between the community and the Primary Health Centre.



Better Learning

The village school and Anganwadi are equipped with Swades-supported WASH facilities, improved infrastructure and solar power, creating a healthier and more conducive learning environment.



Prosperous Livelihoods

Swades has enabled diversified livelihoods through 30 mango orchards, along with dairy, goat rearing and poultry, helping families build resilient sources of income.



Environmentally Conscious

With 29 solar street lights, household solar lighting, village signage, and plastic segregation and recycling through partner organisations, Nagloli continues to champion environmentally sustainable practices. Defecation Free status through strong community ownership.

Water, Sanitation & Green Initiatives

A village's resilience begins with a reliable water source. It grows with clean sanitation, renewable energy, and forests that hold the soil in place. WSG builds this ecosystem piece by piece, community by community, so that rural families are not just surviving a changing climate, but shaping a future beyond it.

Transformed over **2,97,800** lives by improving access to drinking water, sanitation, and irrigation for agriculture





Water Security (Drinking Water Schemes in homes and schools)

Water scarcity and depletion of traditional water sources threaten rural livelihoods, agriculture, and ecological balance. We believe clean drinking water is a basic human right. Our goal is to ensure every rural household in our geography receives up to 200 litres of safe, potable water daily—delivered through a tap at home. To achieve this, we implement robust water systems that source water from natural sources or wells, store it centrally, and distribute it through a durable village-wide network. Our networks ensure that communities have access to safe water year-round, ending the acute shortages typically seen during the four months of peak summer. This water lifeline extends beyond homes and into the classrooms through our WASH program.



Swades has created an estimated drinking water access capacity of
45–60 million ltrs per day

18–24 Olympic-size
swimming pools daily

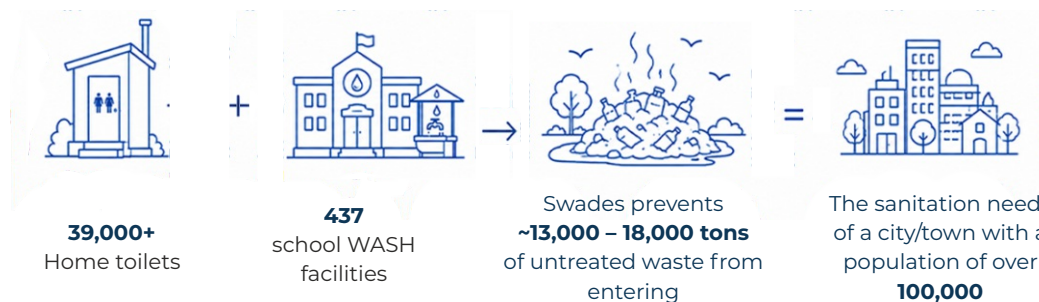
*Assumption based on conservative rural domestic water supply norms linked to cumulative household tap connectivity.

Sanitation, Public Health and Village Dignity

(Household sanitation and School WASH facilities)

Our household sanitation programme has brought functional toilets to rural homes, creating open defecation-free villages where families no longer compromise on privacy or safety. The toilets aren't just clean, they're circular. Built on a twin compost pit model, they convert waste into nutrient-rich compost that goes back to enrich the fields.

Inside schools, the same principle holds: children learn better when they feel safe and well. Our School WASH programme ensures students have clean drinking water, hand-washing stations, and separate toilets for girls and boys, removing a significant barrier that keeps too many children, especially girls, away from classrooms.



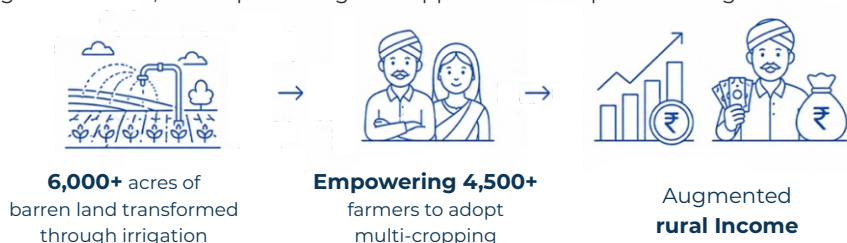
*Assumption based on conservative rural sanitation waste generation estimates linked to household sanitation access.

Securing water, safeguarding land

(Climate Adaptation Through Water and Natural Resource Management)

Water security underpins every aspect of life in agriculture-dependent communities — influencing crop productivity, groundwater availability, soil health, and long-term climate resilience. We address this challenge through a dual approach: improving water use efficiency and strengthening the natural ecosystems that sustain water resources across the landscape.

Through climate-smart irrigation solutions, farmers move expand cultivable land and adopt multiple cropping seasons each year. Complementing this, our Natural Resource Management (NRM) programme focuses on restoring and conserving water, soil, and forest resources through community-driven action. From constructing farm ponds, contour trenches, and groundwater recharge structures to desilting rivers and promoting afforestation, we adopt an integrated approach that improves ecological balance.



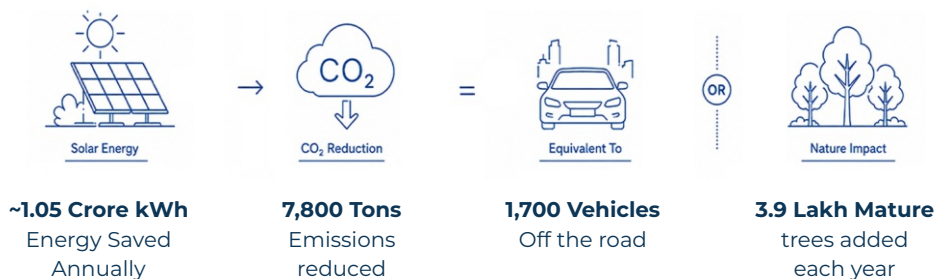
*Assumption based on conservative rural domestic water supply norms linked to cumulative household tap connectivity.

Generating power that doesn't cost the Earth

(Renewable energy and low-carbon rural systems)

Reliable energy access is critical for rural development, impacting education, water access, and daily life. Our clean energy programme addresses this gap through decentralized solar solutions that reduce dependence on diesel and unreliable power grids.

Solar installations power streetlights, schools, and water pumps, ensuring consistent energy access while lowering costs and reducing carbon emissions. This creates a more sustainable and self-reliant energy future for rural communities.



*Environmental equivalencies are indicative estimates derived using standard greenhouse gas conversion references.

Breaking New Ground in 2025-26

Ponds that Power Prosperity (Farm Pond Expansion)

Building on existing water conservation efforts, this year we scaled up decentralized farm pond systems. Farm ponds give farmers a buffer against erratic rainfall, enabling longer cropping seasons and providing the conditions to diversify into higher-value crops such as vegetables and flowers. A total of 104 farm ponds were completed in FY 2025–26, benefitting 312 farmers.

104 Farm ponds
completed in FY 2025–26

312 farmers benefitting
from the expansion

Creating Spaces That Inspire Learning (School Beautification)

Upgraded infrastructure, sanitation facilities, and introduced wall art and murals across 120 schools to create safer, healthier, and happier learning environments.

120 Schools upgraded with
improved infrastructure, sanitation
& green spaces

- **Better attendance** & daily participation
- **Student well-being** in a cleaner campus
- **Improved** learning outcomes

Plastic Waste Recycling for Rural Ecosystems

We piloted a circular economy initiative that transformed 5,184 kg of plastic waste from programme villages into 162 utility tables, distributed across 87 schools and 75 anganwadis, creating a practical model for waste-to-infrastructure solutions.

152.37 Metric Tons
of plastic waste from Swades villages
recycled and diverted from landfills to date.

162 utility tables produced
87 schools reached
75 anganwadis reached





Voices from the Community



When Swades Foundation team first came to our village, it felt like someone had come to help us. We shared our struggles with them. Through their support, a water project was launched in our village and everything began to change.

Today, our children can go to school on time, and we can focus on our work. We no longer have to walk 2 kilometres every day just to fetch water. Most importantly, we don't have to carry heavy pots of water on our heads anymore. There is peace of mind now. The constant worry about water is gone. Today, we simply open a tap and fill water with happiness."

**- Padmini Bhoye,
Peth, Nashik**



"After I got married and came to my husband's house, life was extremely difficult. During the day, it was hard to find privacy, and at night, we lived in constant fear of leopard, snakes, and other wild animals. But ever since Swades Foundation helped build toilets in our homes, those worries have disappeared. We no longer have to wait for a particular time or step out into unsafe areas. We can live with dignity, comfort, and freedom. Today, our village is open-defecation free. The change has improved the health, safety, and well-being of everyone, but especially of women. We are so grateful."

**-Kanchan Karunde,
Igatpuri, Nashik**

WSG Impact

(Water, Sanitation & Green Initiatives)

Till Date
FY : 2025-26

Water Security		
Drinking Water Schemes	29	792
Acres of land under Irrigation (WFI)	784	6,136
Sanitation		
Household Sanitation Units	4,266	39,222
School WASH Programme	164	437



Renewable Energy

Home Solar Programme	6,438	24,644
Solar Street Lighting	1,321	4,499
School & Anganwadi Solarisation	162	531
Biogas Programme	5	65

Natural Resource Management

NRM recharge structures	23	
Bench Terracing	744	
Farm Pond with WFI	312	
Food Forest (Sapling planted)	1,26,972	14,96,430



Health

We remain committed to building a rural health system where no one is left behind — one where communities do not wait for healthcare to arrive, but are equipped to seek, access, and sustain it. Through trained local volunteers, integrated care models, and strong partnerships with government and hospitals, we are closing the gap between rural communities and the quality care they deserve.

More than 5,00,000 lives touched through comprehensive healthcare programs spanning primary health, eye care, childcare, and NCD (Non Communicable Diseases) management





■ Community as First Responder (Swades Mitra)

Swades Mitras are the backbone of our community health model — the first point of care, risk identification, and trust-building. In FY 2025–26, 69 new Mitras were onboarded, screening 1.17 lakh people for blood pressure, providing first aid to 54,985 individuals, and surveying 40,000+ children for health conditions. Their efforts have helped achieve 99% institutional deliveries across Swades geographies — a powerful testament to community trust.



1,804 active Swades Mitra
serving a population of
~6,00,000 across Swades
villages in rural Maharashtra

Swades geographies recorded **99%** institutional deliveries, driven by the efforts of Swades Mitras.

■ Bringing primary healthcare and screening to rural doorsteps (Village Health Camps)

Swades' Village Health Camp model is designed as a continuum — screening, diagnosis, referral, treatment, and follow-up — not a series of isolated interventions. This year, 32,573 individuals were screened across camps, with 80% of suspected cases referred for and accessing further treatment. Among diabetes and hypertension patients, treatment adherence reached 96% and 79% reported measurable improvement in symptoms. These outcomes are considered exceptional by any rural health benchmark.



32,573 screened at village
health camps across Swades
geographies

Through village health camps, **80%** of identified cases followed through on referrals, while 96% adhered to the recommended treatment

■ Restoring vision through screening, spectacles & cataract treatment (Vision Care)

Vision loss in rural India is overwhelmingly preventable. Swades' eye care programme addresses this with a structured, scalable model — from community-level pre-screening by Swades Mitras, through optometrist assessments, to surgical intervention at partner hospitals.

This year, 1.32 lakh individuals were pre-screened, 37,043 received optometrist screenings, 14,905 spectacles were distributed, and 2,763 cataract surgeries were performed. Ninety-five percent of cataract patients showed improvement in symptoms. Ninety-eight percent reported no impact on their social life post-surgery.

24,807 cataract surgeries completed with **95%** showing sustained symptom improvement (JHS Audit Report 2024–25)



5 lakh individuals screened by optometrists and Swades Mitra

■ Shifting women's healthcare from treatment to prevention (Women's Health)

Swades' women's health programme—in partnership with Namco Hospital, Nashik's first dedicated cancer facility—focuses on the early detection of breast, cervical, and oral cancers, along with other gynaecological conditions. In FY 2025–26, 1,563 women were screened, enabling early diagnosis and timely treatment for conditions that, if left undetected, can have life-threatening consequences. The numbers are still small, but the intent is far greater: to normalise preventive health-seeking behaviour among women, improve awareness of routine screening, reduce the stigma associated with women's health issues, and make early detection a community norm rather than an exception, ultimately improving long-term health outcomes and saving lives.



1,563 women screened;
3 cancer cases treated

■ Child Health and development (Childcare)

Swades screens children across tribal residential schools and communities for cardiac conditions, hearing impairments, and low vision — conditions that often go undetected in rural settings until they become irreversible. This year, 9,142 children were screened across 24 tribal residential schools, with 85% of identified cases referred for further diagnosis. Four cardiac surgeries, 16 hearing surgeries, and 290 visual aids were provided.

The outcomes speak quietly but powerfully: 94% of children who underwent cardiac intervention resumed normal life. Eighty percent of hearing intervention patients showed full recovery.

300+ children treated for low vision, hearing and cardiac condition;
100% parents reported improved social functioning



70 camps conducted in tribal residential schools since 2024,
screening **17,183** students, **4,142** suspect cases referred for follow-up.



Breaking New Ground in 2025-26

■ Building Health Leaders Within Communities

Seventy-six high-performing Swades Mitras (trained community health volunteers) across Raigad and Igatpuri in Nashik were identified and developed as local health leaders through advanced capacity-building and mentorship. Equipped with enhanced technical knowledge and leadership skills, they play a critical role in promoting preventive healthcare, facilitating timely referrals, supporting maternal and child health, and strengthening linkages between communities and public health facilities. By creating a cadre of community-rooted leaders, the initiative not only improves the quality and continuity of health services but also builds a sustainable pipeline of local champions capable of driving long-term health outcomes even beyond Swades' direct engagement.

■ Partnering with Government for Better Health

Swades Foundation signed a district-level Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Maharashtra in Nashik, formalising a strategic partnership to strengthen public health systems through a collaborative approach. The MoU covers key focus areas including Universal Health Coverage (UHC), eye care, maternal and child health, non-communicable disease (NCD) prevention and management, and school health programmes in tribal residential schools. By aligning Swades' community-based interventions with government priorities, the partnership enables greater convergence of resources, stronger referral networks, improved service delivery, and more efficient implementation of public health programmes.





Voices from the Community



"Earlier, I found it difficult to hear others' words clearly. It started out as a slight inconvenience initially, but slowly it became more and more difficult to pay attention in class or focus on lessons. Communicating with my family, friends or teachers also became difficult. Thanks to Swades, my problem got detected at the right time and I had access to the best remedies. Since receiving my hearing aid, I can hear much better, participate in school, and enjoy spending time with my friends just like everyone else. I am very grateful for this gift because it has allowed me to go back to life as it was. I hope that all children who are fighting any form of physical ailment like me are able to get access to the best help like I did.

**– Yash Santosh Walekar,
Mangaon, Raigad**



"All my life, I had decent vision. It got slightly bad after a certain age, but I thought it was a regular age-related problem. I didn't pay much attention, but gradually, it came to a point where my vision got very blurred. So much so that I couldn't even do simple tasks like cooking, walking around my home, and recognizing familiar faces. Part of me had accepted that this was a part of growing old. Luckily the Swades Mitra in my village detected that there was a problem and referred me for cataract surgery. After my cataract surgery, it felt as if the world had become bright again. I can now manage my daily chores independently and move around with confidence. I know many others who have benefitted from this life-changing operation. I am deeply grateful for this support and for helping me see the world clearly again."

**– Shakuntalabai Kashinath Dagale,
Igatpuri, Nashik**

Health Impact

Till Date
FY : 2025-26

Swades Mitras created	69	2,697
Active Swades Mitras		1,804
Vision Care: Individuals screened by Swades Mitras	1,90,877	5,45,883
Screenings conducted by optometrists	37,043	3,03,130
Refractive errors detected	16,539	1,50,016
Spectacles distributed	16,818	1,43,101



Cataract identified	3,575	48,946
Cataract surgeries completed	2,763	24,807
Children supported with vision & hearing aids/surgeries	312	2,761
Individuals screened for cancer (oral, breast and cervical)		81
Cardiac care for children	5	188
Residential Tribal School Health Camp	7	70



Education

We remain committed to transforming rural classrooms by creating a joyful and inclusive learning environment. Along with robust infrastructure, trained educators, and opportunities that go beyond the traditional curriculum, we nurture conscious citizens of tomorrow.

Over **1,61,000+** students impacted across **1,589** schools and **1,037** anganwadis through infrastructure upgrades, scholarships, learning innovations, and teacher training





■ Mindset Change

Over the years, Swades Foundation has evolved its education approach from strengthening schools to empowering entire communities to become active partners in a child's learning journey. Recognising that education extends far beyond the classroom, the Foundation now works with parents, School Management Committees, village leaders, and community volunteers to create an enabling environment where every child can thrive.

This year, 45 new Education Committees were formed as grassroots institutions that give communities a genuine voice in shaping educational outcomes. These committees actively monitor school functioning, encourage student attendance, support learning initiatives, mobilise parents, and work closely with teachers and local government to address challenges.

3627 community school leaders / volunteers + **3534** school staff have been trained through Swades' initiatives



■ Enabling Environment

A child cannot learn in a school that lacks water, light, or dignity. We invest in the physical conditions that make learning possible — clean drinking water, handwashing stations, and separate toilets for boys and girls, in line with UNICEF guidelines. Solar power systems are installed to ensure uninterrupted electricity for fans, lights, and digital tools, particularly in areas where power cuts are frequent and unpredictable. These are not additions. They are foundations — the basic infrastructure without which no curriculum, however strong, can fully reach a child.



531 schools & anganwadis equipped with solar facilities



75% report savings in electricity expenses while leveraging **digital learning tools**

790+ schools / anganwadis supported with WASH and solar infra impacting **60,905** students

■ Future-Ready : Mass and Excellence Scholarship

Recognising that financial constraints often force talented students to discontinue their education after Grade X or XII, Swades offers two scholarship pathways that support students at different stages of their academic journey. Mass Scholarships enable students to continue their education in Grades XI and XII, a critical transition period when many rural families struggle to meet rising educational expenses. For students with exceptional academic potential, Excellence Scholarships provide financial support to pursue professional degrees in fields such as Engineering, Medicine, Chartered Accountancy, Architecture, Agriculture, etc. Beyond financial assistance, the programme offers guidance, helping students overcome personal and academic challenges to remain focused on completing their education.



On average, Excellence Scholarship students earn **3.74 lakh p.a.** significantly augmenting family income

To date, **9409** students received mass scholarships and **1240** received excellence scholarships, achieving a proud **100%** course completion rate across both programs.

■ Strengthening Soft Skills

The Edu Skilling – Problem-Solving Mindset Programme equips students in Grades 9–12 with essential 21st-century skills such as critical thinking, communication, collaboration, creativity, and decision-making. Implemented in tribal residential schools across four blocks of Nashik, the programme follows a Train-the-Trainer model. Udhya Learning Foundation designs the curriculum and trains Swades master trainers, who then deliver the programme using structured teacher manuals and student workbooks. The programme follows a structured process comprising school onboarding, trainer capacity building, baseline and endline assessments, classroom sessions, regular monitoring, and final project presentations. By solving real community challenges, students develop confidence, resilience, leadership, and a problem-solving mindset that prepares them for higher education, employment, entrepreneurship, and active citizenship.

Equipping **Grades 9–12** students with essential 21st-century skills through experiential learning and problem-solving



Breaking New Ground in 2025-26

■ Learning Beyond the Classroom with Edu-skilling programme

The Edu Skilling Program was implemented with the objective of nurturing problem-solving skills and empowering students to become proactive changemakers. Designed by Udhya Learning Foundation and implemented by Swades Foundation, the programme adopts an activity-based and experiential learning approach. Through structured sessions, students learn to identify real-life challenges, analyse root causes, engage with stakeholders, and design and test practical solutions within their schools and communities.

■ Conducted district-level Abacus Programme

The Abacus Initiative was implemented across 15 Tribal Residential Schools in Nashik district to strengthen students' numerical ability, concentration, memory, and analytical skills through structured Abacus training. Since 2023, 1,578 students received basic training, while 614 high-performing students underwent advanced training in FY 2025–26. To ensure sustainability, teachers from participating schools were also trained to mentor students. Through school- and block-level evaluations, 156 students from Grades 4–7 qualified for the district-level competition. The event showcased strong student performance, with 129 participants scoring above 200 marks, reflecting the effectiveness of the programme. The initiative significantly enhanced students' confidence, mental agility, and academic engagement while promoting innovative, skill-based learning approaches within schools.





Voices from the Community



"Swades Foundation gave me the opportunity to turn my dreams into reality. I now have a real chance at chasing my dream of becoming a police officer. Without this scholarship, it would have remained just a dream, because my family didn't have the resources to support my ambitions. I am deeply grateful for this chance and will work hard to make the most of it. I hope that every young boy or girl in rural India gets an opportunity like this to follow their dreams and achieve something meaningful in life. I will be the first girl in my community to walk this path and cannot wait to make everyone – especially my family – proud."

- Roshni Khade, Igatpuri, Nashik



"Through Swades Foundation, our school received a solar power system that has made a significant difference to our learning environment and experience. The students or as a teacher I no longer have to worry about power cuts or electricity bills. Our classrooms remain well-lit and comfortable thanks to fans working all day, allowing students to stay focused on their studies without any interruptions. It has also helped teachers concentrate better on teaching, creating a more productive and positive atmosphere for everyone. It is encouraging us to think of adopting other smart devices to enhance the quality of teaching in our classrooms."

**- Ran Sankaye, Teacher at Zilla Parishad
Adiwasi School, Sudhagad, Raigad**

Education Impact

Till Date
FY : 2025-26

Schools reached	82	1,589
Anganwadis reached	87	1,037
Students impacted	7,197	1,61,307
Excellence scholarships for professional courses	345	1,240
Mass scholarship (Grade XI & XII)	928	9,409



Students provided abacus training	264	12,098
Schools provided with library support	12	671
Career counseling given to students		60,625
Education committees formed	45	182



Economic Development

Our livelihood initiatives enhance rural prosperity through a comprehensive approach. The On-Farm Programme promotes sustainable, year-round farming of vegetables, fruits, and flowers with techniques like solar drip irrigation, farm ponds and rainwater harvesting. The Off-Farm Programme offers steady income through activities such as dairy farming, goat rearing, poultry, and fishing, with a strong focus on empowering women and marginalized communities by providing skills, resources, and market access. The Non-Farm Programme empowers rural youth with vocational skills in diverse trades such as masonry, electrical work, data entry, hospitality, and beauty services, enabling them to build sustainable livelihoods through employment or self-employment.

An estimated ₹140 Cr contributed to GDP through livelihood interventions, enterprise development, and rural income generation in FY 25-26.





On Farm

The On-Farm Programme helps farmers transition from rain-fed paddy to year-round, high-value cultivation through improved irrigation, water security, and climate-resilient farming practices. By promoting fruit orchards, vegetables, floriculture, and crops like Safed Musli, alongside solar drip irrigation, rainwater storage, exposure visits, and expert guidance, the programme enhances productivity, diversifies incomes, and builds resilient farming livelihoods.



6,000+ acres of land irrigated
with 10,000+ farmers now
practising diversified farming

Off-Farm

Our Off-Farm Programme creates sustainable livelihoods through dairy farming, goat rearing, poultry, and fishing. It ensures steady income with innovations like hydroponic fodder, veterinary care, and market linkages.

60,000+ rural entrepreneurs
empowered through livestock



Non-Farm

Our Non-Farm Programme empowers rural youth with skill training in trades like masonry, electrical work, data entry, hospitality, and more, opening doors to formal employment. For those with entrepreneurial dreams, we offer training, exposure visits, and guidance, helping them turn ideas into sustainable businesses.



12,000+ rural youth skilled,
contributing **₹66 crore** annuall
to the rural economy



Breaking New Ground in 2025-26

■ Promoting High-Value Crops (Mushroom Cultivation)

In FY 2025–26, we launched a Mushroom Cultivation Programme in Nashik to empower women's Self-Help Groups (SHGs) through sustainable micro-enterprises. Implemented in partnership with KVK, the programme provides training, certification, and essential inputs for low-cost oyster mushroom cultivation. Beyond creating an additional source of income, it strengthens household nutrition and enhances women's economic participation and decision-making. Designed as a scalable, community-driven model, the initiative enables up to four production cycles annually, generating an estimated additional income of ₹15,000–₹16,000 per household each year.



■ Growing New Income Streams (Sonchafa Cultivation)



In FY 2025–26, we are promoting Sonchafa cultivation among small and marginal farmers in Nashik as a high-value, climate-resilient horticulture opportunity. The initiative leverages the Farmer Interest Group (FIG) model to facilitate collective aggregation, improve market access, and reduce cultivation costs through shared resources and knowledge. With strong demand from urban markets such as Nashik, Pune, and Mumbai, Sonchafa offers farmers a sustainable avenue for income diversification. From the second year onwards, a farmer can potentially generate an annual income of ₹50,000–₹1,00,000 per acre, creating a reliable and scalable livelihood opportunity.





Voices from the Community



After completing PV Solar Installer training, I secured a job earning ₹12,000 per month, with my salary growing to ₹22,000 within four months. Armed with experience, I returned to my village to start my own solar installation and repair business. Today, I lead a team of 20 people, run a grocery shop, and own a tractor—creating multiple income streams. Swades Foundation's timely support and skill training transformed my life, and I now dream of helping my village grow while inspiring others to do the same.

**- Jalinder Manbhav,
Ghotibavi (Peth, Nashik)**



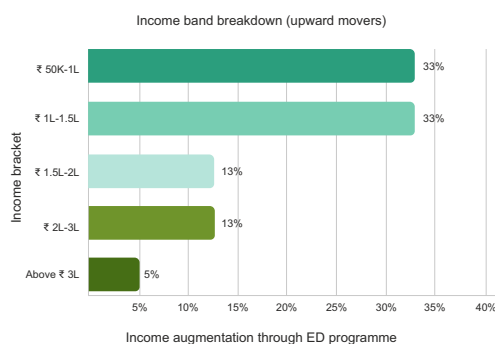
Returning to my village during the lockdown changed my life. With guidance and drip irrigation support from Swades Foundation, our land became a thriving orchard of mangoes, cashews, dragon fruit, pineapples, turmeric, and more. Today, as a Swades Sarvekshan Mitra, I help other farmers transform their farms too. I believe opportunities don't just exist in cities—they can be created right here in our villages.

**- Amar Rajendra Kadam,
Naneghol (Poladpur, Raigad)**

■ Swades Livelihood Programmes drive maximum impact among the poorest households



of households with annual income below **₹50,000** moved to higher income brackets



The Community Eco-system builders for Economic Development

4,815 community members trained by **50** Gyan Mitra, enabling adoption of the Swades programmes



Community knowledge ambassadors bridging farmers with markets and best practices

₹50,00,000 saved annually by **1,000+** farmers connected to 6 FPOs



Farmer Producer Organisations connecting smallholders to institutional buyers and inputs

261 self-help groups enabling access to credit, collective bargaining, and market linkages for **1560+ women**



Self-Help Groups providing credit access, collective bargaining and enterprise linkages

155 Pashu Sakhis have delivered veterinary services to **30,000+ goats**



Trained community livestock health workers delivering doorstep veterinary care to sustain and strengthen livelihood programmes



Economic Development Impact

Till Date
FY : 2025-26

Households (unique) supported with Swades ED programmes	4,642	59,970
Households supported with water for irrigation	561	3,929
Households supported with meat poultry		7,212
Dairy entrepreneurs created	691	5,746
Households engaged in goat rearing	1,055	11,130
Women Supported Entrepreneurship Programme		61



Youth trained in skilling programme	2,436	12,409
Households supported with New Orchard Programme	2,651	30,147
Households supported with Mandap Cultivation	75	1,792
Households supported with Fishing nets		1,792
Self Help Groups Supported		1,656
Households supported with Mogra cultivation		179
Households supported with Bamboo cultivation		275
Households supported with Sonchafa plantation		139



Honours, Awards and Recognition

Received in FY 2025–26



Recognised as a Pioneer in Scaling Girls' Education & Gender Equity in Rural India at the Desidhaakad Social Impact Awards DDSIA, co-hosted by NSE India and Etherwire.AI



Certified as a Great Place to Work, for the **7th year in a row**

In the News



What Happens When Villages Lead Their Own Change: Inside Swades Foundation's Community-Led Model of Rural Transformation

Swades Foundation transforms rural Maharashtra through its 4E model, turning villages into self-reliant Dream Villages with water, health, education, and women's leadership at the core.

THE HINDU

Swades Foundation reshaping rural India through mindset change

Guided by the motto, 'Swa Se Bane Des' or 'I make my own country,' the Foundation today works across over 1,300 villages across Maharashtra, building a model of empowerment that is sustainable, and community led

THE HINDU businessline.

Swades Foundation poised to set up 50 more 'dream villages' in Maharashtra

The foundation signed a letter of intent with the Maharashtra government to create 1,000 dream villages, says its founder Zarina Screwvala

SOCIALSTORY

How Swades Foundation helps rural girls step into the healthcare workforce

By training girls from farming families in Maharashtra's Raigad as vision technicians and ophthalmic assistants, Swades Foundation is reshaping healthcare access and empowering women to take control of their futures.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

From forced migration to jasmine blooms: Farm ponds spark economic turnaround in tribal Peth in North Maharashtra

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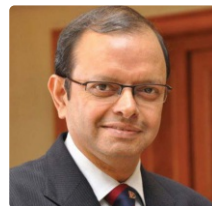
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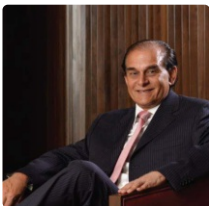
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Zia Mody

Founder and Senior
Partner, AZB &
Partners



LIGHTHOUSE PROJECT

Conscious Citizens For A Better World

A transformative mentorship and
values-based learning program



Founded in 2013, The Lighthouse Project is a Mumbai-based not-for-profit organisation that connects working professionals and college students with youth from under-resourced communities through one-on-one mentoring. Many of these young individuals are first-generation learners who often lack access to consistent role models and opportunities that build confidence and essential life skills. Through a structured three-year model, the program focuses on Life and Social Skills, Career Readiness and Leadership Development.

The year 2025-2026 has been a period of significant growth, where our mentees not only thrived and evolved into better versions of themselves, but also excelled in their personal development and academic journeys.



The needs of youth in today's rapidly changing world continue to evolve. As they navigate important transitions—from choosing academic streams and planning for higher education to taking greater responsibility within their communities—we believe our role must continue to evolve alongside them.

Over the past year, The Lighthouse Project adapted our program to better support young Mumbaikars at these critical stages. We transitioned to a focused three-year mentoring journey: beginning with close one-on-one mentoring and consistent handholding in Grade 10, followed by a leadership program where students identified and addressed real needs within their communities, and culminating in career guidance, exposure, and skill-building in Grade 12.

One of the most meaningful milestones this year was seeing former mentees apply to become mentors themselves, giving back to the very communities they come from. For us, this is one of the strongest indicators of the program's impact and its long-term sustainability.

At The Lighthouse Project, we strive to nurture a community of conscious citizens who participate actively in the world around them, who develop a sense of belonging and responsibility, and who recognise that personal growth and the wellbeing of their community are deeply connected. Our team has worked tirelessly to support both mentors and mentees on this journey. As always, we continue to learn and strengthen our program with each passing year.

Our heartfelt thanks to our mentors, donors, partners, and supporters - The Lighthouse Project is built on a collective effort, and it is through your generosity and dedication that this work is possible. And of course our mentees who continue to teach us, inspire us and open our minds everyday. We are grateful to be on this journey together.

Trishya Screwvala

Founder, The-Lighthouse-Project

Board Member, Swades Foundation





The Big Picture:

2013 – 2026

1,600
mentees impacted

1,300+

completed school and
progressed to higher education

300+

Graduated and
secured jobs

600+ mentors volunteered to mentor
and empower young people





Grade 10 Mentoring Program

At the Lighthouse Project, mentors spend 2.5 hours each month with mentees over an 8-month period, working to build aspiration levels, develop life skills and social skills and provide exposure to an extensive Lighthouse Activity Bank aligned with the program's focus areas. The Lighthouse team provides training and individual support to help mentors build strong relationships with mentees and tailor sessions based on each mentee's interests and developmental needs.

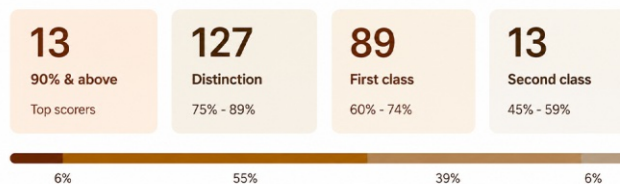
FY 2025- 26

Mentees supported - 232

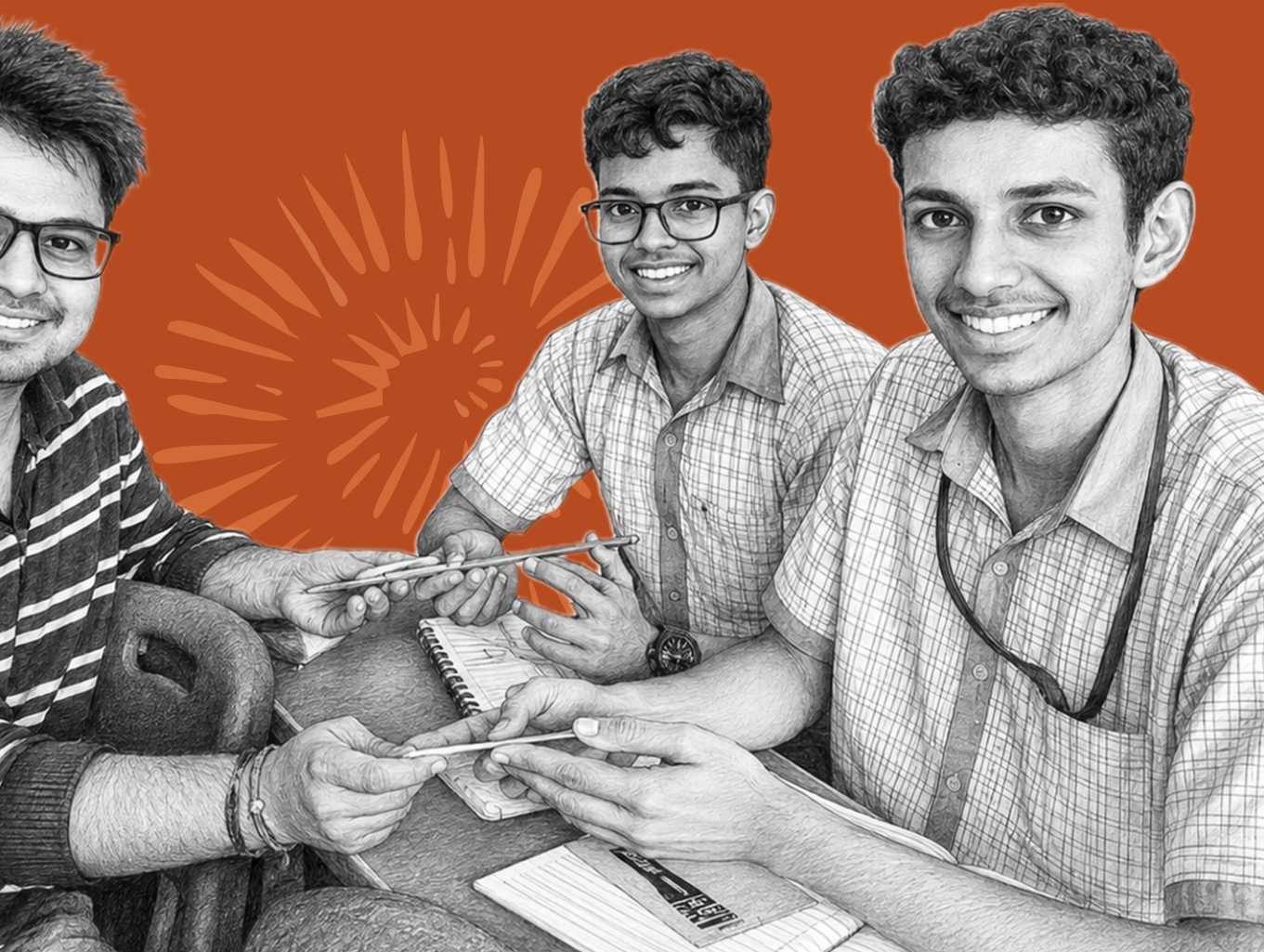
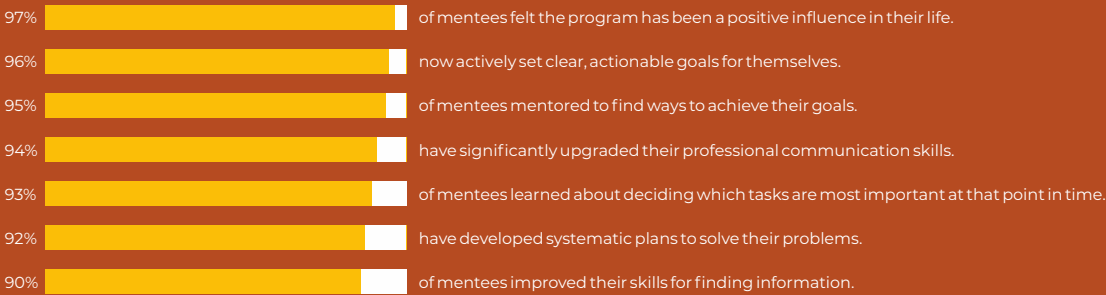
Academic Highlights of our Grade 10 mentees in FY 2025-26:

In the academic year 2025-26, 231 Grade 10 Lighthouse Project mentees appeared for the SSC Examination, demonstrating strong academic performance and commitment to their educational goals.

231 mentees appeared for the SSC examination



Beyond the Classroom: How our Grade 10 Students Rated Their Learning Experience



Reflections

"My mentor is really great. I like to talk to her. I used to not share any personal stuff with her and only about school, exams and studies. She is a good listener and gives good advice. One day I realised that I can share things with her and can trust her so then I shared a few things and felt very good. I realised sharing and expressing our emotions is good and it calms us. She keeps checking on me"

– Female Mentee, Cotton Green Centre

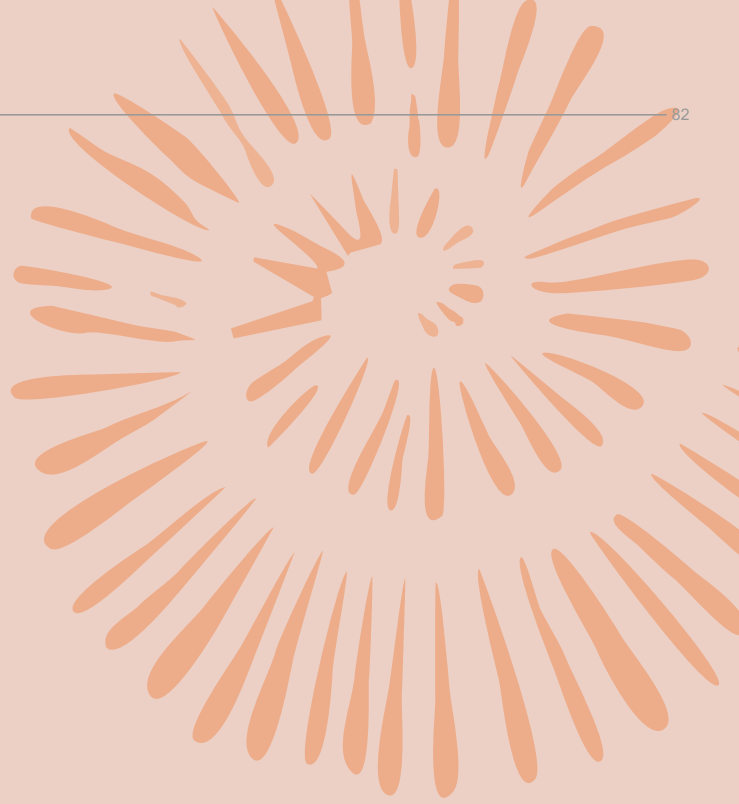
"I was so bad with scheduling. My mentor bhaiya made my schedule specially and told me that this is all I need to do and this is how I need to divide my time and this will help me improve my marks. And I saw improvement in my prelimsexam."

– Male Mentee, Andheri Centre

"We made a vision board. We talked about goals, board percentage, what skills I want to learn, where do I want to go travelling, everything I want. I felt satisfied because I never thought about my goals."

– Female Mentee, Andheri Centre





Grade 11 and 12

The Junior College phase is designed to provide Grade 11 and 12 mentees with meaningful real-world exposure and experiences as they navigate an important stage of their educational journey. Key program components include one-on-one support to ease the transition into junior college, exposure to opportunities and experiences beyond their immediate environment, corporate visits, workshops and participation in a unique Leadership Program. Through these interventions, we aim to anchor leadership in self-awareness, empathy and purpose, empowering mentees to drive meaningful action in their communities and beyond.

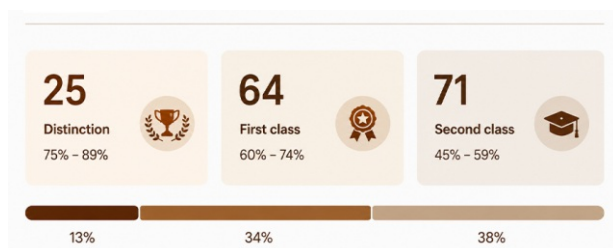
FY 2025- 26

Mentees supported - 188

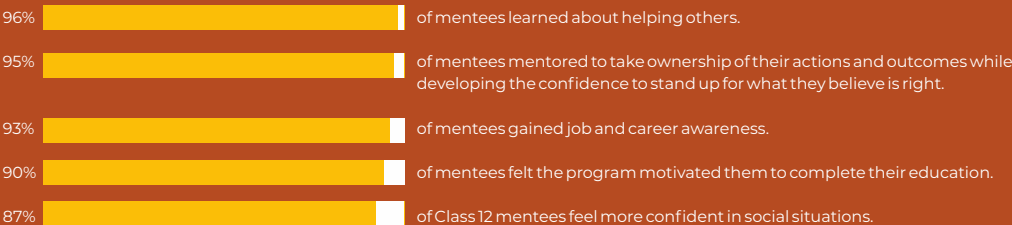
Academic Highlights of our Grade 12 mentees in FY 2025-26:

The 2025-2026 academic year saw our Grade 12 mentees complete their HSC examinations, a significant step toward their academic and professional aspirations. Their performance is a testament to their dedication, resilience and commitment to achieving their goals.

188 mentees appeared for the HSC examination



Beyond the Classroom: How our Junior College Students Rated Their Learning Experience



Reflections

Every young mind is full of curiosity, creativity and has a never-ending will. The only thing a young mind needs is direction, care and support. The Lighthouse Project has truly enlightened a way to provide direction to such young minds. I can say that I was not thinking about myself, my career, or what the world beyond school was like, but today, where I stand, I feel confident. These young years of life are the most sensitive, we do not know what we should do. I think in the Lighthouse Project, I first got to explore myself. I started understanding my responsibilities, my emotions, my stress and how I should manage them. I observed one key commonality in all sessions: each session led towards self-awareness, breaking inferiority and allowing a way for youths to express themselves with other youths and understand what others feel. Mentorship is truly not about making ways but exploring them together. Because of Lighthouse Project, I gained clarity about my career and now I feel confident about what I chose to become. Even before our 12th board examination, we had an enjoyable session to help us give our best in exams. Today, I am pursuing CA, and each time I feel confident or I feel uncertain and afraid, I know I have the Lighthouse team to support me."

-Vedant Nilesh Sawant, Male Mentee





Degree College

Lighthouse Project continues to provide guidance and support to its alumni mentees as they navigate higher education and early career opportunities. Through ongoing engagement, the program remains a source of encouragement and mentorship beyond school and junior college.

Impact Snapshot | FY 2025-26

Mentees Supported	469
Currently pursuing degree education	271
Transitioned into workforce	198



Inspiring Alumni Journeys



Krisha Jalvankar

Successfully launched and is running her own nail art business, demonstrating entrepreneurial spirit and determination.



Sujal Suthar

Employed as a Data Analyst at one of the world's fastest-growing manufacturers of bimetal and saw blades, applying his analytical skills in a professional setting.



Geetanjali Naidu

Employed as a Sales Expert at a renowned company in Bangalore, building a successful career in the corporate sector.



Sabiha Khan

Employed with an Air Quality Index startup and contributing to environmental solutions.



Suraj Gupta

Graduated from IIT Kharagpur and has since embarked on his professional journey with a leading multinational bank.

These are just a few examples among many inspiring alumni stories. Across higher education, entrepreneurship and the workforce, Lighthouse Project mentees continue to pursue their aspirations, contribute to their communities, and create positive change in their own unique ways.

New Initiatives in 25-26

Leadership Program

This year, Lighthouse Project piloted a unique leadership development opportunity for Grade 11 mentees through a thoughtfully designed Leadership Program. A total of 77 Class 11 mentees enrolled in this program where they worked on designing and implementing their own community projects. 56 mentees completed the program with an average of 7.6 sessions and 19.1 hours of engagement.

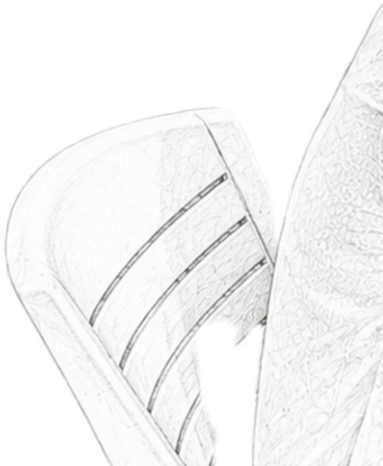
Rooted in the principles of human-centred design, the program encouraged mentees to observe their surroundings with curiosity, empathise with diverse stakeholders, identify real-world challenges, generate creative ideas and test potential solutions. Through this experiential learning journey, mentees were empowered to think critically, collaborate effectively and take meaningful action on issues that matter to them.

Impact Snapshot | FY 2025-26

Class 11 mentees enrolled	77
Mentees who completed the program	56
Average sessions per mentee	7.6
Average engagement hours per mentee	19.1

Outcome: Experiential learning helped students to:

- Think critically
- Collaborate effectively
- Take meaningful action on issues that matter to them



Mentorship is a Two-Way Street

How Our Program Impacted Mumbai's Working Professionals

Each year, Lighthouse Project welcomes dedicated professionals and college students to serve as mentors, creating an experience that is both meaningful volunteer engagement and a valuable learning journey. Rooted in the principles of human-centred design, the program encouraged mentees to observe their surroundings with curiosity, empathise with diverse stakeholders, identify real-world challenges, generate creative ideas and test potential solutions. Through this experiential learning journey, mentees were empowered to think critically, collaborate effectively and take meaningful action on issues that matter to them.



Reflections

"It's a beautiful journey. You learn and unlearn a lot of things in the process. Patience is the key here. As a working professional leading a team, it's difficult to hear no from your teammates. You don't want a project to fail. But when you are interacting with kids, they do not care. They will say whatever they want. And suddenly you realise life is not just about projects and deadlines. It's okay to fail, it's okay to say no and it's ok to speak your heart out. You would love it."

- Lighthouse Project Mentor

"Be patient and open-minded. Every mentee learns and grows at their own pace, and the impact you make, may not be immediately visible - but your consistent presence, empathy, and willingness to listen can make a lasting difference in their journey."

- Lighthouse Project Mentor

Mentees identified pressing community challenges and developed projects focused on:



Creating awareness about gender stereotypes



Promoting civic sense and community cleanliness



Addressing parking issues that hinder access for emergency vehicles



Highlighting the impact of garbage dumping grounds near schools



Improving access to community learning spaces



Beach clean-up drive at Khar Danda.



The street play focused on raising awareness about the importance of segregating dry and wet waste.

A Mentorship Story



Vaibhav Sharma, a consultant at a global consulting firm, has always believed in giving back to society. After informally mentoring juniors during college, he found a meaningful opportunity through the Lighthouse Project, where he was paired with two BMC school students, Ayush Mandal and Umang Tiwari.

Although they came from similar backgrounds, their personalities were very different. Ayush was quiet, thoughtful, and self-aware but lacked confidence in turning his potential into action. Through regular conversations, Vaibhav helped him strengthen his decision-making, confidence, and structured thinking using simple problem-solving frameworks.

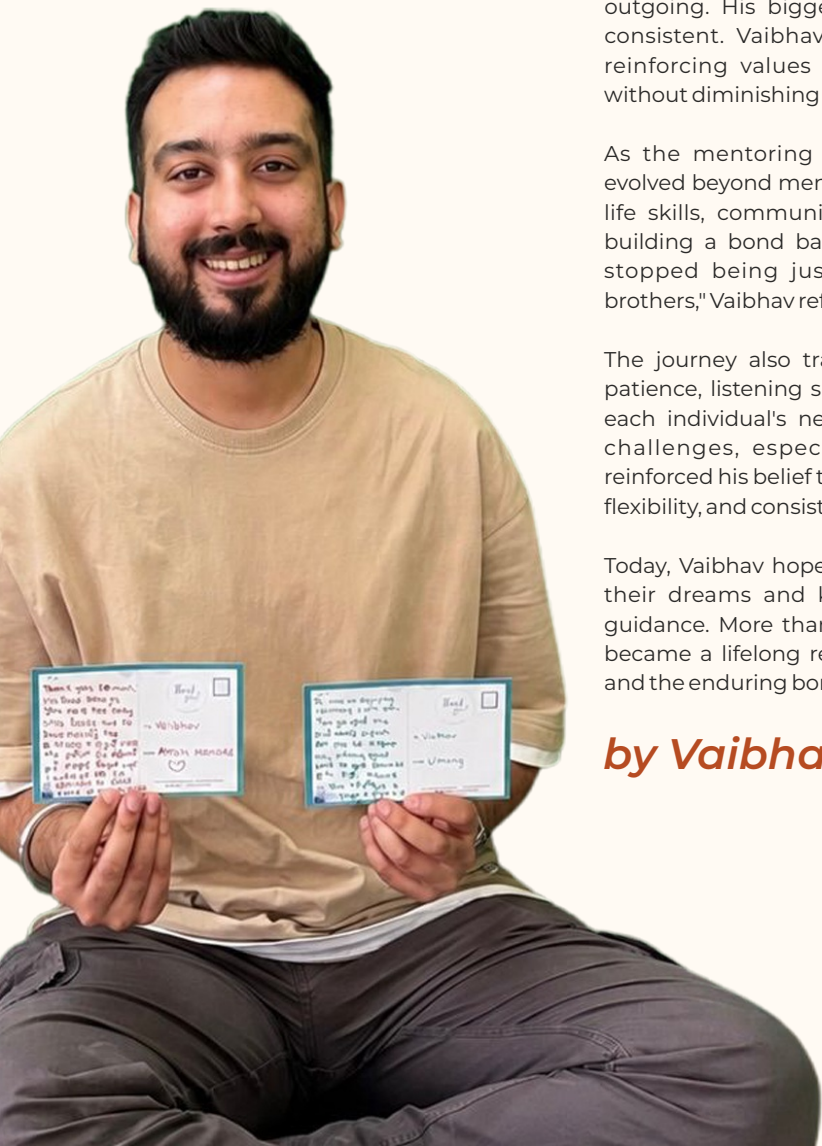
Umang, on the other hand, was energetic, cheerful, and outgoing. His biggest challenge was staying focused and consistent. Vaibhav worked with him on discipline while reinforcing values like empathy, gratitude, and integrity without diminishing his enthusiasm.

As the mentoring journey progressed, their relationship evolved beyond mentor and mentees. They discussed careers, life skills, communication, and personal growth, gradually building a bond based on trust and mutual respect. "They stopped being just mentees and became my younger brothers," Vaibhav reflects.

The journey also transformed Vaibhav. It strengthened his patience, listening skills, and ability to adapt his guidance to each individual's needs. While virtual mentoring presented challenges, especially in maintaining engagement, it reinforced his belief that meaningful impact requires empathy, flexibility, and consistency.

Today, Vaibhav hopes Ayush and Umang continue to pursue their dreams and know they can always turn to him for guidance. More than a mentorship program, the experience became a lifelong relationship built on trust, shared growth, and the enduring bond of brotherhood.

by Vaibhav Sharma



Balance Sheet

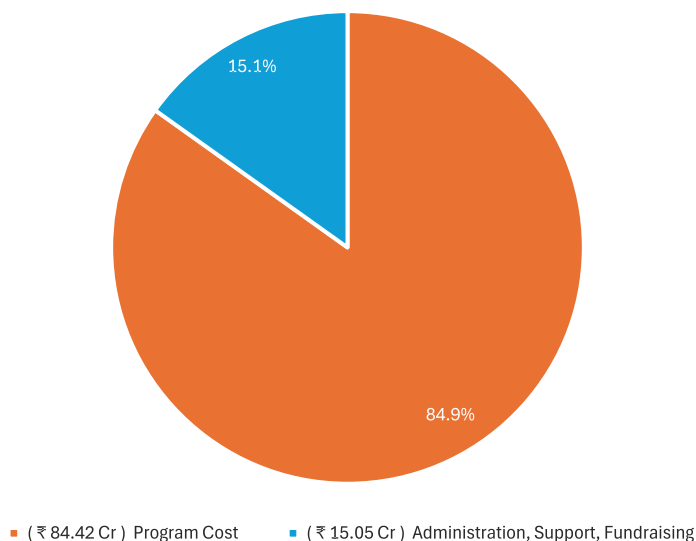
Swades Foundation Balance sheet as at 31 March 2026 (All amounts in INR thousands, unless otherwise stated)			
Particulars	Note No.	31 March 2026	31 March 2025
(A) EQUITY AND LIABILITIES			
(1) Shareholders' funds			
(a) Share capital	3	100	100
(b) Corpus fund	4	850	850
(c) Reserves and surplus	5	(8,266)	(5,864)
		(7,316)	(4,914)
(2) Non-current liabilities			
(a) Long-term provisions	6	33,795	30,299
(b) Deferred Income	7	4,307	7,483
		38,102	37,782
(3) Current Liabilities			
(a) Trade payables			
(i) total outstanding dues to micro enterprises and small enterprises (Refer Note 22)	8	568	4,190
(ii) total outstanding dues of creditors other than micro enterprises and small enterprises	8	18,933	14,927
(b) Deferred Income	7	3,177	3,177
(c) Other current liabilities	9	27,319	67,745
(d) Short-term provisions	6	24,826	12,275
		74,823	1,02,314
Total		1,05,609	1,35,182
(B) ASSETS			
(1) Non-current assets			
(a) Property, plant and equipment, Intangible assets and Intangible assets under development (IAUD)			
(i) Property, plant and equipment	10	18,577	21,438
(ii) Intangible assets	10	4,349	5,875
(iii) Intangible assets under development	10	-	300
(b) Long-term loans and advances	11	647	302
(c) Other Non-current assets	12	370	110
		23,943	28,025
(2) Current assets			
(a) Cash and cash equivalents	13A	54,562	76,459
(b) Other bank balances	13B	850	850
(c) Short-term loans and advances	11	21,552	9,191
(d) Other current assets	14	4,702	20,657
		81,666	1,07,157
Total		1,05,609	1,35,182
Summary of significant accounting policies			
2			
The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.			
As per our report of event date attached			
For S.R. Batliboi & Associates LLP Chartered Accountants ICAI Firm Registration number: 101049W/E300004		For and on behalf of Board of Directors Swades Foundation CIN: U74999MH2015NPL266136	
per Ritesh Gada Partner Membership No:- 121898 Place: Mumbai Date: 26 June 2026		Rohinton Screwvala Director DIN No:- 00003423 Place: Mumbai Date: 26 June 2026	
		Zarina Screwvala Director DIN No:- 00004518 Place: Mumbai Date: 26 June 2026	
		Parag Ganu Chief Financial Officer Place: Mumbai Date: 26 June 2026	
		Nitish Bhardwaj Company Secretary Place: Mumbai Date: 26 June 2026	

Income and Expenditure

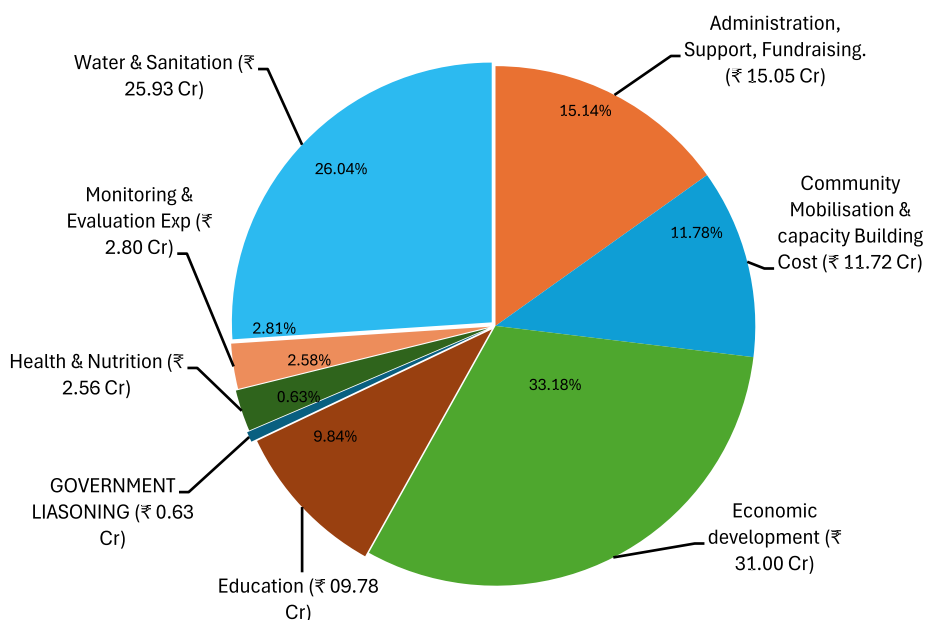
Swades Foundation			
Statement of Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2026			
(All amounts in INR thousands, unless otherwise stated)			
Particulars	Note No.	31 March 2026	31 March 2025
(A) Income			
(1) Donations	15	9,96,917	9,34,318
(2) Other income	16	6,032	2,773
Total Income (1+2)		10,02,949	9,37,091
(B) EXPENDITURE			
(1) Programme expenses	17	6,32,418	5,68,424
(2) Employee benefits expense	18	2,90,859	2,74,148
(3) Depreciation and amortisation expense	19	7,840	4,785
(4) Other expenses	20	63,675	62,134
Total Expenditure (1+2+3+4)		9,94,792	9,09,491
(C) Surplus of Income over Expenditure before exceptional item (A-B)		8,157	27,600
(D) Less: Exceptional Item	24G	10,559	-
(E) (Deficit)/Surplus of Income over Expenditure (C-D)		(2,402)	27,600
Basic and Diluted Earnings per share (in INR) [Face Value of INR 10 each (31 March 2025: INR10)]	21	(240)	2,760
Summary of significant accounting policies	2		
The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements. As per our report of event date attached			
For S.R. Batliboi & Associates LLP Chartered Accountants ICAI Firm Registration Number: 101049W/E300004		For and on behalf of Board of Directors Swades Foundation CIN: U74999MH2015NPL266136	
per Ritesh Gada Partner Membership No:- 121898 Place: Mumbai Date: 26 June 2026		Rohinton Screwvala Director DIN No:- 00003423 Place: Mumbai Date: 26 June 2026	Zarina Screwvala Director DIN No:- 00004518 Place: Mumbai Date: 26 June 2026
		Parag Ganu Chief Financial Officer Place: Mumbai Date: 26 June 2026	Nitish Bhardwaj Company Secretary Place: Mumbai Date: 26 June 2026

Financial Report

Activity Wise Expenditure in ₹



Program Wise Expenditure in ₹





📍 4th Floor, CEEJAY HOUSE, Unit no. 401, Dr Annie Besant Rd,
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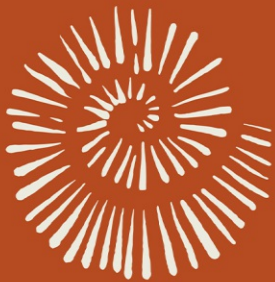
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