

Annual Report 2023-24



Socio Economic Development Trust

Dreamland, Kerwadi Ta. Palam Dist. Parbhani – 431720

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Dear Friends and Supporters,

Reflecting on the past year, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for our journey together. The years 2023-2024 have been a period of both challenges and triumphs, and it is through the unwavering support of our partners and donors and the tireless efforts of our team, we have continued to make a meaningful impact in the lives of the communities we serve.

Our focus this year has been on deepening our engagement with rural and tribal communities, particularly in the areas of education, health, and livelihood. We have expanded our programs to reach more marginalised groups, ensuring our initiatives are inclusive and holistic. The stories of transformation we have witnessed are a testament to the power of collective action and the resilience of the human spirit. The communities we serve have shown remarkable resilience, inspiring us to continue our work with hope and determination.

The highlights of this year have been our work strengthening the health, nutrition, and mental well-being of adolescent girls in these communities. Sant Dnyaneshwar Vidyalaya, one of our beloved projects, bagged the Chief Minister Award. A child from our children's home, Swapnaboomi, went to the US for an MS in Aeronautical Engineering. This progress would not have been possible without the dedication of our team and the trust of the communities we work with.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to empowering society's most vulnerable and marginalised sections. We recognise that there is still much work to be done, and we are prepared to face the challenges ahead with determination and hope. Our vision for the future is one where every individual, regardless of their background, has the opportunity to lead a life of dignity and self-reliance.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to each of you who has supported SEDT on this journey. Your contributions, whether big or small, have been instrumental in our success. I sincerely appreciate your support and the difference you have made in the lives of those we serve. Together, we can continue to build a more just and equitable world for all.

With gratitude,

[Suryakant Kulkarni]
Founder, SEDT India

About Us:

SEDT (Socio-Economic Development Trust) is a registered NGO with a history rooted in a profound commitment to social change. Established in 1980, SEDT was founded with a clear vision: to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those who need it most. What began in Kerwadi, a rural area in the Parbhani district of Marathwada, Maharashtra, has grown into a sustained effort over four decades dedicated to empowering individuals, especially those from marginalised backgrounds, and enhancing their quality of life.

At the heart of SEDT's mission is a deep commitment to strengthening social structures, supporting those in need, and elevating the socio-economic status of disadvantaged populations. As a Civil Society Organization, SEDT strongly emphasises the development and empowerment of impoverished and marginalised communities, focusing on women and children. The organisation's key areas of intervention include Education, Health, Resource Conservation, and Livelihood Development.

For 43 years, SEDT has been an unwavering presence in the Parbhani District, specifically within the Gangakhed and Palam blocks, where the challenges of poverty are stark, with nearly 40% of the population living below the poverty line. The high illiteracy rate among women under 30 is a critical issue, leading to their social marginalisation and limited access to economic opportunities. This inequality manifests in restricted access to essential resources such as education, healthcare, and nutrition for women.

SEDT's work is guided by a fundamental belief in the inherent strengths of the communities it serves. The organisation recognises that within these communities lies the potential to drive development and improve quality of life and societal well-being.



SWAPNABHOOMI(Dreamland) :

Dreamland remains committed to providing a nurturing environment for children's education, personal growth, and well-being. We have cared for children since 1980, and over 450 children have stayed with us. Now, they are leading their lives in mainstream society. This year was full of activities strategically planned for the holistic development of the children.

Key Achievements :

- Maximum 67 reside during the year at Dreamland, with 12 new admissions during the period.
- All students passed their 10th and 12th-grade exams; standout performances from Pandurang Paratkar (82.4%) and Ganesh Telange (80.8%).
- Events like Dreamland's Anniversary, Mother's Day, and International Yoga Day were celebrated.
- Life skill training, focusing on hygiene, communication, and decision-making, was conducted.
- Five children completed ITI courses and secured jobs in Sambhaji Nagar and Pune.
- 39 medals won in various district-level competitions by Dreamland students.
- 10th Std students, Sachin Kokadwar and Arun Pawar, received educational scholarship from Utkarsh Foundation.
- Independence Day, Ganapati Festival, Teachers' Day, Dahi Handi, Bail Pola, Diwali, Christmas, Republic Day, Ganesh Jayanti, Shivaji Maharaj Jayanti, and Sant Gadgebaba Jayanti were celebrated during the year.

"Me and my friend Pratik went to a Career Guidance Camp in Jalgaon. It was for four days. We had a lot of fun during those four days. I made many new friends during that session. We were divided into 7 groups. My team's name was The Alfaz. I felt like I was learning something new. They guided us well and boosted our enthusiasm" – Sachin, inmate of Swapnabhumi

- Pratik Kadam (9th Std) won 2nd prize in a block-level science exhibition.
- Omkar Kadam (9th Std) secured 1st place in a district archery competition, highlighting his natural talent.



Education Initiatives:

- **Offline & Online Coaching Classes**

During the summer holidays, various activities were conducted to enhance children's learning, focusing on English reading and writing skills.

- **English Classes & Progress**

This year, special emphasis was placed on improving English proficiency. Mr. Parameshwara Sir was appointed an English teacher who covered grammar, reading comprehension, and sentence formation.

- **Reading Activity**

To develop reading habits, children read books for 30 minutes daily and note key takeaways. This initiative has been well-received.

Skill Development & Career Guidance:

- **Life Skills Training**

Dreamland ensures holistic growth by providing life skills training conducted by Mr Papa Sheikh on Sundays. Topics include self-hygiene, decision-making, communication, and personal choices, and the training is tailored to children aged 6 to 18.

- **Career Guidance Seminar**

A four-day residential career camp was held in Jalgaon, where selected children gained insights into career choices and competition in the professional world.

- **Ideal Icons Session**

A motivational session featured successful professionals, including Dr. Sachin, who shared his MBBS journey and career strategies. The session inspired children to set goals and work towards them.

Running Innovative Science Centres at selected locations :

SEDT, in collaboration with HCL Foundation, has established **6 Young Kalam Science Centres** at five locations across India, Nagpur, Noida, Lucknow, Madurai and Chennai. These centers aim to **ignite scientific curiosity** among children, especially those from rural and underprivileged backgrounds. Through **hands-on experiments, STEM-based learning modules, and interactive activities**, the centres provide an engaging platform for young minds to explore science and technology. Regular **workshops, science fairs, and model-making sessions** are conducted to enhance practical knowledge and problem-solving skills. The initiative fosters **creativity, critical thinking, and innovation** to inspire the next generation of scientists and innovators. These centres have reached **thousands of children**, helping bridge the gap between theoretical learning and real-world applications.

Key achievements:

- 12609 students visited the science centres in the year 2023-24 (Girls – 7685, boys – 4924), where they explored the science exhibits on their own and provided support by the facilitators.
- 518 schools were associated with Young Kalam Science Centres via various activities at the centre. School teachers also visited with the students.
- 55 science clubs were formed to encourage young scientists to nurture their interest in science and participate in science centre activities, like STEM-related quizzes and competitions.

“Earlier I could only read and imagine the experiments explained in our science books like other students. I came to the Science centre, and the Facilitators allowed me to touch and handle all the experiments. I was happy and wanted to understand the experiments. So I learned a lot and stand first at District Level Science Exhibition organised by Education Department.” – Mohamad Wajed, 9th Class, Govt. Inter Jubilee School, Lucknow.

- 1106 students were selected as science club members to participate in the science club activities.
- Our science centre facilitators arranged 137 workshops to teach students basic science principles easily and practically.
- Saadhana A, Science Club Member is a student in 8th std from Velivithiar Girls Higher Secondary School, Madurai visits regularly at Young Kalam Discovery Science Centre, Madurai had participated in State Level Science Quiz Competition, and bag first prize. Hon'ble Tamil Nadu IT and Digital Services Minister Dr. Palanivel Thiagarajan awarded a cash prize of Rs.5,000 to Saadhana for her achievement.



- Events like National Science Day and exhibitions were arranged to increase involvement from local authorities.
- HCL tech employees volunteered to conduct workshops for the students at the science centres.
- 45 students have been trained to be student mentors to help other students understand the scientific concepts and participate in the science centre activities.
- We installed 20 new exhibits at Lucknow, Noida and Nagpur and some big-sized posters. These exhibits focus mainly on electrical circuits, parallel lines, magnetism, fluid, and conductors.

Discovery Science Centre, Kerwadi

In the past year, **3,163 students from 55 schools** visited the Discovery Science Centre. Additionally, key officials from various sectors, including the **District Women and Child Development Officer, Chairperson and members of the Child Welfare Committee, administrative officers from various institutions, Group Development Officer, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the Zilla Parishad, and other officials**, visited the centre.

During their visit, they expressed that the ***Discovery Science Centre would be highly beneficial for students in the district and for students and teachers from neighbouring districts and educational institutions. They appreciated how the scientific concepts demonstrated through practical experiments at the centre help students understand complex ideas simply and engagingly, making them easy to retain.***

Additionally, through the **Sangli Zilla Parishad initiative**, the organization **visited 11 science centres, ensured their proper maintenance, and trained science teachers in those areas.**

Under the Adolescent girls and school children **empowerment project** 1000 girls had the opportunity to visit the **Discovery Science Centre**.



Empowering Farmers for Sustainable Livelihoods

Agriculture is the primary occupation in our region, yet farmers struggle with financial instability due to low productivity and lack of access to formal credit. The district's agricultural yield remains at ₹20,000 per hectare, significantly lower than in Western Maharashtra. This disparity, coupled with high-interest loans from private moneylenders, has trapped many farmers in a cycle of debt.

The Debt Trap: A Harsh Reality

With limited access to banking services—only two banks for 92 villages in Palam Taluka—**90% of farmers rely on private moneylenders** who charge exorbitant interest rates of **5% to 10% per month**. Many farmers take loans for essential needs such as medical emergencies, social obligations, and farming expenses.

A case study highlighted a farmer who borrowed ₹100,000 at an annual **50% interest rate**. Over six years, he paid ₹300,000 in interest alone, yet his principal debt remained. Such financial burdens force farmers to sell their produce at lower rates to moneylenders, further worsening their situation.

The Initiative: Alternative Financial Support for Farmers

To break this cycle, we launched an **Agricultural Debt Relief Initiative** to provide **financial assistance** to farmers.

We initiated this project as a pilot **six years ago**, supporting **five farmers**. Encouraged by its success, we expanded the program to **ten farmers** in the following years. With a generous grant of **₹1 million (₹10 lakhs)** in the first phase, we extended financial support to **11 farmers across five villages** in Palam Taluka.

Selection Criteria and Implementation

Farmers were selected based on the following criteria:

- Must be **small landholders** and in genuine financial need
- **All children must be attending school**
- Women in the family must be **active in self-help groups**
- No family members should have **substance abuse issues**

Mr. Suryakant Kulkarni, Executive Director, led a meeting to discuss financial assistance utilization strategies. Farmers were encouraged to engage in **additional income-generating activities** such as **poultry farming, goat farming, vegetable cultivation, and dairy farming** alongside traditional agriculture.

Impact and Success Stories

1. **Increased Agricultural Productivity:** Financial assistance enabled farmers to **dig borewells, invest in irrigation, and expand crop cultivation.** One farmer improved his cotton yield from **30 quintals to 50 quintals across 4 acres.**
2. **Permanent Livelihood Stability:** **Smt. Kantabai Dattarao Bachate** from Sirpur stopped seasonal migration due to stable farm income.
3. **Diverse Income Streams:** Farmers successfully expanded into **poultry, dairy, and goat farming**, ensuring multiple sources of revenue.

Scaling the Initiative

Following the successful **first phase**, the initiative expanded to support **15 more farmers** in the **second phase**, bringing the total to **26 farming families** as of **March 2024**. The continuous cycle of repayments and reinvestments ensures that more farmers benefit each year.

The **Agricultural Debt Relief Initiative** transforms farmers' financial landscapes, providing them with sustainable solutions and breaking the cycle of high-interest debt. With continued support and expansion, we aim to empower more farming families and foster self-reliance and long-term economic stability in rural communities.



Priyadarshini Gramin Bigarsheti Mahila Sahakari Patsanstha

The **Priyadarshini Rural Non-Agricultural Women's Cooperative Credit Society, Kerwadi**, was established in 2002 to empower rural women through financial independence and self-sufficiency, under the guidance of SEDT. Initially catering to seven villages, the society has expanded its reach to **31 villages in Palam Taluka**. Through the support of **self-help groups**, it has provided financial aid, business opportunities, and socio-economic development programs for women in rural areas.

In addition to financial services, the society has initiated various development programs, including establishing the Sakhi Samriddhi Farmer Producer Company for women farmers and forming a **women's village federation under "Umed"** in Kerwadi village. The society actively facilitates access to **government schemes, mid-day meal programs, and government ration shops**, all managed by women. These initiatives have been crucial in ensuring women's financial stability and independence.

Key Achievements

- **Financial Inclusion:** The society has provided loans to many poor and needy women, enabling them to start and expand small businesses and become self-reliant.
- **Economic Empowerment:** Women associated with the society are engaged in **22 different types of agricultural and non-agricultural businesses**, contributing to economic growth.
- **Savings and Investment Growth:** The society encourages women to save and invest through **Fixed Deposits (FD), Recurring Deposits (RD), and general savings schemes**, leading to increased financial security.
- **Women's Leadership:** The society is governed by an **11-member women's board**, which ensures smooth governance and decision-making. Regular monthly meetings are conducted to review activities and plan for the future.
- **Community Development:** Women have taken leadership roles in managing government ration shops, ensuring transparency and accessibility of essential commodities in rural areas.

Financial Overview (as of 2023-24)

Villages Covered	31
Total Members	1,143

Total Savings	₹13,61,512/-
Loans Disbursed	₹41,52,109/-
Recurring Deposits (RD)	₹8,38,600/-
Fixed Deposits (FD)	₹30,64,242/-
Share Capital	₹8,26,700/-

These financial figures highlight the growth and stability of the credit society, reinforcing its role as a strong pillar for women's financial independence in rural areas.



Link Worker Scheme Project :

SEDT with the support of National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) and Maharashtra State AIDS Control Society (MSACS) implement the LINK WORKER SCHEME in Parbhani District since 2010. Till now we reached 284 villages in the district covered 4, 24,680 population, such as Migrant workers, high-risk groups, truckers, spouses of migrants and truckers, existing PLHIV (People living with HIV) from the selected villages. We Tested for HIV 1,51,880 and found 179 new HIV-reactive people along with their spouses and Linked to ART for a better healthy lifestyle. Also connected to social benefit schemes for livelihood. Symptomatic Sexually transmitted infection tested of villagers is 1,12,503 and diagnosed and treated 5652 STI Cases. TB tested 8248 and found 119 TB cases and linked for DOTS treatment. All services linkages collaboration with the Rural Hospital (ICTC), Primary Health Centre and civil hospital. For social scheme benefit we collaborated with Tahasil Office, BDO and Women and Child Development Office in Parbhani District.

In 2023-24, we achieved significant indicators of the Link Worker Scheme as per the details below.

1. Behaviour Component :

Outreach and coverage 2023-24 :

- Coverage population through by day to day contact 22324.
- Digital Wall painting at 40 LWS implementing villages.
- Established 210 condom depots in 100 Villages for free condom distribution and Motivation to condom depot holders for condom Social Marketing.
- In year free distribution of condoms 69779 pcs, to all category population.
- Participated Wad-2022 Events and Activity for creating Awareness.
- Conducted Sensitization on HIV/AIDS with youth at village level.
- Outreach activity for all villagers providing information on HIV/AIDS and other sessional dresses, Water and sanitation.

Participated in Health department activities such as the Vaccination campaign, and tree plant activity at 100 Villages of LWS.

2. Biological Component :

HIV Testing and Health Camp arranged in the year 2023-24.

- Arranged and conducted 153 HIV testing camps with support by town-wise ICTC.
- Organised 44 HIV Testing camps at the PHC Level this year.
- Out of LWS village, 06 camps were conducted as planned by ICTC.

- For STI, HIV And TB testing, the Health camp was conducted 16 this year with support from a Private Practisnor doctor in the nearest LWS village.



S. N.	Camps- Month	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
1	ICTC Camp	12	19	16	04	06	17	13	14	15	09	17	11
2	PHC Camp	03	07	02	04	03	07	06	01	04	01	03	03
3	Out of LWS Camp	01	0	02	0	0	0	0	02	0	0	01	0
4	Health Camp	0	0	0	04	0	03	04	01	01	0	01	02
	Total camp in Month	16	26	18	12	09	27	23	18	20	10	22	16

- Before the HIV testing camp, get permission from each gram panchayat, receive support and help from ASHA workers and Anganwadi workers for the camp, and receive technical support from the ICTC and PHC.

3 . Structural Componenet :

We established the RRC group, Stakeholder group (1248), and Villagers group at each village and VHND at each town. So we plan quarterly one meeting with each group total 5 meetings in one cluster ; the link worker arranged and conducted meetings and VHND meetings attended as per plan by PHC and ASHA worker.

Meetings and Trainings completed in this year –

- 289 Grampanchayat Meetings, 333 Stakeholders Meetings, 349 RRC members Meetings, 361 Villagers Meetings. These meetings were arranged and conducted by LWS staff to enable the environment and support for LWS implementation.
- Advocacy meetings with Govt. officials such as MSRLM, MAVIM and ASHA workers to get support for implementing LWS at village level.
- College youth sensitivity workshops were organised in 8 colleges with the help of NSS department.
- Conducted Coordination meeting with VIHAAN (Networked of PLHIV in district) for updated services to PLHIV and their family.
- Monthly Meetings were attended by Project Director or Administrative Officer of the organisation and project review conducted and given suggestions for improvement in implementation of the project.
- Two days capacity building workshop was organised by NGO and all LWS staff have attended it. Dr. Yash Velankar was the Resource Person for the workshop. He had guided on Self development, mindfullness, improving work efficiency.



Targeted Intervention MSM Project:

SEDT implements Targeted Intervention project for MSM community since 2005. Males having sex with males such as Kothi, Panthi, DD and TG. SEDT work with all the above communities for the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS. For HIV interventions targeted at men who have sex with men (MSM) to be successful, there is a need for conceptual clarity, implementation ability and an enabling environment. To ensure the programmer's performance and achieve the intended outcomes, adequate quality control and improvement mechanisms, regular monitoring and evaluation systems, and lessons learnt from prior experience are in place. Under the National AIDS Control Programme Phase IV (NACP-IV), MSM continues to be featured as a high-priority group. The prevalence of HIV among MSM in India is estimated at 4.43 per cent, which is more than 10 times that among the general population (NACO, 2011). The prevalence of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) is also high among MSM (e.g., Syphilis: 5.8 per cent to 14 per cent)

1. Behaviour Component –

Outreach and Coverage

- Population covered through day to day contact in 1088.
- New registration during the reporting period is 79.
- Provided services of TI to 915 Kothi, 25 panthi and 148 DD.
- During the year 224600 free condoms have been distributed and 7000 pcs have been distributed through Social marketing.
- Participated in WAD events and activities to create awareness.

2. Biological Componenet :

In The year 2023-24, National Aids Research Institute (NARI) and NACO conducted and arranged STI prevalence Study survey at our project. It was one of the sites selected from the six study sites in India. We tested 67 samples for STI at selected doctors and labs in Parbhani. All Reports and samples were sent to NARI.

During the survey NARI Officers have visited sites and appreciated the innovative work going on.

- From March 24, HSS survey was also assigned to SEDT by NACO and NARI. They have identified 250 samples for this activity.
- During this work Dr. Gatani, GMC, Nanded and DAPCU officers have visited the sites. Samples were sent weekly to NARI.



Biological services :

S. N.	Service	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
1	HIV testing	18	16	32	13	84	24	30	15	94	80	141	177
2	Find HIV Positive	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	STI Symptomatic Testing	335	355	345	329	355	350	341	351	351	349	362	385
4	Diagnosed STI & Treated	3	2	3	2	3	1	2	2	3	2	3	3
5	Syphilis Testing	145	125	145	122	175	300	75	15	70	80	315	410
6	TB Screening	225	220	200	185	156	161	191	15	0	2	5	245
7	Counselling Services	225	208	223	227	219	200	216	190	230	265	235	283

3. Structural and Monitoring Componenet :

As per guidelines, we are conducted advocacy meetings with different stakeholders such as Police, Bus stand Office staff, Railway station and Community lead partners for increasing support and help for the implementation of the project. MSACS representative and DAPCU officers have visited the project site during the reporting period. The MSACS officer and DAPCU officers visited the SEDT-MSM T.I. office, and a field visit

Shri Sant Dnyaneshwar Vidyalaya

For the academic year 2023-24, the total student enrolment from Grade 1 to 7 was 361 (Boys – 200, Girls – 161). The total enrolment in the Balwadi (preschool) was 40 (Boys – 22, Girls – 18)

Key Achievements –

- Digital Classroom : To integrate modern technology into education, the institution provided five TV units to the school. This has made teaching and learning more effective, engaging, and interactive for students.
- Curiosity Board : A Curiosity Board has been installed at the school entrance. It displays general knowledge facts, daily special events, motivational quotes, and an English word of the day. During the recess period, students note down the information in their notebooks and read it, which has significantly enhanced their general knowledge and sparked curiosity in learning.
- Fortnightly Tests: Fortnightly test is conducted based on the syllabus covered. The test scores are communicated to parents. These assessments have proven highly beneficial in improving students' academic performance.
- Scholarship Exam(Grade 5): The Grade 5 students were thoroughly trained for the scholarship examination. Their doubts and difficulties were resolved, and their practice improved significantly. The students performed well in their exam.
- Navodaya Entrance Exam Results: This year, two students from our school were selected for the Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya entrance exam i.e. Aradhya Sontakke and Renuka Panchal. Their achievement was widely appreciated, and the school honoured them. The school has continued its legacy of success in the Navodaya Vidyalaya selection process.

Mukhyamantri Mazi Shala Sundar Shala Campaign :

Shree Sant Dnyaneshwar Vidyalaya stand First at District Level in this Campaign, had Received prize of Rupees 11 Lakhs.

The first level of evaluation was conducted at the cluster level, where a team assessed the school, and our school secured the first rank in the Azamabad Cluster. After advancing to the taluka level, the evaluation team again assessed the school, and it secured the first rank. At the district level, the school underwent another thorough inspection by the district committee, including physical inspection and document verification. Among all the schools in the Parbhani district, our school secured the first rank

Empowering Adolescent Girls and School Children

SEDT, in collaboration with **Transnetyx, US**, is implementing an **Adolescent Empowerment Project in 25 villages of Palam Block**. This initiative focuses on **holistic development** by addressing key areas such as **health, nutrition, education and life skills for adolescent girls**. Through **regular workshops, training sessions, and interactive activities**, the project equips young girls with the knowledge and confidence to make informed decisions about their future. Special emphasis is placed on **menstrual health, gender equality, and career guidance**, ensuring they are well-prepared for adulthood. The project also encourages **community participation**, involving parents, teachers, and local leaders to create a **supportive adolescent environment**. This initiative empowers rural adolescent girls to break barriers and achieve their full potential by fostering awareness, self-reliance, and leadership skills. This year we worked with 2250 adolescent girls from villages, Parwa, Jawla, Farkanda, Digras, Fala, Ravrajur, Zola, Pimpri, Khorus, Pendu Kh, Pendu Brk, Peth Pimpalgaon, Ukkadgaon, Sirsum, Khadi, Mojamabad, Bhalkudki, Chorwad, Banwas, Pokharni and Umra.



We also worked with young children from all the above villages and sensitised them to the Child Rights provided to them by the country. All 25 villages have Bal Panchayats (Children Councils), including girls and boys. All the villages have a book library (Pustak Peti), managed by the Adolescent Girl Leaders. They maintain the library register and motivate girls to read the books.

During the year, various training sessions were arranged for adolescent girls on topics like menstrual hygiene, self-defence, mindfulness, and career guidance. During November-December, multiple competitions were arranged at each village, where girls participated enthusiastically and won many prizes. A get-together was arranged when our donor, Mr. Bob Bean, and his family visited Kerwadi. A study tour was arranged to visit historical places, which remained one of the beneficiaries' favourite activities.

Health and nutrition camps were arranged, where overall check-ups and blood tests were conducted. Many girls had low haemoglobin and poor dietary habits. Those girls were further sensitised to improving their nutritional habits and haemoglobin.

We have formed adolescent groups at each village, and our field team regularly meets them. These groups act as a safe space for the girls to share their issues. We also motivate the girls to improve their English language skills to acquire the skills required to get a good job and explore the available knowledge resources.

CHILDLINE:

The Childline Project is an important initiative that helps children needing protection and support. It solves children's problems, provides quick help, and keeps them safe from abuse and distress. SEDT established and ran a Childline at Parbhani from 2012 to 2023.

Our main objectives were:

- Support children in distress and take care of their well-being.
- Protect children from all types of abuse, including sexual abuse.
- Ensure quick help through a dedicated 24/7 child helpline service.

To effectively reach and help children, we worked with the Government's Child Help Line (1098), Registered complaints and problems of children, and provided immediate support. We also offered further help to solve their issues, such as counselling, legal aid, and rehabilitation.

The Childline India Foundation, under the Ministry of Women and Child Development, supports and monitors child helplines across India. With their help, we successfully implemented the Childline 1098 Project in the Parbhani district.

Key Features of the Project:

- India's first 24-hour, toll-free helpline for children in need.
- 24x7 operational centre in Parbhani to provide continuous support.
- A team of nine dedicated members to offer immediate relief, counselling, and legal help.

- Strong coordination with the Police Department for quick action and child protection.

Our team worked hard to ensure every child who called received timely help. We provided immediate relief, counselling, and legal support whenever needed, and we conducted regular follow-ups to ensure that the child's problem was solved.

After successfully running the Childline Project in Parbhani, we handed it over to the Government of India in September 2023. This step ensures that the project continues to help children under the government's direct supervision.

In the year 2022-23, we helped 1968 children in various matters, such as child marriage (138), lost and found (24), emotional support(24), and follow-ups of previous cases, providing shelters, restoring a child in the family, and protecting them from abuse.

We also conducted 108 awareness sessions at public places such as railway stations, bus stops, cinema halls, parks, tourist places, PCO Offices, schools, and slums.

The Childline Project in Parbhani was essential in helping and protecting children. Its success shows how NGOs, government agencies, and the police can work together to keep children safe. Now that the project is under the Government of India, we will continue to support child welfare initiatives and work towards a better and safer future for children across the country.

SAKHI –OSC(One Stop Centre for Women)

The OSCs serve as a critical intervention for all women, including girls below 18 years of age, who are affected by violence. They operate without discrimination based on caste, class, religion, region, sexual orientation, or marital status. For minor girls, institutions and authorities under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000, and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, are linked with the OSCs to provide appropriate support.

Objectives of OSCs

- To provide integrated support and assistance to women affected by violence in both private and public spaces under one roof.
- To facilitate immediate, emergency, and non-emergency access to various services, including medical, legal, psychological, and counselling support.

The "Sakhi" One Stop Center (OSC), Parbhani, was operated by SEDT since 2026 to June 2023. Sakhi provided comprehensive support services to women and children affected by violence from April to June 2023. This report presents a cumulative analysis of the cases registered and interventions carried out during this period.

Total Cases Registered: 61

Case Categories and Count:

1. Domestic Violence: 13 cases
2. Child Sexual Abuse: 05 cases
3. Child Marriage: 04 cases
4. Rape: 01 case
5. Missing Found Cases: 03 cases
6. Child Care Cases: 02 cases
7. Medical Assistance: 03 cases
8. Counseling: 03 cases
9. Prevention of Immoral Human Trafficking Act, 1956: 08 cases
10. Shelter Assistance: 19 cases

Interventions and Outcomes

Domestic violence cases were addressed through multiple joint meetings, mediation efforts, counselling, and legal guidance for applicants and respondents. Complex cases were referred to the Women's Help Desk/Bharosa Cell at the Superintendent of Police Office, Parbhani. Child sexual abuse, child marriage, and missing found cases were handled as per legal mandates, with coordination from the Child Welfare Committee to ensure appropriate action and victim support. Medical assistance was provided through referrals to healthcare facilities for necessary aid and examination. Psychological and legal counselling was facilitated through skilled counsellors and empanelled legal professionals. Human trafficking cases were managed in coordination with law enforcement agencies to ensure rescue operations and legal proceedings. Shelter support was extended to survivors of violence, with temporary accommodation and long-term rehabilitation facilitated through the Child Welfare Committee and other relevant authorities.

The "Sakhi" One Stop Crisis Center, Parbhani, played a crucial role in addressing violence against women and children by providing timely interventions, medical and legal aid, shelter, and counseling services. As part of the initiative to institutionalise and strengthen the support system for women, the One Stop Centres (OSCs) have been officially handed over to the government. This ensures their sustainability and continued expansion under government oversight, reinforcing efforts to provide immediate and long-term support for women affected by violence across the country.

FCC(Family Counselling Centre)

Socio-Economic Development Trust, Swapnabhoomi, Kerwadi, has been operating an FCC unit at the Superintendent of Police Office, Parbhani, under the District Women and Child Development Officer since **April 8, 2008**. For the past 16 years, the Assistance Cell has been working with women and children affected by **domestic violence**, intervening in **2,108 cases** so far.

From **April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024**, 196 cases were registered, out of which 165 were resolved, while 31 remain pending. Among the 165 resolved cases, 93 were settled through counselling and reconciliation. Additionally, in **7 cases**, women were assisted in filing claims for maintenance under the **Domestic Violence Act, 2005**, with a Protection Officer's help; in **56 cases**, police assistance was provided.

Of the **165 cases**, **66 were referred by the police**, **92 were directly reported by individuals**, and **7 were referred by NGOs and legal professionals**. Of these, **144 involved women**, while **21 involved men**.

Awareness Programs

To raise awareness about the Women and Child Assistance Cell, three awareness programs were conducted:



1. June 27, 2023 – At Jai Prakash Narayan De-addiction Counseling, Support, and Rehabilitation Center, Parbhani, a session was conducted on the impact of addiction on women and children, along with an introduction to the work of the Assistance Cell.
2. October 6, 2023 – At Rachana Nagar, Parbhani, a legal awareness session on the Domestic Violence Act, 2005, was conducted for women at a bakery training centre under Samata Doot Charitable Trust, Parbhani.
3. October 28, 2023 – At Shri Swami Samarth Bhojanalaya, Ughada Mahadev Area, Parbhani, a legal guidance session was conducted for women at a food and fruit processing centre, covering laws related to domestic violence and legal rights.

During these awareness programs, various government schemes were introduced, including, Childcare Schemes, Sakhi One Stop Center, Childline, De-addiction Centers, Rajgruha Shelter Homes, Nirbhaya Patrol Teams, Senior Citizens' Grievance Redressal Forum, Vishakha Committee (for workplace harassment cases).

Additionally, awareness was raised about child marriage prevention. The Women and Child Assistance Cell, operating under the Superintendent of Police Office, Parbhani, provides counselling and guidance to women, adolescents, children, and senior citizens, ensuring their safety and well-being.

FIRODIA KARANDAK:

Celebrating 50 Years of Artistic Excellence

Marking five decades of nurturing inter-collegiate talent and cultural heritage, Firodia Karandak stepped into its Golden Jubilee year in 2024 with grandeur and enthusiasm. The celebrations commenced with a spectacular inauguration ceremony on February 14th at the Annabhau Sathe

Auditorium, Pune, alongside a unique "Cinema on Stage" competition.

The event brought together students from nearly 45 colleges across Pune, showcasing a rich blend of drama, music, dance, sculpture, painting, shadow play, animation, and puppet shows, among other art forms. The competition followed its traditional three-stage format, with the preliminary rounds from February 14 to 18 and the finals on February 24 and 25.

The inaugural ceremony was graced by eminent personalities, including Padmashree Dr Arun Firodia, Dr Jayashree Firodia, Mr Suryakant Kulkarni (Chairman, Firodia Karandak), Mr Ajinkya Kulkarni (Chief Organiser), this year's sponsor Mr Puneet Balan, and Ms Simi Suri from HCL Foundation. Activists who played a key role in shaping the competition's early years were especially honoured.



A curated exhibition highlighted the festival's 50-year journey, displaying its evolution, milestones, and cherished memories. Open to visitors from February 14 to 18 and during the finals, the exhibition offered an immersive look into the legacy of Firodia Karandak.

The prize distribution ceremony was a spectacular event, featuring globally acclaimed musicians Ajay-Atul as chief guests, along with renowned personalities from the world of music and cinema. This Golden Jubilee edition of Firodia Karandak not only celebrated its glorious past but also set the stage for an even more promising future, reaffirming its legacy as a premier platform for artistic excellence and cultural expression.