



**SOCIO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TRUST,
KERWADI**

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025

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Founder's Note

Dear Friends,

As I reflect on the year, I am filled with deep gratitude for the journey that the Socio-Economic Development Trust has shared with the communities we serve. From our very beginning, we have believed that true development starts with empowering individuals—especially children, adolescents, and women—to realize their potential and claim their rightful place in society.

This past year has been a testament to that belief. Through our initiatives in Education, Adolescent Health, Women's Empowerment, Child Rights, and STEM learning, we have seen thousands of lives touched and transformed. The Kishori Vikas Project has continued to nurture the confidence and aspirations of adolescent girls. Our Young Kalam Discovery Science Centers have ignited curiosity and innovation in rural classrooms. Our efforts in child care and protection have ensured that vulnerable children find not just shelter, but also love, dignity, and opportunities. The progress we have made would not have been possible without the trust and support of our partners, donors, well-wishers, community members, and the tireless dedication of our team. Together, we have created safe spaces where children can dream freely, where girls can step forward with courage, and where women can contribute meaningfully to their families and society.

Yet, our journey is far from complete. The challenges of inequality, gender disparity, and limited access to opportunities remain. At SEDT, we see these challenges not as roadblocks, but as calls to action—reminding us to work harder, innovate further, and deepen our engagement.

As we move forward, I invite you all to continue walking with us—sharing your ideas, your resources, and above all, your faith in the power of collective change. Together, let us continue to build a future that is more just, more inclusive, and more compassionate.

With gratitude and hope,

Suryakant Kulkarni

Founder

List of projects for the year 2024-2025

1. Swapnabhoomi (Dreamland – a children's home)
2. The Young Kalam Discovery Science centre (STEM)
3. Kishori Vikas (Adolescent Girl's Empowerment)
4. Sant Dnyaneshwar Vidya Mandir
5. Sakhi Samrudhhi Sahkari Pat Sanstha
6. Priyadarshini Gramin Non-Agricultural Women's Cooperative Credit Society Ltd., Kerwadi
7. Link Worker Scheme – Parbhani District
8. Targeted Intervention Project for the MSM Community
9. Firodia Karandak

Swapnabhoomi:

Swapnabhoomi (Dreamland) has been a home for orphan children since 1980. It is located in Kerwadi, a small village in the Palam Block of Parbhani District, Maharashtra, India.

Swapnabhoomi has successfully nurtured the lives of 478 children to date, helping them integrate into mainstream society. Some of our children have excelled and secured IT-related work abroad, while many have joined the private sector and taken on jobs there. At SEDT, we strive for the holistic development of our children; therefore, making them feel at home is of the utmost importance. In addition to our standard counselling and mental well-being programs, we also emphasize health, nutrition, and sports participation for all children. We designed the menu in collaboration with a nutritionist, and the children actively participated in all the activities. We also arrange extra coaching classes for students to ensure their academic progress is good and they can secure admission to reputable colleges for higher studies. We have Children committees, where children learn to discuss issues and define solutions. This is also a peer learning process, where children learn to share their views, express their opinions, and help one another.

The Swpnabhoomi family has added 16 boys to the family this year. After cross-checking their family information, it was decided that these children could stay with us at Swapnabhoomi. We would support them in their holistic development and help them join mainstream society.



We conduct various activities for the children to inculcate the needed life skills amongst them so that they can grow as a mature adult and can be easily absorbed in the main stream society. This year we conducted training sessions on mindfulness and self-awareness. Special awareness

sessions were conducted on child rights and abuse. The children, under guidance from our team, arranged the elections enthusiastically. This was a learning experience for them, and an opportunity to learn team building and leadership skills.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

This year, nine children appeared for the SSC (10th Std) Board Exams and all passed. Sachin Kokadwar passed the exams with flying colours, while other children scored their best. These are their scores. Sachin - 94.44% 2. Arun - 88% 3. Nivrutti - 81.40% 4. Harioam - 79% 5. Ganesh - 72.2% 6. Tukaram - 70.4% 7. Siddheshwar - 63.8% 8. Omkar - 49% 9. Pratik Bondre - 48%.

All these children will register for higher education or vocational courses per their merit and the availability of admissions in the educational institutes.



Success in Science Competitions: Pratik Honale took part in a science competition organised by the school. He won third place at the taluka level and has been selected for the district-level competition. He created a project on "Electric Highways" independently, demonstrating great creativity and talent.

The Young Kalam Discovery Science Centre (STEM):

The Young Kalam Discovery Science Centre (YKDSC) project, initiated by SEDT, with support from the HCL Foundation, continued its mission in 2024–2025 to foster scientific curiosity, critical thinking, and innovation among school children. Inspired by Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam's vision, the project provides hands-on STEM education through interactive learning models, experiments, and guided mentorship. SEDT has established Young Kalam Science Centres at five locations across India: Nagpur, Noida, Lucknow, Chennai and Madurai. Every year, around 15000 students in corporation schools visit the Science Centres and handle the exhibits there. Our facilitators help them understand basic scientific principles in a fun and engaging way.

HCL Foundation

Meet the Scientist

Bhas Bapat
Professor, Department of Physics, IISER Pune
Formerly Dean, Academics, IISER Pune (2018-2022)

Research Areas

- Broadly, Atomic and Molecular Physics Experiments
- Specifically, Molecular Fragmentation studies under ion and electron impact, Molecular ionisation and fragmentation in intense laser fields
- Space Instrumentation/ Observations: development of an ion spectrometer for studying solar wind and energetic particles on-board ISRO's Aditya-L1 mission (at PRL, Ahmedabad)

SEDT

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This year, 13500 students were engaged in STEM activities via Young Kalam Discovery Science Centres across all five locations. Throughout the year, various initiatives, including Meet the Scientist, Exposure Visits, awareness sessions about STEM events, and Science Festivals, helped students and teachers enhance their scientific skills and nurture their interest in Science.



In photos above - Nagpur students' visit to Raman Maharshi Centre, Noida students' visit to National Science Centre, Delhi and Madurai students' visit to ISRO Trichi.



In photos, Chennai students visiting Birla Planetarium and Madurai Students visiting Isro Trichi.

Science Festivals: The Young Kalam Science Festivals were organised on December 24 and January 25 at all five locations. The schools responded well, and young scientists displayed their exhibits/models at the festival. The Young Kalam Science Fest provided a platform for students to showcase their immense talent, creativity, and innovative thought processes. This initiative also boosted their confidence and enthusiasm for STEM learning, inculcating a spirit of scientific curiosity and exploration. The best experiments were awarded cash prizes to encourage students to further develop and improve their experiments/models. Our science club members and mentors also participated in this program.



Kishori Vikas : (Adolescent Girls' Empowerment)



The Kishori Vikas (Adolescent Girls Empowerment) Project, a collaboration between Transnetyx and Socio-Economic Development Trust (SEDТ), continues its mission to empower adolescent girls aged 10 to 18 across 25 rural and tribal villages in Palam block of Parbhani district in India. This initiative addresses critical issues such as gender inequality, lack of access to health and education, and limited decision-making power among 2250 girls in the region.

Between April 2024 and March 2025, the project undertook a range of strategic activities to enhance the health, education, and leadership capacities of the beneficiary adolescent girls.



Kshori Group Meeting at village – a safe space for the girls for peer learning and sharing



Self Defence Training for the girls to increase self respect and confidence.



Raigad and Murud Janjira – Exposure visit for adolescent girls.

The Impact:

The Kishori Vikas project is being implemented in Palam Block, which is one of the most deprived blocks in Maharashtra State, India. The deep-rooted gender bias and the highest percentage of child marriage rate leave the girls with almost zero decision-making powers, low confidence levels and escalated health issues due to the negligence. When we started working in this area, the girls would never answer a question, would hesitate

to participate in the activities, and had a stigma about blood check-ups and menstruation. But slowly, things started changing. Now, the majority of the girls know their blood group, have started reading books, participate in cultural programs and exposure visits, and, most importantly, have begun speaking! Parents are gradually allowing the girls to pursue higher education and travel for it. Any change, especially a cultural change, is difficult and needs a consistent strategic approach. Hence, in our next phase of the project, we will identify a few leader girls from each village and strengthen them to conduct activities in their villages with our field team. We also plan to focus on activities for parents and teachers, as they are crucial influencers on the decisions made by the girls. This way, the impact would be sustainable, and we will be able to witness the results in due course of time.

Bal Panchayat: Nurturing Child Leaders
Children's Councils in 25 villages are growing stronger each day. We are sensitising the children about their rights, environment and conducting strategic activities for leadership development. Children have started reading books, many have prepared study corners in their homes, and they participate enthusiastically in the activities.



SANT DNYANESHWAR VIDYALAYA:



Sant Dnyaneshwar Vidya Mandir continued to raise educational standards and implement activities for the holistic development of children at Kerwadi. During the 2024–25 academic year, the school had a total enrolment of 426 students.

Chief Minister's "Majhi Shala Sundar Shala" Campaign – Phase 2

Following the success of Phase 1, the Government of Maharashtra launched Phase 2 of the "Majhi Shala Sundar Shala" campaign this year. Our school achieved remarkable recognition:

1st Rank at the Cluster, Block and District Levels

3rd rank at the Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar Division Level



Our proud team is accepting the award for Mazi Shala Sundar Shala.

Success in the Navodaya Entrance Examination

Two students from standard V successfully cleared the Navodaya Entrance Examination: Rutuja Bhagwan Karanje and Soham Sanjay Paul.

Inspire Award Selection

From Grade VI, Sneha Sitaram Shete was selected to present her science model for the Inspire Award competition. Her project, *Reuse of Plastic*, was initially submitted online and was shortlisted for presentation at the next stage.

Financial Support for Farmers

Traditional challenge: **high-interest borrowing** → debt & stress

SEDT stepped in with direct financial assistance for agri-enterprises

37 families have been supported with total assistance of Rs . 20 lakh.



Outcomes:

1. Increased farm incomes and decreased financial stress.
2. 5 families established permanent irrigation facilities.
3. Seasonal migration is reduced, and families sustain livelihoods locally.
4. First 5 families repaid the assistance, ensuring a revolving support model.
5. Women farmers are gaining confidence, collective strength and resilience.



Priyadarshini Gramin Non-Agricultural Women's Cooperative Credit Society Ltd., Kerwadi:

Established in 2002 through women's self-help groups, the Priyadarshini Cooperative Credit Society has been empowering rural women in Palam block by providing timely credit, promoting savings, and supporting small businesses. Over the years, society has helped women become self-reliant, improve their family income, and gain respect in their households. The society is managed by an 11-member women's Board of Directors, which meets monthly to review progress and plan activities. This collective leadership ensures transparency, accountability, and active participation by women in the decision-making process.

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on 20th September 2024, chaired by Mrs. Gangatai Mane.

Key Resolutions: Approval of financial statements, audit report, and budget for 2025–26; appointment of auditor; sanction of new loans; admission of new members; strengthening savings, FDs, and RDs; and commitment to timely loan repayment. Members expressed their determination to repay loans responsibly and continue building a strong, supportive financial network for women.



Financial status of the Cooperative Society

Village covered – 35, Total members – 1230)

Savings – Rs.16,47,773

Loan disbursed – Rs.48,72,457

Recurring deposits – Rs.14,50,400

Fixed Deposits – Rs.38,11,452

Share capital – Rs.10,13,600

The Link Worker Scheme (LWS):

The **Link Worker Scheme (LWS)** in Parbhani district was initiated on **10th March 2010**, under the guidance of the **National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO)** and the **Maharashtra State AIDS Control Society (MSACS)**. The scheme is implemented by Socio-Economic Development Trust (SEDT), Kerwadi.

In the initial years, the project received support and monitoring from **AVERT Society, Mumbai** (for the first three years) and **KHPT, Pune** (for the following two years). Since 2015, the scheme has been guided and supported directly by MSACS, Mumbai.

Coverage and Outreach

Over the years, the scheme has expanded its reach to **310 villages** across Parbhani district, covering a total population of **4,47,205**, including migrant workers and their families, high-risk groups, and existing PLHIV.



Key Achievements (Cumulative):

HIV Testing: 1,62,703 individuals tested; 240 newly identified HIV-reactive persons, along with their spouses, linked to ART centres for treatment and care

STI Testing & Treatment: 1,22,459 individuals tested; 5,660 cases of Sexually Transmitted Infections diagnosed and treated.

TB Testing & Care: 9,581 individuals tested; 123 TB patients successfully completed treatment under DOTS.

During 2024–25, the project successfully achieved its major indicators under the **three core components of the Link Worker Scheme**, as outlined by **NACO** and supervised by **MSACS**.



Health Camp arranged at the village.

HIV Testing and Health Camp arranged in the year **2024-25**.

Sr.No	Camp s- Month	Apr -24	May -24	Jun -24	Jul -24	Aug -24	Sep -24	Oct -24	Nov -24	Dec -24	Jan -25	Feb -25	Mar -25
1	ICTC Camp	4	17	16	13	12	13	10	7	10	13	13	7
2	PHC Camp	1	2	4	2	4	4	1	5	5	2	0	0
3	Out of LWS Camp	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	1
4	Health Camp	0	2	2	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1
5	Total camp	6	21	22	17	17	18	13	15	16	17	15	9

- Conducted 135 HIV testing camps with support from town-wise ICTC & DAPCU.
- Organised 30 HIV Testing camps at the PHC Level this year.
- Out of the LWS village, conducted 06 camps as per the plan by ICTC.
- For STI, HIV and TB testing, a Health camp was conducted 15 times this year with the support of a Private practitioner doctor in the nearest LWS village.
- Before the HIV testing camp, take permission from each gram panchayat and take support and help from ASHA workers and Anganwadi workers for the camp and technical support from the townwise ICTC and PHC.

- RRC Members and Stakeholders are providing all support for the Success camp in their village.
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Awareness sessions conducted for high risk groups and adolescent girls

Targeted Intervention Project for the MSM Community:

Since 2005, SEDT has been working with the MSM (Men who have Sex with Men) community in Parbhani district—first in partnership with Pathfinder International, and since 2009 under the guidance of the Maharashtra State AIDS Control Society (MSACS). Today, our intervention is recognised as a safe and trusted space for Kothi, Panthi, DD, and TG individuals to access information, services, and support for HIV/AIDS prevention and care. Our project is built on three pillars—**behavioural change, biological services, and structural support**—all guided by the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO).

Our Reach in 2024-25

894 registered members of the MSM community are actively engaged.

81 new registrations this year.

Direct outreach at hotspots in **Parbhani, Purna, Jintur, Gangakhed, and Selu**.
3.3 lakh condoms distributed free and 8,660 through social marketing.

Behavioral Component

Our outreach workers and peer educators connect daily with community members, offering behavior change communication (BCC) tools, interpersonal counselling, and referrals. Through meetings at bus stands, tea stalls, and municipal areas, we reached hundreds of individuals with knowledge about HIV, STI, TB, ART, and social benefit schemes.

Highlights:

24 hotspot meetings with local influencers like auto drivers, pan shop owners, and corporators.

11 advocacy meetings with government stakeholders (Police, Tehsil offices, TB & ICTC departments).

Crisis response handled 6 cases, ensuring the safety and dignity of community members.



Biological Component

Testing, treatment, and care remained central to our efforts.

791 first-time HIV tests conducted; **4 reactive cases linked to ART**.

361 second-time HIV tests, all non-reactive.

STI screenings: 2,376; 25 cases diagnosed and treated.

Syphilis testing: 1,300; 2 positive cases treated.

TB screening: 409 individuals; 4 TB-positive, now on DOTS.

2,297 counselling sessions delivered at the field, DIC, and clinic levels.

Selected as **one of six national sites for an STI Prevalence Study** by NARI & NACO, earning appreciation for our work.



Structural & Monitoring Support

Strong community participation and coordination with MSACS, DAPCU, police, health departments, and local leaders ensured smooth functioning. Regular review meetings, advocacy efforts, and capacity building strengthened trust and sustainability.

FIRODIA KARANDAK 2025:

The 51st edition of Firodia Karandak was held in Pune at the Ganesh Kala Krida Manch, continuing its stature as Maharashtra's foremost inter-collegiate cultural showcase. Organised under the auspices of the Punit Balan Group, Kinetic Group and HCL Foundation, it remains a powerful platform for students to innovate, collaborate, and push creative limits.

First launched in 1974 by Suryakant Kulkarni, the competition began as a student-led drama contest and later evolved into a multidisciplinary cultural phenomenon that integrated dramatic arts, music, painting, puppetry, and more. Today, it stands as a testament to youth creativity and artistic integration, often referred to as "cinema on stage."

This year, 49 colleges participated in the competition, facing qualifying round, primary round and final round. COEP College clinched the First Prize with their powerful and evocative act, "Gajaal Ashi Appuchi." MIT Academy of Engineering won Second Prize for "Dhartichi Amhi Lekar." The Third Prize was shared by two compelling presentations: "Daastan-e-Jahan" and "Ramulamma."

A key trend observed was the growing incorporation of technology—LCD projectors, advanced sound systems, dynamic lighting—elevating performances into immersive “cinematic” experiences.

Piyush Mishra, acclaimed actor, poet, and singer, graced the event as Chief Guest, underscoring the importance of creative platforms in society. The Firodia Alumni Recognition Award. Firodia Karandak continues to be a cultural beacon—showcasing emerging talent, encouraging interdisciplinary collaboration, and empowering students to express through dynamic performance mediums.

Dr. Nidhi Pundheer (Global CSR Head, HCL Foundation), Mr. Ajinkya Firodia (Chairman, Kinetic Group), and teams of Punit Balan Group graced the occasion by their presence and awesome speeches.







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