



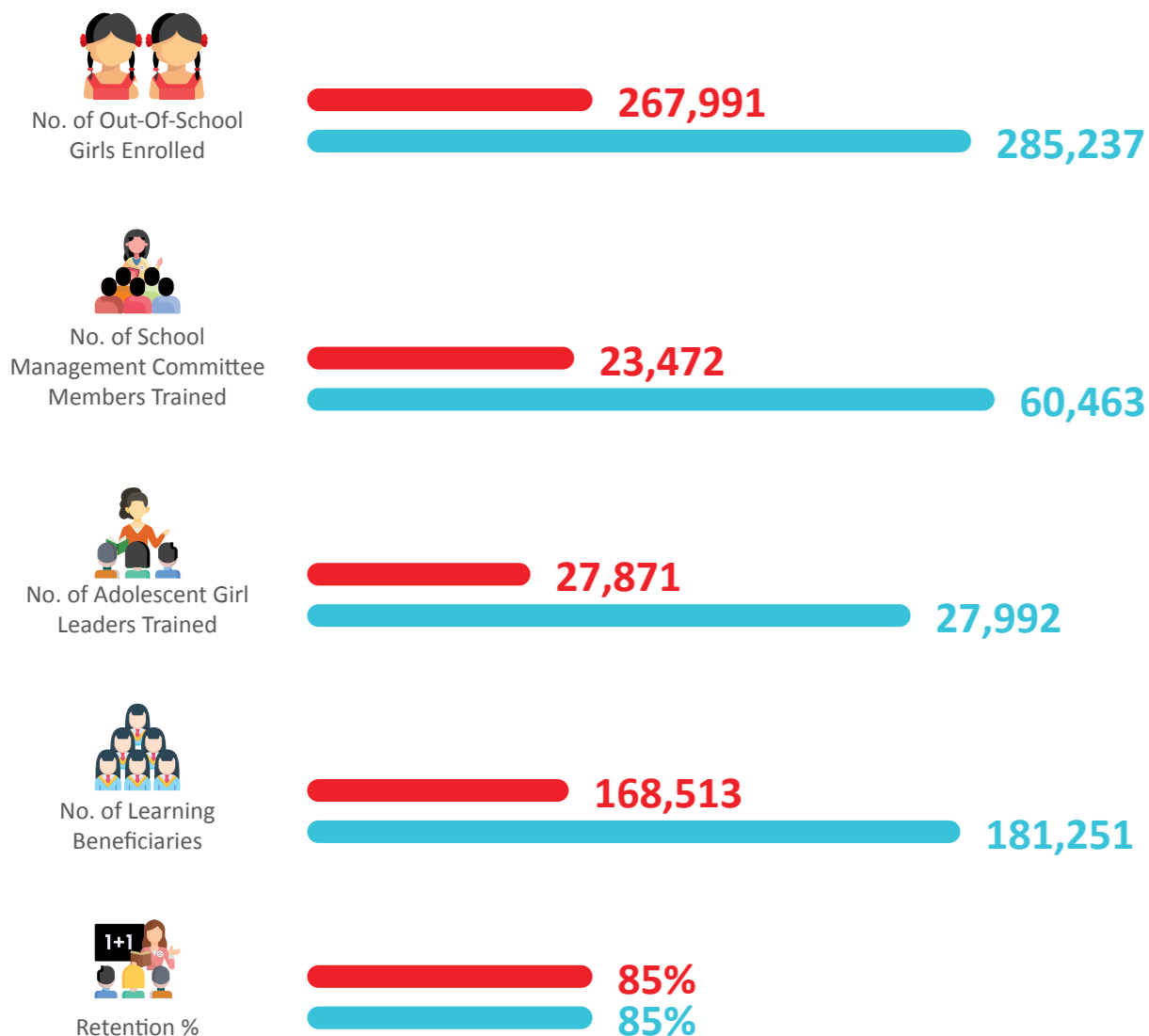
ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

2024-25

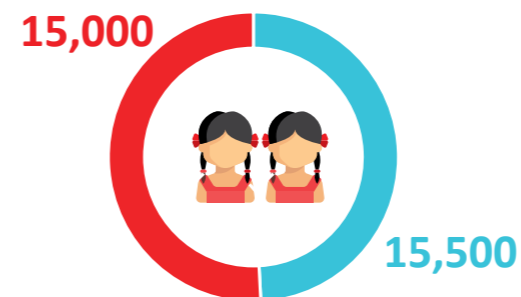
Executive SUMMARY

FY 2024-25 marks a defining chapter in Educate Girls' journey, one in which we not only met, but exceeded our most ambitious goals! Through our In-School Vidya Program and Second Chance Pragati Program, we made remarkable progress in bridging gender gaps in education. Through the Vidya program, we enrolled **285,237 out-of-school girls** back in school, retained **85%** of the girls enrolled year on year and improved foundational learning outcomes for **181,251 children** in Grades 3 to 5. Furthermore, our Pragati program expanded its reach, supporting **15,500 adolescent girls and young women** on their journey to complete 10th-grade certification through our innovative, camp-based delivery.

VIDYA IN SCHOOL PROGRAM



PRAGATI SECOND CHANCE PROGRAM



No. of Learners Enrolled via Camp Delivery

This year, we also proudly celebrated the successful completion of the Audacious Project. In 2019, we became the first Asian organisation to be funded by this prestigious collaborative philanthropy initiative. Our bold goal was to mobilise rural, remote and tribal communities to bring 1.56 million out-of-school girls, residing in 5% of India's villages and accounting for 40% of the total population of out-of-school girls in India, back into the formal education system by 2025.

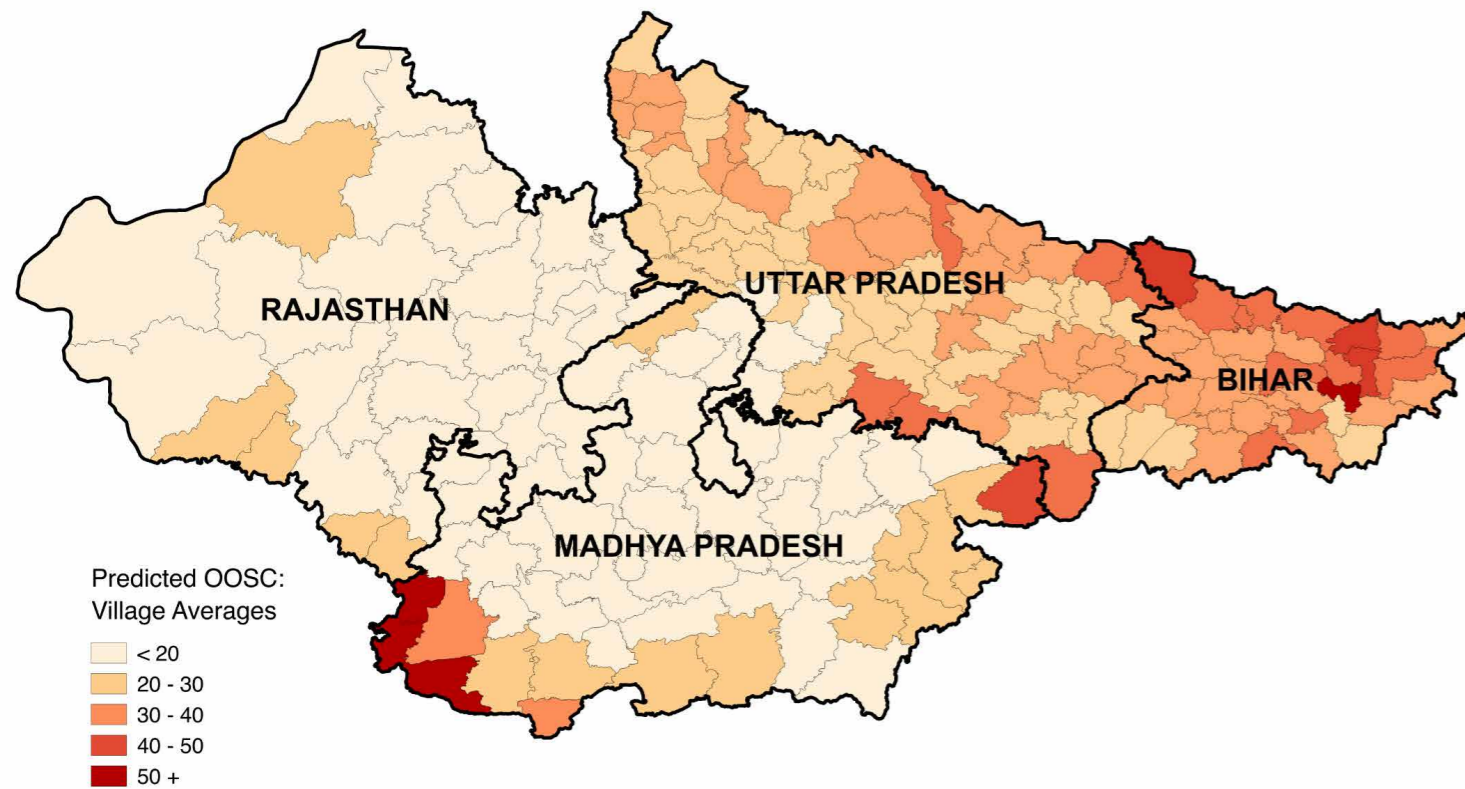
We are proud to share that we have not only met but exceeded all the Audacious goals!

It is a powerful testament to the scale of our work and, more importantly, the deep trust and support we have built within our communities. As we complete the Audacious journey, we are stepping into a new era with even greater ambition. Beginning in FY 2025-26, we launch Strategy 3.0, a bold five-year plan driven by a transformative vision to reach 10 million learners in the next 10 years. Through Strategy 3.0, we will scale our Second Chance Pragati program to support adolescent girls and young women aged 15 to 29 and continue our In-School Vidya Program for girls aged 6 to 14, to tackle the challenge of out-of-school girls in hotspot geographies.



Update on the Audacious PROJECT GOALS

In 2019, Educate Girls became the first Asian organisation to be selected for The Audacious Project¹, a bold collaborative funding initiative housed by TED² that supports innovative solutions to the world's most pressing challenges. Using machine learning and advanced analytics, we found that 5% (35,000) of villages in India were home to 40% of the country's out-of-school girls (as shown in the map). Based on this insight, we set out to expand in these 35,000 villages across Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar, aiming to mobilise rural, remote and tribal communities to enrol 1.56 million out-of-school girls, provide life skills education to over 77,000 adolescent girls, and improve learning outcomes for more than 900,000 children in Grades 3 to 5 by 2025.

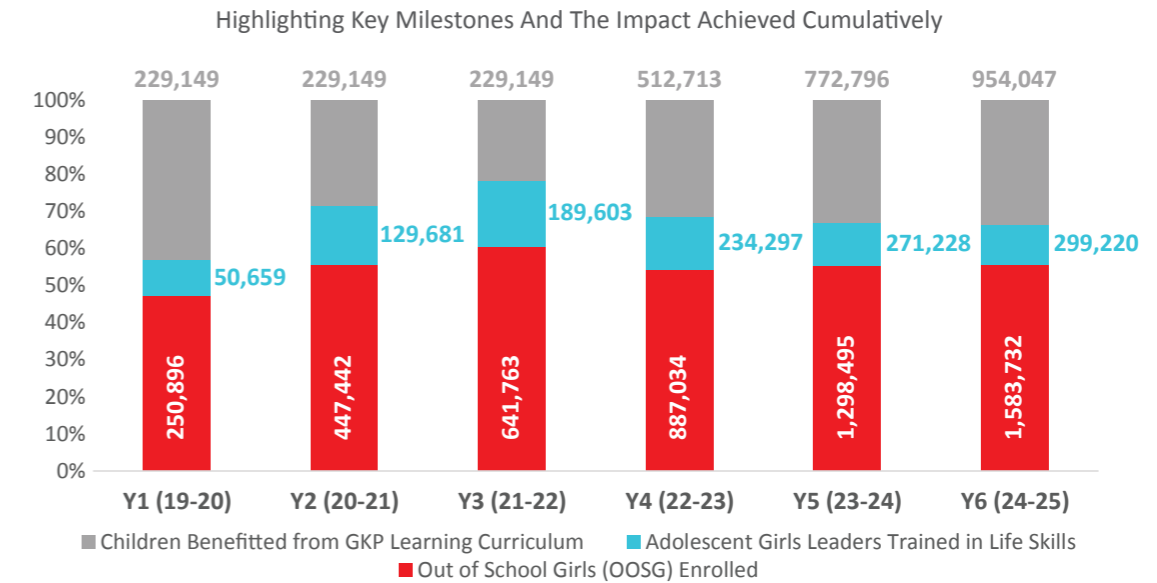


We are proud to announce that **we have not only met but exceeded our Audacious goals, enrolling 1.56 million out-of-school girls**, training over 200,000 adolescent girls in life skills, and improving learning outcomes for over 900,000 children in grades 3 to 5 by the end of FY 2025. This achievement is far more than just a milestone. It is a powerful testament to what's possible when we come together with a shared belief in every girl's right to learn and lead. It is a tribute to collective action, grassroots resilience, and a future that now holds brighter possibilities for over 1.56 million girls and their communities.

¹ The Audacious Project is an initiative housed at TED that funds bold solutions to the world's most urgent challenges through a collaborative philanthropic model. (<https://www.audaciousproject.org/>)

² TED hosts and manages the Audacious Project, a collaborative funding initiative supporting bold ideas for global impact. (<https://www.ted.com/>)

The graph below captures our six-year Audacious journey, highlighting key milestones and the impact achieved.

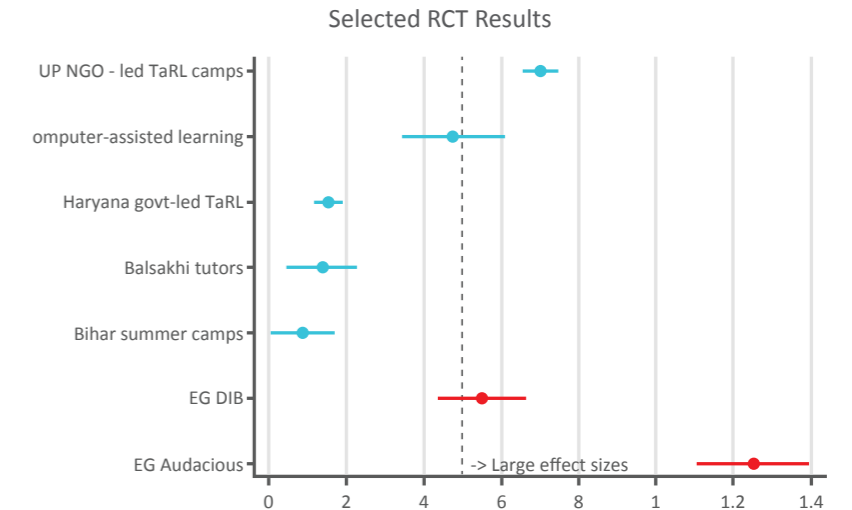


Our Audacious achievements were defined not only by scale and research but also by the depth and quality of impact. We engaged **IDinsight³** and **Sambodhi Research and Communication⁴** to assess the effectiveness and impact of our scale-up during the Audacious journey. Their evaluation has now been completed⁵, and the results have been truly outstanding.

Randomised Control Trial

After two years of receiving the Gyan Ka Pitara Learning Curriculum, students in treatment schools gained on average 4.0 ASER⁶ levels more than students in control schools. Treatment students gained twice as many points on the assessment as control students, corresponding to a large standardised treatment effect of 1.25 Standard Deviation. The RCT proves that the impact of

Educate Girls' GKP program is higher than that of other supplementary education programs evaluated in India (as shown in the graphic).



Data Verification

Educate Girls' records were successfully validated during both rounds of data collection, with discrepancy rates for all indicators well below the 15% threshold (aggregated across states) set in the evaluation terms of reference.

³ IDinsight is a global advisory, data analytics, and research organization that helps leaders maximize their social impact.

⁴ Sambodhi Research and Communications is a leading research and evaluation firm specializing in data-driven insights for development programs.

⁵ Link for the Impact Evaluation Report: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xG7RxAdmgpeSt_o07BbCbrSmzE1vTKNy/view?usp=sharing.

⁶ Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) learning levels are nationally recognized benchmarks used to assess children's foundational reading and arithmetic skills in rural India.

Vidya (6 to 14 years)

Launched in 2007, our in-school Vidya program focuses on enrolling and retaining out-of-school girls aged 6-14 and improving learning outcomes for children in Grades 3-5 through a proven Enrolment, Retention, and Learning (ERL) model. Working in some of India's most rural and tribal areas, Vidya mobilises a large network of community volunteers called Team Balika to shift community mindsets towards girls' education.

General Program Activities

To maximise our impact and ensure successful program delivery, we prioritised regular training sessions for our staff and community volunteers (Team Balika) throughout the year. These sessions focused on key areas such as increasing enrolment, supporting retention, and improving learning outcomes, equipping all stakeholders with the knowledge and skills needed for effective implementation.



No. of Team Balika Trained

11,592



No. of Staff Members Trained

2,433



Enrolment

Our field teams and Team Balika continued to conduct home visits to the families of identified out-of-school girls to address the concerns of parents. During these meetings, they highlighted the importance of education and addressed their challenges. Some of the families of the out-of-school girls lacked government-mandated identification documents such as the Aadhaar Card⁷ in Uttar Pradesh and the Samagra Samajik Suraksha Mission ID (SSSM-ID)⁸ in Madhya Pradesh, which are necessary for enrolment. Recognising this challenge, we took a proactive, multi-phase approach throughout the year to ensure that documentation issues did not stand in the way of the enrolment of out-of-school girls. Additionally, we facilitated access to residential schooling facilities such as Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) to out of school girls whose families were hesitant about travelling long distances for schooling.

In Uttar Pradesh, we supported the Government's **School Chalo Abhiyan**⁹ and **Mission Prerna**¹⁰ in raising awareness about girls' education. In Madhya Pradesh, we collaborated with government school teachers under the **Griha Sampark Abhiyaan**¹¹ to track students who are frequently absent from school and facilitate their re-enrolment in school. Additionally, we mobilised and engaged with the community and its influential members through our community mobilisation activities: **Gram Shiksha Sabha** (Village Education Meeting) and **Mohalla Meetings** (Neighbourhood Meetings). These meetings provided platforms for parents, teachers, and community members to share their opinions and concerns, enabling us to identify barriers, propose potential solutions and mobilise support through our field staff and Team Balika.

⁷ Aadhaar is India's national digital ID system—a 12-digit unique identification number issued to residents based on biometric and demographic data

⁸ Samagra Samajik Suraksha Mission (SSSM) ID is a unique identification number issued by the Government of Madhya Pradesh to ensure integrated access to welfare schemes and social security benefits.

⁹ School Chalo Abhiyan is a statewide campaign in Uttar Pradesh aimed at ensuring enrolment and retention of all children, especially those from marginalized communities, in primary and upper primary schools.

¹⁰ Mission Prerna is an initiative by the Department of Basic Education, Government of Uttar Pradesh to transform the educational landscape in the state.

¹¹ The Griha Sampark Abhiyan is an initiative launched by the Madhya Pradesh government to boost student enrolment in government schools.



No. of Girls provided with Documentation support

38,392



No. of Door-to-Door contacts made

736,674



No. of Gram Shiksha Sabhas

1,595



No. of Mohalla Meetings

7,066



No. of Out-Of-School Girls Enrolled in Schools

285,237

Retention

To ensure that the enrolled girls remain in school, we continued to engage with the School Management Committees (SMC)¹². We trained the SMC members in fulfilling their roles and responsibilities efficiently and oriented them in preparing the School Improvement Plans (SIPs) aligned with five key RTE norms: adequate teacher-student ratio, separate girls' toilets, clean drinking water, boundary walls, and mid-day meal facilities. Additionally, we established Bal Sabhas¹³, democratically elected Girls' Councils of 13 adolescent girls leaders from grades 6 to 8 in selected schools, and trained them on life skills education to build their confidence and leadership.

We retained

85%

of 411,461 Out-Of-School Girls Enrolled in FY 23-24

¹² The Indian Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009 mandates a 15-member School Management Committee (SMC) in every school to oversee governance and infrastructure.

¹³ Bal Sabha is a democratically-elected Girls' Council consisting of 13 girls in grades 6-8. We conduct World Health Organisation (WHO) aligned life skills sessions to build leadership through topics like self-awareness, empathy, communication, decision-making, and problem-solving.



No. of School Management Committees formalised

6,267



No. of School Management Committees Members Trained

60,463



No. of School Improvement Plans Prepared

4,828



No. of School Improvement Plan Beneficiaries

2,831,862



Bal Sabha Formalised

2,155



No. of Adolescent Girls Leaders trained

27,992

Learning

We work with children in some of the most rural, remote and tribal geographies in India, most of whom belong to marginalised and underrepresented communities. Many of these children are first-generation learners and often lack a conducive learning environment at home. To address this, we continued to implement Gyan Ka Pitara (GKP), our supplementary, micro-competency-based remedial learning curriculum, in schools with poor learning outcomes and with single-teacher availability. GKP is a child-friendly program divided into 5 levels, designed to improve foundational literacy and numeracy skills for children in grades 3 to 5. We also conducted baseline and endline assessments at the beginning and end of the academic year to measure students' progress in Hindi, English, and Mathematics.





No. of Gyan Ka Pitara Schools

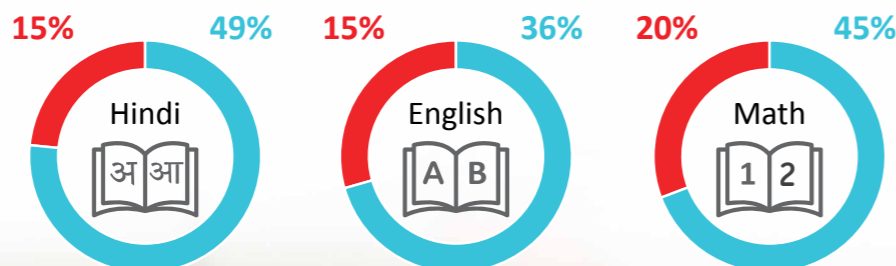
3,966



No. of Gyan Ka Pitara Learning Beneficiaries

181,251

GRADE GAINS



Volunteer Engagement

Team Balika, our network of dedicated community-based volunteers, are the backbone of our programmatic implementation on the ground. Their motivation and growth are essential to sustaining and scaling our impact. Recognising this, we initiated the Volunteer Engagement, starting FY 2018-19, to invest in their development, leadership, and recognition. The following are some of the key highlights from this year:

- Over 40 Team Balika members were nominated for prestigious national recognitions, including the iVolunteer Hero Awards¹⁶, CII Women Leadership Awards¹⁷, and Sanjay Ghosh Grassroots Leadership Awards¹⁸. Notably, two Team Balika volunteers were finalists at the iVolunteer Hero Awards 2024, reflecting their outstanding commitment to grassroots change.
- 18 Team Balika members were nominated for prestigious fellowships such as the Gandhi Fellowship, SBI Youth Fellowship, and Plustrust Rural Women Edupreneur (RWE) Fellowship.
- 52 Team Balika members have been placed in diverse organisations such as Amazon, Flipkart, Lulu Mall, NRLM, private schools, microfinance companies, hospitals, and NGOs across Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.
- Team Balika at Women's Premier League: 452 Team Balika members attended WPL matches in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, with Team Balika Ankita Yadav presenting the Player of the Match award to Georgia Voll at the post-match presentation ceremony.



Vidya Kumbh Initiative: This year, during the Maha Kumbh¹⁴, one of the world's largest religious gatherings held in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh, we launched the Vidya Kumbh initiative. The initiative was designed to support children from marginalised communities, including those of sanitation workers who had migrated to Prayagraj for work during the Kumbh. In partnership with the Basic Shiksha Adhikari (BSA)¹⁵, local government authorities, and with the support of IAS officer Ms. Akansha Rana, who inaugurated the initiative, we established two temporary schools within the Kumbh area. These learning hubs provided a safe, structured, and engaging environment for over 350 children. With the support of Team Balika, headmasters, and teachers, these learning centres delivered our interactive Gyan Ka Pitara sessions in a nurturing environment. At the end of the program, we also provided government-recognised certificates to ensure children could rejoin school after the Kumbh without losing a year, ensuring they could stay on track with their learning despite the temporary migration.



image courtesy: BCCI/JioHotstar

¹⁴ The Maha Kumbh Mela is a pilgrimage held once every 12 years at four sacred river locations in India. It is the world's largest religious gathering, attracting millions of devotees and visitors. This year, it was held in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh.

¹⁵ Basic Shiksha Adhikari (BSA) refers to the district-level education officer responsible for overseeing elementary education in India.

¹⁶ The iVolunteer Hero Awards celebrate individuals across India who drive social change through impactful volunteering.

¹⁷ Organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), these awards recognize women leaders making exceptional contributions in diverse sectors.

¹⁸ Sanjay Ghosh Grassroots Leadership Awards honor grassroots leaders who demonstrate extraordinary commitment to community development and inclusive leadership.

Pragati (15 to 29 years)

Launched in 2021, our Second Chance Pragati Program addresses the educational gap for adolescent girls and young women (aged 15–29) through a structured, community-driven 18-month camp-based model. By establishing village-based learning camps, Pragati creates accessible pathways for girls to attain their Grade 10 credentials through government-run state open schools. Beyond academic support, Pragati also equips girls with essential life skills, fostering confidence and long-term empowerment. Additionally, we are forming partnerships with 12 state governments in India, which are home to over 70% of the 91 million population of young women who are not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)¹⁹.

Camp Delivery

The Pragati Second Chance program brings education directly to adolescent girls and young women through a village-based camp model. These camps mobilise and prepare these learners aged 15 to 29 for their 10th-grade exams through state open schools. Each camp cycle includes academic sessions aligned with Grade 10 subjects, as well as life skills, digital literacy, financial literacy, and other 21st-century skills. We are currently implementing this model in Rajasthan, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh, with 15,500 learners enrolled for their 10th grade exams via state open schools. The following table outlines our progress across the four states: The following table outlines our progress across the four states:

State	Update
Rajasthan	<p>First Cohort enrolled in FY 2023-24:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A total of 10,934 learners were enrolled in FY 2023-24 and appeared for their 10th-grade exams this year.A total of 7,691 learners appeared for their exams, while other learners could not attend due to personal, health and other reasons. We recorded an overall pass rate of 53% for the learners who appeared in the exam. <p>New Cohort for FY 2024-25:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">We carried out extensive community mobilisation efforts, including Pragati Sabha (Community Gatherings) and Pragati Karyashala (Focused Workshops), to penetrate within the community and enable a mindset shift.We completed all Neev (Pre-camp readiness) camp sessions, and the Prayaas (Main Camp) sessions are underway.
Bihar	<p>First Cohort enrolled in FY 2023-24:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">In FY 2023-24, we enrolled 500+ learners in the Bihar Board of Open Schooling and Examination (BBOSE) and their 10th grade exams, originally scheduled for January, are now postponed to June 2025.We are providing ongoing support to learners, helping them revise their lessons and complete practice papers in preparation for the exams. <p>New Cohort for FY 2024-25:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">We are scaling our camp delivery in Bihar, enrolling learners in BBOSE for their 10th grade credentialing exams in the next year.We have completed the Neev (Pre-camp readiness) camp sessions with learners, and the Prayaas (Main Camp) camp sessions are underway.
Madhya Pradesh	We launched the pilot of our camp delivery in the Dhar district.
Chhattisgarh	We finalised the Balod district for our camp pilot in Chhattisgarh with community mobilisation activities underway.

19 Periodic Labor Force Survey (2021-22) by the National Sample Survey Organization, Ministry of Statistics, Planning, and Implementation; National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5, 2019-21)



Government Partnerships

National Level Updates

- 1 We have established a Central Advisory Group (CAG) of distinguished sector leaders and mentors to support us in expanding into states where the need is greatest. This esteemed group includes former government officials, education experts, and leaders from Civil Society Organisations, namely:
 - **Ms. Stuti Narain Kacker** (Former Chairperson of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights)

20 The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) is a public-private partnership under the Government of India, established to promote skill development and vocational training across the country.

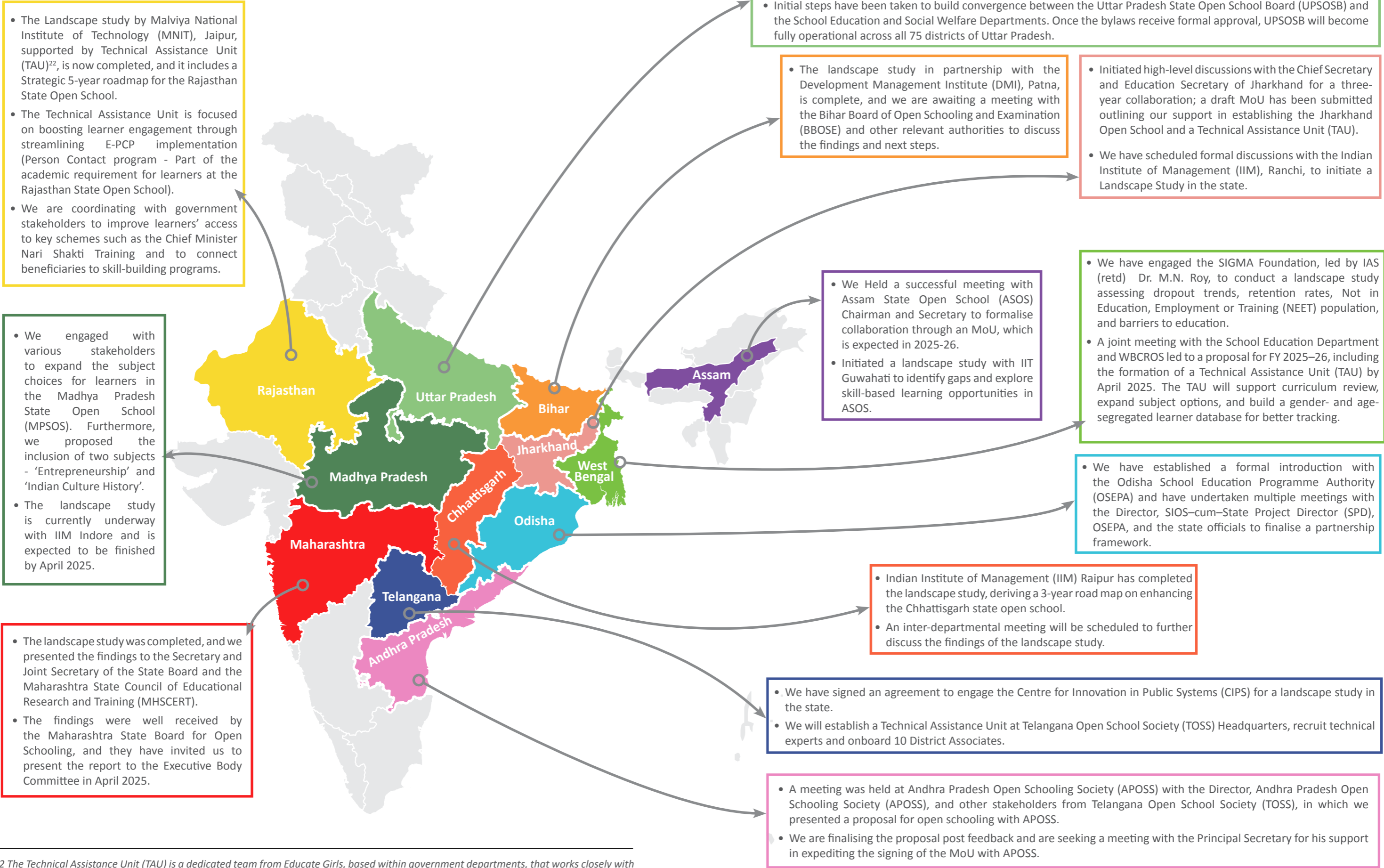
21 NITI Aayog is the Government of India’s policy think tank, established to replace the Planning Commission and to drive the country’s development agenda through cooperative engagement with states.

- **Mr. Rakesh Ranjan** (Former Mission Director of NITI Aayog)
- **Mr. Jagdish Mitra** (Board Member, National Skill Development Corporation)
- **Prof. C. B. Sharma** (Director of Education, Indira Gandhi National Open University)
- **Prof. Venita Kaul** (Emeritus, Ambedkar University)
- **Dr. Sukanya Bose** (National Institute of Public Finance and Policy)
- **Mr. Narendra Damodaran** (Former Director, PRADAN)
- **Dr. Anjaiah Pandiri** (Executive Director, CHILDLINE)

The CAG met twice this year to discuss strengthening distance education and creating high-quality learning content. In the latest CAG meeting held in March 2025, the focus was on creating meaningful, high-quality content tailored to learners’ needs. A working group is being formed to design a robust curriculum framework for distance learning.

- 2 We signed a two-year Memorandum of Understanding with the National Skill Development Corporation (**NSDC**)²⁰ to co-design and pilot the Skill Voucher Scheme, which aims to provide skill training and financial support to young learners. We will draw on insights from the pilots conducted in three districts of Rajasthan- Ajmer, Bikaner, and Udaipur, to guide this initiative.
- 3 Last year, we were onboarded as one of the development partners by **NITI Aayog**²¹ to implement our interventions in aspirational districts where we are currently active. Under this partnership, we will focus on improving key academic transitions to higher grades and enhancing foundational literacy and numeracy through our in-school remedial learning curriculum.

State Level Updates



²² The Technical Assistance Unit (TAU) is a dedicated team from Educate Girls, based within government departments, that works closely with officials to strengthen and improve open schooling systems.

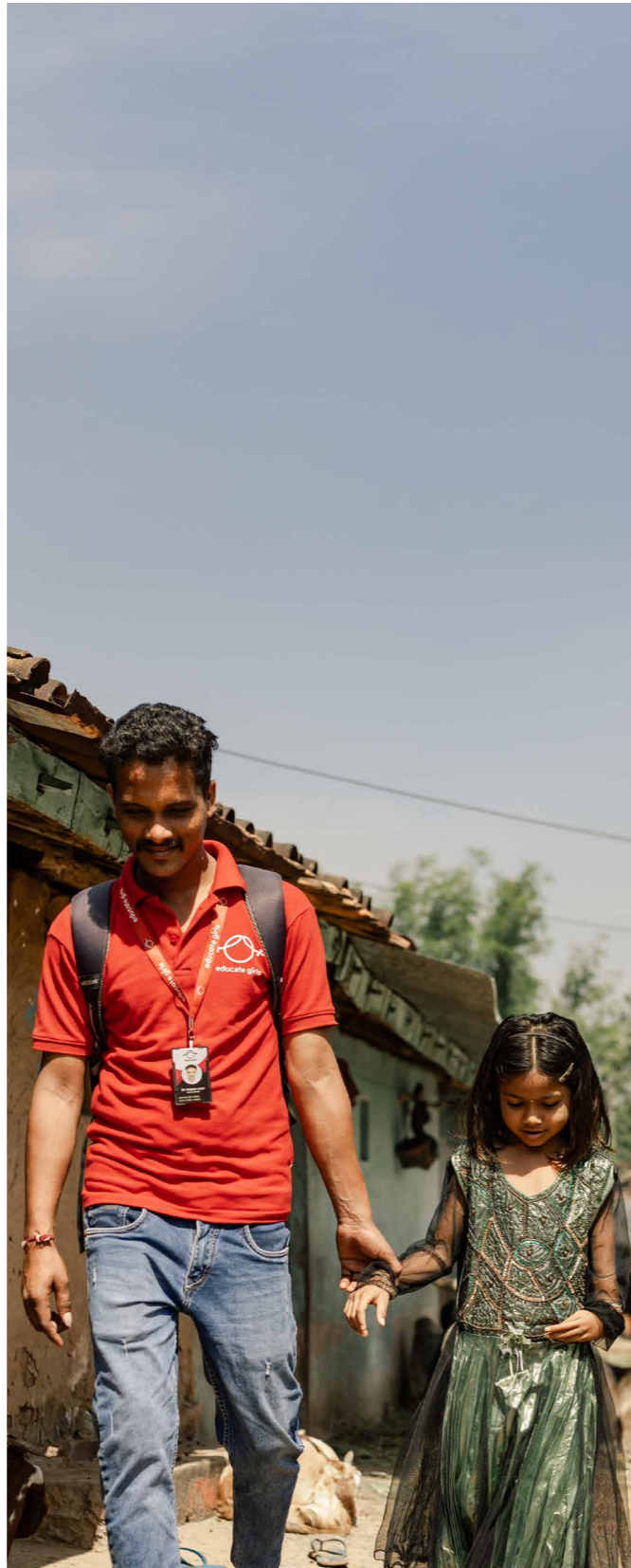
Challenges and MITIGATION

1 Overcoming Documentation Barriers Due to Aadhaar Centre closures

During the year, the closure of local Aadhaar card centres due to fraudulent activities posed a significant barrier to the enrolment of out-of-school girls, especially in remote areas where alternate centres were located far away. Many families were unable or unwilling to travel long distances, leading to delays in completing the required documentation. To address this, we implemented a structured, family-centric support model. This included guiding them through the necessary steps, helping with form submissions, and liaising with local officials where possible. In some regions, this approach enabled the continuation of enrolments with minimal disruption, ensuring girls were not left behind due to systemic gaps.

2 Mitigating the Impact of Seasonal Migration on Girls' Education

Seasonal migration of families in search of livelihood disrupted the attendance and retention of girls who had already been enrolled. To address this, we developed a migration-sensitive engagement plan.. Our teams worked closely with parents to underscore the importance of consistent education and presented viable alternatives, such as enrolling their daughters in Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalyayas (KGBVs)—government-run residential schools designed for girls from marginalised communities. These efforts contributed significantly to ensuring educational continuity for migrant children and helped reduce dropout rates during migration cycles.



Major Organisational HIGHLIGHTS

Awards and Recognition



Our founder, Safeena Husain, was conferred with an honorary doctorate by the London School of Economics for her contribution to girls' education in India.



Our founder, Safeena Husain, was also honoured with the Express Award for Women Entrepreneurs 2025 by Financial Express for her outstanding contribution in advancing Education and Skill Development.



Educate Girls received the Rajasthan State Recognition Award from CM Bhajanlal Sharma and Deputy CM Diya Kumari. This prestigious award celebrates our impact in empowering women and girls across Rajasthan, ensuring every girl gets the chance to learn and build a better future for herself and her community.

Thought Leadership

- Educate Girls attended the 2024 United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) held at the UN Headquarters in New York.
- Safeena Husain, our founder, moderated a plenary session on 'Nurturing Tomorrow's Leaders: The Role of Education in Sustainable Development' at the AVPN Conference 2024.
- Safeena Husain and Larry Kramer, President of the London School of Economics, discussed why girls' education is one of the best investments that a country can make and how Safeena intends to continue to scale up Educate Girls to improve millions of lives at a public event organised by the Marshall Institute, London School of Economics.
- Safeena Husain was invited to speak at the Philanthropy Australia Conference on 'Accelerating impact at scale through investing in women and girls' and at EDHeroes Forum - 'Towards bridging the gender gap in Education'.
- Akhil Agrawal, our Head of Impact, was a panellist at the Transformation Summit organised by Dell Technologies & Indian Express.
- Our CFO, Vijaylakshmi Saxena, spoke at the 11th India CSR & ESG Summit by CSRBBOX. As a panellist on "Unlocking Impact with Social Stock Exchange and Blended Finance".

Going Beyond Audacious: Our Strategy 3.0

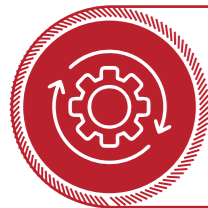
FY 2025-26 marks a historical year for Educate Girls, as we launch our new five-year **Strategy 3.0**. Stemming from the belief that education empowers girls to achieve anything, our Strategy 3.0 is aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 4, which emphasises inclusive, equitable, and quality education for all children and youth, along with lifelong learning opportunities. The strategy 3.0 is guided by the following four principles:



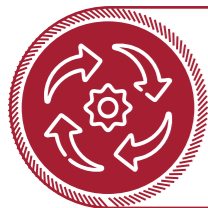
Ecosystem Approach for Maximum Impact: Collaboration is key. We will strengthen partnerships with NGOs, leveraging collective expertise and resources to drive large-scale impact.



Bold Focus on Areas of Highest Need: We will prioritise the most marginalised communities, ensuring our interventions reach those who need them the most.



Sustainability Through Systems Change: Lasting change requires government adoption. We will work closely with state systems to embed solutions that can sustain impact beyond our direct intervention.



Transformative Impact via Catalytic Philanthropy: By blending philanthropic support with government and market contributions, we aim to create a self-sustaining model that enables a structured exit strategy.

Under Strategy 3.0, we will continue to expand and strengthen our two programs, creating a continuum of support for out-of-school girls and young women from primary education through secondary schooling and beyond. Our in-school Vidya program will focus on high-priority 'hotspots' where nearly half a million girls aged 6 to 14 are still out of school. At the same time, the Pragati program will follow a dual approach: running village-based learning camps led by local Preraks and partnering with state governments to strengthen open schooling systems.

²³ The National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) is an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Education, Government of India, that offers flexible and affordable education through open and distance learning. (<https://www.nios.ac.in/>)

Plan for 2025-26

- 1 Continue our focused efforts to identify and enrol 160,000 out-of-school girls, especially in high-density hotspots, ensuring access to formal education for the most marginalised girls.
- 2 We will continue to work closely with School Management Committees (SMCs) to train its members in fulfilling their roles and responsibilities efficiently towards building a girl friendly environment in schools.
- 3 Continuing the formation of democratically elected girls' councils (Bal Sabhas) in schools to deliver Life Skills Education sessions for 16,000 adolescent girl leaders in grades 6 to 8.
- 4 Continue to implement our enhanced Gyan Ka Pitara learning curriculum to improve the foundational literacy and numeracy of 163,000 children in grades 3 to 8, particularly in schools with poor learning levels and single-teacher availability.
- 5 Progress towards mobilising over 63,000 learners aged 15-29 to prepare for their 10th-grade certification through village-based camps and strengthened partnerships with state governments.



