



HIGHLIGHTS

XIM & SUVIDHA Collaboration: Rural Immersion Shapes Future-Ready Careers

LIC: Empowering Education through Solar Electrification in the Rural Schools of Nagaland

Bringing Rural Heritage to Metros: Mithila Art Studio

Project Spring shed Management (KRC): Renovation of Natural Water Sources

KNOWLEDGE NUGGETS

Jal Minar: Solar Power Brings Safe Water to Rural Communities

In rural landscapes, water scarcity remains a formidable challenge. The critical issue of water availability not only compels communities to travel long distances for drinking water but also exposes them to the hazards of contaminated water sources.

To tackle these pressing challenges, SUVIDHA has undertaken a transformative intervention by establishing **Jal Minars** (Solar powered Safe Community Drinking Water Tanks) in **Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Odisha** benefitting thousands of households. Jal Minars tap underground sources, offering a safe alternative to contaminated surface water, while solar pumps eliminate reliance on fossil fuels and reduce community costs.

Jal Minars address diseases such as Cholera, Dysentery, Diarrhoea, Typhoid and Hepatitis etc., liberate women from the daily drudgery of water collection and **save more than 45 kgs of fuelwood per household per month** which is otherwise used for boiling water.

Key Benefits:

- Reduced Carbon Emission by reducing the dependency on fuelwood
- Increased accessibility to Safe drinking water
- Reduced risk of waterborne diseases
- Mitigated chemicals and heavy metal contamination
- Empowered women through reduced drudgery
- Promoted environmental sustainability with solar power
- Fuel cost savings for communities



PROJECT UPDATES

Gram Seva (SBI): Organic Training and Vermicompost Beds Installation

In a dedicated initiative towards sustainable agriculture, the project provided extensive training to 250 farmers in five villages- Kiri, Rauni, Banjal, Lagga, and Sarol of Gram Panchayat Kiri, Chamba District, Himachal Pradesh.

The training aimed to enlighten the farming community on the techniques and numerous benefits of organic farming while underscoring the detrimental effects of chemical fertilizers. We emphasized the necessity for a paradigm shift and guided farmers in adopting organic fertilizers, pesticides, and green manure. A special focus was placed on the art of vermin composting, a pivotal aspect of promoting organic fertilizers.

To implement these practices, **25 Vermi Beds** were installed across the five villages. The benefits were significant - enriching the soil with nutrient-dense organic matter, improving soil structure, and enhancing water retention. This transformative project not only introduced vital organic farming practices but also empowered these communities with knowledge they had never received before.



Gyandeeep (Mahindra & Mahindra): Scholarship Distribution Ceremony

On 22nd of January, Scholarship Distribution Ceremony was organized at Mahindra & Mahindra Plant, Rudrapur. The scholarship of **Rs. 5000/-** was awarded to **100 deserving students from 9 districts of Uttarakhand**, including 40 boys and 60 girls.

The selection was based on stringent criteria including an **annual income of family less than Rs. 1,00,000/-**, academic excellence with a remarkable **75% or above** in their 10th or 11th grade and the student **being enrolled in a Government School**. The ceremony aimed to recognize and reward the dedication and academic achievements of these deserving students.

Mahindra & Mahindra's Plant Head, Mr. Panduran Chavan, and CSR In-charge, Mr. Ranjeet Singh, awarded scholarships to students. The ceremony also attended by their respective staff members and SUVIDHA representatives- Dr. Prakash Singh, AGM and Ms. Geeta Joshi, Project Coordinator.



Project FRDP (HDFC Parivartan): Handover of Eri Silk Processing Unit



In the pursuit of promoting and marketing the unique Eri silk, sourced from the cocoons of Eri silkworms, an Eri silk processing unit has been successfully established in Warmasaw Village, Ri-bhoi District, Meghalaya. The unit, equipped with a handloom and 8 solar-based spinning machines, has streamlined the process of thread extraction and cloth production, benefiting **20 women** of the village.

Prior to the project's intervention, these women practiced traditional methods of Eri rearing and silk extraction, using wooden lattus, a time-consuming and laborious process. Recognizing the need for modernization, the project provided comprehensive training in modern cultivation methods, supported by planting materials. Additionally, technical training sessions equipped the women with the knowledge to operate the contemporary, solar-powered spinning machines, significantly **reducing their workload and extraction time (from 5 hours to 1 hour)**. This has resulted in a **30% increase in silk production** with their **income witnessing a significant rise of 40%**, attributed to their increased bargaining power due to higher production volume.

Initially overseen by the project, the unit has been successfully handed over to the community. This marks a significant milestone in promoting self-sufficiency and fostering sustainability within the community-driven initiative.



LIC: Empowering Education through Solar Electrification in the Rural Schools of Nagaland

Smart Classes have been introduced in Government Higher Secondary School, Bhandari, and Government High School, Yimpang, located in the Wokha District of Nagaland. Equipped with digital boards, these smart classes aim to accelerate learning, foster technological skills, and provide students with diverse educational avenues. Recognizing the crucial role of consistent electricity supply for the seamless operation of smart classes, solar electrification initiatives were undertaken in these rural schools.

Bridging the Gap in Yimpang School - Initially Without Power, Now Thriving with Solar Electrification

Uninterrupted power supply facilitated computer-assisted learning, leading to improved student engagement, attendance, and a reduction in dropout rates. Despite having computers in place, the schools faced underutilization due to irregular power supply. Initially, the school in Yimpang had no electricity connection but after solar electrification, the students are equipped with digital learning aids. The implementation of solar electrification has enabled **182 students in Bhandari** and **40 students in Yimpang** to engage in computer-based learning and benefit from enhanced audio-visual educational resources.



Project Spring Shed Management (KRC): Renovation of Natural Water Sources

The revitalization of natural water sources was successfully executed in Saungaon, Pandeygaon, and Alchauna villages of Bhimtal Block, Nainital District, Uttarakhand. These crucial water sources serve as the primary supply for drinking water within the community. Faced with the challenge of drying up, the water availability in these sources was diminishing each year. Implementing effective water conservation measures, such as **micro reservoirs, contour trenches, and extensive plantation**, has led to a substantial increase in water availability.

The renovation and installation of tin shades over the water sources have significantly enhanced protection, safety, and accessibility of the drinking water. As a result of these efforts, **193 households in the three villages** have directly benefited from the project. This comprehensive intervention has not only addressed the immediate issue of water scarcity but also contributed to the overall well-being of the community.



ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATES

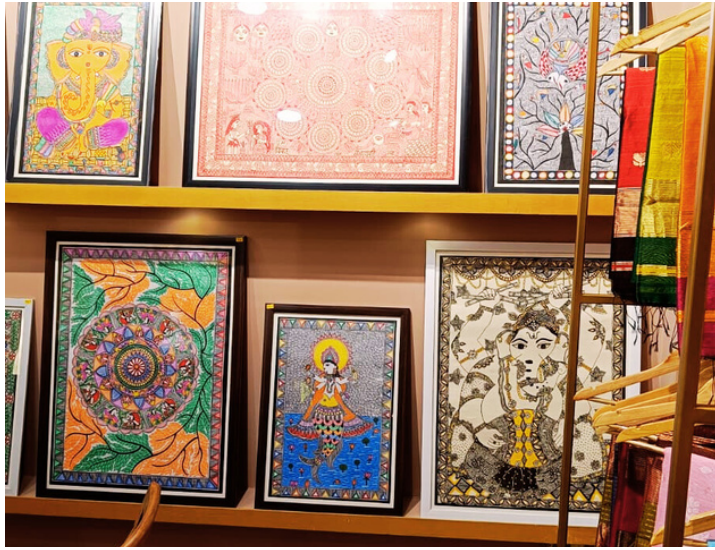
XIM & SUVIDHA Collaboration: Rural Immersion Shapes Future-Ready Careers



Students from the School of Rural Management (SRM) at XIM University recently concluded a transformative 45-day Internship as part of their Rural Living and Learning Experience. This unique initiative aimed to delve deep into the social and economic dynamics of rural life. Living in villages for more than a month, the students, organized in pairs, immersed themselves in the intricacies of rural existence.

Focusing on a climate project, the organization engaged the students in direct interactions with beneficiaries to evaluate the real impact of interventions. Beyond climate-related aspects, the students also delved into various facets of the community. They presented their findings alongside insights into the organization's interventions, at a dedicated exhibition within their institute. The showcase shed light on the authentic experiences and revelations garnered during this immersive rural engagement.

Bringing Rural Heritage to Metros: Mithila Art Studio



SUVIDHA remains steadfast in its commitment to empower artists and champion cultural heritage. To this end, we had provided advanced training to 40 young talented Mithila artists in Bihar, fostering their skills by connecting them with display forums. Our comprehensive support, training, and ongoing guidance aim to nurture their talents.

To address the niche market for the vibrant and intricate artwork of these Mithila artists, we have inaugurated a dedicated **Mithila Art Studio** in **Shahpur Jat, New Delhi**, under the platform '**Gaon Originals**' on January 5, 2024. Beyond showcasing the exquisite Mithila artwork, the studio proudly features also the handloom and handicraft products, including **Maheshwari sarees, Bhagalpuri Silk Sarees, Madhubani screen-printed dupattas and organic pickles**. Notably, **Mithila artists** have adorned sarees and dupattas with their mesmerizing Madhubani art, transforming these pieces into beautiful handicrafts.



All the products featured in the studio are sourced directly from rural artisans, turning the studio into a vibrant marketing platform. SUVIDHA continues to celebrate and promote the rich cultural heritage embedded in every stroke of the Mithila artists, providing a platform that not only showcases their talents but also uplifts rural artisans and their authentic products.

At SUVIDHA, we believe that recognizing and appreciating the hard work of our dedicated team members is essential to fostering a culture of excellence and motivation. Through our **Employee Recognition Program**, we celebrate outstanding individuals from different programs and skill sets who consistently go above and beyond.



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