



From Conventional Learning to SMART Learning: Transforming Education in India

India has made significant strides in increasing school enrollment, yet challenges persist in ensuring the quality of education, particularly in rural government schools. A large proportion of students depend on these institutions, many of which struggle with conventional teaching methods, insufficient infrastructure, and limited access to modern educational resources.

Smart learning approaches aim to revitalize education by integrating technology, interactive tools, and tailored interventions to make learning engaging and impactful.

Smart Learning enhances engagement with interactive tools, adapts to individual paces for personalized learning, and improves outcomes through higher comprehension and retention. It also bridges gaps by providing rural students with access to global-quality resources. SUVIDHA is dedicated to bridging educational gaps in rural areas through innovative and sustainable solutions:

- **Smart Classrooms:** Successfully established smart classrooms in rural schools, benefiting students with immersive and engaging education tools.
- **Digital Literacy & Computer Training:** Initiated computer classes in rural schools to ensure students gain proficiency in essential digital tools like MS Office and internet research and prepare them for a digital future.
- **Remedial Education:** Launched remedial classes in villages to address learning deficits among students, ensuring they build a strong foundation.
- **Comprehensive Infrastructure:** Enhanced school environments with clean drinking water and sanitation facilities, solar electrification, and renovated classrooms, creating a supportive atmosphere for learning.
- **Holistic Development Programs:** Conducting workshops, events and teacher training to ensure education is not only academic but also life-enriching.

The shift to smart learning by SUVIDHA has positively **impacted over 1,50,000 students** in rural India. The initiatives have enhanced learning outcomes and built students' confidence. By addressing learning gaps and creating engaging, technology-driven environments, these interventions have empowered rural students with essential skills and opened pathways to new opportunities, enabling them to achieve their full potential.



HIGHLIGHTS

HRDP Jorhat (HDFC Parivartan)
Enhancing Rural Livelihood-Animal Health Camps

PROSPER (Mankind Pharma) Transforming Rural Communities through Sustainable Solutions

Empowering Communities for Sustainable Development (RVNL)
Improving accessibility of Safe Drinking Water

SUVIDHA's Participation in Exhibitions and Fairs: Showcasing Craftsmanship and Entrepreneurship

PROJECT UPDATES

HRDP MP (HDFC Bank Parivartan) Smart Schools and Sustainable Livelihoods in Action

Three government schools in Maheshwar, Madhya Pradesh, have been transformed into Smart Schools, **benefiting over 500 students**. These schools are now equipped with digital learning tools, enhanced sanitation, safe drinking water facilities, libraries, and solar electrification.

The transformation aims to bridge the gap in educational accessibility, providing students with a more inclusive and sustainable learning environment. This initiative will better prepare students to compete in the evolving world.

To support holistic development, the project focuses on diversifying the livelihoods of marginal farmers to enhance their income. Leveraging the success of floriculture in the region, driven by demand from local temples, the initiative has been expanded to include **60 additional farmers**.

These farmers received marigold saplings, essential inputs, and practical training in pre- and post-harvest techniques. With established market linkages, floriculture is driving economic growth in the region, improving farmers' livelihoods, and creating sustainable opportunities for the community.



PROSPER (Mankind Pharma) Transforming Rural Communities through Sustainable Solutions

With the aim of fostering holistic development in the 20 villages of Hastinapur and Jalilpur blocks, Meerut and Bijnor districts respectively, Uttar Pradesh, several interventions are being implemented through a participatory approach. Two of them are mentioned below:

In order to tackle critical challenges such as low productivity, limited access to premium planting materials, and economic instability among farming households, **over 250 farmers received high-quality potato seeds along with essential inputs**. They were also trained in pre- and post-harvest management and sustainable practices to increase yields, retain soil health, and optimize water usage. The intervention is expected to yield a 15–20% increase in productivity, boosting incomes and fostering sustainable agriculture.

Across the villages, **140 solar street lights were installed**, providing reliable illumination during power outages. Strategically placed at intersections and main roads, these lights enhanced safety, particularly for women and children. They also enabled extended evening activities, such as supporting small businesses and community gatherings in well-lit areas, while promoting renewable energy adoption and reducing carbon emissions.



HRDP Jorhat (HDFC Parivartan) Enhancing Rural Livelihood- Animal Health Camps



Livestock owners in the remote villages of Charaipani Basobari and Tipomia, Titabor Block, Jorhat, Assam, face significant challenges in maintaining the health and productivity of their cattle due to limited access to veterinary care and essential treatments.

To bridge this gap, animal health camps were organized on 4th and 5th October under the project.

These camps addressed the pressing need for professional veterinary support by providing vital treatments and vaccinations, including liver and vitamin dosages, to over **410 cattle, improving their immunity and overall health** led by expert veterinary teams under Dr. Saikia and Dr. Ujjawal Dutta, the initiative brought much-needed relief to livestock owners.



Empowering Communities for Sustainable Development (RVNL) Improving accessibility of Safe Drinking Water

The project is being implemented in three strategically located villages—Paniyali, Sharana, and Siwayi, near the Rishikesh-Karanprayag Railway Line in Pokhari Block, Chamoli District, Uttarakhand.

As the railway line promises to enhance connectivity and drive economic growth, the project aims to foster holistic community development along this corridor.

Under the health component, one of the focuses was on reducing waterborne diseases by ensuring access to clean and sustainable drinking water solutions.

To achieve this, ceramic water filters were distributed to 294 households. These filters provide a reliable source of safe drinking water, improving the overall health and well-being of the community, and also mitigate environmental impacts by eliminating the need for fuelwood-based water purification.



Climate Protection Project in Himalayan Landscape of Uttarakhand, India (Terres des Hommes): Local Stakeholder Consultation Meetings

As part of the Climate Protection Project in the Himalayan Landscape of Uttarakhand, Supported by Terres des hommes (TDH) and Dachser, Local Stakeholder Consultation (LSC) meetings were organized in Dehradun on 18th October and Haldwani on 22nd October.

These meetings engaged 117 stakeholders from the project locations—Dehradun, Chamoli, Udham Singh Nagar, and Bageshwar. Participants included representatives from government departments, research institutes, village leaders, and women from Self-Help Groups.

SUVIDHA, serving as the technical support agency, provided critical expertise to the implementing partners, AMAN and HESCO, ensuring the project's alignment with sustainable development goals. Discussions focused on addressing climate change, reducing GHG emissions through biogas and improved cooking stoves, and implementing SUVIDHA's Monitoring Solution for effective progress tracking.



PRAWAH (Hindustan Unilever Foundation) Empowering Communities for Sustainable Water Management



The project implemented community engagement activities to enhance water efficiency and build local capacity for sustainable water management.

A key strategy was the formation of Water and Environment Groups (WEGs), each comprising 10–12 members with more than 90% female participation. A total of 100 WEGs were established across 100 villages, each taking ownership of promoting and implementing sustainable water practices.

To ensure sustainability and active involvement, Community Resource Persons (CRPs) were selected in each village. These CRPs participated in capacity-building programs to strengthen their ability to support water management and community-led initiatives.

Additionally, stakeholder consultation meetings were held across five blocks, addressing water challenges, conservation techniques, government schemes, and the promotion of organic and scientific farming methods. These meetings involved key local stakeholders, including farmers, Jal-Sakhis, Jal-Mitras, Gram Pradhans, and Agricultural Development Officers (ADOs), fostering collaboration and knowledge sharing.

The project team visited the HUF SWERA (Phase 1) and PRUSKAR (Phase 2) projects, in collaboration with PANI (People's Action for National Integration), to explore sustainable water management and resilient farming practices. During the visit, the teams engaged in discussions about the key objectives, interventions, and achievements of their respective projects, including the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) attained in the SWERA project.

This exchange of knowledge aimed to enhance the ongoing efforts of the PRAWAH project and foster collaboration for future success.

Gram Seva (SBI Foundation)

Skill Development- Livestock Training & Women's Sewing Program

Farmers in Kiri Gram Panchayat, Chamba, often face limited access to knowledge on sustainable livestock management, leading to poor animal health and reduced productivity. To bridge this gap, a livestock health training was facilitated under the leadership of Dr. Kehar Singh, Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK).

Attended by 84 farmers across three villages, the training focused on balanced nutrition, disease prevention, and the use of mineral supplements, empowering farmers to improve livestock productivity.

Another milestone achieved by the project in supporting women's economic independence was the completion of a six-month sewing training program at the PRERNA Centre. After successfully passing an examination, the trainees proudly received their certificates, empowering them with practical skills.

This training has prepared the women for small-scale businesses at the household level and enterprise development in market spaces, paving the way for stronger livelihoods and self-sustaining communities.



Empowering Mithila Artists (Wurth Electronics)

Bridging Tradition and Markets- Mithila Art Value Addition Workshop

We recently organized an advanced Mithila Art Value Addition Workshop at the Mithila Art Studio, Madhubani, Bihar. Led by experts, the workshop provided hands-on training to artists in crafting stunning patterns that narrate stories of heritage.

The program also focused on equipping participants with skills to align their art with contemporary market trends, fostering entrepreneurship and sustainable livelihoods.

By blending tradition with innovation, we are preserving the cultural essence of Mithila art while unlocking new opportunities for our talented artists.



ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATES

LIC HFL Leadership Visits Sangam Project- Advancing Lakadong Turmeric & Ginger Value Chain in Meghalaya



We were honored to welcome **Mr. A. Gopa Kumar, Joint General Manager, CSR & ESG**, and **Mr. Saurabh Chakraborty, Regional Head, LIC HFL**, to Sangam Project site in West Jaintia Hills, Meghalaya. Their visit provided a valuable opportunity to showcase the progress of our Lakadong Turmeric & Ginger Value Chain Enhancement initiative and assess the impact on local farmers.

During the visit, the team engaged with community stakeholders, including the Farmers Interest Group (FIG) members from Madankynsaw and Mulum villages understanding their challenges and discuss the action plans for further value addition in the turmeric value chain.

The visit also included a tour of the near-harvest Lakadong Turmeric fields, where agricultural practices and outcomes were assessed. We are deeply grateful for the continuous support and guidance from LIC HFL, which continues to drive sustainable change and innovation in the region.

HDFC Bank Branch Head Visits HRDP Jorhat Project- Witnessing Impact on Animal Health and Community Initiatives

Mr. Ritu Raj Sharma, Branch Head of HDFC Bank Ltd, Titabor, Assam visited the animal health camp organized under the HRDP project. During the camp, Mr. Sharma witnessed the positive impact of the project's efforts in improving animal health and welfare. Following the camp, he toured several other key project interventions, including the handloom unit and solar street light installations.

Mr. Sharma expressed his appreciation for the transformative impact these initiatives have had on the local community. His continuous support has been invaluable in ensuring the smooth functioning of the project, and his encouragement and recognition serve as a significant motivation for the team.



SBI Foundation's Representative Visits Unnati Project- Empowering Women Entrepreneurs in Himachal Pradesh



Ms. Siddhi Kadam, Assistant Manager, Women and Health at SBI Foundation, visited the Unnati Project field sites in Kandaghat and Nahan Blocks of Himachal Pradesh, engaging with women entrepreneurs involved in fruit processing, floriculture, tailoring, and more.

During her visit, she explored the **Fruit Processing Units** under the **"Women's Pride"** brand, the Floriculture Enterprises in Jhajha Village, and the **Isha Silai Mahila Sashakti Sangathan** in Kandaghat. She also reviewed the newly established **Swabhimani Mahila Bakery** in Nahan. Ms. Kadam provided valuable insights to the women entrepreneurs on expanding their reach, including suggestions on utilizing digital tools and creating local outlets. Her visit reinforced the shared commitment

Celebrating Gandhi Jayanti 2024: SUVIDHA's Contribution to the Swachhta Hi Seva 2024 Campaign in Chamba

In honor of Gandhi Jayanti, SUVIDHA proudly joined the national **'Swachhta Hi Seva 2024'** campaign (17th Sept to 2nd Oct) under its project Asha ke Ankur, aligning with the theme **"Cleanliness of Character, Cleanliness of Habits."**

To inspire young minds, SUVIDHA organized interactive activities at Govt. High School, Paliur, Chamba, Himachal Pradesh. Students enthusiastically participated in painting, speech, and slogan competitions, spreading the message of cleanliness and its significance in everyday life. Complementing this, a community-led cleanliness drive in Paliur village encouraged residents to take ownership of their surroundings, fostering a collective sense of responsibility for a cleaner environment.

Adding to the spirit of the occasion, the students of National Service Scheme (NSS) took proactive steps to improve the community under SBI Gram Seva Project in Kiri Gram Panchayat, Chamba.

Their dedication led to the cleaning and maintenance of the connecting pathway between the road and Bahjal village, enhancing accessibility and ensuring a safer, cleaner path for locals.



Inspiring Leadership in Action: CEO Visits HRDP Project in Jorhat, Assam



SUVIDHA's CEO, Mr. Deepak Pandey, conducted an insightful field visit to the HRDP Project in Titabor Block, Jorhat, Assam. The CEO engaged with Village Development Committees (VDCs) and Self-Help Groups (SHGs), inspiring them to actively take ownership of ongoing initiatives.

His motivational discussions emphasized the importance of community-driven leadership and highlighted the role of decentralized decision-making in fostering sustainable development.

Major intervention sites visited by the CEO were the proposed handloom unit targeted to provide livelihood opportunities for local artisans, renovation works at schools and ICDS Centres and several locations at village levels, where people to people interactions helped bring insightful feedback for collective planning and implementation of the project.



Program Manager's Visit to Bihar: Enhancing the Mithila Artists Project and Market Opportunities

As part of ongoing efforts to strengthen the "Empowering Mithila Artists" project, **Program Manager Ms. Silka Singh** conducted a field visit to Patna and Darbhanga, Bihar, focusing on monitoring progress, building collaborations, and supporting artisan initiatives.

Ms. Singh engaged with key stakeholders, including the Principal of Art College and the Additional Director of Bihar Museum, to explore opportunities for artisan skill enhancement and participation in exhibitions.

In addition, Ms. Singh monitored the interventions of the successfully completed project (FRDP Phase 1), such as the orchard plantation, and the Makhana Processing Unit to ensure the sustainability of completed projects.



Collaborations: Initiating Transformative Ventures

- **VIKAS** (Community based Carbon Emission Reduction Programme) supported by HUL (Hindustan Unilever Limited), being implemented in Hamirpur, Uttar Pradesh and Sonipat, Haryana.
- **Krishak Kranti** supported by Pernod Ricard India Foundation, being implemented in Dera Bassi, Punjab.
- **Sinchan**: Augmenting Water Resource Conservation and Management supported by Pernod Ricard India Foundation, being implemented in Khorda District, Odisha

SUVIDHA's Participation in Exhibitions and Fairs: Showcasing Craftsmanship and Entrepreneurship

Expanding Markets for Rural Products through Exhibitions

Exhibitions and fairs provide a vital platform to connect rural artisans with a larger audience, showcasing their exceptional craftsmanship while creating opportunities for economic growth. These events help bridge the rural-urban divide, introducing traditional arts to modern consumers and fostering appreciation for cultural heritage.

- SUVIDHA proudly participated in the **'Diwali Haat 2024'** exhibition, held from 23rd to 25th October in New Delhi, organized by Mankind Pharma. The exhibition showcased a vibrant collection of handcrafted products from rural India, highlighting the incredible artistry of rural artisans. Among the featured items were Madhubani-painted bags and dupattas, Maheshwari sarees, jaggery-based sweets, and a variety of pickles and jams made by rural women enterprises. Each product reflected the rich cultural heritage and craftsmanship of rural communities. A special thanks to Mankind Pharma for their invaluable support in helping these artisans share their work with the world, and for bringing the spirit of rural India to the Diwali market.
- The women entrepreneurs of the **'Jamta Juice Pickle Fruit Processing Group'** participated in the two-day Jamta Fair, held on 10th and 11th October at Jamta Gram Panchayat, Nahan, Himachal Pradesh. They proudly displayed their homemade products, including a variety of pickles and the renowned local chutney, Chamba Chuk. Their entrepreneurial journey was recognized by distinguished guests, including ADM Sirmaur Mr. L R Verma, MLA Nahan Mr. Ajay Solanki, and BDO Nahan Mr. Paramjeet Singh, who visited their stall to show support. These women along with other women groups are receiving constant training and support to launch their own enterprises and create sustainable livelihoods under the project Unnati supported by SBI Foundation.
- At the **Navratri event in LOTUS Panache and Ved Van Park, Noida** (8–11 October 2024), we displayed a range of **Mithila-painted jute bags, dupattas, sarees, and paintings**, crafted by rural artists from **Madhubani, Bihar**. These artists have received **advanced-level training at the Mithila Art Studio**, under the project 'Empowering Mithila Artists' supported by **Wurth Electronics**, equipping them with the skills to create intricate and authentic designs. With a daily footfall of **1,000 visitors**, the event boosted visibility, attracted repetitive orders for these unique products, and highlighted the importance of preserving traditional crafts.

