

COMMEMORATIVE

SOUVENIR

6TH SEPTEMBER, 2023



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Indo-Global Social Service Society
28, Lodhi Road, Institutional Area
New Delhi - 110 003, India
Website: www.igsss.org

OUR vision & mission



VISION

Help establish a humane social order based on equity, freedom, and justice in which human rights and the dignity of every individual are upheld.

MISSION

To implement and support quality development programs across India to empower individuals and communities belonging to the poor, marginalized & vulnerable sections of the society with a special focus on women and children.

FOREWORD



The remarkable journey of IGSSS over the past six decades serves not only as a reflection on significance of our achievements but also as a visionary path towards the future. With a legacy of six decades in service, IGSSS has emerged as a potent catalyst for positive transformation. As we embark into the next phase of this journey, our steps are guided by unwavering determination and boundless hope and a profound recognition of the resilience, and the community led approaches that have propelled our mission forward.

Over the span of the past six decades, our has been characterized by resilience, innovation, and collaboration. Starting from modest origins and evolving into a symbol of optimism for countless people, we have harnessed the strength of togetherness to tackle society's most urgent issues. Today, we stand as a testament to the unwavering spirit of humanity forging ahead to create a brighter, more equitable future for all.

IGSSS six decade of contribution is our commitment and stands as our dedication towards fostering a self-reliant and self-sustaining nation, embodying the ideals of Atmanirbhar Bharat. Through our initiatives spanning from Livelihood, Agriculture, Climate Change Adaptation, Emergency Responses and Disaster Risk Reduction Youth Development and Gender Equity, Urban Poverty Reduction, Institutional Development, Health and Medical Aid and Education, we have played a modest yet impactful role in the nation-building journey.

Looking forward, we are prepared to welcome a future brimming with possibilities and opportunities. Our vision extends beyond the horizon, powered by our steadfast allegiance to our fundamental principles and values. Presented below are several pivotal elements that shape our prospective outlook:

- **Innovative Solutions:** Our commitment to innovation will continue to be the cornerstone of our endeavours. By harnessing cutting-edge technologies, data-driven insights, and creative problem-solving, we will continue to find novel ways to address complex challenges and create lasting impact particularly in the realm of Climate Change Adaptation and make enduring contributions.
- **Collaboration:** We recognize that the challenges we face can only be addressed with active collaboration with the Government, Business and Civil Society. We will actively seek partnerships and collaborations on a national scale, leveraging diverse perspectives and knowledge to amplify our reach and effectiveness.



- **Empowerment Through Decentralisation and localisation** : Decentralization has served as a foundational principle in our operations and will remain an integral part of our approach. We envision to empower State units with skills, knowledge, and resources they need to plan, develop, and implement programmes independently.
- **Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship:** Our commitment to sustainability will deepen as we grow stronger as we pledge to uphold conscientious practices and policies that safeguard our planet for future generations.
- **Social Equity and Inclusion** : The social equity and inclusion remains central to our mission. We will redouble our efforts to promote inclusivity, ensuring LIFE FREEDOM AND DIGNITY
- **Youth Engagement:** Recognizing that the youth are our future leaders, we will invest in engaging and empowering young voices, nurturing a fresh cohort of individuals poised to steer our mission into the future.
- **Resilience and Local Resources:** Our journey has been guided by the strength of our collective resilience and the utilization of local resources. These foundations will continue to underpin our work, enabling us to navigate challenges with determination and creativity, while also ensuring that our initiatives are sustainable and rooted in the communities we serve.

As we embrace the future with optimism and aspiration let us remember that the foundation of our success is built upon the devoted contributions of every member of the IGSSS Family – those who have accompanied us throughout the years. Your passion, dedication, and unwavering support have been instrumental in bringing us to this momentous milestone. While commemorating our history, let us also unite in our collective dedication to shape a future that truly reflects our values and aspirations.

A journey shared, your role profound, six decades past, with purpose found.

Looking ahead, let's pave the way, Sixty more years of brighter days!

With gratitude and optimism

John Peter Nelson
Executive Director, IGSSS





MS. SHANTI SUNDHARAM
PRESIDENT, IGSSS

Esteemed Friends, Partners, and Supporters,

It is with immense joy and gratitude that I extend my warmest greetings to each one of you on the occasion of IGSSS's Diamond Jubilee. Sixty years of unwavering commitment, dedication, and collective efforts have brought us to this remarkable milestone in our journey of transformation and empowerment.

From humble beginnings to a force for positive change, IGSSS has journeyed through six decades, leaving indelible footprints in the lives of countless individuals and communities. Our shared endeavour to uplift the marginalized, provide a voice to the voiceless, and create sustainable solutions has borne fruit in ways we could only dream of when this journey began.

Being the current president of IGSSS, I am proud of our work across 18 states and 56 districts that exemplifies our unwavering commitment to uplift the marginalized. As we look ahead, I am confident that IGSSS will continue to champion its manifold initiatives, contributing to a more equitable and inclusive society.

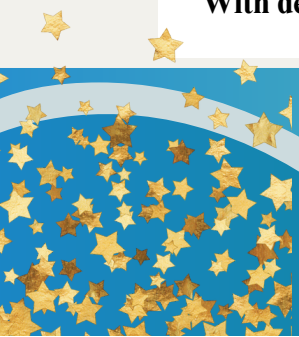
As we celebrate this Diamond Jubilee, let us not only reflect on our past accomplishments but also look forward to the challenges that lie ahead. Our commitment to leaving no one behind remains unshaken. With renewed vigor, we shall continue to tackle social injustices, promote sustainable development, and work towards a world where every individual can live a life of dignity and opportunity.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all our stakeholders who have contributed to this journey – donors, volunteers, staff members, and the communities themselves. Your unwavering support has been the cornerstone of our success. Let us continue to work hand in hand, bringing positive change to those who need it the most.

Happy Diamond Jubilee to IGSSS and all those who have been part of this incredible voyage.

Thank you for being the driving force behind our success.

With deep appreciation and warm regards.





DR. CHERIAN JOSEPH
VICE PRESIDENT IGSSS

Over the last sixty years Indo Global Social Service Society has earned a valuable reputation as a professional development organization that has reached out to the poorest, specially the most marginalised and vulnerable. The work of IGSSS, particularly in the last two decades has addressed and triggered social and economic transformation in the communities they have worked with.

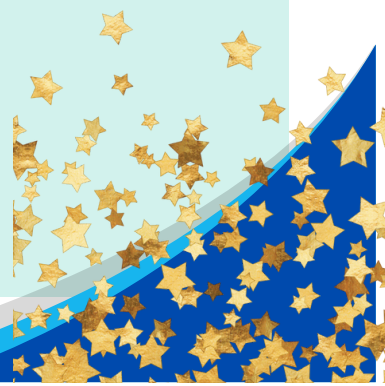
This has been possible because of the dedicated, passionate, and goal focussed work of the staff and leadership that have served IGSSS over the years. The partners and partnerships IGSSS have nurtured are invaluable and the work and results would not have been possible without the steadfast engagement and collaboration of partners.

Thematic strengths have driven and shaped remarkable and purposive interventions in livelihood enhancement, income generation, disaster risk mitigation and climate action, urban poverty and unemployment and youth development. The journey was never easy and in the last few years the journey has been extremely challenging. And yet IGSSS was able to organise at short notice despite, immense pressure of time lines and resources, relief to thousands during the Covid pandemic that ravaged us. All this was possible because of admirable staff commitment and passion.

I congratulate the entire family of IGSSS staff, past and present and the leadership that laid the foundations and steered IGSSS to where it is today as We celebrate the 60th year of IGSSS.

I pray IGSSS will continue to grow and succeed in the consistent service of the poor and deprived I wish IGSSS every success in its endeavours. IGSSS has much to be proud of. The future calls for continuous reflection, shaping new agendas, and accepting changes for more speedy socio economic transformation in response to the vastly changing aspirational needs of our people.

May humanity, social justice and compassion be our beacons!





misereor
GEMEINSAM GLOBAL GERECHT

Congratulatory Message from the Director General of MISEREOR – 60 years of IGSSS

Dear Friends at IGSSS,

Cordial greetings from Misereor!

With this message, I would like to convey my sincerest congratulations to IGSSS for its 60th anniversary!

It is such a great pleasure and honor for us at Misereor to celebrate this Jubilee with you at IGSSS being our longstanding and dedicated partner in India. Especially in these challenging times, the world needs strong civil society organizations that are able to address complex global issues, especially those that directly affect the poor sectors of the society. In this regard, IGSSS is proof of outstanding commitment and unwavering dedication in serving the most vulnerable and marginalized people in India. IGSSS has been working side by side with the poor to fight for a better world where peace, justice and respect for human dignity are not just empty words.

For the past 60 years, we have witnessed how IGSSS and its partner communities have struggled and succeeded in their various endeavors for the betterment of the lives of the poor. Despite the complexities of the challenges and also opportunities that shape the social, economic, cultural and political environment of India, IGSSS never ceased to continue its work and take up the challenge with compassion and courage as well as with professionalism and profound expertise. Right from the very beginning, IGSSS has been able to strengthen and empower grassroots organizations in such a way that they are able to improve their dire situations and accomplish their goals and aspirations with their own efforts and resources. In addition to that, IGSSS has increasingly implemented programs that are instrumental to achieving significant changes in the social and political sphere for the benefit of the downtrodden. Therefore, over the years, IGSSS has become a renowned and respected civil society organization throughout the whole country. This is commendable and worth emulating.

The recognition, mindfulness and appreciation of different worlds of living remain to be the goal that make the earth a common house and a place where various cultures and diverse experiences come together and co-exist. The path for an open and solidary interconnected world is in store for us, wherein different ways of life can exist in freedom and learn from each other.

Our partnership in the last 60 years has been a great manifestation of a shared common vision, mutual learning and genuine trust. IGSSS and its partner communities all over India remain to be a source of inspiration for us at Misereor. For this I would like to express my sincerest thanks to everybody who has made the journey so far of IGSSS a meaningful one. From the bottom of my heart, I wish IGSSS and its partner communities more years to commemorate their service on the side of the poor and the oppressed so that no one is left behind and every human being can live in respect and dignity within the ONE planet earth.

Congratulations! God's blessings may always be with you.

Pirmin Spiegel

Msgr. Pirmin Spiegel
Director General, Misereor





ENSEMBLE,
CONSTRUIRE
UN MONDE JUSTE
ET FRATERNEL

INDO-GLOBAL SOCIAL SERVICE SOCIETY (IGSSS)
Institutional Area, 28, Lodi Road
New Delhi 110003
India

Paris, July 19, 2023

Subject : "Celebrating the Spirit of Humanity", message for the Souvenir

Dear Ms J.M Shanti Sundharam, Honorary President of the Indo-Global Social Service Society,

I would like to take the opportunity of the 60 years' celebration of IGSSS to express my gratitude for your work and for the invaluable partnership between our organizations.

Over the last 60 years, IGSSS has made a significant contribution to the promotion of a fair and ecological transition thanks to the organisation's remarkable expertise in urban poverty, sustainable rural livelihood, climate change adaptation and disaster risk preparedness. Development of local Civil Society and Community Based Organizations, as well as involvement of community members at the grassroots level, are at the core of IGSSS' work and make your work distinctive.

IGSSS has gained recognition as a key development actor in every district of operation, thanks to its credibility with the community, as well as its fruitful collaboration with a multitude of diverse stakeholders - being these state and local authorities, research institutes and non-governmental organizations.

While being extremely solid in its strategic thinking, governance, and expertise, IGSSS has also shown extreme flexibility to adapt to difficult situations. IGSSS' remarkable response to every major emergency in India over the past decades stands as a proof of the organisation's capacity to be there for the community when they most need it.

Secours Catholique - Caritas France is glad to have been part of this journey for the last 8 years, thanks to a collaboration based on trust and mutual respect. In 2015, we started working together on an inclusive and sustainable urban development programme, which enabled marginalized communities to achieve positive transformation in their socio- economic conditions and supported their inclusion into local governance decision-making. Since 2016, SCCF and IGSSS worked together on a flood risks reduction project in Assam. As IGSSS has always been a learning organization, the action moved from disaster risks reduction to climate change adaptation and IGSSS played a key role in strengthening local stakeholders' strategies and capacities.





In addition to collaboration in the field, SCCF and IGSSS have been exchanging knowledge, learning and practices regularly and transparently. SCCF has learnt a lot from IGSSS through this journey and we are grateful for that.

Lastly, we cannot celebrate IGSSS' successes without thinking of and congratulating all of its members. Thanks to their daily commitment, dedication and energy, IGSSS has been able to achieve a remarkable impact at the local and national level.

We thank you again for your contribution to improving the life of people and communities in need and we wish you a wonderful celebration of your achievements.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Devise".



Véronique Devise
Présidente





Mr. UWE GEHLAN

**HEAD, GERMAN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION IN
INDIA AND MINISTER AT THE GERMAN EMBASSY,
NEW DELHI**

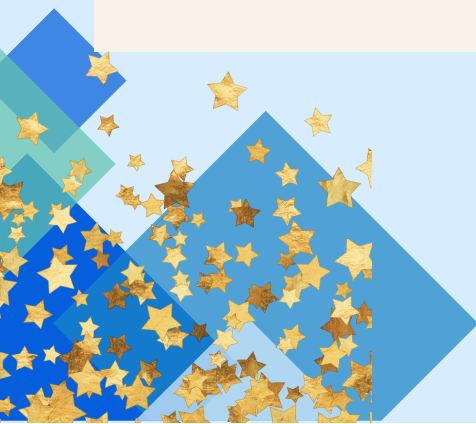
“It is with greatest pleasure that I extend my warmest greetings to Indo Global Social Service Society on the occasion of its Diamond Jubilee celebrations. IGSSS, which made a small beginning in the year 1961, has grown impressively over the last 60 years with programs and systems and today being recognised as one of the national development organisations working across India.

On this occasion I cherish the partnership between BMZ and IGSSS through our German partner Misereor. This partnership dates back to 60 years of working together. In this 60 years, the German government through Misereor supported IGSSS for sustainable development benefitting most marginalised communities based on the local needs.

Our partnership in the last 10 years is specifically on issues around sustainable agriculture, climate change adaptation, sustainable cities and sustainable livelihood. We also have a special partnership on nutrition program One World no hunger (SEWOH). Also this partnership is very special as we have an opportunity to collaborate and reach out in most remotest areas like Kashmir working on climate change adaptation and sustainable livelihood.

Our joint vision of saving earth would be the focus in the coming years and we will be very happy to continue to work with such an important partner in India.

I wish IGSSS all the very best for all its future endeavours specially in bringing life dignity and freedom to the most marginalised and poor people.





MR. FRANCK VIAULT
MINISTER COUNSELLOR, HEAD OF COOPERATION
DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION TO INDIA
AND BHUTAN

The European Union congratulates IGSSS on its 60th foundation day. The EU has been glad to support various initiatives implemented by IGSSS in India. Civil Society actors, such as IGSSS, have a critical role to play in ensuring that no-one is left behind, by tackling poverty as well as formal and informal obstacles to social inclusion through equitable wealth creation and redistribution. IGSSS has proved to be an important partner for reaching out the most vulnerable and marginalised citizens, especially women. IGSSS, including through recent EU financial support, has contributed significantly to ensuring better access to habitation, public services and entitlements of homeless communities in many cities in India.





DR. EVA WALLENSTEINER
PROJECT DESK, DKA AND KFB

Celebrating Social Transformation with Hope and Dedication

The funding agencies of the Catholic Children's Movement (DKA) and Catholic Women's Movement (KFB) of Austria do enjoy decades of an inspiring partnership with IGSSS. 1996 was the first year when KFB approached IGSSS to implement a grant for several small projects for women empowerment in South India. In 2004, when I took over as country officer for India, we were still supporting the different small projects and DKA had already started funding the innovative SMILE program for Youth in Manipur. IGSSS is for us not only an implementing agency which leaves traces in peoples and communities' lives but a partner for discussions and knowledge sharing.

Whether evaluations of ongoing projects, hand holding support for smaller Indian NGOs or coming up with solutions for social problems in all we had found an honest and trustworthy dialogue partner. Our common story is a story of learning and growing. Upcoming challenges ask for innovative ideas and IGSSS has been a reliable partner in finding new pathways towards a more just world. Our visions are congruent in the past and in the present. Together we strive for social transformation for a better life for all. We do congratulate IGSSS for its persistent presence in the social field, for its impactful relationships with the marginalized and downtrodden and for being acknowledged experts and counterparts for the different Indian Government departments. For more than 60 years IGSSS keeps on fighting for thousands of people who have no voice and no power to change their destinies. We, as the biggest women and children's movements from a very small European country do congratulate IGSSS for its patience and endurance in a struggle for justice, peace and equality. We are grateful for this wonderful partnership which carries a flame of hope to people who live in distress and poverty. With each individual who gets a chance to decide upon his or her life a new flame of hope and transformation is set on fire. We are looking forward to many more years of collaboration and partnership! We do wish all the staff members and all people touched and inspired by the work of IGSSS the very best for a future of wellbeing and equal choices.



Outreach and Financial Utilisation 1961-2022

Financial Utilization and Families Served since 1961		
Year	Amount (INR)	Families Served
1961-1971	31,75,61,500	14,59,810
1971-1980	42,45,05,411	16,65,820
1981-1990	1,06,94,39,108	20,60,098
1991-2000	1,17,63,83,019	20,60,098
2001-2010	1,60,95,09,822	16,67,010
2011-2020	2,02,80,55,824	17,46,155
2021-2022	76,28,61,109	5,51,882
Total	7,38,83,15,792	1,12,10,873

Theme/sectorwise financial utilization over the last 60 years		
Theme	Amount	%
Livelihood, Agriculture, Climate Change Adaptation	3,33,38,35,348	45.12
Emergency Responses and Disaster Risk Reduction	1,09,50,06,430	14.82
Youth Development and Gender Equity	20,78,70,137	2.81
Urban Poverty Reduction	35,99,31,749	4.87
Institutional Development	24,71,90,692	3.35
Health and Medical Aid	46,82,48,288	6.34
Education	1,67,62,33,149	22.69
Total	7,38,83,15,792	100



MR. RAHUL KAPOOR
JOINT SECRETARY AND MISSION
DIRECTOR, DAY-NULM & PM SVANIDHI

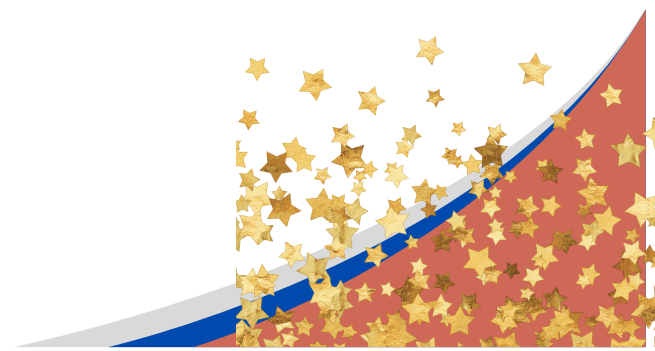
I am delighted to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Indo-Global Social Service Society (IGSSS) on the momentous occasion of its sixtieth anniversary. This milestone marks a remarkable journey of dedication, compassion, and unwavering commitment towards the betterment of society. The significant contributions made by IGSSS over the past six decades in fostering socio-economic change among the underprivileged communities have been truly remarkable.

I was apprised that IGSSS has served as a beacon of hope for countless individuals, families, and communities grappling with poverty, hunger, and vulnerability. With a steadfast focus on sustainable development and empowering those in need, the organization has been at the forefront of nation-building efforts. The positive impact of IGSSS's initiatives resonates far beyond geographical boundaries, touching lives and transforming destinies.

The theme, "Celebrating the Spirit of Humanity," aptly captures the essence of IGSSS's endeavors. It is a testament to the profound impact of collective efforts in creating a more equitable and just society. The numerous success stories of empowerment, education, and sustainable development bear witness to the indomitable spirit that resides within every citizen.

On this occasion, I extend my sincere appreciation to all the staff, volunteers, and supporters who have been instrumental in shaping IGSSS's journey. Your unwavering dedication and tireless efforts have been the driving force behind the organization's success. Together, you have shown that with determination and a shared vision, we can surmount even the most daunting challenges. I am sure IGSSS will continue its role in complementing government efforts and creating a synergy of social impact.

Once again, I convey my appreciation and wish the best for all forthcoming pursuits.





MS. NUSRAT PATHAN
HEAD CSR, HDFC BANK PARIVARTAN

On behalf of HDFC Bank, I extend warm and heartfelt congratulations to the Indo-Global Social Service Society (IGSSS) as they celebrate an incredible 60 years of unwavering dedication and impactful service. This remarkable milestone serves as a testament to IGSSS's enduring vision, boundless passion, and selfless commitment to enhancing the lives of countless individuals. The devotion, fervour, and altruism exhibited by the staff, volunteers, and supporters are truly remarkable. Through their collective endeavours, lives have been transformed across communities and beyond, leaving an indelible mark of inspiration.

We at HDFC Bank, are deeply committed to build socially and economically strong communities and to empower them through holistic rural development program. Our key initiatives under HDFC Bank Parivartan are in the field of Environment, Rural Development, Education, Skill Development and Livelihood Enhancement, Financial Literacy, Healthcare & Hygiene.

Our collaborative journey with IGSSS began in 2016 and has been a memorable and enlightening experience. Together, in partnership with HDFC Bank Parivartan, we continuously strive to forge a brighter future by reaching the underserved and fostering community development across the nation. In Chattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Assam we are collaborating to empower poor and marginalised communities . In Assam, we have built flood resilient infrastructure that are benefitting the people affected by recurrent floods. In Chattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh, we are improving livelihoods of tribal families by supporting their resources around water, agriculture, livestock and enterprise development. In Jammu and Kashmir, we are promoting people's livelihood through community-based smart business enterprises. All these initiatives are poised to touch the lives of over 24,000 households across approximately 60 villages. The far-reaching impact of our programs will directly benefit a substantial number of individuals.

As a longstanding partner, HDFC Bank takes immense pride in this journey that has touched the lives of countless individuals and communities. Together, we celebrate the strides made and look forward to a future where our collective efforts continue to pave the way for positive change on an even greater scale. Congratulations once again, and here's to a future brimming with achievements and a better world for all.





MR. PETER SEIDEL

ON BEHALF OF THE CARITAS GERMANY TEAM

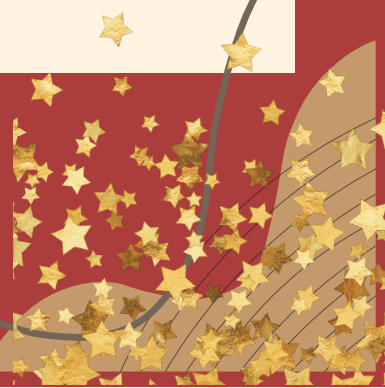
In the past 60 years the IGSSS - Indo-Global Social Service Society has been contributing in a most substantial and significant way to the improvement of the lives of people throughout India.

By doing this, IGSSS has been able to respond in many ways and in a most challenging environment: poverty reduction by increased agricultural food production, disaster risk reduction or improvement of working conditions in the urban informal sector have been important key areas of intervention in the most crucial areas for economic development, not only reaching and but most importantly empowering those in need.

In most demanding situations of natural disasters and conflicts, IGSSS has continuously been able to mobilize resources for the immediate response and assistance, while simultaneously developing solutions for a sustainable rehabilitation. Peace building and promoting Social Harmony are areas, in which IGSSS also developed most successful approaches inspiring many other actors in India. With intensive contacts to other partnering organizations, state, and non-state actors, IGSSS is influencing discussions and joint actions in many ways to change difficult situations for the better.

A new level of crisis with drastic and accelerated impacts on all our lives comes in form of climate change and the destruction and misuse of natural resources and environment. Organizations like IGSSS, being a link to the international level and at the same time having a strong presence in the local communities have a key role and a huge task to develop, to introduce and to spread possible technical and social ways to respond to it and contribute to the search of effective ways changing the living conditions of the most affected.

We are most pleased to be a partner of IGSSS in discussing, planning, and supporting actions for a better life of the most disadvantaged people in India. We look forward to continuing this partnership, jointly facing the multiple development challenges at global level.





PRESIDENTS OF IGSSSS (1961-2022)

Mr. E.E. Jhirad

1961 – 1965

Mr. H.F. B Pais

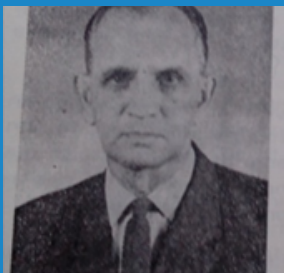
1965

Mr. J. M. D'Souza

1966 – 1969

Mr. B.C. Das Gupta

1970 – 1972



**Lt. Gen. Patrick
O Dunn (Retd.)**

1972 – 1977



**Dr. N. Pinto do
Rosario**

1978 – 1983



Mr. N. Macedo

1983 – 1992



**Mr. Eric
Gonsalves**

1992 – 2001



**Mr. E. F. N.
Ribeiro**

2001 – 2004



**Ambassador K. P.
Fabian**

2004 – 2012



Dr. N. J. Kurian

2012 – 2018



Mr. D.K. Manavalan

2019-2021



Ms. J.M. Shanti Sundaram

2022 ONWARDS



MS. JAYANTI SHUKLA
CEO, UNITED WAY INDIA

With great pleasure, United Way India extends its heartfelt congratulations as Indo-Global Social Service Society (IGSSS) celebrates its momentous 60th anniversary!

This remarkable milestone marks your six decades of unwavering commitment, tireless dedication, and transformative impact in the pursuit of social welfare and community development.

As we commemorate this occasion, we find ourselves reflecting on the journey of Indo-Global Social Service Society. Since inception in 1963, IGSSS has been at the forefront of catalyzing positive change, empowering marginalized communities, and fostering sustainable progress across India.

Together, we have shared remarkable accomplishments, collaborating on various disaster relief and rehabilitation projects and initiatives that address critical social issues. From education and healthcare to livelihood development under disaster rehabilitation projects in Assam, our partnership played a pivotal role in creating lasting change in the lives of vulnerable communities. Each success story stands as a testament to the indomitable human spirit and the power of collaboration between like-minded organizations.

On this special occasion, our deepest gratitude to the founders, board members, staff, volunteers, and all those associated with Indo-Global Social Service Society for their relentless efforts and dedication to the cause.

Once again, congratulations on this momentous 60th anniversary. May this milestone be a springboard for even greater accomplishments, as we work together to build a brighter, more inclusive, and sustainable tomorrow.





MR. YOGESH KUMAR
HEAD OF OPERATIONS,
HCL FOUNDATION

Our congratulations to Indo-Global Social Service Society (IGSSS) for completing 60 years in their journey in serving the poor. IGSSS has been making significant contributions and impact in nation building and reduction of poverty, hunger and vulnerability.

We at HCL Foundation, through our collaboration with IGSSS have first-hand witnessed organizational contributions and commitment for the cause. Through our collaboration with IGSSS in the field of solid waste management in urban areas, we work with the most vulnerable communities such as waste workers.

From mobilization, treatment, government liaisoning to door to door campaigns, the IGSSS team leaves no stone unturned to achieve our shared vision of a cleaner, greener and a hygienic society for citizens. In the process, IGSSS has demonstrated a dignity centric approach for all stakeholders, especially the weakest in the value chain i.e. waste workers. Their far-reaching work towards ensuring agreed project objectives and diligent efforts for desired results speaks volumes about their unwavering spirit and commitment towards people.

We wish IGSSS the best in their continued commitment to their work for the betterment of society and their ongoing mission to uplift the underprivileged and create a just and equitable society.





MR. ANAND K BOLIMERA
CEO ,CHANGE ALLIANCE

At the outset we wish to congratulate IGSSS and send our good wishes as the IGSSS Team embarks towards the Diamond Jubilee celebrations. It gives us immense pleasure to express our heartfelt gratitude to commemorate 60 years of its inspiring journey through your development and humanitarian programs. This is a moment for celebrating the Spirit of Humanity and also reflect on the journey and its commitment towards building resilient communities.

I have had the privilege of witnessing IGSSS work and how it has made an indelible imprint and impact in the nation building and empowering the communities toward resilience and hope. One significant aspect of its work was towards strengthening the civil society across the country, which contributed immensely towards the eradication of poverty and helping people impacted by natural disasters. It also immensely contributed in developing leadership among the youth through its flagship programme “SMILE”.

Change Alliance and Christian Aid, UK have had the privilege of working with IGSSS team across the country, especially offering much needed humanitarian response in different parts of the country. The partnership we have fostered with IGSSS has enabled both of us in realizing our shared mission of service to the poor, marginalised and vulnerable communities. Through its long-term development programmes, IGSSS has also positively impacted millions of poor and vulnerable people.

On behalf of Change Alliance and Christian Aid, UK, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to IGSSS and its team for their dedication to the service of humanity.

I wish the board of IGSSS, leadership team, staff, volunteers and community leaders many more years of service. As we jointly celebrate the Diamond Jubilee, let's consider this as an opportunity to reflect and recommit ourselves to address deep-rooted structural causes of poverty and promote values enshrined in our constitution of India – Justice, Equality, Fraternity and Dignity for all.

Best wishes!





VINIT RISHI
DIRECTOR – INDIA PROGRAMME,
OAK FOUNDATION

Oak Foundation provides grants to not-for-profit organisations to make the world a safer, fairer, and more sustainable place to live. We are proud to support IGSSS' efforts to enhance the resilience of informal workers to adapt to adverse socio-economic and climate events. This is incredibly important work that will improve the lives of so many people. On behalf of Oak Foundation, I congratulate the team for the impactful work carried out over the last six decades.





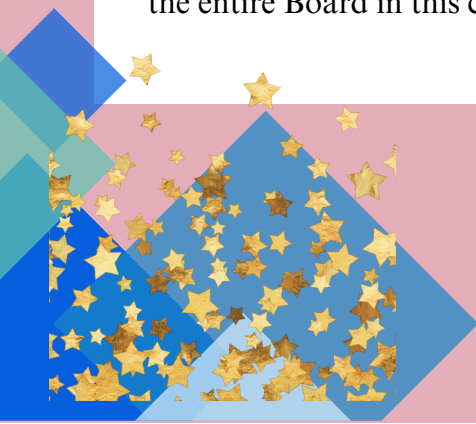
MR. E. F. N. REBEIRO
EX PRESIDENT, IGSSS

My heartiest congratulations to IGSSS in this, their 60th year of selfless service dedicated to alleviating the lives of the marginalised in India. In this, my 93rd year, when I reminisce on my journey through life from the comfort of the “balcao” of my ancestral home in Goa, I fondly recall my tenure as President of the Society. As an Urban and Regional planner, I immensely enjoyed working with an eminent board and the many skilled and committed personnel that took forward the noble mission of IGSSS, much to the appreciation of the Government.

It was during this period, when concerted efforts were being made in India, to constitutionally infuse a down-top participatory development through local Government into the ongoing Centre-State pattern of growth, that IGSSS with the support of “Miserior” took the momentous step of refining its mandate. This was seamlessly achieved by substituting “German with Global” in the widely respected mandate of the Society. This clearly facilitated my worthy successor Ambassador Fabian, followed by Mr. Manavalam and others to steer IGSSS to greater heights with its mission gelling well into the Governments growing agenda.

I cannot help but recall that in the year 1987, the “International year of shelter for the homeless”, India hosted the Global community of my tribe of Spatial Planners at New Delhi with a focus on formulating guidelines for the in-situ upgradation of Slums as a part of the Housing process. It led to a series of replicable solutions especially in the Third world where the slogan “A slum is the start of a Housing process” gathered traction. In this context, with the poverty base increasing despite our rapid economic climb, IGSSS is ideally equipped to address issues of those below the Poverty Line - specially with their presence in Niti Aayog in particular and Government in general.

I’m sure that IGSSS with its well established managerial and personnel skills will climb to greater heights with the 75th year of its existence on the horizon. My best wishes to the President Ms Shanti Sundharam, the Executive Director Nelson and his dedicated team and the entire Board in this challenging but noble mission.



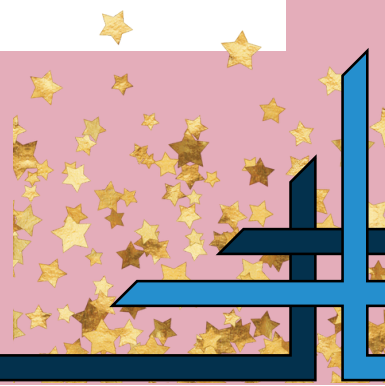


AMBASSADOR K.P FABIAN
EX PRESIDENT, IGSSS

As Indo-Global Social Service Society (IGSSS) approaches the significant milestone of 60 years in its journey of service to fellow human beings a flood of memories come to my mind. Looking back, it was indeed a singular privilege to be associated with IGSSS as President of the Board from 2004 to 2012. Our original name was Indo-German Social Service Society as it was the Misereor who gave birth to us. Subsequently, we decided to retain the acronym IGSSS by replacing the word “German” with “Global”. I remember once when we were celebrating Christmas in the cold winter of Delhi, hundreds, or even thousands of our fellow human beings were homeless with a certain number dying of the severe cold weather. I mentioned the need to address this problem and soon we started a home for the homeless in Delhi. It was an important milestone in the history of IGSSS as we started our urban interventions.

I am happy to note that presently IGSSS is acknowledged as one of the pioneering NGOs working for the urban poor. Days before he was assassinated Mahatma Gandhi gave a talisman to those who hold any office of responsibility in or outside the government: "I will give you a talisman. Whenever you are in doubt, or when the self becomes too much with you, apply the following test. Recall the face of the poorest and the weakest man [woman] whom you may have seen, and ask yourself, if the step you contemplate is going to be of any use to him [her]. Will he [she] gain anything by it? Will it restore him [her] to a control over his [her] own life and destiny? In other words, will it lead to swaraj [freedom] for the hungry and spiritually starving millions? Then you will find your doubts and your self melt away." There is a fundamental contradiction about the human condition. We human beings have the wisdom and the technical and managerial ability to ensure a life of dignity for every human being. However, till now we have as humanity refrained from using our resources in the right manner. Sadly enough, we have armed ourselves to the teeth and have willfully acquired the ability to destroy our world more than once.

In this context, role of NGOs like IGSSS with a mission to ensure a life of dignity to the most marginalized becomes very critical. Permit me to record my deep appreciation for the IGSSS team led by President Ms Shanti Sundharam and Executive Director Mr John Peter Nelson who have maintained the highest traditions of self-less and dedicated service cheerfully putting in long hours of work.





DR. N.J. KURIAN
EX PRESIDENT, IGSSS

As we convene to commemorate a significant milestone - the Diamond Jubilee of the Indo-Global Social Service Society (IGSSS), a journey spanning an impressive 63 years of devoted commitment and consequential impact - I am filled with both a sense of pride and a reflective sentiment. This occasion prompts us to engage in introspection regarding a trajectory woven with foundational ideals, embraced causes, and steered by the unyielding dedication of numerous individuals who have ardently advanced our shared mission.

My association with IGSSS started in 2010 as a member of the General Body. In June, 2012, I got elected as the President of the Board of Governors. It was a moment of immense pride to steer the remarkable legacy of IGSSS and as well as envisioning new milestones. During my presidency, I worked closely with the members of the Board as well as the executive team. I witnessed unequivocal commitment for fostering inclusivity, engendering societal cohesion, and ameliorating systemic inequities. I remember the passionate work of the team at field. During my time, IGSSS successfully fostered symbiotic partnerships with corporates to holistically address formidable developmental challenges. IGSSS strategized its programme around five themes – Sustainable Livelihood, Urban Poverty Alleviation, Disaster Risk Reduction, Youth development, and Gender Equity with a resolute to contribute in meeting the Sustainable Development Goals.

IGSSS is reaching the unreached without any regard to caste, creed or community. Over the six decades, IGSSS has evolved from being solely a fund disbursement organisation to a full-fledged developmental institution with its core programmatic areas and thematic expertise. I feel proud to be a part of this incredible journey and remember fondly my association.

To each contributor, collaborator, and patron who has enriched IGSSS's trajectory, this commemorative souvenir stands as a poignant testament to your dedication. Collectively, we have crafted a narrative that resounds with impact, compassion, and progress.

As IGSSS embark upon the next phase, I wish that its endeavours will continue to inscribe narratives of transformation.





DR. VIBHUTI PATEL
EX VICE PRESIDENT, IGSSS

Dear IGSSS team of Governing Board and programme implementation,

Please accept my heartfelt congratulations for completion of 62 years of dedicated work with honesty of purpose and clarity in vision for distributive justice. Awe inspiring projects of IGSSS to reach out to the poorest of the poor communities in the remotest parts of India and crisis interventions for hold holding of the survivors of natural disasters such as floods and famines, earthquakes and storms are unique.

At the time of social conflicts and major dislocation of communities due to mega development project, IGSSS has performed back breaking work of relocation, rehabilitation and rejuvenation of spirit by standing by the populations facing intersectional vulnerabilities. Unique initiatives of IGSSS in terms of running the night shelters for the homeless people are marked by gender inclusivity. Compassionate way of offering hot tea to the poor people during harsh winters reflects the sensitivity and empathy for the have-nots. The contribution of IGSSS over last 6 decades has raised bench marks for providing alternatives for meaningful development dialogue.

The new decade of 2021-2030 will have a deep influence of the nightmarish experience of COVID19 pandemic that overwhelmed all of us with innumerable memories of health emergencies and heartwarming stories of dedicated frontline workers, new opportunities in the context of digitalised re-organisation of day-to-day life, new goals informed by lessons in social solidarity when coronavirus demanded social isolation, creation of digital communities to connect and network, getting exposed to varied cultures through cinematic experiences on OTT platforms, learning to enjoy aesthetic delights with friends and peers in far flung geographical locations and opportunity to reflect. In this context, learning of IGSSS journey and replicating IGSSS model of action and advocacy, research and documentation, dissemination of knowledge resources generated from participatory action research gain great significance for evidence led policy formulation. Assessment of practical and strategic needs of the people in the specific region and specific situations as done by IGSSS has proved very effective for planning and programme implementation.



Reading weekly newsletter of IGSSS regenerates one's faith in 'human good' and community spirit. While writing this message, I am reminded of verses Marsha Forest that capture essence of IGSSS:

Inclusion is future

Inclusion is belonging to one race.

Inclusion is a basic human right.

Inclusion is struggling to figure out,
how to live with one-another.

Inclusion is not something we do a little of

It either is or not. Not a bandwagon.

It is a trend,

similar to democracy. "With liberty and justice for all".

All means all. No buts about it.

Inclusion is a battle cry, a patient's cry,

A child's cry to be welcomed, embraced, cherished, prized.

Inclusion is a kaleidoscope of diversity-

Bits of colours, sounds, shapes, sizes...

Inclusion is future.

I join all stakeholders of IGSSS in this "Celebrating the Spirit of Humanity", honouring the great achievements, inspiring results in ensuring better quality of life in the midst of bravely facing multiple challenges. I consider myself fortunate to have been associated with IGSSS collective for over 2 decades and my best wishes are always with IGSSS collective.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS OF IGSSS



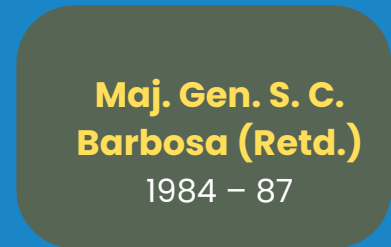
Mr. K. T. Thomas

1961 – 67 (as
Secretary)



Mr. S. Santiago

1972 – 83 (as the
first ED)



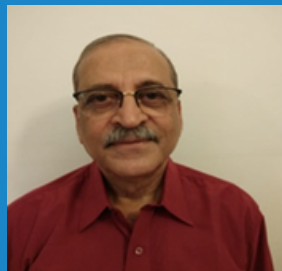
**Maj. Gen. S. C.
Barbosa (Retd.)**

1984 – 87



Mr. Adi Patel

1987 – 92



Mr. Joe D'Souza

1992 – 2000



Mr. Hyacinth Vaz

2000 – 2002



Mr. Gratian Vas

2002 – 2008



**Dr. Joseph
Sebastian**

2008 – 2013



**Mr. John Peter
Nelson**

2013 ONWARDS



MR. GRATIAN VAS
EX DIRECTOR, IGSSS

With sixty years of unprecedented growth, creative excellence, innovation and development backed by an impeccable reputation, Indo Global Social Service Society and all those associated with it, can take a look at the impressive timeline with pride. I was with IGSSS between 2002 and 2007, perhaps the most testing phase in the life of the organisation.

The work at IGSSS had come to a standstill. It was time for serious self-examination, drastic corrective measures, internal restructuring, reforms, renewal and transition. And that we did in good measure. The Indo German Social Service Society expanded its collaboration and networking to several international organisations and extended its footprints into new areas like Jammu and Kashmir within the country.

The 2003 Tsunami just tested how well we had regrouped and won back the trust of the international organisations. One of the biggest interventions followed. IGSSS entered into collaboration with the German Agro Action (GAA). Socio-economic development programme for the vulnerable and exploited sections of the society on the then 5 core issues - Sustainable Livelihood, Human Rights, Governance, Health and Disaster - got consolidated. It was business as usual and much more at IGSSS.

The people, trends, technology and government policies have changed in the intervening years but one thing has remained constant with IGSSS - it's integrity!

Into the seventh decade and beyond, what is next for IGSSS? Tenacity, resilience and unique work culture have been the hallmarks of the organisation. Much like wine IGSSS has matured with age. Yet there's always something to discover, unlearn and relearn. Never stop growing. Never stop trying new ideas. Reflect, adapt and move forward. Bank on all that has made IGSSS what it is today.





DR. JOSEPH SEBASTIAN
EX DIRECTOR, IGSSS

IGSSS@60 – the Nostalgia!

With unbridled joy, a touch of nostalgia, and a heart brimming with happiness, I write this message. My pride in IGSSS and the incredible work we do has always shone bright, but today, as we celebrate a sensational journey spanning 60 years of unwavering dedication to positive change, that pride reaches new heights. It's been an honour and a privilege to be a part of the IGSSS family. For me IGSSS isn't merely an institution; it's a vibrant living space that transforms lives, shaping destinies with its unwavering dedication and boundless energy. IGSSS has surely been the crowing glory of my professional experiences. I can't help but reflect and bow down to the countless unsung heroes who've walked this path with us, shaping the very essence of IGSSS.

IGSSS, with its rock-solid vision of creating a humane social order founded on the pillars of equity, freedom, and justice, has radiated as a beacon of hope and transformation. Our mission, refined over time, orbits around empowering marginalized communities, with a special spotlight on women and children. From its humble inception in 1960, through unshakeable resolve and the execution of top-notch development programs across India, through our partnerships, many of which have been in geographies where development work was unheard of, IGSSS has genuinely rewritten the life stories of countless individuals.

IGSSS is present throughout India and its efforts match well with our changing society. From creating jobs that last to building strong communities that can handle changing weather, from inspiring young people to be leaders of change to passionately advocating for the rights of city dwellers, IGSSS can do many different things. Even when things get tough, IGSSS remains strong, protecting lives, dreams, and things that matter, showing how being ready and strong can make a big difference. The stories IGSSS tells about Gender, Youth, and Urban Empowerment are stories that should make us all proud.



As we jubilantly mark 60 years of IGSSS's journey, let's pause and give a roaring applause to the remarkable souls who've stood shoulder to shoulder, pouring their heart and soul into crafting positive change. These are the passionate individuals who've fearlessly challenged the status quo, the unsung heroes who've turned dreams into reality through sheer determination. Every milestone conquered, every life touched, attests to the bedrock values IGSSS holds dear. It's the unwavering belief in justice, the unwavering dedication to equity, and the unwavering commitment to brighter futures that have fueled this incredible journey. So here's to the trailblazers, the change-makers, and the believers in a better world – your impact resonates far beyond these 60 years, echoing through the lives you've transformed and the communities you've uplifted.

Looking forward, let's embrace challenges and opportunities with the same energetic enthusiasm that's marked IGSSS's journey of six decades. Together, we'll keep creating stories full of change, growth, and improvement, building a brighter future for the next generations. My excitement and admiration for IGSSS have stayed strong over the years. It's normal that an entity like IGSSS with the large spread and reach will have different viewpoints but let's remember that these differences don't lessen the love we have for our work and for one another.

On this exuberant 60th anniversary, let's raise a toast to IGSSS! May our shared commitment eternally illuminate the path toward a world brimming with fairness and equity.

Smiles....





MR. ZUBAIR AHMAD MIR
DIRECTOR, INDIAN INSTITUTE OF CARPET
TECHNOLOGY (IICT) SRINAGAR, J&K

Congratulations to Indo-Global Social Service Society on completing 60 years of journey which has been undertaken for socio-economic upliftment of marginalised communities across the country is commendable. The NGO has worked tirelessly and after immense hard work of more than five years has finally been able to establish an Off Form Producers Organisation (OFPO) in carpet manufacturing, first of its kind in the country, under the name of Sehar Carpet Producer Company Ltd., comprising of more than 350 carpet artisans (male/female) in twin Northern Kashmir districts (Bandipora/Baramulla). Your continuous support and commitment towards eradicating poverty and empowering artisans of the concerned areas is commendable. May your noble mission continue to create positive change for those in need. Best Wishes for all your future endeavours.





MR. UDAY SHANKAR
CEO, VISHWA UVAK KENDRA

I would like to begin by wishing the management and the team of Indo Global Social Service Society (IGSSS) for successfully completing sixty years in the service of the society. Vishwa Yuvak Kendra (VYK) also recently celebrated its Diamond Jubilee Celebrations and we believe that achieving such a milestone is testament to the faith posed in the organisation by its stakeholders and evidence of the hard work put in by the organisation and its team members. This milestone is a rare achievement in the development sector and IGSSS richly deserves great accolades and complements on attaining this landmark. Kudos!

The role played by IGSSS in the capacity enhancement of deprived sections of the society is highly inspirational. While IGSSS focusses on promoting sustainable livelihood, building climate-resilient communities and livelihood systems, the role played by IGSSS in developing youth as change-makers is immensely important, as it aims to energise them and make them capable of making significant contribution to the nation building process.

IGSSS team has supported VYK by acting as technical resource persons in various events. We believe that both organisations have gained from the association with each other.

Once again, I would like to extend my heartfelt wishes to IGSSS management and team on this glorious achievement and wish them great success in all future endeavours aimed at upliftment of the downtrodden sections of the society and development of youth. Thank you!





MATHEW MATTAM

**CHAIR, YOUTHAID FOUNDATION
BOARD OF DIRECTOR, YOUTHAID.IN**

Sometime in 1990 when I joined Youth for Unity and Voluntary Action Mumbai, I was asked to coordinate a student-based program. Being active in student movements, the choice was very apt for me. YUVA gave me the responsibilities to coordinate SMILE- Students Mobilization for Learning through Exposure, which was a brain child of IGSSS. End of March 1991 there was a review meeting in Delhi and I had the opportunity to visit IGSSS. Since then IGSSS became part of my career and life.

Working for SMILE enhanced my knowledge on youth rights and issues. It gave me adequate inputs to work for youth in the country. After one decade of working with youth, the SMILE program made me realize that there is an imperative need to work with youth for their development. This made me start the Center for Youth Development and Activities (CYDA) Pune. Today CYDA has become an extension of the SMILE program reaching thousands of youth in various parts of Maharashtra. This way the SMILE program has become a valuable initiative that is making a real difference in the lives of young people in India. It is helping to create a more informed, engaged, and responsible youth population. Even after 33 years, I still continue the values, principles and memories of the SMILE program to create a better world to live with dignity for all.





DR. DHARAM KISHORE LAKRA, SJ
DIRECTOR, XIDAS, JABALPUR

I am writing to extend my heartfelt congratulations and appreciation as you celebrate 60 years of dedicated service to the poorest communities of India. Your organization's unwavering commitment to uplifting those in need is truly commendable, and it is an honor to witness the remarkable impact you have had on countless lives.

The title of the souvenir, "Celebrating the Spirit of Humanity," perfectly encapsulates the essence of your work. Throughout the years, your organization has exemplified the true meaning of compassion, empathy, and selflessness. By providing essential services, empowering individuals, and fostering sustainable development, you have become beacons of hope for the marginalized and underserved.

One aspect that sets the Indo-Global Social Service Society apart is your emphasis on strengthening the civil society ecosystem by supporting small and fledgling NGOs. Recognizing the importance of collaboration and partnership, you have actively nurtured and mentored organizations that share your vision of creating a more just and equitable society. Through your guidance and assistance, these grassroots initiatives have been able to amplify their impact and transform the lives of even more individuals. XIDAS as a partner, we have had the privilege of witnessing the profound changes you have brought about in the communities you serve. Your efforts have not only provided immediate relief but have also fostered long-term sustainable development. From education and healthcare to livelihood opportunities and women's empowerment, your multifaceted approach to social service has touched every aspect of human life, ensuring holistic growth and progress.

Moreover, your commitment to promoting the spirit of humanity extends beyond national boundaries. Your dedication to the cause has inspired others around the world, including XIDAS, to support and contribute to your noble mission. The Indo-Global Social Service Society serves as a shining example of how collective action, driven by compassion and empathy, can bring about transformative change. As you celebrate this momentous milestone, it is crucial to reflect on the lives that have been transformed and the countless dreams that have been rekindled.



The impact of your work is immeasurable, and it serves as a reminder that even in the face of adversity, the human spirit can soar. Your organization's unwavering commitment to serving the poorest communities of India is a testament to the power of empathy and the belief that every individual deserves a chance to thrive.

In closing, I would like to express my deepest gratitude and admiration for Indo-Global Social Service Society. Your unwavering dedication, compassion, and resilience have made a remarkable difference in the lives of the most vulnerable. May your legacy continue to inspire future generations to uphold the values of humanity and work tirelessly towards creating a more inclusive and compassionate world. Congratulations once again on your 60 years of service, and may you continue to shine a light of hope and compassion for many more years to come.



**63 YEARS OF
LIFE, FREEDOM, and DIGNITY**

**A MEMORABLE
JOURNEY**

1960 - 2022



Half Century of Evolution and Partnership Nurturing

1960-2011



1 ORGANISATIONAL EVOLUTION

In 1960, MISEREOR established **Indo-German Social Service Society** in response to their campaign against poverty and hunger to support development projects in India. IGSSS was registered as a Society in 1961 and worked as a financial support agency: received and disbursed funds according to the directions given by MISEREOR. Till the 1970s IGSSS was a grant disbursement agency of projects in India sanctioned by Misereor. By the 1980s, the organisation gained autonomy in partner and project selection. In 2004, the name of IGSSS was changed from “Indo-German Social service society” to “**Indo-Global Social Service Society**”.

2 THEMATIC EVOLUTION

In 1987, Awareness Training and Motivation for Action (ATMA) was launched to enhance the self-determination of the poor, the basis for all future programmes of IGSSS. In early 1990's Students Mobilization SInitiative for Learning thorough Exposure (SMILE) program was launched. In 2000 IGSSS formulated a five year program plan. In 2002, IGSSS launched the National Integrated Empowerment Programme (NIEP) with an objective to consolidate the programmatic approach of IGSSS. In 2005 first internal Program Quality Review was conducted. An external review was conducted soon after. On the basis of finding **cluster based programming** was developed for more focussed interventions. Urban interventions was launched by IGSSS in 2005. In 2010, the thematic focus evolved to Sustainable Livelihood, Urban Poverty reduction, Disaster Risk reduction, Youth development and Gender Equity.

Half Century of Evolution and Partnership Nurturing 1960-2011



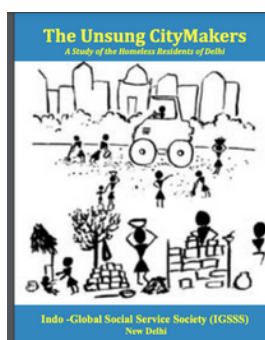
3 PARTNERSHIPS

IGSSS nurtured fledgling NGOs and aspiring social development workers. As per an estimate around IGSSS partnered with around **700 small NGOs** to reach the remotest corners of India. Many of NGO acknowledge receipt of their first grant from IGSSS. Partnership projects were the main stay for 50 years. However in the disaster context, directly reach out to the affected people with relief. In partnership with EU and WHH, IGSSS started direct program interventions.

4 AWARDS

IGSSS won the **Golden Peacock Global Award** for Philanthropy in Emerging Economies in 2005. IGSSS was awarded citation and appreciation in good practice in community based disaster reduction by **Sphere India in 2010**.

The District Collector of Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu presented IGSSS with certificate of Appreciation to IGSSS for its **Tsunami Relief and Rehabilitation efforts**.



Supreme Court of India used an IGSSS study on the homeless in Delhi and ordered night shelters in all states, on the criteria of one shelter per one lakh population.





A Journey of Transformation

2012-2022



In 2016, a strategic plan document for five years, was launched. Positions for Thematic Experts was created. IGSSS started strategically working to diversify its funding sources.

IGSSS did exemplary interventions during Covid-19, reaching out to more than 2,000,000 people.

IGSSS' transitioned to a 100% direct implementation agency.

Ms. Shanti Sundharam, became the first woman to become the President of IGSSS.

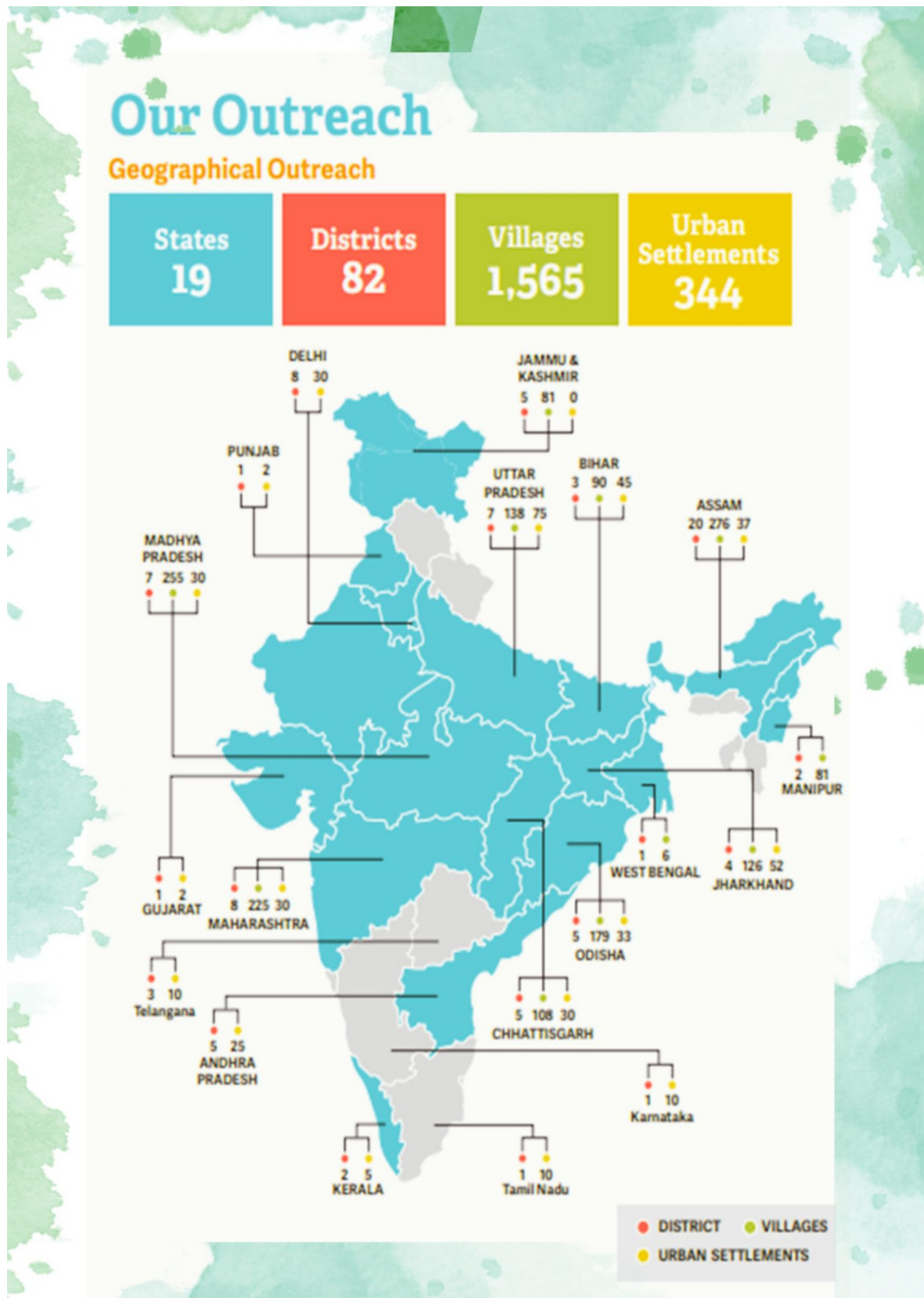
New intervention areas: Solid Waste Management, Urban Farming, Renewable Energy, Heat Wave Resilience, Climate Smart Villages.



IGSSS was awarded with "Best NGO in Health Care" by India Today group for its phenomenal work during COVID 19



IGSSS' Outreach in 2023



IGSSS' Outreach in 2023



Community
Outreach



Outreach In Numbers :-
Rural: 1,124,982
Urban: 154,930



**63 YEARS OF
LIFE, FREEDOM, and DIGNITY**

**SHARING OF
MEMORIES AND
PERSPECTIVES**



Partnership in the Truest Sense of the Word

IGSSS is turning 60. Almost the age to retire? Not for IGSSS! On the contrary, you have got more power and courage now than in your younger years! Misereor congratulates you wholeheartedly and is more than happy to continuously have you as a strong partner in our joint pursuit of standing up for the poor and marginalized.

IGSSS is more than just a project partner of Misereor. We have experienced ups and downs and grew together, reflecting our development approaches in the context of the respective current development theories, from top-down development aid to participatory development cooperation based on partnership. A joint journey - sometimes accompanied by controversial discussions. Our opinions and positions did not always coincide. But constructive debates have taken us further. It has been a joint learning process and Misereor has been inspired by its project partners in its own strategic development. The projects have evolved from "for the communities" to "with the communities" to "from the communities".

Our first cooperation with IGSSS started on May 9, 1961. In the seven remaining months of the founding year alone, the considerable number of 78 projects was approved: dispensaries, vocational schools, nurse training, water supply, rural development and emergency help. To the best of our ability, we worked together - and continue to do so until today - for minimizing the impact of natural disasters and famines on the poor and excluded. In this way, IGSSS has been able to build up a long experience of working alongside the poor.

The trickle-down effect via the promotion of elites and centralized large-scale projects according to the modernization theory of the time was soon outdated in favor of a decentralized and grassroots approach, which Misereor and IGSSS started promoting. IGSSS strengthened grassroots organizations in such a way that they have been able to improve their situation and accomplish their goals by their own efforts. The focus changed to previously excluded target groups such as Adivasi and Dalits. People, made poor but always rich in experiences and abilities, moved to the center of our attention. Over the decades, new topics were included such as environmental awareness, gender justice, constitutional rights, people participation, prevention and mitigation of climate change impacts and strengthening resilience in the rural areas and the growing cities, as well as peaceful conflict management and conflict transformation.



NGO accountability and transparency promoted by IGSSS made their and our civil society partners stronger in a more challenging environment. Through impact monitoring, learning loops are set in motion and changes are tracked. IGSSS advised numerous partner organizations of Misereor on the institutional anchoring of transparent systems and policies. We are very grateful for this, indeed.

IGSSS and Misereor are paying special attention to very carefully handling the scarce financial resources at our disposal for achieving the best possible impact. We owe this to our local partner organizations but also to our institutional back-donors and the many private people in Germany who support us with their donations. Promoting social change is such an enormous challenge. You took up this challenge with your heart and compassion, but also with your professionalism and expertise. The strong commitment and dedication of all of you at IGSSS have always been a great source of inspiration to Misereor right from the start.

IGSSS ventured into helping people to shape their existing environment in such a way that development will be sustainable and inclusive for all. This certainly contributed to the fact that over the years, IGSSS became a renowned and respected civil society actor throughout the whole country! You enjoy the full confidence and good reputation you have earned over the past sixty years. IGSSS has been successfully building relationship with other global donors along with the partnership with Misereor. Therefore, IGSSS changed its name to Indo-Global Social Service Society in 2004.

“ We hope that our common path of constant learning for significant change will continue to exist as we keep the compass directed onto strengthening the marginalized groups towards sustainable and inclusive development. ”

IGSSS is an excellent partner who epitomizes outstanding commitment for the poor and marginalized. The people behind its meaningful work are relentlessly fighting side by side with the poor for a better world. It is in this sense that we wish IGSSS many more anniversaries to commemorate in the years to come.

Congratulations again on your 60th anniversary from the bottom of our hearts!

August 2023

Heads of Department and India-Team of the Asia Department of Misereor



Partnership with IGSSS

Learnings, Challenges and Expectations for the future

Over the last 60 years, IGSSS has made a significant contribution to the promotion of a fair and ecological transition thanks to the organization's expertise in urban poverty, sustainable rural livelihood, climate change adaptation and disaster risk preparedness. Research and evidenced based reports were particularly useful to develop public policy recommendations and networking at the national and international levels.

Development of local Civil Society and Community Based Organizations, as well as involvement of community members at the grassroots level, are also at the core of IGSSS' work and make its work distinctive. In the current context, accountability, as well as people led development and policy engagement should particularly be a key focus. IGSSS has gained recognition as a key development actor in every district of operation, thanks to its credibility with the community, as well as its fruitful collaboration with a multitude of diverse stakeholders - being these state authorities, social and technical line departments, research institutes and non-governmental organizations.

IGSSS' remarkable response to every major emergency in India over the past decades stands as a proof of the organization's capacity to be there for the community when they most need it. While being extremely solid in its strategic thinking, governance, and expertise, IGSSS has also shown extreme flexibility to adapt to difficult situations. A new avenue of joint reflection has recently emerged because of actions taken in response to multiple crises. Keeping in mind the higher need for flexibility, initial discussions between IGSSS and its partners on the development of a global programme, focusing on a strategic axis such as resilience, took place in 2022.

Secours Catholique - Caritas France is glad to have been part of this journey for the **last 8 years**, thanks to a collaboration based on trust and mutual respect. SCCF has learnt a lot from IGSSS through this journey: work on climate justice in urban areas, methods to develop community mobilization, etc.

In 2015, SCCF and IGSSS started working together on an inclusive and sustainable urban development programme, which enabled marginalized communities to achieve positive transformation in their socio- economic conditions and supported their inclusion into local governance and decision-making. Learning from the Covid 19 crisis and its consequences, IGSSS made a shift to focus even more on sustainable income generating activities, inclusion and climate change adaptation.

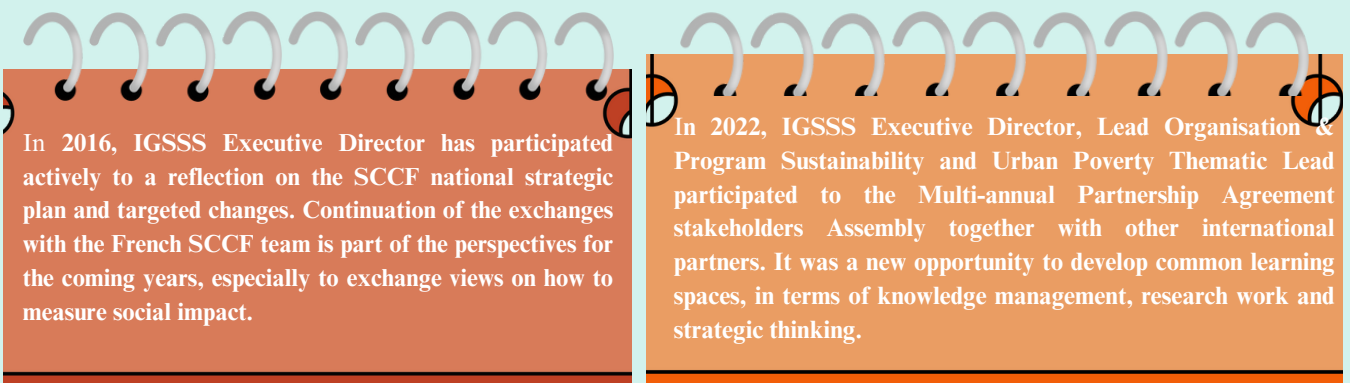


IGSSS's work inspired the Asia & Eastern Europe Desk regional strategy in urban areas as well as the work of other partner organizations in Asia. The SCCF plans to foster regional networking as well as to support the next phase of IGSSS urban programme, two initiatives which were recognized by the French Development Agency as innovative and consistent with the SCCF international strategy.

Since 2016, SCCF and IGSSS worked together on a flood risks reduction project in Assam. As IGSSS has always been a learning organization, the action moved from disaster risks reduction to climate change adaptation and IGSSS played a key role in strengthening local stakeholders' strategies and capacities. Still today, IGSSS is almost the only organization working in this area when there is no natural disaster. The long-term objective is to cover all the most marginalized villages in the Dhemaji and North Lakhimpur districts but for this to happen, IGSSS will continue to work on the exit strategy in collaboration with the local communities currently supported.

In addition to collaboration in the field, SCCF and IGSSS have been exchanging strategies, knowledge, learnings and practices regularly and transparently. IGSSS and SCCF strategies have naturally evolved in the same direction, reinforcing each other. One example is their new approach regarding partnerships, especially looking at non-financial collaborations. Both organization continuously share their experience on how to support local organization to have access to local resources, to build their capacities on technical issues, etc.

Two key moments in particular strengthened IGSSS and SCCF partnership.



In 2016, IGSSS Executive Director has participated actively to a reflection on the SCCF national strategic plan and targeted changes. Continuation of the exchanges with the French SCCF team is part of the perspectives for the coming years, especially to exchange views on how to measure social impact.

In 2022, IGSSS Executive Director, Lead Organisation & Program Sustainability and Urban Poverty Thematic Lead participated to the Multi-annual Partnership Agreement stakeholders Assembly together with other international partners. It was a new opportunity to develop common learning spaces, in terms of knowledge management, research work and strategic thinking.

IGSSS's visit was also an opportunity to exchange views on the SCCF method to recruit and support volunteers. Here are questions that could be the objective of IGSSS action in itself: how to develop volunteering at community level? How to develop leadership process? How are the skills passed down to the community?

Based on this common analysis, IGSSS and SCCF are fostering the partnership on the mutually identified objectives.

Contributed By:

Secours Catholique - Caritas France



History Repeats itself – Sometimes in Beautiful ways

The Story of SMILE program through the eyes of two Alumni and Pravah

Way back in 1994, we as Pravah were invited into the SMILE fellowship program of IGSSS. An offer that included a two thousand rupee per month stipend and a table to work out of the IGSSS SMILE office, at 26 Lodi Institutional Area and lots of love and learning. We were just one year old as an organization that was formed with a commitment to explore with young people the connection between self and society and address issues of conflict through inside-out leadership workshops titled **‘From Me to We’**.

It was in 1996, that IGSSS invited Pravah to lead their SMILE program and soon we became the coordinators of Northern Region SMILE and also core members of the National Youth Foundation that was then the apex body of all the SMILE program organizations supported by IGSSS and Misereor, including Pravah, Samvada, Jan Vikas, Laya, Yuva, CYDA and more. Clearly both IGSSS and Misereor were the pioneers in shaping the youth leadership organizations of a special kind in the country and the story of Pravah, IGSSS and SMILE remains intertwined in beautiful ways with Misereor being the common connecting thread till today. There is something about the SMILE program that takes hold on every person who steps into it and co-creates it whether they are facilitators or students or host organizations. Since 1996 the Pravah SMILE program has moved from strength to strength and has been its flagship program for decades bringing into the world hundreds of courageous, compassionate Changemakers called SMILERS. What is most exciting is the process is so powerful that it inspires another set of hundreds to become youth facilitators and committed to nurturing youth leadership for life and wherever they go they nourish youth leadership in the spaces they occupy.

This is the story of Harsh, who comes from a family of artists, His mother is a singer and father plays multiple music instruments though they did not pursue their art as a career. Harsh feels that although due to the context of his time he landed up having to take up Engineering, as is the case with many young people whose career decisions are not their own, it was probably the artist in his genes that contributed to his charting out an alternate path in later years.



The one big turning point for Harsh as the Pravah SMILE Program. And some of his reflections are captured below :

“Things changed a lot for me, when I began volunteering with social movements and NGOs. In this journey of meeting people, making wonderful friends, I was introduced and joined their SMILE program, through which I went on my first of its kind of immersive rural exposure to Manthan organization in Rajasthan in 2011. My SMILE journey was full of shocks and conflicts and amazing new experiences. I was with a group of young people from diverse backgrounds who took this cohesive journey together and had the same sort of aspirations and challenges as I.

We were given social action tasks to understand the local communities, their struggles and challenges to avail basic welfare rights. The orientation workshops with Pravah facilitators and this exposure and the feedback camp that followed, helped me realize my own privileges and comforts. This was I when I began questioning myself and my attitude towards society and the inequality on which it thrives. I became very sensitive to the people at the margins who are still facing the brunt because of their caste, class and religious identities. I was fortunate to meet some great activists and work with grassroot organizations that were selflessly working to protect the Human rights of people at the margins.

I developed passion for travelling to remote areas to bring out stories of struggle and heroism.



The SMILE journey was indeed a powerful experience for me. Before SMILE I was quite different; I was least reflective, more reactive and often unthoughtful. I was also very insensitive, and my socialization was full of prejudices against other religions, casts and gender. My continuous engagement with Pravah SMILE, Manthan and other youth organizations, I discovered a whole new way of being, the idea of the 5thSpace and understanding and interpreting as well as co-constructing narratives in the real world. I understood better issues of power privilege and purity, and how to work on changing myself and the world around me to combat discrimination and violence. I learnt about who I wanted to be and the path I wanted to pave for myself and the world I wanted to be part of shaping. I decided to pursue photography and took admission in Jamia Milia Islamia. While everyone in my photography class had starry eyed aspirations for Bollywood or fashion, my objective was very clear; I wanted to be a photographer to document stories of human struggle, human rights violation and discrimination and be able to travel to remote rural areas to cover stories of impact and bring justice to those who need it most.

“After my course, I did many jobs including wedding and product photography, which also got me good money, but I continued to work for non-profits which was most cherishing for me. One thing that became very clear for me was that art and activism are interlinked and that art should provide comfort to disturbed and discomfort to those causing disturbance. I got very active with young activists groups and student political wings as vocal human rights defender and media activist. While I was at the frontline volunteering most of my time I decided to broaden my knowledge about the history of social movements and current development discourses and paradigms and went on to do a Masters of social work degree from Delhi school of social work where I also interned with Ekta parishad MP, APDP Kashmir, Shakti Shalini Delhi and IGSSS.”

It is clear that SMILE had a powerful influence on Harsh and influenced his life journey but what is even more exciting to this tale is that after completion of DSSW Harsh joined IGSSS. Let's hear how he shares his experience from there on.

“ I began in IGSSS by working with young people in 4 slums of Delhi and was given great freedom to lead the project with ownership and innovation and took up the challenge



I wanted every youth to experience the change within that I had experienced as a young person in SMILE and that was the theory of change I created for the YIELD programme which cultivated more than 200 youth leaders, or as we call them today Jagriks, young people who can be the change that they create in the world around them. Having completed 3 years with IGSSS there has not been a single moment I have felt a lack of motivation or desire to shift my job. Working with young people is my passion and feels like the best thing to do and I feel proud to be able to work with the organization that incubated a programme like SMILE and supported organizations like Pravah and so many others to take the program to scale. SMILE has been a life changing experience for me and for hundreds others who are better human beings and active citizens.”

In 2020 Harsh was recognized for his courage, compassion and wisdom and the competencies and attributes he brings to youth work and has been designated as the thematic lead of Youth Interventions at IGSSS. **This also means he is effectively the Head of the IGSSS SMILE program.** Along with that Harsh is also a key member of the vartaLeap Coalition, which is working on the mission ‘Every Youth a Jagrik and Every Space nurturing Jagriks’ as an IGSSS representative.

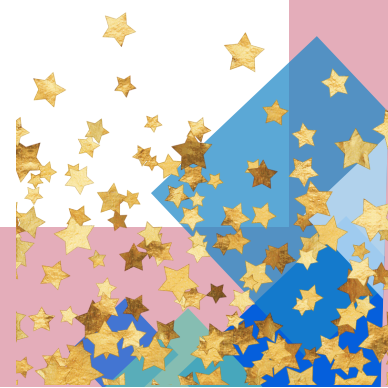
Harsh’s story is a beautiful example of how young people experience the 5thSpace feelings of love, learning, freedom, ownership and social hope in programs like SMILE where they co-create their own journey with loving and skillful youth facilitators and go on to inspire other young people not only to chart their own personal, professional and social change path but also become youth facilitators themselves and carry the mission forward in their own new ways. SMILE is an example of organic social renewal taking place one young person at a time and many youth spaces collectively over time as there are many such youth facilitators and organizations shaping these journeys across India today under different names. This particular journey of Pravah and Harsh was seeded by IGSSS and Misereor with the launch of the SMILE program in 1986. We wish to celebrate 60 years of IGSSS by congratulating all the wonderful facilitators of the IGSSS SMILE program and Misereor that supported Pravah in our early journey, some very special mentions are Shivani Bharadwaj who really brought us to IGSSS SMILE with lots of love and faith and Rajesh Updhyay and JP Das who were part of the continuing journey.

We also thank the wonderful youth facilitators of Pravah SMILE who were part of Harsh’s journey and all the SMILers who make this program what it is and of course Teja Ram ji and his team at Manthan and so many civil society partners of the SMILE program that have lovingly and patiently created 5thSpaces in their organisations for young people to discover their ‘mutiny’ within as they got an opportunity to work in communities in different social contexts. Deep gratitude and best wishes to Nelson, Shikha, Edwin and Harsh for inviting us into your celebrations .

Contributors to the article

Ashraf, IGSSS SMILE Fellow, 1996; Co-Founder Pravah

Harsh, Pravah SMILE Alumni 2011; Ex Thematic Lead, Youth, IGSSS



PERSPECTIVE : YOUTH DEVELOPMENT IN IGSSS

The guiding principle of IGSSS youth work was to let youth workers have freehand to increase the youth community consciousness for justice and equality, for self and society. The history below gives learning from IGSSS youth work strategy. This article informs IGSSS of action it can take to make youth realise Sustainable Development Goals to uplift themselves, their communities and their geographies.

A. History of IGSSS Youth work and its cutting edge strategy: In 1984, Fr Hermann Bacher, resident representative of Misereor at IGSSS, initiated SMILE as a professional college youth's rural placement to help the organisation with skills students could offer to raise the standard of the rural development. Fr Bacher was passionate about watershed management but never imposed his own interests on the youth. He practiced the principle that each person works most when they make their priority. Youth were humbled at the knowledge they came back with from their placement. The youth suggested that this programme be opened up for nonprofessional college youth to design their own development plan. This strategy has been replicated by different youth organisations after it IGSSS pioneered it.

IGSSS restructuring under the dynamic leadership of the Executive Director Mr Adi Patel gave the SMILE coordination team opportunity to expand and firm its pedagogy. Experienced behaviour scientist and youth trainers mentored the SMILE staff team through Training of Trainers. IGSSS decentralised regional youth development programmes in North East, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh. These SMILE centres eventually became independent programmes while the Northern and North East SMILE programme were independently administered through IGSSS till 1999. Skill building for livelihood and working through youth clubs has been youth programming approach for SMILE north East.

At the rural placement students witnessed experts in the development field deal with challenges. The experienced stalwarts were taken on as mentors who not only lent their space for two months but developed lasting association with these young people. The phone was a luxury in the 1980's and student did post weekly handwritten reports to IGSSS office in Delhi, even though all they from IGSSS was a travel allowance. Travel in trains was mostly done unreserved, there were no volvos or GPS to navigate routes. One just had to ask their way around to reach a destination! This gave urban youth time to connect to local realities. This pioneering shift is relevant today SMILE fellowship programme was offered to rural youth much before contemporary fellowships like Shurti and Ashoka fellowships. Thus SMILE paved the way for breakthrough work at a time when very few offered such an opportunity.

BB. The contribution, support and role of IGSSS in youth empowerment process : By 1989 SMILE alumina were leading organisations and civil society movements while defining development in terms of gender equality, environment justice and democratic values.

Along with rural development immersion, urban exposures were offered for the both college and non-collegiate youth. Experiences such as sleeping with the homeless, living in a tribal or the Dalit community sans a common language, living off the produce from the land were transformative for this cohort.

The host organisations utilised IGSSS office for meetings that would often last beyond office hours designing the t campaign or to develop critiques to co create knowledge. SMILE programme coordinators were young themselves thus it is a programme by the youth for the youth where learning is internalised through peer and adult support cemented with field observations.

C. Initiatives of IGSSS in nurturing the dreams and shaping the path of self-development

IGSSS was a pioneer in Youth Development Programming. IGSSS encouraged the active participation of youth as partners in the planning, delivery and development of the SMILE programme by accompanying them in their journey from “me to we”. For increasing knowledge, attitude, skills of youth to practice development, SMILE coordinators were trained to link the self-discovery with a community of peers, to relate with work of choice. In the process youth realize the power in themselves to serve their community / constituency.

D. Way forward

Youth led youth work is to be actively resourced at neighborhood and district levels for different youth interests, creative groups and associations of the at risk youth and adolescent. IGSSS can focus on facilitating the formation of this stakeholder to form and represent themselves at formal national youth forums like the workers unions, UN and NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission -AIM and YuWaah and the eco/socio-political national platforms. The leadership of youth on social innovation through the use of digital technology has made Adult and children depend on them. Youth work today is often resourced by youth themselves while they learn. They can resource their work, through travels or road trips, crowd sourcing and other community based resource mobilization. This however has been short term support. Youth work should be strengthened by giving youth proportional representation in decisions in family, work, community development and nation building.

To begin with, IGSSS fellowships to existing youth platforms can formulate the youth agenda around youth rights in a democratic framework. Youth leadership development from the LGBTQ, women and the excluded for social development needs its on incubation. However, given the IGSSS experience these processes can be designed parallel to the task to develop better digital social innovation.

Adults in India have not let go resources and positions they controlled. IGSSS initiated a dialogue with youth to state in their aspirations in the city masterplan. Learning from this experience a process of developing the 5th space in each neighbourhood managed by the youth could be piloted in each region under the leadership of teenagers and the young. This youth master plan[1] can be a work that IGSSS can focus on for rural and urban areas. The youth constituency can be supported with an increased opportunity for youth for the following objectives:

- Increase youth resources including space (psychosocial/ community/ citizenship), services (housing, health, education and transport) and assets (infrastructure/property, financial base work equipment and communication modes)
- Foster youth mentoring to increase skills through placements that strengthen youth networks.
- Train and monitor youth associations to elect leaders at local, district, national and international level.

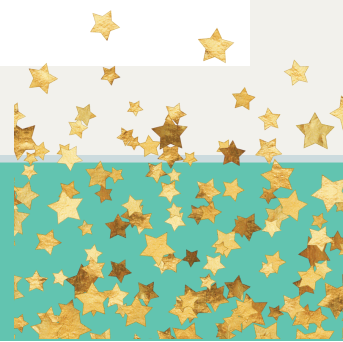
The guiding principles are to view youth as partners who can provide solutions for problems at all levels. Thus youth work for identity and wellbeing becomes a shared responsibility in the adult youth partnership. With the wellbeing taken care off, youth can equally participate in the development processes. With the key like minded youth work specialist IGSSS can bring together with its history convening youth development work.

D1. Youth work for identity and wellbeing

Youth are not a homogenous group, they differ in competence, engagement and their well-being quotient. The stress and pressure faced by educated and the working-class youth has been reported widely and the increase in suicide among youth is an area of concern.

Youth organizations and programs do offer services and a community network for youth. Yet these organisations do not give confidence to the youth that they are secure in a safe family/ community and country. IGSSS could address the youth identity and wellbeing gap by following action:

- Facilitate youth associations of excluded and at-risk groups supported by mainstream.
- Work with think tanks to ascertain data on number of youth at risk and those facing vulnerabilities such that specific services could be initiated as youth led enterprises for transitioning into adulthood armed with capability.



- Strengthen existing youth-centric and peer-to-peer youth volunteering with inclusive youth services to plan inclusive and sustainable youth development at scale[1] with youth associations leading the process.
- Increase paid internship opportunities to gain experience on different work and community experiences.
- Link network of youth with children and adult forums to develop relationships that assist the youth to navigate their transition to adulthood.

D2 Youth participation in development

Youth are alienated and enraged with unemployment, migration, fee hike, reduced education budget and opportunity to participate equally in matters that concern them. The youth are aware that the government spends only about 5% on youth related programs such as skills and employability, basic education, health and protection. IGSSS youth work can focus by

- 1.Strengthening youth campaign for equal and equitable share of resources and space for work towards realisation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the next decade.
- 2.Develop private endowment funds to allocate more resources to adolescent and youth. engagement to plan, implement and monitor self and national development to meet the SDGs.
- 3.Invest in youth led digital social innovation.
- 4.Develop youth leadership from the youth associations of the vulnerable and resource them with young women entrepreneurs and organized women empowerment organisations.

D3. Training of youth workers and youth associations

A multitude of youth social enterprises work in niche areas. Similarly, the official organized youth workers of NSS and NYK do not work together. The civil society also does not network with youth work. The Antodaya principle has to be applied to train vulnerable youth like orphans, PWDs. Tribal, Dalit, users of mental health services and from minorities. Thus, IGSSS could

- Organize youth workers consultations such that stakeholders including youth, adults and children agree on better ways to promote the youth constituents.
- Research on the competence youth workers have to reduce youth vulnerability and strengthen them towards active citizenship roles. This research will indicate the training and resource gap in the youth worker workforce.
- Utilize the data to understand the human resource involved in youth work to list the training needs.
- Design training curriculums, training modules with implementation plan and its follow-up. Youth work organizations already have curriculums that will need updating



- Include digital social innovation to youth work on different sectors of young workers, young farmers, mechanics, ragpickers and artisans.
- Provision for competency training to different youth associations of youth who are excluded due to geographies, gender, abuse or their vulnerability.

In conclusion

IGSSS is positioned to work as an aggregator to develop youth workers and youth constituents . IGSSS youth work is to be designed in gender equal youth partnership mode for youth development for specific vulnerable groups. These youth should be trained to present plans to improve the quality of life visible in work of improving community spaces, schools and neighborhoods. These spaces are to offer the 5th space for youth. The resourcing and training should be IGSSS task while youth workers and youth role is to implement the programme and undertake to monitor the action of their peers. Local plan of youth work must link to the global plan for achieving the sustainable development goals by 2030. Youth work has to be resourced for a minimum period of ten years.

The involvement of youth workers and youth should be designed for specific competencies for contribution. Adults in governance need to be monitored for their action to address the gap in youth work and struggles that are part of young people's daily lives. Youth engagement is the fulcrum for revisiting and evaluating the gains of what has been on offer from the people controlling resources.

IGSSS has to develop its regional strategy for effective youth development work. Pilot projects that enables youth workers to contribute towards developing effective policies and programs to work with youth as the community's next generation of leaders.

The authors of this article is Dr. Shivani Bhardwaj, She managed the national youth development programme of IGSSS, when it started. She also gathered insights from other people and organizations who were associated with IGSSS youth program enrich the article



Then, Now and Tomorrow: The changing landscape of the Voluntary Sector over the last 50 years

The second Lok Sabha in 1957 saw youth participation in Parliament of 32%, in stark contrast to the 6% participation rate in the 16th Lok Sabha in 2014(1). Post the freedom movement, Gandhi advised the youth to pursue education and careers. This, along with a systemic focus on building a nation of talented professionals, reduced the participation of youth in politics and social action. However, the phenomenon of the youth channelizing their creative energies to explore their potential as change agents in society continues in various shapes and forms.

The Heady 70's and Nation-Building in the 80s

The 70's saw several youth movements, born out of rebellion against the straight-jacketed education system, engaging themselves in moving out to rural areas and looking at alternative lifestyles. They continued asking questions about nation-building. To note, youth volunteerism at this stage was largely inspired by Gandhian and Christian missionaries, the Ramakrishna missions, and other similar influencers of the time. A number of very interesting initiatives, largely in the conscientization mode, were being attempted as pilots at the time, and IGSSS was one of the pioneers supporting these efforts.

One example from the 80s is the ATMA programme (Awareness Training Motivation for Action), conceptualized as an add-on to the food, water and health development initiatives being taken on by the voluntary sector. The programme was, in a sense, born out of a deep belief that development initiatives must keep the human being at the centre, and empowering and involving people would lead to sustainable change in communities. But one must also recognise that the 80s saw the nation-building process entangled in a triad of state-market-civil society that was in constant creative tension with each other. The State was seen as a regulator of the market so as to not be exploitative, and yet promoted what was then being called 'wealth creation'. The voluntary sector was seen as a 'voice of the poor', with a profile shifting from charity to development and then, to empowerment. Thus, movements that promoted people at its core, and helped build grassroots-level leadership, were being spotlighted. The development paradigm was seen as a political paradigm, and changes in power relations were critical for a more equitable and egalitarian society as envisioned in the Constitution of India.

The Pioneering 90's

The 90's firmly anchored the thematic of literacy and women as active participants in social change. Some of the projects pioneered at this time include creating watersheds to allow for equitable access to water, social forestry on barren lands through co-operatives, and self-help groups for access to credit. It is worth mentioning here the National Education Group, which underwent a transformation from brick-and-mortar support to providing quality education. The Edu Leaders program was a notable trailblazer of the time. The SMILE program, aimed at engaging young people in volunteerism, was another successful program in its time, particularly as it located itself in both the urban young and the rural youth. It is important to note the context in which it was envisioned - the Indian economy was being liberalised and the markets were being freed from State control. India wanted to compete on a global scale.

Farmer and tribal movements were all part of a new social awakening on ground. All these conscious movements attracted young people across the country to mobilise for social change. The SMILE program, started in Delhi, saw its footprint grow across Mumbai, Bangalore, Ahmedabad and Vishakapatnam, with intensive training and hand-holding. It resulted in the emergence of several young citizen leaders, as well as youth organisations, who went on to play important roles in social movements.

The later years saw organisations that were set up in the 70s and 80s, and movements led by charismatic leaders, needing a renewal process. The increasing presence of the corporate sector in social development initiatives, and professionalization of volunteerism, heralded a slew of acute contradictions in development organizations and their capacity to attract young people.

Questions of relevance and roles were being discussed within the sector. Is there a guidebook? Or should there be one? Are we service providers, social change agents, capacity builders, innovators or policy advocates? Or maybe all rolled into one? This change also led to the donor ecosystem and the larger market putting frameworks on measuring outcome in the development sector.

The demand for value-for-money led to the corporate ecosystem dealing with voluntary organisations as subcontractors, and aiming at fulfilling a design and delivery agenda of their own.

It created an imbroglio of successful business managers wanting to apply their management and governance models onto voluntary organisations, and laid the assumed burden of solutions for inequality, poverty and discrimination on businesses and NGOs, while the State played the role of a casual bystander.

The Challenging 2000s

In the 2000s, notable disparities in the nation's socioeconomic landscape became evident. Concurrently, the mounting obstacles stemming from the adverse effects of globalization were accompanied by the swift rise of social media as a potent force shaping attitudes, particularly among the youth. All of this was transpiring within a country where economic growth was unfolding against a backdrop of considerable disparities between the aspirations of the younger generation and the actual opportunities available to them.

Examples include Room to Read, Quest Alliance, Pratham, TeachForIndia, Make a Difference, Bhumi, Educate Girls and many more. One can count several interesting and impactful initiatives that are youth-led and attract youth engagement - all attempting to find meaning in this chaotic social framework.

A clear highlight with these initiatives led by young people is their capacity to dialogue with multiple stakeholders, business tycoons, CSR's and the State. They have the ability to listen to stories on the ground and communicate with those who cannot listen. The need for Corporate Social Responsibility, in fact, gained momentum in the late 90s, especially at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Discussions on a global scale made evident that multi-stakeholder partnerships are the key to achieving the development goals of the millennium. And for corporates, that meant not just how they spend their money, but also about how they made that money. It was around this time that John Elkington coined the term "Triple Bottom Line" (4) an accounting framework that encouraged companies to think of society-environment-financial parameters to evaluate their performance, and thus create greater business value.

It was evident that success in business and societal progress needed to go hand in hand.

Close association with several visionary CSR thought-leaders and practitioners has brought out a few emerging areas of focus:

Invest In Innovation:

Investments in innovation to solve social challenges are as important as investments in technology or businesses. Current headlines are dominated by a growing list of start-ups that are attracting immense venture funding.

A majority of CSR funding flows into tried-and-tested models, and not enough into new and early-stage organisations who have new ways of solving pressing problems of the here and now. Hence the question for development practitioners remains: why is funding for innovation in the social sector not flowing in with the regularity and volume that is required? Some of this is also related to how established organisations get into immediate project goals, and tend to settle for frugal innovations, and build knowledge partnerships to achieve these goals, rather than influence larger systemic change.

Civil society should focus significantly on finding new and innovative solutions that can be scaled up, in partnership with the Government. Innovation can be unleashed when risk capital is given to early-stage ideas, as well as to mid-stage organisations to develop new solutions. The focus should shift from scaling-up to innovation and developing new ideas.

Balancing short-term and long-term goals: A pragmatic approach with the right dose of visionary thinking is ideal to maintain the delicate balance needed, and meet short-term goals while not losing sight of the bigger challenges at hand. With the changes to the Companies Act (2014), and the rising demands of philanthropists and foundations, civil society must recognize that there is a need to show short-term results, and visible impact from investments made. This, not surprisingly, continues to be a significant gap in how civil society views impact versus their compatriots in the CSR sector.

An annual 'Review of investments' is a standard practice in the corporate sector - something civil society might need to realign themselves to, and develop a shared vocabulary. Similarly, corporations should be willing to re-evaluate the measures of determining what impact really means in complex socio-economic environments.

CSR representatives must make the effort to educate decision-makers, chairpersons and committees on the need for alternative frameworks while making investments in the social sector. Clearly there is scope for meaningful dialogue between the two sectors here. But the need for this continuous evaluation is imperative to establish confidence in each other, especially when the corporate sector is at early stages of understanding the development paradigm. Lasting change can only become possible by maintaining this balance of short-term and long-term goals.

Collaborative Action:

The positives include a growing consensus among the State, civil society and businesses on the need to come together to leverage strengths. This has led to the creation of a new breed of social volunteers and 'facilitator organisations', who can to influence and develop partnerships. These organisations act as intermediaries and are able to bridge the gap between corporate agendas and development realities. Although still at a nascent stage, a lot of these organisations are investing in bringing in different stakeholders, and in the creation of knowledge products with a common vocabulary, with the aim of facilitating collaborative action between the actors. This is based on the belief that no one entity will be able to solve the challenges we face today. The areas of collaboration can start with representation and dialogue with the government, cross-pollinating research, co-investing in innovation, and building a shared vocabulary. Active participation in these dialogues can help track emerging trends, and align goals and objectives for long-term impact and systemic change.

Evolution of trust based philanthropy

Philanthropy has assumed a pivotal role in propelling transformative change across Indian society, effectively addressing entrenched challenges and uplifting communities. Over the past decade, a noteworthy surge in philanthropic endeavors has emerged, marked by businesses engaging through the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Regulations stipulated in Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013. Simultaneously, individuals have been directing their amassed wealth, stemming from the nation's expanding economy, towards meaningful investment.

Within the canvas of the Fiscal Year 2022, private sector contributions encompassing corporate entities, families, and individuals have amounted to a substantial Rs 1.05 lakh crore, as detailed in a report jointly conducted by consulting firm Bain and Company in collaboration with Dasra.

A striking illustration of this trend is the nearly twofold increase in CSR funding by Corporates, surging from Rs. 14,000 crores in 2017 to Rs 27,000 crores in 2022, displaying a robust Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 13%. Family-driven philanthropy has also witnessed a commendable growth of 12% over the past half-decade, amassing Rs 29,600 crores.

Concurrently, retail funding has advanced by 6%, culminating in Rs 33,000 for the year 2022. The sphere of High Net Worth Individuals' funding has undergone remarkable expansion, progressing from Rs. 15,000 crore to an impressive Rs 42,000 crore within the same time frame, indicative of a CAGR of 11%. In the midst of unparalleled challenges and promising opportunities, philanthropy is undergoing a dynamic evolution, transforming into a more potent and influential force for fostering positive change. Donors are increasingly attuned to the intricate nuances of the issues they seek to address, leading to more strategic, efficient, and impactful allocation of resources. The convergence of social movements, global crises, and visionary leadership is propelling philanthropy into an innovative and effective new era. A pivotal linchpin in this progression is the imperative for collaboration among philanthropists, policymakers, and stakeholders, synergizing their collective resources and expertise to effectively confront urgent global challenges.

This paradigm of philanthropy is underpinned by trust, providing non-profit entities with the essential latitude to experiment, adapt, and scale their initiatives while nurturing creativity and responsiveness to evolving challenges.

The youth shall lead the way

The COVID-19 pandemic has further laid bare the acute contradictions that Indian society faces. Some new challenges now include food insecurity, fledging health infrastructure, a deepening digital divide, the fragility of the economic man, and labour migration from urban to rural areas. Now more than ever, recognising voluntary organisations as an integral part of civil society, and ensuring its robustness, is vital for our democracy. Nation-building, although a deeply political process, must transform power relations by building human capital from bottom up. Programmes and projects are a means to engage and not an end in themselves. Neither subservient nor isolated, voluntary organisations have the power to engage with businesses and governments, while also upholding the core values enshrined in our Preamble. And the youth shall, and should, lead the way.

Contributed By
Aakash Sethi and Gagan Sethi

A PARTNERSHIP TO BE PROUD OF:

A JOURNEY OF GVT WITH IGSSS

Back in 1986, the inception of "Gramin Vikas Trust (G.V.T), Dwarka" marked the beginning of a transformative journey that garnered substantial support. The initial backing from Diamond Jubilee Trust, OXAFM, and CAPART facilitated ventures in afforestation and water conservation. CAPART's commendation was vividly expressed as GVT's efforts found recognition in CAPART's selection of the first 50 stories, out of 8000 funded organizations, for inclusion in their publication "PRAYAS".

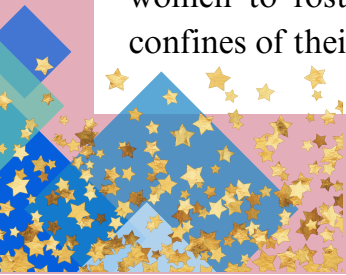
Up until that point, the organization's attention had solely centred around men. Just like a chariot relies on two identical and balanced wheels to move smoothly, development progresses best when both women and men receive equal focus, ensuring an accelerated and balanced advancement.

During this period, the situation of women in the OKHA extension was distressing. There were challenges stemming from insufficient funds within the organization, the absence of a female worker and institution head, and Professor Kerr's initial lack of mental preparation and conviction.

At this juncture, Smt. Sumitra Ben Thakkar, the head of ANANDI SANGATHAN, extended her assurance to support GVT in working with women. Consequently, Sumitra Ben herself began engaging with the women in the village, initiating tests for workers. Concurrently, Professor Kerr chose voluntary retirement from the A.K. Doshi Women's College in Jamnagar to pursue social work. His elder daughter, Meena, expressed interest in both completing her education and joining social work.

Around the same time, representatives Dorothy D'Souza and Mr. K.O. Mathai from IGSSS visited to assess GVT's efforts backed by Diamond Jubilee Trust and Oxfam. It was during this visit that Dorothy D'Souza suggested GVT develop a project focused on women's development, assuring funding support. The initial phases involved raising awareness among women in the villages. After six months of preparatory efforts in the wadi extension of Varwala Village, a women's group was established.

This marked the initial stride towards accomplishment, and gradually, we embarked on a progressive journey, advancing incrementally. Numerous trials were undertaken with the women to foster their confidence and instil the belief that they too could transcend the confines of their households and actively engage in societal contributions.



Similarly, the women in Makanpur village set a condition for their involvement in the GVT initiative. They stipulated that they would participate only if the acacia trees, which posed difficulties due to their thorns along the path to the well from where they collected water, were cleared.

A pivotal meeting was organized, giving rise to a core principle: GVT would extend support and guidance solely to those who willingly sought to address their own challenges, with no further offerings beyond that. This catalyst triggered a collective awakening, propelling women into organized action. Bolstered by a robust organization, they forged ahead, effectively tackling their own issues. Consistent gatherings of women in cluster meetings became routine, and their active involvement in leadership meetings was palpable. This encouraging scenario spurred other women, motivating them to unite and pursue similar communal efforts.

Subsequently, they began to independently resolve numerous local problems. This led to the resolution of electricity issues in the villages, establishment of 20 Anganwadi centres, initiation of schools in 15 villages, and a notable surge in women's participation in the activities of 20 panchayats. Women now undertook regular inspections of Anganwadi centres to ensure the quality of nutrition provided to their children. Through the village education committee, they vigilantly monitored educational quality and teacher attendance in schools. An illustrative instance of how an organization and effective guidance can triumph over poverty can be observed in the case of Jhavernagar village, located on the seashore within the interval extension of Varwala village. This settlement is home to individuals from socially disadvantaged backgrounds, their economic circumstances being particularly dire. Their means of subsistence included various activities like fishing and farming. Their villages suffered from a dearth of essential amenities like electricity, clean water, roads, and education. Most of them dwelled in earthen huts. During periods of heavy rainfall or storms, they were compelled to vacate their villages.

IGSSS played a crucial role in aiding GVT to educate the community on ways to break free from this predicament. This was achieved through the formation of groups, fostering a savings culture, and establishing women collectives. Fundamental amenities were established within the villages. A school was initiated, and electricity was brought to the village using funds provided by IGSSS. This village evolved into a model for GVT, showcasing how collaborative efforts can lift a community out of poverty's grasp. Financial aid was extended to the men of Jhavernagar to acquire fishing boats, although this venture wasn't successful. On the other hand, the women's collective proved to be a triumph, enabling them to earn between 4000 to 10000 per month through activities like poultry farming, goat rearing, fish retail, and agriculture.



The success of OSAD: An inspiring story

OKHAMANDAL SHAKTI SANGATHAN DWARKA (OSAD), translated as Osadiya in the local language, signifies women resolving their own queries. OSAD's initiatives now thrive across 39 villages, encompassing a dynamic 214 Self-Help Groups (SHGs) comprising a collective membership of 3771 individuals. The cumulative savings amassed by OSAD amount to Rs. 43,81,05,860, while disbursed loans to initiate livelihood projects or address family needs total Rs. 1,36,50,34,38. Within OSAD, women can obtain loans via self-help groups, clusters, SARAFI groups (a type of savings and credit group within OSAD), or JLGs through banks. OSAD has meticulously designed a system ensuring that no woman's work falters due to lack of financial support. Moreover, OSAD boasts five independent business circles functioning autonomously under the organization's umbrella.

OSSAD SARAFI MANDAL: Another model bringing happiness

The functioning of OSSAD SARAFI MANDALI involves the collection of "share money" from women within the self-help group, subsequently integrating them into the OSAD federation. Membership in the federation provides women access to loans ranging from Rs. 20,000 to 80,000 from OSAD, which can be utilized to initiate livelihood projects.

At present, the shareholders tally reaches 2,191, with a collective share amount of Rs. 21,91,000. Among these contributors, 755 members have placed Rs. 37,75,000 in fixed deposits. Through the federation, 2,445 members have availed loan facilities, totalling Rs. 69,57,60,000.

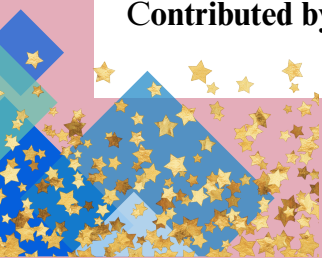
GVT and IGSSS partnership to cherish.

The interaction between IGSSS and GVT has transcended the typical funder-implementer relationship. IGSSS has consistently played a pivotal role in nurturing GVT's comprehensive growth. Instead of adopting a fault-finding or disparaging stance, IGSSS has maintained a supportive attitude, aiding in the exploration of alternative solutions.

GVT has been the beneficiary of funding assistance for seven distinct projects. Even in the absence of a specific project, GVT continues to engage with various opportunities facilitated by IGSSS, such as participation in workshops, consultations, trainings, and other enriching activities. During assessments, IGSSS has assumed a mentoring role, offered constructive feedback while acknowledging gaps and limitations.

As we move forward, GVT envisions an ongoing partnership with IGSSS, jointly advancing the cause of women's development. We hold profound gratitude for IGSSS's unwavering support that has been extended thus far.

Contributed by : Prof. D.S. Ker, Gramya Vikas Trust, Gujarat





Awards and Recognitions



First Runner up
Glenmark Nutrition Award



NGO of the year -
Empowering Communities



Corona Yodha Award by
Dainik Jagran



Best NGO in Health Care
by India Today





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