

# ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT (2022 – 2023)



## Vikas Sansthan

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## ***Preface***

### **We achieved on more milestone of the path of our goal**

Dear Well-wishers, Partners, and Supporters,



I am delighted to present to you the Annual Report for the year 2022-23, a comprehensive review of our journey, our achievements, and the lives we have touched along the way. As the President of Vikas Sansthan, I am proud of our unwavering commitment to the cause of child elimination and their development, education, women empowerment, and public participation in development, among others.

This year, we continued our mission to liberate and uplift victims of child labour, undertaking numerous campaigns, and organising parents' meetings to raise awareness about this pressing issue. We have strived to provide education to these liberated children, striving to bring them into the mainstream society where they can flourish and realize their potential. From providing mid-day meals, distributing uniform, stationery, books to arranging recreational and cultural activities for freed child labour, every step we took was aimed at fostering a holistic environment for these young minds.

In the realm of education, our focus was not limited to just conventional schooling. We have made strides in providing Non-Formal Education (NFE) for liberated child labour victims, computer training, and sponsorship programmes. Our trainers have undergone rigorous training to ensure that they provide the best possible education to the children in our care.

Our work in women development has also seen significant progression. We have embarked on numerous awareness programmes, economic development initiatives, and welfare programmes for adolescent girls. From distribution of sanitary napkins, leadership training, to creating equal opportunities, our efforts have been multifaceted and impactful.

The Microfinance sector has been another area of focus, with the formation of Self Help Groups (SHG) and providing loans for income generation. We have made efforts towards building capacities, and our progress reports showcase the tangible difference we are making in this domain.

Livelihood improvement, public participation in development, and generating awareness on public issues have been our other key focus areas. We have conducted various activities to facilitate capacity building, training, and meetings, along with exposure activities and visits.

Our initiative to help individuals access Government schemes has borne fruit, and we have made considerable strides in the health sector by organizing health checkup camps and providing essential medicines.

The training of our team leaders and educators has been another main aspect of our work, ensuring that our team is equipped with the necessary skills to carry out their duties effectively.

We also launched volunteering campaigns to encourage public participation in welfare activities, organized sports events, and conducted various other events for awareness

generation. Our response to the epidemic situation was prompt, and we took all necessary precautions to ensure the safety of our beneficiaries.

In this report, you will also find inspiring case studies, a testament to the resilience of the human spirit, and the transformative power of collective action. We have tried to capture our journey through the year in this report, but the real impact of our work goes beyond these pages.

It resides in the smiles of the children we have helped, the empowered women who are now leading change in their communities, and in the gradual but definite transformation we see in the society we serve.

Our journey, however, is far from over. There are still many challenges to overcome, many lives to touch, and many dreams to fulfill. But we stride forward with hope and determination, fueled by the unwavering support of our partners, well-wishers, and the community we serve.

On behalf of the entire team at Vikas Sansthan, I express my deepest gratitude to all our partners, donors, volunteers, and supporters who have been part of our journey. Your trust and support have been the pillars of our strength and the driving force behind our work.

Together, we have achieved much, but together, we can achieve much more. We can continue to create a world where every child can dream, every woman can thrive, and every community can prosper. As we look forward to the year ahead, we reaffirm our commitment to our mission and invite you all to join us in our journey towards creating a more equitable and just society.

Thank you for standing by us in this journey of change. Your continued support and faith in our mission empower us to reach out to more people and amplify our impact. We look forward to your continued partnership as we set forth on new endeavours in the year ahead.

Together, let's continue to make a difference, one step at a time.

Yours sincerely,

**Sarita Dilip Sevarthi**  
**President**  
**Vikas Sansthan**

# Annual Report 2022-23

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## *Executive Summary 2022-23*

### **Activities and Achievements of Vikas Sansthan**

Vikas Sansthan, a Non-Profit Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) based in Firozabad, Uttar Pradesh, India, has been actively working towards the liberation and rehabilitation of child labour victims in the Glass, Bangle, Carpet, and Brick Kiln industries in Firozabad and Agra districts. Throughout the year 2022-23, the organisation has achieved significant milestones and made a lasting positive impact on the lives of countless children, families, and communities.

Through various projects supported by international organisations such as Misereor, Germany, Entwicklungshilfeclub, Austria, and XERTIFIX, Germany, the organisation has made significant progress in eliminating child labour and promoting education, livelihood, and collective action in the affected communities.

#### **Details of Activities and training during the (April 2022 to March 2023)**

<b>S. No</b>	<b>Name of Activity</b>	<b>No.of Participants</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Support Agency</b>
1	Best CRPC Member Award Function	240	27 April 2022	Vikas Ashram RupaspurShikohabad	Misereor, Germany
2	Assesment test of Sponsored Child Labour	73	23 May 2022	Ram Nagar Firozabad	Development Aid Club, Austria
3	Advance Training For Leadership Adolescent Girls	73	25 to 26 May 2022	Vikas Ashram RupaspurShikohabad	Misereor, Germany
4	Free Child Labour Health Check up Camps	380	24 to 28 May 2022	Project area of 6 slums Hasmat Nagar F.Z.B.	Misereor, Germany
5	Capacity Building Training of SHG Members	90	01 to 02 June 2022	Vikas Ashram RupaspurShikohabad	Misereor, Germany
6	CBOs Project Staff Training	11	03 To 04 June 2022	Vikas Ashram RupaspurShikohabad	Misereor, Germany
7	Children Parliament Leaders Training	76	06To 07 June 2022	Vikas Ashram RupaspurShikohabad	Misereor, Germany
8	Project staff training on CBOs	5	3-4 June,2022	Vikas Ashram, Rupaspur, Shikohabad	Xertifix, Germany
9	Bal Panchayt Leaders Trainin	5	06To 07 June 2022	Vikas Ashram RupaspurShikohabad	Misereor, Germany

10	Capacity Building Training of Bal Panchayat Leaders	64	08 June 2022	Motiram Verma Inter College Siyahipura, Agra	Development Aid Club, Austria
11	Empowerment training of Self Help Groups	7	10-11 June, 2022	Vikas Ashram Rupaspur Shikohabad	Xertifix, Germany
12	World Day against child labour	80	12 June 2022	Vikas Ashram, Rupaspur, Shikohabad	Development Aid Club, Austria
13	Two days training for empowerment of Kishori Balika Manch (Adolescent Girls Forums)	10	13-14 June 2022	Vikas Ashram Rupaspur Shikohabad	Xertifix, Germany
14	Capacity Building Training of Members	38	20 To 21 June 2022	Vikas Ashram Rupaspur Shikohabad	Misereor, Germany
15	Parents Meet of the Freed Child Labour	97	27 June 2022	Government Junior School Selai Firozabad	Misereor, Germany
16	Operation of Non-formal Education Centres	295 Children	01 Nov. 2021 to 30 June 2022	6 places of Brick Kiln Industries in Project areas of Agra District	Development Aid club, Austria
17	Mid-Day Meals Distribution	295 children	01 Nov. 2021 to 30 June 2022	6 places in Project areas of Agra District	Development Aid club, Austria
18	Meeting of Liberated Former Child Labour Victims	58	15 August 2022	Vikas Ashram Rupaspur Shikohabad	Misereor, Germany
19	Exposure visit of office bearers and members of Children Panchayats formed by freed Child Labour Victim children	58	17 August 2022	Little International school Dev Nagar Firozabad	Misereor, Germany
20	Exposure visit of office bearers of child rights protection committees	38	20 August 2022	Vikas Ashram Rupaspur Shikohabad	Misereor, Germany
21	Empowerment training of community organisations formed against Child labour	36	27 August 2022	Vikas Ashram Rupaspur Shikohabad	Misereor, Germany
22	Sanitary Napkin distribution camps for Adolescent Girls and their mothers.	330	Per month	6 Brick Kiln Industries of Agra District (UP)	Development Aid Club, Austria
23	Child Rights Protection Committee(CRPC) Members Meeting	All the members of CRPC of all 6 location	Per month	6 Brick Kiln Industries of Agra District (UP)	Development Aid Club, Austria



24	Mask distribution in the community	600	During the health check up camp	6 Brick Kiln Industries of Agra District (UP)	Development Aid Club, Austria
25	Project Staff Monthly Review Meeting	08	Per Month	Project staff of project Area	Development Aid Club, Austria
26	Case Studies of Liberated Former Child Labour Victims	05	During Project assessment tenure	6 Brick Kiln Industries of Agra District (UP)	Development Aid Club, Austria
27	Teenagers' Own Story in their own words about Sanitary Pads	02	During Project assessment tenure	6 Brick Kiln Industries of Agra District (UP)	Development Aid Club, Austria
28	Parents Children meet of Sponsored freed child labour organised on Gandhi Jayanti	150	02 October 2022	Vikas Ashram, Rupaspur, Shikohabad	Development Aid Club, Austria
29	Project Orientation Training for Project Staff	14	11 to 12 October 2022	Vikas Ashram RupaspurbShikohabad	Misereor, Germany
30	Gender Sensitization Training For Project Staff	12	17 to 18 October 2022	Vikas Ashram Rupaspur Shikohabad	Misereor, Germany
31	Training of the Project Staff on Teaching Methodology Joyful Learning	21	12 To 14 December 2022	Vikas Ashram Rupaspur Shikohabad	Misereor, Germany
32	Free Child Labour Health Check up Camp	440	16 to 18 December 2022	Project area 5 Slam Hasmat Nagar F.Z.B.	Misereor, Germany
33	adolescent girl child empowerment training	41	21 to 22 December 2022	Vikas Ashram Rupaspur Shikohabad	Misereor, Germany
34	Merry Christmas and New Year Celebration	200	25 December 2022	Vikas Ashram, Rupaspur, Shikohabad	Development Aid Club, Austria
35	Children Parliament Leaders Training	38	27 To 28 December 2022	Vikas Ashram Rupaspur Shikohabad	Misereor, Germany
36	Are girls/women also human beings? If yes, then why is there discrimination against them?	45	26 January 2023	Vikas Ashram Rupaspur Shikohabad	Misereor, Germany
37	Adolescent Empowerment Meeting	20	6 February 2023	Vikas Ashram Rupaspur Shikohabad	Misereor, Germany

38	Training For Volunteers on Social Work	32	7 February 2023	Abbas Nagar Firozabad	Misereor, Germany
39	Training for mothers of child labour on SHGs Formation	65	9 February 2023	Abbas Nagar Firozabad	Misereor, Germany
40	Games Competition to Develop their Talent & Spirits Among the Freed Child Labour	60	15 March 2023	Vikas Ashram Rupaspur Shikohabad	Misereor, Germany
41	Training of officials of Child Rights Protection Committee for eradication of child labour.	58	23 March 2023	Abbas Nagar Firozabad	Misereor, Germany
42.	Advanced training on leadership for adolescent girls	67	13 to 14 June 2022	Vikas Ashram, Rupaspur	Kindermisssionswerk, Germany
43.	Parents, Children Meet of Freed Child Labour	197	28 June 2022	Azad Nagar, Firozabad	Kindermisssionswerk, Germany

## Highlights of the Year 2022-23

### 1. Stop and Rehabilitation of Child Labour

Eliminating Child Labour victims through Education and Economic Rehabilitation and Collectivization Action in Firozabad Glass and Bangles Industries of Uttar Pradesh in India.

- Financially supported by Misereor, Germany.
- This project is running in 6 slums of Firozabad bangles and glass industry. They are Hasmat Nagar, Awwas Nagar, Ganga Nagar, Satya Nagar, Samrat Nagar, Kausalya Nagar etc.
- Successfully conducted awareness campaigns for education and ending child labour.
- Provided Non-Formal Education (NFE) to 378 liberated child labour victims and mainstreamed them into NFE and regular schools.
- Established 7 Self-Help Groups (SHGs) with 92 mothers and provided INR 790790 microfinance loans for income generation and economic rehabilitation of families.
- 841 Sanitary napkins distributed among the adolescence girls child labour and their mothers during this year.
- 316 families of child labour were benefited of various government schemes.
- 332 freed child labour joined NFEs and they got free study material like books, notebooks, bag, erasers pencils etc.
- INR 196730 has been saved money among the 25 SHGs through the mothers of freed child labour in this project.
- 31 adolescence girls child labour joined kishori Balika Manch in this duration.
- 26 new parents of freed child labour have been joined with Child Rights Protection Committees.

### 2. Elimination of Child Labour through Education and Livelihood

Elimination of Child Labour through Education and Livelihood Promotion in Glass, Bangle, and Carpet industry of Firozabad and Agra, District Uttar Pradesh, India.

- Financially supported by Entwicklungshilfeclub, Austria
- All sponsored freed child labour and mainstreamed in education residents of urban area of Firozabad.
- Conducted targeted interventions in the Glass, Bangle, and Carpet industries, leading to the 129 liberation of child labour victims and mainstreams in different government and private public schools.
- All the 129 freed child labour joined the mainstream of education and get free of cost learning material from the project like books, uniform, notebooks, bag and tuition fees of the schools etc.
- 90 mothers of freed child labour formed 14 SHGs and distributing the loans among their members.
- Implemented vocational training programmes and livelihood improvement initiatives for affected families.
- Organized Bal Panchayat (Children Parliament), Adolescent Girls Forums, and Child Rights Protection Committee (CRPC) to promote public.
- 40 families of freed child labour got different benefits of government schemes.

### **3. Child Labour Elimination in 6 Brick Kiln Industries**

Child Labour Elimination in 6 Brick Kiln Industries of Pinahat and Fetehabad Blocks of Agra District of Uttar Pradesh, India.

- Financially supported by Entwicklungshilfeclub, Austria.
- Bihari ji brick field Nagla bihari, Jay Shankar brick field manikpura, Sriram brick field sukha tal, R. R. Brick Field Banke ki Thar, Arti Brick field Sihaipura etc. of Pinnat block Agra and P.M Grick Field Gari Gusai, Fatehabad, District Agra .
- Successfully eliminated 295 child labour victims in 6 brick kiln industries through education, liberation, and rehabilitation initiatives..
- In which 137 boys and 158 girls' child labour freed and join NFEs in 6 brick kiln industry.
- Conducted sports and cultural events to promote social integration and raise awareness on child labour issues.
- Provided training to team leaders and educators to ensure the effective implementation of projects participation in development.
- Provided mid-day meals to all freed children in the brick kiln industries.
- Provided free learning material to all freed 303 children and join them in NFEs.
- 358 children benefited by free health checkup camps.
- 600 face mask distributed among the freed children and their parents.
- 330 sanitary napkins distributed among the adolescence girls every months and this was continue in 9 months duration of the project.

### **4. Child Labour Action Programme for Equity and Rights**

Child Labour Action Programme for Equity and Rights (CLAPER) Project, Habibganj, Firozabad bangles Industry, Uttar Pradesh.

- Financially supported by XERTIFIX, Germany.
- Addressed child labour issues in the Firozabad bangles industry through education, awareness, and advocacy.
- Facilitated access to Government schemes and benefits for affected families.
- Provided health checkup camps, medicine distribution, and epidemic precaution measures to ensure the well-being of beneficiaries.
- 95 freed children were studying in NFE Centre and they are getting free learning material like books, bags, notebooks, pencils, erasers etc.
- 25 children of NFE has been mainstream in formal schools during this period.
- 113 family members of the freed child labour got loan INR 691000 from different sources like Ajeevika Samiti, sponsored children committee and seed federation and Jeevandhara Mutual benefit Nidhi limited.
- 108 families have been joined in Jeevandhara Mutual benefit Nidhi Limited and deposited INR 204300.

### **5. Women Development and Empowerment**

- Conducted awareness programmes and trainings to promote women's equality and empowerment.

- Provided support for adolescent girls through sanitary napkin distribution, leadership training, and welfare initiatives.
- Encouraged the formation of women-led Self-Help Groups (SHGs) for microfinance and economic development.

## **6. Public Participation in Development**

- Strengthened community engagement through the formation of Bal Panchayat (Children Parliament), Adolescent Girls Forums, and Child Rights Protection Committee (CRPC).
- Organized capacity building workshops, trainings, and meetings to enhance community participation in addressing child labour issues and promoting development.

## **7. Awareness Generation on Public Issues**

- Conducted capacity building workshops, training meetings, and awareness programmes for the beneficiaries to raise awareness on public issues, including child labour victims, women's rights, and access to Government schemes and benefits.

## **8. Access to Government Schemes Benefits**

- Facilitated beneficiaries' access to various Government schemes and benefits, ensuring economic and social security for affected families.

## **9. Health and Well-being**

- Organized health checkup camps, provided medicines, and conducted epidemic precaution measures to ensure the overall well-being of beneficiaries.

## **10. Capacity Building and Training of Project teams**

- Conducted training programmes for team leaders, educators, and community members to ensure the effective implementation of projects and initiatives.

## **11. Volunteering Campaigns and Community Participation.**

- Encouraged volunteering and community participation in public welfare activities and events, fostering a sense of responsibility and ownership in the development process.

## **12. Sports and Cultural Activities**

- Organized games tournaments and cultural events to promote social integration, raise awareness on child labour issues, and provide recreational opportunities for beneficiaries.

## **13. Epidemic Precaution and Preparedness**

- Implemented precautionary measures and provided support to beneficiaries during epidemics, ensuring their health and safety.
- Conducted awareness campaigns to educate communities on preventive measures and best practices during epidemics.

#### **14. Partnerships and Collaboration**

- Fostered strong partnerships with international organisations such as Misereor, Germany, Entwicklungshilfeclub, Austria, and XERTIFIX, Germany, to support and implement various projects and initiatives.
- Collaborated with local Government agencies, Social Service Organisations, and other stakeholders to ensure coordinated efforts in addressing child labour issues and promoting development.

#### **15. Monitoring and Evaluation**

- Conducted regular monitoring and evaluation of ongoing projects to ensure their effectiveness and efficiency, leading to continuous improvement and better outcomes for beneficiaries.
- Shared progress reports with stakeholders to maintain transparency and accountability.

#### **16. Success Stories and Case Studies**

- Documented inspiring success stories and case studies of liberated child labour victims, empowered women, and transformed communities, showcasing the positive impact of Vikas Sansthan's efforts on the lives of beneficiaries.

#### **17. Recognition and Awards**

- Received awards and accolades for the organisation's exceptional work in liberating and rehabilitating child labour victims, promoting education, and uplifting affected families in Firozabad and Agra districts of Uttar Pradesh, India.

#### **18. Environmental Awareness and Sustainability**

- Conducted awareness programmes and activities to educate communities on the importance of environmental conservation and sustainable practices.
- Implemented eco-friendly initiatives within the organisation and the communities it serves to promote environmental responsibility.

#### **19. Digital Inclusion and Computer Training**

- Provided computer training and digital literacy programmes for liberated child labour victims and community members, enabling them to access information, communication, and learning resources in the digital age.
- Fostered digital inclusion by providing access to technology and infrastructure in rural and marginalized areas.

#### **20. Fundraising and Resource Mobilization**

- Successfully mobilized resources through fundraising events, campaigns, and grant applications to support the organisation's projects and initiatives.
- Strengthened the organisation's financial sustainability by diversifying funding sources and engaging with donors and supporters.

## **21. Outreach and Expansion**

- Extended the organisation's reach to new communities and areas affected by child labour victimization, ensuring that more children and families benefit from Vikas Sansthan's programmes and services.
- Continuously identified areas of need and devised strategies for further growth and expansion to maximize impact.

## **22. Advocacy and Policy Influence**

- Engaged in advocacy efforts at local, regional, and national levels to influence policy and decision-making in favor of child rights, education, and social justice.
- Collaborated with other community organisations, networks, and coalitions to amplify the organisation's voice and impact in the policy landscape.

## **23. Research and Knowledge Sharing**

- Conducted research and analysis on child labour victims, education, and community development to inform the organisation's strategies and interventions.
- Shared knowledge, experiences, and best practices with partners, stakeholders, and other organisations to promote collective learning and impact.

## **24. Disaster Response and Relief**

- Provided timely assistance and support to communities affected by natural disasters, ensuring their immediate needs were met and facilitating their recovery and rehabilitation.
- Conducted disaster preparedness training and workshops to enhance community resilience and reduce vulnerability to future disasters.

## **25. Media and Communication**

- Utilized various media channels, including print, electronic, and social media, to raise awareness about child labour issues and the organisation's work, thereby garnering public support and engagement.
- Developed and disseminated communication materials, such as newsletters, reports, and success stories, to inform stakeholders of the organisation's progress and impact.

## **26. Capacity Building for Sansthan Teams**

- Conducted training programmes and workshops for the team members of Vikas Sansthan to enhance their understanding of child labour issues and their capacity to effectively address these challenges.

## **27. Networking and Alliance Building**

- Fostered collaborative relationships with local Government bodies to ensure a coordinated and comprehensive approach to tackling child labour and promoting development.
- Engaged in networking and alliance-building activities with other social service organisations, civil society organisations, and networks to share knowledge, resources, and expertise, amplifying the collective impact in addressing child labour and related issues.

- Participated in conferences, workshops, and seminars to learn from others, share Vikas Sansthan's experiences, and contribute to broader discussions on child rights, education, and development.

## **28. Organisational Development and Governance**

- Strengthened organisational governance and internal systems to ensure the effective and efficient functioning of the organisation, including financial management, human resource development, and strategic planning.
- Implemented transparent and accountable practices to maintain the trust and confidence of stakeholders, partners, and beneficiaries.

These are the main comprehensive and multi-faceted approach of Vikas Sansthan in addressing child labour, promoting education, and fostering community development in Firozabad and Agra districts of Uttar Pradesh, India.

## **2. Profile of Vikas Sansthan**

As a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) Vikas Sansthan is committed to combating child labour victimization and uplifting the lives of affected children and their families in the Firozabad district and Agra district of Uttar Pradesh, India. With a focus on the Glass and Bangle Industries, Carpet Industries, and Brick Kilns, the organisation strives to liberate and rehabilitate child labour victims by providing them with education and opportunities for social integration. Through its various projects, Vikas Sansthan empowers communities by creating Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and Federations for mothers of liberated child labour victims, promoting socio-economic growth and child rights protection.

Vikas Sansthan, established with a resolute determination to combat child labour and empower affected communities, has been at the forefront of addressing the multifaceted challenges faced by child labour victims and their families. The organisation's work is centred on the Firozabad and Agra district of Uttar Pradesh, where it has implemented a wide array of programmes aimed at providing comprehensive support to the children and communities it serves.

### **Mission, Vision, and Objectives**

#### **Vision**

A society free from exploitation, where the people, especially women and children are not discriminated on the basis of their sex, caste, creed and religion.

#### **Mission**

The strive for a society where the poor and marginalized and disadvantaged sections can progress towards socio-economic development by reducing poverty through eradication and rehabilitation of Child Labour victim, empowerment of women and providing better access to health care and educational opportunities for the community

#### **Objectives:**

1. To liberate child labour victims from exploitative industries and ensure their rehabilitation through education, skill development, and social reintegration.



2. To establish and strengthen Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and Federations of mothers of liberated child labour victims, thereby improving their families' socio-economic status.
3. To create collectives of children, adolescents, parents, and mothers to protect and safeguard child rights and promote community participation in development.
4. To collabourate with Government agencies, Social Organisations, and other stakeholders to address the root causes of child labour and create sustainable solutions.
5. To raise awareness about child rights, education, and social issues among the general public, policymakers, and stakeholders.

Through its mission, vision, and objectives, Vikas Sansthan aims to make a lasting impact on the lives of child labour victims and their families, working tirelessly to transform communities and build a brighter future for all.

## Strategic Approach

To further its mission, Vikas Sansthan has developed a strategic approach that encompasses various interventions, including:

**1. Education and Skill Development:** The organisation provides Non-Formal Education (NFE) to liberated child labour victims, helping them bridge the learning gap and preparing them for admission into mainstream schools. Additionally, it offers vocational training and skill development programmes to equip these children with the necessary skills for a better future.



**2. Community Mobilization and Empowerment:** Vikas Sansthan works closely with communities to foster collective action against child labour victimization. By forming and strengthening Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Federations, and collectives of children, adolescents, and parents, the organisation empowers communities to take charge of their development and protect the rights of their

children.

**3. Advocacy and Awareness:** The organisation actively engages in advocacy efforts to influence policies and practices that address child labour victimization and promote child rights. Through awareness campaigns and capacity-building programmes, Vikas Sansthan educates communities about the importance of education, child rights, and social welfare.



**4. Collabouration and Partnership:** Recognizing the importance of collective action, Vikas Sansthan collabourates with Government agencies, Social Organisations, civil society organisations, and other stakeholders to maximize the impact of its interventions and ensure a coordinated approach to tackling Child Labour victim and promoting development.

**5. Monitoring and Evaluation:** To ensure the effectiveness and sustainability of its programmes, Vikas Sansthan regularly monitors and evaluates its initiatives, incorporating lessons learned and best practices to continuously improve its approach and impact.

**6. Resource Mobilization and Financial Sustainability:** Vikas Sansthan actively seeks financial support from national and international donors, ensuring the organisation's long-term sustainability and enabling it to expand its reach and deepen its impact on the lives of child labour victims and their families.

Vikas Sansthan's unwavering commitment to its mission, coupled with its comprehensive and strategic approach, has led to significant progress in the fight against child labour victimization and the promotion of education, child rights, and social justice in the Firozabad district of Uttar Pradesh, India.

### **Key components of Vikas Sansthan**

Vikas Sansthan's comprehensive approach to addressing child labour victimization and empowering affected communities in the Firozabad and Agra district of Uttar Pradesh, India, has led to substantial progress in promoting education, child rights, and social justice. The organisation's multifaceted strategy is designed to provide holistic support to child labour victims and their families while fostering sustainable community development.

#### **Key components of Vikas Sansthan's approach include:**

**1. Holistic Child Development:** Sansthan prioritizes the overall well-being of liberated child labour victims, ensuring their physical, mental, and emotional needs are met. This includes providing essential amenities such as food, clothing, and healthcare, as well as organizing recreational activities to promote social integration and personal growth.

**2. Women Empowerment and Gender Equality:** Sansthan recognizes the role that women play in the development of their families and communities. Vikas Sansthan works to promote gender equality and women's empowerment by conducting awareness programmes, offering economic development opportunities, and support to adolescent girls through initiatives such as sanitary napkin distribution and leadership training.

**3. Livelihood Improvement and Economic Development:** Sansthan understands that poverty is a significant driver of child labour issue. The organisation works to improve the economic status of families by promoting income-generating activities, microfinance support through SHGs, and facilitating access to Government schemes and benefits.

**4. Public Participation and Community Engagement:** The organisation believes in the power of collective action and encourages public participation in the development process. Vikas Sansthan establishes and supports platforms such as Bal Panchayats (Children's Parliaments), Kishori Balika Manch (Adolescent Girls Forums), and Child Rights Protection Committees (CRPC), enabling community members to actively engage in decision-making and advocacy efforts.

**5. Health and Well-being:** To ensure the overall well-being of the communities it serves, Vikas Sansthan organises health checkup camps, distributes medicines, and conducts awareness programmes on health and hygiene.

**6. Capacity Building and Training:** The organisation invests in the professional development of its team leaders, educators, and community members, offering training programmes to enhance their skills and knowledge. This capacity-building effort ensures the effectiveness and sustainability of Vikas Sansthan's programmes and interventions.

**7. Networking and Alliance Building:** To maximize its impact and learn from others, Vikas Sansthan actively engages in networking and alliance-building activities with other NGOs, civil society organisations, and networks. The organisation participates in conferences, workshops, and seminars to share its experiences and contribute to broader discussions on child rights, education, and development.

By implementing this multifaceted approach during 2022-23, Vikas Sansthan has made a lasting positive impact on the lives of countless child labour victims, their families, and communities.

## **3. Child Development**

### **a. Liberation of Child Labour Victims**

Our organisation's primary objective is the liberation and rehabilitation of child labour victims. During the year 2022-23 we worked tirelessly to convince parents of the importance of education and the long-term benefits of liberating their children from labour. Our efforts have been successful in liberating numerous children aged 6 to 14 in the project area, ensuring their freedom from child labour victimization and enrolling them in our Child Labour Non-Formal Education Centres for rehabilitation and education.

#### **Identification of Child Labour Victims**

During the 2022-23 year, our teams conducted extensive door-to-door surveys in slums and brick kiln areas targeting the homes and workplaces associated with the bangle and glass industry. We identified child labour victims and their families, ultimately registering new liberated children at our Non-Formal Education Centres. This critical work enabled us to provide educational opportunities to these vulnerable children, helping them transition into formal education and mainstream society.

#### **Campaigns**

Throughout the year, we organized and conducted numerous awareness campaigns to educate the community on the detrimental effects of child labour victimization and the importance of education for all children. Our campaigns played a pivotal role in challenging societal norms, fostering support for our mission to eliminate Child Labour victim, and creating a conducive environment for the rehabilitation and education of liberated child labour victims.

## Meeting of Liberated Former Child Labour Victims

A momentous gathering took place at Vikas Ashram, Rupaspur, Shikohabad, as 58



liberated former child labour victims came together for a significant meeting. The participants, who had overcome the challenges of child labour and embarked on a path of education and rehabilitation, shared a common bond and a resilient spirit. Organized under the esteemed project 'Stopping Child Labour through Education & Economic Rehabilitation and Collectivization Action' supported by

Misereor, this meeting aimed to provide a platform for these courageous individuals to reflect on their journey, share their experiences, and inspire others with their stories of triumph.

The meeting, held on 15 August 2022, held immense significance as it coincided with the celebration of Independence Day, symbolizing the freedom and liberation that these



children had attained from the clutches of child labour. It was a moment of pride and gratitude, as the participants not only reflected on their personal growth but also expressed their determination to contribute to the betterment of society. Their presence served as a testament to the transformative power of education, economic empowerment, and collective action.

During the meeting, the liberated former child labour victims engaged in heartfelt discussions, group activities, and interactive sessions. They openly shared the challenges they had faced, the obstacles they had overcome, and the dreams they aspired to achieve. Their stories of resilience, determination, and perseverance served as a beacon of hope and inspiration for others still trapped in the vicious cycle of child labour. Through this gathering, these empowered individuals demonstrated the immense potential that lies within every child and the importance of providing them with the necessary support and opportunities to thrive.

The meeting of liberated former child labour victims was a powerful reminder of the impact that dedicated projects like 'Stopping Child Labour through Education & Economic Rehabilitation and Collectivization Action' can have on the lives of vulnerable children. It highlighted the critical role of education, rehabilitation, and collective efforts in breaking the chains of child labour and nurturing a generation of empowered individuals.

## Parents Meetings

Parental engagement and support are important for the success of our child labour elimination initiatives. At Vikas Sansthan, we recognize the significance of involving parents in our mission to liberate and educate children. To facilitate open discussions, raise awareness, and secure their cooperation, we regularly organize parent meetings.



One such parent meeting, organized on 27th June 2022 at Government Junior School Selai, Firozabad, was specifically held for the parents of freed child labourers. This meeting, held under the Project 'Stopping Child Labour through Education & Economic Rehabilitation and

Collectivization Action' supported by Misereor, Germany, saw active participation from 97 parents. During the meeting, we emphasized the importance of education, highlighted the negative impacts of child labour victimization, and provided information about available government schemes and programmes for alternative income generation. These discussions played an important role in changing the mindsets of parents and securing their support in our mission to liberate and educate children.

Another significant parent meeting, the Parents-Children Meet of Sponsored Freed Child Labour, was organized on Gandhi Jayanti, 2nd October 2022, at Vikas Ashram, Rupaspur, Shikohabad. This meeting, held under the project 'Elimination of Child Labour through Education and Livelihood Promotion' supported by Development Aid Club, Austria, witnessed the participation of 15 parents. The event provided an opportunity for parents to interact with their sponsored freed child labourers, fostering a sense of connection, support, and encouragement. It served as a platform to celebrate the progress made by the children and discuss their ongoing educational journey.



Furthermore, a large-scale parent meeting, the Parents-Children Meet of Freed Child Labour, took place on 28th June 2022 in Azad Nagar, Firozabad. This meeting was organized under the Project 'Elimination of Child Labour through Education and Livelihood Promotion In Glass, Bangle, and Carpet Industry,' financed by Kindermissionswerk, Germany. The event witnessed the participation of 197 parents, making it a significant gathering to raise awareness and mobilize support. The meeting focused on discussing the progress made in liberating child labourers from hazardous work and enrolling them in educational programs. It also provided a platform for parents to share their experiences, express their concerns, and actively engage in the ongoing fight against child labour victimization in the glass, bangle, and carpet industry.

These parent meetings have proven invaluable in changing mindsets, raising awareness, and securing the cooperation of parents in our mission to liberate and educate children. By involving parents and providing them with information, resources, and support, we strive to create a collaborative and nurturing environment where children can thrive. The success of our child development initiatives relies on the active participation and partnership of parents, and we remain committed to fostering their engagement to ensure the well-being and education of vulnerable children.

## b. Education of Liberated Children

At Vikas Sansthan, we believe that education is the key to a child's future. Once we liberate children from the grips of child labour victimization, our next step is to provide them with a robust educational foundation. During the year 2022-23 we have implemented our education initiatives that are designed to nurture their inherent potential and empower them to break free from the shackles of poverty and exploitation. We achieved the aim to bridge the education gap, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive in a supportive and stimulating environment.

We have worked on the Education programme for liberated children comprises various elements, including Non-Formal Education, admission into mainstream schools, computer training, and sponsorship. We regularly evaluated our students' progress through reports to understand their learning journey better and make necessary adjustments to our teaching methods and curriculum.

### Non-Formal Education (NFE)

Our Non-Formal Education (NFE) programme was implemented to serve as a critical stepping stone in our mission to rehabilitate liberated child labour victims. We have



recognised that these children often lack basic literacy and numeracy skills due to their forced labour, to resolve this we tailor our NFE programme during the assessment year, to cater to their specific educational needs.

- **Admission of Liberated Child Labour Victims:** After liberation, the children are enrolled in our NFE

Centres, where they initiate their journey towards educational and personal development. NFE Centres serve as a safe space for them to adjust and prepare for formal schooling.

- **Teaching:** Our teaching methodology focused on providing a child-friendly, engaging, and supportive learning environment. We employed innovative pedagogical techniques to make learning an enjoyable and rewarding experience for our students. The curriculum covered fundamental subjects such as mathematics, science, social studies, and languages, along with life skills and value education.

- **Assessment:** Regular assessments were integral to our NFE programme. These assessments helped us to track each child's progress, identify areas of improvement, and tailor our teaching methods during the year to cater to the individual learning needs of each student.

- **Training of Trainers:** Our trainers undergone regular training to stay updated with the latest teaching methodologies and child psychology during the implementation of education programme. This approach ensured that they are well-equipped to foster a nurturing learning environment for our students.



In the next phase of our education programme, we focused on mainstreaming these children into regular schools, providing computer training, sponsorship opportunities, and tracked their progress. These steps were aimed at equipping the children with the skills, knowledge, and confidence they need to succeed in the 21st century.

## Mainstreaming in Schools

A significant goal of Vikas Sansthan's educational programme is the mainstreaming of liberated child labour victims into formal schools. This was an important step towards ensuring their long-term development and integration into society.



This year we have ensured that our mainstreaming process can begin as soon as a child is ready, which is typically when they reach an academic and emotional level comparable to their peers in formal schools.

We worked closely with local Government and private schools to facilitate the enrolment process. Our team assisted the children and their families in completing necessary paperwork, and we also provided guidance and support during school visits and admissions. The campaign of mainstreaming in Schools was in the time span of 1 November 2021 to 30 June 2022, so during this assessment year during 1 April 2022 to 30 June 2022 this campaign was undertaken and implemented.

Mainstreaming 295 children into formal schools was a significant milestone we have achieved, in their journey towards empowerment. It not only given them access to



quality education but also exposed them towards new environments, experiences, and opportunities, further enabling their holistic development. As a result this process ultimately prepared them for a future where they can contribute positively to society and lead fulfilling lives.

This programme was part of the Project 'Elimination of Child Labour through Education and Livelihood Promotion' supported by Development Aid Club, Austria.

## **Sponsorship**

An important part of our work at Vikas Sansthan is our Sponsorship Programme, an initiative that enables generous individuals, organisations, and community groups to support the education and welfare of the liberated child labour victims. Sponsorship, in this context, goes beyond financial assistance - it is a commitment to change a child's life for the better.

In the past year, we have seen significant growth in our sponsorship programme. Sponsorship not only changes the lives of these children but also influences their families and communities. It creates a ripple effect, inspiring others to value education, and helps in reshaping societal attitudes towards Child Labour victim.

## **c. Integration into Society**

At Vikas Sansthan, we believe that liberating children from labour is only the first step in a much longer journey. Once these children are free, our primary mission is to help them integrate into society as confident, educated, and empowered individuals. So we worked to achieve this aim during the year 2022-23 through strategic initiatives designed to address their holistic development. We focused to ensure that every child has the opportunity to grow and flourish, empowered by their rights.

## **Child Rights**

Vikas Sansthan is deeply committed to upholding and championing the rights of children, which serve as the foundation for all our initiatives. We worked with this firm belief that each child, regardless of their background or circumstances, should have access to a safe, nurturing, and inclusive environment that supports their growth and development. We viewed that children not merely as recipients of care, but as active participants with a voice in their development journey. During past year we focussed on child right programmes, activities and events including awareness generation through meetings and trainings.

## **Right to Participation**

In line with our commitment to child rights, Vikas Sansthan strongly advocates for the Right to Participation. This right empowers children to have their voices heard and their opinions considered in decisions affecting their lives. During the year through our interventions, we achieved the aim to create spaces where children felt comfortable expressing their views, knowing that their perspectives matter and can influence change.



### **Right to Security**

The Right to Security is another fundamental right we champion. Ensuring that children are safe, protected, and free from harm is a priority. Vikas Sansthan has taken active steps to create secure environments, both at home and in the community, where children can thrive without fear.

### **Right to birth Live**

Every child has the Right to Live, a basic tenet we staunchly uphold. This right extends beyond mere survival to encompass a life of dignity, respect, and fulfillment. Vikas Sansthan achieved the initiative target of basic needs like food, shelter, and healthcare, while also nurturing each child's inherent potential.

### **Right to Development**

The Right to Development encapsulates a child's entitlement to grow, learn, and reach their full potential. Through our programmes, Vikas Sansthan worked to support access to quality education, skills training, and recreational activities that foster holistic development. We strived to unlock each liberated child labour victim's potential, preparing them for a future filled with opportunities.

### **Other Rights**

Beyond these, Vikas Sansthan also emphasized other essential rights such as the Right to Equity, the Right to Education, the Right to Health, the Right to Food, and the Right to Play, among others. We worked with the belief that these rights are not mere privileges, but a guarantee that every child should enjoy for their wholesome development.

### **Awareness and Advocacy**

During the year 2022-23 we conducted regular awareness sessions, educating children about their rights and encouraging those who feel deprived to voice their concerns. Simultaneously, we worked with parents and communities, raising awareness about child rights and the collective responsibility towards ensuring these rights are respected and upheld.

Vikas Sansthan worked as a committed advocate for child rights, taking proactive steps against any form of denial or violation. We believe no child should lose their childhood due to deprivation of their rights, and we worked tirelessly to achieve the goal that when every child can fully exercise their rights and truly flourish.

### **Food: Mid-Day Meal Programme**

Vikas Sansthan has recognized the critical importance of nutrition for the overall development and wellbeing of children, especially those working in the Brick Kiln industry, many of whom are victims of malnutrition. Addressing this, the organisation has implemented a Mid-Day Meal programme in its Non-Formal Education



Centres located

within these industrial sites. This initiative aims not only to combat malnutrition and promote health among the children, but also to incentivize their



regular attendance at the centres, aligning with our mission to connect every child aged 6 to 14 years with education.

The Mid-Day Meal programme provided a balanced meal to all children at these centres every day, supplemented with seasonal fruits and biscuits rich in vitamins. This daily intake of nutritious food has significantly reduced malnutrition rates among the child labour victims, leading to improved health, increased weight, and enhanced energy levels.

The responsibility of preparing these meals is entrusted to the parents of the children, creating a community-based, self-sustaining system. The Child Rights Protection Committee, a body constituted by Vikas Sansthan, monitors the quality and timeliness of the meals, and also ensured that parents involved in cooking are also fed.

A total of 295 children across six different centres benefit from this Mid-Day Meal programme during the period of 1 April 2022 to 30 June 2023. The menu varied daily, including a variety of pulses, green vegetables, seasonal fruits, Flattened Rice (Poha), Peanuts, Soybean (Glycine max) Granules, Sweet Porridge, Rice, Green Gram Split, Savory Porridge with Soybean, and biscuits. This diverse diet helped in the holistic physical development of the children, many of whom are malnutrition victims.

Mid-Day meal was provided under the Project 'Elimination of Child Labour through Education and Livelihood Promotion' which was implemented with financial support of Development Aid Club, Austria.

## Clothing Distribution

Recognising the importance of clothing not just for basic protection and dignity, but also as a catalyst for improving school attendance, Vikas Sansthan initiated a Clothing



Distribution programme in the year 2022-23. A child equipped with appropriate and comfortable clothing is more likely to attend school regularly, contributing to his or her overall development and learning.

Throughout the year, Vikas Sansthan has been actively distributing clothes to children in need, specifically focusing on providing school dresses. The aim was not just to fulfill the basic

clothing needs of these children but also to instill a sense of equality, belongingness, and self-esteem in them, as they wore their school uniforms. The sight of all students in matching school dresses helped eradicate any sense of disparity among the children, promoting a more inclusive and unified learning environment.

The Clothing Distribution programme was a resounding success and garnered appreciation from parents and the wider community. Parents reported that their children were more enthusiastic about attending school, thanks to their new school dresses. Moreover, the programme also helped alleviate the financial burden on many families who found it challenging to provide adequate clothing for their children.



## **Stationery Provision**

In the year 2022-23, Vikas Sansthan prioritised the provision of necessary stationery to the students under the Sponsorship Project. The objective was to facilitate the education of the child labour victims who were liberated and admitted to various Non-Formal Education Centres.

### **Here are the key highlights:**

- 1. Identifying and Enrolling Students:** In November 2022, a total of 295 child labour victims aged between 6 to 14 years were identified and enrolled at the Non-Formal Education Centres. These children had previously worked in distressing environments, such as the bangles and glass industries, which had hindered their right to education.
- 2. Distribution of Study Material:** Post-enrollment, each child was provided with a comprehensive set of study materials, including notebooks, pencils, erasers, cutters, colours, and bags. This provision was critical in equipping the children with the tools necessary for their learning journey momentum into the second phase, running from October 2022 to March 2023. During this period, five additional non-formal education centres were included in the programme, extending the benefits to a greater number of liberated child labour victims.
- 3. Sustained Support:** The programme ensured continuous support to the students by providing new notebooks and other stationery items as required. In total, 334 children were provided with the necessary stationery during this phase, thereby reinforcing their educational engagement.

## **Outcomes of the Stationery Provision Programme:**

- 1. Enhanced Academic Engagement:** The availability of necessary study materials facilitated the children's engagement in their studies. It helped them to concentrate better, enhancing their learning outcomes.
- 2. Boost in Confidence and Motivation:** Receiving their own set of stationery significantly boosted the children's confidence and motivation to study. It provided them a sense of belonging in the educational environment, further reinforcing their commitment to learning.
- 3. Economic Relief for Families:** The provision of stationery eased the financial burden on the economically disadvantaged families of these children, who often struggled to afford these essential supplies.
- 4. Smooth Transition to Mainstream Education:** With the provision of necessary stationery, the liberated child labour victims were better prepared for their transition to mainstream.
- 5. Expansion of the Programme:** The Stationery Distribution Programme continued its education, thus aligning with the ultimate objective of Vikas Sansthan.

The Stationery Provision Programme of Vikas Sansthan in 2022-23 significantly contributed to the academic and personal development of the liberated child labour victims, reaffirming the organisation's commitment to their holistic development.

## **Recreational Activities**

During the academic year 2022-23, Vikas Sansthan acknowledged the importance of recreational activities as a vital part of the children's holistic development. Understanding that education is not limited to the classroom and textbooks, the

organisation introduced various engaging activities to create a healthy balance between learning and recreation.

1. **Drawing:** Vikas Sansthan encouraged children to express their thoughts, feelings, and experiences through the medium of art. Drawing sessions were conducted, which not only helped them cultivate their artistic talents but also provided a platform to raise awareness about child labour victimisation. Through their drawings, many children depicted their past experiences, thereby creating a dialogue around the issue of Child Labour victim.

2. **Children's Songs:** Singing sessions were organised, where children learned and performed various songs. These sessions served multiple purposes. Firstly, they acted as a platform for the children to showcase their singing talent. Secondly, through the lyrics of the songs, children were educated about their rights and the ill effects of child labour victimisation. This creative and engaging method of learning significantly enhanced their understanding of these important issues.

3. **Sports Activities:** Vikas Sansthan recognised the importance of physical activities in the overall development of the children. Sports activities were conducted regularly, promoting the spirit of teamwork, discipline, and healthy competition among the children. These activities also helped in enhancing the children's physical health and agility.

4. **Cultural Events:** In an effort to promote social integration and raise awareness about child labour victimisation, Vikas Sansthan organised various cultural events. These events included dance performances, skits, and recitals, where children showcased their talents and learned about their cultural heritage.

Through these recreational activities, Vikas Sansthan managed to strike a balance between education and enjoyment, thus ensuring a healthy and enriching environment for the liberated child labour victims.

## **Cultural Activities**

Vikas Sansthan firmly believes in the holistic development of children and recognises the important role cultural activities play in fostering creativity, building confidence, and enhancing leadership skills. The organisation successfully implemented numerous cultural activities during the academic year 2022-23, enabling the children to explore and exhibit their latent talents.

1. **Cultural Performances:** The children liberated from child labour victimisation, who were enrolled under the Sponsorship Project, were provided with opportunities to participate in various cultural programmes. They showcased their talents through speeches, songs, dances, qawwalis, dramas, comedy routines, reciting poems, and narrating stories. These cultural performances not only allowed the children to express themselves creatively but also helped in developing leadership abilities among them.

2. **Dance Performances:** Many children were given a platform to exhibit their dancing skills. For the first time, these children, who were always engrossed in work, got a chance to partake in group dances and solo performances. These experiences provided them with a sense of accomplishment and boosted their confidence.

3. **Role Play:** Role-playing activities were organised with themes focusing on gender equality and early child marriage. Under the guidance of Non-Formal Education (NFE) instructors, children were prepared to perform role plays. These activities helped the children understand and express complex social issues creatively and effectively.

**4. Cultural Programmes:** Cultural programmes were conducted across five different slums in the project area, where liberated Child Labour victim children spread messages about child and women's rights in society through drama and singing. The intent of these programmes was to raise awareness among the children about their rights and the importance of education.

## 4. Education

The focus of Vikas Sansthan's education initiatives is to provide effective learning opportunities to children rescued from child labour victimisation, thereby enabling them to reintegrate into society and build a foundation for a brighter future. We worked with the strategies encompass various facets of education, including Non-Formal Education (NFE), mainstreaming in schools, computer training, sponsorship, and consistent progress monitoring.

**a. Non-Formal Education (NFE):** Through our NFE Centres, we strived to provide a robust educational foundation to children who have been out of school for extended periods or have never attended school before.

**b. Mainstreaming in Schools:** We believe in the power of formal education in shaping the future of children. Thus, we worked tirelessly to enable the successful transition of children from NFE Centres to mainstream schools.

**c. Computer Training:** In today's digital age, computer literacy is a vital skill that can significantly improve a child's prospects. So we provided Computer training to the liberated children.

**d. Sponsorship:** We recognise the financial constraints many families face in sending their children to school.

**e. Progress Reports:** Monitoring and evaluation are integral components of our education strategy. Regular progress reports are prepared to assess the learning outcomes of each child, measure the effectiveness of our initiatives, and make necessary adjustments to our approach.

The above strategies formed the backbone of our education initiatives. The following detailed sections will provide a more comprehensive overview of each of these elements, offering insights into our methods, achievements, and plans for the future in our pursuit of educational empowerment.

### a. Non-Formal Education (NFE) Centres

Vikas Sansthan recognises the significance of education as a key intervention in the fight against child labour victimisation. To this end, we have established Non-Formal Education (NFE) Centres, serving as an important first step in reintegrating liberated child labour victims into the education system. At our NFE Centres we not only provided a foundation for learning but also facilitated the transition of these children into formal schooling.

Over the course of the year, our efforts in the realm of Non-Formal Education (NFE) Centres managed by Vikas Sansthan, our primary focus is on providing holistic education and support to liberated child labour victims. The centres played an

important role in offering an accessible and flexible learning environment for these children, who have often faced significant barriers to education.

## **Key Aspects of Non Formal Education Centres**

**Here are the key aspects of our work in the NFE Centres:**

**Bridging Education:** The NFE Centres served as a bridge for children to transition from their previous circumstances to a more structured learning environment, ultimately preparing them for entry into formal schools.

**Flexible Curriculum:** We understand that the needs of these children may differ from those in traditional schools, so we have developed a flexible curriculum tailored to their unique requirements and learning pace.

**Individualised Learning Plans:** Each child's learning journey is unique, and our educators work closely with them to develop individualised learning plans that cater to their specific needs, strengths, and challenges.

**Remedial Education:** For children who require extra support, our centres provided remedial education to help them catch up with their peers and build a strong foundation for their future academic success.

**Life Skills Training:** Beyond academic education, we also emphasised the importance of life skills training to equip children with essential skills such as problem-solving, decision-making, communication, and teamwork, which will serve them well in their future endeavors.

**Monitoring and Evaluation:** To ensure the effectiveness of our interventions, we regularly monitored and evaluated our programmes, using feedback and assessments to make necessary adjustments and improvements.

**Capacity Building:** We invested in the professional development of our educators and staff to ensure they are well-equipped with the knowledge, skills, and resources needed to effectively support the children in their care.

**Advocacy and Policy Work:** Through our advocacy efforts, we aim to influence policy and promote changes that improved the educational opportunities and outcomes for liberated child labour victims.

**Emotional and Psychological Support:** Given the hardships these children have experienced, emotional and psychological support is an important aspect of our NFE centres. We provided counselling and therapy sessions to help children overcome their past traumas, foster resilience, and promote their overall well-being.

**Holistic Skill Development:** Beyond academics, our NFE centres focused on holistic skill development, imparting essential life skills and values that will aid children in their day-to-day lives and future careers. This includes problem-solving, decision-making, communication, and interpersonal skills, among others.

**Community Involvement and Awareness:** We believe in the power of community involvement in bringing about sustained change. Our NFE centres actively engaged with parents, community leaders, and local organisations to raise awareness about child rights, the importance of education, and the detrimental effects of child labour victimisation. This helped to create a supportive environment for the children's learning and development.

These activities have not only improved the quality of education provided at our NFE centres but have also helped in creating a supportive and conducive learning environment for our students.

## **Role and Approach of Non Formal Education Centres**

**1. Enrollment of New Students:** In the past year, Vikas Sansthan has made significant strides in reaching out to liberated child labour victims. We have successfully enrolled 450 children into our Non-Formal Education (NFE) centres. Our targeted outreach programmes have allowed us to locate these children, who had been working under dire circumstances, and extend a helping hand.

The enrollment process begins with an initial interaction and an assessment of the child's background, experiences, and learning level. Our team of social workers and educators then work closely with the children and their families to ensure a smooth transition into our NFE centres.

**2. Customised Learning Implementation:** Understanding that each child comes from a unique background with diverse learning needs, Vikas Sansthan's NFE centres have implemented a customized learning approach. Instead of a one-size-fits-all curriculum, individual learning plans are designed for each child.

These plans take into account the child's previous education level, if any, their learning pace, style, and interests. The goal is to foster an environment that is conducive to learning and growth, instead of imposing a rigid structure. This has resulted in significant improvements in learning outcomes and student engagement.

Regular assessments are conducted to track the progress of each student, and the learning plans are updated accordingly. Feedback from students is also encouraged and incorporated, ensuring that their voice is heard and their learning journey is truly personalized.

**3. Counselling Sessions:** Over the past year, counselling has been a cornerstone of our approach towards the holistic development of our students. Recognising the traumatic experiences many of these children have been through, Vikas Sansthan has prioritized providing regular counselling sessions to every student enrolled in our NFE centres.

We have a team of professional counsellors who worked closely with the children, providing a safe and confidential environment for them to express their thoughts and feelings.

**4. Skill Development Workshops:** In line with our mission of empowering children was for a brighter future, Vikas Sansthan has organised numerous skill development workshops in our NFE centres over the past year. These workshops covered a wide range of skills, from basic computer literacy and English proficiency to art, craft, and music.

The aim of these workshops was not only to equip the children with practical skills that can open up new opportunities for them but also to stimulate their creativity and passion. We observed that every child has unique talents, and these workshops provide a platform for them to explore and nurture these talents.

**5. Community Outreach Programmes:** Vikas Sansthan believes in the power of community engagement in achieving our mission of educating and empowering the liberated child labour victims. Over the past year, we have conducted numerous community outreach programmes to raise awareness about the importance of education and the rights of children.

**6. Assessment and Feedback Collection:** Assessment and feedback are critical components of our teaching-learning process at Vikas Sansthan's NFE centres. Over the past year, we have conducted regular assessments to monitor the academic progress of our students.

We have also introduced a system of providing constructive feedback to our students, helping them understand their strengths and areas of improvement. This personalized feedback system has been effective in enhancing the learning experience of our students, making them more engaged and motivated in their education journey.

**7. Teacher Training Programmes:** Ensuring the effectiveness of our Non-Formal Education (NFE) Centres requires us to focus on the continuous learning and development of our educators as well. Over the past year, Vikas Sansthan has organised numerous teacher training programmes aimed at enhancing the teaching skills and methodologies of our educators.

These training sessions covered a wide range of topics, including child-friendly teaching methods, understanding the psychology of child labour victims, strategies for individualised instruction, and effective classroom management. We also focused on training our teachers in trauma-informed pedagogy to help them better support children who have experienced significant stress or trauma.

**8. Advocacy Efforts:** Advocacy remains a main aspect of our mission at Vikas Sansthan. Throughout the past year, we have engaged in numerous advocacy efforts to highlight the issue of Child Labour victims and the importance of education for all children.

We have partnered with local Government bodies, NGOs, and other stakeholders to push for policy changes that can better protect child rights and combat child labour. Our advocacy efforts have also been focused on securing more resources for the education and rehabilitation of liberated child labour victims.

### **Assessment Test of Sponsored Child Labour victims**

The Assessment Test of Sponsored Child Labour victims held at Ram Nagar, Firozabad on 23rd May 2022 marked a significant milestone in the educational journey of liberated child labour victims. This assessment test was organized by the Non-Formal Education (NFE) team of Vikas Sansthan, in collaboration with the Development Aid Club, Austria, with the aim of evaluating the academic progress and readiness of the sponsored students for mainstream education.

A total of 73 students, who had previously been engaged in various forms of child labour, participated in the assessment test. These children, who had been rescued and provided with educational support through the NFE program, demonstrated their determination and enthusiasm to break free from the cycle of labour and pursue formal education.

The assessment test served as a platform to gauge the students' learning outcomes and evaluate their grasp of fundamental concepts in subjects such as mathematics, language, and social sciences. It provided an opportunity to assess their overall academic development and preparedness for transitioning into mainstream schools.

Under the guidance of the NFE team, the assessment test was meticulously designed to assess the students' knowledge, critical thinking skills, and problem-solving abilities.



The evaluation process aimed to provide a comprehensive understanding of each student's academic strengths and areas that required further support.

The NFE team of Vikas Sansthan, along with the support of Development Aid Club, Austria, ensured a conducive and supportive environment for the students during the assessment test. The students were encouraged to showcase their learning achievements and demonstrate their potential to succeed in formal education settings.

The Assessment Test of Sponsored Child Labour not only provided valuable insights into the students' academic progress but also served as a motivational tool for them to strive for excellence. It reinforced the importance of education and the transformative power it holds in their lives. The assessment process highlighted the remarkable progress made by the students through the NFE programme and showcased their resilience and determination to overcome challenges.

Based on the results of the assessment test, the NFE team of Vikas Sansthan and the Development Aid Club, Austria, will work collaboratively to identify areas of improvement and develop tailored educational interventions. These interventions will further enhance the students' academic skills, boost their confidence, and ensure a smooth transition into mainstream schools.

The Assessment Test of Sponsored Child Labour stands as a testament to the commitment of Vikas Sansthan and its partners to provide quality education and empower liberated child labour victims. It is through such initiatives that these children are given the opportunity to reclaim their childhood, acquire knowledge, and build a brighter future for themselves.

Vikas Sansthan expresses its gratitude to the Development Aid Club, Austria, for their unwavering support and partnership in this endeavor. Together, they continue to make a significant impact in the lives of these vulnerable children, ensuring they receive the education they deserve and empowering them to break free from the shackles of child labour.

## **Outcomes of the Non-Formal Education Centres**

The year-long efforts of Vikas Sansthan in Non-Formal Education (NFE) have resulted in several noteworthy outcomes, underlining the impact and necessity of our work.

**1. Enhanced Enrollment Rates:** Throughout the past year, we have seen a significant increase in the enrollment rates at our NFE centres. We successfully reached out to and enrolled hundreds of liberated child labour victims, offering them an opportunity to start their educational journey.

**2. Improved Student Performance:** Our customised learning approach has yielded positive results. We observed an upward trend in student performance across various academic areas, with children demonstrating progress in literacy, numeracy, and other core competencies.

**3. Positive Behavioural Changes:** The continuous counselling and supportive learning environment have led to noticeable behavioural changes in our students. Many have shown improvements in their self-esteem, social skills, and overall emotional well-being.

**4. Successful Mainstreaming:** A significant number of our NFE students successfully made the transition to mainstream schools. This is a testament to the effectiveness of our transitional education model, which prepares children for formal education.

**5. Increased Community Engagement:** Our community outreach programmes have led to heightened awareness and participation from the community. More parents and community members are now actively involved in the educational journey of their children.

**6. Better Trained Teachers:** Our teacher training programmes have resulted in a more competent and confident teaching workforce. Our teachers are better equipped to cater to the individual learning needs of each child and create a more effective learning environment.

**7. Stronger Advocacy:** Our advocacy efforts have resulted in increased visibility for the issue of child labour and education. We have witnessed a growing commitment from various stakeholders towards addressing these issues.

Overall, the outcomes of our NFE centres over the past year reaffirm our commitment to providing quality education for liberated child labour victims. The strides we've made inspire us to continue our work with even more determination and dedication.

## **b. Mainstreaming in Schools (2022-23)**

"Mainstreaming in Schools" is an important component of Vikas Sansthan's educational framework, designed to smoothly transition students from Non-Formal Education (NFE) centres to formal schooling environments. This process involved providing admission to our students, primarily in Government schools but also in private institutions, allowing them to continue their educational journey in a regular school setting.



The following points detail the various activities conducted under "Mainstreaming in Schools" during the 2022-23 period:

- 1. School Identification and Liaison**
- 2. Admission Assistance**
- 3. Student Preparatory Programmes**
- 4. Parental Engagement**
- 5. Continuous Monitoring and Support**
- 6. Advocacy for Inclusive Education**

### **1. School Identification and Liaison**



School Identification and Liaison is a foundational step in our process of mainstreaming students. During the 2022-23 period, we performed extensive research and groundwork to identify appropriate Government and private schools in proximity to our NFE centres. This process involved assessing the schools based on various factors such as their teaching methodologies, support for students from marginalised backgrounds,

location, and accessibility.

Our liaison efforts involved regular interactions and meetings with school administrators and teachers, where we communicated the unique needs and potential challenges our students might face. We fostered a collaborative relationship with these institutions to ensure that they would provide a supportive and conducive learning environment for our transitioning students.

## **2. Admission Assistance**

Our Admission Assistance initiative is designed to alleviate the potential barriers our students and their families might face during the admission process. During 2022-23, we took an active role in facilitating the admission of our students into formal schooling.

The assistance included helping families gather necessary documentation, filling out admission forms accurately, and submitting them on time. We also liaised with school authorities to explain our students' backgrounds and to ensure they received any available support or concessions.

In cases where families faced financial difficulties, we worked to secure waivers or reductions in admission fees. Our team also assisted with procuring uniforms, textbooks, and other necessary supplies, ensuring that our students were fully equipped for their new educational journey.

By the end of the academic year, we successfully secured admissions for over 120 students in local Government and private schools, marking a significant step forward in their educational journey.

## **3. Student Preparatory Programmes:**

Recognising the potential challenges that our students might face when transitioning into formal schooling, we have designed and implemented Student Preparatory Programmes. In the year 2022-23, these programmes aimed to equip our students with the necessary skills and knowledge that would help them adjust to their new academic environments.

These preparatory sessions included lessons on school rules and procedures, basic etiquette, time management, and self-study techniques. We also organised mock classroom sessions to familiarise the students with the formal schooling system's structure and rhythm.

## **4. Parental Engagement:**

Parental involvement is required in a child's educational journey. Throughout 2022-23, we undertook significant efforts to engage with the parents of our students, ensuring their active participation and support in the mainstreaming process.

We organised regular parent-teacher meetings, where we discussed the students' progress, addressed any concerns, and provided guidance on how parents could support their children's education at home. We also conducted workshops on the importance of education and the role parents play in fostering a positive learning environment.

## 5. Continuous Monitoring and Support:

In order to ensure a smooth transition and sustained progress of our students in their new school environment, Vikas Sansthan has implemented a robust system of continuous monitoring and support throughout 2022-23.

Our team conducted monthly meetings with the students to track their academic performance and address any difficulties they might be facing. In case of academic struggles, we provided additional tutoring and resources to help them catch up with their peers.

## 6. Advocacy for Inclusive Education:

Throughout the year 2022-23, Vikas Sansthan has been actively involved in advocating for inclusive education policies at the local and regional level. We believe that every child, regardless of their background or previous life experiences, has the right to quality education in a supportive and inclusive environment.

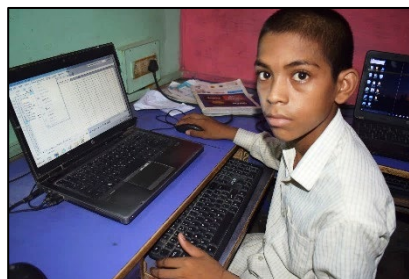
We collaborated with local educational bodies, community leaders, and other NGOs to raise awareness about the importance of inclusive education. We also campaigned for the implementation of policies that promote inclusivity and provide necessary support for children from disadvantaged backgrounds in mainstream schools.

### c. Computer Training

Recognising the indispensable role of technology in today's rapidly evolving world,



Vikas Sansthan has prioritised the integration of computer training in its educational curriculum. Computer literacy is a necessity, with its applications permeating virtually every aspect of work and life.



Therefore, in our endeavour to equip our students with the necessary skills to succeed in this digital era, we have made significant strides in our computer training initiatives during 2022-23.

1. **Selection of Candidates:** We identified a group of eight students - Ashish, Rahul, Suraj, Shivam, Kajal, Diksha, Khushi, and Aman - who demonstrated a keen interest in learning English and showed significant potential to benefit from computer training. These students were selected from a total of 129 children enrolled during 2022-23 in our sponsorship programme.

2. **Partnership with Computer Education Centre:** In order to provide quality computer education to our students, we collaborated with a Computer Education Centre, a reputable institution known for its technical training. Our students attended classes at the centre every day from 4 pm to 6 pm.

3. **Curriculum and Learning Progress:** The students are gaining proficiency in various software applications essential for today's digital world. They learned Hindi and English typing, Microsoft Word, Excel, along with basic software like WordPad, Notepad, and Paint. The curriculum was designed to be comprehensive and practical, enabling our students to apply their newly acquired skills in real-world scenarios.

**4. Impact and Outlook:** The impact of the computer training programme has been encouraging so far. We have observed an increase in the confidence levels of our students since they started their computer education. Their keen interest and proactive approach to learning have been inspiring, and that these skills empowered them to open up new opportunities for them in the future.

**5. Future Plans:** Encouraged by the positive response and outcomes of this initiative, we planned and worked to extend this programme to more students in the future. We will continue to assess the interest and potential of our students to ensure they have the opportunity to acquire the necessary technical skills.

In the coming years, we aim to further strengthen our computer training initiatives, with the ultimate goal of empowering our students to become competent and confident individuals ready to thrive in the digital age.

### **d. Sponsorship Programme**

The Sponsorship Programme, a cornerstone initiative of Vikas Sansthan, aims to liberate child labour victims through education and ensure their inclusion in mainstream education. We focus on children who were forced to discontinue their studies due to financial constraints, parental demise, or insufficient income.

The Sponsorship Programme of Vikas Sansthan has proven to be a vital lifeline for former child labour victims, providing them with the resources and opportunities to break free from the chains of their past and to embrace a future filled with promise and potential.

Here are the key activities and achievements of the Sponsorship Programme during the 2022-23 period:

- 1. Identification and Initial Meetings**
- 2. Sponsorship Provision**
- 3. Success and Impact**
- 4. Outreach and Advocacy**
- 5. Future Endeavors**

#### **1. Identification and Initial Meetings:**

Throughout the 2022-23 period, our dedicated project team worked tirelessly in the field, scouring the project area to identify former child labour victims who had been forced to abandon their education. The identification process involved extensive community visits, interactions, and data collection to ensure no child in need was left unnoticed. Upon successful identification, we facilitated a series of meetings involving the children and their parents or guardians. These meetings served as an avenue for open dialogue, discussing the dire need for education and the ways in which Vikas Sansthan could aid their reintegration into the educational system. It was during these interactions that we discovered the burning desire among the children to learn and their parents' eagerness to support their education, hindered only by financial constraints and socio-economic problems.

## 2. Admission Assistance:

Following the successful completion of the identification process and initial meetings, the Vikas Sansthan team sprang into action to assist the identified children with their school admissions. We understand that the admission process can be daunting, particularly for families with limited resources or those unfamiliar with the system. Thus, our team provided comprehensive assistance, helping with the necessary paperwork, meeting with school administrators, and even accompanying the children and their parents to the schools.

We facilitated the enrolment of these children in private schools, from Class 1 to 9. Despite the obstacles that stood in their way, these children are now enrolled in schools, taking their first steps towards a brighter, more educated future.

## 3. Sponsorship Provision:

In the face of mounting financial difficulties,



many families found themselves unable to afford the costs associated with schooling, including fees, books, uniforms, and other essential supplies. Recognizing this challenge, Vikas Sansthan stepped in to provide financial support to these former child labour victims, ensuring their educational

journey was not hindered by financial constraints. Sponsorship was extended to cover school fees, textbooks, stationery, uniforms, and other necessary educational materials. In the 2022-23 period, we successfully sponsored the education of 129 children, including 29 girls and one boy, effectively breaking down the financial barriers that once stood in their way.



## 4. Success and Impact:

The impact of the sponsorship programme has been profound and heartening. Not only has it facilitated the continuity of education for these 30 children, but it has also acted as a beacon of hope, demonstrating that their dreams are valid and achievable, regardless of their past circumstances or financial limitations. The visible increase in their confidence, coupled with their renewed enthusiasm for learning, serves as a testament to the success of this initiative. The programme has allowed these children to break free from the shackles of labour, providing them with an opportunity to rewrite their narratives and shape their futures through education. The progress of this project

brings us one step closer to our ultimate goal - the liberation of child labour victims through education, and we remain committed to expanding our efforts in the future.

#### **5. Outreach and Advocacy:**

As part of our commitment to advancing the cause of education for all, Vikas Sansthan has also been actively involved in raising awareness about the importance of education and the adverse effects of child labour. Through community outreach programmes, public campaigns, and dialogue with local Government authorities, we have been advocating for the rights of these former child labour victims, emphasising the need for their inclusion in mainstream education. In the reporting period of 2022-23, our advocacy efforts have led to increased community support for our cause, and a growing recognition of the importance of education as a tool for empowerment and social change.

#### **6. Future Endeavors:**

Looking ahead, Vikas Sansthan is dedicated to continuing its work in the field of education for former child labour victims. Our future plans involve expanding our sponsorship programme to reach more children in need, as well as strengthening our community outreach and advocacy efforts. We intend to keep working closely with local schools, families, and communities to ensure the successful integration of these children into mainstream education. We also aim to continue advocating for policies and practices that promote inclusive education and protect children from child labour victimisation.

## **5. Women Development**

During the past year, Vikas Sansthan has steadfastly pursued its mission to uplift the lives of adolescent girls and women from marginalized communities working at the brick kilns in the Pinahat block, Agra district.



Our sanitary napkin distribution programme made a significant difference in promoting menstrual hygiene among women and adolescent girls. Over 600 women and girls, mainly from the six Brick Kilns of Pinahat block, received sanitary pads every month for nine months. This not only improved their personal hygiene but also imparted knowledge about maintaining health during menstruation,

leading to a reduction in health complications associated with poor menstrual hygiene.

In the realm of capacity building, we organized leadership training programmes, where over 50 adolescent girls were trained. These were held in three sessions throughout the year, focusing on building their leadership skills, boosting their self-confidence, and raising their awareness about their rights.

Furthermore, we conducted regular trainings and meetings throughout the year, touching the lives of over 500 women. These events served as an avenue for discussing a variety of issues such as gender discrimination, population growth, and the importance of education for their children. We believe these discussions have paved the way for a mindset change, empowering women to take a more active role in family and community decisions.

Our awards and recognition programmes have also played a pivotal role in motivating the adolescent girls and women. These recognitions not only instilled a sense of achievement but also inspired them to strive for more.

The beneficiaries of our programmes hail from various localities within the Pinahat block, Agra district. These women and adolescent girls, many of whom were previously engaged in child labour, have experienced a significant upliftment in their quality of life and social standing due to our interventions.

### **a. Awareness and Empowerment**

The year 2022-23 marked significant strides in our efforts to raise awareness and empower women and girls in our communities. Recognising the transformative power of knowledge and self-confidence, we launched an array of initiatives to educate women about their rights and inspire them to take charge of their lives.

Starting in April 2022, we rolled out a series of workshops designed to enhance women's understanding of gender discrimination and its impacts. Conducted in local languages and employing interactive methodologies, these workshops were designed to be as accessible and engaging as possible. They covered a range of topics, including domestic violence, reproductive health, legal rights, and the importance of education for girls. By the end of March 2023, we had reached out to over 1,500 women through these workshops, significantly exceeding our initial targets.

In tandem with these workshops, we also initiated a campaign in June 2022 to raise public awareness about gender inequality. Using various mediums such as street plays, posters, and social media, we attempted to reach a broader audience and stimulate a community-wide conversation about women's rights. The campaign gained considerable traction, with our messages reaching over 10,000 people by the end of the year.

In September 2022, we launched a leadership training programme for women, designed to develop their leadership skills and confidence. By the end of the programme in March 2023, over 200 women had completed the training, with many of them taking up leadership roles in their communities.

We also established self-help groups as a platform for women to support each other and collectively address the challenges they face. By March 2023, we had facilitated the formation of 30 such groups, involving around 450 women.

### **b. Economic Development**

Understanding the important role that economic independence plays in the empowerment of women, Vikas Sansthan made concerted efforts to promote economic development for women during the year 2022-23.

In May 2022, we initiated vocational training programmes tailored to the local market demands and the interests of the women involved. These included courses in tailoring, organic farming, basket weaving, and food processing. By the end of March 2023, over 500 women had completed these trainings, acquiring new skills that can help them earn a sustainable livelihood.

Simultaneously, we recognized that possessing a skill is only part of the equation. To help these women utilize their skills for income generation, we organised a series of entrepreneurship workshops starting from July 2022. These workshops provided lessons on basic business principles, financial management, marketing strategies, and



navigating local business regulations. By March 2023, over 300 women had attended these workshops, and many of them had started their own small-scale businesses.

We also facilitated access to microfinance options to support the women's entrepreneurial ventures. In October 2022, we partnered with local microfinance institutions to provide low-interest loans to women who had completed our vocational and entrepreneurship training. This initiative resulted in the distribution of loans to over 200 women by the end of the year, enabling them to invest in and grow their businesses.

We worked to connect the women with local markets to sell their products. In December 2022, we organised a community fair where women could showcase and sell their products. The fair was a great success, with many women reporting significant sales, and we plan to make it an annual event.

In February 2023, Vikas Sansthan took the initiative to form women's self-help groups (SHGs) to further foster economic development. These groups, consisting of 10-15 women each, were not just a platform for women to pool resources and save money, but also a space to discuss challenges, share experiences, and learn from each other. By the end of March 2023, we had successfully formed 30 SHGs, impacting approximately 400 women directly.

Recognising the role of digital technology in today's economy, we also initiated computer literacy programmes. Starting from January 2023, these programmes aimed to equip women with basic computer skills, such as using word processors, spreadsheets, internet, and email. The goal was to widen their employment opportunities in sectors where such skills are in demand. By the end of March, 150 women had undergone this training.

Another noteworthy achievement was our collaboration with local agricultural authorities in March 2023 to introduce women to sustainable farming practices. This programme not only aimed to enhance the productivity of their small-scale farms but also to enable them to make a transition towards more environmentally friendly farming methods.

Economic empowerment is a key step towards complete empowerment, and we remain dedicated to continuing our work in this area.

### **c. Women Equality**

Under the banner of Women Equality, Vikas Sansthan has been tirelessly working to promote a culture of gender equality and dismantle harmful stereotypes that impede women's growth and progress.

Beginning in April 2022, we launched a series of community dialogues to raise awareness about gender equality and women's rights. These dialogues aimed at debunking myths, challenging gender stereotypes, and facilitating open and constructive discussions on gender-related issues within communities. By March 2023, we had conducted over 50 such dialogues, involving over 1,000 participants from different age groups and walks of life.

In May 2022, we initiated a "Girls in School" campaign. This campaign was directed towards raising the school enrolment rates of girls and reducing school dropout rates. With the support of local schools and community leaders, we carried out door-to-door visits, counseling sessions, and awareness drives. By the end of the academic year in

March 2023, we saw an increase in girls' school enrollment rates by 15% compared to the previous year.

In July 2022, we launched a workplace equality programme. We collaborated with local businesses and industries to promote gender equality at workplaces. We provided training to employers on the importance of creating a gender-friendly work environment and the laws against workplace discrimination and harassment. By March 2023, we had engaged with over 30 businesses, impacting a workforce of around 5,000 individuals.

To further the cause of gender equality, in November 2022, we started a legal awareness programme. The programme aimed to educate women about their legal rights, with a special emphasis on laws related to domestic violence, marital rights, and property rights. By the end of the year, we had conducted 10 workshops, reaching over 300 women.

As we move forward, we plan to expand our community dialogues to more areas, intensify our 'Girls in School' campaign, and create more alliances with businesses for promoting workplace equality.

### **Workshop on Gender Discrimination: "Are Girls and Women Humans or Objects in the 21st Century?"**

On March 2, 2023, a powerful workshop took place at Vikas Ashram, Rupaspur, with the aim of addressing the pressing issue of gender discrimination faced by women and girls in society. The workshop sought to raise awareness among participants regarding the pervasive inequalities and discrimination based on gender, while promoting the fundamental right to equality for all.

During the workshop, a range of important issues were discussed, shedding light on the various forms of gender discrimination prevalent in homes and society. The participants engaged in meaningful conversations and explored topics such as women's rights to property and decision-making, girls' access to education and employment opportunities, the challenges faced by women and girls from different communities and religions, and the influential role of societal mindsets in perpetuating gender discrimination.

A core question that drove the workshop was, "Are girls/women also human beings? If yes, then why is there discrimination against them?" By posing this thought-provoking query, the workshop aimed to challenge prevailing norms and biases, encouraging participants to critically examine the gender-based disparities prevalent in their own lives and communities.

The workshop witnessed the active participation of 45 girls who enthusiastically contributed their perspectives, experiences, and insights. Their involvement demonstrated their commitment to addressing gender discrimination and striving for a more equitable society. By empowering these girls with knowledge and fostering critical thinking, Vikas Sansthan seeks to create a generation of change-makers who will challenge the status quo and advocate for gender equality.

The workshop was made possible through the generous support of Misereor, Germany, under their project titled 'Stopping Child Labour through Education & Economic Rehabilitation and Collectivization Action.' Their invaluable assistance enabled the successful organisation and implementation of the workshop, facilitating meaningful dialogue and creating a platform for collective action against gender discrimination.

Through workshops like these, Vikas Sansthan continues to make significant strides in its mission to empower women and girls, promote gender equality, and eradicate the deeply entrenched biases and discrimination that hinder social progress. By fostering awareness, encouraging critical thinking, and nurturing young leaders, Vikas Sansthan aims to build a more inclusive and just society for all.

### **Key Findings and Outcomes**

Throughout the reporting period, the project effectively engaged with participants to share knowledge, experiences, and strategies to challenge gender discrimination and promote equality. The workshops and training sessions highlighted the importance of empowering women and girls through education, economic opportunities, and political rights. The project also emphasized the need for a change in mindset and adherence to the Indian Constitution to ensure equal rights for men and women.

The project team at Vikas Sansthan will continue to work towards addressing these issues and implementing the suggested solutions in their programmes and activities. By focusing on these areas, the team aims to make a significant impact in reducing gender discrimination and promoting equality in the Firozabad Glass and Bangles Industries of Uttar Pradesh in India.

## **d. Adolescent Girls Welfare**

Vikas Sansthan, over the course of the year from March 2022 to April 2023, has made notable strides in championing the cause of Adolescent Girls Welfare, specifically within the Firozabad Glass and Bangles Industries. With a focus on eradicating child labour and gender discrimination, the organisation has empowered numerous adolescent girls through various initiatives.

Our primary initiative, the Kishori Balika Manch (Adolescent Girls Forum), formed and operational from October 2022, served as a conduit for adolescent girls to express their concerns, learn about their rights, and devise strategies to counteract discrimination.

In December 2022, we held the Adolescent Girls Forum Empowerment Training. This event brought together girls to tackle the challenges they face, like domestic violence, gender discrimination, child labour, and early marriage. This forum emphasised the importance of education, nutrition, family planning, and reproductive health, encouraging girls to stand against societal norms that inhibit their growth.

In February 2023, we conducted the Adolescent Empowerment Meeting, with a focus on guiding girls towards educational, health, and economic empowerment. This meeting addressed critical topics like dowry, early marriage, education, employment, and societal customs, and encouraged the pursuit of self-empowerment opportunities.

From October 2022 to March 2023, we implemented a Sanitary Napkin Distribution initiative, wherein we conducted meetings in five slums of the project area, educating girls aged 12 to 18 about menstrual health and hygiene. We distributed a total of 574 sanitary napkins to 139 girls during this period.

This initiative significantly improved menstrual health among the girls and will continue to be a priority for us.

In May 2022, we organised an Advanced Training on Leadership for adolescent girls from project areas. This two-day event aimed to build self-confidence, personal accountability, and long-term aspirations among the participants. The training covered a myriad of topics like gender equity, child rights, domestic violence, and social stigmas, ultimately contributing to an increased level of confidence and participation among the girls.

Vikas Sansthan has made significant progress in empowering adolescent girls within the Firozabad Glass and Bangles Industries from March 2022 to April 2023. These initiatives have fostered a sense of self-reliance, awareness, and empowerment among the girls, positioning them for a brighter future.

Another pivotal part of our strategy for Adolescent Girls Welfare involved holding open discussions about the socioeconomic factors that contribute to their challenges. We encouraged dialogue about family income, parents' education and occupation, and cultural beliefs. By addressing these underlying issues, we aimed to create a deeper understanding of the complex challenges faced by these girls.

Our continuous efforts have been focused on ensuring the sustainability of our initiatives. The Kishori Balika Manch continues to be instrumental in this regard, providing an important platform for educating girls about their rights and giving them a voice to express their concerns and needs. We have also emphasised the importance of collaboration between Government agencies, social organisations, and local communities. This joint effort is vital for creating an environment conducive to the eradication of gender discrimination and the empowerment of girls and women.

Our efforts towards Adolescent Girls Welfare from March 2022 to April 2023 have been substantial and multi-faceted. We have made significant strides in empowering adolescent girls and combating gender discrimination in the Firozabad Glass and Bangles Industries. We are committed to continuing these efforts, expanding our reach, and advocating for sustainable change. Through our comprehensive initiatives, we hope to ensure a brighter, safer, and more equitable future for these girls.

## The Sanitary Napkin Distribution

The Sanitary Napkin Distribution initiative of Vikas Sansthan has been an essential part of our ongoing efforts to improve the lives of former adolescent girls labour victims and their mothers, primarily among those working at Brick Kilns in Pinahat block of Agra district. These families, predominantly migrants from Bihar and Madhya Pradesh, come to Uttar Pradesh seeking livelihoods in the brick-making industry. Their economic conditions are dire, with many barely able to afford two meals a day. Vikas Sansthan's projects in this area

primarily aim to eliminate child labour, but we also recognize the interconnected nature of issues these families face, which necessitates a broader approach.

Sanitary Napkin distribution camps have been organized specifically for adolescent girls and their mothers, recognizing the importance of menstrual hygiene and women's health in this vulnerable population. These camps have served as a platform for not only providing essential sanitary napkins but also for conducting monthly health awareness meetings, addressing broader societal issues such as gender discrimination, population growth, and the historical oppression and discrimination faced by women. These meetings have also served as an avenue to discuss our primary aim of controlling and eliminating child labour victims.

During the year 2022-23, a total of 330 adolescent girls and their mothers benefitted from the Sanitary Napkin distribution camps each month. These camps were organized in six Brick Kiln industries located in the Agra district, reaching out to the most vulnerable communities in the area. The distribution of sanitary napkins has played a significant role in creating awareness about menstrual hygiene and empowering women and adolescent girls to manage their health effectively during menstruation.

The impact of these meetings and the distribution of sanitary napkins has been profound. Women and adolescent girls are now more aware of their rights and are better equipped to manage their health during menstruation. They express happiness and confidence, reflecting a positive shift in their self-perception. The mothers, in particular, have become more mindful of their children's future, with increased willingness to keep their children, both boys and girls, engaged in education rather than labour.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Development Aid Club, Austria, for their support in the distribution of sanitary napkins. Their partnership has been instrumental in enabling us to reach out to these vulnerable communities and make a tangible difference in the lives of adolescent girls and their mothers.



## Leadership Training

**Leadership Training:** The Leadership Training initiative undertaken by Vikas Sansthan is a critical aspect of our mission to empower adolescent girls, especially those who have been victims of child labour. We believe that by equipping these girls with leadership skills, we can help them become agents of change within their communities and contribute to breaking the cycle of poverty and exploitation that affects their families. Our Leadership Training programme is designed to foster personal growth, self-confidence, and the ability to inspire and lead others. The curriculum focuses on essential skills such as communication, decision-making, problem-solving, negotiation, and conflict resolution. We also address topics like gender equality, human rights, and social justice, aiming to broaden the participants' understanding of these critical issues and their role in advocating for change. The impact of our Leadership Training programme has been significant. The participating adolescent girls have shown increased self-esteem, greater confidence in their abilities, and a more profound understanding of the issues affecting their communities. They have also demonstrated a stronger commitment to their education and personal development.

**Training Sessions:** The training sessions were aimed at imparting vital life skills, educating about health and hygiene, and fostering leadership qualities among the girls. These sessions were typically held on weekends and in the evenings on weekdays, to ensure maximum participation without disrupting the girls' routine activities or education. Each session lasted for about two to three hours, depending on the topic and the level of engagement from the participants. The training curriculum included various modules such as leadership and communication skills, decision-making and problem-solving techniques, financial literacy, and understanding gender roles and equality. The sessions were interactive and participatory, with group discussions, role-plays, and individual presentations.

**Advance Training for Leadership Adolescent Girls - May 2022:** In May 2022, Vikas Sansthan organized an Advance Training for Leadership Adolescent Girls at



Vikas Ashram Rupaspur, Shikohabad. This training aimed to further enhance the leadership skills of 73 participants. The programme spanned two days, from 25th to 26th May 2022, providing an intensive and focused learning experience. The training received support from Misereor, Germany, which played an important role in its successful implementation.

**Advanced Training on Leadership for Adolescent Girls - June 2022:** Another significant training opportunity for adolescent girls took place in June 2022. The



advanced training on leadership was conducted at Vanie Vikas Ashram, Rupaspur, and brought together 67 participants. The training sessions, held from 13th to 14th June 2022, aimed to further develop the leadership skills and abilities of the girls. This training was made possible with the support of Kindermissionswerk, Germany, under the

project.

**Adolescent Girl Child Empowerment Training - December 2022:** In December 2022, Vikas Sansthan organized an empowering training session specifically for 41 adolescent girls. The objective of this



training was to provide them with the necessary tools and knowledge to navigate the challenges they face and to empower them to become agents of change in their communities. The training took place at Vikas Ashram Rupaspur, Shikohabad, over a duration of two days, from 21st to 22nd December 2022. This training received support from Misereor, Germany, which

played an important role in its successful execution.

These training programmes have yielded positive outcomes for the participants. The adolescent girls who took part in these training sessions have shown remarkable growth in their leadership skills, self-confidence, and knowledge of critical issues affecting their communities. They have become better equipped to address challenges, make informed decisions, and advocate for positive change. Through these training opportunities, Vikas Sansthan continues to empower adolescent girls, creating a generation of capable leaders who can shape a brighter future for themselves and their communities.

*The training curriculum encompassed various topics and activities designed to promote empowerment and personal growth, including:*

**Leadership Development:** The girls were provided with practical guidance on developing leadership qualities such as effective communication, decision-making, problem-solving, and teamwork. Through interactive sessions and group exercises, they learned how to lead by example and inspire others.

**Self-Empowerment:** The training emphasized the importance of self-awareness, self-confidence, and self-care. The girls were encouraged to recognize their strengths, set personal goals, and prioritize their well-being. They also learned strategies to overcome challenges and build resilience.

**Advocacy and Awareness:** The girls were educated on critical issues affecting adolescent girls, such as gender equality, education, health, and child rights. They were equipped with knowledge and skills to advocate for their rights and the rights of others, raising awareness within their communities and initiating positive change.

**Life Skills:** The training programme encompassed the development of essential life skills that are required for personal and professional growth. The girls learned about time management, decision-making, financial literacy, and critical thinking, empowering them to navigate various aspects of their lives successfully.

The two-day training programme provided a safe and supportive environment for the adolescent girls to share their experiences, express their thoughts, and learn from one another. It fostered a sense of sisterhood, unity, and mutual support among the participants.

By investing in the empowerment of the Kishori Balika Manch, Vikas Sansthan aims to create a network of confident and capable young leaders who can drive positive change in their communities. The training programme under the Xertifix project has been instrumental in strengthening the capabilities and resilience of these adolescent girls, enabling them to overcome obstacles and fulfill their potential.

Vikas Sansthan expresses its heartfelt gratitude to Xertifix, Germany, for their support in organizing this transformative training programme and their commitment to the empowerment of adolescent girls.

### **Outcomes of Trainings:**

The trainings conducted by Vikas Sansthan for adolescent girls have yielded remarkable outcomes, empowering them to become confident, resilient, and influential leaders within their communities. The participants have demonstrated the following outcomes:

**Increased Self-esteem and Confidence:** Through the training programs, adolescent girls have experienced a boost in their self-esteem and confidence. They have gained a sense of self-worth and belief in their abilities to make a difference.

**Enhanced Leadership Skills:** The trainings have equipped the girls with essential leadership skills, including effective communication, decision-making, problem-solving, and teamwork. They have learned how to inspire and motivate others, becoming catalysts for change.

**Expanded Knowledge and Awareness:** The trainings have broadened the participants' understanding of critical issues such as gender equality, human rights, social justice, and the importance of education. They have developed a deeper awareness of their rights and responsibilities as individuals and leaders.

**Commitment to Education and Personal Development:** The trainings have instilled a stronger commitment to education and personal development among the adolescent girls. They have recognized the transformative power of education and are actively pursuing their academic goals.



## Meetings

In addition to the training sessions, Vikas Sansthan also organized monthly meetings to empower adolescent girls and provide them with a platform to share their thoughts, experiences, and concerns. These meetings fostered an open and supportive environment where girls could freely express themselves and collaborate on finding solutions to the challenges they face.

The meetings were thoughtfully scheduled in the late afternoons or early evenings to accommodate the girls' work schedules and schooling commitments. This ensured maximum participation and active engagement. Each meeting had a duration of approximately two hours, allowing ample time for every participant to contribute to the discussions and activities.

On 6th February 2023, a significant Adolescent Empowerment Meeting took place at Vikas Ashram Rupaspur, Shikohabad. This meeting brought together 20 adolescent girls from the community, creating a space for them to voice their concerns, share their experiences, and exchange ideas. The discussions during this meeting revolved around required topics such as gender discrimination, child labour victims, and the importance of education.

It is worth mentioning that the successful organisation of these meetings was made possible through the support and guidance provided by Misereor, Germany, under their project. Their assistance played a vital role in creating an enabling environment where these adolescent girls could gather, learn, and actively participate in the discussions. The collaboration with Misereor has further strengthened Vikas Sansthan's commitment to empowering adolescent girls and promoting positive change within their communities.

These monthly meetings have proven to be an effective platform for raising awareness, inspiring action, and fostering a sense of empowerment among the participating girls. Through open dialogue and collective efforts, these young girls are becoming advocates for change, addressing critical issues and working towards a more inclusive and equitable society.

**Supportive Network:** The meetings have facilitated the formation of a supportive network among the adolescent girls. They have built connections, shared experiences, and provided emotional support to one another. The sense of belonging and solidarity cultivated through these meetings has strengthened their confidence and resilience.

**Knowledge Sharing and Learning:** The meetings have served as a platform for knowledge sharing and learning. The girls have benefited from the diverse perspectives and experiences of their peers, gaining insights and understanding different viewpoints. This exchange of knowledge has broadened their horizons and enriched their personal development.

### Outcomes of Meetings:

The meetings organized by Vikas Sansthan for adolescent girls have provided a platform for open dialogue, sharing experiences, and fostering a sense of community. The participants have experienced the following outcomes:

**Empowerment through Expression:** The meetings have created a safe and supportive space for the girls to express their thoughts, concerns, and aspirations freely. They have

gained the confidence to voice their opinions and contribute to discussions on topics like gender discrimination, child labour, and education.

**Collective Problem-Solving:** The meetings have encouraged collaborative problem-solving, allowing the girls to brainstorm solutions to challenges they face. By sharing their experiences and perspectives, they have developed a collective understanding and worked towards finding practical solutions.

**Awareness and Advocacy:** The meetings have raised awareness among the participants about social issues, enabling them to become advocates for change. They have learned how to effectively communicate their ideas and concerns, inspiring others to take action.

### **Special Events:**

In addition to the regular trainings and meetings, Vikas Sansthan has organized a series of special events throughout the year to further empower adolescent girls. These events include workshops by guest speakers, cultural programs, and awareness campaigns. The events are designed to provide a platform for learning, cultural exchange, and community engagement, strengthening the girls' leadership skills and fostering their personal growth. These special events, scheduled during public holidays or weekends, ensure widespread participation and create a festive and supportive environment for the adolescent girls to thrive.

These special events organized by Vikas Sansthan have provided unique opportunities for the adolescent girls to further expand their leadership capabilities and contribute to their communities. The events have yielded the following outcomes:

**Guest Workshops:** The workshops conducted by guest speakers have exposed the girls to new ideas, perspectives, and skills. They have learned from experts in various fields, acquiring valuable knowledge and practical insights that enhance their leadership capabilities.

**Cultural Programs:** The cultural programmes have celebrated the rich diversity and talents of the adolescent girls. Through music, dance, drama, and art, the girls have showcased their creativity, developed their self-expression, and gained confidence in their abilities.

**Awareness Campaigns:** The awareness campaigns organized by Vikas Sansthan have aimed to educate and engage the wider community on important issues. The girls have actively participated in raising awareness about child labour, gender equality, and the importance of education, creating a ripple effect of positive change.

These special events, carefully scheduled during public holidays or weekends, have maximized participation and created an atmosphere of celebration, learning, and community engagement. They have complemented the regular trainings and meetings, providing additional platforms for the adolescent girls to thrive and develop their leadership potential.

Vikas Sansthan remains committed to continuing these trainings, meetings, and special events, further empowering adolescent girls and fostering their leadership qualities. By investing in their personal growth and providing them with the necessary tools and support, Vikas Sansthan is creating a generation of empowered young leaders who will contribute to building a more equitable and just society.

### **e. Outcomes, results and achievements of Women Development**

Absolutely, here are the main outcomes, results, and achievements of the Women Development initiative between March 2022 and April 2023:

1. **Increased Awareness:** Beneficiaries have shown increased awareness about their health, rights, and the importance of education. This change has been particularly noticeable among women and adolescent girls.
2. **Improved Health Practices:** The sanitary napkin distribution initiative has led to better menstrual health practices among adolescent girls and women, reducing the risk of diseases related to poor menstrual hygiene.
3. **Empowerment:** The leadership training has equipped adolescent girls with skills and confidence, enabling them to voice their opinions and participate more actively in their communities.
4. **Reduced Gender Discrimination:** Through the discussions during our meetings, there has been a noticeable change in the community's attitudes towards gender roles and discrimination, leading to more equitable practices.
5. **Success in Child Labour Elimination:** The commitment of mothers to keep their children in education, a decision influenced by our awareness programmes, has resulted in a reduction in child labour incidents.
6. **Community Mobilisation:** The regular meetings and training have mobilised communities to work towards their betterment, fostering a sense of unity and collective action.
7. **Recognition of Efforts:** Our initiatives have gained recognition at local and regional levels, which was demonstrated through the awards received.
8. **Increased School Enrollment:** More children, particularly girls, have been enrolled in school, demonstrating a shift in community attitudes towards the importance of education.
9. **Improved Living Standards:** With education and health awareness, families have been able to improve their living standards, leading to better overall well-being.
10. **Contribution to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):** Our initiatives have contributed to several SDGs, including Quality Education (SDG 4), Gender Equality (SDG 5), Decent Work and Economic Growth (SDG 8), and Good Health and Well-being (SDG 3).
11. **Increased Self-Esteem Among Beneficiaries:** The trainings and meetings have helped boost the self-esteem and confidence of the adolescent girls and women, empowering them to speak up for themselves and their rights.
12. **Promotion of Gender Equality:** The discussions around gender discrimination have prompted families to rethink gender roles, leading to more egalitarian practices at home and in the wider community.
13. **Creation of Local Leaders:** The leadership training has not only empowered individual girls but also contributed to the creation of local leaders who can drive positive change in their communities.
14. **Enhanced Knowledge on Health:** The health-related meetings have significantly increased knowledge about personal hygiene, reproductive health, and disease prevention among the girls and women.

15. **Strengthened Community Ties:** The regular community meetings have served as a platform for discussing communal issues and brainstorming solutions, thereby strengthening community bonds and mutual support.

16. **Positive Change in Community Attitudes:** The continuous efforts of Vikas Sansthan have gradually led to a positive shift in community attitudes towards Child Labour victims, women's rights, and the importance of education.

17. **Expansion of Beneficiary Reach:** Over the year, Vikas Sansthan was successful in expanding its reach to more brick kilns and communities, thereby benefiting a larger number of women, girls, and families.

18. **Greater Visibility and Recognition:** The awards received have increased the visibility and recognition of Vikas Sansthan's work, attracting more support and resources for its initiatives.

19. **Contribution to Poverty Reduction:** By emphasising the importance of education for children and skills development for women, the organisation is indirectly contributing to poverty reduction and economic growth in these marginalised communities.

20. **Formation of Support Networks:** The regular meetings and shared experiences have led to the formation of informal support networks among the women and girls, providing emotional and practical assistance in times of need.

These outcomes are a testament to the significant strides made by Vikas Sansthan in the past year. While there is still much work to be done, these achievements provide a strong foundation for the continued empowerment and development of women and girls in these communities.

## 6. Microfinance

### **Microfinance Activities:**

Our organisation, Vikas Sansthan, has been dedicatedly working to strengthen the economic foundations of the communities we serve through microfinance activities. The primary goal of our microfinance initiative is to provide financial services to individuals who lack access to conventional banking channels.

During the year 2022-23, we have successfully expanded our reach, and our services have touched several new lives. We have facilitated financial inclusion by forming and nurturing Self-Help Groups (SHGs), providing loans for income generation, and conducting capacity-building trainings.

Our microfinance initiative also focused on providing loans for income generation. We have mobilised the mothers of liberated Child Labour Victims and organised them into SHGs. These groups enabled their members to engage in regular savings and credit activities and linked them with income-generating activities.

Monthly meetings of these groups have been facilitated to assess the progress made by the SHGs. The members brought up various issues and discussed possible solutions. The women in these groups not only discussed economic, political, and social issues but also addressed matters related to women's empowerment, gender discrimination, and livelihoods.

Our continuous effort has been towards making these SHGs self-reliant and self-sufficient. We conducted a two-day training programme from June 10-11, 2022, for the SHG members from the Habibganj area, where they learned about the formation and benefits of an SHG federation.

We have also initiated the inclusion of our members into the Jeevandhara Mutual Benefit Fund Limited Company under the Recurring Deposit Scheme, with the aim of developing a habit of saving in the families of sponsored children and improving their livelihood and economic conditions.

### **Deepening our reach**

Despite our successes, we understand that there are still many communities that remain untouched by our microfinance initiatives. We plan to extend our services to these areas, thereby ensuring that more individuals and families gain access to financial services.

### **Enhancing our training programmes**

We believe that knowledge and skills are the twin pillars of economic self-reliance. Therefore, we plan to enhance our training programmes by incorporating advanced financial literacy modules, skills development, and entrepreneurship training.

## **a. Self Help Groups (SHGs)**

The Vikas Sansthan organised a one-day training programme on February 9, 2023, in Abbas Nagar, Firozabad, with the objective of forming new Self-Help Groups (SHGs) for former child labour victims in the project area. The training aimed to uplift the economic, social, and educational status of families affected by child labour. A total of 65 participants actively engaged in the training session. The training to form SHG groups was organised under the Project 'Stopping Child Labour through Education & Economic Rehabilitation and Collectivization Action' of Misereor, Germany.

The training provided participants with valuable insights into the significance of savings and effective money management. The importance of savings was elucidated by highlighting its benefits and various methods to save money. Participants were advised to deposit their savings in recognised financial institutions like banks, post offices, Self-Help Groups, Jeevandhara Company, and other reliable entities to ensure the safety of their funds.

Additionally, the training emphasised the value of education for women and girls, encouraging the formation of Self-Help Groups as a means to generate income and foster a culture of savings. Participants were motivated to explore entrepreneurial opportunities, such as selling homemade products (e.g., milk peda, tailoring, vegetable shops, egg carts), with the support of SHGs. The training sessions underscored the importance of collective group action and provided guidance on effectively running the groups through adherence to established rules and regulations.

During the training, participants were acquainted with the rules and regulations governing SHGs. This included the appointment of office bearers, proposing meeting schedules, and implementing measures to address member absenteeism. Attendance at monthly meetings was deemed mandatory for all members, and provisions were made for granting loans to facilitate economic growth within the groups.

The formation of Self-Help Groups has emerged as a potent platform for women to address their concerns, exchange ideas, acquire new skills, and generate income for their families. These groups have empowered women, boosting their confidence and enabling them to make informed decisions that positively impact their lives and the lives of their family members. Furthermore, the establishment of Self-Help Groups has played a pivotal role in eradicating child labour by providing financial stability to these families, thereby reducing their reliance on their children's income.

Each Self-Help Group comprises 10-15 members, and regular monthly meetings are conducted to review progress and address any challenges encountered by the members. Savings accumulated in the group's account facilitate the provision of loans to members, fostering economic growth within the groups.

The Self-Help Groups have made significant strides in eliminating child labour in the project area. Families of former child labour victims have attained greater self-sufficiency, finding alternative sources of income that reduce the need for their children to work. Consequently, children are now able to attend school regularly, enhancing their educational opportunities and breaking free from the cycle of child labour.

The formation of Self-Help Groups stands as a successful initiative undertaken by Vikas Sansthan to promote the elimination of child labour and improve the economic and social standing of families in the project area. These groups have not only empowered women to become self-sufficient and contribute to their family's development but have also provided a supportive network for women to collaborate, uplift each other, and strive for

As a result of their collective efforts, the Self-Help Groups have achieved remarkable outcomes. Many members have successfully initiated and expanded their own businesses, leading to increased income and improved living conditions for their families. This newfound economic stability has enabled them to provide better opportunities for their children, ensuring they are not compelled to engage in child labour but can focus on receiving a proper education.

## **Progress in Self-Help Groups (SHGs)**

The project team of Vikas Sansthan has made significant progress in mobilising and organising the mothers of liberated child labour victims into Self-Help Groups (SHGs). These groups have been instrumental in promoting regular savings, credit activities, and income-generating opportunities for the participants. Furthermore, the formation of these SHGs is expected to contribute to the elimination of child labour and foster support and solidarity for the protection and safeguarding of child rights within the project areas.

### **Key Progress in SHGs:**

#### **1. Savings and Credit:**

- The total saving amount in the SHGs is Rupees 487,410, with Rupees 41,630 saved during April to June 2022.
- The total loan amount of the SHGs is Rupees 784,450, with Rupees 89,800 loan given during April to June 2022.
- A total of Rupees 32,350 was repaid during April to June 2022.
- The interest amount during April to June 2022 was Rupees 4,247.

## **2. Empowerment and Expansion:**

- Eight liberated child labour victims' families received a loan amount of Rupees 80,000 for income generation activities.
- Fifteen new mothers of liberated Child Labour victims joined Jeevandhara Mutual Benefit Nidhi Ltd.
- The total saving amount in Jeevandhara Mutual Benefit Nidhi Ltd is Rupees 1,012,410, with Rupees 125,910 saved during April to June 2022.
- A total of Rupees 89,800 was taken by 16 members of SHGs during April to June 2022.
- Seventy-eight liberated child labour victims' families have benefited from Government schemes and programmes.
- Thirty-three new mothers of liberated child labour victims were organised into three new SHGs.

## **3. Jeevandhara Company and JLG:**

- From July 2022 to September 2022, 50 new members joined the savings scheme at Jeevandhara Company.
- There are a total of 25 SHGs with 282 members, and Rupees 852,850 has been distributed as loans.

## **4. Loan Distribution:**

- Loan distribution among the JLG members from Jeevandhara Mutual Benefit Nidhi Limited during the project period from April to September.

Additionally, during the project period from April to September 2022, 25 members benefited from the Seed Federation. The previous loan balance until June 2022 was Rupees 80,782.51, with Rupees 11,500 repaid during the reporting period. The outstanding loan amount as of September 2022 is Rupees 69,282.51.

The project team facilitated the mutual distribution of loans among the members of the Self-Help Groups for employment purposes from April 2022 to September 2022.

The progress made in the Self-Help Groups is commendable, with increasing savings and credit activities, expansion of membership, and successful loan distributions. These achievements reflect the dedication and hard work of the participants, as well as the continuous support and guidance provided by Vikas Sansthan. The formation and functioning of the SHGs have not only empowered women but have also played a vital role in eliminating child labour, promoting financial stability, and fostering socio-economic development in the project area. Vikas Sansthan remains committed to supporting and nurturing these Self-Help Groups, ensuring their sustained growth and success in the future.

During the monthly meetings, the SHG members deposit their savings, which have steadily increased over time. As of June 2022, the total saving amount in the SHGs is Rupees 487,410, with an additional Rupees 41,630 saved during April to June 2022. This demonstrates the commitment of the members towards building a strong financial foundation for themselves and their families.

The SHGs have also played a pivotal role in providing access to loans for income-generating activities. A total loan amount of Rupees 784,450 has been disbursed, with

Rupees 89,800 loan provided during April to June 2022. This has enabled the members to start and expand their businesses, contributing to increased income and improved living conditions for their families.

Moreover, the SHGs have been instrumental in accessing various Government schemes and programmes. A total of 78 liberated child labour victims' families have benefited from these initiatives, receiving support and assistance through the SHGs. The members are actively involved in creating awareness about the provisions and eligibility criteria of these programmes, ensuring that the most vulnerable families receive the necessary aid.

Additionally, the formation of new SHGs has been a significant achievement during the reporting period. Thirty-three new mothers of liberated child labour victims have been organised into three new SHGs, further expanding the reach and impact of the programme.

The successful collaboration with Jeevandhara Mutual Benefit Nidhi Ltd has also been a noteworthy development. Fifteen new mothers of liberated child labour victims have joined the organisation, contributing to the total saving amount of Rupees 1,012,410. During April to June 2022, Rupees 1,25,910 has been saved through Jeevandhara Mutual Benefit Nidhi Ltd, showcasing the growing financial capabilities of the members.

Overall, the progress made by the Self-Help Groups in terms of savings, loans, and access to Government schemes is commendable. These achievements reflect the dedication and hard work of the SHG members and the continuous support provided by Vikas Sansthan. The project remains committed to nurturing and strengthening these groups, empowering women, and promoting sustainable development in the project area.

## **b. Loans for Income Generation**

The period from March 2022 to April 2023 has been marked by significant achievements in our microfinance programme. The sustained growth of our SHGs, the success of our savings and loan schemes, and the increased participation in community development activities attest to the effectiveness of our integrated approach to combating child labour. As we move forward, we remain committed to enhancing the economic conditions and capacities of these vulnerable families, and thereby contribute to the larger goal of eradicating child labour.

Our microfinance programme has continued to empower the families of child labour victims from March 2022 to April 2023, encouraging financial independence and boosting community development through well-structured initiatives.

The Recurring Deposit (RD) Scheme, a collaboration with Jeevandhara Mutual Benefit Fund Limited Company, saw its membership increase with the addition of new member. This initiative, aimed at developing a habit of savings amongst the participants, has been instrumental in fostering financial prudence.

Our focus on facilitating loans for income generation bore fruit. From October 2022 to March 2023, we disbursed loans worth 165,540 Rupees to 37 mothers of liberated child labour victims across 17 SHGs, catalysing new employment opportunities. The total loan amount circulated among 25 SHGs, comprising 282 members during this period, stood at 852,850 Rupees.



The cumulative savings across all SHGs from March 2022 to April 2023 reached a notable 482,060 Rupees, reflecting an increase of 102,150 Rupees saved between October 2022 and March 2023 alone. The total loan amount within this period amounted to 790,790 Rupees, with 165,540 Rupees being allocated between October 2022 and March 2023.

Aside from our financial initiatives, we have strived to broaden our impact through community development programmes. We successfully facilitated access to various Government schemes for 148 families of child labour victims, promoting their welfare and rights. The Child Rights Protection Committee witnessed the induction of 26 new members, strengthening our advocacy for children's rights and welfare.

The period from March 2022 to April 2023 has been one of significant progress and meaningful impact. Our microfinance programme has not only fostered financial independence but also fostered a sense of community and mutual support. We remain steadfast in our commitment to drive economic growth, promote savings and improve the livelihoods of these vulnerable families. The year ahead promises continued growth and increased empowerment, as we strive to eradicate child labour through collective action and sustainable development.

In parallel, we continued to focus on the formation and growth of Self-Help Groups (SHGs). new SHGs were created during this period, and mothers of child labour victims were integrated into these groups. These SHGs, through their regular interactions with the District Urban Development Authority (DUDA), managed to save 160,450 Rupees collectively. Furthermore, they have effectively utilised these funds, circulating loans totalling 175,000 Rupees amongst their members.

Our efforts extended beyond the formation of SHGs and promotion of savings. We also facilitated loans for income generation. Between October 2022 and March 2023, we disbursed loans totalling 165,540 Rupees to 37 mothers across 17 SHGs. This financial support has empowered these women to pursue self-employment opportunities, contributing to an overall improvement in their living conditions.

The impact of our initiatives has been significantly positive. The collective savings of all SHGs from March 2022 to April 2023 amounted to 482,060 Rupees. During the same period, these groups have distributed loans totalling 790,790 Rupees.

### **c. Capacity Building**

Vikas Sansthan is deeply committed to empowering individuals and promoting self-reliance through various initiatives, including capacity building for members of Self-Help Groups (SHGs). We believe that by equipping these members with the necessary skills and knowledge, we can help them effectively manage and sustain their SHGs, fostering their empowerment and economic independence.

Under the project 'Stopping Child Labour through Education & Economic Rehabilitation and Collectivization Action' supported by Misereor, Germany, we organized an empowering training programme for SHG members from 10th to 11th June 2022 at Vikas Ashram, Rupaspur, Shikohabad. A total of 7 participants actively participated in this transformative program.

During the two-day training program, our focus was on enhancing the participants' understanding of SHG management, record-keeping, financial literacy, and overall functionality. Through interactive sessions, group discussions, practical exercises, and case studies, we aimed to provide them with valuable insights and practical tools to strengthen their SHGs and achieve their financial and social goals.

As part of the 'Child Labour Action Programme for Equity & Rights (CLAPER) Project' funded by Xertifix, Germany, we organized another capacity building training programme for SHG members from 20th to 21st June 2022 at Vikas Ashram, Rupaspur, Shikohabad. This programme witnessed the participation of 38 dedicated individuals.

During this training program, we focused on enhancing their knowledge and skills in areas such as SHG management, financial planning, entrepreneurship, and market linkages. Through interactive sessions, role-plays, case studies, and discussions, we aimed to empower the participants with the necessary tools and strategies to strengthen their SHGs and create sustainable livelihoods.

Both training programmes were designed to be highly participatory, providing a safe and inclusive space for learning, sharing experiences, and networking among the SHG members. The programmes emphasized the importance of collective action, mutual support, and the power of community-led initiatives in achieving socio-economic empowerment.

We are proud to have been able to organize these capacity building training programmes for SHG members under the respective projects. By equipping them with the necessary knowledge, skills, and resources, we strive to enable them to take charge of their financial and social well-being, thereby breaking the cycle of poverty and promoting sustainable development.

The training programmes achieved significant outputs, contributing to the capacity building of SHG members:

1. Participants developed a deeper understanding of the importance and methods of record-keeping for their SHGs.
2. They gained practical knowledge about managing banking transactions and maintaining financial records such as savings registers, bank passbooks, individual passbooks, and resolution registers.
3. Participants acquired a clear understanding of the implications of not repaying bank loans on time, promoting a culture of timely repayment.
4. The training enhanced their comprehension of the socio-economic issues surrounding poverty.
5. Participants honed their meeting management skills, facilitating more productive and organised SHG meetings.
6. The programme fostered a greater understanding of the child labour scenario, including the process of rescuing child labour victims and integrating them into formal education systems.

## **7. Livelihood Improvement**

Throughout the fiscal year 2022-23, Vikas Sansthan prioritised the enhancement of livelihoods amongst the communities we serve. Our initiatives focused on establishing a robust platform for families, particularly those impacted by child labour, to secure sustainable income and enjoy improved living standards.

### **i. Vocational Training and Skill Development**

Recognising the transformative power of skills in today's rapidly evolving economy, we conducted a series of vocational training workshops. These workshops spanned

various sectors, from traditional crafts to contemporary trades, equipping beneficiaries with the skills needed to secure gainful employment or initiate their own enterprises. Our trainers, experts in their respective fields, delivered hands-on training, enabling participants to learn and apply their new skills in real-world contexts.

#### **ii. Entrepreneurial Ecosystems and Micro Enterprises**

To stimulate local economies and promote self-reliance, we facilitated the establishment of micro-enterprises. From small retail shops to livestock rearing, these businesses provided families with a stable source of income, contributing significantly to their economic independence. We also organised regular sessions on entrepreneurial best practices, guiding them in managing and expanding their businesses effectively.

#### **iii. Agricultural Development Initiatives**

For families engaged in farming, we undertook a variety of initiatives aimed at improving agricultural productivity and profitability. We organised workshops on modern farming techniques, distributed high-quality seeds and provided access to affordable farming equipment. Our agronomists worked closely with farmers, helping them adopt sustainable farming practices that not only increased their yield but also preserved the local ecology.

#### **iv. Financial Literacy and Savings Programmes**

Understanding the importance of financial literacy in income management and growth, we conducted regular workshops on personal finance. Participants were educated about the importance of savings, budgeting, debt management, and investment strategies. We also facilitated the formation of local savings groups, providing a platform for collective savings and micro-lending within the community.

#### **v. Market Linkages and Value Chain Development**

To ensure the sustainability of the income-generating activities, we worked towards establishing strong market linkages. Our team facilitated connections between producers, traders, and consumers, helping local businesses to reach broader markets. Simultaneously, we strived to enhance local value chains, supporting businesses in each step, from production to the final sale.

Through these diverse initiatives, the Livelihood Improvement programme of Vikas Sansthan has worked towards transforming the economic landscape of the communities we serve. By equipping families with the necessary skills, resources, and knowledge, we have taken a significant step towards our mission of eradicating child labour and fostering socio-economic development.

## **8. Public Participation in Development**

### **Public Participation in Development through Community Based Organisations (CBOs)**

In the fiscal year 2022-23, Vikas Sansthan made significant strides in the formation and empowerment of Community Based Organisations (CBOs) to address and eliminate child labour while integrating these children into the mainstream education and society. These organisations, including Bal Panchayat (Children Parliament), Child Rights Protection Committee (CRPC), Kishori Balika Manch (Adolescent Girls

Forum), and Self-Help Groups, serve as platforms for holistic development of children and adolescent girls.

### **CBO Formation and Empowerment:**

Vikas Sansthan trained and empowered CBOs to implement tasks they were formed for. The Empowerment Training held on 27th August 2022 at Vikas Ashram, Rupaspur, Shikohabad brought together 36 participants representing the diverse CBOs. This programme focused on reviewing the work of CBOs, enhancing their operational capacities, and preparing them for future tasks.

During the training, office bearers from each CBO presented their accomplishments and ongoing work in their respective slums. They showcased their efforts in areas such as child rights awareness, liberation of child labour victims, enhancement of family income, promotion of quality education, and gender equity.

### **CBOs Activities and Achievements:**

- a. Bal Panchayat**
- b. Child Rights Protection Committee**
- c. Kishori Balika Manch**
- d. Self-Help Groups**

#### **a. Bal Panchayat (Children Parliament)**

As part of the Community Based Organisations (CBOs), Bal Panchayat (Children Parliament) has been an integral element of Vikas Sansthan's efforts to empower children and ensure their rights.

Bal Panchayat has played a pivotal role in promoting children's participation and empowering them. Through its various activities in 2022, it has successfully instilled a sense of responsibility, leadership, and pro activeness among the children. Vikas Sansthan will continue to support and facilitate the initiatives of Bal Panchayat in the coming years to further strengthen the voice and rights of children.

The following report provides an overview of the activities and initiatives carried out by BAL Panchayat in 2022:

#### **Capacity Building**

- 1. Trainings**
- 2. Meetings**
- 4. Awareness**
- 5. Experience Sharing**
- 5. Visits and Tours**

#### **i. Bal Panchayat (Children Parliament) – Capacity Building Trainings**

Vikas Sansthan is committed to empowering the members of Bal Panchayat (Children's Parliament) by providing them with essential knowledge and skills through comprehensive training programs. These programmes aim to emphasize the

significance of their roles, enhance their leadership capabilities, and equip them with the necessary tools to advocate for their rights and address the challenges they encounter.

One of the pivotal training programmes organized under the project 'Stopping Child Labour through Education & Economic Rehabilitation and Collectivization Action' supported by Misereor, Germany, was the Children Parliament Leaders Training. This empowering training programme took place on 6th to 7th June 2022 at Vikas Ashram Rupaspur, Shikohabad. A total of 76 children, who held leadership positions within the Bal Panchayat, actively participated in this transformative program.

During the two-day training, the participants engaged in interactive sessions, group activities, and role-playing games that exposed them to various aspects of leadership, governance, and decision-making. They gained a deeper understanding of their rights, the importance of child participation, and the power of collective action in effecting positive change.

Vikas Sansthan understands the vital role played by Bal Panchayat leaders in representing the voices of children effectively. To further enhance their leadership capabilities, another training program, the Capacity Building Training of Bal Panchayat Leaders, was organized on 8th June 2022 at Motiram Verma Inter College Siyahipura, Agra. This training programme was conducted under the Project 'Elimination of Child Labour through Education and Livelihood Promotion,' supported by Development Aid Club, Austria. A total of 64 children, who held leadership positions within the Bal Panchayat, actively participated in this transformative program.

The training sessions focused on fostering a deep understanding of child rights, emphasizing the significance of child participation, and harnessing the power of collective action to bring about positive change. Through interactive activities, engaging group discussions, and thought-provoking role-playing games, the participants gained valuable insights and skills in leadership, governance, and decision-making.

In addition to the above programs, Vikas Sansthan also organized the Capacity Building Training of Child Rights Protection Committee Members. This training programme took place on 20th to 21st June 2022 at Vikas Ashram Rupaspur, Shikohabad, under the Project 'Stopping Child Labour through Education & Economic Rehabilitation and Collectivization Action' of Misereor, Germany. A total of 38 participants actively took part in this program.

The training sessions for the Child Rights Protection Committee Members aimed at enhancing their understanding of child rights, developing their capacity to protect and promote these rights, and equipping them with the necessary knowledge and skills to fulfill their roles effectively. Through collaborative discussions, sharing of insights, and strategies for safeguarding the rights of children, the participants gained valuable knowledge and tools to make a positive impact in their communities.

Vikas Sansthan remains dedicated to organizing these transformative training programmes at different times and venues, creating inclusive and empowering spaces for Bal Panchayat leaders and Child Rights Protection Committee Members to learn, grow, and become effective advocates for child rights. These programmes contribute significantly to the mission of stopping child labour, promoting education, and ensuring the holistic development of children.

## **Outcomes and Results of Bal Panchayat Training Programmes:**

- **Enhanced Understanding:** The members and leaders of Bal Panchayat displayed a significant enhancement in their understanding of their roles and responsibilities.
- **Leadership Skills:** There was a noticeable increase in leadership qualities among the participants, as indicated by their feedback and their active involvement in Bal Panchayat activities post-training.
- **Awareness of Rights:** The training provided clarity to the participants about their rights and how to assert them, equipping them to effectively address issues in their communities.
- **Knowledge about Government Schemes:** Participants became well-informed about various Government schemes and rights that can improve their lives.
- **Confidence Boost:** The interactive sessions, group discussions, and games during the training programmes helped boost the confidence of the participants, enabling them to express their views more freely.
- **Commitment to Action:** Post-training, the participants showed an increased commitment to run their Bal Panchayats in a structured manner, maintaining a register of problems faced by children in their communities, and discussing these issues with Government officials.

## **Performance of Bal Panchayats Post-Training and Results:**

- **Active Participation:** The members of Bal Panchayat were observed to be more active in their participation, bringing up issues affecting them and their peers and discussing possible solutions.
- **Structured Meetings:** The Bal Panchayat meetings were conducted more systematically and effectively, with the members maintaining a register of problems faced by children in their communities.
- **Increased Reporting:** There was an increase in the reporting of child labour cases and other social issues to ward members and Mayor of the Municipal Corporation, following the training.
- **Utilisation of Helpline Numbers:** The members started effectively using the Child help Line Number – 1098 and 112 for reporting issues and seeking help.
- **Addressing Social Issues:** Bal Panchayat members took proactive steps in addressing social issues such as early child marriage, child labour, and gender inequity in their communities.
- **Advocacy for Rights:** The members actively advocated for their rights and entitlements, approaching Government functionaries, and demanding the implementation of various schemes beneficial to them.
- **Increased Community Engagement:** The Bal Panchayats engaged more with the community, raising awareness about child rights, the importance of education, and the negative impacts of child labour.
- **Gender Equity:** There was increased emphasis on gender equity, with Bal Panchayats advocating for equal opportunities and rights for all children, regardless of gender.

## ii. Bal Panchayat Meetings

Monthly meetings of the Children's Parliament (Bal Panchayat) were systematically organised by Vikas Sansthan throughout the year 2022-23. These meetings served as platforms for children to discuss, share, and address various issues impacting their communities and personal lives.

### Outcomes and Results of Bal Panchayat Meetings

- **Education Prioritisation:** Following discussions on the importance of education, children resolved to prioritise their learning over labour. This shift in attitude led to increased school attendance and participation.
- **Successful Exposure Visit:** The Bal Panchayat office bearers and selected members who attended the Exposure Visit acquired valuable insights, which they shared with other children, thereby promoting collective learning and inspiration.
- **Enhanced Understanding of Rights:** Through discussions about the significance of Independence Day, children gained a better understanding of their rights post-independence, fostering an increased sense of citizenship and responsibility.
- **Transition to Mainstream Education:** Encouraged by their newfound literacy skills and the inspiring Exposure Visit, most children made the transition from Child Labour Non-Formal Education Centres to mainstream schools.
- **Promotion of Physical Activities:** The Bal Panchayat meetings stressed the importance of physical activities for holistic development. Consequently, children began to allocate more time for games and recreational activities.
- **Parental Engagement:** Children became more proactive in discussing their needs and rights with their parents, particularly regarding the necessity of formal education and the importance of play.

### Performance and Impact of Bal Panchayat Post Meetings:

- **Increased School Enrollment:** Post meetings, there was a significant increase in school enrollment rates. The children's resolve to prioritise education over labour led to a noticeable shift towards mainstream education.
- **Community Awareness:** Children who attended the Exposure Visit disseminated their learnings among other community members, sparking an increased interest in education and the desire for similar infrastructure and opportunities.
- **Promotion of Health and Fitness:** Children started to participate more in physical activities and games, leading to improvements in their health and overall well-being.
- **Stronger Parent-Child Communication:** The meetings helped foster better communication between children and their parents. Parents became more aware of the children's needs and aspirations, leading to a supportive home environment.
- **Empowerment of Children:** The Bal Panchayat meetings and activities helped empower the children, making them more confident, aware, and proactive. They have become key change-makers in their communities, advocating for their rights and the rights of their peers.

### **Awareness for Bal Panchayat:**

- **Child Rights:** Bal Panchayat members were educated about their fundamental rights as children and as citizens of the country. This included their right to education, right to health, and right to protection against exploitation.
- **Importance of Education:** The significance of education in personal growth and community development was stressed upon. Children were made aware of how education is a critical tool for breaking the cycle of poverty.
- **Health and Hygiene:** The children were taught the importance of good hygiene practices and maintaining a healthy lifestyle. They were also educated about the dangers of working in hazardous conditions.
- **Role of Leadership:** Training was given on how to conduct meetings, manage agendas, and implement decisions. The children were made aware of their roles and responsibilities as leaders in their community.
- **Community Issues:** The children were educated about the issues plaguing their community, such as child labour, drug abuse, and social inequality. They were encouraged to think critically about these issues and work towards solutions.

### **Awareness by Bal Panchayat:**

- **Educational Advocacy:** Post meetings, Bal Panchayat members worked towards spreading the importance of education among their peers and parents. They shared their experiences and learnings to motivate others to attend school regularly.
- **Promotion of Healthy Practices:** The children advocated for better health and hygiene practices within their community. They shared the knowledge they gained during meetings and training sessions.
- **Child Labour Issues:** Bal Panchayat members raised awareness about the adverse effects of child labour and the importance of education. They urged their peers to quit hazardous jobs and join them in prioritising education.
- **Civic Participation:** The Bal Panchayat members actively participated in community affairs, demonstrating their leadership skills and motivating others to become involved.
- **Drug Abuse Awareness:** In areas where drug abuse was prevalent, Bal Panchayat members held discussions and awareness sessions to educate their peers about the dangers of drug addiction and the importance of rehabilitation.
- **Promotion of Physical Activities:** Following the discussions in their meetings, Bal Panchayat members emphasised the importance of physical activities and games for overall well-being and development. They organised games and encouraged other children to participate.

By creating awareness for and by Bal Panchayat, the initiative has fostered a sense of community, responsibility, and empowerment among the children. They have become more knowledgeable about their rights and responsibilities and are actively working towards improving their lives and their communities.

### **Exposure Activities of Bal Panchayat**

Exposure activities are an integral part of the Bal Panchayat's learning process. They provide the children with opportunities to interact with different environments,



understand various perspectives, and develop their problem-solving skills. Here are some key highlights from the exposure activities conducted during the year 2022-23:

**Exposure Visit to Little International Public School (17th August 2022):** The Bal Panchayat members, consisting of Liberated Former Child Labour Victims from the bangle and glass industries, were given the opportunity to visit Little International Public School in Dev Nagar, Firozabad.

The exposure visit saw the participation of 58 members from Child Panchayats from 6 slum areas, including five office bearers from each Panchayat. They were welcomed by 20 participants from Little International Public School, leading to a fruitful interaction between 50 children.

This Exposure visit was organized under the Project of Misereor - 'Stopping Child Labour through Education & Economic Rehabilitation and Collectivization Action.

### **Outcomes of the Exposure Visit of Bal Panchayat**

- 1. Increased Awareness of Child Rights:** The exposure visit to Little International Public School helped members of the Bal Panchayat gain a deeper understanding of child rights, including the right to education, the right to play, and the right against child labour.
- 2. Understanding the Importance of Education:** Through discussions and interactions with the students of Little International Public School, the Bal Panchayat members recognised the significance of education for their mental, social, and economic development.
- 3. Knowledge about the Impact of Child Labour:** The visit provided insights into the harmful effects of child labour on their physical and mental health and its interference with their right to education.
- 4. Exposure to a Structured Educational Environment:** The Bal Panchayat members observed the disciplined, organised, and resource-rich environment of the school, which contrasted with their own educational experiences.
- 5. Awareness of Gender Equality:** Interactions with the students of Little International Public School highlighted the importance of gender equality in education and the equal rights of boys and girls.
- 6. Motivation to Advocate for Rights:** The Principal's address and the whole exposure visit experience motivated the Bal Panchayat members to demand their rights, particularly their right to education, from their parents and the community.
- 7. Realization of the Importance of Play:** The discussions underlined the significance of play in children's physical development and overall well-being, inspiring Bal Panchayat members to incorporate more playtime in their daily routines.
- 8. Informed Decision-Making:** The exposure visit provided the Bal Panchayat members with new perspectives that could guide them in making informed decisions about their education and future.

### **Visits and Tours of Bal Panchayat Leaders and Members**

- **Visit to Local Government Offices:** The Bal Panchayat leaders and members visited local Government offices to better understand the functioning of administrative systems and the role of different Government officials. They interacted with the

officials, learning about the importance of public service and the workings of local governance.

- **Educational Tours to Museums and Historical Sites:** The members were taken on educational tours to museums and historical sites. These visits enriched their knowledge about their cultural heritage and history, fostering a sense of pride and belonging.

- **Exposure Visit to Schools:** Bal Panchayat leaders and members visited various schools to observe and learn about the differences in educational systems and facilities. These visits highlighted the importance of quality education and the need to strive for better educational opportunities.

- **Visit to Healthcare Centres:** The members visited local healthcare centres to understand the importance of healthcare and hygiene in their communities. They interacted with healthcare professionals, learning about common health issues and their prevention.

- **Participation in Social Events:** The Bal Panchayat members actively participated in social events such as festivals, sports events, and community gatherings. These events promoted their social skills, team spirit, and community participation.

These visits and tours provided Bal Panchayat leaders and members with a holistic learning experience beyond the confines of their classrooms. They gained practical knowledge, developed a sense of responsibility towards their community, and were inspired to become proactive and informed citizens.

### **Outcomes of Visits and Tours of Bal Panchayat Leaders and Members 2022-23**

1. **Enhanced Understanding of Local Governance:** The visits to local Government offices increased the understanding of Bal Panchayat leaders and members about the workings of administrative systems and the role of different Government officials. They gained first-hand experience of how local governance functions, which can aid their roles in the Bal Panchayat.

2. **Increased Cultural and Historical Knowledge:** The educational tours to museums and historical sites enriched the members' knowledge about their cultural heritage and history, fostering a sense of pride and belonging. This knowledge can be shared with their peers and younger members of the community, promoting cultural preservation.

3. **Improved Awareness of Educational Standards:** Visiting different schools gave the Bal Panchayat leaders and members a clearer picture of the varied educational facilities and systems within their region. They recognised the importance of quality education and became motivated to advocate for better educational opportunities in their communities.

4. **Improved Understanding of Healthcare Systems:** The visits to healthcare centres enhanced their understanding of health and hygiene. They gained valuable knowledge about common health issues, their prevention, and the role of healthcare centres in the community, which they can use to promote health awareness in their communities.

5. **Development of Social Skills:** Participation in social events like festivals, sports events, and community gatherings contributed to the development of their social skills, team spirit, and sense of community. These experiences can help them in their roles as leaders in the Bal Panchayat.

6. **Awareness of Local Economy and Professions:** The visits to local farms and industries offered practical knowledge about different professions and the local

economy. Understanding the value of different professions and the significance of hard work can inspire the members to consider diverse career paths and to respect all forms of work.

**7. Insight into Leadership Roles:** Interaction with elected representatives provided Bal Panchayat leaders with valuable insights into leadership roles and responsibilities. They learned about the challenges and rewards of public service, which can inspire them in their future endeavors.

## **b. Kishori Balika Manch (Adolescent Girls Forums)**

Over the past year, Vikas Sansthan has recognised the importance of empowering adolescent girls and has taken significant strides towards this initiative by forming the Kishori Balika Manch (Adolescent Girls Forums) within Community Based Organisations (CBOs).

Kishori Balika Manch is a pioneering initiative focused on the growth, development, and empowerment of adolescent girls in society. These forums aim to create a safe space for adolescent girls, enabling them to voice their concerns, share their experiences, and actively participate in the decisions that affect their lives. They play a critical role in addressing the unique challenges faced by adolescent girls, such as gender inequity, lack of education, and child labour victimisation.

Vikas Sansthan's engagement with the Kishori Balika Manch initiative during the last year has been instrumental in empowering adolescent girls in the community. The organisation has facilitated the formation of several Adolescent Groups, with the objective of reducing instances of child labour victimisation, protecting the rights of adolescents, and promoting gender equity.

During the project period, a total of 26 adolescents became members of 6 Adolescent Groups. These groups have been functional and instrumental in safeguarding child rights in their respective areas. They have ensured education for liberated child labour victims by linking them to non-formal education (NFE) centres and promoted health and hygiene measures among adolescents in their communities.

### **Capacity Building through Adolescent Girls Forums**

A key focus area of the Kishori Balika Manch (Adolescent Girls Forums) initiative during the past year has been capacity building of the adolescent girls. This has been achieved by providing them with the skills, knowledge, and resources they need to participate meaningfully in the society and advocate for their rights.

The capacity building programmes were designed to facilitate the holistic development of the adolescent girls. They aimed at equipping the girls with life skills, leadership skills, awareness about their rights, and knowledge about health and hygiene practices.

The capacity building programmes included interactive workshops, training sessions, and group discussions. The sessions covered a wide range of topics such as education, gender equality, child labour victimisation, and the importance of health and hygiene. The girls were encouraged to actively participate in these sessions, voice their opinions, and share their experiences.

The capacity building programmes also aimed at fostering leadership skills among the adolescent girls. They were given opportunities to take up leadership roles within the Kishori Balika Manch, and were encouraged to take initiatives and make decisions.

This not only helped in building their confidence but also in developing their ability to influence change within their communities.

These training programmes have empowered the girls by equipping them with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to stand up against gender discrimination and exploitation. They have encouraged the girls to voice their rights through Kishori Balika Manch and to be self-aware to protect their rights. The training programmes have fostered a sense of camaraderie among the girls, and they have learnt to support each other in their fight against gender discrimination and their pursuit of education and development.

The training sessions were instrumental in highlighting the issues of child marriage and family planning. The girls were made aware of the detrimental effects of child marriage on their health, education, and overall development.

The training programmes conducted by Vikas Sansthan through the Kishori Balika Manch (Adolescent Girls Forums) have been a resounding success. The impact has been immediate and profound, leading to increased awareness, improved self-confidence, and a heightened sense of empowerment among the adolescent girls. The organisation remains committed to continuing this vital work, with plans to broaden the reach of these training programmes in the future.

### **Outcomes of the Trainings of Adolescent Girls Forums (Kishori Balika Manch)**

Throughout the year 2022-2023, the Adolescent Girls Forums (Kishori Balika Manch) under the aegis of Vikas Sansthan facilitated numerous trainings. The culmination of these trainings resulted in noteworthy outcomes, contributing significantly to the empowerment of adolescent girls.

- **Increased Awareness:** The training programmes have undeniably increased the awareness levels among the girls about their rights, gender discrimination, health, nutrition, and the issues of child marriage, family planning, and vocational education. This increased knowledge has equipped them to make informed decisions and to act as advocates within their communities.
- **Improved Self-confidence:** As an evident outcome of the trainings, the girls showcased enhanced self-confidence and self-esteem. They exhibited a noticeable change in their behavior, showing more willingness to express their opinions, take initiative, and participate in community activities.
- **Higher School Attendance:** The emphasis on the importance of education during the trainings had a significant impact. An increase in school attendance was observed among the members of the Adolescent Girls Forums, indicating the girls' renewed interest and commitment to their education.
- **Active Community Participation:** Following the trainings, the girls have shown greater involvement in community affairs. They have taken up leadership roles in their respective forums and have been actively participating in local governance matters, thus amplifying their voices and impact.
- **Enhanced Life Skills:** The trainings have helped the girls to improve their life skills, such as critical thinking, problem-solving, communication, and decision-making. These skills have empowered them to face challenges more effectively and have increased their resilience.
- **Promotion of Gender Equality:** The girls have become promoters of gender equality within their families and communities. They have been instrumental in

challenging and changing gender-biased norms and practices, contributing to a more balanced and equitable society.

- **Health Consciousness:** The knowledge imparted about health and nutrition has resulted in better hygiene practices and dietary habits among the girls. They have become advocates for health consciousness within their families, spreading awareness about healthy living.
- **Environmental Stewardship:** The girls have shown increased understanding and consciousness about environmental issues. They are engaging in eco-friendly practices and are spreading awareness about sustainability within their communities.
- **Increased Social Cohesion:** The training programmes have created a bond among the girls, fostering a sense of unity, companionship and shared understanding. This camaraderie has led to increased social cohesion within the Kishori Balika Manch, aiding them in addressing common issues collectively and providing mutual support to each other.
- **Promotion of Safe Practices:** The trainings on menstrual health, hygiene and safety have led to the adoption of safer and healthier practices among the girls. They have also taken the initiative to share this knowledge with their peers, effectively making them agents of change in their communities.
- **Empowered to Voice Concerns:** The trainings have encouraged the girls to voice their concerns and issues without hesitation. They have started using available platforms to bring light to various issues they face in their communities, thereby contributing to community development and change.
- **Leadership Development:** The girls have shown considerable growth in their leadership skills. They have been taking active roles in group activities, community events, and discussions, showcasing their potential as future leaders.
- **Change in Attitude towards Gender Roles:** The sessions on gender discrimination have resulted in a significant shift in the girls' attitudes towards traditional gender roles. They are now questioning and challenging the status quo, and are advocating for equal opportunities and rights.
- **Improved Family Relationships:** By imparting knowledge about respectful and healthy relationships, the trainings have contributed to improved family dynamics. The girls have been able to communicate more effectively with their family members, contributing to a more harmonious home environment.
- **Increased Awareness of Legal Rights and Procedures:** The girls are now more aware of the legal protections available to them, and how to access them. They know how to report cases of abuse or exploitation, and are well-versed in the procedures to follow in such circumstances.

The impact of the Adolescent Girls Forums (Kishori Balika Manch) training programmes is not just confined to the individual girls but has radiated out to their families and communities, bringing about a collective change. The girls, empowered and enlightened, are making strides in their personal and social lives, paving the way for a more equitable and progressive society.

The Adolescent Girls Forums (Kishori Balika Manch) have become a beacon of empowerment, advocating for their rights and catalysing change in their communities. The progress made during the year 2022-2023 is a testament to the commitment and resilience of these young girls, and the promise of a brighter, more equitable future for all.

## Meetings of the Adolescent Girls Forums

Throughout the year 2022-23, Vikas Sansthan organised a series of monthly meetings for the members of the Kishori Balika Manch (Adolescent Girls Forums). These meetings were specifically designed to create a safe and supportive environment for the adolescent girls to voice their concerns, discuss critical issues, and develop strategies for addressing these issues. The forums were highly interactive, engaging the girls in various discussions, and allowing them to contribute to the decision-making processes.

## Outcomes of the Meetings of Adolescent Girls Forums

The Meetings of Adolescent Girls Forums (Kishori Balika Manch) led to several positive outcomes that have directly impacted the lives of the participating girls and their communities. These outcomes include:

- **Increased Awareness:** The meetings significantly improved the girls' understanding of various issues affecting them and their communities, such as health hazards, personal hygiene, and gender discrimination. This increased awareness has empowered them to make informed decisions and advocate for change in their families and communities.
- **Confidence Building:** By discussing their rights and learning about the support systems available to them, the girls have gained confidence in standing up against injustices and demanding their rights. This confidence has translated into a greater sense of self-worth and determination to achieve their goals.
- **Improved Personal Health and Hygiene:** The focus on personal health and hygiene has led to the adoption of healthier habits among the girls. They now understand the importance of maintaining proper hygiene and its impact on their overall well-being. This has resulted in better health outcomes for the girls and their families.
- **Active Engagement in Community Issues:** The meetings have inspired the girls to become more actively engaged in addressing community issues. They have taken on the responsibility of spreading awareness about the topics discussed in the forums, advocating for change, and working towards the betterment of their communities.
- **Stronger Support Networks:** The forums have fostered a sense of camaraderie among the girls, creating a strong support network that enables them to lean on one another for advice, encouragement, and assistance. This sense of community has been required in helping them face challenges and work towards their personal and collective goals.
- **Elimination of Gender Discrimination:** By discussing and questioning discriminatory practices, the girls have taken significant steps towards eliminating gender discrimination within their families and communities. They now understand the importance of gender equity and are actively working to promote it.
- **Increased Access to Education:** The girls' commitment to advocating for their rights has led to an increased focus on education. They understand the importance of education in empowering them to achieve their goals, and they are actively working to ensure access to education for themselves and other girls in their communities.

- **Leadership Development:** The meetings have provided the girls with opportunities to develop their leadership skills. They have taken on leadership roles within their forums, leading discussions, planning activities, and representing their peers in various capacities. These experiences have prepared them to become effective leaders in their communities and beyond.

### c. Child Rights Protection Committees (CRPC)

**Organisation and Operations:** In the period of 2022-23, the project team took substantial steps to create and animate Child Rights Protection Committees (CRPCs) in numerous communities. These committees were composed of parents of Child Labour Victims and Liberated Child Labour Victims, who were organised and steered by project team members to create the CRPCs. A total of six committees were established, amassing a total of 30 committed members.

- **Promotion of Awareness and Knowledge:** CRPCs undertook substantial efforts to create a well-informed community concerning critical issues such as gender equity, societal stigmas, and the essentiality of health and hygiene for adolescent girls. They also shed light on the detrimental impacts of child labour, with a specific emphasis on those working in the glass and bangle industry, and put forward multiple strategies for its elimination.
- **Protection and Safeguarding of Child Rights:** The CRPCs showcased a robust commitment to the protection and safeguarding of child rights. They kept a close watch on child labour incidences and worked relentlessly to prevent any occurrences within their respective communities. CRPCs played a pivotal role in the rehabilitation of Child Labour Victims by mainstreaming them into the education system.
- **Socio-economic Enhancement:** CRPCs worked tirelessly to uplift the socio-economic conditions of families impacted by child labour. They provided required information to the members about the benefits of social security schemes, laid out the eligibility criteria, and guided them through the process of availing these benefits. They also underscored the importance of savings and credit by encouraging an association with Self Help Groups (SHGs).
- **Regular Meetings and Engagements:** CRPCs organised regular monthly meetings where both members and leaders actively participated. These meetings served as a platform to discuss a variety of subjects, including the operation of Non-Formal Education (NFE) Centres, the detrimental impacts of child labour, strategies for its elimination, and the significance of maintaining gender equity.
- **Achievements and Impact:** The concerted efforts of CRPCs led to an increased awareness about child rights, gender equity, and societal taboos within the communities. They prioritised the rehabilitation and education of Child Labour Victims, leading to a significant decrease in child labour incidences. Moreover, the socio-economic conditions of families witnessed an upward trend due to better accessibility to social security schemes and increased savings.
- **Challenges and Future Directions:** Despite the substantial progress made by CRPCs, several challenges persist, including deep-seated societal taboos and economic hardships. Looking ahead, CRPCs aim to redouble their efforts, focusing on completely eradicating child labour, ensuring universal access to education for all children, and working tirelessly towards creating a child-friendly and safe community environment.

## **Child Rights Protection Committees (CRPC) Leaders' Training**

At Vikas Sansthan, we believe in empowering community organisations and officials to actively combat child labour and protect the rights of children. To achieve this goal, we organized two training programmes focused on building the capacity of community organisations and officials associated with the Child Rights Protection Committee.

The first training, the Empowerment Training of Community Organisations Formed against Child Labour, was conducted on 27th August 2022 at Vikas Ashram Rupaspur, Shikohabad. This training program, held under the Project 'Stopping Child Labour through Education & Economic Rehabilitation and Collectivization Action' supported by Misereor, Germany, brought together 36 participants from various community organisations. The objective of the training was to equip these organisations with the necessary knowledge, skills, and resources to effectively address and eradicate child labour. Through interactive sessions, workshops, and practical exercises, participants were empowered to take proactive measures, raise awareness, and advocate for the rights of children within their communities.

The second training, the Training of Officials of the Child Rights Protection Committee for the Eradication of Child Labour, took place on 23rd March 2023 in Abbas Nagar, Firozabad. This training program, also organized under the Project 'Stopping Child Labour through Education & Economic Rehabilitation and Collectivization Action' supported by Misereor, Germany, witnessed the participation of 58 officials associated with the Child Rights Protection Committee. The training aimed to enhance the officials' understanding of child labour issues, their knowledge of child rights legislation, and their ability to effectively implement measures for the eradication of child labour. Through comprehensive sessions, case studies, and group discussions, participants gained valuable insights and strategies to identify, rescue, and rehabilitate child labourers while ensuring their access to education and a safe environment.

These training programmes played a vital role in strengthening the capacity of community organisations and officials to address the issue of child labour. By equipping them with knowledge, skills, and resources, we fostered a collective and coordinated approach to combatting child labour and ensuring the protection of children's rights. We remain committed to working hand in hand with these organisations and officials to create a society free from child labour, where every child has the opportunity to grow, learn, and thrive.

### **Outputs of CRPC Trainings**

The Child Rights Protection Committees (CRPC) training programmes conducted in the 2022-23 period were instrumental in advancing the collective understanding and approach towards child labour elimination. Detailed below are the significant outputs of these training initiatives:

- 1. Improved Role Clarity:** The training workshops succeeded in enhancing the understanding of the CRPC representatives/members about their respective roles and responsibilities. This enhanced clarity is expected to lead to improved management and functioning of the CRPCs across various communities.
- 2. Strengthening School Management:** The training programmes were effective in educating both children and parents about the importance of strengthening school management systems to deliver quality education. This understanding would help to foster an environment conducive to learning, thus promoting the mainstreaming of child labour victims into the formal education system.



**3. Addressing Gender Issues:** A significant aspect of the training involved bringing light to gender issues, particularly regarding safeguarding against gender-based violence. This awareness is an important step in creating a safer, more inclusive environment for all children.

**4. Child Labour Victim Rescue and Rehabilitation:** The training sessions were instrumental in educating the participants on the processes involved in the rescue of child labour victims aged between 6-14 years. Further, the participants learned how to streamline these children into non-formal education systems, thus ensuring their right to education is upheld.

**5. Participant Commitment:** Following the training, participants expressed a renewed commitment to effectively discharge their roles and responsibilities towards the protection and safeguarding of child rights, as well as the elimination of child labour. They assured that they would assert their due entitlements and contribute actively towards the cause.

**6. Conclusion:** The training programmes have yielded positive results, with participants displaying a higher level of understanding and commitment towards child rights protection and the elimination of child labour. These outputs, combined with the participants' enthusiasm and commitment, mark a significant step forward in the fight against child labour.

### **Child Rights Protection Committee (CRPC) Meetings**

During the year 2022-23 the key discussions and resolutions that emerged from the monthly meetings of the Child Rights Protection Committee (CRPC) at Vikas Sansthan's Habibganj centre. These meetings bring together dedicated members representing all six locations to address important issues related to child rights and protection.

The discussions during the CRPC meetings centred around five significant topics, namely Child Rights, Gender Discrimination, Savings and Employment, Prevention of Social Evils, and Health. The committee members engaged in meaningful deliberations, sharing insights and perspectives to develop strategies and initiatives that prioritize the well-being and rights of children in the area.

The CRPC meetings serve as a platform for collaboration and collective action, involving all the members of the committee from the six Brick Kiln Industries of Agra District. These monthly gatherings allow for comprehensive discussions and informed decision-making, enabling the committee to address the unique challenges faced by children in the region effectively.

The CRPC meetings are organized on a monthly basis, ensuring a regular platform for dialogue, planning, and implementation of initiatives aimed at safeguarding child rights. The committee members, through their dedicated participation, demonstrate their commitment to promoting a safe and nurturing environment for children, free from exploitation and discrimination.

These meetings are conducted under the Project of Development Aid Club, Austria, which extends required support to Vikas Sansthan in its mission to protect and promote child rights. The invaluable partnership between Development Aid Club and Vikas Sansthan empowers the CRPC to work towards creating sustainable change and improving the lives of children in the area.

### **Outcomes of the Meetings Based on Each Discussion Point:**

- **Child Rights:** The meeting on child rights resulted in the parents of the liberated child labour victims agreeing that all children should have their rights respected and upheld. They committed to not only ensuring the rights of their own children but also trying to extend this to other children in their locality and surrounding areas, particularly by connecting them with educational opportunities.
- **Gender Discrimination:** The meeting's discussion on gender discrimination brought about a shared consensus among parents that both boys and girls should be treated equally. The parents agreed to foster an environment of equality, where they would extend the same love, care, and opportunities to both their sons and daughters.
- **Savings and Employment:** The meeting spurred an understanding of the importance of savings among the parents of the liberated child labour victims. They recognised that savings can provide a safety net and help create opportunities for improving their economic status. They agreed to the importance of saving and investing money wisely.
- **Prevention of Social Evils:** The meeting led to an increased awareness among the attendees about the detrimental effects of social evils like dowry, domestic violence, and child marriages, among others. They recognised that these practices hinder societal progress and agreed to work against these social evils. This recognition is a significant step towards creating a more equitable and just society.
- **Health:** The discussion on health issues culminated in a commitment from the parents of the liberated child labour victims to take proactive steps towards maintaining their health and that of their children. They acknowledged the importance of cleanliness, proper diet, and timely medical intervention. They agreed to seek immediate medical attention in case of any health concerns and committed to adopting preventive measures to avoid diseases.

### **Exposure Visit of the Office Bearers of CRPC**

An enlightening Exposure Visit programme was meticulously organized at Vikas Ashram, Rupaspur, Shikohabad, with the active participation of office bearers and members belonging to six Child Rights Protection Committees (CRPCs). These committees were established with the noble objective of safeguarding the rights of child labour victims in the bangle and glass industry. Comprising dedicated members residing in local slums, the CRPCs play a pivotal role in advocating for the rights and welfare of these vulnerable children.

The program, held on 20 August 2022, provided a valuable opportunity for the office bearers of the Child Rights Protection Committees to expand their knowledge, gain new insights, and forge meaningful connections. Through this immersive visit, the participants were exposed to the multifaceted work carried out at Vikas Ashram, which serves as a beacon of hope for child labour elimination and holistic child development. During the visit, the participants engaged in interactive sessions, informative discussions, and engaging activities that shed light on the importance of education, economic rehabilitation, and collective action in eradicating child labour.

Under the invaluable support of the Misereor project, 'Stopping Child Labour through Education & Economic Rehabilitation and Collectivization Action,' the Exposure Visit successfully empowered the office bearers of the Child Rights Protection Committees.

## **Outcomes of the Exposure Visit**

- 1. Increased Awareness and Understanding:** The Exposure Visit resulted in an increased understanding of the importance of children's rights, especially the rights of child labour victims. It emphasised the need for education and the role it plays in safeguarding these rights. The participants also gained insights into the various challenges faced by children in slum areas.
- 2. Enhanced Collaboration:** The visit facilitated a constructive exchange between different stakeholders – CRPC members, school principals, and teachers. This interaction has laid the foundation for future collaboration and knowledge exchange, helping everyone involved to work more effectively for the protection of children's rights.
- 3. New Strategies and Ideas:** The visit led to the development of new strategies to tackle child labour and secure children's rights. Ideas such as financial planning for education and the importance of balanced nutrition and spiritual development in a child's life were discussed.
- 4. Community Engagement:** The discussions and interactions during the visit highlighted the role of the community in protecting children's rights. It emphasized the importance of creating awareness among parents and society at large about social evils like child labour and child marriage.
- 5. Addressing Gender Equality:** The Exposure Visit also brought to light the need for addressing gender discrimination, a factor that often leads to the violation of children's rights. The participants agreed on the necessity to work towards eradicating gender bias and promoting equal opportunities for all children.
- 6. Focus on Values Along with Rights:** The importance of instilling values in children along with rights was also an essential outcome of the visit. It was agreed that while rights provide the necessary protection, values guide children in making the right choices.

## **Best CRPC Members Award**

On April 27, 2022, Vikas Sansthan organized the prestigious Best CRPC Member Award in the Best CRPC Member Function at Vikas Ashram Rupaspur, Shikohabad. The event was held to acknowledge and appreciate the dedicated efforts of the Child Rights Protection Committee (CRPC) members who have shown exemplary commitment towards protecting and safeguarding child rights in their respective communities.

A total of 240 CRPC members were honored with the Best CRPC Member Award during this grand ceremony. The award function was organized with the generous support of Misereor, a renowned support agency based in Germany, which has been a valuable partner in Vikas Sansthan's efforts to eliminate child labour and promote child rights.

The event was marked by a vibrant and celebratory atmosphere as CRPC members, project staff, community members, and dignitaries came together to recognize the outstanding contributions of these dedicated individuals. The award recipients were selected based on their remarkable commitment, leadership qualities, and significant

impact in promoting child rights and creating a child-friendly environment within their communities.

The Best CRPC Member Award function served as a platform to showcase the achievements and success stories of these exceptional individuals. It highlighted their tireless efforts in raising awareness, preventing child labour incidences, mainstreaming child labour victims into education, and advocating for the rights and well-being of children.

Vikas Sansthan, in collaboration with Misereor, expressed deep appreciation and gratitude to the awarded CRPC members for their unwavering dedication and selfless service. The awards were presented as a token of recognition and encouragement, motivating the recipients to continue their noble endeavors in the pursuit of child rights and social transformation.

This memorable event was a testament to the collective effort of Vikas Sansthan, Misereor, and the CRPC members in creating a child-friendly society that upholds and protects the rights of every child. It showcased the power of collaboration, compassion, and commitment in driving positive change and fostering a brighter future for children.

Vikas Sansthan and Misereor remain committed to supporting and empowering CRPC members, recognizing their pivotal role in ensuring child rights, and promoting sustainable development in the project areas. The Best CRPC Member Award in the Best CRPC Member Function was a significant milestone in this ongoing journey towards a child labour-free and child-friendly society.

The Best CRPC Member Award in the Best CRPC Member Function was not only a moment of recognition but also a platform for sharing experiences, knowledge, and best practices among the CRPC members. The event featured inspiring speeches, success stories, and interactive sessions where the awardees had the opportunity to network and learn from each other.

The Best CRPC Member Award served as a source of motivation and encouragement for the awardees to continue their exceptional work. It reinforced the importance of their role as change agents in advocating for child rights, promoting education, and safeguarding children from exploitation and abuse. The recognition received at the award function further strengthened their commitment and determination to overcome challenges and achieve greater milestones in their efforts.

Vikas Sansthan and Misereor reaffirmed their support and commitment to the CRPC members during the award function. They highlighted the significance of their ongoing collaboration and emphasized the need to continue working together to create an environment where every child can thrive, grow, and fulfill their potential.

The Best CRPC Member Award in the Best CRPC Member Function not only celebrated the accomplishments of the awardees but also served as a catalyst for further progress. It inspired other CRPC members and community members to actively participate in the protection and promotion of child rights. The event created a ripple effect, motivating more individuals to join the cause and contribute to building a society that prioritizes the well-being and development of its children.

Looking ahead, Vikas Sansthan and Misereor are dedicated to supporting the CRPC members in their ongoing efforts. They will continue to provide training, resources, and guidance to enhance their capacity and effectiveness. The Best CRPC Member Award in the Best CRPC Member Function will be an annual event, recognizing and

honoring the remarkable achievements of CRPC members, and inspiring others to follow in their footsteps.

The Best CRPC Member Award in the Best CRPC Member Function was a celebration of the transformative power of individuals working together to protect and promote the rights of children. It served as a reminder that when communities unite and empower their members, real change becomes possible, leading to a brighter and more equitable future for all children.

## **9. Awareness and Capacity Building Activities**

Over the past year, Vikas Sansthan has undertaken a range of programmes and activities designed to raise awareness of public issues and build capacity among community members. Our efforts have aimed at fostering an informed and empowered society that can advocate for and protect its rights effectively.

**Here are some highlights from our work in the past year:**

### **Capacity Building:**

Our capacity-building initiatives have focused on developing the knowledge, skills, and abilities needed to address key issues in our community. These initiatives have included:

1. **Leadership Development Workshops:** These workshops have aimed at enhancing leadership skills among community members, enabling them to drive change effectively in their respective domains.
2. **Skills Training Programmes:** We have conducted various vocational training programmes to equip community members with the skills needed for gainful employment. These programmes have covered areas like tailoring, computer literacy, and entrepreneurship.
3. **Financial Literacy Programmes:** These have aimed at increasing understanding of financial management principles, helping community members to better manage their resources and improve their economic well-being.

### **Training Meetings:**

We have held regular training meetings throughout the year, providing community members with the knowledge and tools needed to address key public issues effectively. These meetings have covered a wide range of topics, including child rights, gender equality, health awareness, and environmental conservation.

### **Awareness Programme:**

Our awareness initiatives have aimed at increasing community understanding and responsiveness to key public issues. These initiatives have included:

1. **Public Awareness Campaigns:** We have conducted a range of campaigns to raise awareness about key issues such as child labour, women's rights, and health and sanitation. These campaigns have used various mediums like street plays, rallies, posters, and social media to reach a wide audience.

2. **Community Dialogues:** We have facilitated community dialogues on critical public issues, providing a platform for community members to share their views, learn from each other, and collectively find solutions to common challenges.

3. **Information Dissemination:** We have regularly disseminated information on public issues through newsletters, brochures, and our website, helping to keep the community informed about the latest developments and best practices.

## 10. Facilitating Access to Government Schemes

In the fiscal year 2022-23, Vikas Sansthan made significant strides in connecting child labour families with various Government schemes aimed at improving their socio-economic conditions. Our team worked relentlessly to ensure these benefits reach the ones most in need. The following highlights our achievements:

**Adhaar Cards:** Our initiatives led to the creation and distribution of Adhaar cards, thereby enabling families to access various Government services and benefits tied to this essential identification document.

**Bank Accounts:** We facilitated the opening of bank accounts, ensuring that families could receive direct benefit transfers, fostering financial inclusion and enabling easy access to various financial services.

**Widow Pensions:** Our efforts ensured that eligible widows received pensions, thereby providing much-needed financial support to these vulnerable individuals.

**PAN Cards:** We helped families complete and submit applications for PAN cards, a vital requirement for certain financial transactions and identification purposes.

**Prime Minister's Residence Scheme:** Applications were submitted under the Prime Minister's residence scheme, aiming to provide families with affordable housing options.

**Ration Cards:** We facilitated the submission of applications for six new ration cards, enabling these families to access subsidized food and fuel under the Public Distribution System.

**Health Services:** Pregnant women and adolescent girls were vaccinated, and families were referred to Government hospitals for safe deliveries. We also facilitated access to the Janani Suraksha Yojana, which aims at reducing maternal and infant mortality rates by encouraging institutional deliveries. We ensured the provision of maternal child vaccinations and helped families' access Government-supplied medicines for various health treatments.

**Labour Cards:** We worked diligently to secure labour cards for parents of child labour victims, providing them with various protections and benefits under labour laws.

**Anganwadi Registration:** Children from child labour families were registered in Anganwadi, ensuring their access to early childhood care and education, as well as nutritious meals.

**Disabled Pension Scheme:** We assisted eligible individuals in receiving benefits under the Disabled Pension Scheme, providing financial support to those with disabilities.

**Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana:** Several families were benefited under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, which aims to provide affordable housing to all by 2022.

These achievements underscore Vikas Sansthan's commitment to ensuring the welfare of the most vulnerable sections of society by facilitating their access to Government

schemes. We continue to strive towards a future where every family can leverage these benefits to improve their living conditions and prospects.

## **11. Health**

### **Health Initiatives**

During the fiscal year, Vikas Sansthan actively worked on several health initiatives, focusing on health check-up camps for liberated child labour victims and their families. Our efforts were aimed at diagnosing and treating health issues, spreading awareness about the adverse effects of child labour, and encouraging families to avail of Government health services.

#### **a. Health Checkup Camps**

Throughout the year, Vikas Sansthan has been dedicated to promoting the health and well-being of Liberated Former Child Labour Victims and their families, particularly those working in Brick Kiln Industries across the Agra district. As part of our comprehensive health initiatives, we conducted multiple health check-up camps in various locations, providing vital healthcare services to a significant number of individuals.

Under the guidance of Dr. Rajeev, a skilled B.A.M.S. practitioner, these health check-up camps played an important role in diagnosing and treating prevalent health issues among the beneficiaries. Common ailments such as cold, cough, fever, body ache, breathlessness, abdominal pain, anemia, leucorrhoea, and more were addressed during these camps. Additionally, we took the opportunity to raise health awareness among the community members by distributing free masks and sanitary pads.

During the health check-up camps, Dr. Rajeev diligently examined each beneficiary, conducting thorough examinations to identify and treat a range of diseases that are prevalent in the community. This comprehensive approach ensured that individuals received appropriate medical attention and guidance for their specific health concerns. The Free Child Labour Health Check-up Camps were organized from 24th to 28th May 2022 in the project area of 6 slums in Hasmat Nagar, Firozabad. A total of 380 children benefited from these camps, receiving necessary medical care and support. This initiative was made possible through the generous support of the project 'Stopping Child Labour through Education & Economic Rehabilitation and Collectivization Action' by Misereor, Germany.

We organized another Free Child Labour Health Check-up Camps from 16th to 18th December 2022 in the project area of 5 slums in Hasmat Nagar, Firozabad. This camp benefitted 440 children, providing them with essential healthcare services and addressing their specific health needs. Once again, this initiative was made possible with the support of the project 'Stopping Child Labour through Education & Economic Rehabilitation and Collectivization Action' by Misereor, Germany.

These health check-up camps have been instrumental in improving the overall health and well-being of the Liberated Former Child Labour Victims and their families. By addressing their healthcare needs, raising awareness, and providing necessary treatments, we strive to create a healthier and more resilient community.

Vikas Sansthan remains committed to collaborating with organisations like Misereor, Germany, to implement impactful projects and initiatives that address the immediate

and long-term needs of Liberated Former Child Labour Victims and contribute to their overall well-being.

The following diseases and health conditions were checked and treated during the camps:

1. Respiratory Diseases
2. Musculoskeletal Conditions
3. Gastrointestinal Disorders
4. Anemia
5. Skin Conditions
6. Infections and Infestations
7. Women's Health Conditions

During the camps, it was not just about diagnosing and treating these conditions but also about raising awareness. The community members were educated about the symptoms of these diseases, their causes, and preventive measures.

**The outcomes of the health check-up camps were multi-fold:**

- Parents were educated about the health hazards associated with glass and bangles work, leading to a commitment to avoid engaging their children in such activities.
- Greater awareness and understanding of adolescent girls' health needs were fostered among parents, contributing to the overall health of future mothers.
- Early diagnosis of dangerous diseases enabled timely treatment, preventing further health complications.
- The camps boosted community awareness on the importance of sanitation and hygiene, contributing to the overall health of the community.

Vikas Sansthan remains committed to improving the health and well-being of liberated child labour victims and their families, and we plan to continue and expand these health initiatives in the future.

## **b. Medicines**

During each camp, medicines were provided to the patients based on their symptoms and the diagnosed diseases. These medicines were given for at least three days to ensure immediate relief and proper treatment.

## **12. Training of Team Leaders and Educators**

Throughout the year, Vikas Sansthan has prioritized the capacity building of our staff members to better equip them to carry out our mission of eradicating child labour victimisation. We believe that effective training of our team leaders and educators plays an important role in achieving our objectives. Our training programmes have focused on enhancing teaching methodologies, promoting joyful learning, and instilling a comprehensive understanding of the issues surrounding child labour.



## **Project Staff Training**

Project Staff Training is a critical component of our capacity-building initiatives at Vikas Sansthan. This training is designed to equip our team members with the necessary knowledge, skills, and strategies to effectively address the issue of child labour victimisation.

### **Project Orientation Trainings**

At Vikas Sansthan, we recognize the importance of continuous learning and capacity building for our project staff. We have organized several training programmes to equip them with the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively implement our initiatives.

One of our significant training programmes was the Project Orientation Training, which took place from 11 to 12 October 2022 at Vikas Ashram Rupaspur, Shikohabad. This training aimed to provide a comprehensive understanding of the objectives, strategies, and approaches of the project 'Stopping Child Labour through Education & Economic Rehabilitation and Collectivization Action,' supported by Misereor, Germany. Fourteen participants actively participated in this session, gaining valuable insights to further their work in eradicating child labour victimization.

In addition to the Project Orientation Training, we conducted specialized training sessions to enhance the skills and knowledge of our project staff. One such training focused on Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) and was held from 3 to 4 June 2022 at Vikas Ashram, Rupaspur, Shikohabad. Five participants underwent an intensive programme aimed at strengthening their capacity to effectively engage and empower local communities. This training was part of the Child Labour Action Programme for Equity & Rights (CLAPER) Project, supported by Xertifix, Germany.

These training initiatives highlight our commitment to building the capacity of our staff and ensuring their continuous professional development. Through the support of organisations like Misereor, Germany, and Xertifix, Germany, we strive to strengthen our efforts in eradicating child labour, promoting education, and facilitating economic rehabilitation. Together, we work towards creating a brighter and more equitable future for the children and communities we serve.

### **Gender Sensitization Training for Project Staff**

In line with our commitment to promoting gender equality and inclusivity, we organized a Gender Sensitization Training for our project staff. The training took place from 17 to 18 October 2022 at Vikas Ashram Rupaspur, Shikohabad, and was organized under the project 'Stopping Child Labour through Education & Economic Rehabilitation and Collectivization Action,' supported by Misereor.

Twelve participants actively engaged in this training program, which aimed to enhance their understanding of gender-related issues and foster a more inclusive approach in our initiatives. Through interactive sessions, discussions, and case studies, the participants gained valuable insights into the various dimensions of gender, including gender roles, stereotypes, and discrimination.

The training emphasized the importance of mainstreaming gender considerations in our work to effectively address the unique challenges and needs of both boys and girls affected by child labour. It provided a safe and open space for discussions on gender-based violence, access to education, and economic opportunities. The participants also

explored strategies to promote gender equality and empower individuals to challenge harmful societal norms and practices.

By equipping our project staff with a gender-sensitive lens, we aim to create a more inclusive and equitable environment for the children and communities we serve.

**The training programme focused on several critical areas, including:**

- **Collabouration:** The training stressed the importance of strengthening collabouration with Government agencies, local authorities, and other stakeholders. By establishing a robust network of cooperation, we can ensure the successful implementation of child labour eradication programmes.
- **Community Participation:** Encouraging the community to actively participate in monitoring child labour victimisation is required. The project staff members were trained to conduct awareness campaigns, workshops, and community meetings to help community members recognise and report instances of child labour victimisation or child rights violations.
- **Vocational Training and Skill Development:** To prevent children from returning to hazardous work environments, the staff members were trained to provide vocational training and skill development programmes for liberated child labour victims and their families, ensuring a sustainable source of income.
- **Mental Health and Emotional Well-being:** The training emphasized the importance of addressing the mental health and emotional well-being of child labour victims. This included providing counseling services, support groups, and access to professional therapists, which is necessary for successful societal integration and overall development.
- **Education and Awareness:** Promoting the importance of education among community members is a critical aspect of our mission. The project staff were trained to organize awareness campaigns, cultural programmes, and street plays to raise awareness about the negative impacts of child labour victimization and the value of education in breaking the cycle of poverty.
- **Policy Advocacy:** The staff were trained to advocate for policy changes and stricter enforcement of laws related to child labour victims, child rights, and education. This involves engaging with Government representatives, policymakers, and other stakeholders to push for necessary amendments and reforms.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Finally, regular monitoring and evaluation of the project's progress is integral to its success. The training programme included guidelines on how to identify any gaps or challenges and take corrective measures to improve the effectiveness of the project.

The Project Staff Training thus offered a comprehensive, multi-faceted approach to equip our staff with the skills and knowledge required to tackle child labour victimisation effectively. The insights gained through these sessions have significantly contributed to improving the lives of child labour victims and their families.

## **Training of Instructors on Teaching Methodology and Joyful Learning**

Training of Instructors on Teaching Methodology and Joyful Learning is a significant initiative undertaken by Vikas Sansthan to provide better and more enjoyable education to children liberated from child labour. As part of this initiative, we organized a training

programme for our project staff, focusing on teaching methodology and creating joyful learning experiences.

The training programme was conducted from 12 to 14 December 2022 at Vikas Ashram Rupaspur, Shikohabad. A total of 21 participants, including instructors and educators, took part in this training. The aim was to equip them with effective teaching techniques that foster engagement, creativity, and joy in the learning process. This training was implemented under the project 'Stopping Child Labour through Education & Economic Rehabilitation and Collectivization Action,' which is supported by Misereor, Germany. Their generous support has enabled us to enhance the skills and capabilities of our project staff, ensuring that they are equipped with the necessary tools and knowledge to provide quality education to children who have been liberated from child labour.

### **Key learning areas of the training included:**

- **Understanding the Children:** The instructors were educated on the importance of knowing about the children's mental status and background before teaching. This understanding would guide their teaching methods to be more personalised and effective.
- **Teaching Methods:** The training emphasized that education should be enjoyable for children. To this end, the instructors were shown methods of teaching that can be adopted to make learning a joyful process. This included practical, hands-on activities and game-based learning.
- **Physical and Mental Strength:** The instructors were also shown how to incorporate games that strengthen the physical and mental abilities of children. One such game was 'Ek aur Do' (One and Two), which aims to improve memory.
- **Education's Importance:** The trainers emphasized the significance of education in human life. The instructors were taught that education is not just about academics but also about discipline, values, culture, behavior, respect, and offering help to others.
- **Learn and Teach Concept:** The instructors were introduced to the 'learn and teach' concept, where they were encouraged to learn first before teaching the children. This approach aimed to facilitate better understanding and communication between the instructors and the children.
- **Teacher's Identity and Worth:** The training also stressed knowing about the identity and worth of a teacher. Understanding their role and impact on students' lives will help instructors become better educators.

By the end of the two-day training, the instructors had gained a deeper understanding of teaching methodology, joyful learning, and the holistic development of children. The insights they gained in this training programme are expected to significantly improve their teaching practices, making education a more enjoyable and meaningful process for the children they teach.

### **Monthly Staff Review Meeting**

Vikas Sansthan has been implementing a project aimed at eradicating child labour in the Brick Kiln Industry with the support of MISEREOR. To assess progress towards the project's objectives, monthly staff review meetings were held from April 2022 to March 2023 at Vikas Ashram, Rupaspur, Shikohabad, Firozabad. The primary goals of these meetings were to promote communication, provide useful feedback on job performance, facilitate better working relationships, and contribute to the professional

development of staff members. In the monthly meetings 8 staff members participated. These meetings were organized under the project 'Elimination of Child Labour through Education and Livelihood Promotion' of Development Aid Club, Austria.

During the monthly progress review meetings, presentations were given on various aspects of the project, such as:

- Achievements and ways to improve the project
- Strategies for engaging with families and addressing child labour issues
- Ensuring quality education for liberated child labour victims
- Creating awareness among adolescents on health, hygiene, nutrition, and the importance of education

Project Director Mr. Dilip Sevarthi provided guidance to workers on how to address challenges and improve the project's impact. Some of his recommendations included:

- Connecting child labour victims with education and focusing on admitting new children to education centres and schools
- Involving the mothers of child labour victims in savings initiatives and supporting them in obtaining loans
- Generating awareness for alternative livelihood options for families of liberated former child labour victims
- Creating awareness among adolescent girls on gender discrimination

**The monthly staff review meetings contributed to the project's success by:**

- Improving overall performance and attainment of project objectives
- Increasing staff engagement and strengthening working relationships
- Identifying new strategies for eliminating child labour from the glass and bangle industry
- Building staff loyalty towards the project, organisation, and community members

The monthly staff review meetings have proved to be an invaluable part of the organisation's operation, serving as a platform for reflection, planning, and decision-making. They have helped to keep the project on track, fostered a strong sense of team spirit among the staff, and ultimately contributed to the success of the organisation's mission to eradicate child labour and promote education.

### **13. Volunteering Campaigns**

Volunteering is a cornerstone of our work at Vikas Sansthan. Our volunteers are integral to our mission of eradicating child labour victimisation, promoting education, and ensuring the rights of children in the affected areas.

In this respect, on 7th February 2023, we conducted a training session for 32 selected volunteers in Abbas Nagar, Firozabad. These volunteers expressed a desire to contribute to our social work initiatives in the project area. This training was organised under the Project 'Stopping Child Labour through Education & Economic Rehabilitation and Collectivization Action' supported by Misereor, Germany

**Key highlights of our Volunteering Campaigns during this year include:**

**Training of Volunteers:** The training session was designed to equip volunteers with the knowledge and skills necessary for effective social work in the five slum areas. They were trained to work closely with our existing project staff to contribute to the development of child labour victims and their families.

**Monitoring and Evaluation:** Regular monitoring and evaluation of volunteer performance were carried out to ensure adherence to guidelines and objectives set during the training. Support and guidance were provided as needed.

**Community Awareness Campaigns:** Trained volunteers led community awareness campaigns and meetings to educate parents and community members on the importance of education, gender equality, and the negative consequences of child labour victimisation.

**Government Schemes and Welfare Programmes:** Volunteers facilitated access to Government schemes and social welfare programmes for the families of child labour victims, ensuring they received necessary support and benefits.

**Promotion of Savings and Income-generating Activities:** Volunteers encouraged savings and income-generating activities among child labour victim families. This initiative aimed at promoting financial stability and reducing the likelihood of children returning to work.

**Strengthening of Community-level Organisations:** Volunteers played a critical role in strengthening community-level organisations such as Bal Panchayat, Child Rights Protection Committees, Kishori Balika Manch, and Self-Help Groups. These organisations continue to raise awareness, protect rights, and promote development within their respective slums.

**Collabouration with Local Authorities:** Volunteers collabourated with local authorities, Government officials, and other stakeholders to ensure the successful implementation and continuation of the project's objectives.

**Monthly Meetings for Adolescent Girls:** Volunteers continued to conduct monthly meetings for adolescent girls in the Kishori Balika Manch to raise awareness of their rights and promote gender equality.

**Regular Follow-ups:** Volunteers carried out regular follow-ups with liberated child labour victims and their families to monitor their progress, provide support, and address any challenges they may face in their transition to mainstream education and improved livelihoods.

## 14. Sports and Games

In a year characterized by both challenges and triumphs, sports and games were essential elements of our programme at Vikas Sansthan. They served as platforms to enhance the physical and mental abilities of child labour victims, allowing them to showcase their talent and encouraging them to focus on their future. This was organized under the activity of the Misereor Project 'Stopping Child Labour through Education & Economic Rehabilitation and Collectivization Action'.

## **Games Competition**

On March 15, 2023, we organised a successful Games Competition at Vikas Ashram, Rupaspur Shikohabad, Firozabad. This event saw enthusiastic participation from 60 child labour victims from five slum centres.

The competition was designed to encourage the beneficiaries to stay away from hazardous bangle and glass work, and instead, focus on studying, playing, and skill development. The event included multiple games such as Kho-Kho, Kabaddi, Speech, Dance, Tug-of-War, each requiring various physical and mental capabilities.

Mr. Dilip Sevarthi, Director of Vikas Sansthan, emphasized the importance of play and talent showcasing during the event. He highlighted how games contribute to physical health by increasing blood circulation and strengthening bones.

## **Competition Winners and Awards**

Preceding the main event, several competitions were held among all the children at each centre. Winning teams from these centres participated in the final competition.

The Kho-Kho competition was won by the team from Hasmat Nagar, while the Kabaddi competition saw Samrat Nagar's team emerge as the winners. The Tug-of-War competition was won by Abbas Nagar's team.

In the Dance competition, Mahak from Hasmat Nagar won the first prize, followed by Rakhi from Ganga Nagar and Mina Bano from Abbas Nagar in the second and third places respectively.

In the Speech competition, Dilqasa Bano from Hasmat Nagar won the first prize for her inspiring speech on children's rights, gender discrimination, and child labour issues.

All winners were honoured by the Vikas Sansthan's Director, Programme Manager, and the referee, encouraging them to continue developing their skills and focusing on education.

## **Impact and Future Direction**

The Games Competition not only provided a platform for these young talents to shine but also demonstrated the important role of sports and games in building a healthier and happier future for the beneficiaries. The event was conducted with discipline and rules, and the child labour victims participated enthusiastically.

Looking ahead, we plan to expand our sports and games initiatives, providing more opportunities for our beneficiaries to grow, learn, and succeed.

# **15. Events for Awareness**

## **Events for Awareness**

Throughout the year, Vikas Sansthan has taken the initiative to organise several capacity-building events, training meetings, and awareness programmes to educate and empower former child labour victims.

## **Meeting of Former Child Labour Victims on Independence Day**

On 15th August 2022, Independence Day, Vikas Sansthan organized a meeting with 58 Liberated Child Labour Victims in Rupaspur, Shikohabad

### **Christmas and New Year Celebration**

On 25th December 2022, Vikas Sansthan celebrated Christmas Day and New Year at Vikas Ashram, Rupaspur, Shikohabad. The event saw participation from 200 individuals, including liberated child labour victims, their guardians, children's tutors, and workers of Vikas Sansthan. This event was organised under the project 'Elimination of Child Labour through Education and Livelihood Promotion' supported by Development Aid Club, Austria..

### **World Day against Child Labour**

To mark the World Day against Child Labour on 12th June 2022, a programme was organised at Vikas Ashram, Rupaspur, Shikohabad. Attended by 80 sponsored children, the event aimed to spread awareness about child labour victimization and its physical and mental side effects. This event was organized under the project 'Elimination of Child Labour through Education and Livelihood Promotion' by Development Aid Club, Austria.

### **Outputs of the Events**

The events organised by Vikas Sansthan have had significant outputs, which are reflected in the increased capacity and awareness among the children and their families.

#### **Meeting of Former Child Labour Victims on Independence Day**

As a result of this event, the children learned about their rights and the significance of Independence Day. They developed a deeper understanding of the concept of freedom and the necessity to fight for their rights. This event also fostered a sense of unity and camaraderie among the children. Post-meeting, many children were reported to have been more vocal about their concerns and exhibited a newfound confidence in expressing their views.

### **Christmas and New Year Celebration**

This celebration had a multifaceted impact. It fostered unity among the children and promoted the acceptance of diverse religious beliefs. The speeches and discussions about child rights and education helped to reinforce the importance of these topics. Following the event, there was an increased interest among the children to pursue education seriously. The guardians too showed a more positive attitude towards the education of their children.

### **World Day Against Child Labour**

This event significantly increased awareness about child labour and its detrimental effects. It also encouraged empathy among the participants, helping them understand the hardships faced by child labour victims. This led to a heightened resolve among the children to support their peers and actively participate in the fight against child labour. It also led to an increase in the number of children seeking educational and vocational support from Vikas Sansthan.

## **16. Corona Epidemic Precautions**

The past year has been marked by the unprecedented challenges of the Corona Virus Pandemic, a global crisis that touched every community, including ours. Vikas Sansthan took proactive measures to ensure the safety of our beneficiaries and their families, focusing on the distribution of face masks and education about the importance of pandemic precautions.

### **Face Mask Distribution**

Amidst the challenging circumstances, we became acutely aware of the financial hardships faced by families in our project area, particularly those belonging to the working class. Many of them were struggling to meet their basic needs, including essential items like face masks. In response to this pressing issue, Vikas Sansthan launched a face mask distribution drive, aiming to alleviate the burden on these vulnerable communities.

The drive focused on child labour victims and their parents who were employed at Brick Kilns and lacked the means to purchase masks. We recognized the importance of providing them with protective gear to safeguard their health and well-being. Therefore, we distributed 600 face masks free of cost across six Brick Kilns in the Agra District. This initiative was a critical step in mitigating the risks posed by the virus and ensuring the safety of these marginalized communities. The distribution of masks was carried out in conjunction with our health check-up camps, where individuals received comprehensive medical care.

This mask distribution initiative was made possible under the project 'Elimination of Child Labour through Education and Livelihood Promotion' by Development Aid Club, Austria. Their generous support has played a pivotal role in enabling us to provide essential resources and support to those in need.

At Vikas Sansthan, we remain committed to addressing the immediate and long-term needs of child labour victims and their families. By extending our reach and collaborating with organisations like Development Aid Club, Austria, we strive to create a safer and healthier environment for these vulnerable communities.

### **Raising Awareness**

In addition to distributing masks, we made an intense effort to educate the beneficiaries and their families about the importance and proper use of masks. Our activists spoke in detail with the liberated former child labour victims and their families, explaining the utility of masks and how to use and clean them properly.

We emphasized the necessity of wearing a mask when going out, interacting with others, sitting in close proximity to others, and when feeling unwell. This education aimed to empower them with the knowledge needed to protect themselves and others from the Corona Virus and other airborne diseases.

### **The Way Forward**

As we continue to navigate the challenges of the pandemic, we remain committed to the health and safety of our beneficiaries and their families. While the distribution of vaccines signals hope for an end to the pandemic, we know that the need for precautionary measures, including the use of masks, remains paramount. Going



forward, we will continue to prioritize health education and resources, ensuring our communities are equipped with the knowledge and tools they need to stay safe.

## 17. Future Plans and Goals

**Future plans and goals for Vikas Sansthan for the upcoming years are as follows:**

- **Expansion of Child Labour Rehabilitation:** The organisation plans to expand its efforts to stop and rehabilitate child labour. It will strive to reach more areas in Uttar Pradesh and beyond, with a particular focus on industries notorious for child labour. Additionally, Vikas Sansthan will strengthen its Non-Formal Education (NFE) system and enhance collaborations with regular schools to mainstream liberated child labour victims.
- **Broadening the Scope of Education and Livelihood Programs:** Vikas Sansthan will further develop its educational and livelihood programmes to not only combat child labour but also improve the overall socio-economic status of the affected families. More vocational training programmes will be introduced to provide practical skills to individuals from affected families, helping them find gainful employment.
- **Enhancing Women Development and Empowerment:** The organisation will strengthen its commitment to women's empowerment. By conducting more awareness programmes and providing more opportunities for microfinance and economic development, Vikas Sansthan aims to ensure that women can lead in solving community issues and developing local economies.
- **Strengthening Public Participation:** Aiming to engage more citizens in development, the organisation will create more opportunities for public participation. This will include expanding Bal Panchayat (Children Parliament), Adolescent Girls Forums, and Child Rights Protection Committee (CRPC) and facilitating more community workshops and training sessions.
- **Increasing Access to Government Schemes and Benefits:** Vikas Sansthan will continue its work as a liaison between beneficiaries and the government, facilitating access to various government schemes and benefits. The goal is to ensure economic and social security for more families affected by child labour.
- **Boosting Health and Well-being Initiatives:** The organisation will scale up its health checkup camps, medicine distribution initiatives, and epidemic precaution measures, ensuring the health and well-being of beneficiaries.
- **Capacity Building and Training Enhancement:** Vikas Sansthan plans to improve its training programmes for team leaders, educators, and community members. This will ensure the effective implementation of projects and initiatives and foster a more empowered, informed, and proactive community.
- **Strengthening Partnerships and Collaboration:** The organisation aims to broaden its network of partners, both locally and internationally. It will strive to form new alliances with other NGOs, government bodies, and private entities to work collectively towards the elimination of child labour and promoting sustainable development.
- **Research and Advocacy:** Vikas Sansthan plans to intensify its research efforts to gain a deeper understanding of the issues it addresses. The insights gathered will inform

its strategies and interventions. Furthermore, the organisation will engage in more robust advocacy efforts to influence policy and decision-making in favor of child rights, education, and social justice.

- **Digital Inclusion:** As the world becomes increasingly digital, Vikas Sansthan recognises the need to include marginalised communities in the digital age. It will continue providing computer training and digital literacy programmes, while also looking to increase access to technology and infrastructure in rural and marginalised areas.
- **Environmental Sustainability:** Recognising the urgent need for environmental conservation, the organisation plans to conduct more awareness programmes about the importance of sustainable practices. It will also introduce eco-friendly initiatives within its projects and in the communities it serves.
- **Disaster Preparedness and Response:** Vikas Sansthan aims to enhance its disaster response capabilities to provide timely assistance and support to communities affected by natural disasters. Moreover, the organisation plans to conduct disaster preparedness training and workshops to enhance community resilience and reduce vulnerability to future disasters.
- **Enhancing Media and Communication Strategy:** The organisation intends to harness the power of various media channels to raise awareness about child labour issues and its work. Developing and disseminating more communication materials such as newsletters, reports, and success stories will be a priority to inform stakeholders of the organisation's progress and impact.
- **Improving Organisational Capacity:** Capacity building for Vikas Sansthan teams will continue to be a focus area, with plans to conduct more training programmes and workshops to enhance their understanding of child labour issues and capacity to effectively address these challenges.
- **Networking and Alliance Building:** Vikas Sansthan will further engage in networking and alliance-building activities with social service organisations, civil society organisations, and networks to share knowledge, resources, and expertise. This collaborative approach will help in amplifying the collective impact in addressing child labour and related issues.
- **Organisational Development and Governance:** Vikas Sansthan will work towards strengthening its organisational governance and internal systems. This includes improving financial management, human resource development, and strategic planning processes. Transparent and accountable practices will continue to be implemented to maintain the trust and confidence of stakeholders, partners, and beneficiaries.
- **Outreach and Expansion:** Vikas Sansthan plans to extend its reach to new communities and areas affected by child labour, ensuring more children and families benefit from its programmes and services. Strategies for further growth and expansion will be devised to maximize impact.
- **Fundraising and Resource Mobilisation:** The organisation intends to strengthen its financial sustainability by diversifying its funding sources, engaging more with donors and supporters, and mobilising resources through fundraising events, campaigns, and grant applications to support its projects and initiatives.
- **Continued Monitoring and Evaluation:** Vikas Sansthan will continue its regular monitoring and evaluation of ongoing projects. This approach ensures their effectiveness and efficiency, leading to continuous improvement and better outcomes for beneficiaries.

- **Recognition and Awards:** While the primary focus is to effect positive change, the organisation also aims to seek recognition for its efforts to encourage more support and to boost the morale of its teams.
- **Advocacy and Policy Influence:** Vikas Sansthan will enhance its advocacy efforts at local, regional, and national levels to influence policy and decision-making in favor of child rights, education, and social justice.

## 18. Case Studies

### Breaking Chains of Tradition: The Story of Asiya Bano

Asiya Bano, a 12-year-old girl, resided in Mohalla Samrat Nagar, Firozabad, with her family of eight. Daughter of Tasbur Baig, Asiya's life echoed the footsteps of her



ancestors. A lineage steeped in orthodox traditions and deprived of the light of education, Asiya, along with her six siblings, mirrored their forefathers' life trajectories. A room cramped with nine bodies, empty stomachs, and dreams confined within bangle-making was the world Asiya knew. The shackles of their religious misinterpretations and societal norms stifled the chance of any girl in their family receiving an education.

At the tender age of eight, Asiya was thrust into the world of work, trading her playtime for hours of strenuous bangle polishing. A salary of mere Rupees 50 was the price for her childhood, leaving her physically and mentally exhausted, with little room for her growth and development. Her days echoed with monotony, devoid of basic childhood pleasures, consequently leading to health issues such as anemia and malnourishment. Asiya's life, like many girls in her society, was steeped in ignorance and economic

hardship.

Then, the winds of change started to blow. Social workers from Vikas Sansthan stumbled upon Asiya's story. Despite initial failures to convince Asiya's parents of the importance of education, they did not retreat. Instead, they sought help from local community members,



building a collective voice against child labour and advocating for the right to education.

An educated Muslim girl from the neighborhood became a beacon of hope for Asiya, as she shattered the patriarchal and misinterpreted religious beliefs that clouded Asiya's family's judgment. This living example served as a catalyst for change, instigating Tasbur Baig to reconsider his stance and allow Asiya and her younger brother to receive education.

Asiya and her brother were enrolled in Class 1 at the Child Labour Non-Formal Education Centre in July 2022. This decision marked a new chapter in Asiya's life. A life not defined by labour but brimming with opportunities. From forming two-letter words in Hindi to solving numerical problems, Asiya's academic journey began.

In tandem with education, Asiya found herself immersed in playful activities, an aspect of childhood she had been bereft of. Meanwhile, the Child Rights Protection Committee steadily worked on increasing awareness about children's rights among Asiya's parents, and an SHG initiative was implemented to improve the family's financial condition.

Liberated from the shackles of child labour, Asiya is eager to pursue her education until the 12th grade and beyond, determined to secure employment and rewrite her destiny. Her joyous laughter at the centre is evidence to the success of Vikas Sansthan's endeavours and a symbol of hope for many girls languishing in the depths of child labour.

## **Unraveling the Threads of Destiny The Journey of Saliman Begum to Self-Reliance**

Saliman Begum, a 45-year-old Muslim woman, wife to Mohammad Shakeel, and mother to nine children, residing in Mohalla Samrat Nagar, Firozabad. Within the narrow confines of her two-room house, Saliman's story is one of strength, resilience, and the will to transform her circumstances.



Saliman's story is one of strength, resilience, and the will to transform her circumstances.

Saliman's family, comprising her husband, four daughters, and five sons, of whom three are married, found sustenance through bangle weaving and cutting. Unfortunately, Saliman's husband developed visual and auditory impairments, ending his contribution to their livelihood. With limited

education and skills, Saliman continued to weave bangles, earning 3000 rupees monthly to ensure the continuity of her family's life.

Her three elder sons, employed as labourers, supported their individual families, leaving Saliman to fend for the rest of the brood. The unreliable nature of their work and the overarching financial crisis cast a shadow of despair over their lives. Yet, amidst the hardships, Saliman nurtured a dream – to educate one of her daughters.

This dream sparked a transformation when social workers from Vikas Sansthan crossed paths with Saliman. Through awareness programmes and discussions, they introduced her to Jeevandhara Company's savings scheme. With the hope of a better future for her

family, Saliman began setting aside 200 rupees each month, amassing a sum of 4000 rupees by August 2022.

Recognising Saliman's potential and the need to enhance her income, the team at Vikas Sansthan suggested she run a grocery shop. The idea resonated with Saliman. She envisioned herself not just as a mother and a wife, but as a woman capable of self-reliance.

Embracing her entrepreneurial journey, Saliman utilised a loan of 5000 rupees from Jeevandhara Company, secured with Vikas Sansthan's assistance, to set up a small grocery store. Every day, she sat behind the counter, serving customers and nurturing her small venture. Gradually, the store began to flourish, earning her 100 to 150 rupees daily, contributing to her growing savings and increasing her self-confidence.

Saliman's relentless spirit and dedication began to bear fruit within two months. Her humble grocery store not only provided a steady income but also ignited a flame of hope within her. Dreaming bigger, she started planning to expand her business, considering another loan from Jeevandhara Company.

With her bangle-weaving days behind her, Saliman had successfully shifted her life's narrative towards self-reliance and empowerment. Her success allowed her to fulfill her long-held dream - to provide an education for one of her daughters. Saliman's transformation shone as a beacon of hope, challenging the orthodox norms of her community that often held women back.

Today, Saliman Begum is more than just a bangle-weaver. She is a small business owner, an engaged participant in Vikas Sansthan's programs, and a daring woman breaking societal norms to carve a path of development and self-reliance for herself and her family. Her story serves as an inspiration, testifying that change is possible, even in the face of adversity.

## **Awakening the Dawn**

### **The Transformation of Khushboo Bano from a Bangle Worker to an Ambitious Student**

Let's delve into the world of Khushboo Bano, a 15-year-old Muslim girl residing in Mohalla Hasmat Nagar, Firozabad. As the eldest of five siblings, Khushboo's tale unfurls like a promising sunrise after a long, dark night.



The turning wheel of Khushboo's life started spinning early. At nine, she joined her mother and younger siblings in the glass factories, breaking glass for bangles. Meanwhile, her father, Pappu Khan, worked as a painter. The specter of alcoholism shadowed the men in her family, leading her grandfather to pawn their home and her father to neglect her education.

Khushboo's world was boxed within the confines of bangle work, excluding her from experiencing

childhood or education. This limited exposure to the world left her oblivious to her own rights and oblivious to the exploitation she faced.

Even the personal sphere of her life was shrouded in secrecy and shame. Menstruation, a natural biological process, was seen as a source of embarrassment. Khushboo used unhygienic alternatives to sanitary pads, leading to infections due to her lack of awareness.

A ray of light pierced through Khushboo's world when she was introduced to Kishori Manch (Adolescence club). The platform provided an avenue for Khushboo to learn about gender discrimination, personal development, and the importance of education.

The seeds of change had been sown. Emboldened by her newfound knowledge, Khushboo persuaded her mother about the importance of her education. While her mother agreed, her father was still resistant, concerned about the financial implications of her reduced work hours.

Vikas Sansthan workers and Kishori Manch members joined the chorus to advocate for Khushboo's education, regularly visiting her home to discuss her potential and future with her parents. Slowly, they began to see the merit of their arguments, allowing Khushboo to attend the Child Labour Non-Formal Education Centre.

A hiccup occurred when Khushboo's father abruptly pulled her out of school after class 3. However, the persistent efforts of the Sansthan workers and fellow Kishori Manch girls led to her readmission. Khushboo resumed her education journey, attending Pre-Secondary School in Ramgarh from class 6 onwards.

Khushboo's life began to bloom. In addition to her academic education, she started attending sewing and embroidery classes, charting a path towards self-reliance and development. Moreover, she continued to be an active participant in Kishori Manch meetings, reflecting her commitment to personal growth.

The transformation extended beyond Khushboo. Her mother, upon being informed about savings and financial management, joined the Jeevandhara Company with a monthly savings plan. In turn, her mother also enrolled her younger siblings in the Child Labour Non-Formal Education Centre, limiting their work to two hours per day.

Khushboo's journey towards self-awareness also improved her personal hygiene practices. Guided by health-related information from Kishori Manch and free sanitary pads provided by Vikas Sansthan, Khushboo transitioned to a healthier and more informed menstrual hygiene regimen.

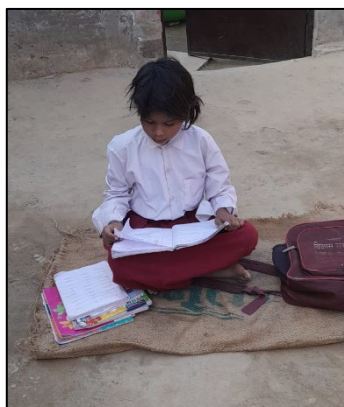
Khushboo Bano isn't just another bangle worker lost in the crowd; she's an ambitious student, a confident girl who isn't afraid to discuss her problems in Kishori Balika Manch (Adolescence Girls Forum), and a beacon of hope for other girls in her community. Her goal is to study up to class 12th and develop her sewing and

## **A Beacon of Hope in Dire Circumstances**

### **Jyoti's Triumph over Adversity**

Meet Jyoti, an 11-year-old girl from Vijay Nagar, a slum area in Firozabad. Born into a family of six sisters and a sickly father, Jyoti is an epitome of resilience and determination. Her life story is remarkable example of the transformative power of education, even in the face of severe adversities.

Jyoti's family, headed by her father Jaychandra Singh, resides in a modest semi-constructed rented room. Her mother, Devaki Devi, tragically passed away three years



ago due to anemia, weakness, and Tuberculosis. Jaychandra, too, is plagued by illness and a debilitating hand injury suffered while working in a factory. Since then, the family has relied solely on bangle work for their subsistence. However, the scanty income from this work barely sustains their daily needs.

In the midst of these challenges, workers from the Vikas Sansthan met Jyoti and her father during a survey. After hearing about their dire circumstances and realising that none of the Singh children had received an education, the

workers suggested the family avail of the services of the Non-Formal Education Centre.

Despite the Centre's no-cost education policy, Jaychandra initially refused due to his dependence on his children's earnings from bangle work.

After multiple persuasions, Jaychandra reluctantly agreed to send Jyoti and her younger sisters to the Non-Formal Education Centre, albeit irregularly. The economic condition of the family improved slightly as Vikas Sansthan provided financial aid and ration during the lockdown. The improvement in Jaychandra's health also enabled him to contribute to the family income through regular bangle work.

Furthermore, he began saving, indicating a significant change in his financial habits.

Despite these improvements, formal schooling remained out of reach for Jyoti due to the family's economic constraints. Recognising the enthusiasm in Jyoti's eyes for learning, Vikas Sansthan workers introduced the family to the sponsorship scheme. Under this scheme, Jyoti would receive free tuition, study materials, uniforms, and stationary, fully funded by the Sansthan.

Overcoming his initial hesitations, Jaychandra enrolled Jyoti in the scheme, resulting in her admission to Maa Bhagwati School, near Vijay Nagar, coupled with free tutoring. This admission brought about a paradigm shift in Jyoti's life.

Now, Jyoti regularly attends school and her life has dramatically changed since joining the sponsorship scheme. She has fully embraced her chance at an education and dreams of becoming a teacher, serving her community by educating future generations.



Despite seemingly insurmountable obstacles, Jyoti is on a path to become a successful citizen and an inspiration to her community. Her journey highlights the potential within every child, and the profound impact that education and community support can have on their lives.

## **Resilience in the Face of Adversity**

### **The Life-Changing Journey of Ramu**

Ramu is a 14-year-old boy living in Azad Nagar slum, carrying the responsibility of his family at a tender age. His mother, Rani Devi, tragically passed away during his



birth, leaving Ramu's visually impaired father, Ramdhani, with the heavy burden of raising five children alone. Ramu's family, consisting of four sisters and an elder brother, faced mounting hardships, further aggravated by his eldest brother's alcohol addiction and disinterest in financially contributing to the family.

The family's primary source of income was through bangle welding work, undertaken by Ramu and his sisters. Their dwelling was a single room, semi-constructed under a government housing scheme, lacking basic amenities like a proper water system. Yet, despite their bleak circumstances, Ramu's family showed remarkable resilience.

Ramu's life took a turn when Vikas Sansthan workers, during a survey to identify child labour victims, came across his family. They noticed the dire economic condition of Ramu's family and decided to intervene. Ramu and his two elder sisters were connected to the Non-Formal Education Centre run by Vikas Sansthan, offering them an opportunity for education they had previously been denied.

After one year at the Centre, Ramu's sisters transferred to a nearby government junior school. However, due to the lack of a nearby primary school and their family's crippling economic condition, Ramu was unable to join a formal school. Recognising Ramu's potential and the immense challenges he faced, Vikas Sansthan chose Ramu as a beneficiary of the Sponsorship project. This decision paved the way for Ramu's admission to Aryan Modern Public School, with all expenses covered under the sponsorship.

Simultaneously, the Sansthan team assisted Ramu's family in improving their living conditions. They helped Ramu's family benefit from the Pradhan Mantri Awas Vikas Yojana, resulting in a well-constructed house with a tap water system. They also facilitated tailoring training for Ramu's elder sister, providing an additional income source and helped the family obtain a ration card to avail benefits of government schemes.

Today, Ramu is not only attending school regularly but also receiving tuition, nourishing his intellect and instilling a love for learning. The changes brought about by the sponsorship scheme and the support from Vikas Sansthan have been monumental



in Ramu's life. His world, which once revolved around daily labour, now extends to dreams of a brighter future.

Ramu's transformation is not just about getting an education but also about developing a broader perspective on life. His dream is to become a soldier, a goal reflecting his growing social responsibility and desire to serve his country. The positive social changes resulting from the assistance of Vikas Sansthan have made Ramu an embodiment of resilience and determination.

From a child labourer to a hopeful student dreaming of serving his country, Ramu's journey is an inspiration and a reminder of our collective responsibility towards creating a society free from child labour.

## **19. Acknowledgements and Appreciation**

As we reflect on the year 2022-23 and our journey at Vikas Sansthan, we extend our heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to everyone who played a part in turning our vision into reality.

We are profoundly grateful to our donors and partners - Misereor, Germany; Entwicklungshilfeclub, Austria; and XERTIFIX, Germany, whose financial support made it possible for us to implement our projects and initiatives. Their generosity and belief in our cause have been instrumental in driving our mission forward.

We extend our sincere appreciation to local Government agencies, social service organisations, and other stakeholders for their unwavering support and cooperation. Their efforts in collaborating with us have created a more coordinated approach towards child labour eradication and community development.

We express our deep gratitude to all the team members at Vikas Sansthan for their tireless efforts and dedication to our cause. Their commitment and hard work have been the cornerstone of our successful initiatives, and we appreciate their contribution immensely.

Our heartfelt thanks go out to the Self-Help Groups, the Child Rights Protection Committee, and all the individuals in the communities we serve. Their participation, resilience, and faith in our work are what fuels our purpose and keeps us inspired.

Our acknowledgement would be incomplete without appreciating the children and families that we work with. Their courage and determination in overcoming adversities remind us every day why our work is so important.

We would also like to express our gratitude to the volunteers, advocates, and individuals who lent their time, energy, and expertise to our cause. Your involvement has indeed made a significant difference.

Lastly, we extend our appreciation to the media for covering our work and amplifying our voice, thereby helping us to raise awareness about child labour issues and the necessity for community development.

As we move forward, we are filled with hope and determination. The journey is long, but with the continued support of all our partners, team members, and communities, we are confident that we can create a world where child labour is a thing of the past.

Thank you for standing with us and for making this journey possible. We look forward to what we will achieve together in the years to come.





