

At Concern India Foundation, every number tells a human story of resilience, hope, and transformation. Through our dedication to Health, Education and Community Development, we have been privileged to walk alongside 5,95,331 individuals on their healthcare journeys, open doors to education for 80,945 learners and transform the lives of 2,04,557 community members across India in 2023-24. Behind each figure is a life changed, a family supported and a community strengthened.



# Newsletter - 2024

AUG - NOV



HELPING PEOPLE HELP THEMSELVES

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# Stories of Change

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## **A Mother's Unyielding Spirit to overcome all the adversity**

Married at 18, Neelam's life has been an uphill journey. With four children to care for and an alcoholic husband who abandoned them, she's carried the weight of providing on her own. Her work as a housemaid brings in INR 5,000 each month, but with INR 2,000 going toward rent for her small jhuggi in Wazirabad Village, Gurugram, making ends meet has been a constant struggle. The lack of space to even cook a meal inside her home has only added to her daily challenges.

Yet, over the past two years, ration support has provided Neelam with a much-needed reprieve. With this assistance, she can finally focus on other essentials, like her children's education and health. It's her dream to see each of them in school, knowing that education is their ticket to a self-reliant and brighter future. Two of her children are now enrolled, and she continues to work tirelessly to get the remaining two admitted, a process slowed down by the lack of birth certificates.

Neelam is profoundly grateful for the ration support, which eases her worry of providing daily meals, allowing her to redirect resources to medical care and other essentials. Her resilience and dedication to her children's future are inspiring.

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## Sanjana's Journey from Hardship to Hope

In the small town of Vaikom, Trivandrum, Kerala, nestled within the rhythms of daily labour and struggle, Sanjana's family worked tirelessly to keep afloat. Her father, a labourer and her mother taking MNREGA jobs whenever available, brought in an income that never exceeded INR 5,000 a month. Despite these financial challenges, Sanjana held onto a dream—to complete her college education and uplift her family from the grip of poverty. A dream is just the beginning. It wasn't until Sanjana found our 'Employability Skill Training in Customer Relationship Management (Non-Voice) and Digital Skilling for Underprivileged Women' program that her aspirations began to take shape. She embraced this opportunity with grit, pouring herself into every lesson, fueled by a hope that one day, her hard work would bring light into her family's life.

And it did. After completing the course, Sanjana secured a job with Cogent Company in Mangalore, earning INR 15,000 a month. For her, this wasn't just a paycheck—it was the promise of security and stability. It was a stepping stone to a future she could build, not just for herself, but for her family. The relief, pride, and joy she felt were shared by her family and everyone who had watched her journey.

Sanjana's story is one of many. It reminds us that education and skill-building aren't just about learning; they are pathways to dignity, independence, and a brighter future. Her story is a powerful reminder of why our work matters and how, together, we can continue to make a difference.

## Vensika's Path to a Brighter Future

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Belonging to the fishing community of Mumbai, Venshika's family depend on the sea for their livelihood. Her father, a fisherman with a rented boat, often struggles to make ends meet, especially with her mother's fragile health requiring regular medication. Each day, Venshika's family balances the weight of survival against the hope of a better future. Often, Venshika misses school to help her mother with household chores, while one of her siblings has already left school to support their father on the boat, working tirelessly to supplement their family income.

For Venshika, education was a beacon of hope, a glimpse into a life of opportunity. Yet, it seemed out of reach—until she received a scholarship through Concern India Foundation. This scholarship became more than just financial aid; it became a lifeline, allowing Venshika to continue her studies without the weight of guilt or financial burden on her father's shoulders. Combined with regular counseling sessions, she found a safe space to express her worries, clear her mind, and start setting tangible goals for her education and future. The results have been inspiring. With newfound clarity and support, Venshika's school attendance improved significantly. Her family began to see the value of her education in a new light, understanding that her success could one day bring about the change they long for. Through counselling and careful goal-setting, Venshika set her sights high—and she achieved them, proudly earning 70% in her exams.

Venshika's journey is a testament to the life-changing impact of education, emotional support, and guidance all woven together. Empowering students goes beyond classrooms and textbooks; it's about nurturing their dreams and helping them overcome the odds.





## A Breath of Relief

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For 68-year-old Kumari Shankaraiah of Rudraram village, Telangana, the days had been difficult, burdened by persistent breathing issues that she simply couldn't afford to address. The discomfort had lingered for days, but seeking medical help felt like a luxury her family couldn't afford. All of that changed when a health camp arrived in her community, organized by the Concern India Foundation and supported by a dedicated medical team.

At the camp, Kumari finally felt cared for. Doctors conducted a thorough examination, checking her blood pressure, sugar levels, and lung function. They quickly identified asthma as the source of her symptoms and arranged a hospital visit, complete with free transportation for a more in-depth assessment. For Seema, this assistance was life-changing. She underwent all the necessary tests to understand the severity of her asthma and received medication to help her breathe easier, all provided with warmth and compassion.

Kumari left the camp filled with gratitude, her health revitalised and her spirit lifted. For her, the health camp had been a lifeline, restoring her well-being and showing her that compassionate healthcare is possible, regardless of financial constraints.



# Our Events

# The Buzz Behind Better Harvests in Odisha

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In Kantapanhara village, Banki block, Odisha, a quiet transformation has been taking root. Over the past two years, farmers have noticed something remarkable happening to their crops: a surge in yield and quality. The heroes behind this story are the hardworking bees.

For farmers like Prasanna Routh, the difference has been profound. His paddy yield rose from 10 to 12 quintals and his brinjal and banana crops are flourishing with new vigor. Subhash Nayak, another dedicated farmer, harvested an impressive 60 quintals of cashews from his 10-acre garden, up from 50. For these farmers, each extra quintal means more food, more security, and renewed hope for the future.

These gains didn't come from complex farming changes or costly inputs. Instead, they stemmed from simple bee boxes, introduced by local beekeepers trained under the beekeeping initiative. The bees naturally boosted pollination, making each blossom count, each plant more productive, and every harvest a little brighter.

This initiative is a beautiful reminder that nature, when nurtured, gives back in abundance. It's a story of small yet powerful pollinators quietly transforming fields and farmers' lives, one flower at a time. As bees continue their gentle, unassuming work, they're helping to create a more resilient, fruitful future for Kantapanhara and beyond.



## Warm Welcome to our New Members!

**Sonal Lalit Gawali** - HO Mumbai | **Neha Chaurasia** - HO Mumbai

**Gloria Gomes Bhagat** - Mumbai | **Manasi Nerurkar** - Mumbai

**Thanuja AP** - Bengaluru | **Jayasy Haridasan** - Pune | **Chaitra Nagesh Todur** - Pune

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