



“
तुम जिस
पल में
जिंदा हो
वो पल तुम से
जिंदा है ”

PUKAR

ANNUAL REPORT

2025-2026

We, the People of India

आम्ही भारताचे लोक

நாம், இந்தியாவின் மக்கள்

हम, भारत के लोग

మేము భారతదేశ ప్రజలము

ನಾವೀ, ಭಾರತದ ಜನತೆ

ਅਮੇ, ਭਾਰਤਨਾ ਥੀਓ

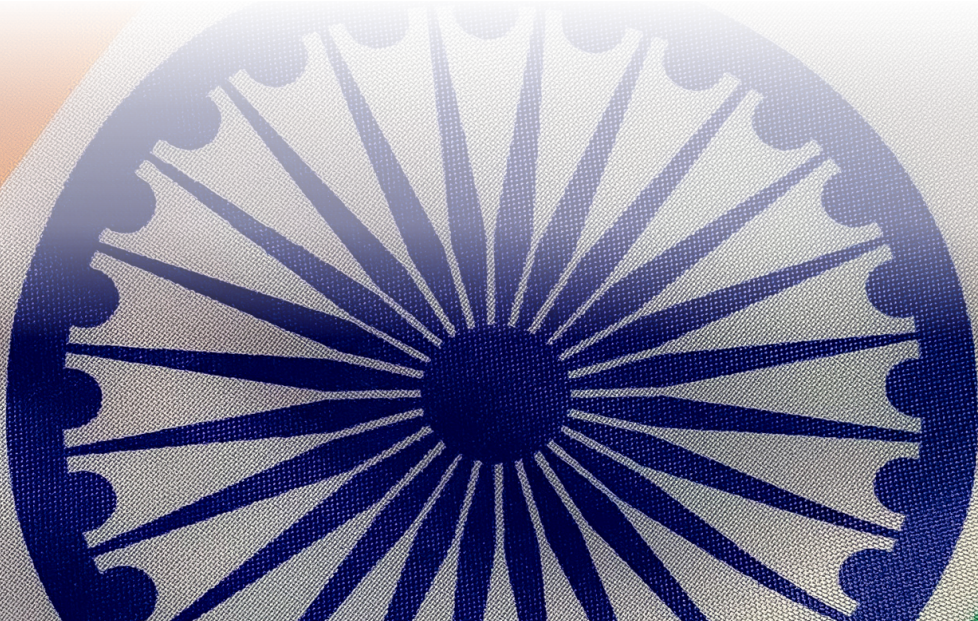
আমরা, ভারতের জনগণ

ਅਸੀਂ ਭਾਰਤ ਦੇ ਲੋਕ

നമ്മൾ, ഇന്ത്യയിലെ ജനങ്ങൾ

আমি, ভারতৰ জনসাধাৰণ

ہم بھارت کے عوام



PUKAR

ANNUAL REPORT

2025-2026



TABLE OF CONTENT

	Partners : 1
	About PUKAR : 2
	Sanvedana Fellowship : 5
	Strengthening Local Democracy : 9
	Youth Fellowship : 11
	Pancham : 13
	1000 Days : 15
	Journey Towards Dignity : 17
	Parivartan : 19
	Jal, Jungle, Jamin, Janwar, Jivan : 21
	Aanad Shala : 23
	Good Governance : 25
	Finance : 26
	Diversity Disclosure : 27
	Team PUKAR : 28
	Contact : 29

PARTNERS

LOCAL



**Azim Premji
Philanthropic
Initiatives Private
Limited**

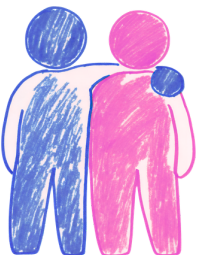


**Azim Premji
University**

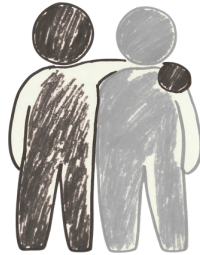


**Rohini Nilekani
Philanthropies
Foundation**

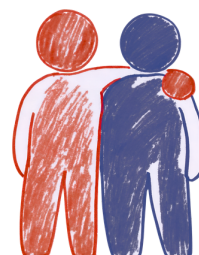
GLOBAL



**EMpower- The
Emerging Markets
Foundation**



**India
Development
Service**



Samvedana



**The Greencliffe
Foundation**



**Maharashtra
Foundation
America**



ABOUT PUKAR

Partner for Urban Knowledge, Action and Research - PUKAR

PUKAR, based in Global South, is an independent research collective and knowledge producing institution, located in Mumbai, India, that conducts multi-sectoral, cross-disciplinary, community based, participatory action research through the lens of marginalized youth who create evidence based actions for transforming themselves and their communities.

PUKAR sees itself as a premier institution that is anchored in the value of Community Based Participatory Action Research as a powerful and ethical instrument for knowledge production by marginalized youth. PUKAR believes that in a young, diverse, and pluralistic country like India where a large population faces multi-dimensional poverty, accepting, encouraging and respecting multiple epistemologies of knowledge, can contribute richly to urbanization and governance processes. All the programs of PUKAR in past 24 years have been based upon this principle, and we see ourselves as the premier institute in training other organizations, communities, educational institutions in this CBPAR based activities in both rural and urban sectors.





PUKAR Vision

PUKAR aims to create a world class incubator for producing knowledge, ideas, and innovations about equitable, sustainable global communities and cities.



PUKAR Mission

PUKAR works on the idea of “Right to Research”, democratizes research, and challenges the prevalent paradigm of knowledge production, profile of the researchers and ownership of such knowledge. Recognizing multiple epistemologies of knowledge, PUKAR believes that such asset based organic knowledge can make significant contribution to the discourse on development. It recognizes the **centrality of space of reflection, conversations and activism** for transforming developmental paradigm of urbanizing inter-dependent world to make it inclusive, equitable and sustainable.



Theory of Change

Empowered Barefoot Researchers who create evidence-based knowledge and use it to engage with relevant stakeholder for creating inclusive, equitable, and sustainable communities





PUKAR's Guiding Principles

- **We** are guided by the principle of right to research and democratization of knowledge production.
- **We** work through the lens of marginalized youth and recognize the importance of indigenous knowledge created by the Youth within their communities
- **We** are committed to respecting diversity, plurality, electoral democracy and foster it through our work to create equitable and just communities.
- **We** value dignity of labour and decentralization of power in operational strategies of the organization.
- **We** believe in participatory decision-making process at every level in the organization and foster the same in all our projects and communities.
- **We** believe in creating mutually enriching partnerships, respectful collaborations with organizations, institutions and individuals who support our vision.
- **We** believe that this new paradigm of knowledge creation is a unique experiment that puts us in a leadership position. Therefore, we aim to be the best in that sphere.
- **We** strive for excellence, accountability, transparency, honesty and professionalism.



SANVEDANA FELLOWSHIP

मिले सुर मेरा तुम्हारा
तो सुर बने हमारा..

में भिल्ल में ब्राह्मिन
में हिंदू में मुस्लिम
न्याय, समानता,
स्वतंत्रता, बंधुत्व

हमारा भाईचारा
हमारा संविधान
हमारा वतन !



SANVEDANA FELLOWSHIP



Aim : Hum Hi Watan Hai....

To awaken the citizens of India to realize....

The importance of “We the People...

That we are the true owners of this nation....

That we are governed by OUR own electoral choices!

That Good Governance happens when Citizens demand it....

That Justice, Equality, Freedom, and Fraternity are Non-Negotiable

That this secular, diverse, inclusive, electoral, democracy will be sustained by ALL of us,

irrespective of caste, religion, gender, faith, language....

We The Citizens of India are “The Watan”...Hum Hi Watan Hai...



Unique Features of PUKAR SANVEDANA Fellowship

Purposeful selection of area of work: Beed and Latur.

Beed historically and currently has highest Infant Mortality and Maternal Mortality Rate above national average.

Beed is one of the 112 Aspirational districts of India.



Youth
Sanvedana Sathi





Communities Worked with:

Schedule Cast, Schedule Tribes: Bhill, Vanjari, Paradhi, Ramoshi, Vadari, Dhangar



The Participatory & Cross Learning Module:

First Round -3 years-15 Fellows:

Worked in their own communities; tried inculcating values of Preamble and worked with identity work & citizenship related schemes. During these 3 years, encouraged a team of 6-7 youth volunteered with these senior Fellows.

Second Round -3 years:

Each Senior Fellow has a Team of 5-7 Youth, Junior Fellows who work together as Team and spread the work across many Gram Panchayats, Municipalities and Mahanagar Palikas.



Accomplishment:

- Helping all citizens, including NT/DNT community folks to help them become citizens through various identity cards and receive benefits of the various government schemes.*
- Making citizens understand how each government scheme is connected to an Article from the Constitution of India and how each Article is connected to one of the Four Values of the Preamble.*
- Helping citizens to raise their demands for the improvements of their villages/ padas/ towns.*



Youth
Sanvedana Sathi





WE work with...

 5 Districts

 94 Grampanchayats

 117 Villages

 6 Municipal Cooperations

 15387 Households

 100000+ Population

 7336 Beneficiaries

 88 Marginalized Basties

 24 Schools

 82 Fellows

 1416 Students

 5 Colleges

 5 Tamasha Kala Pathak

 104 Transgenders

 67 Hot Spots for
LGBTQ+ Sex Workers

 70 Street Theater
Performances

 29 Theater Workshops

 29500 Audience for
Plays



Youth
Sanvedana Sathi



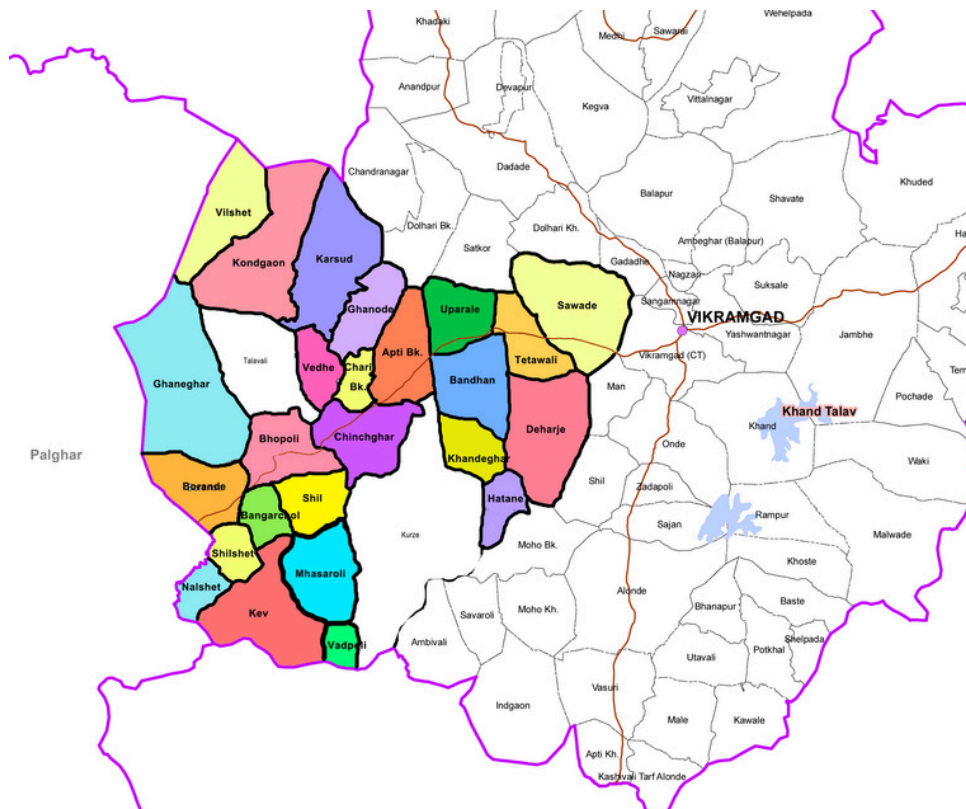
STRENGTHENING LOCAL DEMOCRACY

मेरा गाँव
मेरी सरकार
मेरा अधिकार



STRENGTHENING LOCAL DEMOCRACY

Where Documentation becomes intervention and demand for distributive justice and good governance leads research based action



Project Area

**Vikramgad Block,
Palghar District
(Aspirational Block)**

- **25** Revenue Villages
- **13** Gram Panchayats
- **7,885** Households
- **39,000+** Population
- **46** PESA Villages
- **204** Hamlets (Padas)
- **14** Gram Sathis
- **236** Pada Sathis
- **11,000+** Eligible Beneficiaries

236 Young Adiwasi youth from the local communities are being appointed as Pada Sathis to actively support the development of their hamlets. They facilitate the preparation of Pada Development Plans, mobilize community members to participate in Gram Sabhas, bring the issues and priorities of the hamlets before the Gram Sabha, and support communities in following up for their resolution.

Through this process, Pada Sathis are playing an active role in strengthening local democracy, promoting community participation, improving grassroots governance, and enabling people to take greater ownership of their village development process.



Youth
Gramsathi and Padasathi



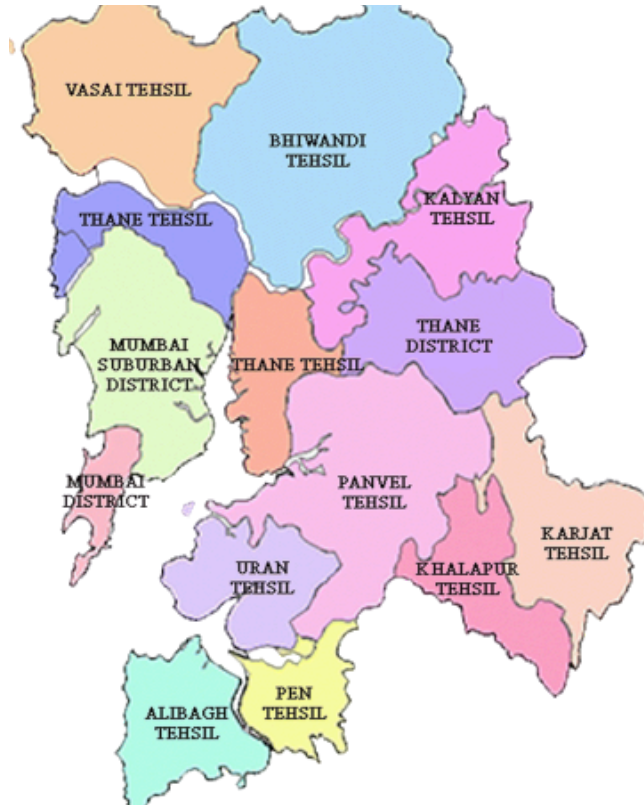
YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

My Life, My
Dreams, My Right
To Research



YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Where youth power gets channelized through participatory action-research for creation of experience-based knowledge that results in self and community transformation



119 Total number of graduate fellows

49 Total boys

63 Total girls

7 Non binary

12 Total groups

12 Research topics

Advocacy Events were conducted in 24 communities, approximately reaching 1200 stakeholders in different communities or areas through these events.

Accessed communities through 111 interviews and 1938 surveys

Partnerships:

Signed MoU with Jhunjhunwala College, Ghatkopar.

Mumbai University's students visited PUKAR to understand the CBPAR module.



PANCHAM

मेरा काम
मेरा संगठन
मेरी गरिमा



PANCHAM



Project Area

8 Tribal Hamlets
(Padas) in Sawade
Village

357 Households
1,785 Population

Tribal women from the villages are being connected with the project through Amla cultivation, creating sustainable livelihood opportunities. Young women and adolescent girls are increasingly looking at Amla cultivation as a source of livelihood and economic independence.

Alongside livelihood opportunities, young women and adolescent girls are coming together in Pada Sabha meetings to openly discuss issues related to women's health, reproductive health, menstruation, and domestic violence. Many young tribal girls are also continuing their education, demonstrating a growing aspiration for greater opportunities and independence.

*In recognition of the significant contribution and leadership of women—particularly young girls—in community development and empowerment, the village was honoured with the “**Adishakti Award**”. This recognition reflects the growing leadership, participation, and collective strength of women and girls in the community.*



Youth
Pancham Sakhi



मेरी सेहत
मेरी जिंदगी
मेरे सपने
मेरा अधिकार

1000
Days



1000 DAYS

This research project was designed to enhance nutritional awareness among young women and also to create awareness about the importance of nutrition in the first 1000 days of life — from conception to the 2nd birthday — in pregnant and lactating mothers.



Mumbai

Mandala
Study Area

Participants in the study

- **100+ pregnant or lactating women** willing to participate through 24 months
- **100 infants** aged 0–24 months
- **200 children** aged 2–6 years
- **100 young women** (16+ years)

The First 1000 Days project shows that community-based awareness, regular growth monitoring, and repeated counselling can improve child nutrition outcomes in marginalized urban settlements.

The strongest finding is the intergenerational nature of malnutrition. Maternal height and health significantly influence child growth outcomes, underscoring the need to invest in adolescent girls and maternal nutrition.

While improvements were observed — especially in reducing wasting and severe malnutrition — the vulnerability of children under two remains a concern. Early infections and environmental factors continue to affect linear growth.

The reduction in spending on ultra-processed foods through counselling demonstrates that behaviour can be change when supported consistently.

Overall, the report confirms that the first 1000 days are critical, but sustained engagement beyond infancy is necessary to break the cycle of malnutrition and improve long-term health outcomes.



मैं युवा
मैं सतरंगी
मेरी उमंग
मेरा अधिकार



JOURNEY TOWARDS DIGNITY

Where patriarchy and life changes are viewed through the lens of adolescent girls and boys and transformative attitude are inculcated in order to help create gender-responsive communities

Participants in the journeys

January 2025 to December 2025

282 Girls and 258 Boys

January 2026 onwards

300 Girls and 300 Boys



Learning Community

12 Girls leaders successfully completed leadership program of Learning Community.

They did awareness on Child Sexual Abuse, with 264 community members above 18 years and with 308 children



**Youth
Change Maker**

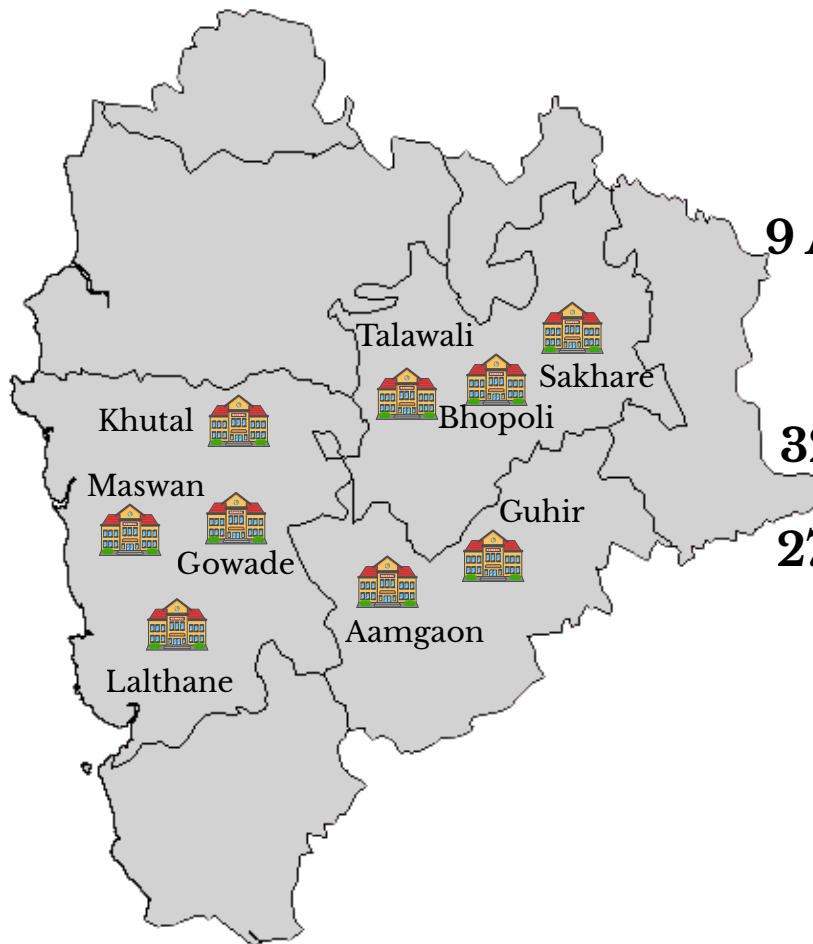


PARIVARTAN



PARIVARTAN

Inculcating Gender Transformative Attitude in 8-9th Grade Adivasi students of 9 Ashram Shalas (Residential schools for exclusively for Adivasi children).



9 Ashram Shalas in 3 Blocks

24 Sessions Modules

321 Tribal Adolescents Boys

279 Tribal Adolescents Girls

Unique Features of PUKAR Parivartan Program

- All the Team members who share the prepared session modules with students are themselves Adivasi.*
- All the Training Team members are graduates of the Adivasi Ashram Shalas, thus they understand the working of the Ashram Shalas and can gel with the students very effectively.*
- All the Training Team members speak the same dialect of the students, thus making communications very easy.*



**Youth
Facilitator**



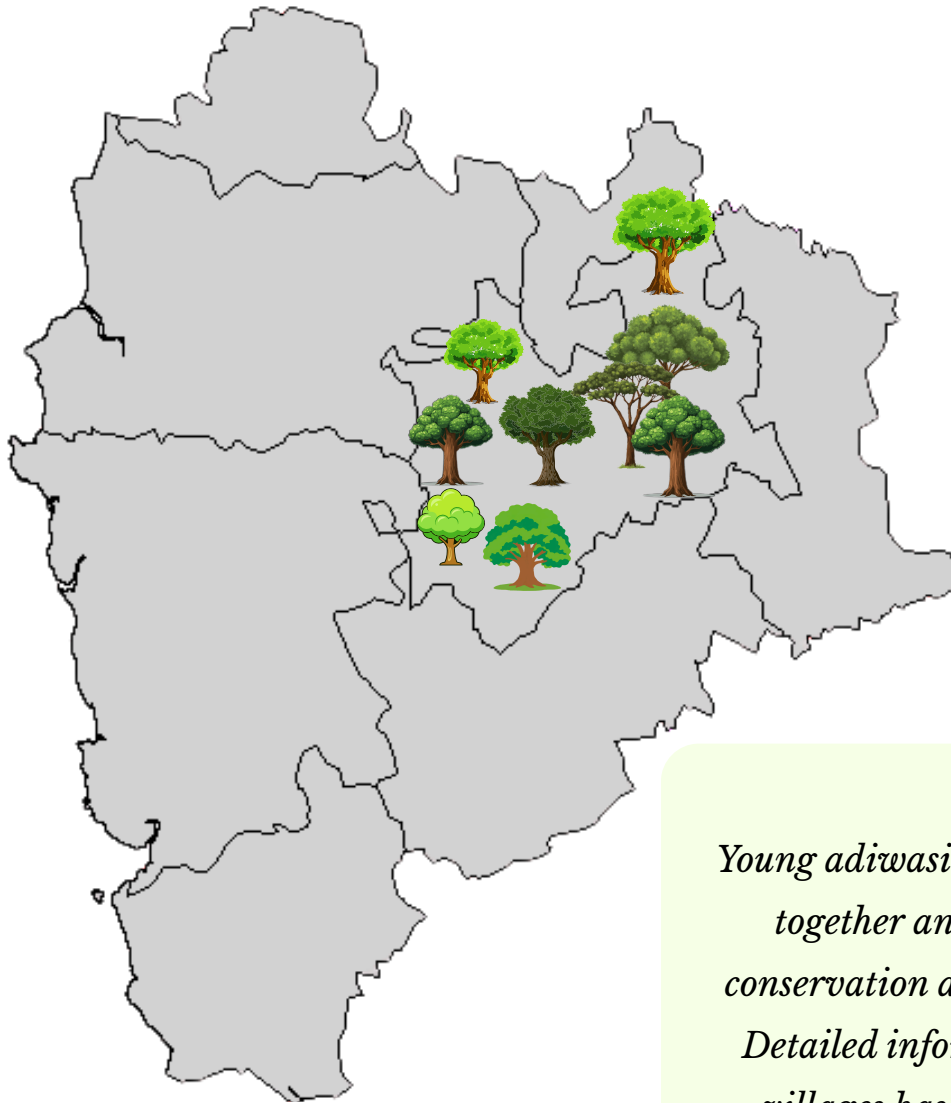


**Jal, Jungle, Jamin,
Janwar, Jeevan**

**मेरी जमीन
मेरा जंगल
मेरा जल
मेरे जानवर
मेरा जीवन
मेरा अधिकार**



JAL, JUNGLE, JAMIN, JANWAR, JEEVAN



Project Area

Vikramgad Block,
Palghar District
(Aspirational Block)

25 Tribal Villages
located in the PESA
Area

Young adiwasi youth from the villages are coming together and actively working towards the conservation and protection of local biodiversity. Detailed information on the biodiversity of the villages has been documented and compiled.

Through community meetings, youth and community members are discussing strategies for the conservation, protection, and sustainable management of local biodiversity.

At the same time, a growing number of young tribal farmers are returning to organic farming practices, reviving traditional knowledge and promoting environmentally sustainable agriculture.



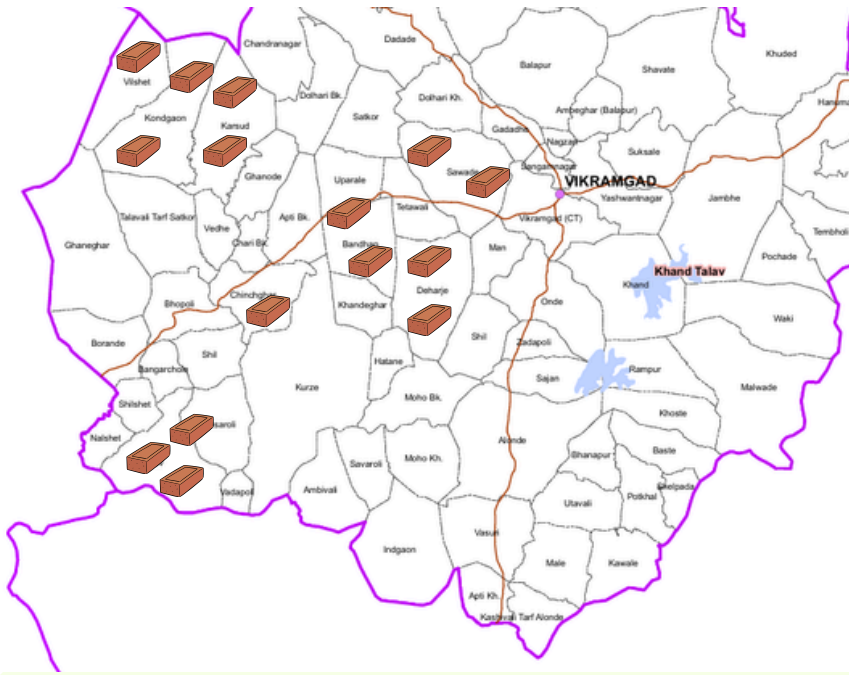
Youth
Paryavan Sathi



मेरी शिक्षा
मेरी खुशी
मेरी
आनंदशाला



ANANDSHALA



Project Area

- **15** Brick Kilns
- **232** Children of Brick Kiln Workers
- **15** Young Volunteer Educators

Fifteen young women and men came together with a shared purpose: to ensure that the children of migrant brick kiln workers do not lose their opportunity to learn.

They began visiting brick kilns in and around their villages and conducting Anandshala (Learning and Joy) sessions for the children living there. Through creative learning, games, stories, and activities, they worked to reconnect children with education and bring them back into the mainstream of learning. This was more than an educational initiative—it was an effort to break the cycle of poverty and exclusion, so that the next generation of brick kiln workers do not inherit the lack of educational opportunities.

What makes this initiative especially powerful is that these 15 young volunteers chose to do this work without expecting any financial remuneration. Their time, commitment, and belief in altering the children's future for better became the driving force behind Anandshala.

GOOD GOVERNANCE

PUKAR has following committees ensuring Good Governance in all areas of our operations-



INSTITUTIONAL ETHICS COMMITTEE

We are very proud to host the Institutional Ethics Committee (IEC) which with the help of its eminent members, approves every health-related project conducted by PUKAR in collaboration with national and international academic institutions. It approves projects not only for PUKAR but also for other organizations.



POSH COMMITTEE

PUKAR formed its own POSH (Prevention of Sexual Harassment) Committee in 2016 and it has been functioning regularly as per the mandates. PUKAR witnessed ZERO case of sexual abuse this year.



CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE

Since PUKAR's work involves a great deal of engagement with children, a clearly delineated Child Protection Policy is written and followed.

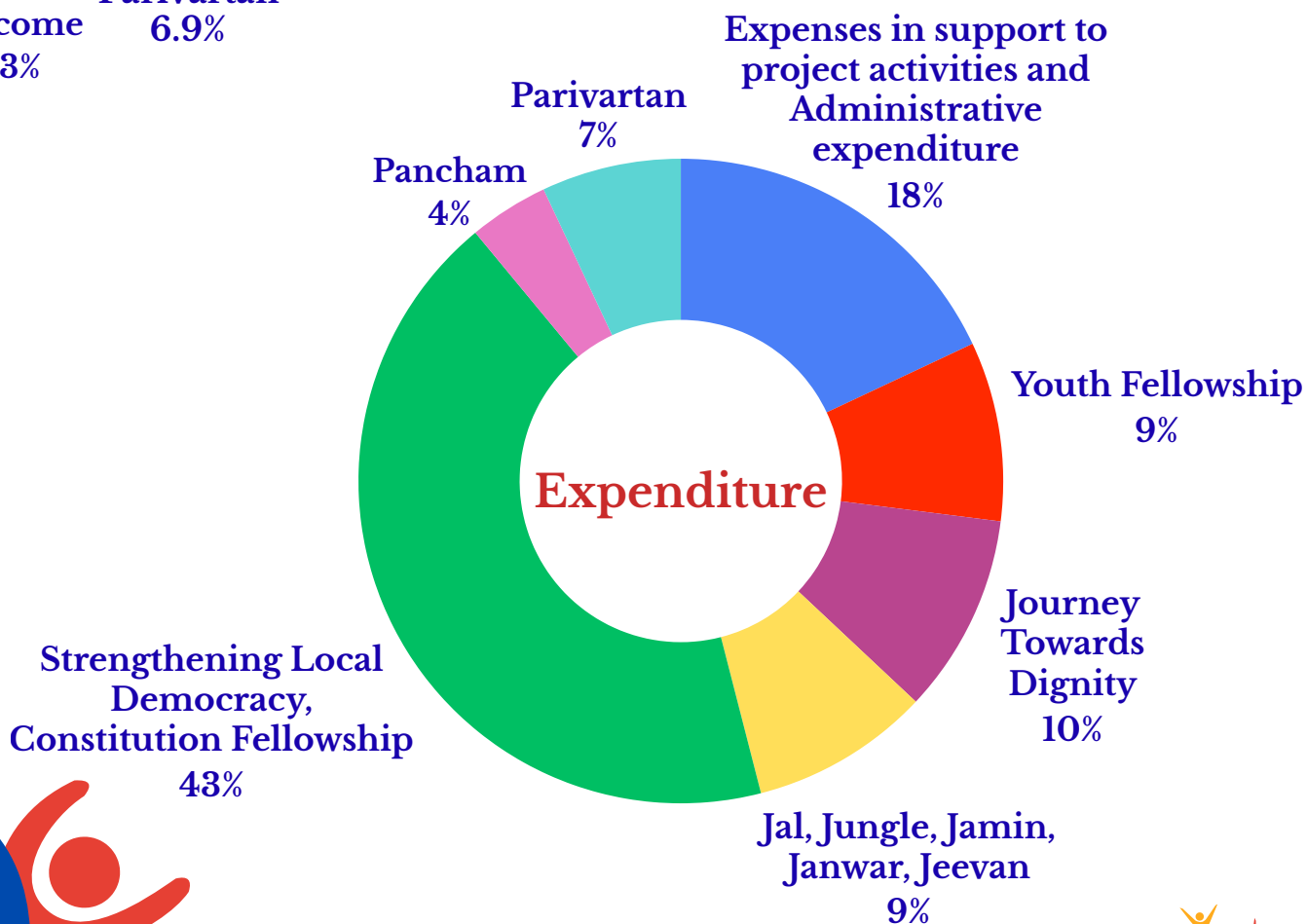
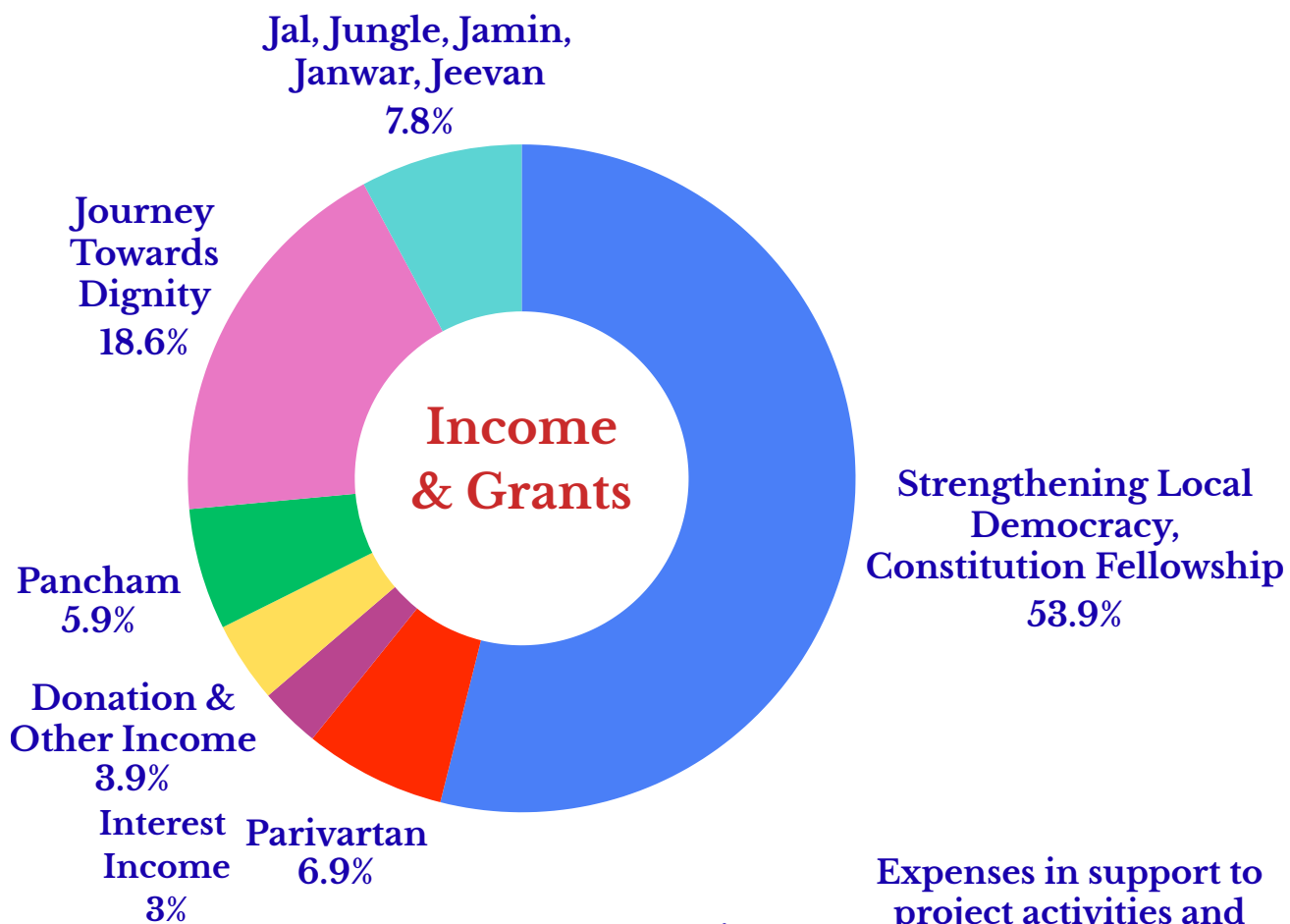


MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Under the guidance of the three New Trustees (inducted in 2024-25) a management committee comprising of ED, HR Head and Accounting Head has been formed.

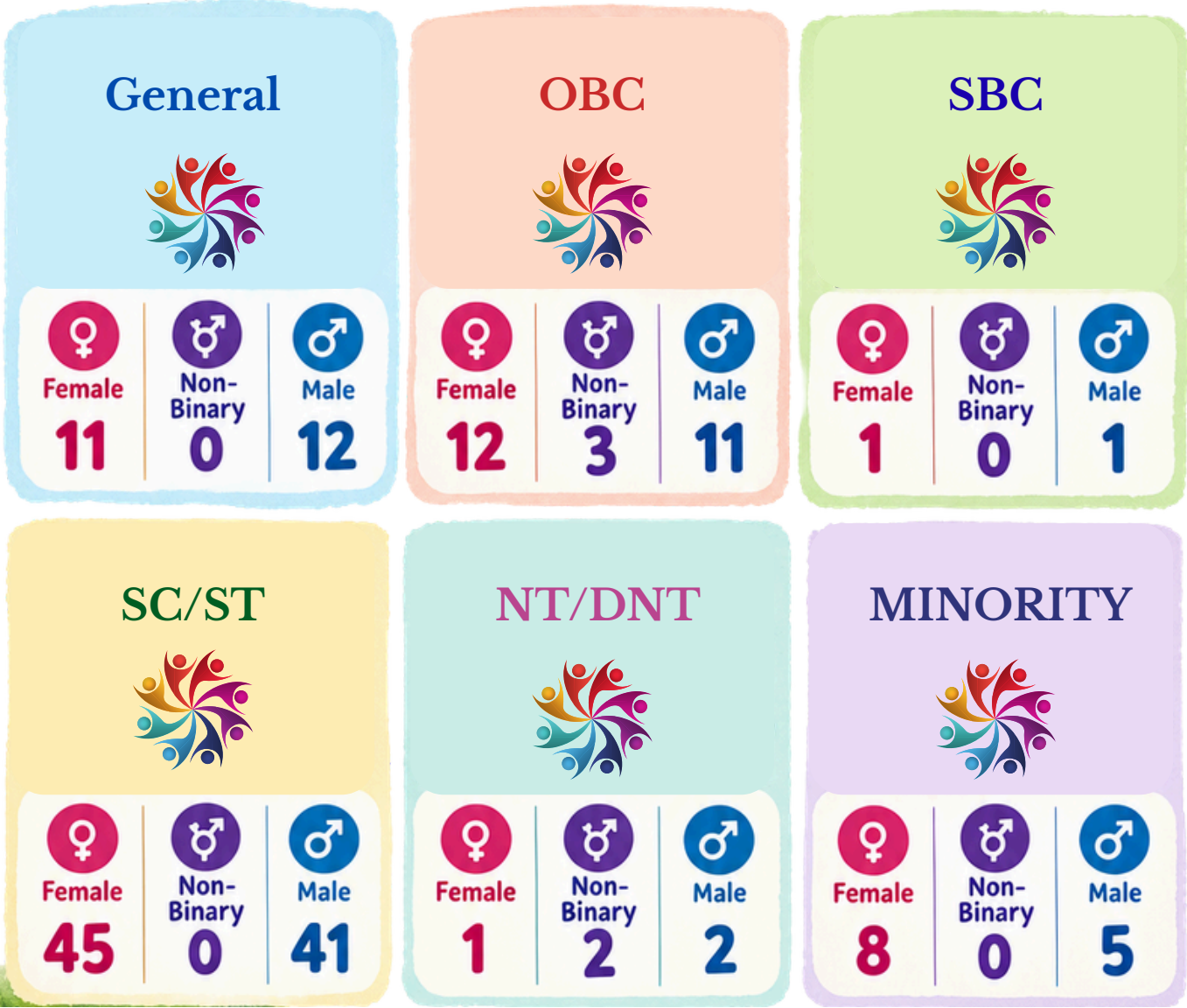


FINANCE



DIVERSITY DISCLOSURE

Social Location



Inclusion | Equity | Stronger Communities

TEAM PUKAR



FOUNDER PATRON

Carol A Breckenridge (1942 - 2009)



FOUNDER TRUSTEES

Arjun Appadurai | Rahul Mehrotra | Sheela Patel



TRUSTEES

K. M. S. (Titoo) Ahluwalia | Nandita Das | Smruti Koppikar |
Aakash Sethi | Rama Shyam



ADVISORS

Arjun Appadurai | Rahul Mehrotra | Zia Modi



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