

A group of women, likely in a community meeting or training session, are shown with their hands raised. They are wearing colorful saris in shades of yellow, orange, and blue. The women are adorned with traditional jewelry, including bangles and a ring. The background is slightly blurred, showing more people in a similar setting. The overall atmosphere is one of active participation and engagement.

ANNUAL REPORT

2023-24

AKP

ActionAid
Karnataka Projects

Contents

- 1 Message from the President
- 2 About Us
- 3 Engaging with Children
- 4 Working with Informal Workers
- 5 Livelihood Promotion
- 6 Gender Sensitisation Programmes
- 7 Action Research

Message from the President



In 2023-24, India witnessed notable social and economic developments. Economically, the country continued its robust growth trajectory, with GDP growth projected between 6-6.5%. The government emphasized infrastructure expansion, focusing on projects like highways, railways, and digital connectivity under the Gati Shakti initiative. Additionally, India strengthened its position in global trade, especially in technology and pharmaceuticals, while promoting the “Make in India” initiative to enhance domestic manufacturing and reduce imports.

The digital economy continued to flourish, driven by initiatives like Digital India and UPI, which increased digital transactions and financial inclusion. Startups also saw growth in sectors like fintech, e-commerce, and green tech, further supported by government policies aimed at nurturing innovation and entrepreneurship.

On the social front, healthcare and education received substantial investments along with extension of PM Awas Yojna to provide affordable housing, Jal Jeevan Mission to ensure continued piped water supply to rural households, focus on skill development for the youth etc. The government also prioritized nutrition through schemes like the Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman (PM POSHAN) initiative, which aimed to improve mid-day meal quality in schools and address malnutrition in children. These welfare programs reflect India’s commitment to inclusive growth and social upliftment across diverse sections of society.

As India progresses, marking new milestones in its remarkable progress across various sectors, we continue to work with vulnerable communities at ActionAid Karnataka Projects to help them navigate challenges and seize opportunities. As the country moves forward, we strive to ensure no one is left behind.

In 2023-24, ActionAid Karnataka Projects took on multi-pronged approach to address the challenges faced by vulnerable communities, through humanitarian response, livelihood promotion, action research, and education. While the focus was on children, we also sought to work with construction workers.

If you want to learn more about ActionAid Karnataka Projects, please contact me at the address below. We welcome any comments and suggestions you may have.

Sandeep Chachra

President

Actionaid Karnataka Projects

139 Richmond Road, Bengaluru

560025

About Us

Actionaid Karnataka Projects (AKP) is a society registered on 19 November 1988 under the Karnataka Societies Registration Act, 1960, with its headquarters in Bengaluru, Karnataka. AKP has been established with the charitable objective of promoting integrated development. AKP seeks to help children, families, and communities eradicate poverty and secure lasting improvement in the quality of their lives.

AKP does this by promoting and supporting programmes on health, education, employment and other development-related activities. This includes spreading awareness on issues that help to promote socio-economic development. In particular, focus is on supporting and promoting schemes for child welfare and their education; schemes that are aimed at empowerment of women and girls and livelihood promotion and skill building programmes for people from low incomes groups. AKP strives to strengthen and stimulates people's involvement in all these initiatives.

AKP also undertakes action studies and supports people-led research on significant issues faced by the vulnerable communities. This is done with the aim of identifying and promoting community led-alternatives. AKP develops awareness material on all these aspects of its work.



Engaging with Children

AKP believes that enabling deprived children's access to education is crucial for building a more equitable and prosperous society. Education empowers children with the knowledge and skills needed to break the cycle of poverty, leading to better job opportunities and economic independence. For children from marginalized or impoverished backgrounds, education opens doors to improved health, decision-making, and social mobility, impacting entire communities positively.

There are several government programmes that help provide such opportunities and resources to children from marginalised communities. These include scholarships, free meals, and accessible learning materials. We at AKP supported children to access these resources which help them with level playing field, allowing these children to compete fairly and fulfil their potential.



During the year, community meetings were organized to generate awareness among the parents and community leaders in various urban settlement colonies and across various other districts of the country. Across various locations in Delhi, enrolment of more than 1500 children was facilitated in the government schools, through enrolment drives. The community groups formed as part of our interventions are regularly monitoring the attendance of the children in the schools and have continuous interaction with the teachers and school management committees to ensure regularity and inclusion of the vulnerable children in the school activities. Children's groups have been formed and orientations were initiated on key issues including significance of education, health and nutrition.

Scholarship Campaigns were organised to generate awareness among the parents and community leaders in various urban settlement colonies and across various other districts of the country.

Along with strengthening access to quality education, improving enrolment and attendance, our efforts have focused on strengthening local communities to work towards activating various committees to ensure protection of children from discrimination, abuse and violence in both schools and the community.

आओ
मिलके
स्कालरशिप
पाएँ!

सरकार की छात्रवृत्ति को
जनता तक पहुंचाने की पहल



#ActForScholarship

Working with Informal Workers

Informal workers, particularly construction workers in India, require comprehensive support to improve their livelihood and working conditions. Key areas of support include social security, health and safety measures, and skill development. Due to irregular income and lack of job security, informal workers benefit greatly from social security schemes that provide health insurance, pensions, and accident coverage.

AKP ground volunteers engaged in organising camps in communities to help workers register for various social security schemes and entitlements of the various state governments as well as central government. The volunteers organised community meetings to extend our outreach to workers, provide counsel, and offer assistance in filing applications. In meeting with constructions workers, discussions focused on the need for proper on-site safety protocols and access to protective gear.



AKP has also been collectivising women in an effort to help amplify their voices of issues of equal wages, decent working conditions and harassment free working conditions. Women led platforms are being built for women domestic workers, women farmers, women MNREGA workers, women in agriculture, fishing and beedi making, in tea plantations as well for home-based women workers. Programmes were supported to enhance the capacity of women workers through trainings and skill building programs and linking them with state government's skill based initiatives.

Sessions with women domestic worker focussed on skills which are essential to help these workers learn new techniques, improve productivity, and access better-paying job opportunities.

Volunteers aim to intensify their efforts in the upcoming months, ensuring enhanced outreach and support to those in need.



Livelihood Promotion

Livelihood promotion with women's leadership is a powerful approach that AKP has been following to support the economic and social development of women. AKP believes that empowering women helps drive sustainable change within communities and societies. When women lead livelihood initiatives, they bring unique perspectives that prioritize community needs, equitable resource distribution, and inclusive growth. Programs that promote women's leadership in livelihoods focus on their skill-building, financial literacy, and access to markets, enabling women to participate in economic activities confidently.

Livelihood Interventions with Women

During the year, AKP engaged with 20 collectives of women, strengthening their capacities and developing their skills in Delhi and nearby districts. Interventions were carried out to link the collectives with income generation activities. Meetings and skill building trainings were organized on financial literacy, leadership building, feasibility and market accessibility, enabling women to participate confidently in economic activities. In Bundelkhand, we have initiated organizing women into collectives and providing entrepreneur trainings on finance and book keeping, quality management, marketing etc.



Promoting Sustainable Livelihoods

Considering the ever-increasing impact of climate change on the livelihoods of communities dependent on farming/ agriculture, AKP volunteers across states organised community meetings with the farmers for awareness generation on ecological farming and benefits of cultivating indigenous crops and conservation of seeds. Farmers were oriented on preparing organic manure and pesticides using indigenous practices. Campaigns were organised across these states to sensitize farming communities about the ill-effects of chemicalized farming and generate awareness on ecological farming. In order to strengthen food security and eliminate malnutrition, the idea of initiating grain banks and kitchen gardens is also been promoted across states.

Awareness campaign on climate change

A key focus of AKPs work during 2023-24 was on helping develop communities' understanding on impact of climate change on their lives and livelihoods linking their lived experiences with current climate change discourse. Sensitization campaign was carried out in communities as well as with school and college children, citizens' groups etc. Academicians and city planners were invited to share national and global policies. Our engagement with the frontline communities that includes Pastoralists and NT/DNTs, sugarcane cutters and plantation workers, agricultural workers, fisherfolks, coastal communities, construction workers, street vendors among informal workers helped them to understand, adapt and articulate their asks for loss and damage. A training organised with the pastoral communities in Chamba in Himachal Pradesh led to them taking up participatory action research to assess the impact of climate change on their lives and livelihoods. Findings of the study were very timely as the state saw flash floods and landslides caused by heavy rains during July - August 2023. The action research revealed that 85% of people in Chamba district experienced an increase in the frequency or severity of natural disasters like drought, floods, or landslides. The study highlights the impact of climate change on the Gujjar pastoral community's livelihood, particularly on their access to water and food resources, as well as the severe effect of extreme weather events on the livelihoods of the Gujjar community and their ability to adapt to climate change. The findings of the action research will be shared with relevant stakeholders.



Gender sensitisation programmes

The collectives of young women across 13 cities carried out various activities during the 16 Days campaign on Violence Against Women and supported sensitization initiatives with varied stakeholders. The members of collectives reached out to over 35,000 individuals across 25 districts in 13 states. More than 50 schools and colleges were engaged, facilitating discussions on gender-based violence. Community education through street plays, silent march, candle march, signature campaign, and awareness programmes were other key activities. In addition, dialogues with boys and men on Care Work, sexual and reproductive health needs of girls and women, gender based discrimination, women sensitive public services etc were organized by the young women with the men in their communities. In 8 cities, young women collectives engaged in drafting and submission of Woman's manifesto and charter of demands which they shared with relevant government authorities. In Kolkata city, the young women's collective collaborated with the Kolkata Police and organised the Safe City Campaign that reached out to over 1000 young urban women.





Action Research

At Actionaid Karnataka projects we see action research as a critical step in the journey towards social empowerment. Action research is a participatory and iterative approach to problem-solving that empowers communities by involving them directly in identifying issues, analyzing causes, and implementing solutions. It is both a research method and a transformative process, designed to bring about positive social change.

Apart from the action research carried out by the pastoral communities in Chamba, there were two other action research supported by AKP during the year.

Actionaid Karnataka Projects used action research to assess and address barriers to education for children in underserved areas. This action research actively involved various stakeholders – teachers, communities, panchayat members, parents, block officers, education department etc to ensure their voices are central in identifying challenges and crafting solutions. By fostering such engagement, this action research not only empowered the communities but also developed a collaborative approach and commitment from authorities to attend to specific needs and realities of the community.

Action research on migrant workers' access to information

Similarly, AKP with the support of community leaders and volunteers carried out an action research in Bihar on the issue of migrant workers' access to information during the pandemic times. The research titled "Asymmetry in Information Access and the Digital Divide in the Pandemic" was undertaken in collaboration with the London School of Economics. The study examined how these workers used social and communications media, the reliability of information sources, and the implications of technology disparities. It also explored ways to make vital information more accessible and actionable during crises. AKP volunteers helped in administering the survey questions as well as organising the focused group discussion with workers. Results were discussed with stakeholders to advance workers' issues, dignified livelihoods, and safe migration.



Action research on access to clean drinking water

With the increasing crisis around availability of clean drinking water in cities, the collective of young women across 13 cities of India came together and decided to conduct action research on the impact of water availability, accessibility and quality of lives of girls and women. The focus was also to understand impact of climate change on this issue of water availability. The study highlighted challenges in water supply quality and quantity due to seasonal variations, exacerbated by climate change. It also identified community water taps as significant sites of violence and harassment. The young women's collectives shared the report with concerned government authorities in their respective cities and plan to conduct a campaign focussing on the findings of the research.

With the approach of action research, AKP has actively involved various stakeholders, ensuring their voices remain central in identifying challenges and crafting solutions. Further, by engaging communities directly in action research enhances their problem-solving abilities and fosters self-reliance. It creates a platform for marginalized groups to express their needs and contribute to decision-making processes. AKP follows action research as a cyclical process of planning, action, observation, and reflection, allowing continuous learning and improvement in our work.



AKP

ActionAid
Karnataka Projects

Project Office:

5/B Block F, Kailash Colony
New Delhi - 110048.
Phone: +91 11 40640553

Regd. Office:

139/B, Richmond Road, Bengaluru
Karnataka - 560025.
Phone: +91 80 25586682