

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023 - 2024



AN ECOSYSTEM  OF OPPORTUNITIES

## *A mosaic of impact.*

*A world where marginalised and indigenous communities prosper, from one generation to the next, in harmony with their environment.*

*Our commitment involves equipping these communities to surmount essential water, environmental, and geological challenges, fostering sustainable economic opportunities locally, and enhancing the environmental resilience surrounding them. With compassion and innovative thinking, we confront social injustice with unwavering determination, adopting a dynamic, impact-driven approach that champions sustainable advancement from the ground up.*

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# LETTERS FROM THE ROUND TABLE



Dr. Sarika Kulkarni, Founder & Chief Executive

**"Do not follow where the  
path may lead.**

**Go instead where there is  
no path and leave a trail."**

– Ralph Waldo Emerson



Girish Kulkarni, Co-Founder

*"From starting as a philanthropic organisation 12 years ago to becoming an operating one 5 years ago, we have come a long way. And as we reflect on the last year, it's with great pride and enthusiasm that I share with you our journey, of growth, consolidation, and fortification. The passing year was all about adopting new thinking and adapting to a shapeshifting environment. It was focused on weaving and carving out pieces of a mosaic, one that our organization & its beneficiaries were quite new to.*

*Our growth trajectory over the past year has been nothing short of remarkable. Our commitment to sustainable innovations and interventions has taken us a step further towards becoming a sustainable practice.*

*It would be ignorant on our part to overlook the steep surge in funding, human resources and beneficiaries we had this year. The critical thinking & executionary decisions made by each one of our team members to keep up with this surge was nothing short of a circus act. The way they were able to streamline operations thus enhancing efficiency across the board was the most beautiful synergy to witness.*

*Building on our strengths has always been central to our ethos. Over the past year, we've refined our programs, expanded, and scaled, staying ahead with our commitment to quality, integrity, and innovation. This dedication has earned us the trust of our stakeholders and solidified our leadership in the field, amongst our beneficiaries.*

*Looking ahead, we are ready for the next leap. With a talented team, clear vision, and resilient spirit, we are confident in our ability to drive sustainable growth and create long-term value in our efforts to concretise our vision.*

*Thank you for your unwavering support and trust. Together, we've built a strong foundation, and we're excited about the journey ahead."*

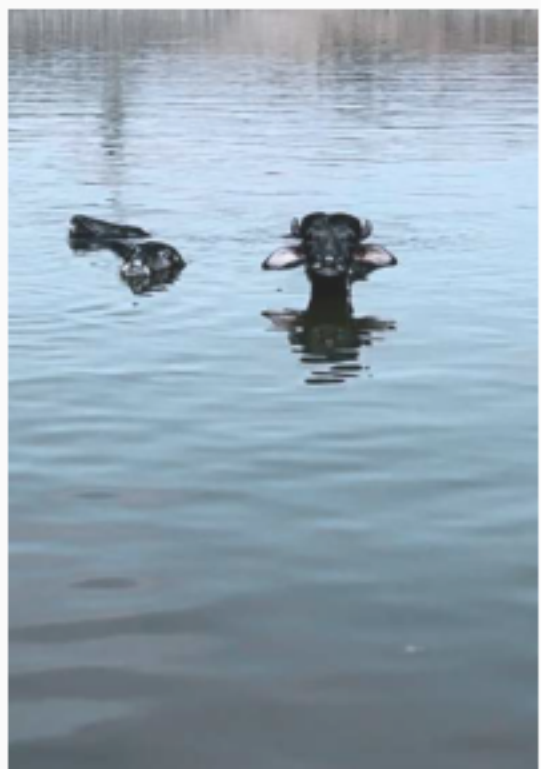
A photograph of a person swimming in the ocean, with one arm raised above the water surface, creating a splash.

# MISSION

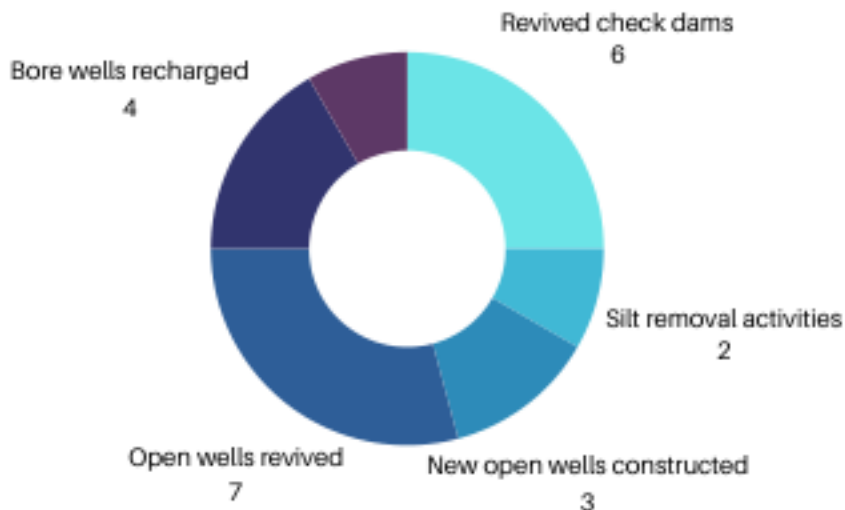
*A world where marginalised and indigenous communities prosper, from one generation to the next, in harmony with their environment.*

## VISION

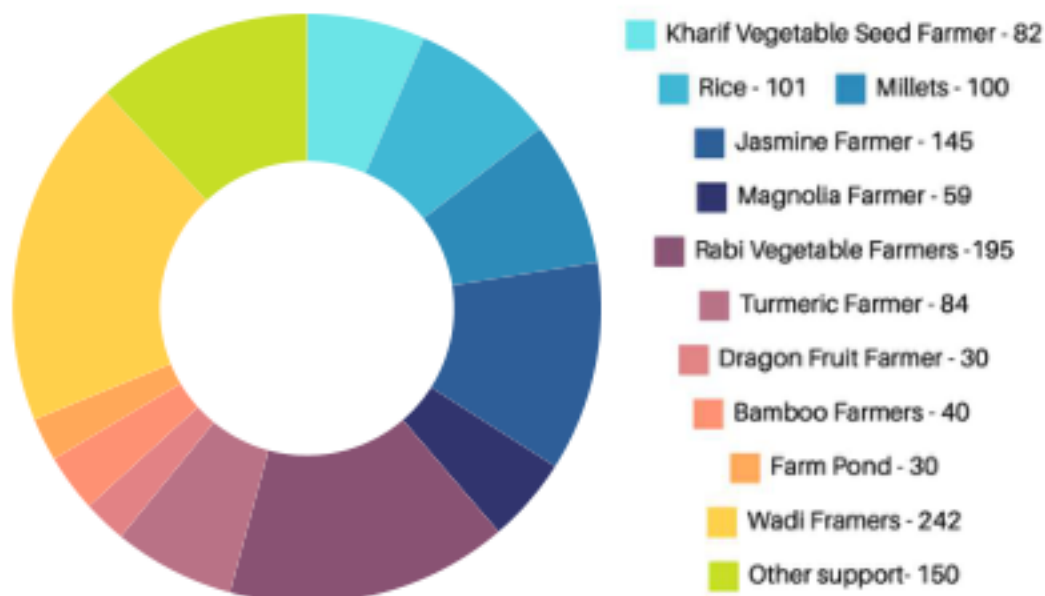
***We help communities build resilience by helping them overcome critical water, environmental, and geological constraints, open up new sustainable livelihood opportunities within their communities and invest in strengthening the environment around them***



# WATER HIGHLIGHTS FY23-24



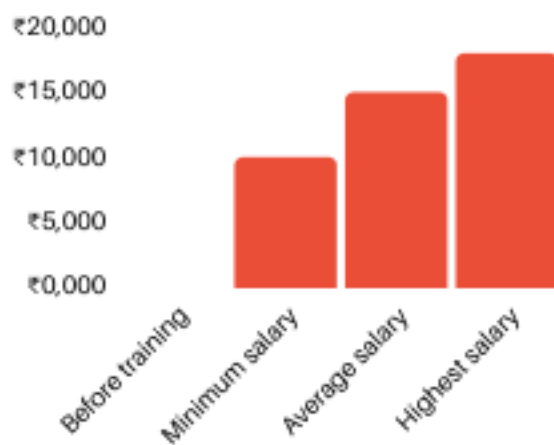
# AGRICULTURE HIGHLIGHTS FY23-24



# SKILL TRAINING HIGHLIGHTS FY23-24



Completed Training	79%
Dropouts	21%
Placed	77%
Higher Studies	8%
Those who wanted to explore other avenues	12%



## LIVELIHOOD HIGHLIGHTS FY23-24

ACTIVITY	PEN	PALGHAR
PRODUCT BASED LIVELIHOODS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>364 women trained.</li><li>₹4,00,000 worth of income created.</li></ul>	
ART BASED LIVELIHOODS		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>850 women trained.</li><li>₹3,07,115 worth of income created.</li></ul>
FINANCIAL LITERACY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>500 women taught and practised financial literacy</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>2558 women taught and practised financial literacy</li></ul>
DIGITAL LITERACY		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>550 women trained to use the MeraBills [a bookkeeping mobile application], making it the largest app adoption anywhere in the country.</li></ul>



MOOOO

OOOOO

OOOOO

OOOOO VING ON..





# WATER SECURITY

*Quenching  
thirsts, one  
ecosystem at a  
time.*

2023 - 2024



**"All the water on Earth already exists. We can't make more. We can only track it, predict it and protect it as it cycles around our world."**

~Bradley Doorn, Program Manager, NASA

Our Water Security program incubated all of Raah's existing verticals. Accredited by the United Nations itself, our efforts have had a fourfold impact. From their health to wealth to the biodiversity sneakily reaping the benefits of clean and abundant water, we covered it all.

Through the introduction of gravity-fed systems and innovative water conservation structures, we have harnessed the abundant rainfall of the Western Ghats, ensuring that it reaches every field and every faucet. The program's focus on sustainability has empowered year-round agriculture, providing stability for farmers and food security for communities.

Our work is deeply rooted in the principle of empowerment, with water as the medium through which we build a stronger sense of community and self-reliance. We're not just constructing systems; we're building capacities, educating on conservation, and fostering a culture of care for water resources.

Looking ahead, we remain dedicated to expanding the reach and impact of our water security efforts. We aim to create a robust framework that can withstand the tests of time and climate, ensuring a well-hydrated and thriving future for all we serve.





## ***PREPARATION***

- Primary research & demographic data collection per village.
- Comprehensive agricultural assessments.
- Detailed water resource assessment.
- Mapping human demand.
- Mapping livestock demand.
- Mapping topography and hydrogeology.
- Mobilisation of residents and local governing bodies.

## ***IMPLEMENTATIONS***

To maximise the intangible impact of our work, Raah Foundation believes in co-creation, a way to empower the community with a sense of ownership via local hiring, a way to guarantee the future maintenance of the structures we help build through the formation of Malhar Samitee's [Local Water management committee ]. It is the community that needs to respect and acknowledge our intervention, for us to have any sort of real and self-sustaining impact.

Raah's engagement with the committee usually lasts over 2-3 years with endless support through training and monitoring till we are no longer required.

**1076**  
**MILLION**  
**LITRES** OF  
RAINWATER  
HARVESTING  
CAPACITY  
CREATED

AVERAGE DEPTH OF WATER  
LEVEL IN WELLS SET TO  
**2.9 METERS** EVEN THROUGH  
THE SUMMERS.

**11** %  
IMPROVEMENT  
GROUND  
WATER  
LEVEL

**67,000** human  
lives and **8,800**  
cattle directly  
impacted.

#### OVER THE YEARS WE HAVE CONSTRUCTED

**9** NEW CHECK DAMS  
**54** REPAIRED CHECK DAMS  
**63** NEW OPEN WELLS  
**6** REVIVED OPEN WELLS

**99** NEW BORE WELLS  
**6** BOREWELLS RECHARGED  
**87** FARM PONDS  
**12** DE-SILTED PONDS

**1000** HOURS OF TIME SAVED BY EACH WOMAN ANNUALLY

# THE MALHAR SAMITEE



Shendyachimet

Harnessing the  
power of unity  
to unlock the  
potential of  
every rainfall.

**50%**  
**FEMALE**  
MEMBERS

The Malhar Samitee is a local governing body that we try to establish in each village that we have worked in. It translates into 'the water management committee'. We take our gender lens very seriously while forming these committees and have successfully managed to maintain a 1:1 ratio. Our Water Security program was started for the women and it only makes sense if they get a say in how to sustain it.

**13** FULLY ESTABLISHED, **7** IN THE PROGRESS AND OTHERS IN THE MAKING.



## CHALLENGES

- Over the last year, we have toiled through heat waves and the out of order rain showers that followed, the out of character sand storm that paved the way for a season of storms. The biggest challenge yet, has been this unscheduled change in weather patterns due to the explosive growth of climate change.
- Our beneficiaries are still grasping the tools required for accurate data collection. It has been quite a tedious task to convince them that monitoring is in fact necessary to ensure sustainability.

## LESSONS LEARNT

- Regardless of these challenges, we were able to educate the field team and prepare them for the next round of climate change bound scenarios that will inevitably reoccur. We train and encourage them to make critical decisions on their feet, & the perspective they may require while making difficult decisions.
- As for expanding our collection of real time data, we, are in a constant cycle of revamping and implementing new guidelines to see what works best for the field team & our donors.

# DONOR VISITS



The Young Volunteers Organisation [YVO] team embarked on their partnership with Raah Foundation by initially focusing on the construction and repair of Check Dams and Open Wells. As their relationship with the foundation strengthened over the years, so did their goals and aspirations. During a visit to the sites in late October 2023, the YVO team was impressed by the sustainable ecosystems that had developed as a result of their support. Witnessing the overflowing dam and the resilient women involved in the project was truly inspiring. Moving forward, Team YVO, with its renewed focus on water conservation, is excited to expand their overall support to comprehensive water management which includes critical interventions such as Bore Well Recharge, Roof Top Rainwater Harvesting systems, Desilting of dams and old wells, Water purification units, and farm ponds. This new chapter in our partnership with Raah Foundation marks the beginning of even greater impact and positive change in the communities we serve.

Water Security was the first baby of Raah Foundation. As a result, it never left the arms of the founders. The founders Family Office continues to support any and all water interventions. They came to the conclusion that Water Security is the foundation on which Raah Foundation can build the remaining 4 programs.

This is actively practised across the Climate Change, Re-Green Nation & Climate Smart Farming programs, where the baseline surveys begin by mapping water availability.







# RE- GREEN NATION

*Unravel the ecosystems  
that exist an inch below &  
an inch above.*

2023 - 2024



**"When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world."**

~ John Muir

The Earth is the largest incubator we know. It churned our soil and our oceans for over a few billions years before it was ready to create the first trace of life. The divine feminine that created this life is often referred to as 'Mother Nature', & our Re-Green program simply walks in her footsteps.

**WE INCUBATE LIFE!** Plants & animals all alike, this program has one purpose and that is, to nurture the nature that has nurtured us.

From building trenches to recharge ground water levels to building them for insects and animals, there's nothing but gratitude between our world and theirs.

From the feral birds and langoures sending notes of love and death threats to one another, to the unbelievable mycelium network connecting one root to another sharing wisdom on survival, we grow them all.

The program also covers community engagement and education to the point where 30%-40% of these plantation pits are dug by the community, free of cost. This practices helps us inculcate a sense of respect between man and the wild.

Build, protect and nurture, this is our standard model and there's no excuse that can pass the wrath of our passionate program head.





## 3 STRIKES A BALANCE

Raah Foundation is an incubator of its own. With no warning given to itself or the world, it pushed out vertical after vertical.

The Water Security, Climate Action & Agriculture programs are the three pillars of sustainability that hold up all our efforts. One is not possible without the other, or rather no program alone is as efficient as it could be. A sustainable package of sorts that we love to showcase to our stakeholders.

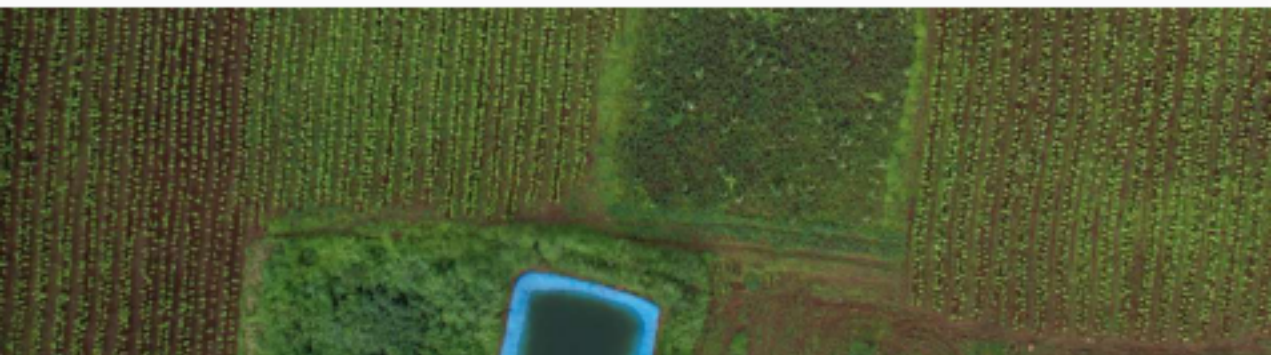
By ensuring a stable supply of water, agricultural activities can be more reliable and productive, even in the face of erratic weather patterns caused by climate change. This reliable water supply is crucial for implementing climate-smart agricultural practices, which help mitigate the adverse effects of climate change and enhance the resilience of farming communities.

Climate action efforts, such as reforestation and soil conservation, directly contribute to water security by

improving the natural water retention capacity of the soil and reducing runoff. These actions also sequester carbon, thereby reducing greenhouse gases in the atmosphere and mitigating climate change. The improved soil quality and increased biodiversity from these climate actions benefit agricultural productivity by creating healthier ecosystems that support crop growth and resilience.

Agricultural sustainability feeds back into climate action and water security. Sustainable farming practices reduce the strain on water resources and enhance the land's ability to retain water, creating a more balanced ecosystem. These practices also help to prevent soil erosion, maintain soil fertility, and support diverse biological systems, which are vital for long-term climate stability.

Over the last 5 years we have studied this relationship in great detail and done everything in our power to make the bonds stronger. It is an integral part of our selection criteria, a bang for the buck and the easiest way to deliver the most efficient solutions for ecosystems as a whole. A perfect, healthy and beautifully intertwined relationship between the planet and its people.





## ***PREPARATION***

- Seed collection and selection of native plant species for long term success, establish fire lines for forest fire protection, removal of invasive species for expediting rejuvenation, utilise seed-balls for efficient seed dispersal on inaccessible steep slopes.
- Plant vetiver grass for soil and moisture conservation; Controlled grazing to enhance soil quality, reduce erosion, stabilize slopes, and promote biodiversity.
- A five-year phased strategy: wild grasses and water structures first, then afforestation the following year, & ongoing maintenance & protection.
- Monitor projects via satellite technology partners. We remain committed to evolving based on real-time data and feedback.

## ***IMPLEMENTATIONS***

From stage 1 of creating a sapling nursery to the end stage of reaching a survival rate that goes over and above 80%, every step is monitored for 5 years. Beyond the plantation phase is the protection phase, one that involves building fire lines to control forest fires as well as providing water and nourishment when nature fails to provide for itself.

**600 ACRES OF  
LAND  
REFORESTED  
WITH 1,05,000  
NATIVE SAPLINGS.  
20KM OF FIRE  
LINES CREATED.**

**16,00,000  
SEEDS  
COLLECTED**

**80%**  
SURVIVAL RATE  
ACHIEVED ON  
SAPLINGS

**24,000 DAYS OF  
EMPLOYMENT CREATED  
ENABLING OVER ₹ 8.7  
MILLION IN WAGES.**

**168 Fauna &  
200 Flora  
species  
conserved**

Our current projects are in the catchment of the Godavari River in the Western Ghats in Nashik as an optimum way to get a higher ecological return for the investment. This way, not only do we get the expected output of ecological restoration such as increased biodiversity, better soil quality and improved ground water, but will also have a positive impact on regulating the quantity of water in the Godavari River and improve the quality of water. This is a "bigger bang for the buck".

**115 LOOSE BOULDER STRUCTURES BUILT TO CONSERVE WATER**



# CHALLENGES

- Community engagement even at an authoritative level is critical to ensure the progress and sustainability of our efforts.
- The impact generated is a long term vision and that leaves us with very little to show to the world. As a result, the bio indicators that are the largest impact generated, is understood only by those in the profession.
- We are in a never ending battle with all stakeholders to identify land that aligns with everybody's interests.

# LESSONS LEARNT

- The problem at hand is so huge that we need to form alliances between other organisations and each individual stakeholder.
- Water Security and Reforestation is a chicken and egg situation. Our response depends entirely on the environment of this said situation.
- Situations can change overnight due to human or environmental activities, and therefore each day is a challenge and each day call for a new plan of action.

# DONOR VISITS

# DONOR VISITS



The Nisarg team & the Worley team had similar experience with the community engagement aspect of the program. Nisarg, being one of the first donor to get this program off the ground, were overwhelmed to see the numbers in their reports scaled to real life. '600 acres' is just 5 syllables spread across 3 hills.

"I had heard about village of Dari in Nashik and the execution of the ecological restoration project by Raah Foundation. But seeing it on ground is a totally different experience. How the villagers appreciate it and are motivated to preserve it, how they engage with the villagers and stake holders and how they expanded from 80 acres to 350 acres to 580 acres of restoration is praiseworthy. Thank you Raah Foundation for giving us the opportunity for being part of this project".

**Chirag Kathrani, Founder Nisarg Foundation, USA, donor**

"The most spectacular aspect is community involvement because a project of this kind doesn't survive and doesn't sustain unless there is local involvement and support of the local community. Raah Foundation has achieved this, and it is phenomenal."

**Rohan Das, VP, Vice President Sustainability/CSR, DBS Bank**







# CLIMATE SMART FARMING

*Cultivating ecosystems  
of livelihoods &  
opportunities.*

2023 - 2024



## **"Every farmer is a gambler, every gardener is an optimist."**

~ Jane Shellenberger

Climate change and human exploitation of the lands natural resources have left the once fertile Western Ghats of Maharashtra thirsty for use. Weather predictions have turned into jokes that we laugh at as we look at the bright sky from our highrise glass enclosures. And somewhere below and not too far, are farmers, staring straight up, looking to make sense of these meaningless weather patterns.

The dignified farmer leaves his barren land, in hopes of finding solace in migration patterns followed by many who moved to cities before him.

A gut intuition and ancient wisdom could predict the arrival of the monsoon, he could look at a singular scattered cloud in

the sky and predict the arrival of a midnight shower.

Our organization in collaboration with their intuition and wisdom and our creative and experimental expertise are on a path to create year round farming opportunities for these farming farmers. The collective aim is to break these migration patterns and create a farming pattern that will deliver year round income to these families.

Successful in most endeavours, our Foundation is on a never ending journey of trials, failures and success. From the people who raise the crops to the crops that uplift the community, we're learning & taking everything & everyone with us.





## ***PREPARATION***

- Identify barren land and farmers available and willing to invest time and energy into our Climate Smart Farming program
- Assess land, soil, climate, water availability, proximity and accessibility.
- Provide the farmer groups with appropriate crops/saplings/seed
- Educate them on the best practices to yield the best produce through exposure visits.
- Build water structures [farm ponds] for those who require them
- Provide material for fencing and protection of crops.
- Curate and secure market linkages that tend to the farmers needs as priority.

## ***IMPLEMENTATIONS***

We begin by preparing the identified land for the plantations. It is a combined effort between their labour and our tools.

The next stage involves care, nurture and a concise knowledge biofertilizers. We train them with techniques & provide them with tools to follow the same.

The end stage is the market linkages that we are constantly establishing for these communities. We keep them as direct as possible.

**EXECUTED  
66,574  
INDIVIDUAL  
INTERVENTION  
ACROSS OUR  
FARMER  
GROUPS.**

**20 - 50 %**  
FUNDING  
FROM FARMER  
CONTRIBUTION

**~ 2000** FARMERS HAVE  
STOPPED MIGRATING TO  
WORK AS A DAILY WAGE  
LABOURERS..

Over **500**  
farmers  
supported  
with market  
linkages.

**OVER THE YEARS WE HAVE SUPPLIED & SUPORTED**

**1576** WADI FARMS  
**505** MOGRA FARMERS  
**749** SRI & SMI FARMERS  
**1026** KHARIF & RABI FARMERS

**488** FENCED PLOTS  
**1180** SPRAY PUMPS  
**257** FARMERS WITH  
EXPERIMENTAL SAPLINGS

TRIED & TESTED OVER FARMING OVER **30** CROP VARIETIES



## CHALLENGES

- In the midst of all our chaotic efforts, sleeps a beautiful shapeshifter called climate change. It has no fixed avatar, it rises when it wishes and shows us very little mercy, and we dance to all its tunes. Our plantations however can not dance at the same pace.
- The initial excitement and commitment is the easy part. The nurture that is required in the following days requires discipline and faith which is a spirit that we often find quite hard to maintain and raise. It is only when the investment is balanced that results are delivered.

## LESSONS LEARNT

- Our standard operational model is 'tweaking everything' the needs, the commitments, the resources differ from land to land and farmer to farmer. That being said, we understand that it is necessary to build substantial economies.
- With every pilot, our crop selection process matures, our learning and understandings evolve.
- Our focus on identifying or establishing irrigation systems has moved higher up our priority/activity list.



The Nomura C.J House team visits the Turmeric plantations

"The Social Venture Partners (SVP) Mumbai team, who are supporting our dragon fruit pilot paid a visit to few of the plantations to track progress. The plants are still young and though the team was aware that fruiting would take a while, they visited to interact with the farmers. It was an insightful visit understanding how the farmers were optimising the gestation period through inter-cropping. They stayed a night, engaged with the farmers, walked with them through several fields and wrapped up the day with a fun-filled tribal dance.

The team will be back soon, in time to join the farmers during the harvesting of the dragon fruit"

~Karishma Dixit, CEO, SVP India.







# WOMENS' LIVELIHOODS

*Rebuilding  
environments & habitats,  
by women & for women*

2023 - 2024



**"Investing in women means investing in the people who invest in everyone else."**

~ Melinda Gates

An overlooked outcome of our Water Security program was the endless hours we were helping women save on a daily basis. Raah did not hesitate for even a second, and immediately converted all the hours into employment & education.

The fight against societal norms is a never ending uphill battle for these women. Carving new pathways up this hill is our duty. As much as this program was designed to overcome generations of patriarchy it was also incubated to uplift families and communities. It never hurts to have an additional source of income in the family.

Over the last 2 years, Raah Foundation has built and been absorbed by these groups of incredible women.

There are now 2 major verticals within this program; Digital Financial Literacy [DLFL] and Product based livelihoods.

The DLFL verticals have grown expansively in terms of area and batch size. The introduction of the MeraBills app has simplified bookkeeping for smaller business ventures run by women. For example a hole in the wall village store selling only the essentials such as soap, biscuits etc.

Additionally we do also educate them on budgeting & saving methods so they can make informed decisions for themselves & their families.





## ***PREPARATION***

- Build water security in the chosen village.
- Gather women with an entrepreneurial mindset.
- Mobilise women willing to learn and make informed financial decision for themselves and their families.
- Train the entrepreneurial women with product based skills such as stitching & weaving with different materials.
- Train existing business/shop owners with much needed bookkeeping & budgeting.
- Empower all women through financial literacy and confidence building activities.

## ***IMPLEMENTATIONS***

The implementations of this program spills out into independent aspects of these women's lives. It is one thing to train these women with technical skills pertaining to the tools of the trade, and it is a separate mission & vision altogether to watch them execute critical and creative decisions based off of learning & confidence building.

The spill takes place with the formation of AOP's, a group of skilled women who independently outsource their skills as a production unit.

**892** WOMEN  
TRAINED IN  
SEWING &  
WEAVING IN  
PALGHAR,  
**346** IN PEN.

**₹7,07,115** WORTH OF ORDERS  
FACILITATED FOR WOMEN  
CRAFTING PRODUCTS ACROSS  
PALGHARIN & PEN.

**75** %  
INCREASE  
IN  
AVERAGE  
INCOME

**3058** women  
were trained on  
financial literacy  
concepts &  
applications.

Community building through the formation of 19 skilled persons associations and character building are the two focal points of our efforts. The first forms the basis of a sustainable solution for these women while the latter is a new age survival instinct that is required now more than ever. The digital age is that of independence, our goal is to take this independence to women in the most remote villages in Palghar. Breaking patriarchal sexism, mental & emotional abuse & societal dogmas is the united long term vision of our foundation & its donors.

**1550** WOMEN'S LIVELIHOODS CREATED.



## CHALLENGES

- Every woman that we have ever worked with has a schedule, a routine & responsibilities of her own. For her, those responsibilities supersede their own growth and development. It is impossible to change their schedules so we have to do the best we can to make space for ourselves in their schedules.
- The absence of confidence in these women is holding them back from creating independent production cycles.
- The quality of production depends on their schedules and availability.

## LESSONS LEARNT

- We are not their priority, and that is okay. These women, like most have been subjected to generations of patriarchy and societal dogma. We understand their fears and anxieties of fighting these norms and being the first so it is only humane to respect these emotions and bring about change at a pace they are comfortable with.
- Change will take time. It will spread from community to community and the generation to generation.

# DONOR VISITS



A visit by Jennifer Wang and Aswin Malwade from Ek Saath Foundation

On a hazy winter morning in December 2023, the CSR team of Angel One Limited drove to Palghar to visit their ongoing project. In an age where technology implies freedom, it is a rare sight to find women with access to an internet network or a device. Angel One Limited's support in our Digital and Financial Literacy project has gone above and beyond. 2250 tribal women have been trained to use the Mera Bills mobile application to record their business transactions facilitating them to manage their small enterprises effectively. They have allowed us to deliver technology and education to tribal women who would've otherwise never dreamed of free will.

During the visit, the AOL CSR team got a chance to directly speak to their beneficiaries through one on one interactions and group discussions. It was truly heartwarming to see tribal women gain confidence and independence as they embraced technology and an understanding of survival economics.



# DONOR VISITS





# SAMARTH SKILL TRAINING

*Bringing practical  
teachings to an  
impractical system.*

2023 - 2024



**"Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn."**  
~ Benjamin Franklin

A single education can uplift an entire family. This has been proved time and again in our country. We hear stories, read them on the front page of newspapers and it fills us with pride. What our foundation is trying to achieve is similar but a little more practical.

Not every motivated teenager coming from a financially unstable background can crack our education system no matter how hard they work. The stories we read are those of the top 1% geniuses. And what about those left behind?

Our Skill Training Program is here for them. We enroll these students under three programs depending on their needs.

The first is an employment guarantee program that lasts for 35 days and trains the youth for employment in the service sector. The second is a 6 month Digital Journalism course. The third is a technical skilling program for the manufacturing industry, the demand in this industry is high and therefore students are placed immediately post completion.

Our engagement with our students goes beyond the necessary hard skills required to get the job done. We also pay a heavy importance to character development. Through activities, seminars, counselling sessions and real time exposure, we help mould these students into irrepressible humans.





## PREPARATION

- Mobilise young adults with a basic high school education through one on one interactions & word of mouth marketing
- Counsel students to understand their interest and place them in one out of the three existing upscaling programs.
- Hardwire communication into every aspect of the learning progress.
- Constantly counsel each batch to build confidence and manage expectations
- Prepare them for interviews and help them build resumes
- Place the students with reputable companies across the service retail & manufacturing industries

## IMPLEMENTATIONS

Upon completion of any of our soft skill programs [which are NSDC certified], each student is given a certificate of completion by us. Upon completion of the Digital Journalism program, students are awarded certificates issued by Maharashtra Skill Development Corporation.

Post placement, we monitor and provide these students with any support they may require for the next 6 months.

**70% OF THE STUDENTS ARE BEING PLACED, WITH AVERAGE SALARIES RANGING FROM 1,80,000 - 3,96,000 PER ANUM.**

**15 CENTRES OPENED ACROSS ALL OF MAHARASHTRA & 1 IN BARODA.**

**54%**  
OF THE STUDENTS  
ENROLLED  
**ARE FEMALE!**

**1310 students trained since 2022**

We have successfully established 66 new placement tie-ups with several reputed organisations. 30 in banking, 9 in BPO 6 in finance & insurance, 10 in retail and 11 in manufacturing. These partnerships will provide our students with greater opportunities for internships and full-time positions, enhancing their career prospects significantly. This program is just about over a year old and has grown faster than any other program of Raah Foundation.

**75% OF THE YOUTH IN INDIA IS NOT QUALIFIED FOR DECENT EMPLOYMENT.**



## CHALLENGES

- The rest of our programs are only active in Palghar & Nashik, we didn't anticipate how difficult it would be to establish ourselves in the remaining 15 districts.
- Matching the students expectation with the stark reality is never going to be easy but it is a gap that we are trying bridge by increasing the number of counselling sessions for each batch.
- Without these counselling sessions, students end up declining job offers as the salaries offered do not match their unrealistic expectations.

## LESSONS LEARNT

- The base of any business is to know your consumer and Samarth is learning to do just that. We have increased our number of counselling sessions to 5-6 sessions per batch to engage with their interests better.
- Reality checks are harsh but necessary for the students and for us as well. We are looking at expanding the skill training courses we can offer to align better with new job trends.

# DONOR VISITS

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Funding 15/16 of our skill training centres, Angel One Limited deserves a round of applause. Their support since the beginning has been pivotal in our journey, the fuel that powered the first engine. The Skill Training vertical of Raah Foundation has been the fastest growing program we have ever encountered. The response and engagement from our beneficiaries has been overwhelming since the program conception and somewhere in the middle of June 2023, we invited the AOL CSR team to inaugurate our Dadar centre, to witness and validate our emotions.

Our engagement with Angel One Limited did not end there. We proceeded to physically visit centres across Maharashtra [Pimpri, Pune, Chinchwad, Satara, Kalyan and Nerul just to name a few] and the one lonely centre in Baroda. Virtually, we have taken them on a tour of Maharashtra, a first one for us as well. They were thrilled to meet majority of the ongoing batches. The confidence they were helping build in these young adults sent them home with filled hearts and a good nights sleep.



# FINAL REMARKS

"Tell me, what  
is it you plan to  
do with your one  
wild and  
precious life?"

~ Mary Oliver

"The creation of  
a thousand  
forests is in one  
acorn."

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

*"As I reflect on the remarkable journey of the Raah Family through 2023, and the profound impact we have achieved together, I am filled with an overwhelming sense of gratitude and hope.*

*To our donors, your unwavering support has been the cornerstone of our success.*

*With your generosity, we have transformed lives, empowered communities, and safeguarded the most precious resource—water, implemented innovative solutions and built a sustainable infrastructure that will endure for generations to come.*

*Yet, even as we celebrate our accomplishments, we recognize that our work is far from over. The path ahead may be daunting, but it is also brimming with potential and opportunity. Together, we possess the resilience, determination, and ingenuity to overcome the hurdles that lay ahead.*

*With hope in our hearts and determination in our souls let us shape the future."*

~Dr. Sarika Kulkarni





## CONTACT US

Reach out to us if you'd be interested in joining or supporting our foundation as a whole or a specific program. Our team would be more than happy to assist you in any and all ways possible!



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