

# CELEBRATING 2 DECADES OF INFINITE POSSIBILITIES!

Annual Report 2023-24



MAKKALA JAGRITI





Where you are born  
**SHOULD NOT LIMIT**  
how far you go!

Think of a child  
Boy or girl, just born  
Who has the whole world to explore and conquer.  
What's the best start she can get?

Think of the little child  
In a community  
A village or an institution  
Curious, energetic, full of questions and free spirit.  
What do I do to preserve and nurture that?

Think of the child  
And her place of learning,  
What is the place giving her, and treating her like  
Is she getting the best every moment?  
What is the best that I can do for that space?

Think of the young dreamer in her teens,  
Forming her ambitions, amidst anxieties  
Questioning herself: Can she or can't she?  
What do I want her to believe?

Think of the youth who is full of life  
Faced with a thousand directions to choose from.  
Can I empower her  
To overcome everything that's in her way  
And go on with what's best for her?

Think of the toddler, child, or youth,  
Not with sympathy but hope.  
Think of her as a flower waiting to bloom,  
As a power waiting to be unleashed.

Think of the pride in your heart  
And how she enriches your life and being  
when she conquers the world.  
And ask yourself:

Can I be anything less than excellent?  
Can I be anything less than excellent?  
Can I be anything less than excellent?



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## From the CEO's Desk

Two decades - a journey that feels like a long one at times, but also feels like one that has just begun.

It is with pride and gratitude that we present the annual report of Makkala Jagriti's momentous year, its 20th. Over the course of two decades, there have been remarkable milestones that have been achieved thanks to the support of donors, well-wishers, volunteers, employees and all our stakeholders. But it is our children who continue to fuel inspiration and commitment day in and day out. And therefore we dedicate the celebration of this milestone year to our children and youth - the true heroes of our social movement.

This year has been special, not just because of the celebrations. A year that we began with a renewed commitment to excellence in everything that we do, has also been one of making significant forays into consolidation and scale. Our investments in program design and quality continue to remain high - we continued to solidify our revamped SPICE model for holistic development for children. At the same time, we have taken important steps towards knowledge partnering and scaling our work in early childhood care and education. Our interventions in Child Care Institutions continued to steadily transform them into spaces of holistic learning and development.

One of the biggest strategic shifts has been our move to harness the potential of our work with children and youth in urban poor communities into a truly integrated community transformation program with a new goal statement and a new team structure. For an organization that began its journey of empowering children in communities, this was an important shift towards strengthening our impact in the communities that we work with.

Makkala Jagriti has also seen remarkable achievements and recognitions. We have been certified as a Great Place to Work for a second successive year and have won the prestigious HCLTech grant - with which we aim to transform the early childhood education ecosystem of one of Karnataka's most backward Taluks. We view these awards are not just testaments to the culture of people-centricity, integrity and excellence in the organization, but also as great responsibilities to continue upholding our values and commitment towards last-mile impact.

The special year deserved special celebrations; and celebrate we did! From creating unprecedented opportunities for our children to perform on the big stage to acknowledging the support of all our partners and donors in get-togethers, from creating a film and coffee table book to celebrate our superheroes to creating an anthem that captures what the social movement deeply means to all of us, we did it all.

And amidst all of these celebrations, we continue to look forward to another two decades of growth, impact and infinite possibilities. We also look forward to your continued trust, faith and support. Thank you.

**Sunayana Chatrapathy**  
Chief Executive Officer, Makkala Jagriti

# About Makkala Jagriti



Makkala Jagriti is a non-governmental organization that has been working towards facilitating holistic learning and development opportunities to children and youth from socio-economically disadvantaged sections of society since 2003. Our journey, which has now reached its **20-year mark**, stands as a testament to our unwavering commitment to our cause. Driven by its motto: **Where you are born should not limit how far you go**, Makkala Jagriti facilitates children and youth on a journey of self-discovery, encouraging them to explore their innate strengths and potential through a holistic approach to learning.

Central to our ethos is the belief in fostering sustainable and inclusive change through an **ecosystem approach**. In collaboration with parents, educators, communities, like-minded organizations, and the government, we strive to transform our vision into a social movement, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to thrive and succeed, regardless of their circumstances.

## Our Vision

A value-based social movement to empower the child and its community towards a brighter future.

## Our Mission

To facilitate holistic development for children and diverse groups, in and around the community, to build a sustainable and equitable society.

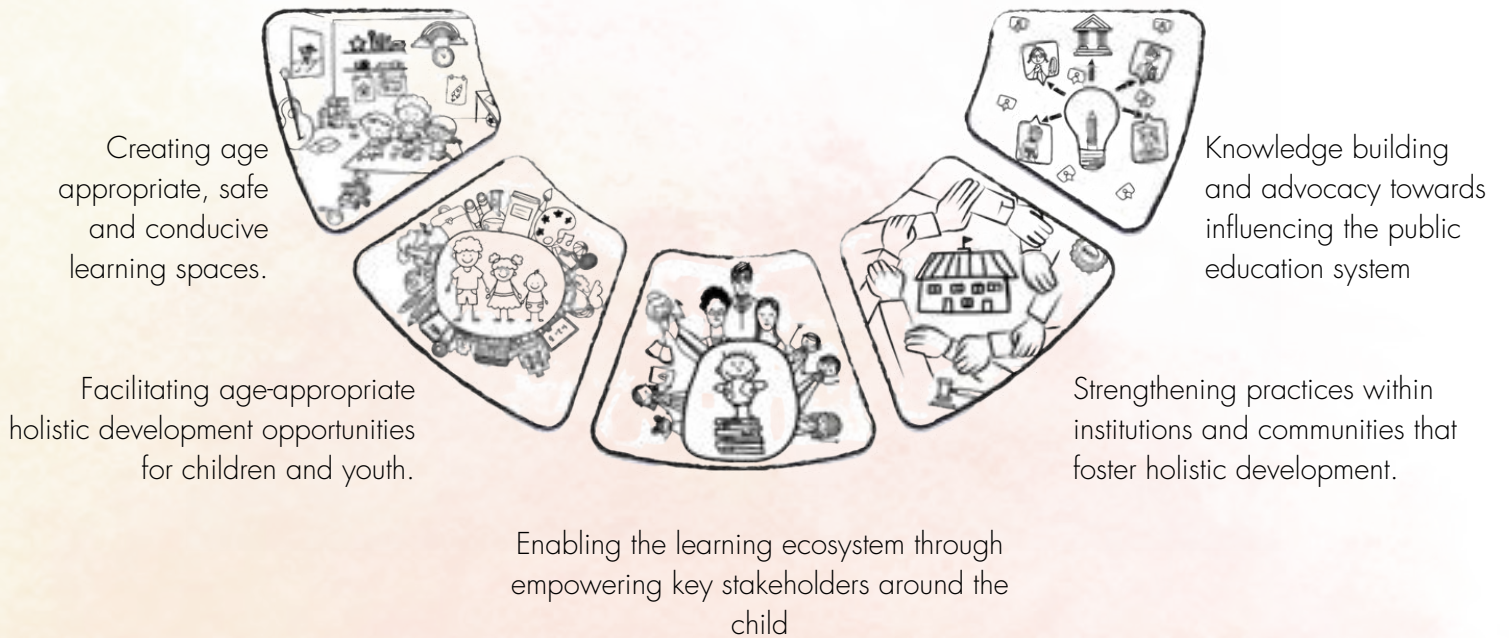
## Our Core Values

At Makkala Jagriti, we see the world from a child's point of view. We follow a child-centric approach which allows us to respect the child's physical, professional, and learning boundaries. We unconditionally accept all children, irrespective of their background, gender, and ability levels. We trust and believe that children have the freedom to make their own choices.

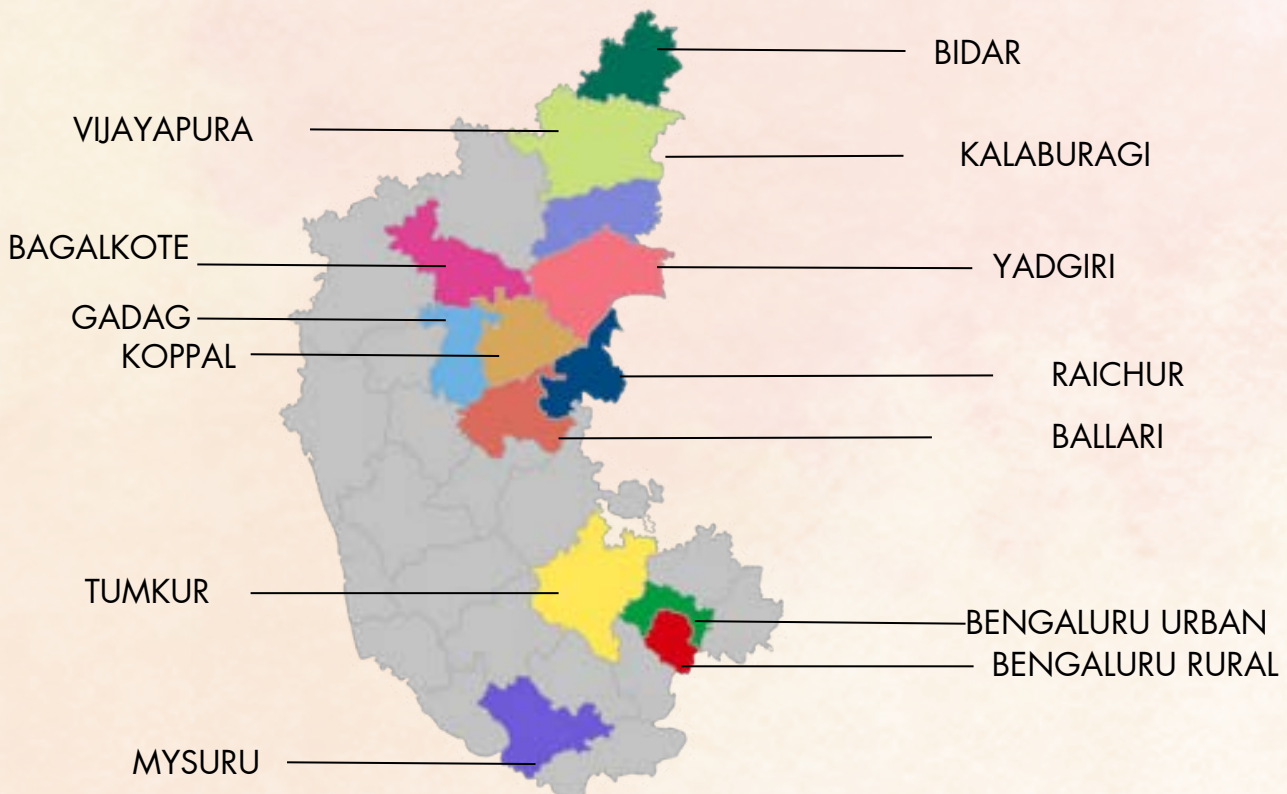


## Our Approach

The key problem that Makkala Jagriti is trying to address is the lack of access to quality holistic development opportunities that children and youth from socio-economically disadvantaged sections of the society typically face through:



## Our Presence





## Our Programs



### **HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT & LEARNING FOR CHILDREN**

This program fosters holistic development and learning among children studying in government schools in the age group of 6-14 years through a variety of experiential learning activities based on Makkala Jagriti's unique SPICE model.



### **EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE & EDUCATION**

A program that empowers the Anganwadi ecosystem to provide quality early education for children aged between 3 and 6 and making them school-ready.





## CHILD CARE INSTITUTIONS

This program is aimed at transforming Child Care Institutions into spaces of holistic learning and development for children in institutional care through a combination of facilitating unprecedented learning opportunities and system strengthening.



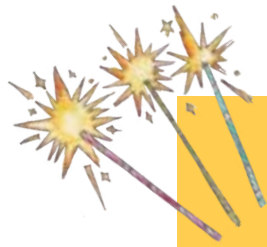
## YUVA JAGRITI

A program to empower youth from urban poor communities with 21st century skills to help them unlock their potential, script better futures, and become role models and change agents within their communities.




A program to transform communities by facilitating holistic learning and development opportunities for children and youth across age groups to ensure that they are school-ready to life-ready.






# Highlights of the Year




Celebrated 2 decades of our Social Movement in different ways with the pinnacle being "Makkala Raaga" a glorious event with nearly 400 talented children.



Won the prestigious HCLTech Grant Edition IX under the Education category by HCLFoundation, focusing on Early Childhood Care and Education in HD Kote.



Restructured our Community Transformation program with a new strategy to engage children and youth across age-groups to ensure school readiness to life-readiness.




Implemented the new theme-based SPICE curriculum in full swing in our centers, creating a wide range of holistic learning and development opportunities for children.



Strengthened partnerships with the Department of Education and the Department of Women and Child Development.



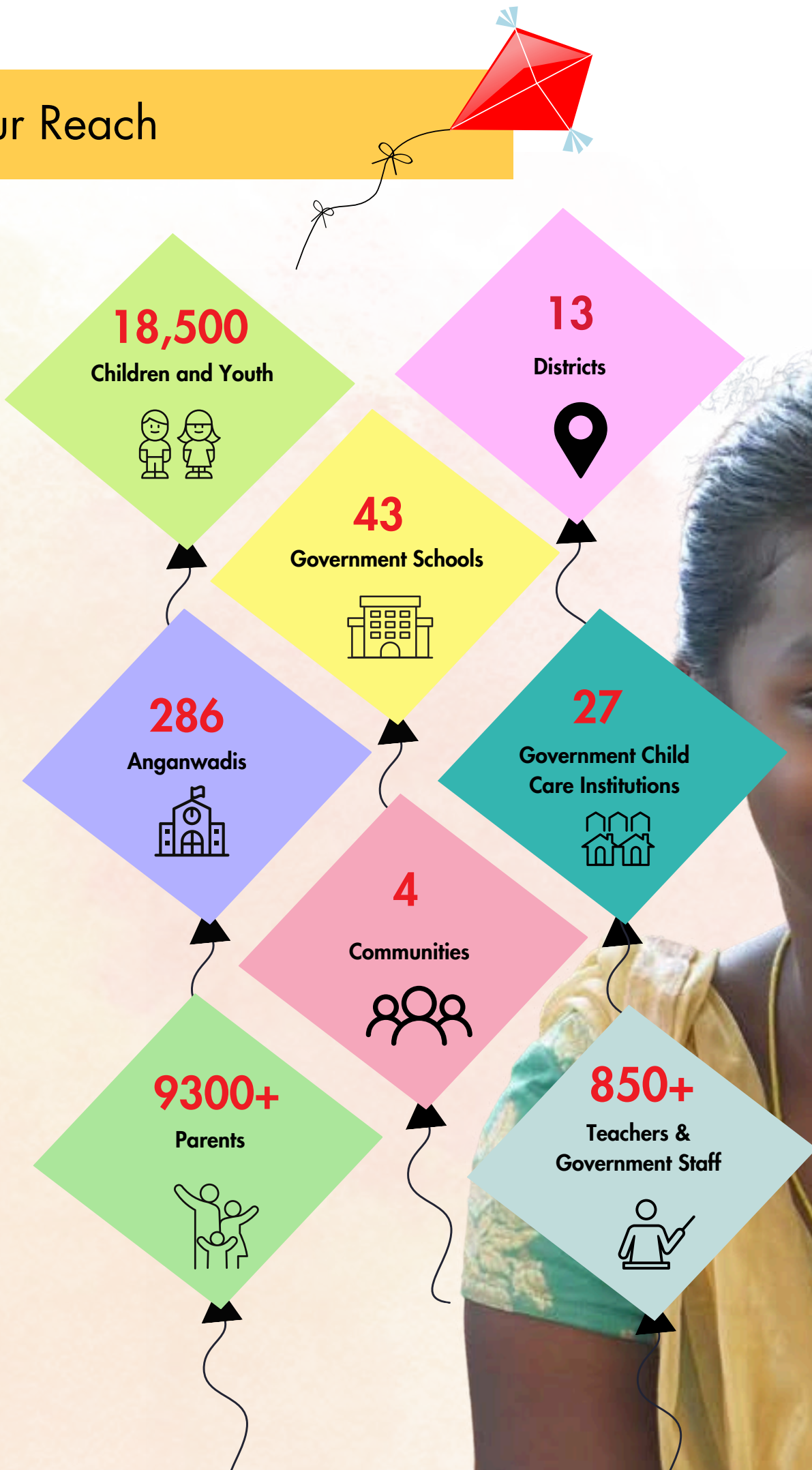
Launched Taluk-level Intervention for our Early Childhood Care and Education program.



Recognized as a Great Place to Work for the second time and honored as a Top Workplace for Women.



# Our Reach





## Early Childhood Care & Education

Every child deserves a great start. With 90% of brain development happening in the first five years, these years are the foundation for a child's holistic growth. Makkala Jagriti's Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) program is aimed at enhancing the early education ecosystem in Anganwadis. Aligning with the aspirations of NEP 2020 and SDG-4, this program works in close collaboration with the Department of Women and Child Development, Government of Karnataka to transform Anganwadis into spaces of quality early childhood education.



## Our Reach: 2023-24





# Highlights of the Year: 2023-24



Won the prestigious HCLTech Grant Edition IX in the Education category for expanding ECCE initiatives in HD Kote Taluk Mysore District



Anganwadi Habba - a community event to showcase the importance of ECCE was celebrated across circles, illustrating teacher empowerment and community engagement.



Launched our first scale model intervention featuring capacity building of ICDS Supervisors as Master Trainers in Bangalore East ICDS Project



Paper titled "The Holistic Approach to Train Anganwadi Teachers" presented at Azim Premji University, highlighting MJ's innovative capacity building methods.



Knowledge partnerships on ECCE with multiple civil society organizations



**337**  
Anganwadis



**6500+**  
Parents



# Key Activities of the Year: 2023-24



## Capacity Building of Stakeholders

In 2023-24, we prioritized capacity building of different stakeholders to significantly enhance the quality of preschool education. Our training programs encompassed Anganwadi teachers, helpers as well as Supervisors so that Early Childhood Education in Anganwadis could be prioritized at all levels.



Through targeted training programs, we have strengthened the pedagogical skills of Anganwadi teachers, transforming them into educators who contribute meaningfully to children's development. Helpers, too, have been equipped to enhance learning experiences by leveraging their strong connections with the children. In an innovative approach that boosts the scalability of our intervention, we have built capacities of Supervisors and select Anganwadi teachers as Master Trainers, empowering them to cascade their knowledge to the last mile.

- 20 trainings conducted for Anganwadi teachers
- 12 trainings conducted for Anganwadi helpers
- 2 specialized trainings conducted for 15 Supervisors and Lead Teachers (as Master Trainers)
- 249 Anganwadi workers trained across 9 circles by Master Trainers

## Anganwadi Habba - a platform for awareness and showcasing best practices

Anganwadi teachers, who have been part of Makkala Jagriti's interventions have not only made quality preschool education a way of life in their Anganwadis, but also are keen to showcase their learnings. At "Anganwadi Habba," held in February 2024, the teachers demonstrated effective preschool education methods to their colleagues and senior officials of the Department of Women and Child Development, reiterating the tremendous potential for enhancing ECCE in their Anganwadis and across the communities they are part of.





### Fostering best practices: Co-Visits with Supervisors

As part of our innovative approach, we conducted co-visits to Anganwadi centers alongside supervisors. These visits allowed us to observe ongoing activities while enabling Supervisors to take the lead in discussions on preschool education. This hands-on strategy facilitated the replication of best practices, ensuring consistent and effective implementation of ECCE interventions in multiple Anganwadis under the Supervisors' purview, leading to positive outcomes for both children and their families.



### Consistent engagement leads to a positive learning environment

Bhagya Laxmi, a teacher at Tharahunasae 2 Anganwadi Center (AWC), had questions and reservations about how collaborations with NGOs would work. However, after consistent engagement over a period of time, Bhagya Lakshmi began actively participating in preschool activities, showing particular enthusiasm in personal, social, and emotional (PSE) learning. Her new energy in leading activities and trying new songs marked a positive shift. This has led to a productive partnership, creating a warm, supportive environment for the children.



## Enhancing learning spaces in Anganwadis

To ensure that children in Anganwadis had access to the necessary resources and environments that support their holistic development, we focused on equipping the centers with materials that enhance learning both within and beyond the classroom. Through the **distribution of workbooks, learning toys, and stationery across 289 Anganwadis**, we aimed to create a resource-rich environment that facilitates continued engagement. The workbooks, carefully tailored to each child's age and developmental stage serve as vital tools for children's learning at home. We also guided parents on how to effectively use these resources, ensuring that the learning process is supported at home.



### Collaborating for a Child's Growth

Veeraj, a 4.5-year-old attending one of our Anganwadis, was initially reluctant to join in activities, often sitting alone and resisting guidance. After some enquiries, it was found that his home environment was not conducive, and contributing to his disengagement. A home visit followed and discussions with his grandmother and father were held. Things changed once his family understood the importance of early childhood engagement, and they began to actively support his participation. Today, Veeraj takes part with joy and enthusiasm, completing tasks eagerly. This story reflects the pivotal role family support plays in a child's development and showcases how collaboration between teachers and families creates positive transformations in children's learning.



## Community Empowerment for ECCE

In 2023-24, we reinforced our commitment to community engagement by recognizing the vital role parents and the broader community play in the holistic development of children. Through various initiatives, we empowered parents to actively participate in their child's early education, transforming them into key partners in the process. **Monthly interactive meetings** and **daily instructional videos** equipped parents with knowledge, while mothers' meetings helped shift perceptions, turning Anganwadis into educational hubs and encouraging healthier dietary habits for children.

Additionally, home visits were conducted to re-engage children post-reopening, resulting in the return of all visited children to the centers. The Anganwadi Habba event drew a large number of participants, showcasing cost-effective educational tools and fostering dialogue between teachers and the community. Celebrations such as Children's Day, Teachers' Day, and Nutrition Month highlighted creativity, teamwork, and nutritional awareness, further strengthening the community's connection to the ECCE system and underscoring the collaborative efforts that contribute to children's well-being and development.

- 27 mothers' meetings were conducted to enhance parental engagement.
- 557 home visits were carried out to re-engage children and ensure their return to the Anganwadi centers.
- Over 500 participants attended the Anganwadi Habba events, fostering community involvement in ECCE, wherein interactive stalls were set up to demonstrate cost-effective educational tools and foster dialogue between teachers and the community.



*Our five centers in Betta Halasuru are thriving! Increased attendance, better activities, and festivals for children have transformed Anganwadis into vibrant spaces. Heartfelt thanks for your support!*

**Lakshmi Vishala Mattada, Supervisor**



### **Anganwadi Graduation Day**

To celebrate a key milestone in children's educational journey, our Anganwadi centers hosted a special Graduation Day, marking the transition of children from Anganwadi to first grade in school. This event highlighted the progress of the children and celebrated their achievements. Parents showed overwhelming support and enthusiasm, proud to witness their children's important milestone. This initiative not only honored the children's transition but also encouraged other parents to enroll their children in Anganwadi centers, reinforcing confidence in the role these centers play in preparing children for their continued educational journey.

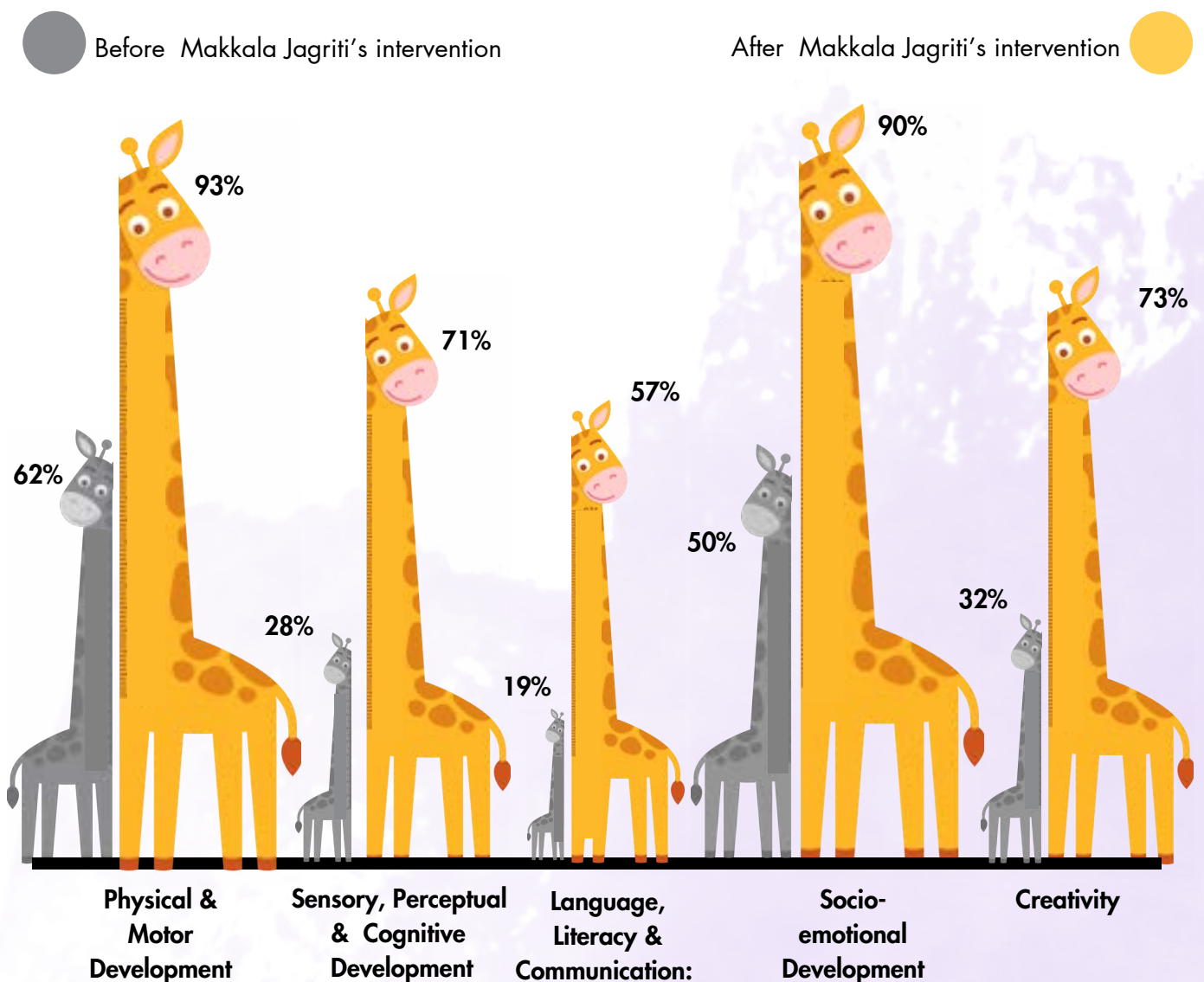
# Impact 2023-24



Our efforts have consistently shown positive outcomes in the development of children across various domains. Using standardized tools developed from the Department of Women and Child Development and ICDS, we assessed the progress of children in Anganwadis through in-person evaluations and teacher-led surveys. The assessment categorized children into three groups based on their performance: "Performs well," "Emerging," and "Needs help."

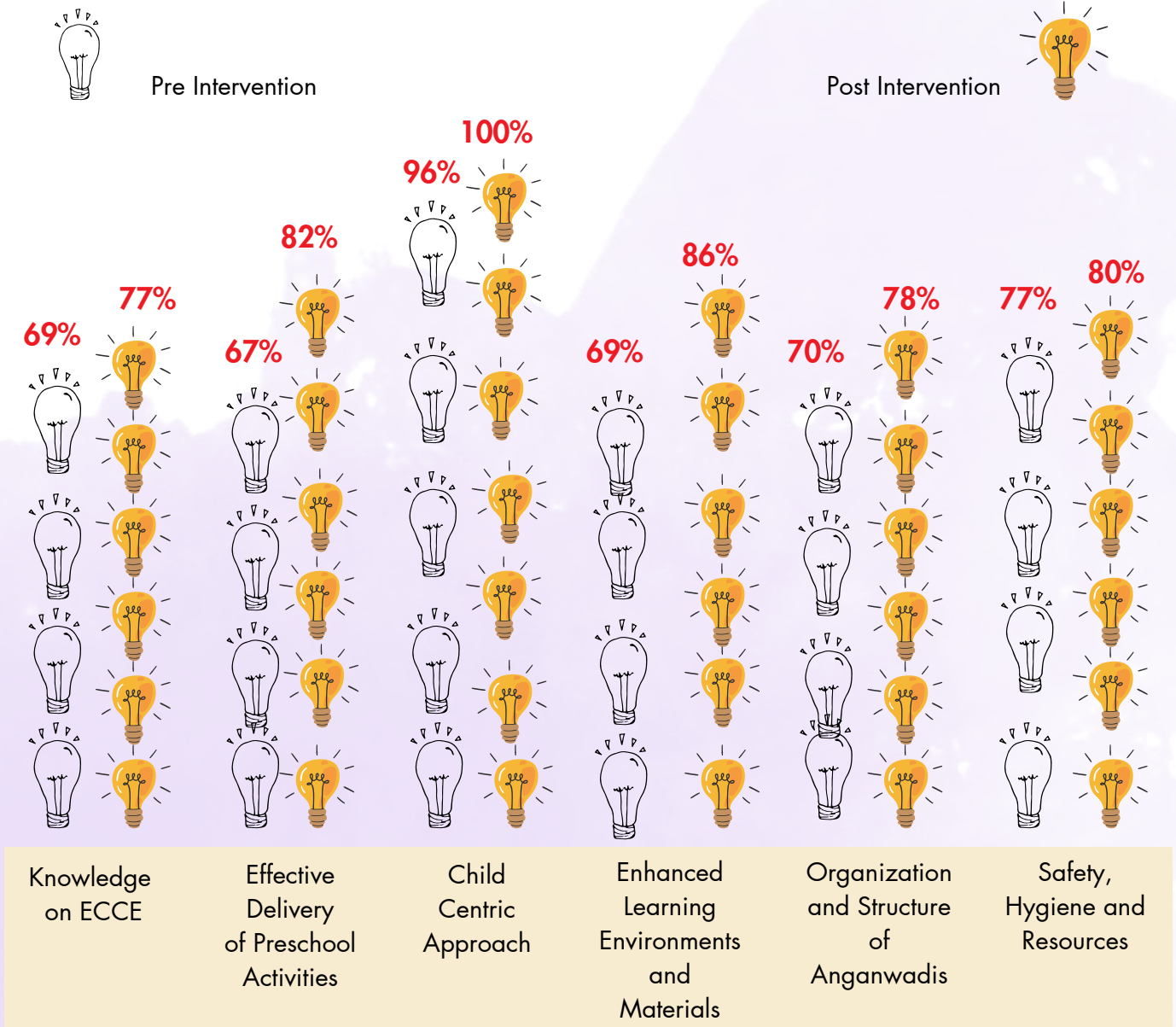
## Children's Outcomes

Throughout the year, we closely tracked the development of 470 children across key developmental areas. The graph below demonstrates the percentage of children performing well in each domain, highlighting their progress from the beginning to the end of the year.



Significant progress was observed across all developmental domains, with social-emotional and creative development showing the most notable improvements, demonstrating the program's impact on emotional regulation, social skills, and creativity.

# Anganwadi Teacher Outcomes



The ECCE program has significantly enhanced teacher engagement, out of 70 teachers who were surveyed, 91% of teachers effectively using learning materials, improving interactions with children, and fostering a nurturing, well-organized environment for learning.



*Toys have enriched learning for children. Playtime is now engaging and educational, thanks to the training on utilizing resources. Parents are thrilled with the change, and we prioritize play for cognitive growth.*

**Vijaya, Helper, Ambedkar Nagar 2 Anganwadi**





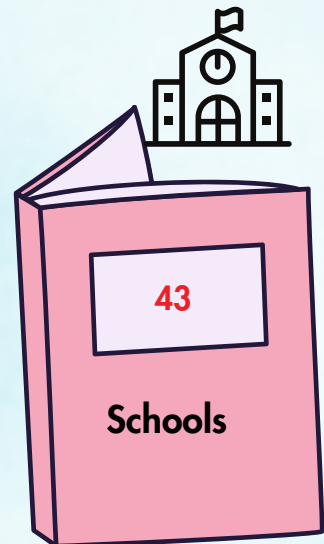
# HDLC

## Holistic Development & Learning for Children in Government Schools

The Holistic Development and Learning for Children (HDLC) program provides children from disadvantaged backgrounds attending government schools, many of whom are first-generation learners, with a variety of opportunities for their holistic development. Aligned with the aspiration of NEP 2020, which emphasizes holistic development of children, this program is centered around our flagship SPICE model of holistic development. By creating a safe & engaging learning environment and involving key stakeholders such as teachers, parents, and the community, HDLC empowers schools to adopt child-centric practices, bridging learning gaps & helping children reach their full potential.



## Our Reach: 2023-24





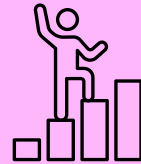
# Highlights of the Year: 2023-24



Continued learning recovery for children through Foundational Literacy and Numeracy sessions.



Implemented four theme-based sessions for holistic education focused on Habitat, Games and Sports, Money, and Food and Nutrition



Empowered teachers and students to enhance best practices in the school such as: assemblies, children's parliament, library usage, and technology integration.



Conducted workshops and Teacher Learning Circles to support teachers' professional growth.



Celebration of events that foster holistic learning and exposure: Library Day, National Math Day, and Natural Science Day in schools.



**200+**

**Teachers**



**4**

**Districts**



**2300+**

**Parents**

# Key Activities of the Year: 2023-24

## Foundational Literacy and Numeracy Sessions

We implemented Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) sessions across 28 schools for grades 4 to 7, focusing on reading, writing, and arithmetic. Children had suffered learning losses as a result of the pandemic and these sessions aimed to close learning gaps in Kannada and Math, with 25 sessions conducted per grade. The sessions were activity based ensuring active engagement of children. This initiative helped build confidence and ensured proficiency in foundational skills, reflecting our commitment to improving students' literacy and numeracy.

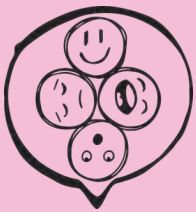


## Theme-based Holistic Development Sessions

Last year, we achieved a milestone by revamping our SPICE model and developing a theme-based curriculum for integrated learning experiences. This year, based on the revamped curriculum we incorporated 4 themes that were not only educational but also celebrated significant events and milestones.



## S.P.I.C.E MODEL



**Socio  
Emotional  
Development**

- Growth Mindset
- Self Awareness
- Managing emotions
- Communication
- Interpersonal Skills



**Physical  
Development**

- Psychomotor development
- Awareness on physical well-being



**Intellectual  
Development**

- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Problem solving
- Critical thinking



**Creative  
Development**

- Curiosity
- Originality



**Ethical  
Development**

- Integrity & accountability
- Constitutional values
- Environmental ethics



### Habitat

Children explored ecosystems, plant and animal adaptations, and environmental conservation, aligning with World Environment Day to promote ecological awareness.



### Games and Sports

This theme encouraged participation in sports, physical fitness, teamwork, and leadership. The activities were synced with school sports days and events including Pratibha Karanji (Talent day)



### Money

Children learned about financial literacy, including the history of money, currencies, banking, saving, and budgeting, equipping them with essential financial skills.



### Food & Nutrition

This theme focused on healthy eating and the risks of junk food, leading children to incorporate more vegetables and check food labels and expiry dates.

These experiential and activity-based sessions are designed to enhance specific SPICE outcomes while enriching students' knowledge and deepening their understanding of their environment, health, and future responsibilities. Through engaging, hands-on learning, these sessions foster holistic growth and help students connect with real-world concepts more meaningfully.



*Through 'SPICE' sessions, I've learned to share and support others in group activities. My creativity and confidence have grown, and I now speak about our projects confidently. I'm more social and eager to learn.*

**Baganna, 8th Grade, Maralukunte School**

## Teacher Empowerment

Teachers are the key to the learning and success of all children. Our Teacher Empowerment Program focuses on equipping educators with creative methodologies and integrating holistic development activities into the school system.

This year, we facilitated **6 Teacher Learning Circles per school**, providing a platform for reflection and collaboration on best practices around creation of Teaching Learning Materials, integration of technology and effective use of library resources.



Additionally two teacher workshops were conducted with 75 participants, focusing on strengthening school practices like morning assemblies, engaging notice boards, and children's parliaments, encouraging teachers to reflect on their growth and enhance their involvement in the learning process.



*After attending Makkala Jagriti's workshop, Mrs. Pushpa transformed our school's teaching approach. She shared new methods with other teachers, using resources more effectively and inspiring us to adopt innovative learning strategies*

**Teacher, Devarachikkanahalli**



## Attendance Flag Initiative at Chikka Baganala School

At Chikka Baganala Government Model School, teachers introduced the "Attendance Flag" initiative to address punctuality and attendance issues. These were persistent issues that had not got addressed effectively. After discussing this in a workshop, teachers decided to encourage attendance by awarding a flag to the class with the highest attendance each week. The impact was immediate and positive. Students now eagerly attend the morning assembly, driven by friendly competition to win the flag. The winning class proudly displays it, fostering a sense of pride and teamwork. This simple initiative has reduced absenteeism significantly, creating a positive atmosphere that values punctuality, respect, and unity, ultimately enhancing school discipline and camaraderie among students.



## Strengthening School Practices

School practices play an important role in the holistic development of children. To strengthen these practices, we collaborate with schools to implement these practices that foster growth and engagement.



### Morning Assembly Activities

Creative assemblies foster a sense of community, creative thinking, discipline and helps build general awareness.



### Student Parliament

Students take on leadership roles and engage in decision-making, organizing events, and addressing school concerns, promoting civic responsibility and teamwork.



### Effective Utilization of Library

Libraries have become vibrant learning spaces with reading challenges, book talks, and storytelling sessions to ignite a love for reading.



### Integration of Technology

Teachers are supported in using projectors, smart TVs, and educational apps to make learning more interactive and relevant to the real world.



### School Notice Board

A revitalized notice board features student achievements, creative works, and motivational content, encouraging excellence and creativity.



### Events in Schools

Celebrating Library Day, National Math & Science Day, & National Science Day encouraged teacher involvement & student participation, making it integral to school culture.

These initiatives have created a more engaging & supportive school environment. The student parliament has empowered students to lead & collaborate, while libraries and technology have enriched learning experiences. Events and assemblies have strengthened community bonds, and the notice board has fostered creativity and motivation. Together, these practices ensure holistic development and sustainability within the school culture.



### English Language Intervention

English is a crucial life skill that opens doors of opportunity for all children. Our specialized program aims to make learning English fun, engaging, and relatable, helping students overcome fear and build confidence.

**In-School Program:** We conducted activity-based English classes with a customized curriculum in 15 government schools, reaching 5082 children. Complementing these sessions, we encourage school practices such as creative assemblies and notice boards, towards providing additional platforms for students to showcase their language skills. Events like "Fun with English," focusing on listening, speaking, reading, and writing, further enhance their learning experience.

**After-School Program:** Targeted support was provided in two schools as part of a pilot program, with sessions offering personalized attention to students needing extra help in English. The program saw an average of 48 students per session. Based on its effectiveness, we plan to expand this initiative to more schools next year.

Our online engagement through WhatsApp lessons and ongoing support ensured that students stayed connected and reinforced their learning beyond the classroom.





**Exposure Trips :** In December, children from 28 schools participated in exposure trips, including treks to Harhara Betta and Anjanadri Betta, visits to corporate offices, and explorations of the Vishweshwaraiah Museum, as well as rural and village life. These experiences exposed the children to the outside world, fostering an appreciation for the environment, enhancing their scientific understanding, and broadening their knowledge of rural life.



“

*My English skills improved through classes and support from my mentors. I recently entered and won in the Fun with English competition, boosting my confidence to keep learning.*

**Chennakesava, 7th Grade**

# Impact 2023-24



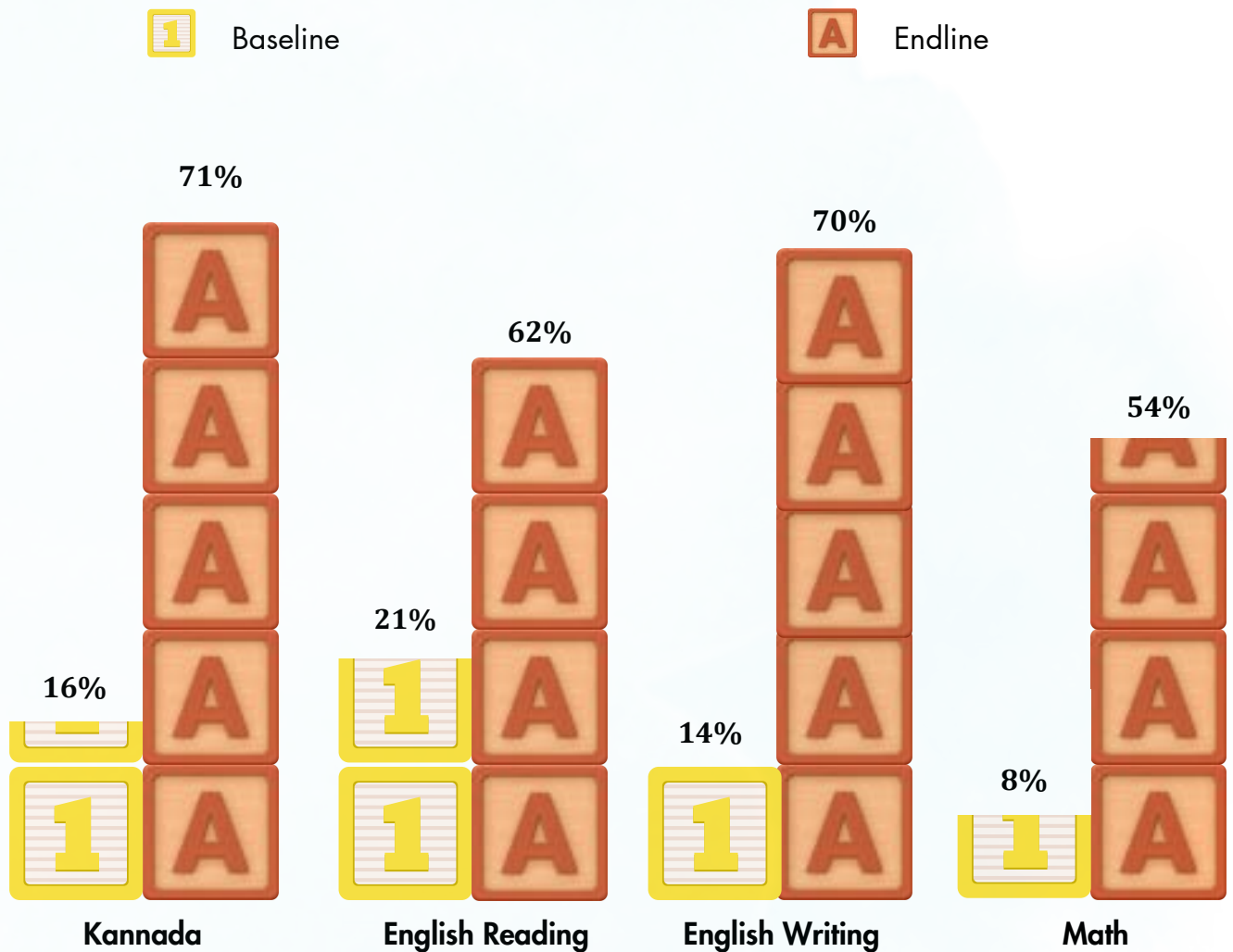
The HDLC program yielded positive outcomes in different ways ranging from improvement in children's learning outcomes to strengthening of practices within schools along with teachers playing a more active role in children's holistic development.

## Children Outcomes

### Foundational Literacy and Numeracy

- Over the academic year, we observed significant progress in foundational literacy and numeracy skills among students.
- In Kannada, more than 55% children showed improvement, with children progressing from struggling with basics like Akshara and Kagunitha to stronger proficiency levels.
- In English, reading improved by 40% and writing by 56%, with more children meeting expected levels over the course of the year
- In Foundational numeracy, we that 54% children were meeting expectations towards the end of the year compared to just 8% children at the beginning of the year

## Percentage of children at expected levels in Literacy and Numeracy (Baseline and Endline)



## Holistic Development Outcomes

The SPICE assessments, designed to evaluate children's socio-emotional, physical, intellectual, creative, and ethical development, provide critical insights into their progress across different levels and help us refine our program design and implementation. These assessments have been instrumental in understanding how children are developing in various areas.



Children across all levels showed strong progress in socio-emotional, ethical, and physical development, with many achieving independent mastery in these areas.



Comparatively, intellectual and creative development require further support, as the assessments suggest that many children are still in the early stages of growth with regard to these skills

## School Practices

We are encouraged by the progress made by schools in institutionalizing practices that aid holistic development of children in schools. The advancement is marked by increased teacher and student involvement in assemblies, children's parliament and use of libraries. Schools have shown significant improvement in managing notice boards and have started incorporating technology into the classrooms.



**50%**

of the schools are conducting children's parliament in a consistent and effective manner.



**54%**

of schools have shown significant improvement in using and managing notice boards



**25%**

of the schools are using technology in an expected manner, while many other schools have made gradual improvements towards the same.

We look forward to further investment in strengthening these practices so that schools provide a variety of learning and development opportunities to children on a consistent basis.



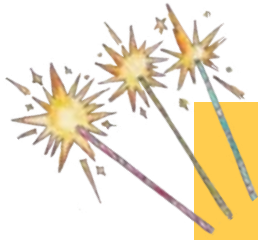
## Holistic Development and Learning for Children in Child Care Institutions

Child Care Institutions (CCIs) play a vital role in India's Juvenile Justice system, offering shelter and correctional support to children in need of care, protection, or those in conflict with the law. However, disruptions in their education highlight the need for holistic development opportunities. Makkala Jagriti's intervention seeks to transform these government homes into safe, nurturing learning environments. We collaborate with CCIs to establish well-designed learning centers and provide facilitators who engage children in activities such as Restorative Learning Circles, Makerspace, and theme-based holistic sessions. Additionally, we conduct capacity-building workshops for staff to reinforce the importance of holistic child development.



Our Reach: 2023-24





# Highlights of the Year: 2023-24



Launched "Kalpana Gruha" at Bangalore Boys Home, providing expanded space, computer access, and a library to enhance educational opportunities.



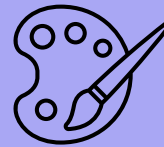
Held over 20 capacity-building sessions for government staff, improving their skills and collaboration with CCI centers.



Conducted vibrant Dussehra and Summer camps comprising a variety of holistic development sessions



Conducted adventure camps and exposure visits for children across 7 districts providing experiences and opportunities to develop teamwork, leadership, and cultural awareness.



Transformed the spaces in Observation Home through Mural art which also boosted children's sense of wellbeing and self-expression.



# Key Activities of the Year: 2023-24



## Creating conducive learning spaces

We have transformed government-run Child Care Institutions (CCIs) and Observation Homes into safe, conducive learning environments by carefully designing the physical spaces. We've created dedicated areas for focused learning, relaxation, and access to educational resources, ensuring the children have everything they need for their academic and personal growth. These spaces include a state-of-the-art computer lab, a makerspace, kitchen gardens, and even creative elements like mural art, making the environment both functional and engaging.

Beyond the physical setup, we prioritize the emotional well-being of the children, fostering an overall atmosphere of safety and support. This includes non-judgmental interactions, regular emotional check-ins, psychological support mechanisms, and safe corners where children can express themselves freely. Our holistic approach, enriched by activities such as kitchen gardening, ensures that CCIs are nurturing spaces where children can thrive and achieve holistic development. A notable milestone was the inauguration of Kalpana Gruha at Bangalore Boys Home, featuring a state-of-the-art computer lab and makerspace, promoting collaborative learning and skill development for the children.



## Holistic Development Opportunities for Children

We provide a range of holistic development opportunities for children through SPICE sessions, restorative practice circles, life skills training, art integration, physical activities, library access, and seasonal camps. Key activities include:

### Life Skills Training

These sessions focus on socio-emotional development, enhancing children's emotional intelligence, self-awareness, and interpersonal skills through modules covering topics like managing emotions, building healthy friendships, effective communication, and substance abuse prevention.

### Restorative Practice Circles

These circles foster empathy, respect, and equality, creating safe spaces for children to share personal challenges and reflect on important life topics like trust, peer influence, and friendship, which have helped children open up about emotional struggles and improve their ability to manage relationships.



### Indoor and Outdoor Games

Conducted multiple times a week, these activities not only promote physical fitness but also teach children teamwork, leadership, decision-making, and cognitive skills like problem-solving and strategic thinking through games like volleyball, chess, and traditional Indian games.



### Computer Sessions

Basic computer skills are introduced to children to increase their digital literacy, allowing them to gain confidence in using educational software and typing, which is crucial for their future learning and employment opportunities.



### Makerspace

A creative, hands-on space at the Bangalore Boys Home where children can explore, experiment, and build projects using various materials and tools, nurturing innovation, curiosity, and practical problem-solving skills.



### Theatre and Art Workshops

These workshops allow children to express themselves through performance and art, boosting their confidence, communication skills, and collaboration while also providing an emotional outlet and enhancing social and creative development.



### Exposure Visits and Adventure Camps

Opportunities like Children's Day celebrations & trips to Hampi & Ramanagara Adventure Camp help children interact with diverse communities, and build resilience through cultural exchange and outdoor adventures.

### Hosa Chethana (Virtual Life Skills Sessions)

These virtual sessions, held weekly across 12 observation homes, aim to develop resilience, self-confidence, & problem-solving abilities by improving children's emotional intelligence & communication skills.

## Institutionalizing best practices

We have supported the institutionalization of some of the best practices across Child Care Institutions (CCIs) and Observation Homes. These initiatives are aimed at improving the overall well-being, education, and development of children:

**Safe Corners:** Created dedicated spaces within homes to offer children a comforting environment where they can feel secure and emotionally supported.

**Learning Routine:** Developed structured learning routines to ensure consistent educational engagement and promote academic growth within these homes.

**Regular Time for Library Usage:** Introduced dedicated times for children to access the library, fostering a reading culture and enhancing learning opportunities.



**Children's Committees:** Established in 20 CCIs and one Observation Home, empowering children to participate in decision-making around their education, healthcare, and recreation, ensuring their voices are heard.

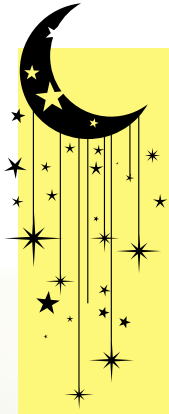
**Kitchen Gardening:** Implemented kitchen gardening initiatives that teach sustainability and responsibility, recognized by the JJ Board and highlighted in a report to the Supreme Court for their positive impact on children.

These initiatives are helping to institutionalize a child-centric approach across the facilities, ensuring the holistic development of children in their care.



*Makkala Jagriti classes feel like home. I've learned so many new things and life skills. The mural art workshop was my favorite; I learned cool ways to paint and got more creative. I love every class and the trips we go on.*

**Ananya (Name changed), 8th Std,  
Govt Children Home for Girls, Bangalore**



### Bonding over Moonlight Dinner

The "Moonlight Dinner" is a unique initiative that provides children in care with a memorable dining experience under the stars. On a designated evening, children and CCI staff gather in an open space or on the terrace to share a meal together. Originally started in one home, this cherished tradition has now been embraced by 6 more institutions.

The idea of the Moonlight Dinner was first introduced during a CCI staff workshop conducted by Makkala Jagriti. Thanks to the supportive environment created by Makkala Jagriti, staff were able to share the concept, inspiring other homes to adopt it as well. This special event nurtures a sense of wonder, creativity, and community while reinforcing essential values such as healthy eating and social interaction. Makkala Jagriti continues to play a pivotal role by creating forums where impactful practices like this can be shared and implemented widely.



*The trip to Chitradurga was amazing! I learned a lot about history and saw new places. It was a great experience outside school and home, and I'm happy I got to explore and learn.*

**Ramesh (Name changed), 8th Std,  
Govt Children Home for Boys, Ballari**

## CCI Staff Capacity Building

The staff of Child Care Institutions (CCIs) play a critical role not only in providing care but also in fostering children's learning and development. A key component of our intervention is empowering CCI staff to adopt child-centric practices and effectively handle challenging situations. To ensure this, we provide regular capacity-building opportunities for the staff.

Our intervention includes:

- **Regular Monthly Meetings:** These meetings serve as platforms for government staff and Makkala Jagriti (MJ) teams to review progress, address issues, and take necessary actions to improve the environment in CCIs.
- **Online Staff Capacity Building Sessions (twice a month):** Initiated in 2021 and continuing with good participation from the staff to date, these sessions focus on critical topics such as child-centric approaches, mental health awareness, non-judgmental interactions, and managing behavioral issues.
- **In-person Capacity Building Workshops:** We conducted a state-wide workshop involving 38 participants from 18 districts, reflecting on cumulative learnings and showcasing successful practices. The workshop featured interactive activities on communication and group discussions on addressing work challenges, building on strengths, and supporting holistic child development. Senior Representatives from Directorate of Child Protection participated, recognizing the staff's efforts in creating safe, inclusive, and conducive learning environments.





# Impact 2023-24

This year, we took the opportunity of assessing the impact of our interventions in Child Care Institutions over a period of three years. The impact of the program is seen in terms of creation of safe spaces in the institutions, children's outcomes and staff empowerment outcomes.

## Creation of safe, joyful, non-threatening spaces

There is a marked improvement in the learning environment in the children's homes through the creation of a dedicated learning center, easy access to learning resources and creation of a learning-oriented routine. More importantly consistently engaging with children in a non-threatening and non-judgmental manner by our facilitators has led to a greater sense of well-being.

In a survey conducted across 500+ children



**97%**

**children felt safe and happy at the CCIs post the intervention (up from 53%)**



**82%**

**children feel safe and comfortable to express their thoughts freely (up from 40%)**

### Revitalizing Children's Committee in CCIs



Children's Committees in CCIs offer a valuable platform for autonomy, decision-making, and leadership development. However, there is room for significant improvement in terms of their functioning. Recognizing this need, our facilitators and coordinators persistently advocated with one of the Superintendents to reactivate it.

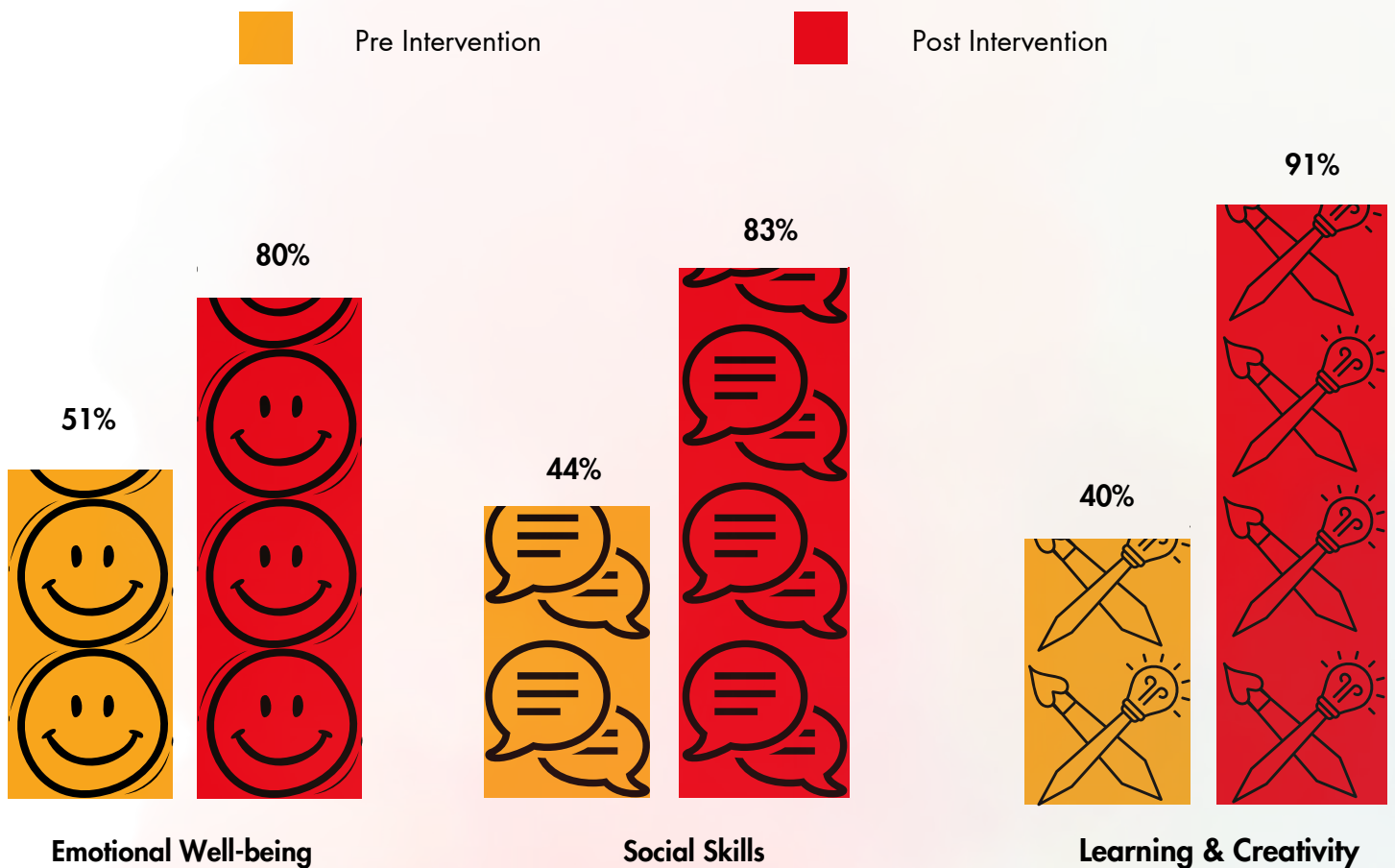
Subsequently, collaborative efforts with the Home staff helped bring the committee back to life. A transparent voting process was held, where children selected committee members under the guidance of institution staff and our team members. The children showed immense enthusiasm, with eight candidates competing and every child casting a vote. The top five winners were announced, and the Superintendent assigned roles, giving children an orientation on their duties. This revitalization effort brought joy and purpose to the CCI and empowered children to actively contribute to their community, fostering responsibility and leadership. This success story underscores the power of collaboration in creating growth opportunities for young minds. Going forward, we aim to revitalize these Committees in all Homes that are part of our intervention.



## Holistic development of children:

Children have made use of the opportunities for learning and exposure to enhance their emotional wellbeing, social skills, and demonstrate better learning and creativity. Children's emotional wellbeing is indicated by their ability to feel safe to express as well as managing their emotions. Development of social skills is reflected in children's ability to make new friends, collaboration with others and ability to overcome their mistakes. Children's learning and creativity has improved by more opportunities to move around and play, learn more things or engage in creative activities such as art, music, or building things hands-on.

### Children: Pre and Post impact of the Makkala Jagriti CCI Program

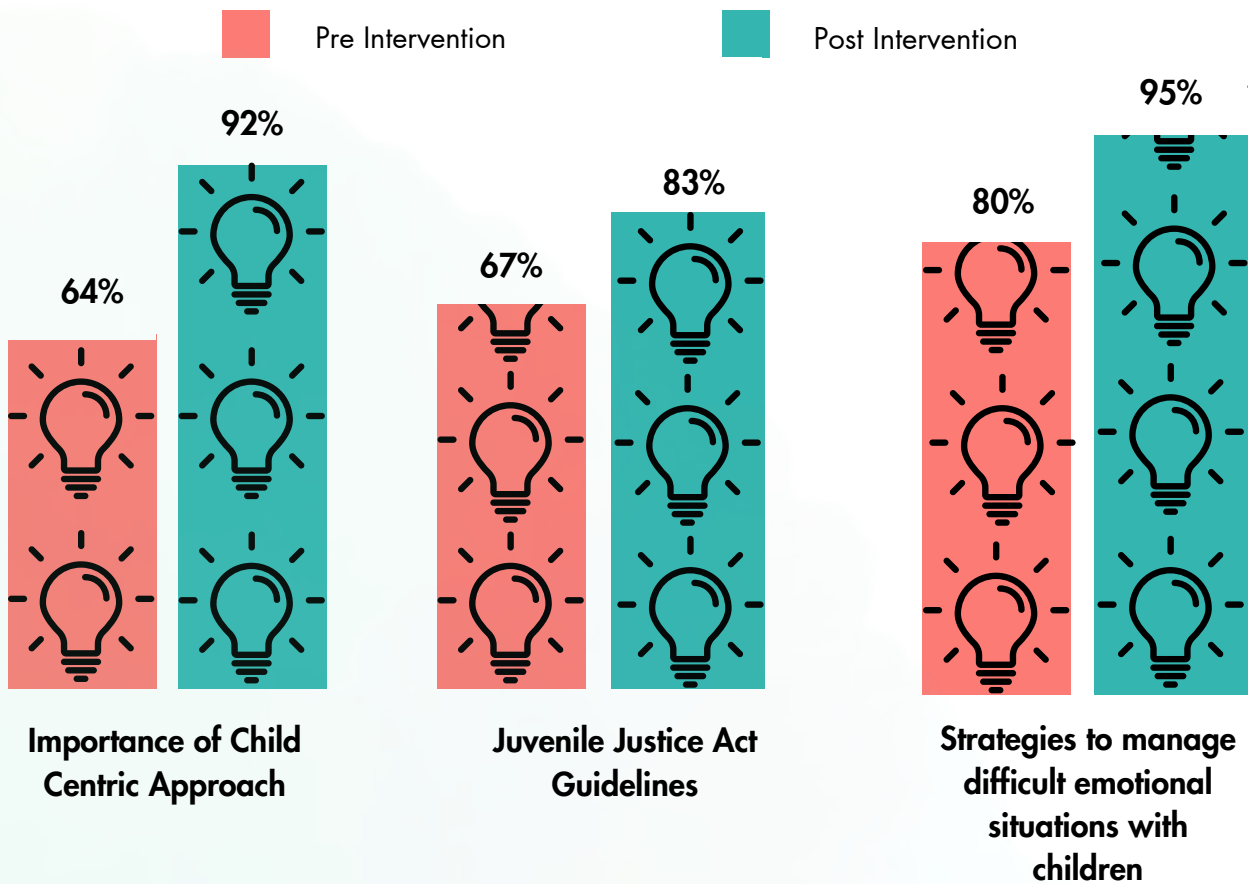


Makkala Jagriti's intervention in CCIs has helped nearly 40% children enhance their emotional wellbeing, social skills and/or Learning & Creativity

## Empowerment of CCI staff

Thanks to MJ's ecosystem approach, engaging with staff of CCIs is one of the key elements of our program. Our constant engagement and capacity building initiatives have helped the staff advance their knowledge and practices in being more child-centric and prioritizing the holistic development needs of children. Relationships of the staff and children have also been strengthened with more empathy, trust, practices of active listening and treating children with respect.

Other than that staff also showed increase in knowledge of child-centric approach, JJ Act guidelines and strategies to manage difficult emotional situations with children.



Importantly the CCI staff have reported improvements in their own practices at the institution - ranging from treating children with respect to handling children’s emotional issues in a better way.

### How CCI staff are demonstrating child-centric practices



Treating children with respect.



Talking to children with concern when they have emotional issues



Ensuring children have access to resources and encourage them to participate in activities



Handling behavioural issues of children in better way.



All staff work collaboratively towards children development

Overall the program is making significant strides in transforming Child Care Institutions into spaces of holistic development for children in multiple ways. Some of the most valuable, but immeasurable contributions of the program include facilitators becoming attachment figures and role models for the children, while also creating happy and positive lifetime memories for children, who most need them.

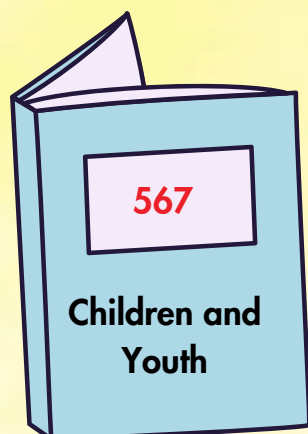


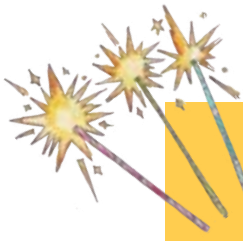
## Community Transformation

Makkala Jagriti's Community Transformation program fosters holistic development for children and youth across age groups in urban poor communities by providing diverse learning and growth opportunities. By creating age-appropriate engaging spaces in the communities and facilitating learning and exposure, the program nurtures young individuals into tapping their potential and becoming role models. The program also enables parents and community members to actively contribute to children's learning and support in their journey from school readiness to life readiness.



## Our Reach: 2023-24

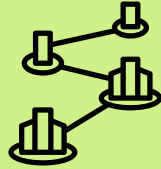




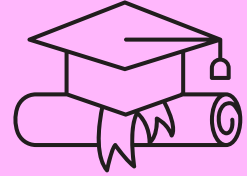
# Highlights of the Year: 2023-24



Launched the Integrated Community Transformation Program, ensuring holistic development opportunities for children and youth in the communities.



Expanded our Reach to Avalahalli, V.V. Giri, Gopalapuram, and Valluvarpuram communities, with a new Learning Center in Gopalapuram and a Yuva Café in Avalahalli.



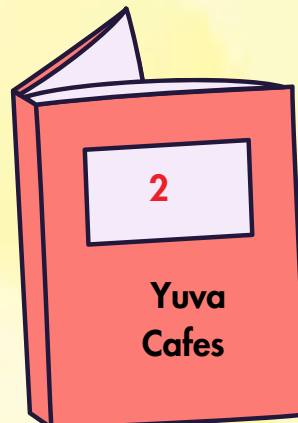
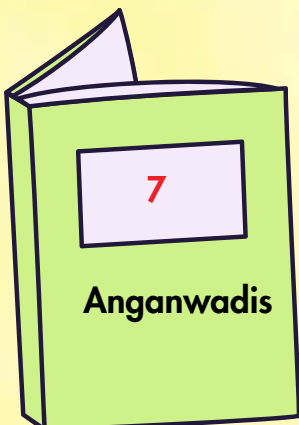
Celebrated the Graduation of the 2nd Cohort of youth from the Gopalapuram Yuva Café, marking significant milestones in the youth's learning and development journeys.



Facilitated Diverse Learning Experiences through educational trips, workshops, camps, musical shows, taekwondo, dance, and participation in Makkala Raaga across learning centers.



Secured Job Placements for Youth, with 75% of job-seeking youths gaining employment, contributing to our mission of empowering them for brighter futures.



# Key Activities of the Year: 2023-24



## Empowering the youngest learners in the community (3 to 6 year olds)

In 2023-24, we intensified our efforts to improve the quality of preschool learning across seven Anganwadis in the communities where we work. Through a multi-faceted approach, we ensured structured, impactful early childhood education for children, supported by teachers, parents, and the broader community.

- **Enhanced Learning Environment:** Murals created by local volunteers and the RGRF Foundation transformed Anganwadi centers into vibrant, child-friendly spaces. Facilitators in Gopalapuram, Vallurvarpuram, and VV Giri Colony demonstrated best practices, significantly improving the learning environment and making it more engaging for children.
- **Capacity Building for Teachers:** We conducted four comprehensive training sessions for Anganwadi teachers, aligned with the Chili-Pili curriculum. These sessions combined theory and practical application, transforming teachers from caretakers into empowered educators. Facilitators provided ongoing support, helping teachers apply new techniques and establish consistent routines.
- **Parental and Community Engagement:** Ten monthly meetings and home visits were conducted to actively involve parents in their children's development. Home visits played a crucial role in re-engaging children with Anganwadi centers post-reopening. Parents were educated on the importance of nutrition, with many adopting healthier habits for their children by discouraging junk food.



*Mithun, once a shy, tearful child, now eagerly joins activities and greets each day with joy. On ECCE Day, he proudly guided me through activities, showcasing his new confidence. Grateful for the personalized care that helped him blossom.*

**Ramya, Parent, Vallurvarpuram Community**



**Events:** Nutrition Day, Children's Day, and ECCE Day were celebrated across six Anganwadis, engaging over 100 parents and children in activities focused on nutrition, developmental skills, and early childhood education practices

## Holistic Development Opportunities through Community Learning Centres

Our Community Learning Centres serve as safe, nurturing havens for children aged 6 to 14. These centres are hubs of transformation, where children engage in diverse activities that propel their overall holistic development.

### Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN)

FLN Sessions have enhanced children's reading, writing, and arithmetic skills, with remarkable improvements in Kannada and English proficiency, especially among Hindi-speaking children. These sessions have ignited a passion for reading and boosted independent writing abilities.

### A bouquet of learning activities

Storytelling, painting, drawing, & crafts to unlock creativity; using library to develop a love for reading and improve vocabulary; dance & games to enrich their social and physical development are just some of the activities that our children engage in.

### Theme-Based Holistic Learning

This year's focus on "Games and Sports" and "Habitat" fostered teamwork, creativity, and a keen understanding of environmental ecosystems and food chains.

### Academic Support

Comprehensive support in core subjects like English, Mathematics, and Science has empowered students to progress academically. Personalized attention for slow learners, daily homework assistance, and special academic interventions have significantly increased school engagement and performance.

### Weekly Computer and STEM Sessions

These sessions have sparked curiosity and encouraged critical thinking, equipping children with problem-solving skills essential for a technology-driven future.



### Vaishali's Journey to Self-Confidence

Vaishali (name changed), an 8th-grade student, joined Makkala Jagriti Learning Centre four years ago as a shy child with low self-esteem. Family challenges and body shaming left her introverted and fearful of speaking English. Over time, with support from our facilitator and her peers, she improved in academics and dance, gained confidence, and became socially active. A community awareness program helped change her mother's view on body shaming, leading to greater acceptance at home.

Today, Vaishnavi performs well academically, is a class leader, and feels confident speaking in public. Her journey reflects the empowering environment of the Learning Centre, transforming her into a motivated, confident individual.



## Broadening Horizons Beyond the Centre

**Exposure and Learning Opportunities:** Children immersed in enriching experiences through nature workshops, museum visits, treks, marathons, and science exhibitions. A highlight of the year was Teach for India's musical show "Conference of Birds" on India's Constitution, which opened their perspectives and also a desire to perform similarly on the big stage.



- **Events and Celebrations:** Our centres provide platforms for cultural enrichment and awareness-building. Celebrations of Child Rights Week, International Yoga Day, and World Environment Day, along with national festivals like Republic Day and Pongal, have fostered a sense of community, responsibility, and belonging among children.



### A Study on the Status of Children & Youth in VV Giri colony

Kantar, a market research organization, and Makkala Jagriti conducted a study on the status of children and youth in VV Giri Colony covering 407 households with 485 children and 195 youth. A key aspect of this initiative was that the youth of our program learned survey methods and actively participated as surveyors in the study. The findings highlighted critical issues and the need for intervention for holistic development.

- Two out of three youths in VV Giri Colony have not completed SSLC, and 76% are stuck in low-paying jobs. Additionally, there are youth at being at high risk of substance abuse and deviant behavior.
- 74% of children live in single-room houses, lacking a conducive learning environment. Over half of the children (52%) expressed difficulties in understanding Maths and Science concepts, and 41% struggled with learning English and Kannada.

Despite these challenges, parents go out of their means to provide a good education for their children, often perceiving private English medium schools as offering better quality education. The study recommends Makkala Jagriti's interventions for the holistic development of children. Kantar was awarded second prize at the national level by the Market Research Society of India for this study in the Community Project category.

## Empowering Community Youth through Yuva Jagriti

Yuva Jagriti, Makkala Jagriti's flagship program for youth aged 17 to 24, equips young individuals from urban poor communities with the essential skills they need to succeed in life and work. The program offers a comprehensive range of activities designed to foster personal and professional growth

- **Life Skills and SEL Sessions:** Through 57 interactive sessions, youth develop crucial life skills such as self-confidence, leadership, communication, and mindfulness. These sessions also teach effective time management, decision-making, and resilience, helping participants navigate challenges both in personal and professional spaces.
- **Spoken English and Personality Development:** Focused on employability, this training enhances participants' command of spoken English and prepares them for professional environments. With mock interviews, group discussions, and personality development workshops, participants improve their articulation, presentation, and interpersonal communication skills, making them more confident in interviews and workplace interactions.
- **Exposure Visits and Career Guidance:** Participants engage in exposure visits to companies like Simeio and EXL Technologies, where they interact with industry professionals and observe real-world work environments. Career guidance sessions, featuring motivational talks from professionals offered insights into various career paths, building aspirations to work in sectors like IT, finance, and operations. These experiences help youth align their skills with industry demands.

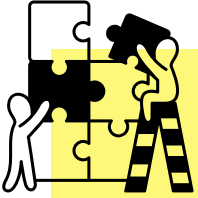


### Scholarship Linkages

Nineteen children and youths received the Intuit Scholarship for Girls and individual donor support for secondary, pre-university, and degree education. This support boosted motivation, improved academic performance, and provided financial relief to families. Apart from Intuit scholarship, 3 youths were supported by individual donors to pursue their degree in Commerce.



- **Weekend Perspective-Building Sessions:** Weekend sessions and workshops cover essential topics such as women's safety, mental health, and financial literacy. Engaging activities like crafts, yoga, and sports are also included to promote holistic well-being. These sessions encourage participants to broaden their perspectives on social issues and build practical skills for life, contributing to both their personal growth and their ability to engage meaningfully with the world around them.
- **Job Linkages:** Around 75% of job-seeking youth were successfully placed in roles such as tele-calling, marketing, backend operations, data entry, and packaging. They secured jobs with reputable companies like Paytm, Athena BPO, Prime Placement Pvt Ltd, and Shriram Life Insurance, gaining access to financial independence and career growth.



### **Culture Rupture - An exploration of their community through art**

Culture Rupture was an art series workshop aimed at encouraging youth to re-examine their everyday spaces and experiences, discovering the diverse cultures that emerge from them. Facilitated by Shivani, an intern from the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad, the workshop included experiential learning sessions in photography, videos, and model-making. 14 youth from Gopalapuram actively participated, exploring and expressing their experiences through art and design.

As part of the initiative, the youth observed the world around them and captured it in photography. Furthermore, they created a collaborative model of their own community using 100% recycled materials, which was presented at multiple public events including at Bangalore Creative Circus. The youth got an excellent opportunity to express themselves, appreciate and celebrate one another's cultures, fostering a sense of secularism, and critical thinking. The experience also increased their pride and sense of responsibility about their own community.

*"As a girl, I used to walk head down in my community without as much bothering what is around me. Culture Rupture helped me look up and explore the world"* **Pooja, a participant.**





# Impact 2023-24

The Community Transformation program provides a transformative experience to all stakeholders who we reach through the interventions - from young children to youth, parents and teachers. Here are some of the key outcomes of the program witnessed in the year.

**80%**

More than 80% of the children in the age-group of 3 to 6 years enrolled in Anganwadis within the communities have shown progress across various domains of development.

Anganwadi teachers have developed essential skills of preschool education through regular training and handholding. They have also been instrumental in increased enrolment of children in Anganwadis.

**7**

**53%**

53% children in the age-group of 6 to 14 years demonstrated their competencies in Social & Emotional Learning and life skills such as self-awareness, managing emotions, communications, team-work and problem solving.

91% youth who were part of the Yuva Jagriti program reported improved self-awareness, including recognizing strengths, growth areas, and being aware of their emotions

**91%**

**60%**

More than 60% of the youth reported improved decision making and problem solving skills - the ability to analyze their situations and make informed choices.

The interventions have also helped youth enhance their internal competencies and confidence with regard to their livelihoods. While nearly 62% youth feel confident about handling interviews, a healthy 79% youth expressed clarity about their career goals

**79%**

**60%**

More than 60% of the youth reported improved decision making and problem solving skills - the ability to analyze their situations and make informed choices.

75% job seeking youth are employed and on the path to improved quality of life and financial independence

**75%**

In addition to the above outcomes, we see that parents have begun taking more interest in their children's learning and development. At the same time, youth are becoming role models and change agents within their communities by taking up leadership and ownership to conduct events in the communities, volunteering and interning within Makkala Jagriti and broadening their horizons.



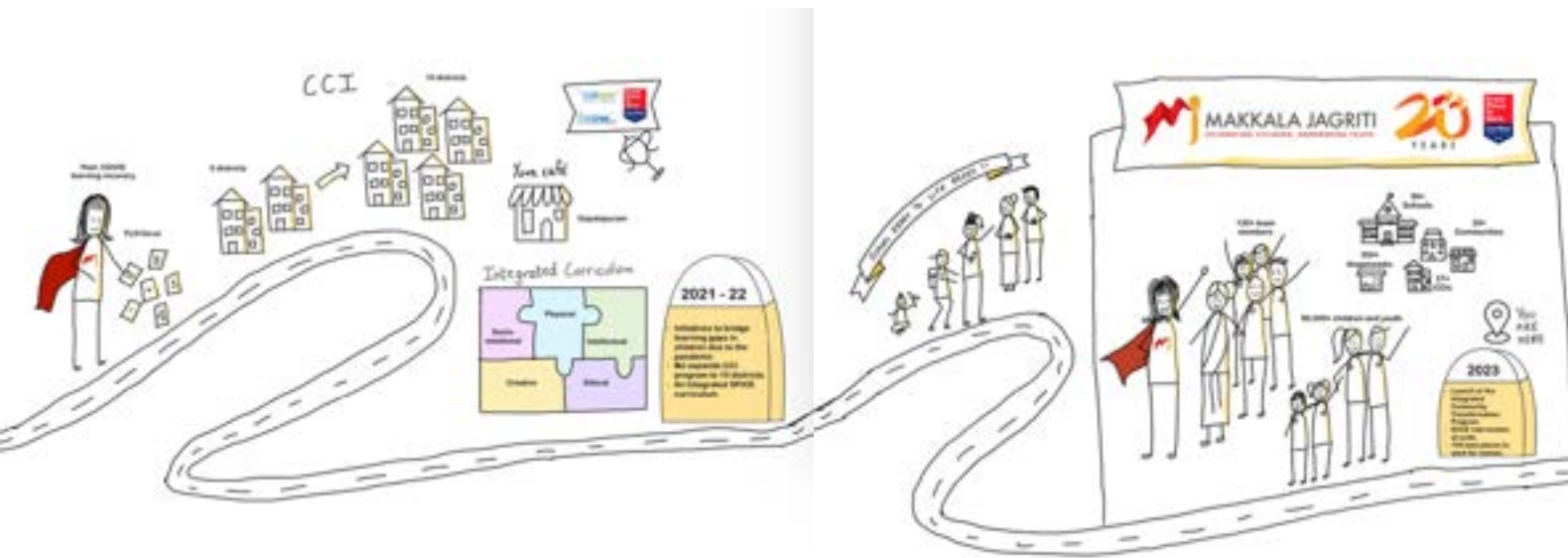
*Yuva Cafe helped me gain life skills. I used to be shy, but now I speak confidently with others. I even anchored at an event! My communication and problem-solving skills have grown.*

**Monica, Youth, Gopalapuram Community**



# Our 20 year Journey





# MJ@20

## CELEBRATING AN INSPIRING SOCIAL MOVEMENT

20 years back, Makkala Jagriti was born out of a quest to ensure that quality education was accessible to children from marginalized communities. It was a dream that Joy Srinivasan, our founder nurtured for long. Over the past two decades, our journey has been dedicated to ensuring that every child has the right to learn, dream big, and achieve their aspirations.

### **Celebrating the Stakeholders**

A 20-year journey is not possible without the unwavering support of donors, collaborators friends and well-wishers. We took the opportunity to celebrate this milestone with all our stakeholders in a special event which brought together among others, the earliest donors, inspiring volunteers, teachers who are experiencing change on the ground and our children who dream big. Listening to all the voices and reflecting on the achievements over 20 years, we created a truly memorable occasion with positivity and hope filling the atmosphere.



## Alumni Meet: A Walk Down Memory Lane

Continuing our celebrations, we had the joy of reuniting with our alumni, individuals who were once part of the Makkala Jagriti programs. The alumni meet was a heartwarming event filled with nostalgia and reflection. Reconnecting with these remarkable individuals and hearing their stories was a testament to the lasting impact of our mission. Our alumni have grown into role models and changemakers within their communities, embodying the values and dreams we instilled in them. Their continued dedication to making a positive difference reaffirms the importance of our work and fuels our determination to keep spreading knowledge and inspiration.





# Creative assets to celebrate the movement

*The 20th year was a great opportunity to create memories with our expressions of what Makkala Jagriti stands for in unique ways. Here's a snapshot of the creatives that emerged.*

## Celebrating Superheroes: The film

**There is a superhero in every child waiting to be unleashed.** In our 20 year journey, there have been many superheroes unleashed. The milestone year was a great opportunity to make a film that captures how children and youth of Makkala Jagriti are discovering the light within themselves and spreading rays of hope and positivity through their stories. By bringing glory to the country, by not giving up on dreams, by challenging social norms or by just believing in their own selves, Makkala Jagriti's superheroes script their own futures. Who are these superheroes? Watch and find out!



This film is made in partnership with Talented - an employee-owned creative agency headquartered in Bangalore and produced by 100 Feet Films

## *Namma Makkala Jagriti*: The Song

A truly special heartfelt song was composed to celebrate the spirit of Makkala Jagriti. The song captures an outpouring of innocence, love, confidence and hope - felt by our children. Serving as an anthem to inspire our future journey, the song expresses our desire to build a new world filled with love, freedom and equity.



With contributions gifted by Karnataka's leading singers including Vasu Dixit, MD Pallavi, Ananya Bhat, Nakul Abhyankar, Gubbi and put together carefully by Gurupriya Atreya - a dedicated volunteer and an ambassador of Makkala Jagriti's values, this song is a celebration of the magic of togetherness.

The song has voices of our children and there is also a music video featuring a debut choreography contribution by Srikanth - a child who's grown with Makkala Jagriti and now a superhero in his own right.



## *Dreaming out of syllabus*: The book

Every child has a dream—Doctor, Teacher, Artist, Cricketer. At Makkala Jagriti, our mission has always been to help children dream beyond what's expected of them, to reach for what once seemed out of reach. This book shares the inspiring stories of 11 children and youth who have done just that, each finding their own unique path through resilience and courage. For the past 20 years, we've been nurturing dreams, empowering children to see beyond limitations and truly "dream out of syllabus."





Shot from MJ Movie



Captured from the practice sessions of Makkala Raaga



A shot from Makkala Jagriti Anthem



Captured during Makkala Jagriti Anthem recording

*We remain grateful to all the contributors who created magic with the film, song and the coffee table book. In particular, we would like to thank Talented, 100 Feet Films, Gurupriya Atreya, Mahesh SP, contributing singers, and the children and youth of Makkala Jagriti, whose indomitable spirit stands out through these creatives.*





A mesmerising  
musical & dance  
extravaganza

## Makkala Raaga: A Celebration of Infinite Possibilities

'Makkala Raaga 2023' was the highlight of our anniversary celebrations. Held at the prestigious Chowdiah Memorial Hall, the event was a spectacular display of talent and dedication, featuring performances by nearly 400 children from across Makkala Jagriti's centers. Children were trained by Artmos - one of India's leading art production houses. The mesmerizing performance of the children captivated an audience of 2000 people over two grand shows. The musical and dance extravaganza presented by our children celebrated the diversity and grandeur of India and her seasons.

Makkala Raaga is more than just a magical performance - it is a testament to our children's unyielding spirit and determination to aspire and thrive; a statement that the children of the communities we serve are second to none. It is an unforgettable, life-defining opportunity for the children who are part of it with permanent impressions on their minds that nothing is beyond their reach.



“When I first went on stage, I was super scared, but the audience was awesome. Their cheers made me forget my nervousness. My parents were so proud of me. It wasn't just about dancing; I feel like I grew up a bit.” says a young talented dancer studying in a government school.

**Lavanya, 7th Grade**





# Volunteer Engagement



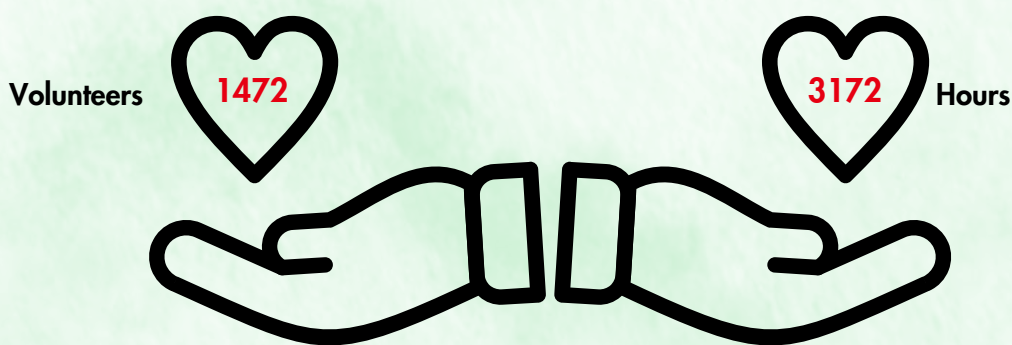
Makkala Jagriti, with its diverse programs, provides numerous opportunities to volunteers for making a meaningful impact on children and youth from underserved backgrounds. In this milestone year of the organization, we are proud to record the highest number of volunteers and volunteering hours in our journey so far. Volunteers from all backgrounds have made a lasting impact, and we are grateful to everyone who involved and made a difference.

Corporate volunteers from organizations such as JP Morgan, Alstom, Allegis, Goldman Sachs, Tata Elxsi, BNP Paribas, Delta Airlines, Luxoft, HyVee, Maersk, Taj Hotels, and Google have made significant contributions and have been driving positive change. Over 50 volunteering initiatives were orchestrated through the year, each leaving a lasting impact. Notable initiatives include:

- Volunteers from Goldman Sachs and Luxoft revamped libraries, adorned school walls with educational art, and distributed school supplies.
- Tata Elxsi and Google volunteers beautified community centers with mural art.
- Allegis engaged in diverse activities such as sports days and summer camps, benefitting both the community and the volunteers.



***This year, we celebrate having the highest number of volunteers ever, reflecting the boundless possibilities volunteers can create. .***



The transformation of a dilapidated school into a vibrant learning space within six months, courtesy of dedicated Google employees. This project exemplified the incredible impact that concreted volunteer efforts can achieve.



Scan the QR Code to watch the transformation video

*We also recognize other significant efforts of 355 Alstom volunteers creating over 95 sets of Teaching Learning Materials for Anganwadis. We also thank Taj Hotels for organizing a tour of the art gallery at Chitra Kala Parishad for the youth of the Gopalpuram community, which provided enriching exposure to them.*



The enthusiasm and energy of college and university volunteers have invigorated our initiatives with fresh perspectives and creativity. Students from institutions such as Mount Carmel College, St. Joseph College, Christ University, SDM College Dharmasthala, Nagarjuna College of Management Studies, Tumkur University, Bangalore City University, and Bangalore University have made significant contributions. These young volunteers taught in our centers, created unique educational content, organized workshops, painted wall murals, organized and assisted during big events, acting as inspirational role models for the children we serve.



*"It was heartwarming and soul-nourishing to drive social engagement with these kiddos with storytelling and public speaking activities. Giving back never felt so good, especially because these kids are whip-smart with tremendous potential. The genuine affection and sincere appreciation from the kids were uplifting, and the zeal I felt to satisfy the kids' intellectual curiosity was compelling. No doubt giving back as an individual is fulfilling, but it's empowering to think about the scale of the gift we can give collectively and organizationally!!"*

**Supriya Murthy**



# Our People: Our Greatest Asset



At Makkala Jagriti, our most valuable asset is our dedicated and passionate team of employees. Whether it is the incredible accomplishments of the past or the dreams for the future, our people remain the driving force behind our mission to empower children from disadvantaged communities.

In the year 2023-24, our team members, coming from diverse backgrounds and disciplines, have united with a shared commitment to making a positive impact on children's lives. We are a youthful team with the average age being approximately 31 years. Whether facilitators and coordinators in the field, program managers, enablers, or administrative staff, each individual plays a pivotal role in bringing our initiatives to life.

Recognizing that our employees are central to our mission, we prioritize their growth and development. We understand that an empowered and well-equipped team can drive meaningful change. Throughout the year, we've invested in capacity-building programs for our employees, enabling them to excel in their roles while contributing to their personal and professional growth.



*I resonate deeply with the belief that where you are born need not decide how far you go. My journey with Makkala Jagriti has been a testament to this philosophy, offering me numerous opportunities that have shaped my personal and professional growth. This organization has provided a safe space for me to challenge my own doubts and perceptions, fostering a supportive environment where I can truly thrive.*

*One of the aspects I love most about the culture at Makkala Jagriti is its respect for individual autonomy. Here, no one is pushed without their consent. Instead, I feel motivated to push myself because I want to grow and improve. This empowering atmosphere has allowed me to make collective choices with confidence, leading to a greater sense of peace and self-acceptance. I have learned to embrace both my strengths and my weaknesses.*

*As a leader, this self-awareness has been invaluable. It has enabled me to create similar safe spaces and opportunities for my team and fellow employees. By fostering an environment of mutual respect and encouragement, I strive to ensure that everyone has the chance to realize their full potential, just as I have at Makkala Jagriti.*

**Preethi Naveen, Program Manager - Child Care Institutions**



We foster a culture of continuous learning and improvement, encouraging our team to stay updated with best practices in education, child development, and community engagement. This investment not only benefits our employees but also amplifies the impact of our programs on the children we serve.

Some notable capacity-building initiatives in the past year include program-specific trainings spanning more than 15 days for all program team members, covering aspects of knowledge, skills, and personal effectiveness. Our mid-level leaders, the coordinators, also participated in a specially tailored leadership development program facilitated by our founder, Joy Srinivasan, and co-facilitators.



Our commitment to our people is further exemplified by our Great Place to Work certification, a testament to our dedication to fostering a supportive and empowering work environment for all our employees. Additionally, we received recognition as a Top Workplace for Women.



# Governing Board and Leadership



**Rangarajan Padmanabhan**

Trustee

Former COO, Appnomic Systems;  
Board Member at RubanBridge;  
Angel Investor and Advisor to Startups.



**Joy Srinivasan**

Chairperson & Managing Trustee  
Founder and leading change agent at  
Makkala Jagriti, Former president,  
ISABs

OD Consultant and International  
Leadership and Behavioural Sciences  
Trainer.



**Viswanath Gopalakrishnan**

Trustee

Organisational development consultant,  
Founding Director Organisations &  
Alternatives Consulting Pvt. Ltd.



**Satyen Vyas**

Member

CEO, Symphony SummitAI;  
Former VP (India and South Asia), IBM;  
Former GM for Mid Markets, Dell India;  
Founder and Former CEO, Vitage  
Group.



**Sunayana Chatrapathy**

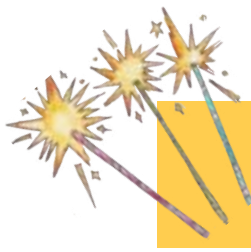
Chief Executive Officer  
Alumnus of Symbiosis Institute of  
Business Management  
SBI Youth for India Fellow



**Kavitha Krishnamoorthy**

Member

Co-Founder and Co-Director, The  
CanBridge Academy;  
Managing Trustee, Kilikili; Arts-based  
Therapy Practitioner



# Financial Information

Consolidated Foreign and Local grants Account Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2024

## Income and Expenditure Statement for FY 2023-24

INCOME	TOTAL (IN ₹ )
Project Grants	7,68,43,859
General Grants	89,36,915
Interests and other income	16,55,864
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,74,36,638</b>

EXPENDITURE	TOTAL (IN ₹ )
Programme Expenses	7,74,07,312
Admin Expenses	31,42,296
Capital Expenditure	2,45,963
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,07,95,571</b>

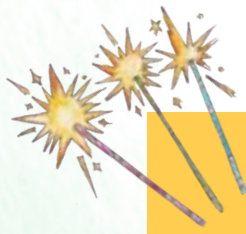
## Excess of income over expenditure transferred to Balance Sheet

ASSETS	TOTAL (IN ₹)
Fixed Assets	13,65,937
Specific Grants - Receivables	3,85,774
Advances and Deposits	15,05,184
Investments	50,00,000
Cash in Hand	-
Cash in Bank	1,45,81,215
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,28,38,110</b>

LIABILITIES	TOTAL (IN ₹)
Capital Fund	13,65,937
Corpus Fund	50,00,000
General Fund	1,46,81,130
Unutilized Specific funds	9,84,950
Provisions	8,06,092
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,28,38,109</b>

# Our Donors





# Our Partners



# Outlook 2024-25



The year 2023-24 was certainly a year of celebrations and achievements. While turning 20 is a remarkable milestone in Makkala Jagriti's journey, it also fills us with ambitions and responsibilities for the journey ahead. Makkala Jagriti has been on a path of growth over the last five years and we are poised to grow further. At the same time, we are committed to enhance the quality of our interventions by investing in design as well as monitoring & evaluation. In the forthcoming year, we have outlined the following as key priorities

**Scaling our Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) intervention:** With a proven track record of transforming Anganwadis into vibrant spaces of early childhood education and good credibility with the Department of Women and Child Development, we aim at partnering with the government to catalyze the prioritization of early childhood education in Anganwadis at all levels through capacity building and knowledge partnering. By collaboratively building cost-effective strategies with the Department, we hope to embark upon Taluk and District level scale interventions in ECCE.

**Sustainable practices in Government schools:** We are creating sustainable components within our Holistic Development and Learning for Children program in schools. Enhancing the quality of school practices that aid holistic development and teacher empowerment will be prioritized so that our interventions have lasting effects. Recognizing these skills as critical for future success, we are incorporating an English language intervention into our holistic development model. This will enable us to provide a more comprehensive educational experience, helping children build essential language skills alongside their overall development.





**Strengthening the integrated community transformation program:** The community transformation program is an intensive intervention model with potential for deep impact across age groups. Having reimagined and restructured the program in the previous year, we shall continue to invest in designing impactful program components that enhance the quality of engagement with children and youth. There shall also be investment in understanding of community needs and employing innovative strategies such as empowering families and communities, so that young people in our communities can thrive.

Additionally, our **intervention with Child Care Institutions** shall also be strengthened by focusing on capacity building of staff of the institutions and fostering best practices across all the institutions that we work with towards lasting transformation of CCIs into spaces that provide holistic learning and development for children. We aim to leverage our credibility with the Department to ensure that holistic learning in all institutions is prioritized. We recognize the need for continued investment in foundational literacy and numeracy for children across programs and shall focus on the same.

The strategic goal of the organization remains focused on amplifying the impact that we are making through scale, knowledge partnership and evidence-based advocacy. We are in the process of building solid ground for the same through rigorous monitoring and evaluation and improved program design. As a people-centric organization, our focus shall also be on people development along with strengthening the processes.

In summary, the upcoming year presents us with exciting opportunities to further our social movement that empowers young people and their communities towards a brighter future. We remain grateful and look forward to continued support and guidance from all our supporters and stakeholders to continue on this mission.

**CELEBRATING CHILDREN. EMPOWERING YOUTH.**



To know more about Makkala Jagriti and our programs  
contact us: [headoffice@makkalajagriti.org](mailto:headoffice@makkalajagriti.org)

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