

ANNUAL REPORT

2024-25



ANNUAL REPORT

2024-25





FOUNDER'S NOTE

Biju Thampy |
Founder - Vision Rescue

Forward

There is something significant about stepping into a twenty-first year. The foundations have been laid. The model has been tested. The impact is real and documented. And yet, rather than settling into what works, this year we chose to stretch, to ask harder questions and go further.

We started work in ten villages across Kolhapur and Karim Nagar, working with children and families before migration to the city becomes their only option. It was humbling, challenging, and deeply hopeful work.

Back in our cities, the same relational model that has always defined us continued to grow. More children in classrooms. More mothers with skills and income. More communities taking ownership of their own futures. More Champions knocking on their neighbours' doors. None of this happens without our dedicated team who carry the weight of this work every single day, building trust, removing barriers, and making sure no child is left behind.

We are twenty-one years in. The work is not finished, it may never be fully finished. But we are more convinced than ever that education, sustained by love and relational engagement, is the most powerful force for change we have. Thank you for being part of this story. Every contribution, every effort, every act of belief in what we do, it all reaches the child.



CONTENTS

9 [OUR VISION & OUR MISSION](#)

10-13 [OUR WORK](#)

14 [WHERE WE ARE](#)

16-23 [OUR IMPACT IN 2024-25](#)

24-31 [OUR WORK WITH CHILDREN](#)

Education

Nutrition

Healthcare

32-39 [OUR WORK WITH FAMILIES](#)

Case Management

Skill Development & Livelihood

40-49 OUR WORK WITH COMMUNITIES

Community Champion Development Program

Community Health care

School Support Program & Sports Training

50-59 ADVOCACY AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Volunteering, Resource Building & Talent Development

Advocacy

62 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REVIEW



OUR VISION

Empowering people to find their purpose, enjoy their rights, and live with dignity.

OUR MISSION

To free children from all forms of exploitation by engaging and sustaining them in education. This empowers them to change mindsets and make good life choices that promote intergenerational transformation.

OUR WORK

CHILD | FAMILY | COMMUNITY



At the heart of everything Vision Rescue (VR) does is a simple but profound commitment: that every child, regardless of where they are born, deserves the chance to grow up with dignity, pursue an education, and discover their purpose.

VR works across three interconnected levels, with children, their families, and their wider communities, because a child's ability to thrive in education cannot be separated from the world that surrounds them.

REACHING THE CHILD

For children in urban slum communities across Mumbai, Kolkata, and Chennai, VR creates safe spaces for learning. Through Learning Centres, the Mobile Bus Program, and Tuition Centres, children have access to structured education, play-based learning, and a nutritious daily meal. Healthcare, from medical screenings to dental care and immunisation, is woven into every program, ensuring that a child's physical wellbeing never becomes a barrier to learning.



STRENGTHENING THE FAMILY

Keeping a child in school requires more than a good classroom. It requires a stable home. Through the Skill Development and Livelihood Training program, mothers and other community members are equipped with vocational skills, from tailoring and culinary arts to spoken English and computer literacy, enabling them to earn an income and invest in their family's future. Self-Help Groups provide an additional platform for women to build economic resilience together.

The Community Case Counsellor: Where It All Comes Together

None of these services reach the child by accident. VR operationalizes relational engagement through its Community Case Counsellor (CCC), trained professionals embedded within the communities they serve, building sustained, trust-based relationships with families over time. They are the single most important link between a child and the support they need.

It is the CCC who first knocks on a family's door, earns their trust, and makes sure no child is left behind. During an initial home visit, the CCC assesses the family's circumstances using the Child Status Index (CSI), identifying risk factors such as financial instability, domestic violence, substance abuse, lack of documentation, and limited awareness of government welfare schemes. A personalised Family Case Plan is then developed, setting realistic, sustainable goals and connecting the family to the right services. Every resource VR offers, education, healthcare, nutrition, skill development, flows to the family through this relationship. Without the CCC, programs remain out of reach. With them, transformation becomes possible.

TRANSFORMING THE COMMUNITY

Change that lasts must be owned by the community itself. The Community Champions Development Program identifies and trains parents and community members to become local advocates, promoting education, health, and child welfare in their own neighbourhoods. The School Support Program works alongside municipal schools to keep older children, particularly those at risk of dropping out, engaged in formal education, using sports as a powerful motivator. Football, cricket, kabaddi, and self-defence are not just games; they are the incentive that brings children back to school and keeps them there.



TAKING THE WORK TO ITS ROOTS: RURAL INDIA OPERATIONS

In 2024-25, VR began addressing a harder question: why do families end up in urban slums in the first place? More often than not, the answer lies in the absence of opportunity in rural areas, unstable livelihoods, poor access to education, and dropout rates that cut short a child's future before it has a chance to begin.

To address the problem at its source, VR launched Rural India Operations in villages in Kolhapur and Karim Nagar, in partnership with local Government offices that identified schools with the highest dropout rates and greatest need for support. The program began with a Sports and School Support Program, using sports as the entry point to re-engage children with education and build the kind of relational trust that keeps them there. The goal is the same as it has always been: engage and sustain the child in education, and let that become the foundation for intergenerational change.

MOBILISING PEOPLE, RESOURCES AND ACTION

Through the Advocacy and Capacity Building Program, VR connects those who have skills and resources with communities that need them most, mobilising volunteers from colleges, corporates, and institutions across India to strengthen education, mental health support, and anti-human trafficking efforts in vulnerable communities nationwide.



**WHERE
WE ARE**



DELHI

MUMBAI

KOLHAPUR

KARIMNAGAR

CHENNAI

KOLKATA



OUR IMPACT IN 2024-25

CHILD

1,804 students enrolled



EDUCATION

- A total of 1,804 students were enrolled in Vision Rescue's educational program across Mumbai (1,345), Chennai (284) and Kolkata (175).
- 563 students transitioned from community based learning centers and bus programs, to formal schools within the communities.
- 64 children were enrolled into formal schools as a result of community work.
- Upto 1,024 students engaged in creative activities across Aspiration Day, Personal Safety Program, World Food Day, World Environment Day, and Sports Day, creating spaces for children to dream, learn, and grow beyond the structured curriculum.
- Upto 1,961 students and parents engaged through International Literacy Day, World Science Day, Parent-Teacher Meetings, and Open House, deepening the partnership between families, educators, and VR in support of every child's education.

1,38,755 meals provided



NUTRITION

- 1,22,637 meals were provided to the children in enrolled in the Beacon Learning Centres (BLC) in Mumbai, and 16,118 meals were provided to children in the Mobile Bus Program in Kolkata.



3,055 children benefitted from health care



HEALTHCARE

- 3,055 children received healthcare benefits across BLC (1,114), SSP (1,676), Sports (54) and tuition classes (211).
- 17% of BLC children were identified as Malnourished (Severe and Moderate acute Malnourishment) during health assessments.
- 100 individuals received individual mental health counselling while 3514 benefited from awareness on mental healthcare.

6,033 children benefitted from dental care



DENTALCARE

- 6,033 children received dental care across BLC (1,168), SSP (4,801) and Sports (64).
- 744 children benefited from the fluoridation program.
- 5,389 children received awareness across BLC (580), SSP (4766) and Sports (43).
- Dental treatment camps were also organized at Bhivandi Children's home (117 children), Dongri Remand Home (210 children) and Matunga Remand home (75 children).

FAMILY

1034 families benefitted from case management



CASE MANAGEMENT

- 1034 families have been cared for under our Case Management system: 282 of these are at High Risk, 684 of these cases are at Medium Risk, and 68 are at Low Risk according to the Child Status Index evaluation
- 94 of the High-Risk families progressed to Medium or Low Risk, and 34 of the Medium Risk families progressed to Low Risk. 836 families have unchanged CSI and 66 families migrated. 3 families moved from medium to high risk, and 1 family moved from low to medium risk
- 53 families were connected with financial schemes through case management.
- 293 families received support in procuring necessary government documents.



1410 received skills training



SKILL DEVELOPMENT & LIVELIHOOD TRAINING

- 1410 women graduated from the various skills-training courses in Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai
- Of the 94 students who graduated from the Beautician & Hair Care, 32 work independently and take personal orders. Their monthly earnings range from 100 to above 10000. However, during festive seasons, women earn around 200 to 2000 per day.
- Vision Rescue facilitated the activities of 2 Self-Help Groups (SHGs) with a combined membership of 23 dedicated women, this year in Mumbai. Over 4,815 products were sold by SHGs including paper bags, tote bags, notebooks, cards, earrings, tea coasters and chocolates.

COMMUNITY



COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

169 active community champions

- 129 active Community Champions fervently advocate for education, healthcare, nutrition, and overall community progress within their neighbourhood.
- 40 Community Champions conducted 783 Focus Group Meetings, raising awareness about important social issues to an audience of over 9,350 beneficiaries in four slum communities.



COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE

2294 individuals benefitted from medical and dental camps

- 13 general medical camps were held in Mumbai, 159 in Kolkata and 15 in Chennai benefitting 9,842 individuals.
- 16 Medical awareness programs were held in Mumbai, 15 in Kolkata and 54 in Chennai benefitting 2234 individuals.
- 178 benefitted from mental health awareness sessions while 85 adults received individual counselling.



1016 students enrolled in school support program



SCHOOL SUPPORT PROGRAM & SPORTS TRAINING

- From 22 Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) schools, 992 students directly benefitted through life-skills training and sports coaching in football (206), self-defense (529) and kabaddi (257).
- From 5 Municipal School in Karim Nagar, 212 students directly benefitted through life-skills training and sports coaching in Volleyball.
- 215 children who are enrolled in Municipal schools from 5 villages in Kolhapur, benefitted through life-skills training and sports coaching in Kho-Kho.
- The School Support Program indirectly benefitted 11,893 students and 436 staff of Municipal schools across Mumbai, Thane and Karim Nagar.

123 students received sports training



SPORTS

- **123 students received sports training** in semi-professional football (89) and cricket (34). These included 91 boys and 32 girls.
- 12 life skills sessions were taken for those enrolled in the Sports program.



ADVOCACY & CAPACITY BUILDING



28,359

ADVOCACY PARTICIPANTS REACHED



2911

VOLUNTEERS ENGAGED



22,043

VOLUNTEERING HOURS SERVED



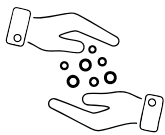
3,861

BENEFICIARIES IMPACTED



154 COLLEGES & SCHOOLS | **13** BUSINESSES |

198 NONPROFITS PARTNERED | **54** GOVERNMENT ENTITIES
COLLABORATED



₹ 2,64,955

IN-KIND RESOURCES FACILITATED



66,450,745

VIEWERSHIP

(All resources were directly contributed by program participants to partner NGOs.)

I: OUR WORK WITH CHILDREN

EDUCATION

Education is widely recognised as the most effective and sustainable mechanism for breaking intergenerational cycles of poverty. Research indicates that education accounts for 50% of global economic growth and 40% of extreme poverty reduction since 1980 ¹. At the individual level, each additional year of schooling increases a person's earnings by approximately 10% ², and for every \$1 invested in an additional year of schooling, earnings increase by \$5 in low-income countries ³. It has been reported that if all adults completed secondary education, 420 million people could be lifted out of poverty globally, reducing the total number of poor people in the world by more than half.

Despite this, for children growing up in conditions of poverty, access to education, and sustained participation in it, remains one of the most significant challenges they face. It is this gap between education's proven potential and a child's lived reality that VR's educational programs are designed to address.

How We Work

VR's educational programs provide a structured pathway from early childhood through to formal schooling, meeting children at every stage of their development. Programs are currently operational across Mumbai, Kolkata, and Chennai.

References

¹ Gethin, A. (2024). *Global Partnership for Education, Education Data Highlights*. <https://www.globalpartnership.org/results/education-data-highlights>

² UNESCO *Global Education Monitoring Report. Global Partnership for Education, Education Data Highlights*. <https://www.globalpartnership.org/results/education-data-highlights>

³ UNESCO *Global Education Monitoring Report. Global Partnership for Education, Education Data Highlights*. <https://www.globalpartnership.org/results/education-data-highlights>



Community-based learning centres	Pre-primary (3-5 years)	Mumbai, Kolkata	Provides play-based learning, language development, and social interaction, building a foundation of academic preparedness and curiosity in children at the earliest stages of their education.
	Primary (6-8 years)		
Mobile Bus Program	5-13 years	Kolkata	Delivers non-formal education directly into underserved communities where fixed learning centres cannot be established. Each session includes structured learning activities and a nutritious meal.
Tuition Centres	6-14 years	Chennai	Provides supplementary academic support for children already enrolled in government or private schools, strengthening their ability to remain engaged and progress in formal education.

Progress through each program is monitored by the CCC, who tracks attendance, identifies barriers to participation, and supports the transition from community-based learning into formal schooling. For VR, enrolling a child in education is the starting point. Sustaining their participation over time, through every obstacle a family may face, is the mission.

References
⁴ UNESCO Global Education Monitoring Report, Reducing Global Poverty through Universal Primary and Secondary Education. <https://www.unesco.org/gem-report/en/articles/world-poverty-could-be-cut-half-if-all-adults-completed-secondary-education>
⁵ UNESCO Director-General, cited in UNESCO, Sustainable Development Begins with Education. <https://www.unesco.org/gem-report/en/articles/unesco-sustainable-development-begins-education>

NUTRITION

The relationship between nutrition and educational outcomes is well established in global research. Attending school while hungry significantly impairs a child's ability to learn, develop, and realise their full potential as adults ¹. It has been reported that school meal programs increase enrolment rates by 9% and attendance by 8%, while also producing measurable improvements in learning outcomes ². For children in low-income communities, where household food security cannot be assumed, access to a reliable, nutritious meal is one of the most direct and proven interventions available to support sustained participation in education.

For many children enrolled in VR's programs, the meal provided at each Learning Centre or Mobile Bus session represents the most consistent source of nutrition they receive in a day. Beyond its immediate health benefits, this meal serves as a critical incentive for families to enrol their children and maintain regular attendance, directly supporting VR's core objective of engaging and sustaining children in education.

How We Work

Every child enrolled in a VR Learning Centre or Mobile Bus Program receives a nutritious meal as part of their daily program. Alongside meal provision, VR actively monitors the nutritional status of each child, with particular attention to early identification of malnutrition. Where nutritional concerns are identified, the CCC works with the child's family to address underlying causes, including household food insecurity, limited nutritional awareness, and access to government food welfare schemes, and ensures that appropriate support is put in place.

For VR, nutrition is not a peripheral service. It is an operational prerequisite for education, and an integral component of the organisation's commitment to ensuring every child is physically equipped to learn.

References

¹ World Food Program USA, *The Effects of Child Nutrition on Academic Performance*. <https://wfpusa.org/news/effects-child-nutrition-academic-performance-how-school-meals-can-break-cycle-poverty/>

² UNESCO, *Education: UNESCO Calls for Better Quality School Meals (2025)*. <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/education-unesco-calls-better-quality-school-meals>

HEALTHCARE

Access to timely, preventive healthcare is one of the most critical, and most overlooked, factors in determining whether a child remains in school. Reports confirm that chronic school absenteeism, beginning as early as preschool, is strongly linked to poor health outcomes and is a significant risk factor for school dropout ¹. Children in fair or poor health are nearly six times more likely to be chronically absent from school than their healthier peers ², a disparity that is, in large part, preventable through early identification and intervention.

For children growing up in low-income urban communities, access to basic healthcare is rarely guaranteed. Untreated illness, poor dental health, and undetected developmental concerns are among the leading causes of absenteeism, and, over time, dropout. VR's healthcare program exists to close this gap, ensuring that every child enrolled in a VR Learning Centre receives the medical attention they need to remain healthy, present, and ready to learn.

How We Work

In 2024-25, VR delivered seven structured healthcare services to children across its Learning Centres. These services are provided at regular intervals throughout the academic year, in partnership with qualified medical and dental practitioners:

References

¹ American Academy of Pediatrics, *The Link Between School Attendance and Good Health* (2019). <https://publications.aap.org/pediatrics/article/143/2/e20183648/37326/The-Link-Between-School-Attendance-and-Good-Health>

² CDC / U.S. News, *Study: Health Issues Keep Millions of Kids Chronically Out of School* (2024). <https://www.usnews.com/news/health-news/articles/2024-03-14/study-health-issues-keep-millions-of-kids-chronically-out-of-school>

Health Assessment for children (Identify malnutrition)	Twice a year
Paediatric Screening	Once a year
Immunization	Once a year
Dental Screening	Twice a year
Dental Fluoridation	Twice a year
Medical and Dental Awareness	Multiple times a year
Mental Health Counselling & Awareness	Multiple times a year

Each service is delivered as part of a sustained, structured commitment to children's physical wellbeing, not as isolated interventions, but as an integrated system of care designed to detect, address, and prevent health conditions before they affect a child's ability to attend and engage in education.

Where health concerns are identified, the CCC works closely with the child's family to ensure follow-up care is accessed, connecting families to government health schemes, facilitating referrals, and monitoring recovery. For VR, healthcare is not a standalone program. It is an essential pillar of the organisation's broader commitment to keeping every child in school, every day.





SHE STARTED ON A BUS.





When school fees put formal education out of reach, Aarti found her way in through a different door, the Vision Rescue bus parked outside the Ganesh Temple near her home. There, she learned her first letters and numbers, and discovered that the gap between her circumstances and her ambitions was not as wide as it seemed.

After she turned 18 years old, volunteering with Vision Rescue brought her into

the world of healthcare and pointed her firmly toward nursing. She pursued her qualifications with the kind of determination that only comes from knowing exactly what you are working for, and who you are working for.

Her mother did not live to see it. But Aarti fulfilled the dream they had shared, to stand on her own two feet and build a life from nothing. Today, she does exactly that, one patient at a time.



II: OUR WORK WITH FAMILIES

CASE MANAGEMENT

The Case Management program is the operational backbone of VR's work with families. It is the mechanism through which VR's full ecosystem of services, education, healthcare, nutrition, skill development, and government welfare access, is made accessible to the children and families it serves.

At the centre of this model is the CCC, a trained professional embedded within the community, whose sustained, trust-based relationships with families are the primary vehicle through which change is achieved. Every child and family enrolled in VR's programs is assigned a dedicated CCC, who serves as their single, consistent point of contact throughout their journey with VR.

How We Work

During an initial home visit, the CCC conducts a structured assessment of the family's circumstances using the **Child Status Index (CSI)**, a globally recognised tool that evaluates key risk factors across education, health, care, and protection. Based on this assessment, families are categorised according to their level of risk (high, medium or low). Following this assessment, the CCC works collaboratively with the family to develop a personalised **Family Case Plan**, a structured, goal-oriented document that identifies specific actions, timelines, and support mechanisms tailored to the family's circumstances. Progress against the plan is reviewed regularly, with the CCC providing ongoing guidance, encouragement, and access to the appropriate services at every stage.

The Case Management program is currently operational in Mumbai. It represents VR's most direct investment in the family as the foundation of a child's education, recognising that without a stable, supported home environment, even the best classroom cannot sustain a child's learning.



SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND LIVELIHOOD TRAINING

A mother's financial stability is one of the strongest determinants of whether her child remains in school. Research consistently demonstrates that increases in household income, particularly when that income is earned or controlled by the mother, have a direct and measurable positive effect on children's school attendance, academic achievement, and likelihood of completing their education¹. Conversely, financial hardship in the home is one of the primary drivers of child dropout, as children in low-income households are frequently pulled from education to contribute to household income before they reach secondary school.

VR's Skill Development and Livelihood (SD&L) Training program is designed to address this directly. By equipping mothers and other women in the community with marketable vocational skills, VR facilitates financial independence, and in doing so, removes one of the most significant barriers standing between a child and a sustained education. The principle is simple: **empower the mother, educate the child.**

How We Work

The SD&L program offers a range of vocational courses tailored to the needs and opportunities of each community. In addition, VR's Culinary Training Institute (VRCTI), developed in partnership with Open Gate International, offers professional Bakery and Culinary courses that include structured internships at established food and hospitality venues. VRCTI partners with hotels and cloud kitchens to provide graduates from marginalised communities with direct pathways into formal employment.

Participants are also supported to form Self-Help Groups (SHGs), peer collectives through which women pool resources, share knowledge, and collectively pursue small business and entrepreneurial opportunities. These groups serve as an ongoing platform for economic resilience, building not just individual income but community-level financial stability.

As with all of VR's programs, the CCC plays a central role in identifying women who would benefit from SD&L training, facilitating enrolment, providing ongoing encouragement, and monitoring the impact of increased household income on child welfare and school attendance. Skills training is not offered in isolation, it is part of a deliberate, integrated strategy to create the stable home environment that every child in education deserves.

References

¹ Akee, R., Copeland, W., Keeler, G., Angold, A., & Costello, J. (2010), *Parents' Incomes and Children's Outcomes: A Quasi-Experiment*. *PMC / American Economic Journal*. <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC2891175/>



Tailoring

Practical garment construction and sewing skills for home-based or independent income generation



Computer Skills

Digital literacy to expand access to formal employment opportunities



Beautician & Hair Care

Foundational and advanced cooking skills, including baking and kitchen operations



Mehendi

Traditional henna artistry for festive and event-based income opportunities



Spoken English

Communication skills to improve employability and confidence in formal settings



Culinary Arts

Foundational and advanced cooking skills, including baking and kitchen operations



Short Workshops

Targeted skill-building sessions on specific trades and livelihood opportunities



Taslima came to Vision Rescue the way many mothers do, with a child's future in mind. Seeking quality education close to home, she enrolled her youngest at the Beacon Learning Centre. Through Vision Rescue's holistic support, the family gained access to essential rations, medical care, and counselling, a foundation of stability that changed the texture of daily life.

In time, she became a Community Champion and joined a Bachat Gat savings group (Self Help Group). The woman who had once arrived hoping for a better future for her child was now helping shape a better future for her neighbors. Her dream today is straightforward and quietly powerful: that her neighbours live well and thrive.

FROM NEIGHBOR TO LEADER







THEY WATCHED THEIR MOTHER RISE

Manisha wanted to contribute to her family's income, but the path forward was unclear. With two children and a single household wage that stretched only so far, the weight of financial uncertainty was a constant presence. "I felt like I couldn't do anything," she recalls. When Vision Rescue reached out, Manisha was hesitant. But encouraged by the CCC and skills training teacher, she enrolled in vocational training and step by step, found both the skills and the confidence to start her own venture. Today, Manisha is a provider.

"My children see me working," she says, "and tell me they want to do the same for me one day." In standing on her own feet, Manisha has quietly reshaped what her children believe is possible.



III: OUR WORK WITH COMMUNITIES

COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (CCDP)

Sustainable community transformation cannot be imposed from the outside, it must be cultivated from within. Research consistently demonstrates that community-led initiatives are more effective and more durable than top-down programs, precisely because they are designed and delivered by individuals who share the lived experiences, cultural contexts, and trusted relationships of the communities they serve ¹. Change driven from within a community generates ownership, builds social cohesion, and creates the conditions for outcomes that last well beyond the life of any external intervention.

This is the foundation on which VR's Community Champions Development Program (CCDP) is built. The CCDP identifies, trains, and supports volunteer leaders from within the urban slum communities VR serves, individuals who have witnessed firsthand how education, healthcare, and economic opportunity can transform a family's trajectory. Many of these Community Champions are parents whose own children have been through VR's programs. Having experienced that transformation personally, they are uniquely positioned to advocate for it within their own neighbourhoods, with credibility, trust, and conviction that no external actor can replicate.

How We Work

The CCDP currently operates across four community locations in Mumbai: Kalwa, Mandala, Shivaji Nagar, and Maharashtra Nagar. Through VR's Community Service Centres embedded within each of these communities, Champions are equipped with awareness tools, self-empowerment resources, and structured training to enable them to take on a meaningful role in promoting community wellbeing.

References

¹ Slatez, *What Makes Community-Led Initiatives More Effective Than Top-Down Programs?* (2026). <https://slatez.org/community-led-initiatives-effectiveness/>

Active Community Champions carry out a range of functions within their neighbourhoods, including:

- Advocating for children's enrolment and sustained participation in education
- Promoting healthcare awareness and encouraging families to access available services
- Conducting Focus Group Meetings to address community-level concerns and disseminate information on nutrition, health, and child welfare
- Serving as a trusted bridge between VR's programs and the families in their community who need them most

The CCDP represents VR's commitment to a model of change that does not create dependency, but instead builds the internal capacity of communities to advocate for, and sustain, their own progress. When a Community Champion knocks on a neighbour's door, it is not an outsider asking for trust. It is a member of that community offering it.



HEALTHCARE FOR ADULTS

A family's health is inseparable from a child's future. Research consistently shows that residents of low-income communities face significantly greater health burdens than their more affluent counterparts, with poverty directly linked to higher rates of chronic disease, mental illness, and reduced life expectancy ¹. Families in these communities frequently lack access to basic preventive care, compounded by the absence of documentation, low health literacy, and the financial impossibility of meeting out-of-pocket medical costs ². The consequences are not borne by adults alone. When a parent is unwell, physically or mentally, the effects cascade directly into the home, undermining the stability that children depend on to remain in school and thrive ³.

VR's healthcare program for adults addresses these realities directly. By bringing medical, dental, and mental health services into the heart of the communities it serves, VR removes the structural and financial barriers that prevent families from accessing the care they need, and in doing so, protects the conditions that make a child's education possible.

How We Work

VR delivers five categories of healthcare services to adults and families across its community locations:

References

¹ American Academy of Family Physicians, *Poverty and Health: The Family Medicine Perspective*. <https://www.aafp.org/about/policies/all/poverty-health.html>

² National Health Council, *Limited Access: Poverty and Barriers to Accessible Health Care (2024)*. <https://nationalhealthcouncil.org/blog/limited-access-pov-erty-and-barriers-to-accessible-health-care/>

³ Urban Institute, *Poverty's Toll on Mental Health*. <https://www.urban.org/urban-wire/povertys-toll-mental-health>



<p>General Medical Camps</p>	<p>Community-based medical camps addressing conditions including cancer detection, eye health, and HIV screening, delivered in partnership with qualified medical practitioners</p>
<p>Antenatal Care (ANC)</p>	<p>Regular antenatal care services in partnership with local government health posts, supporting safe pregnancies and healthy births.</p>
<p>Dental Health Camps</p>	<p>Dental care and oral health services delivered in collaboration with educational institutions and hospitals</p>
<p>Medical & Dental Awareness Programs</p>	<p>Structured awareness sessions conducted throughout the year on topics including seasonal diseases, menstrual hygiene, maternal health, nutrition, deworming, tobacco use, diabetes, hypertension, and cancer, tailored to the specific health needs of each community</p>
<p>Mental Health Counselling & Awareness</p>	<p>Individual counselling and community awareness sessions addressing the psychological impact of poverty, domestic stress, trauma, and uncertainty, ensuring that families receive support not just for physical health, but for their emotional and mental wellbeing</p>

As with all of VR’s community programs, the CCC plays an active role in identifying individuals in need of healthcare services, facilitating access, and following up to ensure that care is sustained over time. For VR, adult health is not a separate agenda from its mission with children. It is the same mission, because a healthy, supported parent is one of the most powerful investments a community can make in the future of its children.

SCHOOL SUPPORT PROGRAM (SSP)

For children aged 10 to 14, the risk of dropping out of formal education is greater. Financial pressures at home, low academic confidence, disengagement from school, and the absence of a compelling reason to stay, all converge at this critical stage. The SSP is VR's structured response to this challenge, working directly within municipal schools to ensure that children who are most at risk of leaving education are identified early and supported to stay.

How We Work

The SSP operates across 22 municipal school partners in Shivajinagar, Cheetah Camp, Thurbe, and Thane. Throughout the academic year, VR maintains active engagement with students, parents, and teachers, tracking attendance, identifying warning signs, and intervening before absence becomes dropout.

At the centre of the SSP's approach is sports. Football, self-defence, and kabaddi are used as a powerful incentive to keep children connected to school, providing a reason to show up, a sense of belonging, and a structured environment in which personal discipline and teamwork are developed alongside academic engagement.

Beyond sports, the SSP equips students with essential life skills including interpersonal communication, stress management, critical thinking, decision-making, problem-solving, and emotional regulation, competencies that are as vital to a child's long-term development as any academic subject.

Recognising that a child's health is as important as their engagement in school, SSP students also receive regular medical and dental assessments throughout the year, alongside health awareness sessions covering topics relevant to their age and community context. As the research cited in VR's Healthcare section affirms, children in poor or fair health are significantly more likely to be chronically absent from school, making health screening not a supplementary activity, but an essential part of keeping children in education.

Rural India Operations, SSP Expansion in 2024-25

In 2024-25, VR extended the SSP to rural India for the first time, launching operations across 10 villages, 5 in Kolhapur, Maharashtra, and 5 in Karim Nagar, Telangana. This expansion is rooted in VR's broader Rural India strategy: to address the drivers of urban poverty at their source, by engaging and sustaining children in education in the rural communities from which migration to cities so often begins.

In Karim Nagar, the SSP was implemented in partnership with local Government-identified schools, focusing on institutions with the highest dropout rates and greatest need for intervention. Sports served as the primary entry point, using structured athletic programs to re-engage children with school and build the relational trust that sustains their participation over time.

In Kolhapur, VR adapted its approach and ran the SSP as a community-based program for school-going children, delivering sports and life skills sessions within the community itself. This ensured that children continued to receive support and remained connected to their education while the formal school partnership process is progressed in the year ahead.



SPORTS

Sport has the power to do far more than build physical fitness. For children growing up in conditions of poverty, a structured sports program provides discipline, purpose, belonging, and a reason to keep showing up, values and habits that extend well beyond the playing field and into the classroom.

VR's Sports Program offers football and cricket training to students drawn from VR's community programs and the School Support Program. Training is structured around daily practice, with a deliberate emphasis on life skills development woven into every coaching session. Alongside technical skills, students are guided through lessons in teamwork, communication, resilience, goal-setting, and emotional regulation, equipping them not just to perform in sport, but to navigate the challenges of life with greater confidence and clarity.

How We Work

The Sports Program provides students with opportunities to participate in semi-professional and professional matches, tournaments, and leagues, offering pathways to recognition and advancement that would otherwise be inaccessible to children from marginalised communities. Exceptionally talented students are supported to progress to higher-level clubs and associations, including the Mumbai District Football Association (MDFA), the All India Football Federation (AIFF), and the Western India Football Association (WIFA).

In recognition that athletic performance and overall wellbeing are deeply interconnected, students also receive regular medical and dental assessments alongside structured health and mental health awareness sessions. Keeping student athletes healthy is not incidental to the program, it is integral to it. A child who is unwell cannot train. A child who cannot train loses their most powerful incentive to stay connected to school. Throughout, education remains the non-negotiable priority. Dropout from school as a result of sports involvement is actively monitored and discouraged. For VR, sport is not an end in itself, it is a bridge, connecting children to school, to each other, and to the belief that their future is worth investing in.



SAPNA



When her father passed away, the ground shifted beneath her family in ways that went far beyond grief. The loss brought with it real and immediate hardship, overnight. It was at this point that Vision Rescue, partnering with the government school she attends, stepped in.



What followed was not just practical support. Through Vision Rescue's programme, the young girl discovered kickboxing, and in it, a focus and fire she had not known she carried. She trained. She competed. She won.

Today she is a National Champion. Her story is extraordinary, and yet it is also entirely ordinary in one sense: she needed the same thing thousands of children in underserved communities need. Not pity, not charity, but the means to pursue what they are already capable of.



निर्दोषता

(सर्व कथोमटासाठी)

शनिवार दि. १९ ऑक्टो

स्थळ : दामोदर वागसकर ग

निमंत्रक : अतुल

राजेंद्र (बाबु) वागसकर

सहकार्य : मित्र सहकार्य

मानवी तस्करी
दरवर्षी
अंदाजे

\$236 अब
USD उत

A21.ORG/WALK

मानव तस्करी
से सालाना
अनुमानित

236 बिलियन
USD कमाए
जाते हैं।

WALK
FOR
FREEDOM

A21.ORG/WALK

ADVOCACY & CAPACITY BUILDING TEAM

OUR WORK

Vision Rescue's Advocacy & Capacity Building Team is a social impact team that conducts large-scale advocacy and awareness campaigns about key social issues such as human trafficking, mental health and education for the poor, in order to raise a volunteer talent pool that builds capacity for non-profits by serving in these spaces through their time, talent and resources.

ADVOCACY

A. WALK FOR FREEDOM

ACB's largest advocacy event is the nationwide, annual Walk for Freedom, conducted to prevent the exploitation of the vulnerable by raising awareness on human trafficking - spotlighting citizen-led ways to spot and stop human trafficking. Conceptualised and hosted globally by the international NGO A21 for a decade, the Walk was first hosted in India by ACB in 2017. Since then 143 Walks have been led by ACB nationally, mobilising over 48,000 citizens to march in single-file processions through prominent public spaces, holding signage about the reality of human trafficking.

This year, ACB networked with the Movement Global Foundation to facilitate 94 Walk for Freedom events in 12 States.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- **22,890 citizens took part in the Walk for Freedom events nationwide - featuring participants from 121 educational institutions, 97 government entities, 185 grassroots non-profits, and 9 businesses - a united front standing against the crime in India.**
- **Over 276 press pieces were published about the Walk in both regional, Hindi and English language publications across TV, newspaper, radio and digital channels, reaching over 63 Million viewership.**
- **9 Walks in Mumbai were led exclusively by Anti-human Trafficking Clubs..**



State	No. of Walk for Freedom Events	Participants
Andhra Pradesh	40	10,628
Bihar	3	1150
Chattisgarh	1	100
Delhi	1	300
Goa	1	107
Karnataka	4	1530
Kerala	3	323
Maharashtra	23	5594
Sikkim	1	161
Tamil Nadu	8	867
Telangana	7	1777
West Bengal	2	353
TOTAL	94	22890

POST-WALK STUDENT ACTION

A student, part of an Anti-human Trafficking Club at Wilson College, observed a young girl in a vulnerable state at a train station – appearing unwell, disoriented, and alone. Recognising the potential for exploitation, the student alerted authorities via the railway police helpline - 139. Crucially, the student provided specific details, including their train and location, enabling a swift response. At the next station, medical personnel met the child and transported her to a hospital for necessary care. This intervention, prompted by a single individual’s awareness and action, transformed the child’s situation from high risk to safety.

B: ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING CLUBS (AHTCS)

ACB has pioneered AHTCs in Mumbai from 2022 with the vision to end human slavery by mobilising youth to stand against human trafficking, through various advocacy activities, as well as volunteering at shelter homes rehabilitating survivors of trafficking. In the financial year 2023-24 , ACB had inaugurated and led 5 AHTCs in Mumbai colleges. This financial year, we grew to inaugurate and facilitate activities in 22 AHTCs, amounting to 220 club members, at the following colleges:

- **Adv. Balasaheb Apte College of Law**
- **Anandilal Podar College of Commerce and Economics**
- **Bhagubai Changu Thakur College of Law**
- **Bhavans College of Arts and Commerce (Degree)**
- **Bhavans College of Arts and Commerce (Junior)**
- **Bunt's Sangha's S.M. Shetty College of Science, Commerce and Management Studies (Autonomous)**
- **Chandrabhan Sharma College of Arts, Science and Commerce**
- **D.T.S.S College of Law**
- **Guru Nanak Khalsa College of Arts, Science & Commerce (Autonomous)**
- **John Wilson Education Society's Wilson College (Autonomous)**
- **Lala Lajpatrai College of Commerce & Economics (Autonomous)**
- **Lords Universal College**
- **Nagindas Khandwala College of Commerce & Arts**
- **Nirmal Education Society's Nirmal Degree College of Commerce and Science**
- **Nirmal Education Society's Nirmal Junior College of Commerce and Science**
- **Ramnarain Ruia Autonomous College**
- **Rizvi College of Arts Science & Commerce (Degree)**
- **Rizvi College of Arts Science & Commerce (Junior College)**
- **Seva Mandal Education Society's SMT.Kamalaben Gambhirschand Shah law School**
- **St Andrew's College of Arts Science and Commerce**
- **Valia Chhaganlal Laljibhai College of Commerce and Arts**
- **Victor Dantas law College Kudal, Sindhudurg**

824 STUDENTS from these colleges were mobilised by their AHTC members to attend specialised training events on preventing human trafficking by understanding the swiftly-changing landscape of trafficking in India, recognising the signs of human trafficking in their neighbourhoods and spreading awareness about the national helpline numbers to report victims in distress or suspicious activity.

It is from these Anti-Human Trafficking Clubs that students have been mobilised to volunteer at Vision Rescue and other partner NGOs as outlined in the following pages.



VOLUNTEERING, RESOURCE BUILDING & TALENT DEVELOPMENT

VOLUNTEERING

VOLUNTEERING WITH VISION RESCUE

ACB, through the Anti-human Trafficking Clubs, deployed **999 VOLUNTEERS IMPACTING 3354 BENEFICIARIES** being served by Vision Rescue and other partner NGOs. Additionally, volunteers also led numerous advocacy initiatives in their respective colleges.

- **125 volunteers** served over **2000 hours** as ‘Teaching Associates’ providing assistance to teachers at Beacon Learning Centres (BLC), every Tuesday & Thursday, throughout the academic year.
- **6 volunteers** served **380 hours** providing **counselling services** and psychoeducation to families of BLC children.
- **867 children** enrolled in Vision Rescue’s School Support Program benefit from specialised **mental health awareness programs** on reducing exam stress conducted by volunteer counselling psychologists from our partner MpowerMinds.
- Volunteers invested **88 hours** preparing and conducting **pro-bono soft-skills training** on topics such as ‘Basic Communication Skills, Personality Development, Life Skills, and Train-the-trainers on Mental Health for Vision Rescue staff.
- In Delhi, as part of ACB’s Project Shiksha, **31 volunteers** served **184 hours** with the children and women from the **Afghan Refugee community**, conducting Summer Camps, Spoken English classes & remedial Math tuition.





VOLUNTEERING WITH PARTNER NGOS

- **158 volunteers** fulfilled a host of roles such as conducting beach cleanups, creating product catalogues, teaching English and Math to children, data management, creating classroom aids and as social media ambassadors.
- In Chittoor, Andhra Pradesh, **120 hours** were invested with **28 children** from **rural Adivasi communities**, training them in topics such as non-verbal communication, assertiveness and boundary setting, mental health awareness, storytelling etc, hosted by NGO RHEADS (Rural Health, Education & Agriculture Development Society).
- In Turbhe red-light area, **38 children** of sex workers benefit from a **week-long Reading Summer-Camp**, with curriculum exclusively designed by ACB, and delivered by volunteers from city colleges and business.

VOLUNTEERING FOR ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING CLUB ACTIVITIES & WALK FOR FREEDOM

- **1880 volunteers** organised the annual 'Walk for Freedom' events at **94 locations** nationwide, to raise awareness about the reality of human trafficking.
- **127 volunteers** created **32 social media reels** about human trafficking reaching over **81,000 online**.
- **281 volunteers** formed **six human chains**, on words connected to anti-human trafficking, reaching 500 citizens.
- **125 volunteers** conducted **seven poster competitions** and exhibitions on the topics of human trafficking for child marriage, child labour and sexual exploitation, reaching an audience of 1740 citizens.
- **50 volunteers** wrote and performed **three street plays** raising awareness about human trafficking, reaching 650 citizens.



RESOURCE BUILDING & TALENT DEVELOPMENT



RESOURCE BUILDING HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Rs. 39,853** worth of **stationary and sanitary napkins** were facilitated as in-kind donations from AHTCs to Vision Rescue's beneficiaries.
- AHTCs also opened their college spaces for Vision Rescue-powered Self-Help Groups and NGO iSanctuary to display and **sell their products** on campus resulting in sales of **Rs. 10,000 and Rs. 900** respectively for the NGOs.
- **Rs. 33,000 rupees** worth of **clothes & Rs. 15,000** worth of **stationery** were facilitated as in-kind donations by AHTCs to NGO Purnata, and Rs 3500 worth of ration to NGO Rescue Foundation.
- Wellwishers of ACB donated **Rs. 62,448** worth of **clothes and books** to partner NGOs Trailbrazers and RHEADS in Telangana & Andhra Pradesh.
- Kangaroo Kids preschool donated **Rs.105,340** worth of **toys, and educational aids** to YWCA's centres for children.

TALENT DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS:

- **312 volunteers** were trained by ACB at 5 'Bootcamps' on Volunteer Leadership values such as servant leadership, ownership & integrity, through immersive learning activities, and real-life case studies.
- **46 hours** of psychoeducation training were invested into **15 Children** in Need of Care & Protection at 'Bethesda Life Centre' - Thiruvalla, covering topics such as Dealing with Stress, Managing Emotions, Living with Purpose etc.
- **62 hours** of training were provided to the staff and beneficiaries of NGO Sahasee Embers, equipping them with **Spoken English classes, and Business Communication skills** such as Email Writing, Presentation Skills, Report Writing etc.

VOLUNTEER TESTIMONIALS



When I came into this community, I realised that the urgent priorities here are food, clothing and shelter. So mental health takes a backseat by default. In my time here as a volunteer counsellor, I worked with women from the community, and most of them shared about the struggles they face daily - the stress of ensuring large families are fed, managing erratic daily-wage income, meeting the needs for growing children etc. I was able to help the women with a few resources and skill sets to strengthen their mental health. I would encourage every mental health professional to dedicate their time serving those in need. Because of their economic disadvantage, these communities shouldn't be left behind in basic mental health awareness."



Melissa D'Souza

Volunteer Counselling Psychologist
Student - Post-Graduate Diploma in
Counselling Psychology - St. Xavier's College
(Autonomous)



Volunteering here has been a life-changing experience for me. The students are so eager to learn, and they have so much potential. At BLC, they're getting great education, as well as crucial life-skills. Most importantly, they're in a safe place within an otherwise unsafe community. As volunteers we have so much to give, and it's been amazing watching these children grow in confidence through our time here."



Tanushree Mondal

Volunteer Teaching Associate
Student - B.Ed - Pillai College of Education
and Research

OPERATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

All One Q Foundation | Arpan | Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation

Community Development for Medicinal Unit | D.Y. Patil University, School of Dentistry

Dr B.M.N. College of Home Science | Government Dental College Hospital

Mothertala Tarun Sangh | National Service Scheme, Mumbai University

Pillai College of Education and Research | Thane Municipal Corporation

Valia Chhaganlal Laljibhai College of Commerce and Arts |

Vidyalankar Institute of Technology


All our work was done through a dedicated team and through 13 partnerships and 231 networking relationships across Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Delhi, Karim Nagar and Kolhapur.


ANNUAL FINANCIAL REVIEW 2024-25

The annual audit report can be found here.

[Click here](#)



 Vision Rescue #18 1/1, Near Jothiba Phule Hospital.
Kannamwar Nagar, Vikhroli East, Mumbai, Maharashtra, India 400083

 +91-22-2579-0119

 info@visionrescue.co.in

 www.visionrescue.co.in

Connect :      @visionrescue