

Annual Report

2024-25



To empower the unprivileged and marginalized people to restore and preserve their human dignity



The Crisis

The lack of dignified and stable livelihoods, coupled with large-scale displacement among the urban poor, results in poor development indicators, significantly impacting children, adolescents, and women. In response, Sambodh is addressing several critical issues in the Vatva region.

Employment Challenges

Limited job opportunities lead to unstable incomes, forcing families into a cycle of poverty.

Educational Gaps

Children in these communities lack access to quality education, leaving them without the skills needed to break the cycle of hardship.

Deprived of access to basic rights and government services,, placing them at significant risk.

Entitlement Gaps

The Solution

Sambodh believes in the power of resilience and community-driven change. Our approach focuses on addressing these deep-rooted challenges by offering tailored solutions that uplift and empower:



**Economic
Empowerment**

**Access To
Entitlements**

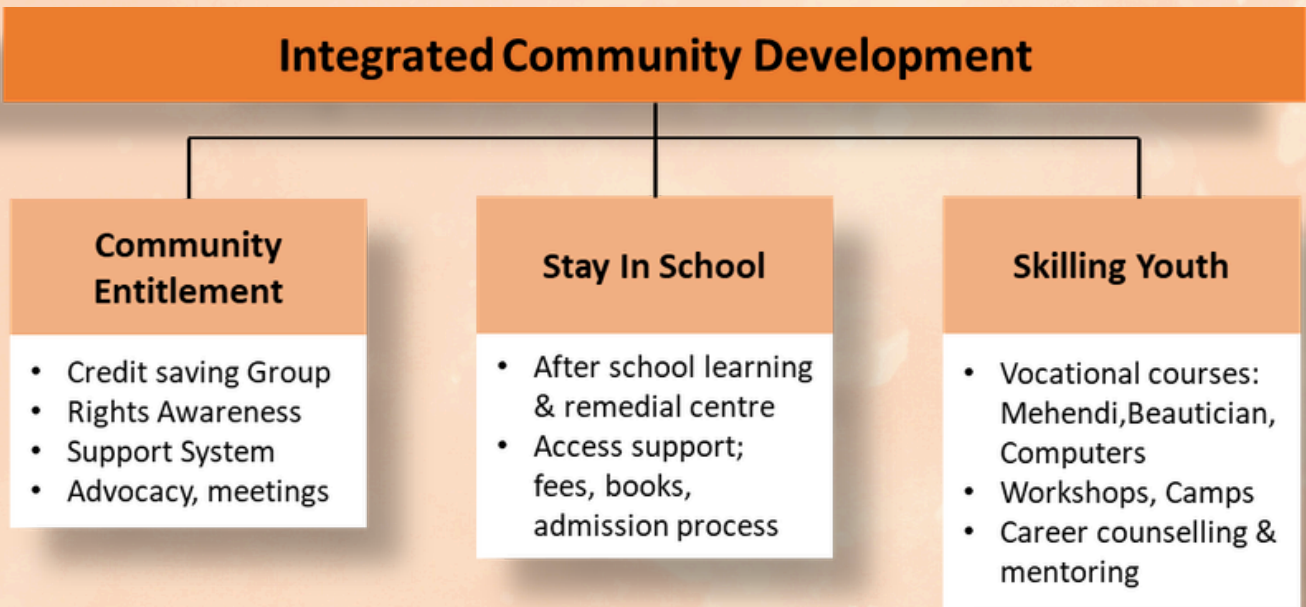
**Education
For All**

Together, we are driving change, creating opportunities, and building a future where no one is left behind.

About Sambodh

Sambodh is a Non-Government Organization (NGO) registered as a Public Charitable Trust. Founded in 2008 by Fehmida Malik, it is based in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, and holds 12A and 80G exemptions. Sambodh focuses on empowering underprivileged and marginalized communities in both urban slums and rural areas in Ahmedabad, with a special emphasis on children and women's empowerment.

These are the following programmes that Sambodh currently runs in Vatva:



Milestones

2002
Post riot intervention with children and relief work with two camps with 4000 people.

2008
Formal registration of Sambodh as a legal entity as a charitable trust with a vision established

2009
Women ask support in increasing their household income. Sarjan Mahila Credit Co-operative Society is born with 47 women as its first members and till 2012 had 2200 members

2011
Sarjan Mahila credit Cooperative registered in Government

2012
“Pure wonder of women” awarded by Vodafone, Digital Empowerment Foundation and best leader award by NIF National Indian Foundation Delhi

2016
We launched the “Stay in School” program to address high drop-out rates, initially working with 25 children. They collaborated with the Lokmanch project, engaging 60 women in leadership roles.

2017-19
50 students continue their studies and 60 leaders training at Sambodh’s learning centre

2020-21
2020-2021-Sambodh pivots and enters Covid-19 relief work actively reaching out to 10,000 households in a with monthly ration in urban slum and also rural areas and ensuring 50 students can pay their fees and continue education

2022
Adolescent express their desire to have access to vocational courses at Sambodh. We starts Mehendi class and Beauty Care courses with 40 young girls. Digital literacy course gets added to Sambodh’s Skilling Youth programme with 20 students.

2023
Due to increasing demand and with support of its first institutional grant of APPI Sambodh takes up a larger office and education centre space and got full confidence for urban settlements.

About beneficiaries/People and Area

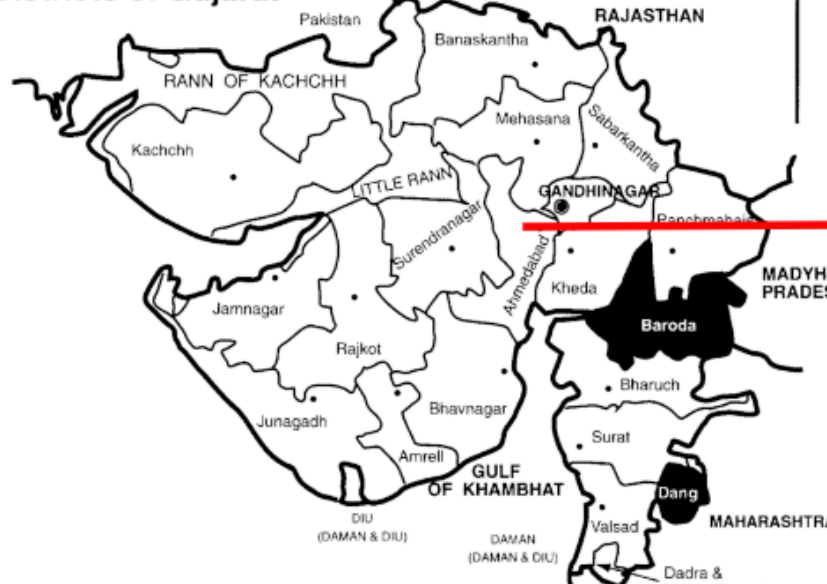


Operations Area and the people

GUJARAT: INDIA



Districts of Gujarat



Vatva is a locality in Ahmedabad district of Gujarat and it came into existence after 2008 delimitation.

Gujarat, with a population of 140,490 residents. Among them, 74,022 are males, and 66,468 are females. The area covers about 15.77 square kilometers.

Sambodh primarily serves a diverse population in the Vatva region

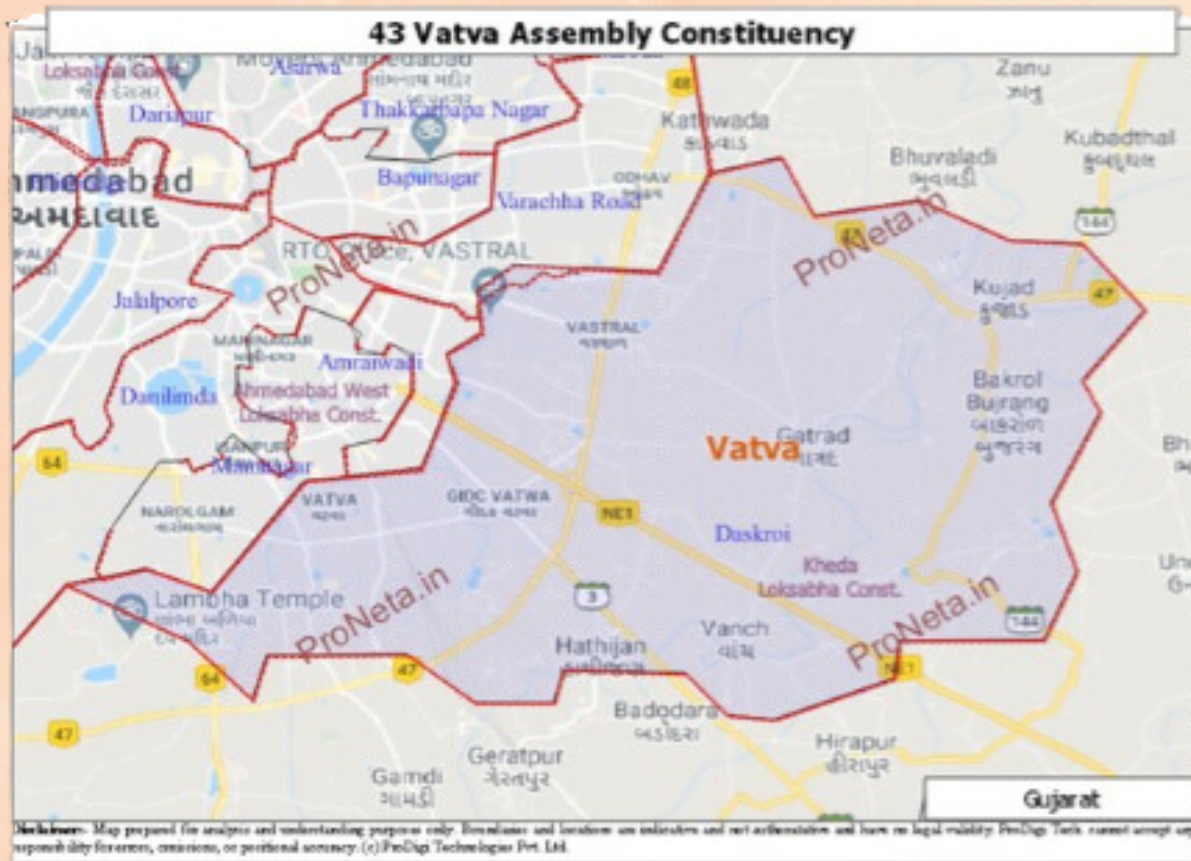
About beneficiaries/People and Area

Why Vatva?



Migrants from various Indian states, seeking refuge and employment opportunities.

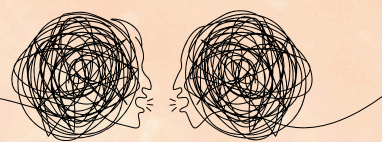
Population:
1,40,490 (2020)
10-fold growth in 20 years
Strain on civic amenities



Mix of cultures:
Muslims,
Rabaris,
Devipujaks,
Dalits
Influx from UP,
Bihar,
Maharashtra



Home to textile processing units
Pollution and poor sanitation
Inadequate healthcare



Lack of unity
Cultural conflicts
Child marriages, gender bias, domestic violence, substance abuse



Limited education access
Govt. schools only up to 8th grade
High dropout rates and child labor

Our Reach and Impact



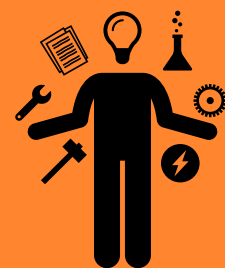
**3000 Households
in 20 out of 48
pockets of Vatva
region**



**Touched
Over 400
Women and
Young Girls**



**After School
Support
102 children
98% Pass Rate
3 Topped in Class**



**Skilling Youth
538 Enrolled
427 got Livelihood
52 Pursued Studies**

Last six years Data

Over the past five years, our initiatives have touched lives through education, skill-building, essential support, and environmental action. The table below captures the scale and growth of these efforts year by year.

Year	Education	Beauty Parlour	Computer	Mehendi	Entitlements	Dry ration - Food Support	Environment	Total
2020	100	0	39	82	29	5200	0	5452
2021	50	0	42	0	423	5000	200	5721
2022	50	80	42	80	300	500	200	1259
2023	51	114	40	106	1026	1100	100	2537
2024	102	279	52	207	3458	500	100	4698
2025	151	50	52	107	307	500	200	1367
Total	504	523	267	582	5543	12800	800	21034



Stay-in-School Program



Overview

The Stay-in-School program by Sambodh was launched in 2016 to address the high dropout rates among children, especially girls—90% of whom were leaving school. Vatva is one of the most marginalized slum communities in Ahmedabad. These children come from families of daily wage laborers, where the financial burden of continued schooling often forces students to drop out after Class 8, as Gujarat lacks schools beyond the 8th standard in many areas.

Since its inception in 2016 with just 25 children, the program has grown to support and empower a total of 475 children. It includes a comprehensive after-school educational center that supplements the school curriculum, strengthens foundational learning, and ensures students are equipped with essential life skills and digital literacy. With a strong 98% success rate, the initiative helps students remain in school while providing digital education, emotional support, nutritional aid, and social guidance for holistic development.



Vision

To empower the unprivileged and marginalized people to restore and preserve their human dignity

Executive Summary

In 2024–25, the Stay-in-School program deepened its impact across 20 slum communities in Vatva and newly identified underserved areas of Ahmedabad. This year alone, 100 children, majority of them first-generation learners—received targeted academic, financial, emotional, and digital support, resulting in a 98% retention and exam pass rate. Over 62% of these students were girls, underscoring the program’s continued emphasis on gender equity in education.

To tackle long-standing barriers such as the lack of access to secondary schools, digital exclusion, and economic constraints, Sambodh strengthened community-based after-school centres, introduced mentorship from local women leaders, and expanded digital literacy modules. As a result, 95% of students transitioned to higher secondary education and 90% engaged actively in after-school learning.


The year marked several milestones—including a 100% success rate in Class 10 board exams and brought to light powerful transformations.




Moving forward, Sambodh aims to increase outreach to 150 children, launch digital resource centres, and create stronger linkages with career guidance and local skilling opportunities. These achievements and aspirations have been made possible by the continued commitment of community stakeholders and donor partners, whose support remains integral to transforming education outcomes for children in marginalized communities.

Program Approach and Objectives


The Stay-in-School program is designed to address the critical transition point in a child's education journey, especially after Class 8, where financial, social, and systemic challenges often lead to dropout, particularly among girls. The program aims to -




Ensure continuity in education by supporting students through the vulnerable post-Class 8 phase, where access to schooling sharply declines in marginalised communities.




Enable education for first-generation learners by addressing layered challenges such as financial instability, poor academic readiness, and lack of family literacy.




Break the cycle of child labour and early school leaving by offering viable, sustained pathways for education completion.



Prepare students for future opportunities by equipping them with confidence, awareness, and a readiness to pursue higher education, vocational training, or career paths.



Build collective responsibility for education by activating parents and community members as long-term supporters of children's learning journeys.



Empower adolescent girls to overcome cultural, safety, and economic barriers that typically limit their education beyond middle school.

Student Selection Criteria

Students enrolled in the program are selected based on the following criteria:

- Students must have successfully passed Class 8 and be seeking to continue their education.
- Priority is given to children from families engaged in daily wage labour or other informal, low-income occupations.
- The child should show a clear intent and motivation to pursue further schooling, as reflected through engagement with parents or guardians.
- Students who are likely to discontinue education due to financial hardship, social pressures, or lack of institutional support are prioritized.

Core Elements of the Program

Our program is built on six key components designed to provide holistic support and development opportunities for children and their communities:

Educational Assistance:

Provision of school fees and essential learning materials to ensure access to quality education.

Digital Literacy:

Training in basic computer skills and access to digital tools to bridge the technology gap and enhance learning outcomes.

Life Skills Development:

Interactive sessions focused on communication, leadership, problem-solving, and critical thinking to equip students for personal and social success.

After-School Learning Centres:

Daily academic support through structured curriculum reinforcement, tutoring, and a safe learning environment beyond school hours.

Community Engagement :

Active involvement of parents and community members through workshops and awareness programs, fostering a supportive learning ecosystem.

Cultural Integration:

Annual “Year 6 Celebrations” that promote cultural identity, unity, and inclusion, encouraging pride and a sense of belonging within the community.

Impact Highlights 24-25

Student Enrollment & Demographics



100 Children

Enrolled this year,
continuing education
beyond Class 8



62%

of enrolled students
were girls



475 +

Total students
supported since 2016

Academic Achievement



Success rate in exams

98%



Students progressed to Class 11+

95%

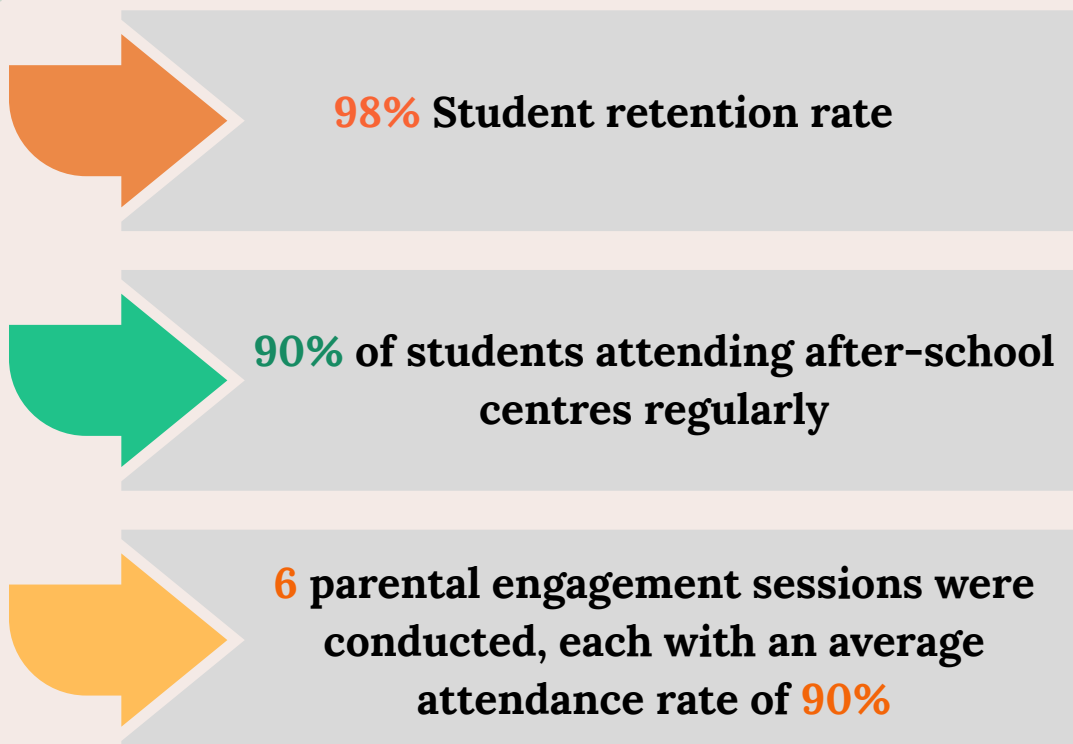


100%

Students progressed to Class 11+

Impact Highlights 24-25

Engagement and Retention



Academic Milestone: 100% Board Exam Pass Rate

- In the 2024–25 academic year, the Stay-in-School program achieved a significant outcome: 100% of students appearing for the Class 10 board exams successfully passed.
- Among these students, 15 have been part of the program since Class 8, reflecting the sustained impact of long-term academic and psychosocial support. These students, many of whom faced the risk of early dropout due to financial hardship and lack of access to post-primary education, were able to not only stay enrolled but succeed in a key academic milestone.

This result stands as a strong indicator of the program's effectiveness in ensuring education continuity, academic preparedness, and student retention specially for those from the most vulnerable contexts. It reinforces the value of holistic support systems in enabling children to transition confidently through critical phases of their education journey.

Arsheen's Journey Back to Learning - A story of hope !!!

Background

Arsheen comes from a financially challenged family. Her father is a daily-wage labor and the only earning member, trying to support three daughters and one son. With such limited income, it became impossible for the family to afford education for all the children. As a result, Arsheen's school fees hadn't been paid for two years, forcing her to stop attending classes regularly. Despite her weak academic performance, Arsheen had a strong desire to learn.

Challenges Faced

- Unpaid school fees for two years
- Irregular school attendance
- Weak reading, writing, and math skills
- Low confidence and limited academic interest

Sambodh's Intervention

Despite these challenges, Arsheen still held a deep desire to study - a spark that needed support to turn into confidence. Recognizing her vulnerability, Sambodh stepped in with tailored support:

- **Educational Support:** Arsheen's school fees were paid in full, enabling her return to regular schooling.
- **Learning Assistance:** She was given foundational learning support—starting from basic reading and writing to arithmetic skills like addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division.

Transformation Over Time

Initially hesitant, Arsheen began to show genuine interest in her studies. She started revising lessons on her own and gained confidence in the classroom. Today, she can independently read and write in Gujarati and Hindi. She now handles basic math and money management tasks with confidence.

Before

- Struggled with reading, writing, and basic math
- Skipped school due to financial constraints
- Lacked motivation and self-belief

After

- Attends school daily
- Reads, writes, and solves problems Confidently
- Actively participates and learns beyond the classroom
- Gaining real-life skills for motivation and confidence

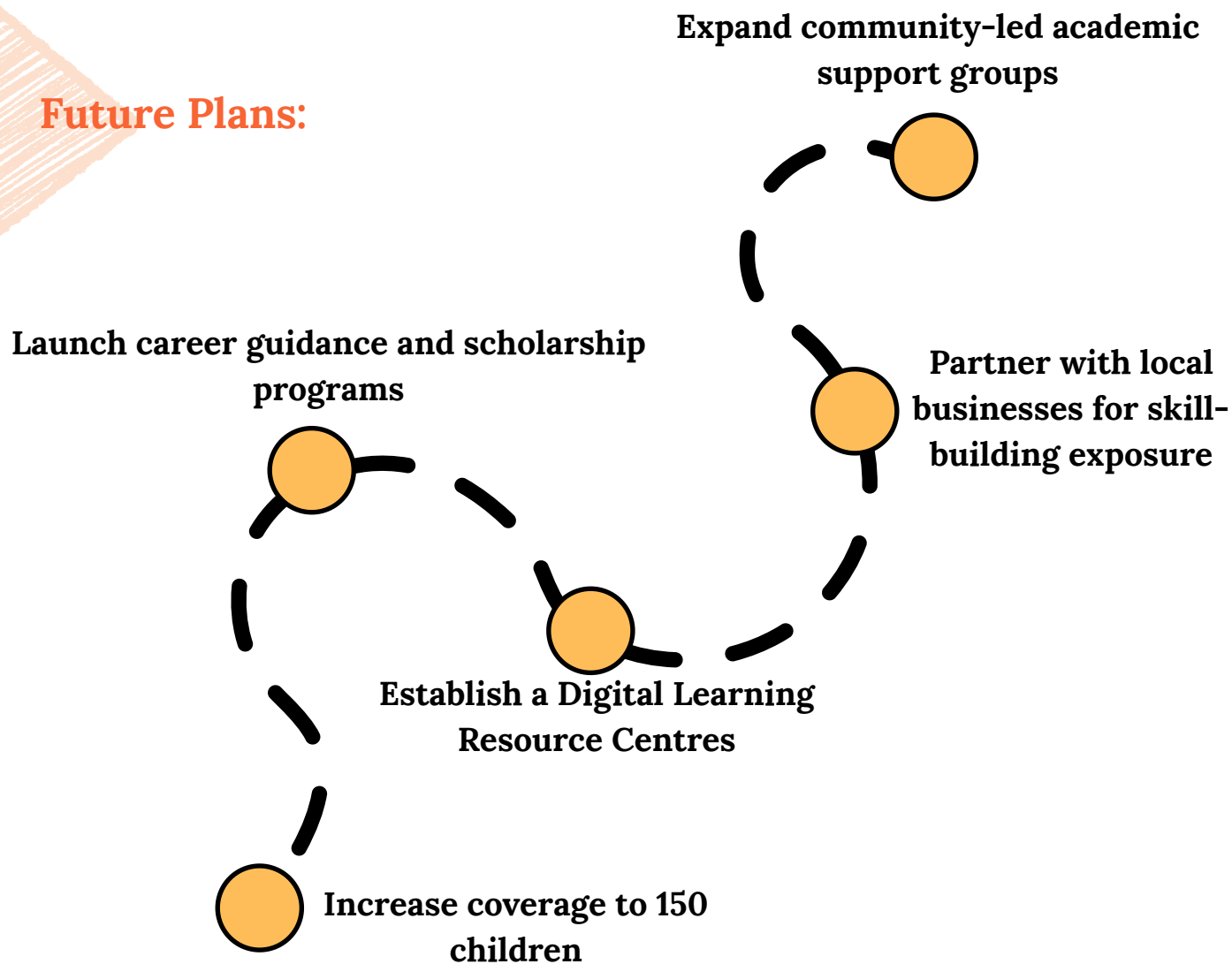
Key Programme Developments in 24-25

Throughout the year, the Stay-in-School program introduced several community-rooted innovations to deepen engagement, enhance learning, and foster inclusion:

- **Community-Based After-School Centres:** Safe, accessible learning spaces were established within local communities to provide daily academic reinforcement and reduce travel barriers.
- **Mentorship by Local Women Leaders:** A mentorship initiative was launched where women from the community guided adolescent girls, offering support, encouragement, and real-life role models.
- **Digital Literacy at the Doorstep:** Basic digital skills training was brought directly to students through community sessions, helping bridge the technology gap in low-connectivity households.
- **Cultural Celebrations for Inclusion:** Festivals from diverse traditions were celebrated to promote a sense of unity, belonging, and pride in cultural identity among students and families
- **Educational Field Visits and Exposure Tours:** Students were taken on curated exposure visits to broaden their horizons and link classroom learning with real-world experiences.



Future Plans:



Initiative	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
Increase coverage to 150 children	[Active]			
Career guidance & scholarship programs		[Active]		
Digital Learning Resource Centres			[Active]	
Partner with businesses for skill-building	[Active]			
Community academic support groups			[Active]	

FINANCIALS

THE BOMBAY PUBLIC TRUST ACT, 1950 {Schedule VIII [Vide Rule 17 (II)]}

Name of Public Trust : **SAMBODH** Registration Number : **E - 18431, AHMEDABAD** Date of Registration **3/May/08**
 Address of Trusts' office : **BEKA TEKARI, NR. RAJPUT HOTEL, DHOLKA, AHMEDABAD - 387810** Phone No. : **9824212064**

Balance Sheet As on 31/03/2025

FCRA Details : NOT APPLICABLE

FUNDS & LIABILITIES	Rs.	Rs.	PROPERTY & ASSETS	Rs.	Rs.
Trust Funds or Corpus :			Immovable Properties :		
Balance as per last Balance Sheet (Recd prior to 01.04.20)	9,80,000		Balance as per last Balance Sheet	-	
Add : Corpus Donations received during the year	-	9,80,000	Add : Additions during the year	-	
			Less : Sales during the year	-	
			Depreciation up to date	-	
Other Earmarked Funds :			Investments :		
Other Earmarked Funds	-		(i) The Market Value of the above investments is Rs.	-	
(Set apart U/s 11(2) of Income Tax Act and to be utilized by 31st March, 2024)	-		(ii) Including in concerns in which the trustees are interested Rs.	-	
Depreciation Fund	-		(iii) Fixed Deposit With Bank	10,00,000	10,00,000
Specific Reserve	-				
Reserve Fund	-		Fixed Assets [ANNEXURE 4]		
Any Other Fund	-		Balance as per last Balance Sheet	45,538	
			Add : Additions during the year	-	
Less: Amount Transferred to Inc. & Exp. Acc.			Less : Sales during the year	-	
From Earmarked Funds	-		Depreciation	19,805	63,732
Loans (Secured or Unsecured)			Loans (Secured or Unsecured) Good/Doubtful		
From Trustees	-		Loan Scholarships	-	
From Others	-				
Liabilities :			Advances		
For Creditors			To Trustees	-	
For TDS	(3,758)		To Employees		
For Prof Tax	-		To Contractors	1,174	
For Project Advances	23,044		To Project Advances	14,492	
For Rent and other deposits	-		To Others - Rent Deposit	25,000	
For Sundry Credit Balance	-		To Others - TDS Recievable	10,424	51,090
For Unutilise Grants	-				
		19,286	Income Outstanding :		
Income and Expenditure Account :			Rent	-	
Balance as per last Balance Sheet	11,84,378		Accrued Interest	58,252	58,252
Less : Appropriation, if any	(37)		Grant Recievable	-	
Add : Surplus as per Income & Expenditure Account	7,41,139		(i) Cash and Bank Balances		
Less : Deficit as per Income & Expenditure Account	-	19,25,554	in Savings Account of Bank of Baroda A/c 9857	15,33,398	
			in Savings Account of Bank of Baroda A/c 27314	5,516	
			in Savings Account of Bank of Baroda A/c 41461	2,10,220	
			(ii) Cash on hand with Fehmlida Malik (Trustee)	2,632	17,51,766
Total Rs.		29,24,840	Total Rs.		29,24,840

Income Outstanding for the year ended on 31/03/2025 is Rs NIL

The above Balance Sheet to the best of our belief contains a true account of the Funds and Liabilities and of the property and Assets of the trust.

As per our report of even date

For, Khandhar & Khandhar
Chartered Accountants
ICAI FRN : 137865W

N.N. Khandhar
Nishil Khandhar
[Partner]

Membership No: 157541

Address : 601, Ratnam Tower, Bodakdev, Ahmedabad
Phone Number : 9974280997



Place: Ahmedabad
Date: 24th September, 2025
UDIN : 25157541BMHXBJ5955

Sambodh
Sambodh
[Trustee]

Vandana Pendya
Vandana Pendya
[Trustee]

Name : Fehmlida Malik
Address : Beka Tekri, Nr Rajput Hotel, Dholka, Ahmedabad
Phone Number : 9824212064

Transformative Role of Donors



Your support made the following possible:

- Strengthening of the educational culture in the community
- Boosted gender equity and digital readiness

100

Children from daily wage families stayed in school this year

90%

Successfully completed their academic year

250+

Indirect beneficiaries in homes and communities

Gratitude Note

We are deeply thankful for your unwavering support. Your belief in the mission of inclusive education has created a ripple effect of hope, dignity, and opportunity for entire families.

You haven't just supported education, You've supported a lifetime of opportunity.