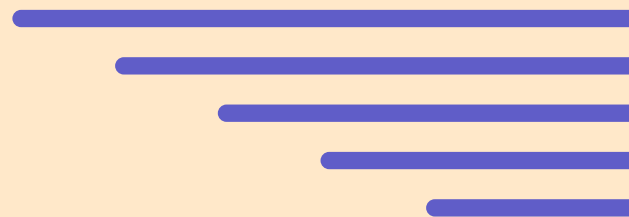




Impact Assessment of CSR Projects

FY 2022-23

Independent Assessment by



Citation

Exide CSR Impact Report 2022-2023
Independent Impact Assessment of CSR Projects by **Consultivo**
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Setting the Scene

About This Report

The Impact Assessment Report, authored by Consultivo Business Solutions Pvt Ltd (Consultivo), presents a comprehensive analysis derived from a combination of onsite and virtual surveys complemented by data disclosed by the company and its associates in the public domain. This meticulous approach aims to provide a contextualised understanding of the company's interventions. The report endeavours to categorise EIL's interventions and their outcomes into distinct stages—inputs, outputs, outcomes, and impacts, wherever feasible.

Aligned with the sustainability policies and values of EIL, this report reflects a commitment to holistic assessment methodologies. While the surveys conducted by Consultivo were tailored to focus on the key objectives and intervention areas of EIL's CSR projects, they remained sensitive to the nuanced realities of the local communities. By incorporating diverse perspectives and ground-level insights, the report ensures a nuanced understanding of the impact of EIL's initiatives on the communities it serves.

The conclusions drawn in this report are specific to the interventions evaluated and encapsulate valuable insights that can inform future endeavours. As EIL continues its journey towards social responsibility and sustainability, the learnings gleaned from this assessment are poised to guide and enhance the effectiveness of its future initiatives.

About EIL

Exide Industries Ltd. is one of India's leading manufacturers of batteries and storage power solutions. Founded in 1947, it has its headquarters in Kolkata, West Bengal, India. EIL offers a range of batteries for various applications, including automotive, two-wheeler, inverters, UPS, and solar systems.

The company has a strong presence in India, with a network of over 30,000 dealers and distributors. Exide Industries Ltd also exports its products to several countries in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East.

In addition to batteries, Exide Industries Ltd also offers a range of related products and services, including battery management systems, charging solutions, and battery recycling. The company strongly focuses on innovation and R&D and has several patents and trademarks to its credit.

EIL is committed to sustainable and responsible business practices, including environmental stewardship and social responsibility. The company has received several awards and recognitions for its commitment to sustainability and CSR initiatives.

Key CSR Initiatives of Exide Industries Ltd



Education

EIL constructed classroom blocks and established smart classrooms in government schools and low-cost private schools spread across the country. The company also offered scholarships for higher studies to meritorious girls from underprivileged sections of society.



Health

EIL supported the enhancement of medical facilities nationwide, organizing health check-up camps, establishing community-based WASH facilities, and upgrading wastewater management in rural areas. The company also sponsored improvements in WaSH infrastructure in schools for underprivileged children.



Environment

The company took several initiatives for environmental protection. EIL facilitated the renovation of several ponds in a number of water-stressed districts of India. It also supported programmes on municipal solid waste management, waste recycling and protection of flora and fauna.



Employability

The company implemented projects to boost the employability and livelihoods of disadvantaged individuals. This included on-the-job training for underprivileged youth, skills training for unemployed youths and rural women, and job readiness skills for academically gifted girls.



Empowerment










EIL implemented several initiatives for the empowerment of vulnerable sections of society through a number of programmatic interventions in areas such as rehabilitation of orphaned/semi-orphaned children, rehabilitation of wards of sex workers, holistic development of rural and tribal communities and so on.

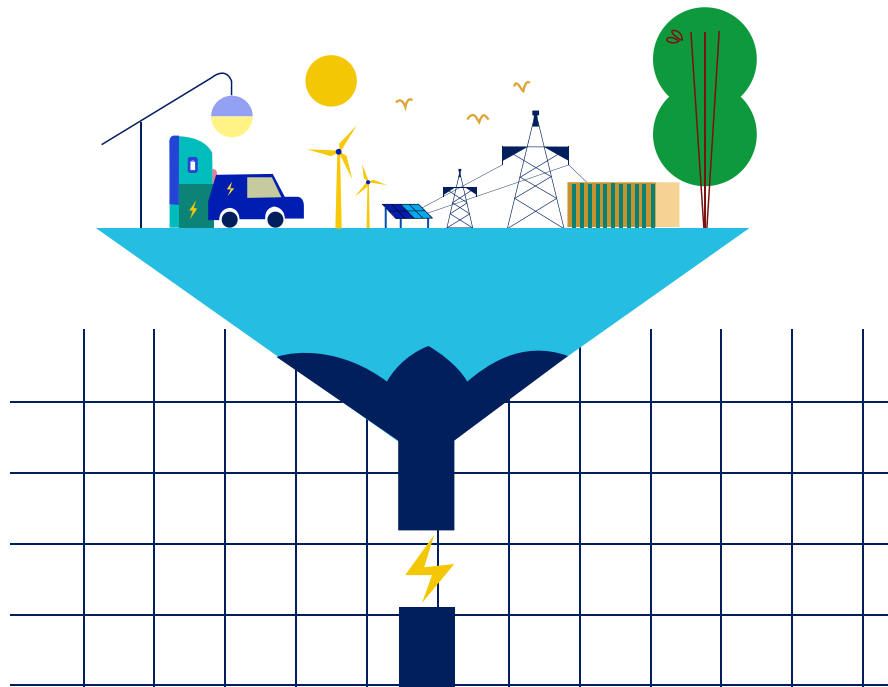


Gender

Gender is a component of several of the EIL initiatives cited above. EIL's CSR projects aimed at women's empowerment cover areas like entrepreneurship, employability, health, and sanitation in schools and education.

The list of projects with the financial outlay and mapping with SDGs is given below:

Big-Ticket Projects	SDG Mapping (Focus)	Amount Spent (Rs Crores)
Skill Development through the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS)	 	₹ 7.29 Crore
College Transformation: YUVA Unstoppable	 	₹ 3.95 Crore
School Transformation: YUVA Unstoppable	 	₹ 2.00 Crore
Marrow Donor Registry (India)		₹ 1.98 Crore
School Development Projects in Ahmednagar, Chinchwad, Haridwar/ Roorkee and Shyamnagar	 	₹ 1.09 Crore



Our Approach

Planning: Involving the Stakeholders

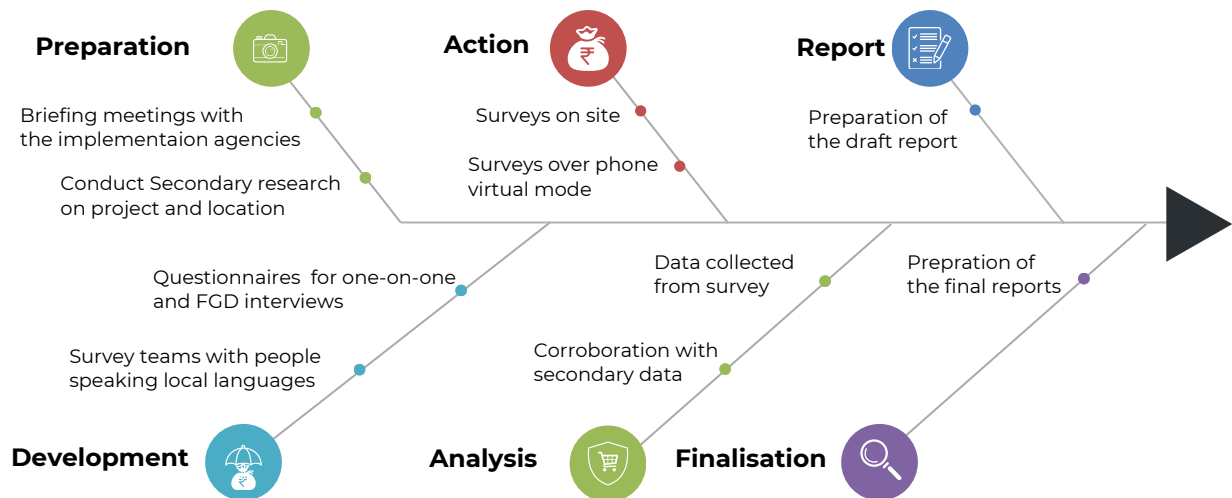
We planned an experimental design to understand the impact of selected CSR projects on different beneficiaries.

The evaluation approach has been designed in line with the objectives and scope of the project. A consultative approach for the impact assessment has been adopted. The findings have been triangulated based on interactions with key stakeholders, supplemented by primary and secondary research, complemented by domain knowledge and field expertise as per the project-specific research objective.

The research was conducted between November 2023 and February 2024. It broadly involves reviewing the literature for each project, interacting with the key stakeholders for each project, and developing and validating the questionnaire. The methodology of this study included designing the data points to be analysed and developing questionnaires for all projects.

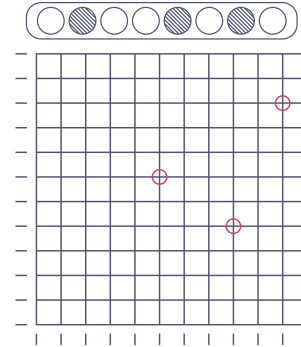
The survey took place in a hybrid mode with individual and focus group discussions. It was also a mix of onsite and virtual assessments. Document review and physical verification were also conducted.

Further data cleaning, analysis and interpretation were done using statistical data analysis software.



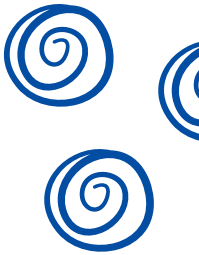
Sampling

We covered representative samples and more using a stratified random sampling method at a 95% confidence level and 10% confidence interval in most cases. However, the survey team had to depend on EIL and its partners to mobilise the beneficiaries. More than 300 respondents were surveyed for this purpose.



Bringing Transparency to the Core

The data and analysis represented in this report are from primary sources and collected by our trained resources. The secondary information used is collected from authentic sources shared by respected project coordinators...



Quality Assurance Interventions

The development of questionnaires was reviewed to check the alignment with

- the research objectives and confirm the data points;
- review of the sampling plan in terms of completeness;
- training of enumerators and sample data fill-up;
- on-site random witness (where planned);
- data cleaning and data accuracy checking;
- review and validation of the first set of samples being analysed;
- stage review of outcome analysis and interpretation;
- final review by the review team/mentor group.



DASHBOARD



The Projects at a Glance



Healthcare, Hunger and malnutrition, Education, Skill development, WaSH, Gender equality, Community development, Animal rescue, Heritage conservation.

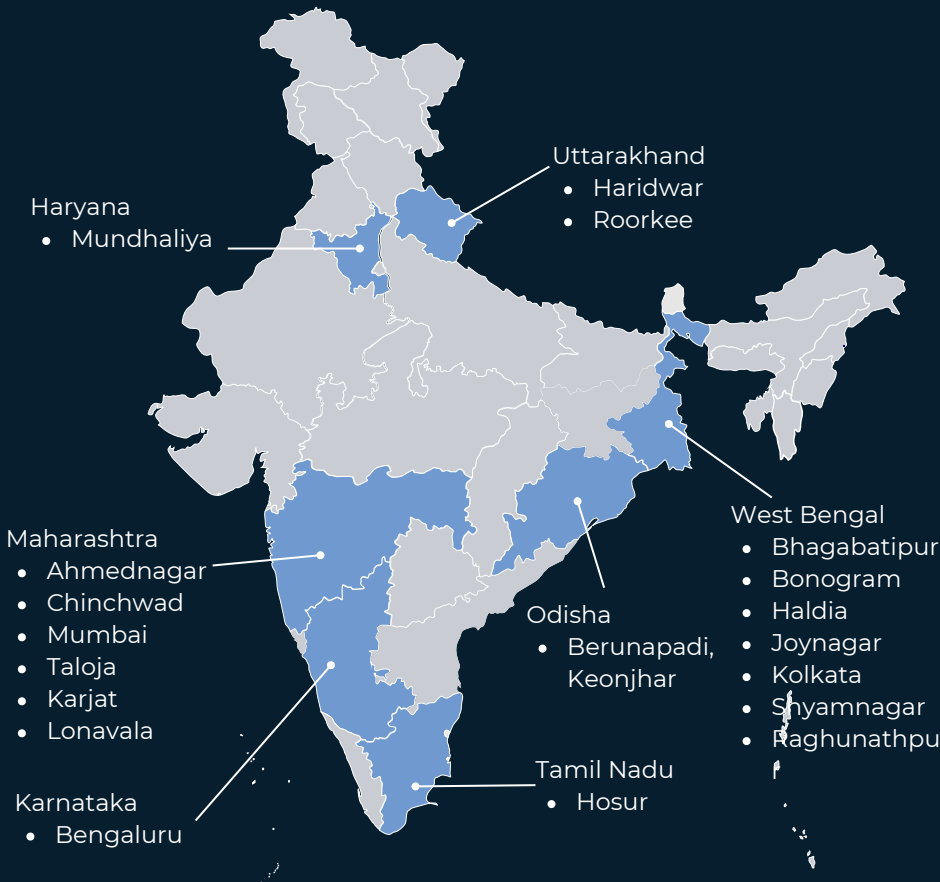


₹ 19.26 Crore
Total funding in FY 2022-23

Estimated lives touched in 2022-23 alone

~1,80,000

Project Locations



~1,20,000

people living below the poverty line were positively impacted in FY 2022-23 alone.



Total volunteering hours in FY 2022-23:
5511.60

19 Project locations

- Mundhaliya, Haryana
- Haridwar, Roorkee, Uttarakhand
- Bhagabatipur, Bonogram, Haldia, Joynagar, Kolkata, Shyamnagar, Raghunathpur, West Bengal
- Ahmednagar, Chinchwad, Mumbai, Taloja, Karjat, Lonavala, Maharashtra
- Bengaluru, Karnataka
- Berunapadi, Keonjhar, Odisha
- Hosur, Tamil Nadu



SDG-wise spend



Lives touched directly and indirectly in 2022-23

Big-ticket projects

Skill Development through the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS)	10000
College Transformation: YUVA Unstoppable	4500
School Transformation: YUVA Unstoppable	25000
Marrow Donor Registry (India)	65000
School Development Projects in Ahmednagar, Chinchwad, Haridwar/ Roorkee and Shyamnagar	4000

Social Return on Investment (SRoI)



6.88

School Improvement Programme, Khelaghar Raghunathpur

3.98

Pond Restoration Project, Mundhaliya, Haryana

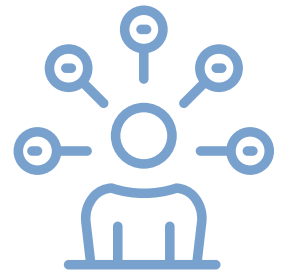


Executive Summary

Big-ticket Projects

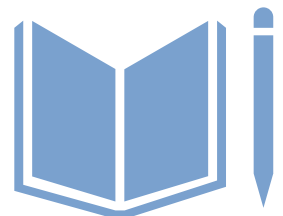
Skill Development through the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS)

- 1036 apprentices were trained under NAPS under the Exide Kaushal Programme in FY 2022-23.
- 50% increase in family income for 76% of apprentices surveyed.
- 94% of apprentices thought they were placed according to their skill sets.
- 96% of apprentices graded the programme a 4 or above on a scale of 5.
- For the first time under this scheme, women were included in the HR Section of the plant in Chinchwad.
- **Estimated lives touched: 10000.**



College Transformation: YUVA Unstoppable

- 100% of the teachers and students were satisfied with the renovation work.
- The noted improvements were recognised for enhancing students' learning experience and boosting their confidence.
- 100% of teachers and students believed that the intervention improved the academic atmosphere in their institutions.
- The infrastructure renovation program was rated 4 out of 5 for its overall impact, indicating a high level of effectiveness
- **Estimated lives touched: 4500.**



School Transformation: YUVA Unstoppable

- Under this programme, WaSH infrastructure was renovated in 12 schools, 35 smart classes and 7 STEM labs were set up.
- The intervention helped ensure proper ventilation in toilets to mitigate malodour, reduced waiting times for students due to increased availability of facilities, and facilitated easier maintenance of personal hygiene.
- The teachers in the schools covered during the assessment confirmed a substantial increase in student attendance, ranging from 90% to 100%.
- 100% of the teachers interviewed confirmed that the use of smart classes enabled the students to learn complex topics faster and retain the learning for a longer period of time.
- **Estimated lives touched: 25,000+**



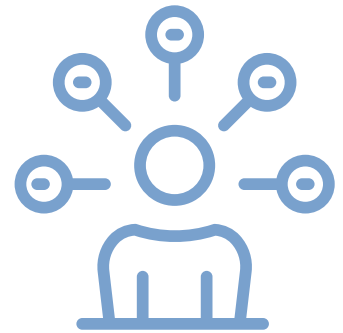
Marrow Donor Registry (India)

- MDRI registered 4,653 donors in 2022 and 5,293 donors in 2023.
- The organisation made 5,293 donor registrations in 2023.
- In 2023, MDRI set a record of eight harvests, surpassing its previous high of four.
- The financial assistance extended by EIL helped MDRI increase its efficiency in registry operations by expanding the donor base, improving donor matching, and forging collaborations.
- In December 2023, a two-month-old girl from Karnataka became the youngest recipient of a bone marrow transplant from an unrelated donor in Mumbai, marking medical history. Diagnosed with 'bubble baby syndrome', she received a life-saving transplant within 24 hours of MDRI's arrangement.
- **Estimated lives touched: 65,000+ voluntary donors registered till 2023, 26 lives saved till 2023**



School Development Projects in Ahmednagar, Chinchwad, Haridwar/Roorkee and Shyamnagar

- This is EIL's second-largest school improvement project.
- All surveyed students and teachers confirmed improved WASH infrastructure.
- Students near Shyamnagar noted superior water quality at school compared to home.
- A kitchen shed was built at Madhyamik Vidyalaya Isalak Nimblak in Ahmednagar for safe cooking during school hours.
- **New desks and benches alleviated discomfort for students at GHS Dheer Majara and PS Salempur-I and helped them be more attentive in class, leading to better performance.**
- Schools in Shyamnagar and Haridwar saw unprecedented enrolment increases for 2023-24.
- Teachers noted increased student attendance in all surveyed locations.
- Teachers unanimously agreed that improved infrastructure positively impacted student exam results.+
- **Estimated lives touched: 4000**



Skill Development through the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS)



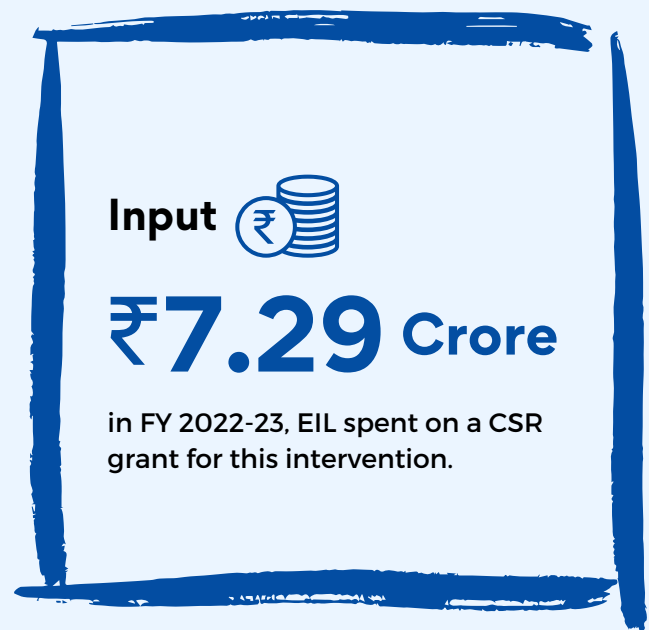
About the Project

The National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS), launched in 2016 by the Government of India under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, is instrumental in fortifying apprenticeship training and youth skill development nationwide. Mandating employers to engage apprentices, with a minimum requirement of 2.5% of the establishment's total workforce, NAPS shapes the career trajectories of young individuals.

By bridging academic learning and practical employment, NAPS equips individuals with coveted hands-on skills and work experience, enhancing their employability and readiness for the job market. With a focus on industry-relevant skills, apprentices emerge as compelling candidates for employment, armed with proficiencies aligned with evolving employer needs.

Under CSR eligibility, companies with over 30 employees are mandated to engage apprentices, with CSR funds facilitating investments in skill development initiatives beyond regulatory requirements. Aligning with NAPS objectives, companies can bolster national skill development targets, contributing to socio-economic progress and fostering a skilled workforce, thus highlighting skill development as a key CSR focus area.

Exide Industries Ltd, since 2021-22, has brought this scheme under the ambit of CSR activity, maintaining the regulatory requirement. In FY 2022-23, EIL implemented CSR under this scheme in seven of its factories across India, viz., Ahmednagar, Bawal, Chinchwad, Haldia, Hosur, Shyamnagar and Taloja.



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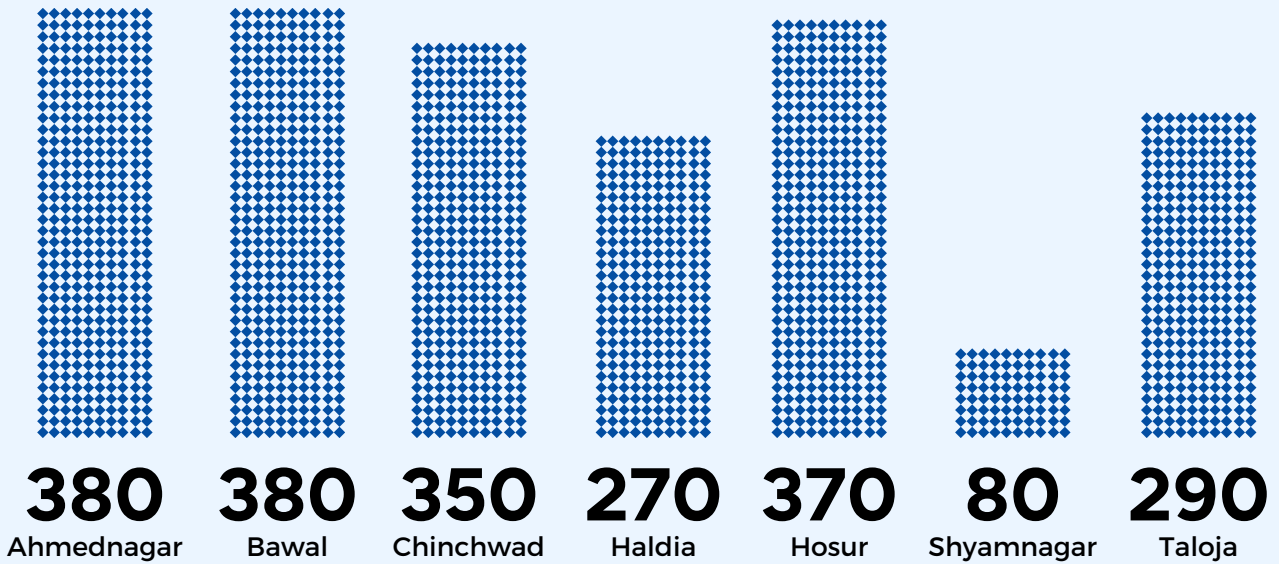
EIL employees from the Ahmednagar Plant collectively contributed 50 hours to the project.

Outputs

2120 In FY 2022-23, total number of apprentices trained under CSR under NAPS



Number of apprentices in NAPS eligible for CSR activity, plant-wise



Outcomes and Impact

Emergence as a Source of Livelihood

The NAPS has emerged as an important source of livelihood for many. The apprentices interviewed reported that they received a stipend from Rs 9776 per month (in Haldia) to Rs 20,000 per month (in Chinchwad).

Stipend received

₹ **9776**

per month (in Haldia)

₹ **20,000**

per month (in Chinchwad)

The average stipend in four (out of seven) survey locations is given below:

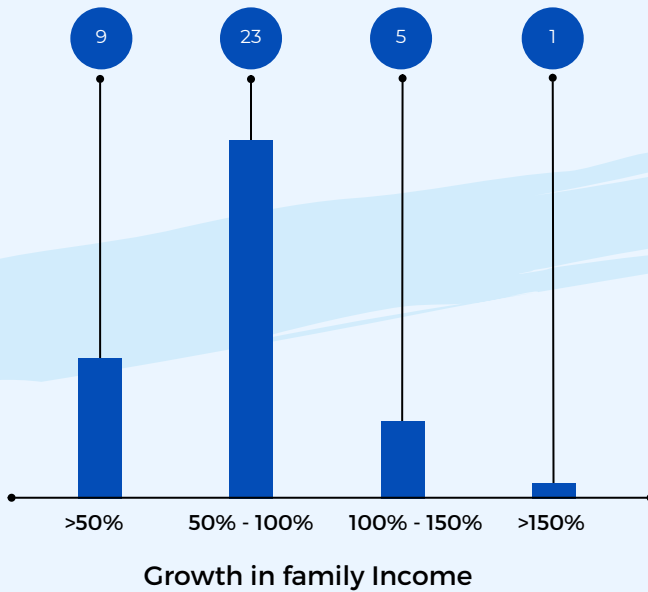
Chinchwad	Rs 15,805
Hosur	Rs 15,000
Bawal	Rs 11,188
Haldia	Rs 7,999

Stipends can vary across different locations based on factors like demand for skilled labour and prevailing wage rates. Employers participating in the NAPS have some flexibility in setting stipend rates within the government guidelines. Some employers may offer additional incentives or benefits to attract and retain apprentices.

Eighty-nine responses were received from the apprentices. Among these respondents, 38 individuals reported their family income. Out of these 38 respondents, 29 individuals, which represents approximately 76% of the total, reported experiencing a significant increase in their family income.

Specifically, the report states that 76% of the respondents who reported their family income observed an increase in their earnings by 50% or more after joining the apprenticeship. This implies that a substantial majority of those who disclosed their income experienced a significant financial improvement, with their income growing by at least half of its original amount.





Creating a Workforce with a Positive Mindset

Among the respondent apprentices, 92% expressed satisfaction with the stipend they received as part of their apprenticeship program. This suggests that a vast majority of apprentices considered the stipend they were provided to be fair compensation for their work and training efforts. However, the remaining 8% of respondents believed that they were capable of earning higher salaries elsewhere and therefore were not entirely satisfied with the stipend they received.

Ninety-four per cent of the respondents expressed satisfaction with being placed in the department they desired, suggesting that they feel appropriately matched with their chosen field or area of work. This high satisfaction rate indicates that the training program or placement process effectively aligns individuals with their preferred roles within an organisation.

However, when it comes to securing employment following the training period, the preferences and confidence levels vary among respondents. Sixty-four per cent of the respondents expressed a desire to secure a job specifically with Exide, indicating a preference for employment within that particular organisation.

67% of the respondents rated the programme a 5 out of 5, and 29% rated it a 4. Only three persons graded the programme a three. When asked what they liked about the programme, the apprentices pointed out primarily the following:

- Getting training and work experience in a prestigious organisation like EIL
- Experience in manpower handling
- Knowledge about health and safety regulations and parameters



67% of the respondents rated the programme a 5 out of 5



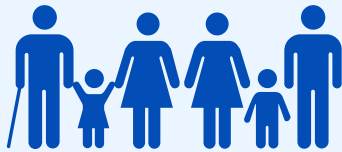
29% of the respondents rated the programme a 4 out of 5

Beginning a Gender Journey

The assessment team noted a commendable stride towards inclusivity within the Chinchwad apprenticeship program, with the inclusion of two women in the apprenticeship cohort—a positive and inspiring development.

These two apprentices were actively engaged in the HR department of the factory. While safety regulations prohibit women from working in lead-related processes, their employment in non-prohibited areas within the factory underscores the significance of fostering diversity and inclusivity within apprenticeship initiatives. Looking ahead, it is recommended that EIL contemplate implementing a policy mandating a specified percentage of apprenticeships to be reserved for women.

Such an initiative would not only promote gender equality but also contribute to the empowerment of women in the workforce, aligning with broader societal goals of inclusivity and equity.



— ● —
Lives touched
10000





Empowering Through Job-Oriented Training: The Journey of Aminur Ali Saha

Aminur Ali Saha's story is one of resilience, determination, and empowerment. Growing up in challenging financial circumstances, Aminur faced limitations in pursuing higher education after completing his HS Examination in 2018. Despite these obstacles, Aminur refused to be deterred and sought alternative pathways to build a successful career.

A pivotal moment came when Aminur's college teacher recognised his potential and suggested he undergo vocational training to develop practical skills in a specific trade. Taking this advice to heart, Aminur enrolled in a job-oriented training and certification course at Bajkul Milani Mahavidayla, specialising in the ITI Fitter trade. His dedication and hard work paid off when he graduated with an impressive 84% in 2020.

With his newfound skills and qualifications, Aminur's journey took a significant turn when his name was sponsored for the Apprenticeship Mela in 2023 held at Haldia. Recognising his aptitude and technical background, Aminur was selected by the Engineering Services (Maintenance) Department of EIL for their National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) program in the Fitter Trade. Since then, he has been undergoing rigorous training, acquiring knowledge of machinery maintenance jobs, and honing his skills in the field.



For Aminur, this opportunity has been life-changing. It has not only provided him with practical skills and hands-on experience but has also opened doors to a promising career path. Aminur expresses profound gratitude to his college teacher and Bajkul Milani Mahavidayla for providing access to quality vocational training, which has played a pivotal role in expanding his career horizons and empowering him to achieve his goals.



Impact indicator
Generating livelihood through upskilling



Focus



Others





College Transformation: YUVA Unstoppable



About the Project

YUVA Unstoppable is dedicated to empowering underprivileged youth in India through diverse educational and developmental initiatives. The organisation focuses on enhancing the educational landscape of government schools and colleges, undertaking projects such as school revitalisation, infrastructure development, and resource provision.

With financial assistance from Exide Industries Limited, YUVA Unstoppable sought to intervene in the two following colleges in Bengaluru, Karnataka, in FY 2022-23:

-  Government First Grade College, Doddaballapur
-  Government First Grade College, Yelahanka



The Government First Grade College in Doddaballapur holds a significant place in the history of Karnataka as one of the oldest institutions providing higher education. Established initially as an Intermediate college, it has evolved to offer undergraduate courses in Arts, Science, Commerce, and Management. Affiliated with Bangalore University, the college currently accommodates around 2010 students in its undergraduate programs, contributing to the cultural progress of society.

The institution provides Bachelor's degree courses with specialisations in various subjects, including History, Economics, Political Science, Sociology, Education, Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Economics, and Computer Science. The college acknowledges academic and extracurricular achievements through awards, scholarships, and financial aid based on need-cum-merit. The vibrant cultural and academic life, coupled with the success of alumni earning national and international recognitions, reflects the college's commitment to holistic education and student development.



Input



₹3.95 Crore

was spent towards infrastructure improvement under this project in FY 2022-23.

The GFGC Yelahanka embarked on its journey with a modest inception, comprising just three rooms within a primary school, accommodating a total of 306 students enrolling in undergraduate courses (BA, B.Com., and BBM). Notably, in 2010, the institution expanded its offerings to include Science (B.Sc.), and subsequently, in 2012, it introduced postgraduate courses in History and Economics. In the academic year 2015-16, another milestone was achieved with the commencement of a BA in Journalism with History and Optional English. As the institution marks its eighth year, the student body has grown significantly, boasting a strength exceeding 3000.

The college takes pride in its faculty, known for their rich academic excellence. Affiliated with Bangalore University, the college remains committed to providing quality education and fostering academic growth.

The Exide-YUVA intervention was aimed at the augmentation of infrastructure in these two colleges.



Outputs

In the two colleges in Doddaballapur and Yelahanka, both in Bengaluru, the activities undertaken included the following:



Repair and renovation of WASH infrastructure



Provision of furniture and laboratory equipment



Provision of books for library and sports equipment

Outcomes

Improvement in Hygienic Practices

The teaching faculty of the GFGC Yelahanka, which was visited by the Consultivo assessment team, recognised the initiative and expressed satisfaction with the renovation work. The teachers opined that the programme undertaken by EIL was beneficial and engaging for students of the college.

The teachers and students interviewed by the Consultivo survey team also believed that the renovation efforts in the WASH facilities played a pivotal role in enhancing hygiene and fostering greater comfort among students while utilising these facilities.

While the reception of the WASH repair and renovation activities was generally positive, interviewees made a special mention of the benefits received by the female students of the college. The observed improvements were acknowledged for positively influencing the students' overall learning experience and bolstering their confidence levels.

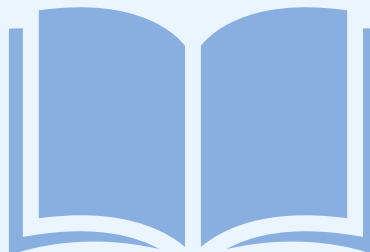


Improvement in the Furniture and Laboratory Equipment

The faculty of Yelahanka College observed positive changes in the quality of furniture and lab equipment. The students felt that the provided furniture eased basic requirements, contributing to a more conducive academic environment.

Improvement in the Library and Sports Facilities

There were no specific comments regarding improvements to the library and sports facilities. It was suggested that these areas could benefit from additional attention and enhancements. Feedback indicated that the absence of these enhancements limited extracurricular engagement and access to resources crucial for academic development.



Impacts

Overall Academic Environment

The infrastructure changes were reported to have positively influenced the college's overall academic environment. Students were proud to be part of the college, and regular attendance increased. The teaching faculty reported being motivated to improve their coaching standards due to the positive changes brought about by the infrastructure development.

However, students were divided on whether the upgraded facilities positively impacted academic performance and extracurricular engagement. Some noted improvements, while others did not observe significant changes. More comprehensive upgrades may be required for a more profound impact.

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being very high, the overall impact of the infrastructure renovation program received a rating of 4. The enhancement of restroom facilities and the addition of new furniture and lab equipment enticed the students.

Student Engagement and Performance

Student engagement and performance showed positive changes after the renovation. The new learning experiences, coupled with improved facilities, contributed to increased student interest and regular attendance.

Due to the infrastructure renovation programme, the students expressed an increased sense of pride. The infrastructure improvements made the college stand out from the other similar government colleges in the area. The cleaner environment and safety measures implemented positively influenced the students' perception of their learning institution.

Students experienced increased confidence due to a cleaner and safer college environment, which fostered community and camaraderie.

The cleanliness and safety measures implemented as part of the infrastructure improvements were reported to have positively influenced students' overall well-being. A reduction in health issues contributed to a more comfortable and secure environment.

The students anticipated that these improvements would positively contribute to the long-term development of the college. This includes increased student admissions, enhanced learning experiences, and the ability to compete effectively with other educational institutions.

●

Lives touched

~4500



School Transformation: YUVA Unstoppable



About the Project

YUVA Unstoppable's mission is to help young people succeed by providing them with the necessary tools. YUVA enhances schools by renovating buildings, providing additional resources, and ensuring students have access to optimal learning environments.

Exide Industries Limited, in partnership with YUVA Unstoppable, undertook a transformative initiative in FY 2022-23 to elevate the learning environment at 12 rural, semi-urban, and urban government schools through comprehensive infrastructure development. The objective was to provide students with a clean and healthy environment conducive to learning.



All 35 schools underwent a technological facelift with the introduction of smart classes. Additionally, to bolster the school's commitment to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education, the project included the supply of state-of-the-art equipment for STEM labs.



Input






₹2.00 Crore

was spent towards infrastructure improvement under this project in FY 2022-23.

Outputs

YUVA Unstoppable has utilised the financial assistance extended by EIL for the creation of the following:

Scope of work 	Number of schools 	Locations 
Creation and renovation of WASH infrastructure	12	Shyamnagar, Ahmednagar, Pimpri
Smart classes (35 units)	22	Shyamnagar, Ahmednagar, Kolkata
STEM labs	7	Shyamnagar, Ahmednagar



35 schools were covered under the programme



Outcomes

Improved Sanitation and WASH Facilities

In recent years, there has been notable progress in improving the availability of basic and healthy Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) infrastructure in schools across India, particularly in government schools. However, despite these advancements, there remains a significant gap in ensuring comprehensive WASH facilities in educational institutions nationwide. The infrastructure renovation and improvements undertaken in schools by EIL effectively addressed longstanding challenges faced by students and teachers alike.

Among the notable enhancements cited by teachers and students are the implementation of proper ventilation systems in toilets to mitigate malodour, a reduction in waiting times for students due to increased availability of facilities, and the facilitation of easier maintenance of personal hygiene.



Furthermore, the inclusion of amenities such as mirrors and sanitary napkin boxes in girls' toilets has been particularly beneficial, aiding female students in managing menstrual hygiene effectively. Feedback from interviews conducted with students and teachers overwhelmingly indicates their appreciation for the improvements made and their satisfaction with the quality of project execution. Despite these positive strides, continued efforts and investments are necessary to ensure that all educational institutions provide equitable access to adequate WASH infrastructure for the holistic well-being of students and staff.

Improved Students' Attendance

The transformative initiative led by Exide Industries Limited, in collaboration with YUVA Unstoppable, had a substantial positive impact on student attendance, particularly among female students, in the schools involved. The comprehensive infrastructure development, with a specific focus on renovating sanitation and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) facilities, created a more conducive and welcoming learning environment. The upgraded facilities not only elevated sanitation standards but also contributed to fostering a positive and hygienic atmosphere within the school premises.

As a result, female students, who were often more sensitive to the availability of clean and safe facilities, experienced increased comfort and confidence in attending school regularly. This positive shift was crucial for promoting gender equality in education, underscoring the significance of holistic infrastructure development in ensuring the well-being and attendance of all students, especially those in marginalised or rural communities.

All interviewed teachers and students confirmed increased attendance in the classes, and they attributed this improvement to the renovations made to the sanitary infrastructure. The project had the largest influence on the girl students, who confirmed that the renovations made it easier for them to follow safe menstrual hygiene practices.

The introduction of smart classes and the strategic investment in STEM education as part of this transformative project also had a profound and positive impact on student attendance. The integration of modern educational technology, such as interactive displays, audiovisual aids, and digital resources, made learning more dynamic and engaging. Students were exposed to a stimulating and interactive academic environment that encouraged active participation and curiosity. The teachers in the schools covered during the assessment confirmed a substantial increase in student attendance, ranging from 90% to 100%.





Joyful Learning with Smart Classes

Smart classes are important in improving learning outcomes because they provide students with an interactive, engaging, and personalised learning experience. They help to make education more accessible and effective, and have the potential to transform the way that students learn and engage with the world.

Smart classes sponsored and promoted by EIL have K-Yan devices, which represent an integrated technology that combines the functionality of a computer, projector, large-screen TV, DVD player, audio System and more into a single unit. With this device, the teachers can write even on walls, though EIL provided whiteboards to be used along with the devices. The constraints of a smartboard can easily be overcome in a K-Yan device, as a teacher can show anything from YouTube or a pen drive to the students while explaining a concept or an incident.

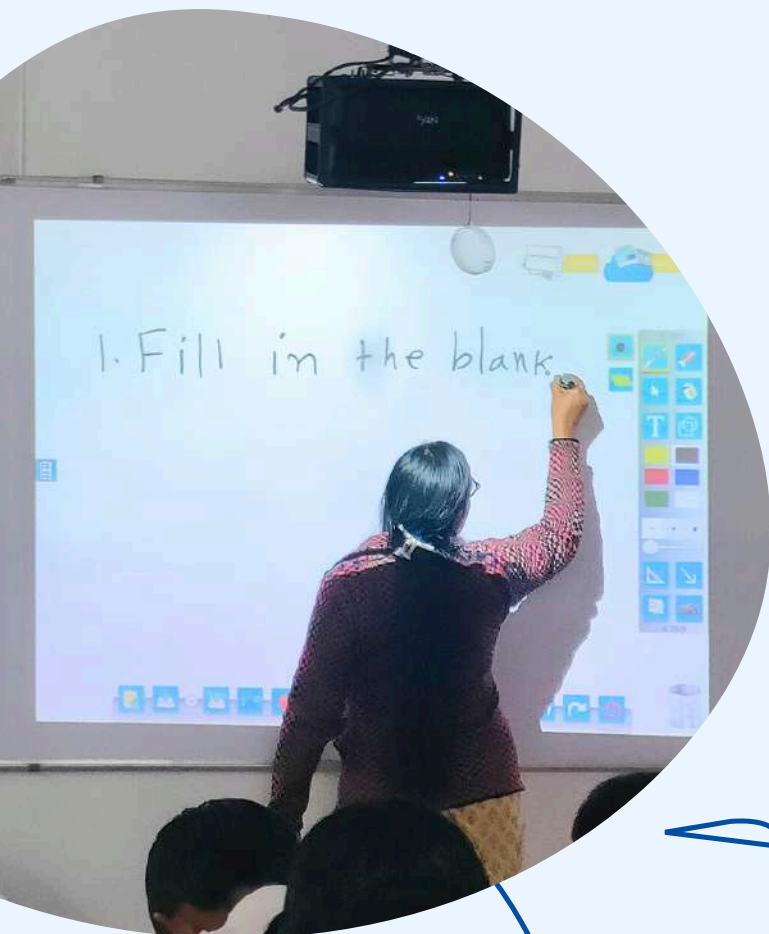
The responses of the teachers and students showed that this approach enhanced students' engagement and comprehension levels by appealing to multiple senses, facilitating better understanding and retention of the subject matter. 100% of the teachers interviewed confirmed that the use of smart classes enabled the students to learn complex topics faster and retain the learning for a longer period of time. The students identified the following subjects that they did not like before but liked after being taught in smart classes:

-  Mostly: Languages (particularly English), Mathematics and Sciences
-  Partly: History, Geography, General Knowledge



Students also perceived a notable improvement in understanding subjects when taught using smartboards. This positive perception is likely due to the dynamic and interactive nature of smart classes, which cater to diverse learning styles and provide real-time visualisation of concepts, thereby making abstract ideas more tangible and accessible.

Interestingly, certain subjects are still occasionally taught through traditional methods, relying on textbooks and conventional teaching techniques alongside smart classes. This hybrid approach suggests that while smart classes offer distinct advantages, educators recognise the importance of maintaining a balance between technological integration and traditional pedagogy, ensuring a comprehensive learning experience for students.

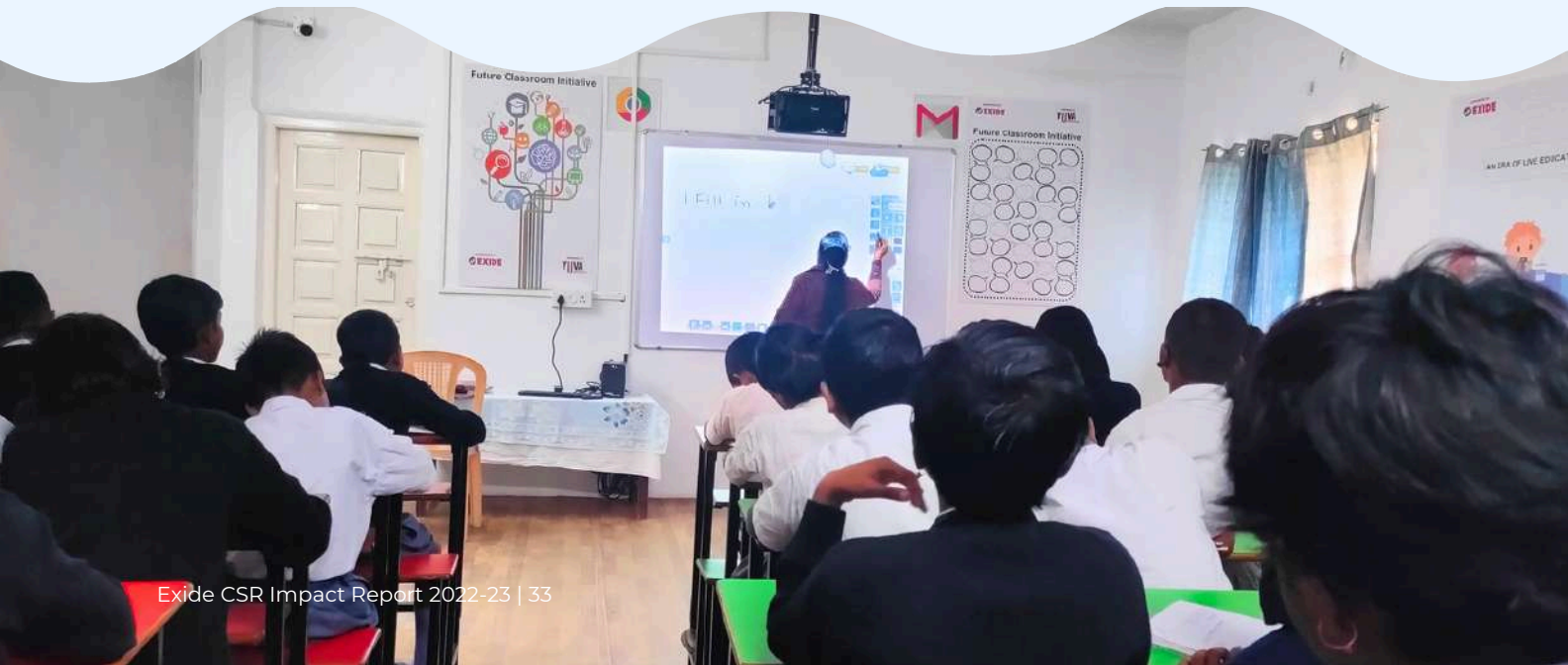


STEM Labs: Improving Student Engagement

The establishment of STEM laboratories in schools holds significant potential for transformative effects by serving as centres for hands-on, experiential learning, providing practical insights into scientific concepts and technological applications. In rural settings, these labs bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and real-world applications, fostering a deeper understanding of STEM subjects, equipping students with vital skills, and nurturing a spirit of curiosity, innovation, and problem-solving. However, despite efforts to enhance STEM education in schools in India, the status of STEM labs in rural schools is concerning, with many lacking dedicated facilities, outdated resources, and limited supplies. This disparity exacerbates the opportunity gap between rural and urban students, potentially decreasing interest in STEM fields. Addressing this issue requires sustained investment in infrastructure, teacher training, and curriculum development.



Forty working models and DIY kits were given to seven schools in Shyamnagar and Ahmednagar as a first step in setting up STEM labs. Exide Industries Limited has been actively investing in STEM labs in Uttarakhand schools, and these activities undertaken in the schools of Shyamnagar and Ahmednagar are anticipated to further support promising students in excelling in their studies.



Impact

Improvement in the Learning Environment in Schools

The collaborative effort undertaken by Exide Industries Limited and YUVA Unstoppable resulted in a substantial enhancement of the learning environment across educational institutions in rural, semi-urban, and urban settings. The improvements made to the facilities in both schools not only raised sanitation standards but also played a crucial role in fostering a positive and hygienic atmosphere within the school premises. This comprehensive approach addressed not only the physical needs of the students but also made a significant contribution to their overall well-being and academic progress.



Concurrently, there was a technological upgrade in the schools through the introduction of smart classes. These contemporary classrooms featured interactive displays, audio-visual aids, and digital resources, aiming to enrich the overall learning experience.

— ● —
Lives touched

25,000+

By integrating innovative educational technology, the initiative aimed to create a more engaging and effective educational environment for students. Furthermore, the project reinforced the schools' dedication to STEM education by providing cutting-edge equipment for STEM labs. This strategic investment aimed to promote a hands-on learning approach, empowering students with essential skills for the science and technology fields. Collectively, these endeavours not only transformed the physical infrastructure of the educational institutions but also made a significant impact on the holistic development and academic progress of the students.



Empowering Education: Transforming Ahmednagar Urdu Primary School Through Technology and Sanitation

At the heart of Ahmednagar Urdu Primary School lies a vibrant community of 372 students, where 225 young girls are shaping their futures. Khan Masira Mudassar, a dedicated teacher, reflects on the transformative impact of the EIL-YUVA collaboration, which revitalised the school's infrastructure and introduced innovative learning tools.

Under this initiative, the sanitation units for both girls and boys received a much-needed renovation, ensuring a conducive environment for hygiene and well-being. Mudassar notes the profound effect on her female students, who now find it easier to adhere to healthy practices, fostering not only physical health but also a sense of dignity and comfort. Delighted parents echo Mudassar's sentiments, expressing gratitude for the improvements that enhance their children's educational experience.

Moreover, the integration of five smart classes equipped with Kyan devices and whiteboards has revolutionised teaching and learning. Mudassar highlights the significant reduction in teaching time coupled with enhanced efficiency, thanks to the engaging and interactive nature of the technology. With concepts grasped more readily, students not only progress through their syllabus at a faster pace but also exhibit a newfound curiosity for supplementary topics, enriching their overall learning experience.



Alongside the dedication of just 11 teachers facing immense pressure, the introduction of smart classes has alleviated their burden while amplifying their impact. The seamless communication and improved comprehension among students have led to increased attendance, particularly among girls, who now exhibit greater consistency in their school attendance.

Mudassar envisions a future where technology-driven education is ubiquitous in her school, expressing gratitude to Exide Industries Limited for their unwavering support and contributions in transforming Ahmednagar Urdu Primary School's educational landscape.



Impact indicator
Creating a joyful learning environment through infrastructure upgradation



Focus



Others



Marrow Donor Registry (India)



About the project

The Marrow Donor Registry of India (MDRI) is a pioneering organisation dedicated to saving lives through the facilitation of bone marrow transplants. Established with the mission of providing hope to patients suffering from life-threatening blood disorders, MDRI plays a pivotal role in building a comprehensive and diverse registry of potential bone marrow donors. Their vision is to ensure that every patient in need finds a matching donor, ultimately enhancing the chances of successful transplantation and recovery.

Marrow donation is required for diseases such as leukaemia, lymphoma, aplastic anaemia, multiple myeloma, sickle cell anaemia and so on. MDRI's commitment to bridging the gap between patients and potential donors is evident through its robust and systematic donor recruitment programs. By leveraging cutting-edge technology and collaborating with healthcare institutions, MDRI has successfully expanded its donor pool to include individuals from various backgrounds and demographics. The organisation places a strong emphasis on public awareness and education, conducting outreach initiatives to inform and encourage people to join the registry and become potential lifesavers.

Exide Industries Limited (EIL) has been supporting the MDRI regularly. In fiscal year 2022-23, too, EIL extended financial assistance under the Exide Arogya campaign, recognising the critical role that the MDRI plays in facilitating life-saving bone marrow transplants. The investment was aimed at promoting awareness and enlisting volunteers for bone marrow donation.

Input



₹1.98 Crore

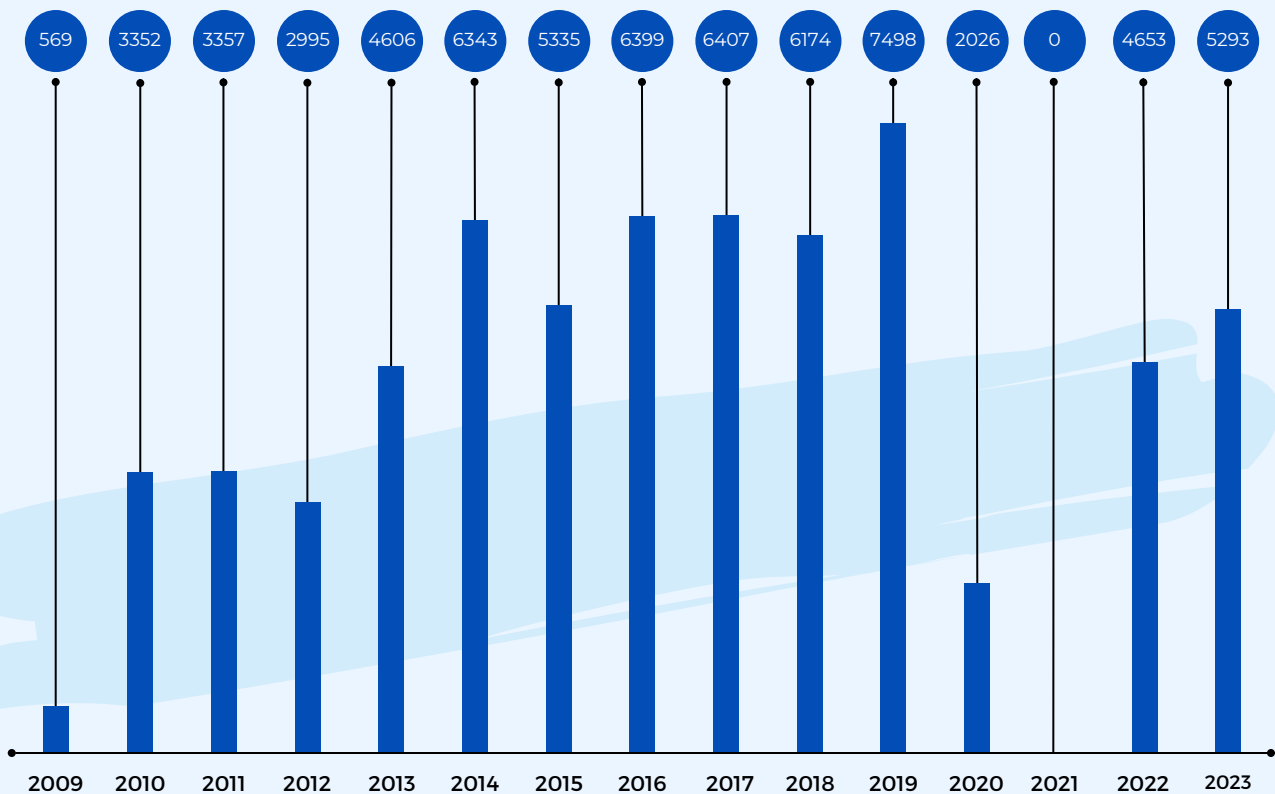
in FY 2022-23 to promote awareness about bone marrow donation and support the expenditure incurred for donor registration.



Outputs

Donor Registrations

By encouraging more people to register as donors, the chances of a successful DNA match with someone in need of a life-saving transplant can be significantly improved. MDRI registered 4,653 donors in 2022 and 5,293 donors in 2023. MDRI has more than 65,000 donors registered since its inception.



Donor Registrations Since 2009

The registration of donors follows a cumbersome and resource-intensive chain of processes. The process is stated below:

- Outreach campaigns are organised in and around Mumbai and
- A Saliva sample is collected from the donor.
- The DNA tests are performed through Human Leukocyte Antigen (HLA) typing. HLA typing from saliva is a new, feasible, and convenient method, offering a noninvasive alternative to traditional blood-based methods. HLA typing is crucial for matching donors and recipients in organ and bone marrow transplantation.
- The results are uploaded onto the database.
- Matched donors are counselled.
- The donor's fitness is assessed.
- Donor donates at an accredited blood bank.
- The product is delivered to the patient in person by an MDRI doctor.

Based on the chart, it is evident that the number of registrations reached its highest point in 2019, just before the Covid-19 pandemic hit the country. The number of registrations decreased significantly in 2020 and became zero in the following year, 2021. Since then, MDRI has been working hard to bring the registration numbers back to the pre-pandemic levels. It is heartening to see that the number of registrations increased by almost 14% in 2023 compared to the previous year.

The donor registration and typing activities are ably supported by a high-end software system which helps in the matching process. The results are generated in seconds. The software maintains the anonymity of the donors and creates unique barcodes for each donor, thus masking their identity. The software also helps in sharing anonymous data with the WMDA.

Public Awareness Campaigns

MDRI regularly organises campaigns in and around Mumbai to generate awareness about diseases caused by blood disorders. In 2022-23, the organisation organised 17 awareness campaigns and registered 3,037 donors, which was nearly 58% of the total registrations made during 2022-23. The list of the awareness campaigns organised by the MDRI in 2022-23 is given below:



Date	Place	No of Donors
07/04/2022	Ingram Micro – Vikhroli	44
08/04/2022	Ingram Micro – Kanjur Marg	27
27/04/2022	D.J. Sanghvi Engg College	269
30/06/2022	Pillai College - Panvel	235
16/07/2022	Vivek College, Goregaon	167
23/07/2022	SIES College, Sion	319
23/08/2022	Usha Mittal Engg College, Santacruz	109
14/09/2022	Sardar Patel Engg College	175
17/10/2022	KES Shroff College, Kandivali	79
12/11/2022	VES Management College, Chembur	75
26/11/2022	VES College of Arts, Sc & Commerce, Chembur	166
29/11/2022	N.M. College, Vile Parle	383
07/12/2022	Nirmala Memorial Foundation College, Kandivali	203
13/12/2022	S.M. Shetty College, Powai	360
17/12/2022	Hiranandani Pharmacy College, Ulhasnagar	70
21/12/2022	St. Xavier’s College, Fort	219
27/12/2022	Institute of Chem Technology, Matunga	137
	TOTAL	3037

In the awareness campaigns, the prospective donors are first informed about critical aspects of bone marrow donation. This involves recognising the voluntary nature of the donation, empowering donors with the right to withdraw at any stage. Donors are then required to meet specific health criteria, undergo pre-screening tests, and provide informed consent after receiving comprehensive details about the donation procedure. Essential awareness about the two primary donation methods, the time commitment, recovery period, and post-donation care, are also shared with the prospective donors. Emphasis is placed on the confidentiality of donors and that there are no associated costs, as medical expenses are covered either by the recipient's insurance or the registry itself. Donors are subsequently encouraged to understand the potential life-saving impact of their contribution and their responsibilities in this regard.

After the awareness and counselling sessions are completed, potential donors are given sufficient time to make a decision on whether or not to become a donor. They are encouraged to read, conduct research, and obtain consent from their family members. Finally, they can register as a donor by providing a saliva sample.

Every five minutes, one person in India is diagnosed with blood cancer and blood disorders. Many such patients need a blood stem cell transplant to survive. However, only a fraction of patients find an HLA-matched donor within their family, and for about 70-80% of the cases, patients look for a matched 'unrelated' donor. However, out of more than 41 million potential unrelated donors listed worldwide with stem cell donor centres and registries, only 0.04% are Indians. It is, therefore, a need of today that stem cell donation is encouraged and organisations doing it are supported.



Outcomes

Efficiency in the Registry Operations

In recent years, the Marrow Donor Registry India (MDRI) has undertaken various initiatives aimed at enhancing the efficiency of stem cell collection. Key areas of improvement include donor recruitment and registration, improved donor matching and communication, and collaboration with infrastructure development

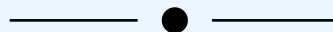
Expanding the Donor Base

MDRI has significantly expanded its donor base through proactive outreach programs, forming partnerships with educational institutions and community organisations. The registration process has been streamlined, both online and offline, simplifying and expediting donor sign-ups. To reach under-served communities, MDRI employs mobile vans and camps, leveraging technology through social media and online campaigns for targeted awareness and registration drives.

Improved Donor Matching and Communication

MDRI adopts advanced Human Leukocyte Antigen (HLA) typing technologies for precise donor-recipient matching. Communication has been enhanced with robust systems, including SMS alerts, email notifications, and dedicated helplines, keeping donors informed about their registration status and potential matches. Logistics have been streamlined through collaborations with hospitals and local governments, ensuring the timely availability of stem cells for transplant procedures.

<https://www.freepressjournal.in/mumbai/mumbai-news-finding-stem-cell-donor-still-a-tough-job-for-indian-patients>



Collaboration and Infrastructure Development

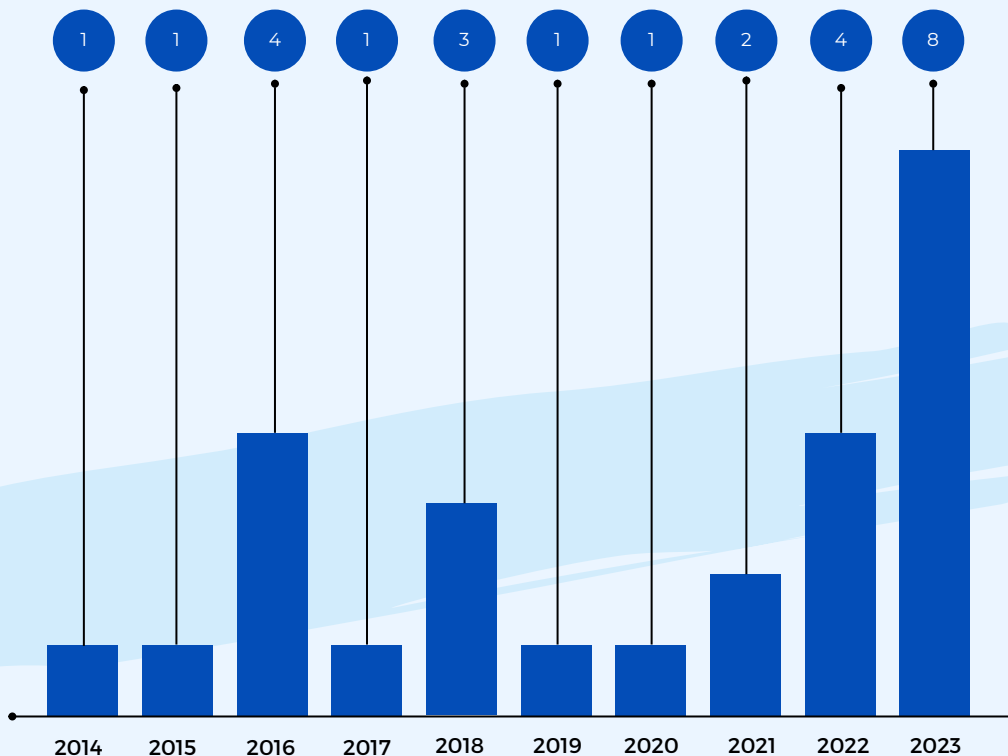
MDRI has established eight donor recruitment centres across Mumbai to improve accessibility and coordination of donor recruitment and collection activities. Collaborations with transplant centres facilitate a smoother referral process and efficient communication between donors, recipients, and medical professionals. Investment in infrastructure, including upgraded storage facilities and equipment, further enhances the quality and efficiency of stem cell collection and processing.

Additionally, MDRI places a strong emphasis on cultivating a culture of volunteerism and raising awareness about the importance of bone marrow donation. These efforts contribute to reducing donor attrition and fostering sustained participation in the registry.

Impact

Successful Bone Marrow Transplants

The Marrow Donor Registry India (MDRI) has achieved remarkable success in facilitating numerous life-saving bone marrow transplants. These successful bone marrow transplants have not only provided a renewed lease on life for recipients but also underscored the importance of MDRI's contributions to the field of stem cell transplantation in India. The positive outcomes highlight the effectiveness of MDRI's strategies in connecting willing donors with individuals requiring critical bone marrow transplants, ultimately contributing to improved patient outcomes and advancements in the field of medical research.



Harvests Done by MDRI

The MDRI made its first harvest in 2014 and has since completed 26 successful harvests both domestically and internationally. In 2023, MDRI set a record of eight harvests, surpassing its previous high of four.

Although MDRI had its first Peripheral blood stem cell (PBSC) donation in 2020, two years later, in 2022, it had three PBSC donations. PBSC donation is a nonsurgical procedure called apheresis. The first Donor Lymphocyte Infusion (DLI) was also performed in 2022.

The graph depicted above illustrates a significant trend in harvests recorded between the years 2014 and 2023. In the initial five-year period from 2014 to 2018, a total of 10 harvests were recorded. However, there has been a remarkable increase in the subsequent five years from 2019 to 2023, with a total of 16 harvests during this period. This upward trajectory indicates a rise in the success rate as the donor base continues to expand. Such progress emphasizes the importance of continued initiatives to motivate more people to donate and hence save more lives.

Enhancing public awareness regarding bone marrow donation

The series of bone marrow donation awareness campaigns held throughout various locations from April to December 2022 has had a significant impact on raising awareness about the importance of bone marrow donation. The cumulative effort resulted in a total of 3037 registered donors during this time frame. These events, held in diverse educational institutions and corporate offices across Mumbai, not only facilitated the registration of potential donors but also served as platforms for spreading crucial information about bone marrow donation. By engaging with a broad spectrum of individuals, including students, professionals, and community members, these campaigns succeeded in demystifying misconceptions surrounding the donation process and highlighting its potential to save lives.

Furthermore, the increasing number of registered donors across each event underscores the growing awareness and willingness of the community to contribute to this life-saving cause. The success of these campaigns can be attributed to the collaborative efforts of organisers, volunteers, and participants who worked tirelessly to promote the importance of bone marrow donation. The impact of these initiatives extends beyond the numbers, as they have sparked conversations, inspired action, and instilled a sense of responsibility towards helping those in need. Ultimately, the collective effort of these awareness campaigns has not only increased the pool of potential donors but has also fostered a culture of compassion and solidarity within the community.

— ● —

Lives touched

65,000+

voluntary donors
registered till 2023

— ● —

26

lives saved till 2023



Impact Story



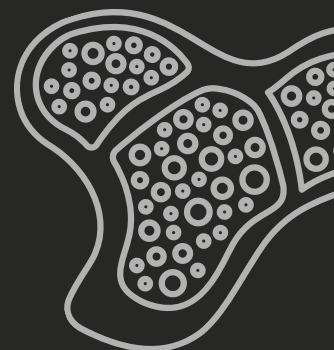
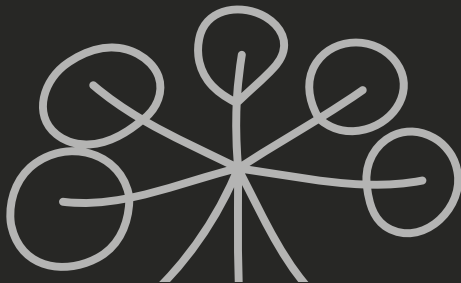
Infant Receives Historic Bone Marrow Transplant, Medical Milestone Achieved

A two-month-old girl from Karwar, Karnataka, made medical history in December 2023 by becoming the youngest recipient of a bone marrow transplant from an unrelated donor at Bai Jerbai Wadia Hospital for Children in Mumbai. The girl was diagnosed with the 'bubble baby syndrome', medically known as severe combined immunodeficiency disease (SCID)- a rare genetic disorder where the child is born without an immune system.

The hospital was in touch with a number of registries, but finally, the marrow was arranged by MDRI. It was given to the hospital within 24 hours of identifying the matching donor.



The girl was diagnosed with the 'bubble baby syndrome', medically known as severe combined immunodeficiency disease (SCID)- a rare genetic disorder where the child is born without an immune system.



Impact indicator
Contributing to health and well-being



Focus



Others



School Development Projects in Ahmednagar, Chinchwad, Haridwar/ Roorkee and Shyamnagar



About the Project

The Exide Akshar project is a CSR initiative by Exide Industries Limited to support and improve the quality of education for underprivileged children in various parts of the country. The project aims to provide school infrastructure upgrades and educational aid distribution to enhance the learning outcomes and opportunities for the children.

The Exide Akshar project is a commendable and inspiring example of how a corporate entity can contribute to the country's social and educational development.

In 2022-23, EIL upgraded the infrastructure in

12

schools in West Bengal, Maharashtra, and Uttarakhand.

Some of the key features and achievements of the Exide Akshar project are:



The project provides various educational aids, such as books, notebooks, stationery, uniforms, bags, shoes, and computers, to the students and the schools.



The project also provides infrastructure upgrades to the schools, such as classrooms, toilets, drinking water facilities, playgrounds, and libraries.

Input



₹1.09 Crore

was spent on this project



Ten EIL employees from the Ahmednagar Plant collectively contributed

40

hours to this project

Outputs

EIL undertook the following activities in the 12 schools across India under the programme:

Place 	Activities 	No of schools 
Shyamnagar, West Bengal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 toilets • 11 water purifiers with cooler 	7
Ahmednagar, Maharashtra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kitchen shed • Toilet construction • 200 desks with chairs 	2
Chinchwad, Maharashtra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of a floor with 2 new classrooms • Books for the library 	1
Haridwar/ Roorkee, Uttarakhand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mini science centre with models, manuals and displays • 21 green boards • 300 tables and chairs 	2



Outcomes

Improvement of WASH Infrastructure

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) infrastructure in schools plays a critical role in fostering a healthy and conducive learning environment. Adequate WASH facilities, including clean water sources, hygienic sanitation facilities, and proper waste disposal systems, are essential for promoting the well-being of students and staff.

Improved WASH infrastructure not only contributes to the prevention of waterborne diseases but also enhances overall hygiene practices, reducing absenteeism due to illness.



Moreover, access to clean water and sanitation facilities positively impacts the dignity and privacy of students, particularly girls. WASH facilities are integral to creating a safe and nurturing school environment, supporting the physical and mental health of students, and ultimately laying the foundation for improved educational outcomes. Improvements related to WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) were made in 9 out of the 12 schools that were chosen for intervention.

All of the students and teachers interviewed during the field survey confirmed that the WASH infrastructure in their respective schools improved. The students and teachers of Barrackpore Girls' High School reported that the quality of water they received in their school was superior to the quality of water they got at their homes.

Barrackpore Girls' High School is an institution that welcomes students from all backgrounds. Located near Kolkata, the town is easily accessible by local trains and other public transportation. The school's teacher-in-charge confirmed that the students have a good understanding of the difference between suitable and unsuitable drinking water. In response to this, the school requested a water purifier from EIL, which was then provided.



The teachers and students of the schools in Ahmednagar (Madhyamik Vidyalaya Isalak Nimblak) and Shyamnagar (Bhatpara Shri Ramakrishna Vivekananda Sangha) were emphatic about the quality of the sanitation facilities created in these schools. 100% of the students confirmed that previously, the toilets had an odour, and most of the urinals were unusable due to too many leakages. Moreover, most of the taps with the handwashing basins did not function. Under the EIL programme, all these problems were fixed to their satisfaction.

Improvement in School Infrastructure

The relationship between school infrastructure and dropout in India is complex and multifaceted, with poor infrastructure being a significant contributing factor to students leaving school early. The National Education Policy 2020 highlights improving infrastructure as a key strategy to reduce dropout rates in our schools. A 2022 report by Turn The Bus emphasises the need for safe and engaging school environments to prevent dropouts.



A kitchen shed was built at Madhyamik Vidyalaya Isalak Nimblak in Ahmednagar to provide a safe cooking area for the children's meals during school hours. Previously, the cooking processes were carried out in an open area, making it more susceptible to external contaminants. Additionally, the teachers had to constantly monitor the cooking to ensure the safety of the food, which consumed a lot of time and effort. With the construction of the new kitchen shed, the teachers were freed from this duty and could focus their efforts on teaching.

The construction of new classroom blocks at the New English School in Marunji has created additional space in the school, providing students with separate and well-constructed classrooms. The students really appreciate their new classrooms and have confirmed that there is a noticeable improvement in the learning environment. The augmentation has proved to be conducive to learning.

The students from GHS Dheer Majara and PS Salempur-I schools reported that sitting on the floor for nearly six hours every day was proving difficult for them. Most of these students belonged to families of casual labourers and were the first in their families to attend school. The situation worsened for them during the winter season. However, with the new desks and benches, they were able to attend classes comfortably.

Under the programme, the students of PS Salempur-I also received green boards. These replaced the old blackboards, on which children had difficulty seeing the teacher's work.



The presence of a library in schools holds immense significance for students' holistic development. Especially in rural settings, where access to educational resources may be limited, a library becomes a valuable hub for knowledge acquisition and intellectual growth. The students of the school in Marunji, Chinchwad, appreciated the positive transformations brought to the school environment by adding a number of books to the school library. They mentioned that whenever the instructor used to be absent from the class, instead of idling, students utilised their time by exploring outside the classroom and actively engaging with the library, delving into various books.



Mini Science Centre: A Path to a Bright Future

The mini science centres in schools, particularly in rural areas, are crucial for democratising access to quality science education. These centres provide hands-on learning experiences that enhance students' understanding of scientific concepts and foster critical thinking skills. In regions where resources are limited, mini science centres serve as catalysts for innovation, inspiring curiosity and igniting a passion for STEM subjects among rural youth. By offering practical and interactive learning opportunities, these centres empower students to explore and engage with science in meaningful ways, ultimately equipping them with the knowledge and skills needed to address local challenges and contribute to the socio-economic development of their communities.

Many rural schools in Uttarakhand lack basic science facilities like well-equipped laboratories, scientific instruments, and up-to-date libraries. This hinders hands-on learning and experimentation. Limited budgets for rural schools often mean inadequate resources for science education. Procuring materials, maintaining laboratories, and providing up-to-date textbooks and resources are challenging.

EIL has consistently invested in STEM labs in Uttarakhand schools. The students welcomed the STEM labs in GIC Kunjabahadurpur and reported better learning experiences and outcomes. The mini science centre at GGIC Sikraudha is expected to help promising students, especially girls, excel in their studies.



Impacts

Improved Enrolment in the Target Schools

Infrastructure improvements in a school can have a profound impact on school enrollment. Upgraded facilities, including well-maintained classrooms, sanitary amenities, and modernised learning spaces, create a more inviting and conducive environment for students. The tangible improvements signal a commitment to education, enhancing the school's reputation and perceived value within the community. With better infrastructure, parents are more likely to view the school as a safe and nurturing place for their children's education. This positive perception often results in increased enrolment, as families recognise the school's dedication to providing a quality learning experience. Improved infrastructure not only addresses the immediate needs of students but also contributes to the long-term growth and sustainability of education in rural areas by attracting more students and fostering a positive attitude towards learning.

Schools covered during the impact assessment survey, particularly from Shyamnagar and Haridwar, supported this hypothesis. Principals of all the schools surveyed in these locations confirmed that they experienced an unprecedented increase in new enrolments for the academic year 2023-24. Principals interviewed in the Haridwar schools even suggested that students from nearby public schools were also coming to their schools subsequent to the EIL intervention.

Improvement in Student Engagement

Infrastructure improvements in schools have a profound impact on student engagement, creating an environment that nurtures curiosity and active participation. Upgraded facilities, whether through modern classrooms, well-equipped laboratories, or enhanced communal spaces, provide students with a conducive and inspiring atmosphere for learning. When students have access to a well-maintained and thoughtfully designed infrastructure, they feel a sense of pride and ownership in their learning environment. This positive atmosphere contributes to increased motivation, enthusiasm, and a willingness to participate in classroom activities. As students perceive that their educational institution values their well-being and academic experience, they are more likely to engage actively in lessons, discussions, and extracurricular activities. Infrastructure improvements, therefore, not only enhance the physical aspects of the learning environment but also play a pivotal role in fostering a culture of active student engagement and academic achievement.

The assessment team found this to be true in the visited schools in Ahmednagar, Chinchwad, Shyamnagar, and Haridwar. Teachers in all of these locations confirmed an increase in students' attendance.

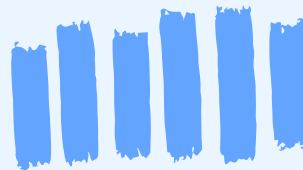
Improvement in Learning Outcomes

Infrastructure improvements in educational institutions profoundly impact students' learning outcomes, and India has witnessed tangible benefits from such enhancements. The "Pratham Yoddhas" initiative, which renovated 12,000 government schools in Rajasthan with proper ventilation, lighting, and sanitation, revealed a 10% improvement in learning levels. Another study by the Empathy Foundation found that providing school infrastructure to Zilla Parishad schools in Maharashtra increased student learning outcomes by 15%.

These examples highlight the direct impact improved infrastructure has on learning outcomes. By addressing basic needs and creating a conducive learning environment, even seemingly small changes can empower students and unlock their potential, paving the way for a brighter future.



During the impact assessment, schools were interviewed to assess the impact of infrastructure improvement on learning outcomes. The teachers were unanimous in their opinion that the improvement in infrastructure had a positive effect on the student's exam results. Some of the teachers even quantified the improvement, reporting an approximate increase of 10% to 30% in the number of students who passed the exams. These teachers attributed the improvement to the interventions made by EIL.



●
Lives touched
4000
●





Empowering Education: How EIL's Intervention Transformed PS Salempur-I

Mrs Shakuntala Rounkaly, the dedicated Principal at PS Salempur-I, found herself facing an uphill battle as she sought to provide quality education to the 574 students under her care, many of whom hailed from economically disadvantaged backgrounds and were first-generation learners. Persistent challenges such as low attendance rates and high dropout rates threatened to undermine the students' educational journey. However, the intervention initiated by Exide proved to be a game-changer for Mrs Rounkaly and her school community.

Expressing her gratitude, Mrs Rounkaly highlighted the significant impact of Exide's intervention. She noted a remarkable improvement in attendance and learning outcomes among her students following the intervention. Where previously only around 20 students out of 45 attended regularly, this number surged to over 30 post-intervention, demonstrating a tangible increase in student engagement and commitment to education.

The positive effects of Exide's intervention were further evidenced by the substantial rise in academic achievement. Mrs Rounkaly proudly revealed that the school's pass rate skyrocketed to an impressive 85% by the end of the academic year 2022-23, marking a substantial improvement from the previous rate of approximately 65%. This remarkable transformation not only validated the efficacy of Exide's intervention but also underscored the profound impact it had on the lives and futures of the students at PS Salempur-I.



In essence, Exide's intervention transcended mere assistance; it served as a catalyst for empowerment, enabling Mrs Rounkaly and her team to nurture a caring environment where every student could thrive and realise their full potential. Through collaborative efforts and a shared commitment to education, Exide and PS Salempur-I forged a success story that illuminated the transformative power of corporate-social partnerships in shaping brighter futures for the next generation.



Impact indicator
Learning improvement through school infrastructure upgradation



Focus



Others



INDEPENDENT ASSURANCE STATEMENT

To
The Management of Exide Industries Limited

Introduction and objectives of work

Consultivo Business Solutions Pvt Ltd (Consultivo) has been engaged by Exide Industries Limited (here in after abbreviated "EIL") to conduct an independent Impact assessment of its CSR Projects for the year 2022-23. This Impact Assessment Statement applies to the related information included within the scope of work described in this report.

The assessment process was conducted in line with the Consultivo internal protocol for Impact Assessment, which is developed based on requirements of The Companies (CSR Policy) Amendment Rules 2021, ISO 26000, IFC/World Bank, national, and international guidelines and relevant industry best practices. The relevant data and information have been verified by Consultivo through a hybrid mode (both onsite and remote engagement) of data collection - onsite survey, online survey, focus group discussion, key informant interviews and observation.

Our findings

On the basis of our methodology and the activities described above, it is our opinion that the projects described in this report demonstrate impact benefitting to stakeholders through the project's output, outcome and long term effects with a strategic intent for social change.

Statement of independence, impartiality and competence

Consultivo is an independent professional services company that specialises in ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) and Sustainability in providing independent assurance services. Consultivo has implemented a Code of Ethics across the business to maintain high ethical standards among staff in their day-to-day business activities. We are particularly vigilant in the prevention of conflicts of interest. The impact assessment team has extensive experience in conducting baseline study, monitoring & evaluation (M&E) and impact programs over different thematic areas, geographic regions with an excellent understanding of Consultivo's standard methodology for the Independent Impact Assessment of CSR projects.



Saikat Basu

CEO, Consultivo

3 April 2024

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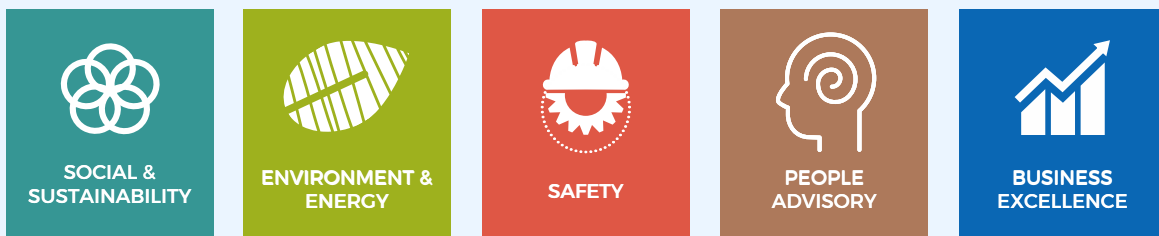
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About Consultivo



Consultivo is an ESG, Sustainability, Business Excellence & Risk Management consulting firm - offering 100+ solutions globally in CSR, Social, Safety, Environment, Climate Change & Energy, Management Systems, Organisational Development and Business and Human Rights across the value chain.



Metal & Mining	Engineering	Cement	Oil & Gas	Chemical	Construction
Hospital	Mall & Hypermarket	Technology & Telecom	FMCG	Supply Chain	Agribusiness

Consultivo works with 200+ National and International codes, standards and guidelines.

- Approved ESG consultant of International Finance Corporation (World Bank Group)
- Approved Social Impact Assessment (SIA) Agency of Govt. of Jharkhand, India
- Global Approved Auditor of Pharmaceutical Supply Chain Initiative (PSCI), UK
- Approved Audit Body for CORE (Code of Responsible Extraction)
- Knowledge & Technical Partner of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Training & Knowledge Partner of Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC)
- Approved Audit and Monitoring Partner of Ethical Tea Partnership (ETP), UK

Consultivo is uniquely placed to offer advisory and assurance services free from commercial constraints and conflict of interest to find ways to improve business performances.

Consultivo Academy is the strategic business unit for training and capacity building services.

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