Alphabets, hold incredible potential in their individual selves. Though, they often don’t make sense that way unless put together to spell out a word or a phrase. Pull alphabets together and any intention or idea in the world can be spelled out, written, or even bellowed as a thunderously inspiring or remarkably defeating speech.

People, and organisations, make a bit more sense than alphabets in their individual selves. Bring people and organisations together and again, any intention or idea in the world can be executed. Good, Great, Average, or Bad.

Imagine, if the default intention of us humans, was not across a spectrum of Good to Bad, but just an unwaveringly extraordinary one. What happens when our purpose is not just any intention or idea but instead a conscious emphasis on living out our inherent power, together?

What might be the cumulative power and consequential impact of so many intrinsic superpowers coming together, and can it ever be measured within the finitude of logic?

On the cover page and as our theme for the entire year, we have chosen to spell a word that inspires this ‘default’ in us and everything we do. Even if you hit our reset button, this is the mindset and heart-space you will find EdelGive in.

As a people, it is time to graduate from uncovering individual superpowers and wielding them in our silos. Especially, if the context is as large as Thanos! - Then everything else instantly fades into a sub context and seems less menacing or urgent. When we come together, what occurs is not addition but multiplication and there, finally, we have a chance, against Thanos. Before whom, otherwise, even the strongest superpower is weak because it is singular.

We are the plural. We are the many. May we storm together, and heed the ringing clarion call,

"Avengers, assemble!"
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Executive Chairperson’s Letter
Morgan Hausel is an author I admire very much. His book, The Psychology of Money, is more philosophical than its title would suggest and explores the complicated relationship we tend to have with money and wealth; Hausel helps one make better sense of life’s most important matters, such as relationships and the concept of “enough”.

“The hardest financial skill is to have one’s wealth goalpost to stop moving.”

For that, one needs to stop comparing oneself with others and determine what is truly “enough” for oneself.

He recently wrote about cyclicality. Using the analogy of a sandcastle, where at a certain point the whole thing comes crashing down on its own accord, crushed as he puts it, by its own vertical greed, he posits that, “Everything is cyclical, and the thing that’s easy to miss about cyclicality is that it doesn’t require any outside force to push it in the other direction. The act of getting big is enough to make you smaller without being pushed by anyone or anything”.

What does this have to do with the theme of this year’s Annual Report – The Avengers? If cyclicality is the reality, then why do anything? That is to say, if things go too much to one end – capitalism or autocracy, inequities or religious right-wingism, cyclicality will ensure reversion to mean by the very act of swinging of the pendulum.

Hausel’s answer is that cyclicalty can be managed around the edges. While the natural path is cyclicalty, constant intervention and management helps the odds of keeping something good for a longer period – which in return can help tip the scales around something bad, to hasten its reversion to mean! And as you will see throughout this Annual Report, our Avengers seek to work around the edges of systemic inequities and injustices, manifested in how our children learn, how the poor access health, how our women experience violence, how our communities deal with climate change.

We know that systems don’t change overnight. Systems change is complex, interconnected but our Avengers have learnt how to move them gradually, one community, one step, one stakeholder, one policy
It is we who will run out of world, it is we who will perish. If it must be saved, it will require all of us to do our bit, not just a few superheroes of this planet. We must assemble for this common mission and transcend from the individual superhero-ness to the power of the collective.
Her face resting on the parched earth burning under the hot sun, her hands clutching at straws, the famine struck tiny body was struggling to crawl towards the UN feeding centre in Ayod, South Sudan. It was still half a mile away.

Kevin Carter saw the vulture calmly stand behind her, waiting to feed on the girl when she died. He was hoping the vulture would spread its wings before approaching the girl after her death. It would make for a more dramatic picture. When he couldn't wait anymore, he clicked the photograph, shooed away the vulture and left. There were three other photographers with him. Later, when he was asked why he did not help the girl, Carter said,

“I didn’t want to get involved.”

Kevin Carter got a Pulitzer Prize for this photograph in 1994.
“The Vulture and the Little Girl”

2 BBC Future’s article
3 Psychology Today’s article
She saw them coming and ran back towards Reni village with haste to Gaura Devi. Deforestation in the Garhwal region of India had caused landslides and floods rendering many homeless with no livelihoods. Contractors were being gifted tenders to chop away the precious forests and the villagers had begun to organise themselves.

Men of Reni village had left that morning for travel when the lumberman arrived. Alerted in time, Gaura Devi who was the head of the village Mahila Mangal Dal responded immediately. She led 27 of the village women to the site and confronted the armed loggers with bare hands. So, they hugged the trees and chanted:

“This forest is our mother’s home; we will protect it with all our might”.

The women protected the trees with their bodies all night against weapons, physical and verbal threats. After a four-day stand-off, the contractors left. But the movement had just begun.

Within two years of this incident in 1974, the Reni Forest had a 10-year ban placed on tree felling. The Chipko movement, where tree huggers prevented deforestation at scale became a symbol of women led non-violent resistance globally.

Carter was not a villain. He had captured the famine for the world to see. Many would argue for years that he did his job and that should be enough. I often wonder if there is a right answer to this question.

We may be shocked that each of the four photographers chose to be bystanders instead of taking action to save the girl. Their assumption that she will be fine was not wrong. She did reach the relief centre. But her journey was arduous, lonely with a high risk of death.

We keep getting shocked by the daily news, liberally commenting, and amplifying what we believe as news, feeling we have done our bit.

“We become bystanders; free from the responsibility of doing anything. We carry the same sense of how-bad-this-is-but-there’s-nothing-I-can-do into responses in our own lives”.

One of the many striking images from the Chipko movement.

4 Harvard Business Review’s article
Yes, we all have a bystander in us. Whether its whizzing past in our cars watching an accident scene hoping someone in the crowd is surely calling the ambulance or ignoring the incessant plea of the young child begging for alms at the bus stop while we wait... - there is no time to spare.

But then there are those, who choose this responsibility. Who refuse to stand by and choose to be actors. They act. They act for the larger good. They act, and therefore we are. The Indian development sector is full of such actors who have chosen to act and attack the problems of the communities they serve.

Dr. Prakash Tyagi, a qualified doctor, rejected the opportunity to practice abroad and settled in the Thar desert to serve a legacy his parents had left for him with GRAVIS.

Flavia Agnes after two decades of facing intense marital abuse, not only left her marriage but studied to become a lawyer and worked on legal representation of thousands of women who were victims of violence, through Majlis.

Prakhar Bhartiya and Hemakshi Meghani, two out of many young people today, who could have chosen any career for themselves but chose the collective path. These two leaders made it their life’s mission to enrich the quality of political candidates in India instead, through Indian School of Democracy.

Remarkable people who made remarkable choices. We can choose to admire them from afar or we can be curious and think of how to participate. Because

“just like there is a bystander in all of us, there is also a doer, an actor in us, if we care to look beyond ourselves”.

While we cannot all hope to turn our lives around in dedication of a larger purpose, we can surely begin with asking

“What can I do with what I have?”

The world is spinning at a steady pace. Rockets to the moon, artificial intelligence, block chain, IoT, and many exciting innovations alongside with natural disasters, distress migration, wars, droughts, widening wealth gap, increasing digital divide alongside with apathy and intolerance towards the other. My world is limited to the view from my window, and I function for that small world instead of society at large.

In any society, we need all kinds of folks to do what they do; and do it well. Particularly in development, we need funders to fund, innovators to innovate, leaders to lead, and followers to follow with common purpose. We don’t need all powerful alphas who are good at everything. We don’t need Superman to come save our world. We need many thoughtful respondents. We need conversations, perspectives, agreements, and most importantly, dissent.

“We need the Avengers. A coming together of doers who do what they can, what they are good at, alongside others who are good at what they do. In a world of complex problems, no solution can come from lone warriors”.

Begin with GROW, taught us this. A financial system to give grants to 100 NGOs simultaneously, our ambition was also to serve the small and mid-sized NGOs of India. We thought with our legacy of more than a decade, we knew what was needed by the grassroots. A grant for non-programmatic expenses was needed for sure, and GROW has been one of the most enriching, learning projects in EdelGive so far. But it has shown us the
importance of working with partners like Social Lens and Grant Thorton if the solution should outlast us.

It showed us we can be great at designing a solution, but to have it succeed, we needed an entire ecosystem. We needed our 100 NGOs to inform us and enable this to succeed. It has humbled us and changed us forever. Most importantly, it has definitely taught me that we must work with those who know better than us..

"History is full of stories of Avengers; bystanders who began by taking action, then moved from being actors to becoming collaborators."

Gaura Devi, no matter how brave, could not have faced the lumbermen alone. There is strength in numbers. There is power in a joint force. But a joint force is impossible without individual action.

In the early 20th century while we saw one man emerging as the face of India’s independence struggle, we tend to minimise the role played by many more individuals, leaders, and powerhouses. But our incessant focus on one superhero dominates our ability to see the many diverse forces at play in any struggle. These incredible people did not always see eye to eye. They collaborated but chose their own path. They were the OG Avengers. Fighting for India’s freedom with what they had.

Every Indian who participated in the making on India, who continues to participate in it, is an Avenger.

Today, as our country moves into what could possibly be its golden era, it is our time to be there.

Gaura Devi and the 27 women showed up with just their courage and their bodies to save a forest. We can begin with showing up with just one question...

“What can I do with what I have?”

Naghma Mulla
CEO,
EdelGive Foundation
About EdelGive
For EdelGive Foundation, 2022 has been a year for action stemming from our active reflections of the past years. It has given us reassuring validation of our priorities and approaches in enabling social impact through strengthening of grassroots work that benefits communities who endure marginalisation.

**The questions that keep us awake continue to be:**

How do we ensure our work reaches the most deprived and brings benefits that stay with them beyond the term of our association?

How do we leverage our role as philanthropic ecosystem enablers to connect the worlds of philanthropy and the development sector at the grassroots, which are both evolving as entities in the fast-paced social impact landscape?

How do we bring the much-needed focus on the importance of investing in organisational resilience for building future-ready grassroots organisations that are delivering high-impact social change?

As a leading philanthropic foundation, what can we do to influence trends and behaviours leading to informed, empathetic philanthropic giving?

What flexibilities can we adopt and evangelise in building the ground for a more resilient sector?

And most importantly, how can we ensure that so many worlds aren’t turned upside down when adversity strikes again in the near future?

Over the years, it continues to be the resilience and commitment of our NGO partners on the ground that replenishes our inspiration and forms the base for all that we do and influence. Additionally, the interest, good faith, and support of our fellow funder partners from India and across the globe energises our drive to continue championing the mission of collaborative philanthropy vociferously.

"We dedicate this report to the organisations who spearhead critical work, their teams who show up every day to do better, members of civil society, stellar corporates, engaged governments, and all the countless individuals who have worked collectively to rebuild and grow together."

**Our Mission**

To enable the growth of grassroots organisations working with vulnerable communities across India.
**THEORY OF CHANGE**

An inclusive society is built on the foundation of educated children, empowered women, and resilient communities. Their development, in turn, develops stronger, more sustainable, and inclusive nations. EdelGive works with organisations leading interventions that are targeted, community-driven, high-impact, sustainable, and focused on reimagining a brighter tomorrow for the excluded. These interventions are made possible by our NGO partners’ unique understanding of, and dedicated work at the grassroots level.

Empathetic philanthropy can be a game changer in the growth of good work. We partner with HNIs, corporates and foundations to bridge the gap of funding for expenses that enable organisations to do what they do better.

**WHAT WE DO**

**EDELGIVE FOUNDATION**

EdelGive Foundation is a philanthropic asset manager and advisory partner to funders such as individuals, HNIs, corporates, institutions and foundations—both international and domestic—with a specialisation in multi-stakeholder collaboration. Through a unique philanthropic model, EdelGive places itself at the centre of grant-making by providing initial grants and managing funding from other institutions, HNIs, and corporate partners. These grants are used for both financial and non-financial growth of high calibre, small to mid-size grassroots NGOs, committed to empowering vulnerable children, women, and communities. EdelGive is committed to bring about sustainable long-term change by working with the system to enable the system. We are focused on enabling more partnerships within and between the corporate sector, the social sector, and the Government for far-reaching, sustainable impact, through collaboration, coalitions and co-creation. By supporting grassroots NGOs committed to empowering vulnerable children, women, and communities, EdelGive Foundation fosters and expands philanthropy in India.

**SUPPORTING THE GROWTH OF CREDIBLE NGOS**

In FY23, we are proud to share that we have been able to influence a commitment of ₹202Cr for NGOs working across the country. Our 36 NGO partners are tirelessly working towards providing quality education to children, ensuring social and economic empowerment of women, and building resilient communities.

Grants are used to meet the financial and capacity building needs of the NGO partners we support.

**Grants**
To high-calibre, small to mid-size NGOs empowering

- **CHILDREN**
  Through Education
- **WOMEN**
  Through Empowerment
- **VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES**
  Through Resilience Building

- Financial Support
- Non-financial Support
- Building new programmes
- Scaling existing programmes
- Capacity Building
  Finance & Sustainability
  HR & Communications
  Strategy & Leadership
  Processes & Technology
- Awareness Building
GUIDING PRINCIPLES

We will remain secular in our work, beliefs and outlook.

We will maintain the highest level of integrity, transparency and ethical conduct.

We will bring a deep commitment to inclusiveness as a fundamental operating principle.

We will be a learning organisation – we will embrace new ideas, opinions and perspectives, and a deep generosity of spirit.

We will treat our stakeholders, our NGO partners, our funding partners, our employees and volunteers with respect and empathy.

We will promote responsible-and-effective philanthropy through our actions: as custodians of the resources and the reputation of our parent Edelweiss, and all our funding and NGO partners.

We will remain secular in our work, beliefs and outlook.

EDELGIVE’S EQUITY DIVERSITY BELONGINGNESS (EDB) LENS

Equity:
- No single definition of “development”
- Assisting communities to achieve their vision of development, with them at the helm
- Programs acknowledging and considering intersectionalities

Diversity:
- Sensibility towards diversity has helped our work thrive
- Individual and collaborative programs, multiple causes, funders, models and methods
- Gender lens in grant-making along with a dedicated women empowerment portfolio and campaign

Belongingness:
- Our P in Philanthropy stands for participatory and not prejudice or prescription
- Capacity building enables more NGOs to access the 'mainstream' – in funding, visibility and growth
OUR INFLUENCE THROUGH THE YEARS

- **23** states and **167** districts of India
- **Over 260** NGO partners supported
- **Dedicated over 40,600** Employee Engagement hours
- **₹858 Crores** influenced through commitments to NGOs
- **nearly 200** capacity-building and skilled volunteering projects
Deepak Mittal
CEO, Credit, Edelweiss Group

Deepak Mittal has around two decades of experience in the financial services arena. He co-heads the Credit business of the Group. Deepak has played several key roles at Edelweiss, his most recent as CEO of Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance, a joint venture between the Edelweiss Group and Tokio Marine Holdings of Japan. Earlier, Deepak helped scale up the Capital Markets business and then subsequently became the Chief Financial Officer, where he helped steer the firm through a successful Initial Public Offering.

Post the IPO, when the global financial crisis disrupted markets the world over, Deepak was part of the core crisis management team at Edelweiss and helped navigate the Group successfully through extremely difficult business situations, while playing a key role in the expansion of various Group businesses.

Deepak led the Group’s new strategic initiatives, including the acquisition of Anagram stock broking, which expanded the Group’s retail reach manifold. A Chemical Engineer from IT-BHU he is an MBA from the IIM Ahmedabad.

Kunal Shroff
Managing Partner, Chrys Capital

Kunal has been with ChrysCapital since November 1999 and is the Managing Partner at the firm. He manages the organisation, leads the client relations function and also plays a critical role across all sectors, overseeing and assisting the various sector teams. Kunal was previously at Chilton Investment Company where he covered technology stocks, and at Goldman Sachs in their principal investment area in New York where he focused on private equity and mezzanine investments. He received his BS in Computer Science with magna cum laude honors from Cornell University.
Rati Forbes
*Director, Forbes Marshall Group*

Rati Forbes is a Director of the Forbes Marshall Group and heads the Forbes Foundation. She has been recognised for her social initiatives both within the company and in the wider world. She chaired Confederation of Indian Industry’s western region cell for social development, whose main objective is to sensitise corporate entities to their social responsibilities. She also serves on the boards of several foundations and non-profits across India. Rati graduated in Psychology with Honors and Sociology from the University of Mumbai and has also taken special courses in human resources, organisational behavior and strategic philanthropy.

Rati also holds a Masters in Sustainability Management and Leadership from Cambridge University.

Vidya Shah
*Executive Chairperson*

Vidya Shah is the Executive Chairperson of EdelGive Foundation, an organisation set up by Edelweiss Group in 2008, with the aim of funding and building the capacities of grassroots organisations across India.

With over three decades of rich industry experience, Vidya has channelled EdelGive’s structure of giving to include both financial and non-financial support to over 150 grassroots organisations, scaling their budgets, impact, and reach, exponentially.

She also serves on the boards of various prominent Civil Society Organisations such as Akshaya Patra Foundation, Agastya International Foundation, Janaagraha Centre for Citizenship and Democracy, Centre for Social Impact and Philanthropy at Ashoka University, Olympic Gold Quest, Mann Deshi Foundation, and the Indian School of Public Policy. She is also a member of the Governing Board of the Indian Institute of Management, Udaipur. Additionally, Vidya is also on the board of several international organisations including WINGS and Empower Families for Innovative Philanthropy. Most recently she has joined the Asia Gender Network, a group of members curated by AVPN, committed to changing the future for Asian women and girls.
She spent the first 11 years of her career in the field of investment banking with companies like ICICI, Peregrine and NM Rothschild. She joined Edelweiss in year 2000 and was its Chief Financial Officer until 2007. In 2019, she was been recognised as one of India’s Top 100 Women in Finance by Association of International Wealth Management of India (AIWMI) and she was also recently recognised by Abhyuday Vatsalam as the ‘Exemplary Woman of the Year’ in Philanthropy, 2022.

Vidya holds an MBA degree from the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad.

Naghma Mulla

Chief Executive Officer

Naghma Mulla is the CEO of EdelGive Foundation, the philanthropic initiative of Edelweiss Group – one of India’s leading diversified financial services group.

As CEO, Naghma has been instrumental in driving the vision of EdelGive Foundation towards the growth and scale of the organisations the foundation supports. Naghma plays a large role in enabling commitments to our diverse portfolio of NGOs, by creating valuable partnerships with reputed international and national stakeholders within the sector.

Today, EdelGive has also built two successful collaboratives - The Collaborators for Transforming Education (in partnership with the Government of Maharashtra) and the Coalition for Women’s Empowerment – both developed and nurtured by her. Naghma is also a member of the Core Committee of the India Climate Collaborative – a collaboration of India’s leading philanthropies committed to addressing the climate crisis in India.

Naghma is a mentor at the Nadathur S. Raghavan Centre for Entrepreneurial Learning at IIM Bangalore, providing strategic support to several start-ups.

She began her career with Bajaj Alliance General Insurance and played an instrumental role in their foundational team.

She is a Chartered Accountant from the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and has a Master of Commerce (M. Com.) degree from Pune University.
CORE TEAM

Atul Gandhi

Chief Operating Officer

M.Sc. (Statistics), Masters, Ph.D. in Population Studies International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), Mumbai

Atul comes with over 15 years of experience in the development sector. Before joining EdelGive, he has worked with organisations like Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences, Pathfinder International, TISS on programmes supported by USAID, BMGF, and The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria in the areas of Public Health. Additionally, he has supported several organisations in developing M&E plan, designing computerised MIS application and conducting baselines, mid-term or end-line evaluations.

Riddhi Shah

Chief of Strategy & Excellence

In a career spanning sixteen years, of which eleven were spent living out of a backpack, Riddhi has an extensive blended experience of working on field in some of the remotest areas of India and at decision-making tables in urban India. Having played multiple roles, including those of mentor, advisor, and facilitator, she has supported and consulted for a range of Indian and international HNIs, projects, schools, organisations, and institutions on Integral Education, Spiritual Ecology, Communications, Organisational Strategy, Design Thinking, CSR, Young Leadership, Fundraising, Culture and Wellness practices.

With a knack for piloting and incubation, she has given form to great ideas that have little or no blueprints, including The GROW Fund, which is the seventh pilot she has been at the core of. At EdelGive, Riddhi has also conceptualised and led their very first communications and narrative initiative, UdyamStree, a project which has won multiple Indian and International PR and Media accolades.

Previously, she has been a Young Climate Change Representative for India, at UNESCAP Bangkok; been ranked as one of the top five influential Indian women-changemakers under the age of 25 by Hindustan Times in 2016, been a serial TEDx speaker and been invited to represent India at global forums to address critical issues pertaining to the fulfilment of SDGs, integral education, and women in leadership.
Deepa Gopalakrishnan

*Head, Sandbox Grants*

Deepa heads Sandbox Grants at EdelGive Foundation which comprises of impactful programs in the space of Education, Community Resilience & Climate Action and Women Empowerment.

She is a social sector and information systems specialist with a proven track record of over 19 years in result-based program management. She is passionate about developing programs that build an organisational reputation while enhancing social purpose. She has worked extensively in areas of NGO operations, grant management, causes for women & children and innovative finance to revive livelihoods affected by the pandemic. Deepa has been in leadership positions at reputed organisations such as Morgan Stanley, ICICI Bank, Samhita Social Ventures, St. Jude India ChildCare Centers and Dell Computers.

She is a graduate in Information Systems from BITS Pilani and Postgraduate in Management from SPJIMR, Mumbai.

### INVESTMENTS

Ahmad Bari

*Senior Lead, Women Empowerment*

Ahmad possesses an impressive academic background, including an M. Phil in Inclusive Development and Social Justice from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, and an M.A. in Social Work from the same institution. He also holds a B.Sc. in Industrial Chemistry from Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh. Within EdelGive Foundation, Mumbai, Ahmad spearheads the Women Empowerment portfolio.

He leads the gender strategy, and investments and manages civil society partnerships at the Foundation. He has been working with non-profits to support strategic, institutional, and programmatic developments. He manages internal and external stakeholders for gender-related work at EdelGive. He has been involved in the overall growth journey of the Foundation. Ahmad previously worked with New Concept Information Systems, New Delhi, where his role involved conducting research and documenting various social development issues and coordination with multiple development institutions.

He is a great collaborator and works closely to support the teams within the Investment Portfolio. His years of experience in Grant Management have helped in streamlining the processes and well-rounded perspective to the entire work at EdelGive.
Nilansha Tiwari

Senior Lead, Women Empowerment

Nilansha holds an MA in Development Studies from the Institute of Development Studies (IDS), University of Sussex. In her role at EdelGive, she fosters synergies to enhance sustainability and resilience within the Women Empowerment portfolio. With over a decade of experience in the development sector, Nilansha specialises in digital and financial inclusion, microfinance, women’s economic empowerment, entrepreneurship, and livelihood transformation.

She has a record of working on partnerships, communications, capacity building, and design thinking for impactful and sustainable initiatives at organisations like Tata Trusts, Avanti Finance, IFFCO, and ISMW (SEWA). Her educational background encompasses Economics, Public Policy, and Women Studies. Outside of work, Nilansha finds joy in reading, travelling, and gardening.

Sonia Pereira

Associate Lead, Women Empowerment

Sonia holds a bachelor’s in social work from the School of Social Work Roshni Nilaya and a Master of Social Work from Nirmala Niketan, College of Social Work, Mumbai University. With over a decade of experience in the social sector, she excels in program management, partner collaboration, and support, specialising in child rights, women’s rights, education, child protection, and Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD). At EdelGive, she works across diverse thematic portfolios such as Women Empowerment, Education, Community Resilience, and Climate Action. Her passions include women’s rights, child rights, and mental health. She possesses skills in grant management, advocacy, partner engagement, and proposal writing. Beyond work, she finds joy in travelling, reading, and music.

Arpita Roy Karmakar

Senior Manager, Education

Arpita holds a B.Sc. and an M.Sc. in Economics from the University of Calcutta. In her capacity at EdelGive Foundation, she spearheads the Education portfolio, offering strategic guidance to investees and facilitating future-oriented organisational strategies.

Arpita also streamlines Monitoring and Evaluation processes and oversees the governance of The Collaborators for Transforming Education (CTE) initiative, ensuring alignment with the Quality Education Program initiatives in Maharashtra’s. Her professional background includes roles as a Gandhi Fellow with the Kaivalya Education Foundation, as well as contributions to prominent organisations such as the Hippocampus Learning Centre and Naandi Foundation.

Arpita’s skill set encompasses Project Management, Strategic Planning, and Due Diligence, while her personal interests involve reading, travel, and engaging discussions on subjects of economic and political significance.
Sukhreet Bajwa  
*Lead, Community Resilience & Climate Action*

Sukhreet holds a Masters in Disaster Management from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, complemented by a Bachelor's in Commerce with Honors in e-commerce from Panjab University, Chandigarh. Within EdelGive, she spearheads the Community Resilience and Climate Action portfolio, leveraging her seven-plus years of diverse experience in government, academia, civil society organisations, and the private sector. Sukhreet specialises in disaster risk management, climate change, and sustainability. Her core skills encompass research, program planning, implementation, and capacity building. Beyond her professional life, she finds solace in poetry reading, and writing, and indulges in hiking adventures.

Neha Chaturvedi  
*Lead, Partnerships*

Master's in social work, B.Sc. Bioinformatics, Devi Ahilya University, Indore  
A Development Sector Professional with 13 years of experience in CSR.  
At EdelGive, Neha handles key donor relationships with end-to-end program designing, monitoring and implementation. She has experience in working with different stakeholders within the cause areas of Women Empowerment, Livelihood, WASH, Education and Sports.

Arif Pathan  
*Lead, Partnerships*

Arif has over a decade of professional experience in financial services, investment advisory & global investment immigration solutions.  
He is a commerce graduate from Mumbai University and did his MBA in finance from Pune University.  
He started his career with Citibank India at their Mumbai office and has worked in other sectors as business development professional. He brings experience & knowledge in advising multiple asset classes viz Mutual funds, PMS, AIF, real estate and investment immigration to his clients.  
He likes to travel to new cities, build new relationships and passionate to bring a positive change in the society.
**Nafisa Lokhandwala**  
*Lead, Partnerships*

Nafisa brings 8+ years of experience of working with intermediaries and grassroots organisations. She is skilled in strategic partnerships, relationship building and management, operations, project management and communications. She has previously worked with Catalysts Management Services Pvt. Ltd, Dasra, SBI Foundation amongst others. She has a master’s degree in International Development Management from the University of Nottingham. At EdelGive, Nafisa is responsible for managing key donor relationships and support fundraising efforts. Her other interests include dancing, photography and traveling.

**Priyanka Ghadge**  
*Associate, Partnerships*

Priyanka comes with over 11 years of experience overall. She has been an "Administrative and Operations Coordinator" at the NGO ‘I Am a teacher’, managed plans and supervised overall admission, counselling, event handling, and marketing strategy across various platforms. Prior to this, she was an "Operations Coordinator and Executive" in using effective marketing and communication solutions to drive sales growth and boost client brand equity with organisations such as Love and Cheesecake, Den Satellite Pvt Ltd., and Vodafone Essar Pvt Ltd.

Priyanka is a Pranic healer (energy healer) and practices Arhatic yoga meditation. She is passionate about teaching, dancing, singing, and traveling. She believes in constancy, perseverance, and determination.

**MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

**Renuka J Wagh**  
*Senior Lead, M&E*

Masters in Health Sciences, University of Pune

Renuka designs, develops and ensures effective functioning of the M&E systems at EdelGive, to generate evidence for strategic decisions by the foundation. She comes with over 12 years of development sector experience and has worked with both funding and implementing organisations.
Sagar Kadam  
**Lead, M&E**

Sagar has a master’s and M. Phil degree in social work and a master’s degree in population studies (MPS) from International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), Mumbai. He comes with more than a decade of experience in developing and implementing M&E systems. He has led various research projects and worked in various capacities with NIRRH(ICMR), KHPT, FHI360, Neerman, and Americares.

Ruchika Chaudhary  
**Junior Associate, M&E**

Master's in Computer Applications (MCA)

Ruchika assists the Monitoring and Evaluation Team with the collection, interpretation and reporting of numbers. She also designs, analyses and develops structural systems that help in making better business decisions for the Foundation. She has previously interned with NIIT before joining EdelGive.

**FINANCE AND COMPLIANCE**

Hiral Vora  
**Head, Finance, Compliance & Governance**

Hiral is a qualified Chartered Accountant with over 10 years of post-qualification experience in the field of Taxation, Finance & Audit. Prior to joining EdelGive Foundation, she has worked with Cancer Patients Aid Association as Director – Finance and an Executive Committee Member of the organisation. She has strategised plans for growth of the organisation. Alongwith being an indispensable part of finance and legal, FCRA Accounts, donor management, managing utilisation of CSR funds received from corporates, she has also spearheaded the designing computerised ASL and MIS reports for the organisation.

Prashant Malkar  
**Manager, Finance & Accounts**

Prashant has 26 years experience of finance and accounts in various line of Business, out of that 16 years he has been associated with Edelweiss Group. At EdelGive he is responsible for accounts , audits, statutory matters for Commodity market, NBFC, Debt Market, EdelGive Foundation, liaisionsing for Statutory audit. Initial 5 years of his work experience, he was associated with R.S.Sanghavi & Associates, Chartered Accountants as Audit Assistant, he looked after the Revenue Audit of various Nationised Banks, Statutory, Tax & Internal Audit of various companies, Partner Ship Firms.
Sagar Makhija  
**Assistant Manager, Compliance**

Sagar Makhija, is a Chartered Accountant with 8 years of experience in Finance, Accounts, Compliance, Due Diligence, Taxation and Audit. His experience involves working at Grant Thornton Advisory Pvt. Ltd. as an Assistant Manager in CFO services, M Power Micro Finance Pvt. Ltd. (NBFC registered with RBI) as Senior Manager in Accounts & Finance Department and with C.V Doshi and Co. (CA Firm) as Senior Audit Assistant.

Pooja Bhatt  
**Assistant Manager, Compliance**

Pooja is a semi-qualified Chartered Accountant (ICAI) having more than 9 years of experience in the field of accounting, auditing and finance. She has completed her articleship from Joshi Nair & Associates, and her industrial training from Welspun Corp. Ltd. Pooja has worked as Team leader - Accounts and Finance with Craftsvilla Handicrafts Pvt. Ltd. for 2 years, and also as a Financial Analyst with New Haribhakti Business Services LLP. During her years of work, she been part of power, steel, textiles, e-commerce, manufacturing & banking company audits.

GROW AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Parul Saklani  
**Lead, Grant Management, GROW**

Parul Saklani holds a Master’s in Social Work and boasts 4 years of experience in the social sector. As a Gandhi Fellow from 2015-2017, she spearheaded projects in Rajasthan's government schools for the integration of quality education. Later, at Piramal Foundation (2017-2019), she excelled as a Program Leader, focusing on curriculum design for entrepreneurial and leadership development of Gandhi Fellows. Transitioning to Sattva, she led Project Management support to Meghalaya's government in implementing CLLMP and integrated scale principles in Gujarat. Parul also played pivotal roles in initiatives like development of NEIDA's ELEMENT RFP and the program design for the development of 100 model schools in Karnataka. Now, she leads Grant Management at EdelGive Foundation.
Smita Ghodeswar  
**Assistant Manager, Grant Management, GROW**  
Smita Ghodeswar is a development sector professional with almost 8 years of experience across government, non-government organisations, and the private sector. She has her bachelors in law from the Government Law College, Mumbai, also currently she is pursuing master's in social work, Mumbai. She ensures end to end solution for stakeholders (NGOs) queries and effective functioning of M&E platform.

Dwayne D’Souza  
**Lead, Learning and Development, The HUB**  
Dwayne is an instructional designer with 5+ years' experience working in the e-learning industry. He has developed courses for learners in the tech industry as well as the medical industry. His expertise lies in content editing, design, and management.

He loves consuming content in all forms, and also performs improv comedy with various groups in the city.

Asthag Agrawal  
**Associate, Capacity Building, GROW**  
Asthag is a Science graduate from Delhi University and has been a Teach For India Fellow for last 2 years where she taught in elementary classrooms and worked on community projects.

She has worked extensively on increasing students' voices through her initiative Vaani, where they upskilled students with their public speaking and communication skills.

She has also collaborated with women of under resourced communities and trained them on digital literacy, financial literacy, and interpersonal development skills while finding ways to have sustainable livelihood opportunities for them.

During her Fellowship, she also interned and volunteered at a couple of organisations like Barefoot Edu Foundation, Aafaaq Foundation, IndiVillage Foundation, Atma, where she worked on designing programs, facilitating workshops, coordinating partnerships, and curating reports.
Radhika Thapliyal  
**Associate, Grant Management, GROW**  
Radhika is a Political Science Graduate from Lady Shri Ram College For Women, Delhi University. She is also a former Teach For India Fellow, having taught and coached elementary students in a Delhi government school.  
Before that, she Interned at Bachpan Bachao Andolan, particularly in the Department of Rescue and Rehabilitation of illegally employed children. Her experience at the Satyarthi Foundation gave her a glimpse into the parallel society where children needed to be nurtured and given quality education.  
In a world full of disparity, she aspires to create scalable and sustainable impact, particularly for the empowerment of women and children of under-resourced communities.

### STRATEGY & COMMUNICATIONS

**Heena Chougle**  
**Lead, HR, Special Projects & Campaigns**  
Bringing an extensive background spanning over 8 years in the field of Human Resources, Heena possesses expertise encompassing recruitment, talent management, organisational development, training and development, as well as employee engagement. She was last associated with Edelweiss Group in the corporate HR team here she oversaw HR strategy for multiple business units and actively participated in diverse corporate initiatives as a member of the emerging leader group. Prior to this, she was associated with Randstad India, a leading HR organisation. She was a strategic HR business partner, managing the West region. Heena is characterised by her self-driven nature and decisiveness, traits that have undoubtedly contributed to her success. Her ability to motivate and nurture talent has likely played a crucial role in the success of the teams she has managed.  
In her current role at EdelGive, Heena has taken on responsibilities related to internal and external communications, reporting, and people processes for the team.

**Aiswarya Augus**  
**Assistant Manager, Special Projects & Campaigns**  
Aiswarya Augus has recently completed her M.Sc. in Public Policy and Human Development from United Nations University in the Netherlands. She also has a background in Economics and has earlier worked as an Analyst. In the past, she has also associated with United Nations University Climate Resilience Initiative and NGOs like Let’s Do It World and Naandi Foundation. Her interests lie in the areas of developmental economics, public policy and climate change. Her hobbies include traveling, watching movies and trying new things.
DONOR MANAGEMENT

Rhea John
Manager, Donor Management
Masters in Development Studies, University of Sussex and Masters in Sociology, Delhi School of Economics. Rhea has six years' experience in the development sector, including in research, monitoring, knowledge management and partnerships. She leads donor servicing and documentation on the EdelGive team. Prior to this, Rhea worked on inclusion and health at Swasti Health Catalyst and was a researcher and author for the India Exclusion Report.

Archana Rao
Assistant Manager, Donor Management
MBA in Social Entrepreneurship, Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies.
Archana is a Zonta International awardee (1998) and has over 22 years of experience in the disability sector, engaged in stakeholder management as part of her profile. She has helped CBOs and NGOs with proposal writing, report writing, and consultation related to causes that she holds close to her – education, disability, women empowerment, human trafficking. She raises funds for different causes through retail fundraising and has successfully raised over INR 10 lakhs till date. She runs an initiative called Cheerful Connect since a decade, that helps people in the disability sector. She loves photography, trekking, long drives, meeting people from different cultures, travelling, learning new concepts, philosophy, yoga, cooking and hosting people. She dives deep into spiritual work and enjoys the learning from multiple disciplines and religion from across the world.
ADMINISTRATION

Aasiyah Khan
Executive Assistant

Aasiya has joined us as an executive assistant to Naghma, she carries 8 years of experience in the same profile. She started her journey with Bombay works Software Solutions in the year 2011. Later moved to UAE in the year 2015 and joined Innovations Groups in Dubai as a Relationship Manager handling 2 major banks in UAE as clients. Her last job was, as an EA to Technology head at NSEIL Ltd.

She loves reading and travelling.

Sandeep Pawar
Assistant Manager

Sandeep has an overall experience of around 20 years across different sectors with around 7 plus years of experience working in the social sector with Akanksha Foundation & Sneha, in support functions. Prior to joining EdelGive, he was working with Campbell Shipping Pvt. Ltd. in the Human Capital department, managing administrative and employee engagement responsibilities. He's happy to be here and is looking forward to a long journey at EdelGive Foundation.
“Kshamtalaya is immensely grateful to EdelGive, for their unwavering support and guidance. They have gone above and beyond financial contributions, becoming invaluable mentors in strengthening our organisational systems. Edelgive’s flexible approach to partnership has been truly remarkable. They understand the unique challenges faced by growing organisations like ours and consistenly provide the necessary resources and opportunities for growth. Their funding has been instrumental in driving our most significant projects forward and expanding our reach. Their belief in our mission has empowered us to strengthen the educational experience of children by bringing excellence in learning, well-being and governance. We deeply appreciate their trust and continuous support which has enabled us even during the pandemic in keeping children connected with the process of learning and also stand with our community in difficult times.

The guidance and mentorship have played a vital role in our organisational and operational development. Their experience and knowledge have strengthened our internal structures and governance practices, enhancing our overall effectiveness and sustainability.

In summary, we are immensely grateful to Edelgive for their comprehensive support. We are honoured to be associated with Edelgive and look forward to continuing our impactful partnership.”

KSHAMTALAYA FOUNDATION
Strategy & Excellence
The purpose handed over to us at our inception in 2008 was to bridge the gap of resources between “for-profit and non-profit worlds”. Since then, much has changed—the ecosystem, regulations, awareness levels of all stakeholders, also our articulation. The core, however, remains the same. And to honour that core, we have metamorphosised ourselves into a Philanthropy Asset Management Foundation.

This identity pushes us to do beyond what we intend, by ensuring our intention meets action with high quality and accountability. We strive to have our people and processes match our purpose. We structure collaborative opportunities that ensure working together is not only possible, but also enjoyable.

While we do it, prioritising ethical practices, good behaviour and inclusive support are deeply embedded in how we strive to grow. We are also blessed to be surrounded by members of the funding community who further good funding practices, contributing positively to the development sector in India as a whole.

We function consciously to be vocal about our practices, engage with diverse stakeholders and uphold the principles of wholesome wellness where work and people can be enabled jointly.

“Pragati team expresses its deep gratitude for the kind support and partnership of EdelGive Foundation in the realisation of its vision through the interventions for ensuring nutritional food security and income enhancement of the most vulnerable population inhabiting the rural and tribal heartlands of Odisha. The support of the EdelGive Foundation has helped Pragati to face the toughest time of COVID-19. We are sincerely grateful to the CRCA team for their support and cooperation to bring innovations into our programmes. We look forward to the continued partnership for the sustainability of our interventions for the most marginalised communities in our action areas.”

PRABHAKAR ADHIKARI
Secretary, Pragati, Koraput.
Building Networks and Knowledge Sharing

We see communication as a vital channel for fostering meaningful discussions and thoughtful deliberations. We are committed to continuing being a knowledge-sharing organisation within the development sector.

This year, as we continue to harmonise our philanthropic objectives with the requirements of our non-profit partners, we are equally dedicated to promoting communication among all sector stakeholders.

Highlights:

1. Thought Leadership and Media

EdelGive leads the way in setting best practices for the funding community through its principles of empathetic philanthropy. Grants for non-programmatic support, the virtues of collaborative giving, responsible monitoring are all areas in which key good practices have been designed and shared with the larger ecosystem. We participated in several conversations on themes ranging from collaborative philanthropy for collective impact, gender lens for impact investing and climate on platforms such as G20 Empower – Inception Meeting, India Global Forum – Annual Summit.

A) Research & Learning: As part of its endeavours to increase the philanthropic contributions in this country, EdelGive has partnered with Hurun India to launch the EdelGive Hurun India Philanthropy List.

Hurun India and EdelGive released the 9th annual ranking of the most generous individuals in India. The report attempts to understand and acknowledge philanthropic giving in the country from a data and evidence point of view. This report showcases the significant influence of persons of wealth on the social sector while identifying areas that need further development.
B) **Public Platforms:** An exploration of the various platforms where our leaders actively participated in discussions on critical matters impacting the ecosystem.

Naghma Mulla, shared her experiences at TedxYouth@AUS on the remarkable journey that led to the beginning of GROW and her thoughts on the importance of working for the betterment of society.

Vidya Shah and Naghma Mulla played a pivotal role in the conversations during the AVPN Global Conference 2022, focusing on critical agendas such as gender equality and the growing importance of collaborative philanthropy.

Naghma Mulla, shared her thoughts for future leaders at the Indiaspora Global Forum’s session 2022 on ‘Inspiring Leaders’.
Naghma Mulla was a part of the panel discussion at The Climate Week NYC, the discussion was on “Mobilising business commitment and action on climate” under India’s big idea - A roadmap to net zero.

C) ARTICLES: We engaged in important discussions on various media outlets this year, including well-known regional and national platforms like IDR, India Times, Navbharat, Firstpost, The Financial Express Online, Social Changemakers, Samaana, Jagran Sakshi, Divya Bhaskar, and The Mint.

EdelGive emphasising on the importance of institutional well-being in building resilient organisations.

Article published in India Development Review (IDR) on redesigning approach towards grantmaking.
Emphasising on fostering inter-sectoral and collaborative philanthropy, an article in Firstpost, stated "Collective action, where the efforts of various organisations are streamlined, is essential for holistically addressing challenges faced by underserved communities."

Voicing the role of modern-day philanthropists in taking giant steps towards systematic giving, Naghma Mulla believes “The new-age funders are looking at smarter and economical solutions as well as new models such as mixing of grants with lending.”

Naghma Mulla, CEO, EdelGive, and Anas Rahman Junaid, MD and Chief Researcher, Hurun India talks to Vinson Kurian of Hindu Business Line about philanthropy in India.

HerStory coverage on a Conversation with Naghma Mulla, through her journey from a CA to being the CEO of the EdelGive Foundation.
Naghma Mulla and Anas Rahman Junaid, MD and Chief Researcher, Hurun India talk to Forbes India's Divya J Shekar about philanthropy in India and how couples like Bagchi's and Parthasarathy's are becoming role models.

EdelGive Foundation has been prominently featured and published in various articles throughout this year, with a primary focus on financial independence of rural women, Women Empowerment, Education, climate perspectives, collaborative philanthropy and more.

Our own podcast where women entrepreneurs from rural India shared their inspiring journeys and experiences under the UdyamStree campaign.

Podcast conversation between Naghma Mulla, CEO, EdelGive Foundation and Archana Dutta (She/Her) Dutta, Founder & CEO, SecondAct, where she shared her journey in the philanthropic sector and her mission to deform, reform, and create a better space by taking small steps that lead to a bigger change!

Presenting The GROW Fund and the future of collaborative philanthropy in a conversation with Manoj Pachuri.
Awards

The GROW Fund received the **Navabharat CSR Award 2023** for 'Excellence in CSR', presented by the Governor of Maharashtra, Shri Ramesh Bias, in the presence of the Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri Devendra Fadnavis and other dignitaries, at Raj Bhavan.

Employee Wellness

In the dynamic landscape of evolving organisations, it is abundantly clear that people are the cornerstone of success. They represent the heart, soul, and driving force that propel an organisation forward. People become the crux of the organisation and hence their well-being is a critical aspect for any organisation's success and sustainability. The development of a diverse, talented, and engaged workforce are fundamental to our success.

**Highlights**

1. **Learning & Development:**
   
   Learning and development are integral to both personal and organisational growth. It also contributes significantly to an organisation's success, innovation, and adaptability in a rapidly changing world. As such, L&D is a strategic imperative for individuals and organisations alike.

A. **External L&D:**

   We truly believe in a well-rounded development of all our employees, hence ensuring that we are cognisant of their learning requirements. Keeping this in mind several external speakers from both the development & corporate sector were invited to interact with the team. These leaders instilled a sense of purpose and mindfulness and facilitated immense
learning for our team. We had leaders like Akhtar Badshah & Nasreen Khan who conducted sessions for the EdelGive team enriching them with their experience and learnings at the end of each of their sessions.

B. Learning Pods:

Our learnings pods are our internal team learning sessions in a collaborative setting. The themes are not restricted, and employees are encouraged to share what they deemed to be beneficial to the rest.

Our Learning Pods have enabled people to effectively acquire knowledge, skills, and insights not only from external experts but also from their peers internally. In all we had around 9 such sessions for our team in the last year. Peer learning has definitely led to the power of collaboration and shared knowledge, leading to a deeper understanding of subjects, improved problem-solving skills, and enhanced engagement among learners.

2. Wellness Activities:

At EdelGive employee wellness programs aim to create a workplace environment that promotes physical, mental, emotional, and social well-being for all our members. Factoring mindfulness and open communication as a key to employee wellness, we initiated periodic wellness check-ins to engage with our employee. Our Annual Offsite was a part of the wellness program devised for our employees.

A. Annual Offsite:

Our Annual Offsite this year was designed to bring our team together for a blend of team building, creativity, strategic planning, and well-deserved recognition. This remarkable event fostered a collaborative work environment, which helped us achieve our strategic goals, and supported the growth of each team member.

Recognising the importance of a balanced work-life, we started our journey with a day of team-building water sports activities. After the activities, a de-brief session that highlighted the significance of strategic planning, collaboration, and communication in achieving common objectives as a team was planned. It emphasised how each team member’s unique skill set contributes to a shared goal. This experience undeniably boosted our team's morale to an exceptional level.

Our focus on the second day revolved around team engagement with our leadership. Our day was structured to include sessions with senior stakeholders, such as Rashesh Shah, who delivered an inspiring address and provided a macro strategic perspective. Followed by a learning session by our Head of HR, Priyadeep Chopra. We also had an impactful sessions by EdelGive’s senior leadership team, including Vidya Shah and Naghma Mulla. As the day concluded, we celebrated our exceptional employees who had shown outstanding dedication throughout the year.
Case Study: Indore, Madhya Pradesh

**EMPOWERING WOMEN’S LEADERSHIP**

Sayali (pseudonym), a mother living in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, faced a challenging situation when her daughters Aarti and Rakhi experienced sexual abuse by a neighbour. Through the intervention of Jan Sahas, Sayali found a supportive network and gained access to resources that empowered her to overcome the economic hardships faced by her family and actively contribute to the community.

Aarti and Rakhi, two young sisters from a poverty-stricken family, endured a traumatic incident of sexual abuse by Rajaram, a 50-year-old man. The incident caused significant physical and emotional distress for the girls. Promptly reporting the incident to the police led to Rajaram’s arrest, and the case was referred to Jan Sahas. Acting swiftly, the organisation provided legal support, conducted thorough fact-finding, and organised a moot court session to protect the survivors’ rights. Recognising the importance of holistic care, the team also extended mental health support to the survivors and their family members.

Acknowledging the economic hardships faced by Sayali’s family, the organisation provided immediate assistance in the form of ration kits during the COVID-19 lockdown. To address the long-term challenges, the team collaborated with Usha, a sewing machine manufacturing company, to organise a 7-day training program in Sonkacch, district Dewas. Sayali actively participated in the program and acquired valuable sewing skills. However, her journey didn’t end there. Encouraged by Jan Sahas, she started sewing clothes in her community and provided training to other women. Her skills and knowledge not only helped survivors like herself but also benefited approximately 40 women in total. Sayali’s contribution to the community through sewing machine training exemplified the power of collective action and showcase the transformative impact of Jan Sahas’ support.

Sayali became an active participant in social advocacy workshops, further enhancing her skills and knowledge. She also engaged in survival forums where she shared her experiences and inspired others with her journey of resilience. Her involvement in these forums strengthened her confidence and positioned her as a leader in her community.

The story of Sayali demonstrates the power of collective action and women’s leadership in overcoming adversity. With the support of Jan Sahas, she found the courage to navigate the challenges posed by her daughters’ traumatic experiences. Her active participation in social advocacy workshops, and survival forums, and her contribution to the community through sewing machine training. This case study serves as a testament to the effectiveness of Jan Sahas’ programs in empowering survivors and promoting women’s leadership, ultimately leading to positive changes within communities affected by sexual violence.
Partnerships
The Indian development sector is one of the largest and most active social economies in the world ably represented and identified by non-profit organisations which represents not just an organisational form, but the sum of all the work, ideas, cultures, mindsets and even lifestyles of an entire sector and its people, driven by leading philanthropists as a means to nation-building and positive development outcomes. EdelGive, plays a crucial role as a philanthropic asset manager and advisor and a grant-maker, bridging the two worlds together - the for-profit and the non-profit, by enabling giving to tackle some of the toughest societal challenges.

Our role as enablers and advisors of philanthropy continues as we channelise efforts towards building more networks and tapping into the Indian diaspora to render support to influence trends and behaviours leading to informed, empathetic philanthropic giving.

In the aftermath of the unprecedented global health crisis that plagued the country, we steered efforts towards investing in organisational resilience to build future-ready organisations by championing the mission of collaborative philanthropy.

Over the past year, we have strengthened our foothold across initiatives in Education, Women Empowerment, Climate Change, and Migrant Relief that has positioned us as thought leaders in the ecosystem. Our efforts to institutionalise The GROW Fund – a first-of-its-kind initiative, has been redefined to influence the philanthropic ecosystem towards grant making that supports non-profit resilience and sustainability alongside programmatic outcomes.

“EdelGive Foundation has always looked beyond conventional measures. Their engagement with LeapForWord (LFW) has been remarkable, thus nurturing the potential of our program. Throughout my interactions with the team at EdelGive, I have always had progressive discussions on how to steer the program in the right direction. The team has also been very understanding of our challenges on ground and supported us at every step. This aspect has provided me with a tremendous sense of comfort, allowing me to reach out to them and openly share my struggles and failures. While the work we do brings us joy, it can also be incredibly demanding, requiring a safe space, particularly within the donor community, for sustenance and growth. EdelGive Foundation’s unwavering support, non-judgmental approach, and commitment to fostering sincere initiatives have played a crucial role in the establishment and progress of LeapForWord.”

PRANIL NAIK
Ashoka Fellow
Founder & Chief Functionary, LeapForWord
CUSTOMISED PHILANTHROPIC SOLUTIONS

EdelGive Foundation funds and supports promising grassroots non-profits around the country – from community organisations to grassroots-level initiatives – through a thorough due diligence process. We also have multiple partnerships with international and Indian donor communities. As an asset management platform, we help funding partners - including corporates, HNIs, Family Offices, and Foundations - define their philanthropic strategy. As a go-to partner of choice for Indian and foreign funding partners, we create customised impact strategies in accordance with the context, geography, expectation, and vision-alignment of our partners. The strategy encompasses:

- Advice on CSR policy and strategy for identifying causes and communities to map innovative funding models
- Facilitating exchange of resources and information
- Working as an effective intermediary between the for-profit and non-profit sectors

OUR APPROACH

Grant-making

EdelGive Grants
EdelGive individually funds organisations and their programmes

Co-Funding
Large funders, Foundations and individuals join EdelGive in making grants

Pooled Funding
EdelGive builds structured and transparent collaborative models for pooled funding

Advisory
EdelGive provides strategic counsel to organisations on grant-making

NGO’s receive both:

Financial Support
Building new programmes

Non-financial Support
Capacity Building
Finance & Sustainability HR & Communications Strategy & Leadership Processes & Technology

Awareness Building

This work is directed at nurturing the philanthropic ecosystem to grow more aware and contribute to the focus, visibility and resources for the grassroots organisations

Non Grant-making

Research
Support research on philanthropy trends, other themes etc.

Convenings
Conferences & roundtables for sharing, advocacy & networking

Campaigns
Campaign on women entrepreneurship

Media
Coverage bringing focus on key issues

About
EdelGive
Strategy and Excellence
Partnerships
Investments
The GROW Fund
Capacity Building and Employee Engagement
The roles we play as the creator and anchor of collaboratives:

- Anchor funder
- Input into strategy
- Execution oversight
- Monitoring & Evaluation
- Funder servicing
- Communications and advocacy for more support to the collaborative

The Six Collaboratives

THE COLLABORATORS FOR TRANSFORMING EDUCATION

EdelGive initiated ‘The Collaborators for Transforming Education,’ a Public-Private Partnership model in 2016 to collaborate with the government and key partners to advance education system strengthening in Maharashtra. The program impacts 7 districts, encompassing 1,866 government functionaries, 41,316 teachers, 10,81,820 children and 11,988 schools. The programme has been collectively supported by Tata Trusts, Sita Devi Malhotra Trust, Great Eastern Shipping, Dalyan Foundation, HT Parekh Foundation, Credit Suisse, Douglas B Marshall Jr. Foundation and Soujanya Colors, since its inception.

After the successful intervention over 7 years, CTE focused on consolidating the initial intervention districts and preparing the plan for Phase III, the State Transformation Program.

The Phase III State Transformation Program (StTP) is a comprehensive initiative scheduled to launch from the year 2023-24, building upon the outcomes and knowledge gained from the previous District Transformation Program (DTP). The primary aim of StTP is to implement systematic reforms that will significantly enhance learning levels within the education system.

The Collaborators have been recognised by the State Government, the details of which are shared on their portal. They also received the National CSR Award 2018, for Excellence in CSR, by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs to encourage best practices in CSR and to recognise the efforts of companies that have utilised funds marked for CSR innovatively and effectively.
EdelGive’s mission towards women empowerment is:

• to mainstream gender into every dialogue and deliberation on social development in India;

• emphasising social and economic factors as being undeniably interlinked in enabling women empowerment; and

• harnessing intent and resources from India to acknowledge and fund India’s development problems.

With the objective of mainstreaming gender into every dialogue, this year, the CWE continued to leverage collaborative funding to support a group of grassroots organisations that collectively work towards enabling rights-based work in women’s rights and gender equality across India. In 2022, EdelGive has supported 20 projects with 15 NGO partners across 9 states in India. The program consistently encouraged the outreach work of the grassroots organisations and supported their initiatives through regular dialogues and engagements.

EdelGive was also part of different forums to influence key philanthropic members and groups to highlight the power of philanthropy in addressing challenges and supporting research initiatives amongst grassroots organisations.

EdelGive’s commitment to building a conducive ecosystem to support critical gender equality work in India has been enhanced across multiple forums to bring together voices, work, resources, and network, to highlight the work and support diverse women empowerment initiatives across India. EdelGive is Co-Impact’s Regional partner for Asia for their newly launched Gender Fund. We are co-facilitating the Fund outreach in the region and will also build pathways to engage India’s philanthropic community to influence philanthropy for supporting feminist, grassroots work, and leadership.

The CWE is currently supported by Ford Foundation, Chintu Gudiya Foundation, Forbes Marshall, and The David and Lucile Packard Foundation.
Years of working at the grassroots level has uniquely placed EdelGive Foundation to be a thought leader and core member of the India Climate Collaborative, bringing a wealth of knowledge and information on climate and the crisis that has plagued the world. The alliance is supported by some of the most renowned philanthropies like MacArthur Foundation, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Good Energies, IKEA Foundation, and Oak Foundation who bring technical expertise and a holistic understanding of the space from a climate lens.

ICC is focused on building and strengthening the donor ecosystem for climate action in India while also supporting our efforts to build a platform to cater to domestic donor needs particularly Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) actors.

To unlock this, the Climate Solutions Platform, called Earth Exponential (EE) was launched. It builds momentum towards solving the climate crisis by accelerating funding towards home grown climate solutions. Interested funders can be connected to relevant climate actors based on their funding priorities.

Some of the key highlights for the period are as follows:

- ICC supported AVPN on their APAC Sustainability Seed Fund by identifying non-profits from the network. Gujarat Mahila Housing Trust, a non-profit organisation, was awarded a grant under this fund for core support. ICC also nudged other non-profits who met the criteria for application and encouraged them to apply for this grant funding.

- The India Climate Collaborative has seed-funded the Bharat Agroecology Fund (BAF) — an India-centric pooled grant fund to scale agroecology practices. With the goal of building pathways for domestic climate investment, seed-funded furthered the impact of previous grants to support the Bio-input Resource Centre's (BRC) project for scaling agroecology.

The fund will help to frame a shared vision around agroecology and communicate at various levels, drive capital, and strengthen delivery mechanisms through multi-stakeholder coordination (government, private sector, philanthropy, NGOs, and many others).

- India Agrivoltaics Alliance (IAA) has scaled up efforts to connect and integrate with various relevant initiatives and organisations in the country. So far, 35-40 member organisations have come on board the IAA, across various policy research organisations, government departments, national academic and international research platforms. They include ministry representatives from Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), as well as representatives from ICC, National Solar Energy Federation of India (NSEFI), Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), Centre for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP), The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), Initiative for Sustainable Energy Policy (ISEP)-Japan amongst others.
**Migrants Resilience Collaborative**

EdelGive continues to play an active role as a strategic partner to the Migrants Resilience Collaborative (an initiative by one of the partners in our investee portfolio, Jan Sahas), a multi-stakeholder collaborative of non-profit, philanthropic, and private sector actor. During this period, support worth USD 15 million in funding was provided by Co-Impact over a 4-year period. New funding commitments will be used to both strengthen last-mile access to social security benefits and work with governments and industry to institutionalise worker welfare.

This year, around **1.66 million** households were registered for benefits through MRC’s work and benefits for **833K** were enabled. MRC’s interventions helped workers recover **INR 2.8 crore** in compensation and lost wages.

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**Pay-What-It-Takes**

EdelGive continues to endorse the Pay-What-It-Takes initiative (PWIT) and has conducted multiple outreach efforts on building a movement to shift practices and mindsets of funders, NGOs, and intermediaries through various publications and awareness generation activities in collaboration with Bridgespan. Several new initiatives were undertaken with the objective of building a movement to shift the practices and mindsets of funders, NGOs, and intermediaries. Multiple events were conducted to present key findings of the last 3 years with the objective of raising awareness and enabling collaboration on PWIT that included panel discussions and dialogues in partnership with key entities and leading intermediaries in the sector.

Some of the *key highlights* for the period are as follows:

- **Awareness generation**: Forbes published an article highlighting how *endowments help NGOs create greater impact* and will require a *significant shift in thinking by philanthropists, as well as focused action from NGO leaders*.

- **IDR** published a Hindi version of the PWIT India Initiative article focusing on *how NGOs can pitch their true cost needs to funders, by understanding funder motivations*.

- **Multiple events** were hosted (with a cumulative audience of more than 500 participants) to raise awareness and enable collaboration on PWIT:
  - **Panel discussion on organisational development** in collaboration with ISDM and Catalyst 2030
  - **Roundtable with 10 leading intermediaries** in the sector (E.g., Sattva, Samhita, IDR, ISDM, Atma, etc.)
A session was hosted at the Dasra Philanthropy Week 2023 on ‘Transforming Grant Making: Investing in a Stronger and More Resilient NGO Sector’ where a presentation on preliminary insights from the funder compendium was made followed by a panel discussion with funders and NGO leaders on effective grantmaking practices.

- Three learning circles with CSR funders in Pune and Mumbai and global foundations in Delhi were successfully conducted with participation of 25+ funders across both circles.
- A session on building organisational resilience was conducted with the ILSS Fundraising cohort with participation of 20+ organisations.

- Enabling NGOs:
  - Partnership formalised with Aria CFO services for development of guidelines for true cost computation and communication for NGOs.
  - Atma has developed an intermediary directory with guidance from Bridgespan, ATE Chandra Foundation, and The Better India to collate data from intermediaries across varied OD capabilities in the upcoming 2-3 weeks.

Following are the key highlights of UdyamStree across its 2-year journey:

I. Engaging with multiple key stakeholders across sectors:

  Government stakeholders

- Partnered with 2 Government institutions with FICCI on building synergies across various interventions with FICCI’s Greater 50 campaign, for a conducive ecosystem to foster women entrepreneurship through multi-stakeholder engagements. We also partnered with the State Education Department of Maharashtra to conduct a Leadership Dialogue featuring industry stalwarts with an objective to sensitize young minds, around entrepreneurship being a viable career option.
• Engaged in a dialogue with key government institutions like NITI Aayog, Minister of WCD, Varsha Gaikwad, Add. Secretary Dept. of Education and Minister of Rural Development.

• The report was launched with government stakeholders and the foreword was delivered by Mr. Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog followed by a keynote by Mr. Ram Manohar Mishra, Secretary, and Ministry of Women & Child Development.

Partnerships with other stakeholders:

• 2739 women were educated on Government schemes & Yojanas in the 4 districts, out of which 2039 women received benefits under relevant schemes and loans worth ₹26 lakhs. We partnered with 6 Grassroots partners to ensure delivery of government schemes on women entrepreneurship at the grassroots level.

• Collaborated with Haqdarshak in translating 300 Central and State government schemes into multilingual content, which is now accessible on Haqdarshik's app.

• Amplified public awareness through media by disseminating press releases announcing the partnership which garnered a reach of more than 10 million. Partnered with Bookletpedia, a not-for-profit that designs contextual IEC (Information, Education and Communication) materials, to generate awareness around government schemes that women entrepreneurs can leverage. Used community radios to further amplify the message.

• Social media amplifications

• 27 National and Regional media publications expressed their interest to promote the cause of women entrepreneurship through 290 media stories in the form of articles, opinion pieces, media interview, beneficiary stories and leadership thoughts. Effected a readership of over 27 lakhs via 25 opinion editorials, 10 interviews, 16 beneficiary stories, and more than 65 press releases. More than 20 Media & Social Media Influencers supported the cause on various platforms like roundtable discussions, co-authored pieces, and motivational videos to express their support for women-led businesses.

• The hashtag #PyaarToSmallVyapaar had a potential reach of 124.2K. More than 90 small businesses reached out through social media for their business promotions. Support from social media influencers received more than 2 Lakh views.

• Engaged with 20+ Social media Influencers who spoke about UdyamStree, liked, shared, and supported the posts. In collaboration with popular influencers like Prajakta Koli, Aanchal Agrawal and Deepika Mhatre, grateful hats were tipped to women-led small businesses and encouraged people to be #VocalForLocal. These videos accumulated 708K impressions and 230.9K views. Additionally, a Bollywood series was undertaken to utilize iconic moments in popular culture and famous dialogues, in line with aspects which we wished to amplify, under the project.
II. Major achievements of the campaign

Through Phase One of UdyamStree, we facilitated philanthropic and private sector ecosystems to converge and synergize around the cause of financial empowerment of rural women, through entrepreneurship. The critical experience of building a positive narrative for behaviour change in the sector was successfully demonstrated through this and the campaign won several awards:

- **Best Campaign in Not-for-Profit and Association Sector**
  Campaign in the sector awards category at **Fulcrum Awards 2022**

- **Gold Award**, under the Not-for-profit category at the **SABRE South Asia Awards 2022**. One of the finalists for Platinum SABRE Award 2022 for Best in Show

- **Best Not-for-Profit** at **ICCO Global Awards 2022**

- **Silver Award** in Not-for-Profit at **PR Awards 2022**

- **Gold Award** in the **Best Use of Integrated Communications Category** at **Fulcrum Awards, 2023**.

- **Gold Award** for Integrated Communications at **PRCA Awards 2023**

This success, enabled us to move into Phase Two of UdyamStree, focused on Women in Leadership.

**UdyamStree - Women in Leadership**

As a continuation to UdyamStree, this Phase aims to spotlight the presence of Women In Leadership (WIL) positions in the private sector in India, with an emphasis on Economics, Finance, Social Enterprise & allied domains. It also seeks to utilise a data driven approach to build a campaign which will creatively amplify and encourage mentorship and bring multiple stakeholders together to address the need to increase Women in leadership.

This project is part of a bigger consortium of social sector entities that will focus on women in leadership positions across different domains within the private sector. This larger collaborative project will attempt to bring forth clarity on both, disablers in the ecosystem that hinder women's empowerment as well as enablers, that encourage women's entry into the workforce and their journey towards leadership within their organisations.
Anganwadis in Basmat Village exemplifies the power of collective action in driving positive change. Initially, the focus of Anganwadis was limited to health care and nutrition, with early childhood education being neglected. However, the FLP intervention through our partner Quest Alliance and the collaboration of various stakeholders brought about a transformation. The introduction of the Foundational Numeracy and Literacy (FNL) program and the emphasis on early childhood education created a shared vision among the stakeholders. Quest Alliance engaged the government education department, CDPO, and BEO, recognising the need for their support and involvement. This collective action was crucial in garnering the necessary resources and expertise to address the educational needs of young children.

The field visit organised for the Anganwadi supervisors in the districts of Amaravati and Yavatmal further reinforced the idea of transforming Anganwadis into vibrant centres of Early Childhood Education (ECE). By witnessing firsthand, the impact of proper training, physical facilities, on-site support, and stationery, the supervisors were inspired to take action in their own communities.

The collaboration extended to the Gram Panchayat, which raised funds for the 16 Anganwadis. The support from the BDO played a vital role in securing these funds. This collective effort demonstrated a shared responsibility and commitment to improving early childhood education.

Additionally, community awareness programs such as Shikshan Ek Navi Disha played a crucial role in spreading awareness about the importance of early childhood education. By engaging the wider community, the initiative gained momentum and support. The involvement of multiple stakeholders created a network of support that was essential for the success of the program.

The transformation of Anganwadi classrooms with appropriate teaching materials and the shift in focus to Foundation Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) showcases the impact of collective action. As the learning levels of children improved, it motivated other Anganwadi workers to adopt similar practices, creating a ripple effect within the community.

Engaging parents and the wider community is crucial for creating a supportive environment for children's holistic development. By involving multiple stakeholders, Basmat village has set an example for other communities and policymakers.
SUSTAINING SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT THROUGH COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP: THE ROLE OF EDUCATION GRAM SABHA

Case Study: Solapur District, Maharashtra

Zilla Parishad School- Bargi is a small school in the Malakwadha cluster of the South Solapur block in Solapur district. It is located about 43 km from the South Solapur block headquarters and has a population of 1630 people. The school provides learning opportunities for 230 students up to Class 7. While ideally nine teachers would be required to support these students, the school has only five teachers assigned to it.

In September 2022, the team from the district CTE implementation partner, Gyan Prakash Foundation (GPF), conducted a workshop on ‘The Role of Educational Gram Sabha in School Development’ at the Beat level. The Principal of Bargi School, Mr Deshmukh, along with its School Management Committee President and Gram Panchayat members participated in the workshop. The purpose of the workshop was to get the community to be involved in school development and ensure their active participation in child learning, and the need, importance, and process of conducting the Education Gram Sabha (EGS) were discussed.

After the workshop, the principal requested the GPF representatives for help in implementing this process and worked closely with them to organise an Education Gram Sabha in the village. He invited the Gram Sevika, Sarpanch, Gram Panchayat members, SMC members and Panchayat Samiti members for the EGS and made sure that all the workers of the village attended the meeting. The schoolteachers and SMC members had prepared for the meeting by mapping the current needs and the existing resources of the school. At the meeting held on 17th October 2022 in Bargi school, Mr. Deshmukh, the school principal, explained the need for the Gram Panchayat to come forward and participate in academic issues to make the school function more effectively. He proposed creating study groups for children as well as a library within the village, with the aim of prioritising the quality of education.

He appealed to youths in the village to come forward as volunteers to support teachers, since the existing teachers were not able to effectively support every student due to the high teacher-student ratio. Along with issues of learning, the need for improving school infrastructure and amenities was also discussed. By the end of the EGS meeting, 8 action items for school development had been identified together with the resources required to achieve them, and responsibilities were assigned to key stakeholders of the EGS.

When a GPF representative visited the school in late December, the principal excitedly shared the impact of the EGS. Six out of eight action items had been completed within two months, using more than 5 lakh rupees raised from the community. These include the availability of safe drinking water for the school, the installation of a digital classroom and the creation of a kitchen garden. More importantly, six study groups had been set up with the help of youth volunteers in the village. Teachers conducted orientations with the volunteers and equipped them with plans and teaching-learning materials to support children’s learning. The CTE, through its partners’ work with the education system and Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI), is supporting schools and communities to implement Education Gram Sabhas across 4 districts in Maharashtra, so that ownership of the quality of education remains with the local bodies.
Investments
EdelGive Foundation has partnered with a formidable network of change-makers, philanthropists, and non-profit organisations to tackle complex societal challenges, because we know that together, the extraordinary can be achieved. As the combined powers of the Avengers create an unstoppable force, EdelGive Foundation believes in the strength of collaboration. Our collective impact has brought about transformative change, leaving an enduring mark on the communities we serve.

Over the years, EdelGive as an organisation has been passionate about its work in Education, Women Empowerment (WE) and Community Resilience and Climate Action (CRCA). These three focus areas reflect the organisation's priorities and where it channels its efforts and resources to create positive social impact, along with multiple stakeholders like the government, philanthropists, and NGOs. By investing in these areas, it attempts a holistic approach to social impact, recognising the interconnectedness of education, gender equality, and environmental sustainability. Through strategic partnerships, grant-making, capacity-building, and collaborative initiatives, EdelGive aims to make a meaningful and lasting difference in these domains and contribute to positive social transformation.

**NGOs WE SUPPORT**

1. They are community based organisations, working for the community and with them
2. They work on stringent budgets and have limited access to grant funding
3. They are hands-on, with great execution capabilities, but willing to adapt and innovate
4. They are inclusive, ambitious, passionate, and open to learning
5. They possess a sense of realism of the inherent longevity of social change
6. They are solution focused. We need to hear more from them
7. They believe in contextualising the process based on the feedback from the community
WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Our women empowerment portfolio has fostered an ecosystem of collaborative action, where each of our partners, taps into the immense strength and potential that resides within women and girls. Together, we have created a powerful platform that amplifies their voices and empowers them to overcome barriers, unlocking a future filled with possibilities.

To realise this vision, we join forces with high-calibre NGOs that are dedicated to tackling the pervasive issue of violence against women and promoting women's safety. Through strategic advocacy and grassroots leadership, we have formed the Coalition for Women Empowerment (CWE). The CWE program stands as a testament to our collective commitment, as we strive to address the social and economic inequities that hinder women and girls from reaching their full potential. Our alliance within the CWE program works tirelessly to dismantle these barriers, working towards a world where every woman and girl can thrive and contribute their unique strengths to society.

This initiative adopts an intersectional and integrated approach to women's empowerment. The problems of women in one social group are different from the problems of other women. Our empowerment framework addresses issues with the social context they come from. The intervention considers the socio, economic, and cultural aspects of a woman's life.

Our commitment is reflected in our focus on five key priority areas, each of which contributes to empowering women and girls:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Freedom from Violence and Discrimination</th>
<th>Grassroots Leadership</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EdelGive has been working to enable a society where women and girls can live free from all forms of violence and discrimination. By supporting initiatives that raise awareness, change attitudes, and promote gender equality, we strive to eliminate the barriers that hinder their progress.</td>
<td>We firmly believe that empowering women to become leaders in their communities is a catalyst for positive change. We invest in programs that nurture and develop grassroots leadership, enabling women to drive social transformation and shape their own destinies.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Access to Legal Justice</th>
<th>Access to Rights and Entitlements</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>We recognise the importance of ensuring that women and girls have equal access to legal justice. Through our collaborative efforts, we support initiatives that provide legal aid, empower survivors, and advocate for fair and just legal systems.</td>
<td>We are committed to helping women and girls exercise their rights and access the entitlements they deserve. Through our partnerships, we support initiatives that provide information, resources, and support systems to ensure that women can assert their rights and claim what is rightfully theirs.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Freedom from Economic Dependence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>We recognise that economic empowerment is essential for women's progress and overall development. By supporting programs that enhance skills, provide livelihood opportunities, and promote entrepreneurship, we aim to break the cycle of economic dependence and enable women to achieve financial autonomy.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
We believe in the power of collaboration to bring about meaningful change. By working hand in hand with our NGO partners, we strive to create a future where women and girls in India can thrive, unleashing their full potential and shaping a brighter and a more inclusive society. In our collective journey, we embrace an extraordinary opportunity to construct a vibrant platform that channels the unified strength of women and girls within these communities. This platform becomes their springboard for empowerment, enabling them to forge profound transformations that resonate both in their personal lives and reverberate across the entire community. Together, we ignite a powerful movement.

In FY22, EdelGive has supported 20 projects with 15 NGO partners across 9 states in India. Over the years, through our NGO partners, we have been able to make a significant impact:

- Supported 2,15,000 (39,166 in FY22) women and girls in their fight for addressing gender equality-related issues.
- Supported 24,000 (211 in FY22) women and girls under financial inclusion programmes.
- Supported 46,000 (3,943 in FY22) women to get access to rights and entitlements.
- Supported 28,000 (2,456 in FY22) survivors of domestic violence and/or sexual violence in their legal journey.
- Developed and supported 8,000 (1,693 in FY22) grassroots leaders.
- Formed 6,000 (511 in FY22) Self-Help Groups (SHGs)/Joint Liability Groups (JLGs).
EDUCATION

Embracing the understanding that true power lies not in individual efforts, but in collaborative action, EdelGive Foundation has united exceptional organisations dedicated to providing children with equal opportunities for education. EdelGive Foundation, collaborating with the government of Maharashtra to achieve lasting change. Recognising the need for a sustainable transformation in the educational landscape, they ensured every child’s access to quality education. Their collaborative action became the catalyst for a brighter, more equitable future for India.

In 2016, the powerful alliance known as the Collaborators for Transforming Education was forged. EdelGive, a philanthropic organisation, joined forces with the Department of School Education and Sports (DSES) to create an extraordinary endeavor aimed at revolutionising the education system. This public-private partnership sought to empower students and elevate learning levels across the state.

The Collaborators embarked on a mission to tackle the multifaceted challenges plaguing education. They understood that lasting impact required systemic reforms. Starting with four districts, their efforts swiftly expanded, encompassing seven districts in Maharashtra. This expansion was made possible through the collective strength of multiple funders and three nonprofit organisations (NPOs) who shared a common vision.

Our impactful endeavours can be classified into four key priority areas:

- **Innovation and Experimentation**
- **School Transformation and enhancing Learning Outcomes**
- **Early Childhood Education**
- **Research and Advocacy**

In FY23, EdelGive has worked with **9 NGO partners**, while supporting **13 projects** across **5 states** of India.

Over the years, through our NGO partners, we have been able to create a significant impact:

- Reached out to **20 lakhs** children through our learning enhancement programmes, surpassing our own target this year.
- Supported **31,000** schools through the Quality Education Programme.
- Worked closely with and supported over **74,000** teachers and Government officials for delivery of quality education.

Over the course of seven years, the Collaborators endeavors positively impacted the lives of over one million children, opening doors to new opportunities and unlocking their boundless potential. They earned the trust of government stakeholders at all levels, becoming their most esteemed partner. Their remarkable achievements garnered recognition, leading to invitations to share their best practices not only with peers within the country but also international organisations such as UNICEF and The World Bank.
COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND CLIMATE ACTION (CRCA)

Within the realm of Community Resilience and Climate Action, EdelGive Foundation recognises that climate change is an interconnected issue, influencing various sectors and disproportionately affecting those who have contributed the least to the climate crisis. We aim to transform climate change from a "tragedy of the commons" into a catalyst for positive action.

In our pursuit of community resilience and climate action, we collaborate with organisations dedicated to mobilising resources, organising interventions, and fostering collectivisation. Our approach is community-based, inclusive, and rooted in a deep sense of duty and respect for nature. We believe that by engaging diverse stakeholders, we can create an impact at an ecosystem level while also championing hyper-local solutions.

Aligning with our priorities, we have identified four strategic areas where we aspire to achieve meaningful action. The four thematic areas are influenced by four cross-cutting themes of gender rights-based approach, technological integration, and innovation and tapping into indigenous knowledge of the communities.

- Right Based Approach
- Gender
- Natural Resource Management (NRM)
- Economic Resilience (ER)
- Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)
- Ecological and Biodiversity
- Technology
- Indigenous Knowledge
**Natural Resource Management:** EdelGive recognises the importance of responsible and sustainable use of natural resources. The programs are supported to promote sustainable agriculture, land, and water management practices. We focus on addressing water scarcity, enhancing water efficiency, promoting sustainable water management practices through initiatives such as creation of water structures, solar-based irrigation, promoting traditional water harvesting and lake rejuvenation. This also aims at ensuring food security through efficient land and agricultural management practices.

**Climate Smart-Agriculture (CSA):** Our portfolio organisations are playing a pivotal role in promoting and implementing CSA practices. They work closely with farmers, particularly smallholders, to enhance their resilience and productivity in the face of climate uncertainties. They facilitate the adoption of climate-smart technologies and innovations, including climate-resilient crop varieties, systematic crop intensification methods, weather forecasting tools, and sustainable irrigation systems. This work is done in collaboration with the government by tapping into the existing policies of MGNREGA, and in liaison with PRIs and local agriculture, horticulture and fisheries departments.

**Economic Resilience:** Under this thematic area, focus is on initiatives that enhance economic resilience, particularly in vulnerable communities. We support projects that promote livelihood opportunities, entrepreneurship, skill development, and access to finance. By strengthening local economies through Self-Help Groups and Farmer Producer Organisations, EdelGive aims to improve the resilience of communities with respect to climate adaptation measures. We actively support FPCs which are being exclusively run by women and having women board members.

**Ecological and Biodiversity Conservation:** We support initiatives aimed at rejuvenating lakes and protecting indigenous seed varieties. The aim is to preserve the integrity of ecosystems and support long-term environmental sustainability.

By engaging in these thematic areas, we aim to contribute to community resilience and address the challenges posed by climate change.

In FY23, EdelGive has supported **15 projects** of **12 NGO partners**, working with the most vulnerable communities across **9 states** in India. Over the years, through our NGO partners, we have been able to create significant impact, achieving our targets in a few critical areas:

- Average **98% (FY23)** enhancement in annual income of farmers.
- Brought under irrigation over **3000 (550 in FY23)** hectares of land, for enhanced agriculture yield.
- Supported (construction or repairs) **1,600 (300 in FY23)** watershed structures for water conservation.
- Strengthened **8 Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs)**.
- Funded over **₹320 crores (₹140 crores in FY23)** towards Sustainable Livelihood Programmes, over the past 6 years (2017-2022).
- Trained **1,83,000 families (1,20,000 in FY23)** for sustainable agriculture.
- Supported **22,200 farmers (2,500 in FY23)** for climate smart agriculture/organic farming.
We seek to harness the collective power of our partners and stakeholders to tackle climate change head-on. Through our initiatives, we strive to build a more sustainable future, where communities are resilient, ecosystems thrive, and every individual can contribute towards positive climate action.

**OUR NGO PARTNERS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Portfolio</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>NGO</th>
<th>City, District</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CRCA</td>
<td>Chhattisgarh</td>
<td>Action for Food</td>
<td>Raipur, Dist. Raipur</td>
<td>Supporting vulnerable communities to become self-reliant through training, knowledge, and technology transfer on rural development projects.</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Production (AFPRO)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Delhi</td>
<td>Kaivalya Education</td>
<td>New Delhi, Dist. Delhi</td>
<td>Supporting public education system leaders to improve learning levels of students by enabling 'people improving processes and technology.'</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Delhi</td>
<td>Sshrishti</td>
<td>New Delhi, Dist. Delhi</td>
<td>Providing education, digital literacy, and skill development to enable employability of the youth.</td>
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<tr>
<td>CRCA</td>
<td>Gujarat</td>
<td>Utthan</td>
<td>Ahmedabad, Dist. Ahmedabad</td>
<td>Running integrated programmes for women and girls to enable access to entitlements, financial inclusion, and sustainable livelihood security options along the tribal and coastal Gujarat.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>Gujarat</td>
<td>ANANDI</td>
<td>Ahmedabad, Dist. Ahmedabad</td>
<td>Working with rural women of Gujarat for their social and economic rights through collectivisation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Empowerment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>Gujarat</td>
<td>KMVS</td>
<td>Bhuj, Dist. Kutch</td>
<td>Focusing on the holistic empowerment of women and girls by addressing their safety issues.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Empowerment</td>
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<tr>
<td>CRCA</td>
<td>Jharkhand</td>
<td>TRDSW</td>
<td>Torpa, Dist. Khunti</td>
<td>Focusing on education, empowerment, and livelihood skills for communities.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Empowerment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Portfolio</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Karnataka</td>
<td>Agastya Foundation</td>
<td>Bengaluru, Dist. Bengaluru</td>
<td>Building curiosity and nurturing creativity in disadvantaged children and teachers through their innovative learning tools.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRCA</td>
<td>Karnataka</td>
<td>Manuvikasa</td>
<td>Sirsi, Dist. Uttara Kannada</td>
<td>Promotes livelihood development for landless labourers and small farmers through entrepreneurship development, financial inclusion and bio-diversity conservation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRCA</td>
<td>Karnataka</td>
<td>Vruti</td>
<td>Bengaluru, Dist. Bengaluru</td>
<td>Building wealth and resilience amongst small producers and vulnerable communities through transformative agrarian and allied livelihood solutions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women Empowerment</td>
<td>Madhya Pradesh</td>
<td>Jan Sahas</td>
<td>Dewas, Dist. Dewas</td>
<td>Providing protection, and promoting human rights of women, girls and children from the most excluded communities and groups like manual scavengers, survivors of rape and sexual assault, bonded labourers, caste-based sex workers, Dalit and tribal communities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women Empowerment</td>
<td>Maharashtra</td>
<td>CORO</td>
<td>Mumbai, Dist. Mumbai</td>
<td>Developing and nurturing a community-based approach to tackle endemic issues in India’s most marginalised communities while working towards developing grassroots leadership, women empowerment and gender education.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Maharashtra</td>
<td>Gyan Prakash Foundation</td>
<td>Pune, Dist. Pune</td>
<td>Joining the efforts of various NGOs, corporates and the government, towards improving the quality of public education in rural India.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Maharashtra</td>
<td>LeapForWord</td>
<td>Mumbai, Dist. Mumbai</td>
<td>Working on making English teaching techniques accessible to regional language schoolteachers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Maharashtra</td>
<td>QUEST</td>
<td>Thane, Dist. Wada</td>
<td>Pursuing quality-related issues in Early Childhood Education, elementary education, and teacher professional development, primarily through action research in pedagogy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WE</td>
<td>Maharashtra</td>
<td>Majlis</td>
<td>Mumbai Suburb, Dist. Mumbai</td>
<td>Working on issues concerning women's legal rights and access to justice by helping women access their rights through legal support in court, training of key stakeholders, policy interventions and public campaigns.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRCA</td>
<td>Odisha</td>
<td>Sambandh</td>
<td>Bhubaneshwar, Dist. Bhubaneshwar</td>
<td>Building sustainable livelihoods through natural resources management, smart agriculture and bio-diversity conservation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRCA</td>
<td>Odisha</td>
<td>Pragati, Koraput</td>
<td>Koraput, Dist. Koraput</td>
<td>Supporting organisations that protect, utilise, control, and manage local resources through collective action by focussing on food and nutrition security through soil and water conservation, eco-friendly irrigation and sustainable agriculture practices.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Odisha</td>
<td>South Orissa Voluntary Action (SOVA)</td>
<td>Koraput, Dist. Koraput</td>
<td>Implementing programmes on health, education, governance, livelihood, and disaster risk reduction to promote the best interest of disadvantaged communities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Rajasthan</td>
<td>Kshamtalaya</td>
<td>Udaipur, Dist. Udaipur</td>
<td>Supporting children, teachers, and school leaders to achieve their true potential and build integrated pedagogical leadership focusing on improved learning experience and developing community ownership.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portfolio</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women Empowerment</td>
<td>Rajasthan</td>
<td>Ibtada</td>
<td>Alwar, Dist. Alwar</td>
<td>Addressing the socio-economic issues of women and girls in the conservative Meo Muslim community in Alwar, Rajasthan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRCA</td>
<td>Rajasthan</td>
<td>GRAVIS</td>
<td>Jodhpur, Dist. Jodhpur</td>
<td>Working towards environmental conservation and sustainable development programmes for alternative rural reconstruction for communities in the Thar Desert region.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRCA</td>
<td>Rajasthan</td>
<td>GVCS</td>
<td>Barmer, Dist. Barmer</td>
<td>Providing dignified self-reliant sustainable livelihoods in Thar desert region by promoting art and craft, displaying inherited craftsmanship in appliqué design and embroidery.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women Empowerment</td>
<td>Telangana</td>
<td>Shaheen</td>
<td>Hyderabad, Dist. Hyderabad</td>
<td>Conducting inclusivity interventions for isolated and abused women and girls of vulnerable communities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women Empowerment</td>
<td>Uttar Pradesh</td>
<td>AALI</td>
<td>Lucknow, Dist. Lucknow</td>
<td>Addressing women's issues through a rights-based approach as a feminist legal advocacy and resource group.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRCA</td>
<td>Uttar Pradesh</td>
<td>Medha</td>
<td>Lucknow, Dist. Lucknow</td>
<td>Preparing youth for life after school, by providing them skills-based training, career counselling, workplace exposure and job placement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portfolio</td>
<td>State</td>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>City, District</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women Empowerment</td>
<td>West Bengal</td>
<td>Kolkata Sanjog Initiatives</td>
<td>Kolkata, Dist. Kolkata</td>
<td>Focusing on policy building, empowerment, and leadership of survivors of violence and discrimination.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women Empowerment</td>
<td>West Bengal</td>
<td>Nishtha</td>
<td>Baruipur, Dist. South 24 Parganas</td>
<td>Functioning as a community-focused, rights-based organisation operating in the South 24 Parganas working for education and empowerment of women.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>West Bengal</td>
<td>Samaritan Help Mission (SHM)</td>
<td>Tikiapara, Dist. Howrah</td>
<td>Empowering the underprivileged and disadvantaged members of the society, especially women, through community development programmes on education, health and overall development.</td>
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Case Study: Borigumma Block, Koraput District, Odisha

FARMER PRODUCER ORGANISATION: EMPOWERING SMALL AND MARGINAL FARMERS THROUGH COLLECTIVISM

The small and marginal farmers with small land holdings in the Borigumma block (less than 1 hectare per family), lacked access to timely and quality inputs, information, technology, and markets to enhance their production. They were largely dependent on external markets/local traders for seeds and fertilizers because of this, they could not get seeds in time. Sometimes the seeds were not of good quality resulting in low yield. As most of the farmers are illiterate, they follow the instructions of the shopkeeper/trader in choosing the type of seeds, fertilizers, and pesticides. Some of the farmers also run into debts during the agriculture season and pledge their crops to the middlemen. Further, as the farmers sell individually, they are exploited by middlemen in the market chain and distress selling is quite common.

Pragati team recognised the need for collaborative work to ensure benefit for all. Keeping in mind the common goal of bringing all the farmers together in helping them make better decisions, the Dangardei Farmer Producer Company (FPC) started working in Borigumma Block. The Board of Directors and the CEO organised awareness camps to mobilise shareholders and inform them of the benefits of the company. The farmers were organised into Farmer Producer Groups and were motivated to become shareholders in the company. Each share cost Rs 100 and a farmer could purchase a maximum of 1000 shares.

Maize is one of the major products cultivated by farmers of the Borigumma block for marketing purposes. However, they used individually sell at low prices to the local traders/middlemen in the local markets and most often had to wait for 5 to 6 months to get their payments. In such a situation, Dangardei FPC played a key role in the aggregation and marketing of maize. The FPC organised meetings in the maize production clusters where it supplied maize seeds at fair prices and simultaneously mobilised the farmers to sell their produce to the FPC. Traders were contacted with price negotiation. The FPC through its marketing team aggregated the produce, ensured quality maintenance, and marketed the produce.

Due to the interventions of Dangardei FPC, last year 145 maize-growing farmers marketed 235 tons of maize creating a turnover of Rs. 46.9 lakhs. The farmers were relieved on taking the produce to the local market. The company aggregated the produce in the clusters and marketed it to external traders at the negotiated price. The farmers could sell their maize at Rs 16,800 per ton as compared to Rs 15,000 or lower, per ton in the local market. The FPC method facilitated payments to their accounts within one week. The FPC has also aggregated and marketed tamarind from 27 shareholders. Marketing of quality seeds of paddy, maize, and vegetables to all its shareholders at fair prices is also being done by the FPC. The farmers of Borigumma block are now getting motivated to become shareholders in the company.

Dangardei FPC has provided a platform for farmers to come together and share their knowledge and experiences, enabling them to learn from each other and improve their farming practices. It aims to be the one-stop shop for farmers, providing them with end-to-end services that streamline production, procurement, and marketing processes.

System of Millet intensification
Case Study: Sangadevarkoppa, Kalagahatagi Taluk, Dharwad District

LAKE REJUVENATION PROVES SUSTAINABILITY – LIVE A LIFE OF DIGNITY

Manuvikasa has been proactively working towards poverty alleviation by strengthening the economic situation of the farming community especially women’s communities by improving the availability of natural resources like water. The organisation has been working in the Uttara Kannada, Haveri, Dharwad, and Shivamogga districts for over two years, on ensuring the sustainability of water resources. One such success story is from the Sangadevarkoppa village of Kalagahatagi Taluk, Dharwad District.

Prior to intervention, lake Eri Kere (3.38 acres) would completely dry up, leaving the women and children to walk up to 2 kilometres to fetch water for household use. They wasted a lot of time from their daily routines to ensure the availability of water, which made it difficult for them to participate in any other activity or spend time for learning anything new. The scarcity of water during the summer months made access to water difficult for the villagers and farmers. During water-filled months, the lake would fill up with silt and many times people irresponsibly threw garbage, making it unusable. Even the fish in the lake died due to the mixing of sewage water. The community had built toilets with the help of the Gram Panchayat, but due to the non-availability of water, they had to go for open defecation, and this posed serious problems for especially children and women. Another major concern was most small and marginal farmers in the village who relied heavily on community water resources.

Manuvikasa’s team held several meetings with the villagers to understand their concerns and share the idea of lake rejuvenation. They also made the community understand the importance of taking ownership and collective action, in order to put an end to the concern of water scarcity. Initially, there was some resistance, but over a period, during one of the Gram Sabha meetings, most villagers were convinced. The team also shared the process involved and got everyone’s agreement and participation in the activity. With proper documentation and a systematic survey, lake Eri Kere was undertaken for rejuvenation. With support from the community, Manuvikasa rejuvenated the lake completely in 2022. While rejuvenating the lake, 2,395 loads of silt were excavated and shifted to the farmer’s fields, thus improving crop yields.

The rejuvenation has transformed the situation for the community, giving them easy access to water throughout the year. Since the rejuvenation, it has provided benefits to 37 farmers and 218 acres of land are receiving regular water for irrigation purposes. Families have also reported using toilets instead of open defecation.

One farmer, Ningappa Kurubaru shared his joy of good yield post lake rejuvenation and silt transfer to his field. He has reported an increased yield of 15 quintals from an earlier 10 quintals per year, which has improved his financial situation as well. With the consistent availability of water, he has ventured into mixed cropping too.

Another villager shared how maintaining her kitchen garden was difficult due to lack of water and had to spend a lot of money to purchase vegetables from the market for household consumption. With the reviving of the lake, she started growing vegetables in her own garden. This has helped her save up to Rs. 1500-2000 per month.

Due to lake rejuvenation, Eri Kere is brimming with water, thereby alleviating the water woes of the villagers. Along with reviving a natural water source, it has helped in improving the economic conditions of the farmers, thereby that of the village too. Now, Sangadevarakoppa is on the path toward progress.
The GROW Fund
The GROW (Grassroots Resilience Ownership and Wellness) Fund is an assembly of social sector leaders who have joined forces to support a cohort of 100 NGOs in their efforts towards organisational sustenance and development. The endgame of this collective is to influence the philanthropic ecosystem towards grant-making that supports non-profit resilience and sustainability alongside programmatic outcomes. As the 1st year came to an end, we are excited to share that the program successfully managed to support 100 NGOs in their efforts toward non-programmatic areas of organisations. The cohort received support for:

- sustaining and expanding operations with support provided to cover core expenses.
- upskilling their core staff in identified domains through capability-building training.
- providing need-based support for organisational development.

To strengthen its mission, the GROW Fund has collaborated with agencies like Social Lens, Grant Thornton, and Business Support Group, paralleling the practice of forming alliances and partnerships. These collaborations support capacity building, organisational development frameworks, grant management, NGO engagement, and the development of Lumos, an in-house system for grant management.

To enable convergence on multiple data sets and perspectives that were being gathered from NGOs through quarterly reporting and 1:1 capacity building check-ins Social Lens, Grant Thornton and The GROW Fund team formed the Joint Analysis Group (JAG). JAG dived deep into data which is collated from Q1 to Q4 to understand the NGOs one-year progression towards sustenance, resilience and future readiness.
Data from the progress reports of NGOs over the first year reveals that the fund utilisation data corroborates with the expectations the GROW Fund had at the start. Data reveals that NGOs put a strong focus on sustaining organisations and then segway into actioning on Capacity Building and Organisation Development Initiatives to address resilience and future readiness. NGOs have used almost 90% of funds under the core costs towards HR, supporting their office costs and helped them retain people and continue their operations.

Organisations growth journey is divided into various stages. These stages are Identify & Initiate, Develop, Adopt, and Complete. It was observed from the data that about 3/4th of the NGOs were in the inception stage (i.e., Identify & Initiate) in the first quarter while at the end of the year, data shows that over 80% of NGOs are in the next stage of their growth journey. This indicates a significant journey NGOs have made towards the resilience-building and future-readiness objectives of GROW. We can also observe here that the progression of the GROW has been very organic where NGOs first invested in the core costs and worked to sustain themselves and then initiated actions on building themselves.

**SOME OF THE KEY FINDINGS ARE:**

About 70% of the organisations recognised M&E and IT as areas that needed improvement. Organisations have rightfully invested funds in transitioning from manual data management to an automated system, which enables real-time data updates, as well as effective field data management. They also recognise the importance of training their staff to utilise the technological tools and resources effectively.

More than 75% of the organisations identified HR as an area that needed more focus. Currently, organisations have also recognised how crucial competently skilled human resources are towards the accomplishment of operations and initiatives: they are boosting efficiency, sustainability, and future-readiness from Q1 to Q4 by investing in upskilling initiatives, optimising HR processes, and coordinating HR strategies with business objectives.

Organisations reflected a sustainable and forward-looking approach towards utilising the grant money for capacity building and organisation development: they are focusing on internal staff training to reduce dependency on external experts and vendors. This strategy will help them to become more self-reliant.

The year has also been full of learnings and revelations for the GROW Fund. All our partners have contributed significantly to strengthening systems, approaches, data, and analysis so that NGOs can be supported and enabled towards their journey of developing resilience and future readiness and unleashing their respective potential in creating grassroots impact.

As we enter the 2nd year of our grant the NGOs are more geared up for taking ahead the resilience building and future readiness initiative in the form of organisation development projects.
Government Primary School Bekariywad, located in the remote block of Kotra in Southern Rajasthan, serves children from tribal communities who primarily rely on farming, agricultural labour, and construction work. The school faces various challenges, including seasonal migration, limited parental engagement, and inadequate infrastructure. Despite these obstacles, the school staff has undertaken collaborative efforts to address these issues and support the student's learning outcomes.

In 2018, the headmaster recognised the need for improvement in the school's infrastructure and learning environment. The lack of a boundary wall, proper water and sanitation facilities, and sufficient utensils for midday meals hindered the students' education. Irregular student attendance due to seasonal migration and limited parental involvement further compounded the challenges faced by the school.

To address these issues, the school partnered with iDiscover fellows to strengthen its relationship with the community and implement collaborative solutions. The first step was to establish a School Management Committee (SMC) to bridge the gap between the school and the community. However, community engagement was initially low, so the teachers and fellows conducted rotational home visits to build connections and trust with parents. This effort resulted in a successful general body meeting with 50-60 parents and community members, leading to the formation of an SMC comprising 16 members.

With the SMC in place, the school focused on developing a shared vision for improvement. A school development plan was created to address infrastructure challenges, including the construction of a boundary wall, installation of drinking water facilities, provision of sanitation facilities, and availability of utensils for midday meals. The SMC also proposed regularising parent-teacher engagements to enhance home-based support and improve student attendance.

During the pandemic-induced school closures, the school capitalised on the opportunity to strengthen relationships with parents and community members. Hamlet learning circles were organised, employing a story-based pedagogy called "Pathshala ki Ghanti Bajao" to support foundational learning and promote social and emotional well-being. Parents actively participated in hamlet-based meetings to discuss their children's progress, resulting in a 90% return rate of students within a month of reopening post-COVID.

To bridge the two-year learning gap caused by the pandemic, the school implemented the 'Rajasthan ke Shiksha me Badhte Kadam' bridge courses. These courses were designed collaboratively with the involvement of children, teachers, fellows, and parents. Local language, manipulatives from the environment, and concrete learning materials were integrated to establish a stronger connection between students' everyday experiences and their textbooks. Fellows and teachers distributed learning groups and facilitated teaching and learning experiences tailored to students' needs.
The collaborative efforts of fellows, teachers, and community members have yielded significant improvements. Attendance rates have substantially increased, with over 70% attendance in various grade levels. Learning outcomes have been enhanced, with students demonstrating improved numeracy skills and conceptual clarity in shapes, patterns, and basic arithmetic operations. Language skills have also improved, with a notable increase in reading abilities.

Parental engagement and participation have improved, with regular home visits, adult literacy sessions for mothers, and orientations on supporting children’s education. Parents actively contribute resources, attend meetings, and support school functions, showcasing their commitment to their children’s education.

The collaborative approach has empowered the community to take ownership of the school’s development. SMC members actively contribute to infrastructure improvements, including providing utensils for mid-day meals, repairing hand pumps, and conducting regular classroom visits. Their engagement in cleanliness drives and support for future construction projects highlight their commitment to the school’s long-term development.

The success of this collaborative endeavour demonstrates the power of collective action in overcoming challenges and achieving sustainable improvements in public schools. The school’s transformation has not only improved the learning environment but has also fostered a sense of community ownership, resilience, and the belief that every child deserves the opportunity to thrive. The school continues its journey, building upon these achievements and ensuring continued progress in providing a conducive and engaging environment for all students.
“For the past five years, MANUVIKASA has collaborated with the EdelGive Foundation to impact over 16000 women through financial inclusion, entrepreneurial development, skilling, employment creation, and access to irrigation for small farmers through lake revitalisation. The EdelGive Foundation representatives were courteous and collaborative throughout planning, implementation, and monitoring. We are grateful to the EdelGive Foundation for maintaining our trust amid the Covid-19 crisis and for providing additional and accelerating help through the GROW Fund.

We are fortunate to have worked with the EdelGive Foundation; our organisational management capabilities, including human resources, finance, technological adaptation, and communication, have improved.”

GANAPATI BHAT
Managing Trustee
Capacity Building & Employee Engagement
At Edelweiss, employees with a wide range of talents, expertise, and skills contribute their utmost to the workplace, combining their strengths to achieve remarkable outcomes in the pursuit of social change. Each employee has their own superpower, whether it’s strategic thinking, creativity, problem-solving, or relationship-building. They recognise the power of togetherness towards a single mission, that fuels their commitment of creating a meaningful and lasting impact on the ground. By continuously engaging in volunteering activities, the team has taken efforts to participate and expand their experiences of the work done by various organisations, transforming the lives of children, women, men, and communities at large.

EdelGive Foundation draws on commitment of Edelweiss employee volunteer pool and external (volunteer) agencies to cater to NGO needs. This year, Edelweiss volunteering has grown with:

- 9 virtual activities including in-kind donation drives
- Over ₹22 Lakh raised through employee donations

“Our partnership with EdelGive Foundation over the past few years has been truly exceptional. Our relationship with EdelGive has transcended traditional funding dynamics into becoming a partnership. We see ourselves as equal, and as a team working together to address a cause that resonates with both organisations. EdelGive Foundation actively engages in meaningful dialogues with us, seeking to understand the issues we tackle and our aspirations. They genuinely listen to our perspectives and motivations. The collaboration goes beyond financial support and extends to open and inspiring conversations.

When EdelGive began supporting us in 2016, our organisation was undergoing a transition phase. This collaboration played a vital role in strengthening our foundation and propelling us forward in pursuit of our vision—an egalitarian society where women are recognised as equal individuals.

Overall, our partnership has been characterised by mutual respect, active engagement, and a shared passion for making a positive impact. We are grateful for their support, which has helped us advance our cause and work towards a brighter tomorrow.”

MS RENU MISHRA
Executive Director, AALI Founder & Chief Functionary, LeapForWord
Umang Unlimited in collaboration with ETLI

• Unlimited Umang - Our Skilled Volunteering campaign in collaboration with Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance has won the Best Project - ICONS 2022.

• Volunteers from ETLI had conducted skilled volunteering sessions on topics like banking and financial literacy, customer relationship & retail sales and English speaking for women from Mann Deshi Foundation and youth from Antarang Foundation.

Creating socially sensitive leaders with Apnalaya

25 Employees from the corporate business group participated in a two-hour activity-based session. An initiative with a focus on ‘Creating Socially Sensitive and Responsive Leaders’ to sensitise corporate leadership and help them see the important role they can play in the urban ecosystem and in improving the quality of life of people in this ecosystem, doing all of this while achieving professional goals conducted by Yasmin Mulla, Director-Citizenship at Apnalaya.

Session conducted by Apnalaya team for Edelweiss business group.

Session on 'Creating Socially Sensitive and Responsive Leaders' by Yasmin Mulla, Diretor -Citizenship at Apnalaya

Tokio Life Insurance has won the Best Project - ICONS 2022.
Collective action played a crucial role in the story of Adhikar Sakhi and the Community for MGNREGA in Gurjarpur village, Block Ramgarh-Alwar. Three years ago, Rekha became an Adhikar Sakhi and took it upon herself to raise awareness among women about their rights and entitlements. The women in the local community were facing difficulties in accessing MGNREGA work, a matter that was repeatedly discussed in Village Rights Committee (VRC) meetings and training sessions.

Recognising the need to address this issue, the women voiced their concerns in the VRC meetings and decided to take action to claim their rights. However, some members were unsure as they had never approached government officials or elected representatives before. Rekha provided the necessary confidence and guidance, and together, all the members developed a collective plan of action.

A total of 117 women filled and submitted form number 6, which demanded MGNREGA work for themselves at the Gram Panchayat. Although the Gram Panchayat Secretary assured them that they would receive work, they did not receive any acknowledgement or receipt for their demand form. After weeks passed without any work allocation, the women realised that the secretary was intentionally neglecting their requests.

In response to this mistreatment, the women collectively revisited the Gram Panchayat. This time, the Panchayat secretary openly refused to provide them with any MGNREGA work. Undeterred, the women joined forces and hired a tractor to travel together to the Government block office in Ramgarh. They patiently waited until the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) gave them an opportunity to present their issue.

Impressed by their determination and initiative, the SDM acted by instructing the Block Development Officer (BDO) to address the matter promptly. Consequently, the women members successfully received the allocation of MGNREGA work within the next two days.

However, their victory did not end there. Three days into their work, the women discovered that their attendance was not being registered on the online portal. Dissatisfied with the response from the Panchayat secretary, they revisited the SDM’s office and raised the issue of non-registration of attendance. Eventually, the attendance of 110 women was registered in the Online Application, thanks to the collective efforts of the community.

This triumph became a significant milestone for the women, as they realised that relying on the system alone would not deliver the desired results. Instead, they understood the importance of demanding their rights collectively. By coming together, they not only compelled the system to recognise their existence but also ensured the fulfilment of their rightful entitlements.

Women Using The Power Of Collectivisation
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