



## January 2026 NEWSLETTER

Take a moment to pause, reflect and reconnect with the communities we serve, the partners who walk beside us, and the purpose that guides our work.

Across cities and villages, our efforts have continued to centre on what matters most. This newsletter brings together stories from the field, voices from our team, and glimpses of impact made possible through collective commitment.



### CONTENT

1. Key Interventions
2. Voice from the Field
3. Stories that Inspire
4. Gallery

## KEY INTERVENTIONS

# RECHARGING THE GROUND BENEATH BENGALURU

Bengaluru's rapid urban growth has placed increasing pressure on its groundwater resources. As the city expanded, natural recharge areas were reduced, and surface runoff during monsoons often led to flooding rather than replenishment of the soil. The impact of this imbalance is felt across communities that depend on groundwater for everyday needs.

To respond to this challenge, **percolation tanks** were constructed to support groundwater recharge while also managing rainwater runoff. These structures allow rainwater to slowly seep into the ground, helping **restore natural water cycles and reduce pressure on existing sources.**

As part of this effort, Concern India Foundation designed and constructed **25 percolation wells at Kadugodi Tree Park, Whitefield, in 2024-25.** We are currently in the process of constructing around **80 wells** across the city. Each well is built with natural filtration layers that enable rainwater to percolate safely into the ground. Every well has the capacity to recharge over 1.28 lakh litres of rainwater annually.

Beyond replenishing groundwater, the project supports improved soil moisture retention and helps reduce the risk of urban flooding caused by surface runoff. It also encourages community awareness and shared responsibility around water conservation an essential step toward long-term climate resilience in urban spaces. By working with natural systems and local landscapes, this initiative contributes to strengthening Bengaluru's capacity to manage water more sustainably.





## WEAVING TRADITION INTO SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

India's handloom heritage carries generations of skill, patience and cultural memory. In regions like Chirala, Andhra Pradesh, weaving is its identity. As markets evolve, the challenge lies not in the craft itself, but in equipping skilled weavers to respond to changing design trends, quality expectations and market access.

Our programs have worked alongside weavers to strengthen livelihoods by combining their craft knowledge with market readiness. **Since 2021**, we have trained over **970 weavers**. participated in structured skill-building programmes designed to address knowledge gaps. These interventions aimed to improve productivity, adapt to new tools, and present products more effectively in the marketplace.

The programme introduced contemporary design thinking, colour forecasting, and product diversification, while carefully preserving Chirala's distinctive weaving patterns

**Digital marketing** support further enabled weavers to use platforms such as Instagram, YouTube and WhatsApp Business, helping them reach customers directly and **reduce dependence on middlemen**.

For many participants, these efforts led to tangible outcomes. Several weavers reported a **25-50% increase** in sales, with monthly earnings rising by **₹5,000 to ₹20,000** after the training. More importantly, the interventions strengthened confidence, dignity and long-term sustainability in a craft that continues to deserve recognition and value.

Building on this momentum, Concern India Foundation continues its engagement this year as well, further strengthening the skills and resilience of the Chirala weaver community through sustained, long-term support.

## VOICE FROM THE FIELD

### DEVELOPMENT WORK MATTERS IN THE FIRST PLACE

My visit to Banki in Cuttack district, Odisha, stayed with me long after I returned. It was a beautiful reminder of why development work matters in the first place. Walking through the community, what struck me most were the smiles that were full of belief.

During the visit, I witnessed honey-harvesting demonstrations, watching frames heavy with honeycombs being lifted. Seeing beeswax-based products created by the community made the work feel tangible and alive. We also planted saplings together, a simple yet deeply symbolic act that strengthened our connection and reminded us of our shared responsibility to the land and the people who depend on it.

I was most excited to hear local women speak about receiving government support to **establish 100 bee colonies with a 50% subsidy**. They shared that the success of this project built trust with government agencies for their continued support.

I left Odisha with deep gratitude for the communities who trusted us and for the continued belief in long-term, patient change. This visit reaffirmed a truth I hold close: when development is rooted in respect, partnership, and local wisdom, it creates ripples of impact that lived, shared, and felt.

**Gloria Bhagat | Fundraising Team**

*Project Coordinator for DCB's Beekeeping Project*



## VISITING A PROJECT BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER...



*“Visiting a project before, during, and after completion is like watching a film you’ve helped make; every frame carries meaning.”*

My visits to Primary Health Centres in Nashik have stayed with me. In rural and tribal communities, these centres are often the only place people can turn to when a **health emergencies strike**, when a **child needs care**, or when a **mother needs reassurance**. Yet many PHCs and sub-centres continue to struggle, held back by limited resources, incomplete infrastructure, and gaps that turn intention into delay.

The Vaitarna PHC stands ready, yet quiet. Built to serve **14 villages** and more than 20,000 people, it has the potential to care for nearly 1,200 patients every month. And yet, its doors remain closed from a lack of basic resources. Standing on site, it becomes clear that timely support can change everything. I am glad to be part of this change with Concern India Foundation.

With the right interventions, this space can come alive, becoming a **place of care and health security**. Sometimes, impact is not about building something new; it’s about breathing life into what already exists and helping it truly serve the people who need it most.

**Haseena Z Dubash | Fundraising Team**

*Project Coordinator for Health Project SBI CAPS*

## STORIES THAT INSPIRE WHEN OPPORTUNITY MEETS DETERMINATION



Reema was born with low vision, but her dreams were never limited by it. From an early age, she was determined to rise, to learn, and one day help others find their way.

In a system that relied heavily on oral teaching methods, Reema faced early challenges. Learning became difficult and isolating. What she needed was not sympathy, but the right support at the right time.

With guidance and support from Concern, she gained access to Braille education, the Taylor frame, and computer skills. Supported by committed teachers and an enabling learning environment, she adapted quickly. A keen and eager learner, she soon transitioned into a mainstream school, where her academic performance spoke for itself.

Reema consistently ranked among the top students, scoring 86% in Class 10 and 89.5% in Class 12 in the commerce stream.

She went on to pursue an Integrated BBA programme at IIM Rohtak, an achievement that once seemed unimaginable. The institute ensured accessibility through the provision of writers, talking calculators, and adapted examination papers, allowing Reema to focus on what truly mattered: her learning and growth.

Today, Reema's journey has come a full circle. She mentors young students who, like her, are struggling to find their path, proving that with the right support, potential can be unlocked and dreams can grow far beyond perceived limitations.

## STORIES THAT INSPIRE REBUILDING LIFE WITH DETERMINATION

In Medipally village, Hyderabad, Paloju Chandrakala is redefining resilience through entrepreneurship. After the passing of her husband, she faced severe financial hardship and began a small tailoring and spices business, earning just ₹10,000–₹12,000 per month.



Determined to build a stable future, she enrolled in the Entrepreneurship Development Program by Concern India Foundation.

This program focuses on providing structured training, covering modules such as:

- A one-day Orientation
- Two days of Marketing Survey training
- Three days of Generate Your Business Idea (GYB) sessions
- Five days of Start Your Business modules

Through an Industrial Exposure Visit Chandrakala, she gained the skills and confidence to scale her enterprise. Investing ₹1,50,000 through her Self-Help Group, she expanded her spices business and now plans to construct a two-room shed to increase production.

Today, her monthly income has grown to ₹30,000, bringing financial security and renewed confidence to her family. Chandrakala has truly created her own path from hardship to hope, from uncertainty to stability

# GALLERY



Mumbai Marathon 2026



Customer Relation management Training for Women



Design Training for Weavers of Chirala



Beekeeping Project- Odisha

# GALLERY



Employee Engagement: Tree Plantation



Employee Engagement  
Career guidance session



Mangroves Restoration



Colours of Concern



Colours of Concern

**CLICK TO FOLLOW & EXPLORE**

