



SATYARTHI

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ABOUT KAILASH SATYARTHI CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION

Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation (KSCF), founded by Nobel Peace Laureate Kailash Satyarthi, is a leader in child protection and child development. It envisions a world free of violence against children, and works on an array of issues that affect vulnerable children and their families.

Building on Satyarthi's work of over 40 years on promoting and protecting child rights, KSCF works in partnership with multi stakeholders both at the grassroots and global level, with governments, businesses, civil society, communities and children.



BAL MITRA GRAM™

Bal Mitra Gram™ (BMG™) is a transformative grassroots solution for complex issues which adversely affect the protection and well-being of rural children. Highly cost-effective and sustainable, this model promotes the best interests of children through child-centric community development. It empowers children to take democratic action to secure their rights, and enables parents and other stakeholders to stand up for their rights and build a protective community. A BMG™ thus creates a safety net around children to protect them from all forms of abuse and exploitation.

Objectives of the BMG programme are:

- Protect children from all forms of exploitation such as child labour, trafficking, slavery, child marriage, etc.
- Ensure that all children are enrolled in schools and receive quality education
- Incubate child leadership through formation of Bal Panchayats Children's Councils
- Ensure that Bal Panchayats receive recognition from the Gram Panchayat (Village Council) so that the two councils work together on issues related to children
- Empower communities including women, youth, and marginalised/vulnerable sections of society to ensure child protection, child education, child health and nutrition

Consolidated Impact 2022–23

Areas of Impact	Total Achievements
Children mainstreamed/enrolled in schools	462+
Children supported through remedial/digital/library initiatives	3,000+
Survivors of CSA supported with legal/rehabilitation aid	487
Convictions secured in CSA cases	58
Compensation awarded to survivors	₹1.65 crore (236 survivors)
Community members sensitised	16,000+
Child leaders elected/nurtured	400+
Women & girls trained (livelihood/self-defence)	242+
Child protection officials trained	3,478+
Vaccinations & health support	1,192+ beneficiaries
Sanitary pads distributed	20,559 pads

PROJECTS

Games 24*7 | Accelerating Child-Led Advocacy: Karnataka

In 2023, the movement in Karnataka strengthened its foundation by placing children at the forefront of advocacy and community action. Through awareness campaigns, participatory governance, and enhanced learning opportunities, the programme empowered child leaders and mobilized communities towards sustainable change.

1. Child-Led Advocacy and Campaigns

- 20 child-led anti-child labour rallies conducted across communities, engaging 780+ participants.
- 4,000+ citizens sensitized through grassroots awareness campaigns, emphasizing the importance of “Education for All.”

2. Education and Digital Access

- Installed digital classrooms in 8 schools, benefiting 1,500+ students and improving access to quality learning.

3. Participatory Governance

- Organized the Makkala Gram Sabha in Kudasoge, enabling 187 children from six villages to participate in local governance processes.

4. Community Mobilization and Leadership

- Facilitated 199 community council meetings to ensure local ownership of child rights initiatives.
- Involved 2,592 stakeholders and nurtured 220 active child leaders, creating a strong base for sustained advocacy.

BAJAJ- Prevention and Protection of Children from Sexual Abuse and Trafficking

In 2023, the movement in Karnataka strengthened its foundation by placing children at the forefront of advocacy and community action. Through awareness campaigns, participatory governance, and enhanced learning opportunities, the programme empowered child leaders and mobilized communities toward sustainable change.

1. Case Management & Direct Support

- 487 cases of child sexual abuse supported in Rajasthan and Maharashtra
- 58 convictions secured, setting legal precedents
- Rs 1.65 crore in compensation awarded to 236 child survivors
- 193 bail applications of accused rejected
- 4,998 home visits conducted to guide and support survivors and families
- 487 survivors received legal counselling and basic psychosocial counselling

2. Policy Advocacy

- Submitted detailed recommendations on:
 - Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015
 - Prohibition of Child Marriage (Amendment) Bill, 2021
 - Amendments made in the National Child Labour Policy
 - Mission Vatsalya Guidelines and Child Care Institution indicators
- Juvenile Justice Rules framed and notified in Madhya Pradesh; draft rules submitted in Himachal Pradesh
- Supported Andhra Pradesh in drafting state-specific child protection policy; Kerala in drafting rules under child labour law
- Advocacy on Fast Track Special Courts, POCSO Act implementation, and child marriage free India echoed by MWCD

3. Training & Capacity Building

- 3,478 child protection functionaries trained, including:
 - Police personnel, Child Welfare Committees, Juvenile Justice Boards, DCPUs, RPF, and Anti-Human Trafficking Units.
- Training topics included:
 - Police procedures in CSA cases.
 - Child-friendly approaches.
 - POCSO Act provisions and victim compensation.
- Developed handbooks, modules, and key pointers as ready reckoners.

4. Research & Knowledge Building

- Completed 2 major studies:
 - Implementation of POCSO Act in India – identified backlog of cases, FTSC needs, and systemic gaps.
 - Cybercrimes against children in India – analysed NCRB data (2017–2021), highlighting alarming trends.
- Drafted Study on Child Marriages in India and their adverse health impact.

Results Achieved

- 487 children supported with legal and rehabilitation services.
- 58 perpetrators convicted, reinforcing deterrence.
- 236 survivors received compensation, enabling financial relief.
- Policy-level influence at state and central government, shaping future laws and rules.
- Thousands of child protection officials trained, strengthening systemic capacity nationwide.

Case Story – Aasma's Courage

Fourteen-year-old Aasma (name changed) hails from Maharashtra's Jalgaon. Her father is a truck driver, mother a housewife and she has three siblings. Aasma went through a harrowing experience that her family couldn't even imagine.

She had suddenly started complaining of constant stomach pain and was even hesitant to go to school. Unsure of what to do, her family took her to a doctor to get her diagnosed. To their shock, it was found that Aasma was three months pregnant. She finally confided in her mother that one of the teachers at the Madrasa where she was studying had been sexually abusing her for months. Her mother immediately took her to the police station and got an FIR filed, following which the accused was taken into custody.

Thereafter, Aasma was presented before the Child Welfare Committee and her abortion was done with consent. A KSCF support person was appointed by the CWC to ensure that Aasma received the required support. Regular home visits were done to make sure that Aasma and her family were at ease, and counselling was provided to her.

KSCF also helped file a case, and after three court hearings bail for the accused was rejected. Unfortunately, after the case was registered Aasma's education got affected as the Madrasa closed down. Along with the community members, KSCF raised this concern before the Madrasa Board. Subsequently, a female teacher was appointed and Aasma's education resumed after a gap.

HCL Foundation Supported CSR Programme

The project “Bringing Children Back to School Post COVID-19” aims to protect children from exploitation, ensure their enrollment and retention in schools, and strengthen child protection systems in Noida and Lucknow. With the support of HCL Foundation, the intervention works with 22 schools and 22 communities, focusing on awareness generation, child leadership, and building a safe, inclusive learning environment.

1. Education & Enrollment

- During the reporting period, a strong emphasis was placed on bringing children back to school and ensuring their retention. In the first quarter (Apr–Jun), 52 children were newly enrolled in schools. As part of follow-up interventions, direct home visits were conducted to re-engage irregular children, resulting in 15 children regularised back into schools during October–November. The Surakshit Bachpan Yatra further strengthened outreach, engaging over 2,300 children and reaching nearly 12,000 community members with messages on child protection and the importance of education.
- These interventions ensured that children who were most vulnerable to dropping out, and were at risk of being thrown back into labour or married off were retained in school, while creating wider community awareness about the importance of education in safeguarding children’s futures.



2. Child Leadership through Bal Panchayats

- Child participation was institutionalised through the formation and strengthening of Bal Panchayats. In Apr–Jun, new Bal Panchayats were established in 10 schools and 4 communities. Elections witnessed enthusiastic participation, with 1,400+ children casting their votes and 110 child leaders (56 boys and 54 girls) being elected. By Oct–Nov, Bal Panchayat meetings had become routine, with 20 meetings conducted where child leaders raised critical issues such as school cleanliness, safe mid-day meals, and irregular attendance.
- These Bal Panchayats have become platforms for children to practice democracy, leadership, and advocacy. They are not just symbolic bodies but are actively influencing decision-making, driving accountability, and ensuring that children's voices are heard within schools and communities.

3. Community Mobilisation & Awareness

- The project worked closely with the larger community to build a protective ecosystem around children. In Apr–Jun, 20 local shop owners pledged to make Noida child-labour free, demonstrating private sector engagement in child protection. During Jul–Sep, 450 children and 150 community members participated in Jan Chaupals to better understand the Right to Education Act, while 285 women and children came together for Mahila Panchayats to discuss issues such as child marriage and child abuse. In October–November, anti-firecracker and child safety campaigns reached over 220 children, reinforcing safe and sustainable practices.
- These initiatives not only raised awareness but also ensured that different segments of society—shopkeepers, parents, women, youth, and community leaders—took ownership of child protection, making it a shared community responsibility rather than the sole duty of schools or NGOs.

4. Training & Capacity Building

- Capacity-building remained a cornerstone of the intervention. During Jul–Sep, 10 training sessions were held for Bal Panchayat members, reaching 110 elected child leaders, while 65 SMC members, teachers, and Anganwadi staff were trained on child rights and safety. In Oct–Nov, emphasis was placed on improving daily practices in schools, with morning assemblies strengthened across 10 schools to promote hygiene, discipline, confidence, and public speaking.
- By equipping children, teachers, and community stakeholders with practical knowledge and tools, the project is building long-term capacity to identify, respond to, and prevent violations of child rights. This strengthens sustainability and reduces dependency on external interventions.

5. Celebrations & Public Events

- Public celebrations and events were strategically used to reinforce messages of child protection and participation. In Jul-Sep, Independence Day was celebrated with 650 children and 71 community members, while the innovative Raksha Bandhan – Suraksha Bandhan campaign saw child leaders tying rakhis to police officials, teachers, and community leaders, seeking their commitment to protecting children. In Oct-Nov, Children's Day was celebrated across 10 schools, with storytelling, cultural programs, and sports activities, reinforcing joy and solidarity among children.
- These events created moments of pride and visibility for children, positioning them as equal participants in society while also engaging adults in meaningful pledges and commitments towards child protection.



Case Story

Upendra, a 12-year-old from the Chhalera community, often missed school to help his parents with household chores. During the lockdown, when his parents lost their jobs, they pulled him out of school altogether, unable to bear the expenses and wanting him to care for his sibling while they worked. When his teachers raised the issue with the KSCF team, they immediately intervened. After several discussions with his parents and encouragement from the teachers, Upendra was re-enrolled in school.

Soon after, he contested the Bal Panchayat elections and was elected President. This new role ignited his leadership qualities. Today, Upendra not only attends school regularly but also monitors the attendance of other children in his community and leads awareness activities to ensure no child is left behind.

Nisha, a 10-year-old from the Kulsera community, serves as the Vice President of the Bal Panchayat. In a community where girls are rarely recognised, she has become a symbol of their strength and potential. Her decision to contest the Bal Panchayat election was celebrated by teachers and inspired many girls in her school and neighbourhood.

Since her election, Nisha has taken on responsibilities such as monitoring school attendance, maintaining discipline, and ensuring adherence to COVID-19 protocols.

Stories like Nisha's show that when children are empowered as leaders, they not only transform their own lives but also uplift their peers—proving that children are powerful agents of systemic change.

Overall Impact

From April to November 2022, the project reached over 12,000 people directly through awareness campaigns, training, and events. It institutionalised child participation through Bal Panchayats, mobilised communities against child labour and child marriage, and engaged government officials, police, and market associations as partners in child protection. Schools became safer and more inclusive, with improved hygiene, better monitoring of attendance, and stronger student participation.

The intervention has gone beyond short-term enrollment drives to creating a sustainable ecosystem of protection and education. By empowering children as leaders, mobilising communities, and engaging institutions, the project has laid the foundation for a society where every child is safe, protected, and in school.

Conclusion

Supported by HCL Foundation, this project has demonstrated that child-led and community-supported interventions can effectively break cycles of exploitation and ensure the right to education. The success seen so far indicates that with continued investment and collective action, the vision of child-friendly communities—free from child labour, child marriage, and abuse—can become a lasting reality.

The Pad Project – Rajasthan

In rural Rajasthan, women and adolescent girls continue to face multiple challenges surrounding menstrual health and hygiene. Limited access to affordable and hygienic products, inadequate sanitation facilities, deep-rooted social stigma, and misinformation perpetuate unsafe practices. Cultural taboos prevent open dialogue, while frontline health workers (ASHAs, ANMs, and GNMs) often hesitate to address the issue due to social barriers. These gaps lead to health risks, missed educational opportunities, and restrictions on mobility and dignity for adolescent girls.

To address these challenges, the Pad Project intervention was launched with a dual approach: (1) ensuring access to affordable sanitary pads through production and distribution, and (2) driving awareness, capacity building, and behaviour change to break stigmas and promote sustainable menstrual hygiene management (MHM).

Awareness and Capacity Building

Training of Frontline Health Workers (January 2024)

- Conducted a comprehensive Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) training at the Community Health Center in Thanagazi, Alwar.
- **110 frontline health workers** (ASHAs, ANMs, GNMs).
- Training focused on biological aspects of menstruation, hygienic practices, product use, sustainable waste management, and engaging men in menstrual health discourse.
- Sessions included interactive activities, video screenings (e.g., Meri Saheli Meri Maa, Sayani Sudha), group discussions, and myth-busting exercises.
- IEC materials were distributed to reinforce learning at the community level.

Key Learnings and Outcomes:

- Improved knowledge and confidence among health workers to openly discuss menstruation.
- Health workers pledged to break stigma and promote awareness in their families and villages.
- Male involvement encouraged inclusivity, challenging traditional gender stereotypes.
- Testimonies highlighted that participants felt empowered to improve practices and promote hygiene in their communities.

Case Insight – Testimonies

“The training was very meaningful for us. Every session highlighted the importance of menstrual hygiene for women and adolescent girls. Your slogan ‘Chupi Todo – Khulkar Bolo’ deeply resonated with us—it will inspire women to become more conscious about their health and to educate their sisters and daughters at home. With this knowledge, women can break free from orthodox practices and adopt healthier ones. ASHAs and colleagues like me will carry this learning forward to raise awareness in our communities, helping women prevent infections and safeguard their health. We are truly grateful for this vital knowledge and your commitment to women’s well-being.”

— Poonam, ANM, PHC Ajabgarh



Awareness and Behaviour Change Campaigns

MHM Carvaan Campaign – September 2023

- Deployed awareness vans with loudspeakers across **124 villages**.
- Focused on:
 - Spreading correct information on MHM.
 - Demonstrating sustainable pad disposal solutions (matka incinerators).
 - Engaging communities with slogans in regional languages such as:
 - “Masik dharm par gyaan de, nari shakti ka samman karein.”
 - “Mahavari ko samjhein, yeh hai nari shakti ki nishani.”
- Direct outreach to:
 - **55+ government schools**
 - **3,500+ girls, 1,500 youth, and 700 women across 50 Anganwadi centres.**

Impact:

Strengthened knowledge on hygiene practices, promoted dignity in menstruation, and involved communities—including men and youth—in dismantling stigma.

Production and Distribution

- **Manufacturing:** Produced **110 packets** containing **770 sanitary pads**.
- **Distribution :** **2,937** packets of sanitary napkins, containing 20,559 pads each, distributed,
- **Sales:** **609 packets sold**, generating **INR 4,575**, promoting sustainability.

This dual approach of free distribution alongside income generation ensured both equity and sustainability.



Outcomes and Impact

1. **Increased Access:** Thousands of women and girls accessed sanitary pads at no cost, reducing dependency on unsafe alternatives.
2. **Behavioural Shifts:** Improved willingness among women and health workers to discuss menstruation openly; men also engaged in awareness drives.
3. **Capacity Building:** Health workers empowered with practical knowledge, tools, and confidence to train others.
4. **Community Mobilisation:** Large-scale campaigns reached 5,700+ direct participants across villages, creating ripple effects of awareness.
5. **Breaking Stigma:** Testimonies reflected growing confidence in women and girls to speak about menstruation without shame.



Conclusion

The Pad Project has emerged as a transformative intervention in rural Rajasthan by addressing both access and attitudes. Through production and distribution of pads, large-scale awareness campaigns, and targeted training of frontline health workers, the initiative has fostered dignity, improved health outcomes, and challenged cultural taboos surrounding menstruation.

The testimonies of participants highlight the deeply personal impact of this initiative—where silence is being broken, myths are being dispelled, and communities are gradually embracing healthier and more equitable menstrual practices.

BAL MITRA MANDAL

Programme Overview

The **Bal Mitra Mandal (BMM)** initiative supported by **ENAM Asset Management** is an innovative, child-centric model designed to address the complex challenges of child protection and community development in urban slum communities.

The programme emphasizes **education, child leadership, gender equality, and community participation**, while also addressing cross-cutting issues such as water, sanitation, hygiene, livelihood, and child rights. By building democratic structures such as Bal Panchayats (Children's Councils), BMM ensures that children are not only protected but also actively participate in shaping their communities.

Programme Objectives

- Prevent child labour, child marriage, and abuse through awareness and community vigilance.
- Ensure access to quality education and skill development for all children.
- Empower community groups (Bal Parishad, Yuva Mandal, Mahila Mandal) to lead local change.
- Link families to government welfare schemes for improved social protection.
- Strengthen local institutions to sustain child rights and protection systems.

Programme Highlights

1. School Chalo Abhiyan

- Implemented across 8 slum communities to ensure universal school enrolment and attendance.
- Child leaders conducted door-to-door visits, rallies, and awareness drives.
- 167 children participated in rallies.
- 77 children successfully enrolled under the EWS quota in schools.
- Creative tools such as a School Chalo Abhiyan song and Nukkad Natak enhanced community engagement.

2. Awareness Rallies on Thematic Issues

- Conducted 55 rallies on critical child rights issues:
 - Anti-cracker campaigns.
 - Anti-child marriage rallies.
 - Plastic-Free India campaign.
 - Anti-drug campaigns.
- Reached 10,000+ community members, reinforcing awareness and collective responsibility.

3. Training on Child Rights

- 25 training sessions conducted on:
 - Safe and unsafe touch.
 - Menstrual hygiene management.
 - Child marriage prevention.
 - Online safety, cybercrime, and child sexual abuse material (CSAM).
- Benefited 750 children across the 8 communities.

4. Self-Defence Training

- Conducted with the support of women police officers.
- Trained 78 women and 150 adolescent girls to respond effectively in unsafe situations.

5. Child Council Elections (Bal Panchayats)

- 88 child leaders elected democratically across all communities.
- Councils conduct regular monthly meetings, raising issues like education, sanitation, and child protection.
- Strengthened child leadership and democratic participation.

6. Health & Hygiene Workshops

- Focused on improving awareness and practices among children and families.





7. Street Plays (Nukkad Nataks)

- 78 plays created and performed by children.
- Covered child rights, child protection, environmental sustainability, and hygiene.
- Built ownership among children to become change agents in their own communities.

8. Remedial Classes

- 4 centres established in Child Development Centres.
- Subjects: English, Science, and Mathematics.
- 89 children attended sessions daily.

9. Career Counselling for Adolescents

- Special focus on students of Class X and XII preparing for board examinations.
- 12 sessions conducted with career guidance and scholarship information.
- Benefited 287 adolescents, improving their access to higher education opportunities.

10. Government Scheme Linkages

- Families connected to essential welfare schemes, Aadhaar enrolment, and entitlements.
- 570 families benefitted, strengthening social safety nets.

Impact Achieved

- **23,411 children protected** from exploitation and harmful practices.
- **77 children enrolled** in schools under EWS quota.
- **88 child leaders** elected and actively leading Bal Panchayats.
- **750 children** trained on rights, protection, and online safety.
- **228 women and girls empowered** through self-defence training.
- **287 adolescents** guided for higher education and career opportunities.
- **570 families** linked to government welfare schemes, ensuring access to services.



Case Story – Sagar’s Journey

Sagar, a youth from Shankar Camp, grew up in challenging conditions where education was not easily accessible. A member of the BMM youth group since 2018, Sagar once faced difficulties in continuing his own studies. Despite this, his determination became an inspiration for others in his community.

When Sagar noticed that many children in his locality were irregular in school and struggling academically, he took the initiative to start remedial classes in Science, Mathematics, and English. For the past six months, he has been conducting daily sessions for 42 children, helping them bridge learning gaps and regain confidence in their studies.

Currently pursuing his graduation at Delhi University, Sagar balances his academic responsibilities while giving back to his community. His dream is to become a government officer, so he can drive systemic change and contribute to building a child-friendly society.

Sagar’s journey highlights the power of youth leadership and the ripple effect of empowering one individual to transform many lives.





Conclusion

The partnership with **ENAM Asset Management** has strengthened the Bal Mitra Mandal programme's efforts to ensure that every child in Delhi's urban slums is safe, educated, and empowered. By combining education, awareness, child leadership, and community participation, the initiative is building sustainable models of child protection and empowerment that can be scaled across India.

KSCF extends heartfelt gratitude to ENAM for their unwavering support in making children's rights a lived reality.

Establishing Scalable Urban Impact: Pune

The launch of the BMM programme in Pune marked a significant urban shift, focusing on education, child protection, community mobilization, and empowerment. The following highlights capture the major interventions and outcomes achieved during the reporting period.

1. Education and Community Engagement

- Conducted a robust baseline using in-house tools to understand community needs.
- Mobilized 600+ parents and community members through the Khoj Abhiyan to identify out-of-school children.
- Established 4 community libraries and conducted weekly remedial classes (in partnership with DoorStep NGO and community centres), supporting 200+ children with consistent participation.

2. Awareness and Capacity Building

- Facilitated 396 sessions on hygiene, financial literacy, and child rights, directly impacting 5,500+ individuals.
- Adopted creative platforms—puppet shows, rallies, and focus group discussions—to strengthen awareness on child protection.
- Collaborated with 7 local NGO partners to scale outreach and sustain community-level impact.

3. Skill Development and Women's Empowerment

- Conducted a 10-day plumbing course in Bhim Nagar in partnership with Dayananda Gurukool.
- 14 women successfully completed the training and received certification, enhancing their livelihood opportunities.

4. Child Empowerment and Leadership

- Organised 5 visits to police stations, war memorials, and science parks, broadening children's real-world learning and aspirations.
- Launched two major child-led initiatives in March.
- Formation of Child Parliament and an 11-member Children's Council, created through a democratic, child-led selection process.
- "Rang Badlav Ke – Paint the Change" campaign implemented across 4 urban slum communities, promoting leadership, empowerment, and collective action over a 2-month period.

"Rang Badlav Ke – Paint the Change" campaign implemented across **4 urban slum** communities, promoting leadership, empowerment, and collective action over a 2-month period.

Case Story

On October 30, 2023, child leaders in Bhim Nagar reported a disturbance from a locked house. Inside, a girl was found confined by her brothers. After being rescued, she shared her harrowing story.

Two years earlier, she had fled her village in Muzaffarpur, Bihar, following mistreatment from her mother after her father's death and her mother's remarriage. She sought refuge with her aunt in Jabalpur but was subjected to exploitation, forced labour, and abuse for two years. Later, two boys promised to take her home but instead kept her confined in Pune for a month.

Community members, including Jitendra Bhau, Pravin, and Amrapali, reported the case to the Vishrantwadi police station, leading to an FIR. Medical assessments found no physical harm, and she was placed under the care of the Child Welfare Committee (CWC), where she is now receiving counselling. Despite her trauma, she has expressed feeling safe in her new environment and wishes to remain there rather than return home.

In Indira Nagar, women's group member Gojar Jethitor learned of a six-month-old child suffering from eye cancer. The child's distraught mother, unable to afford the Rs. 56,000 operation doctors said was urgently needed, sought Gojar's help after receiving no support elsewhere.

Remembering insights from a recent youth summit, Gojar reached out to Dakshata Bhingardive, a youth leader known for organising free medical camps and having strong connections with government doctors. Dakshata immediately contacted Bharati Hospital, where she secured treatment and medicines for the child entirely free of cost.

Their quick and compassionate action not only saved the child's life but also demonstrated the power of community solidarity and the impact of leveraging skills and networks to support those in urgent need.

Conclusion

The year 2022-23 has shown that systemic change is possible when communities, children, and institutions come together with a shared vision. Our interventions have not only protected children and restored their right to education but also created pathways for leadership, equity, and justice.

The progress achieved is both measurable in numbers and immeasurable in the courage of children like Aasma, Sagar, and Bharti, whose lives inspire us to persist. With partnerships, community ownership, and child participation, we continue to move closer to a world where every child is free, safe, and educated.