



SATYARTHI

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About the Organization

The Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation (KSCF), established by Nobel Peace Laureate Mr. Kailash Satyarthi, envisions a world where every child is free, safe, and educated. Its mission is to end child exploitation through compassion-driven, community-led solutions. With a strong focus on child protection, access to education, and child participation, KSCF's flagship initiatives like Bal Mitra Gram and Bal Mitra Mandal have created impactful, scalable models for empowering vulnerable communities rural and urban alike. With over four decades of leadership in the child rights space, KSCF bridges the gap between community realities and systemic change. Its ability to work collaboratively across stakeholders' including governments, civil society, the private sector, and children themselves ensures that solutions are not only sustainable but also rooted in dignity, justice, and lived experience.

About BMG

Bal Mitra Gram (BMG) is a transformative grassroots solution for complex and interrelated problems and issues. 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 the rights of the children and build a protective community.

Objectives of the BMG Programme

1. Protecting children from all forms of exploitation, such as child labour, trafficking, slavery, and child marriage.
2. Ensuring that all children are enrolled in schools and receive quality education.
3. Incubating child leadership through the formation of Bal Panchayats (Children Councils)
4. Ensuring that Bal Panchayats receive recognition from the Gram Panchayats (Village Councils) so that the two councils work together on issues related to children.
5. Empowering communities, including women, youth, and marginalized/vulnerable sections of society, to ensure child protection, child education, child health, and nutrition.



Bal Mitra Gram (BMG)

Child Protection efforts reached thousands, making safety and dignity a community priority. Over 1,300 participants were trained in child rights laws, and nearly 1,700 more learned to identify abuse and intervene early. Film screenings on trafficking and exploitation reached more than 8,400 people, while cyber safety sessions empowered 758 children to protect themselves online. Democratic rights workshops engaged 1,201 children, and special campaigns—such as the Akshaya Tritoia initiative—raised awareness on child marriage. Awareness was woven into cultural life as wall writings and festivals like Ganesh Chaturthi and Ravan Dahan spread the message of equality and child safety. These collective efforts led to concrete results: illegal liquor shops were closed, unsafe public spaces were secured, and communities pledged against child labour and exploitation. National observances, legal literacy drives, and workshops united thousands, while direct interventions stopped 10 child marriages, rescued 13 children from labour, and secured pledges from 810 businesses never to employ minors. In total, over 10,000 people participated in rallies, workshops, and campaigns, demonstrating a community-wide commitment to protection.



Access to Education was strengthened as both a right and a pathway to empowerment. Through home visits, surveys, and enrolment drives, 1,128 children entered schools, 45 irregular students returned, and 2 children were rescued from labour and reintegrated. Retention campaigns reached nearly 3,000 children, while remedial support was scaled, 1,237 classes benefitted almost 14,700 students. Youth volunteers offered academic coaching to marginalized children, while leadership and dialogue sessions engaged more than 1,800 children in topics of stress, teamwork, and rights awareness. Digital classes and library sessions expanded access to knowledge and literacy. Community ownership grew through rallies, festivals, and awareness events, engaging over 35,000 people, from Independence Day celebrations to School Chalo Abhiyan. Girls' empowerment was prioritized with inter-village sports and leadership-building, while village chaupals spotlighted systemic gaps in sanitation and teacher availability.



Community Leadership and Engagement became the engine of sustainable change. Over 1,500 members received leadership training, while 742 youth gained career guidance and life skills. Child voices grew stronger through Bal Panchayat elections, exposure visits, and the National Bal Maha Panchayat, where more than 1,400 child leaders participated where 11 child leaders were elected across the 7 states. The Bal Mitra Ghar initiative inspired 2,900 families to pledge prioritizing safety and education within their homes. Campaigns on menstrual hygiene, WASH, labour rights, and environmental care reached thousands, while cultural initiatives like Karunamay Diwali and Compassionate Holi reinforced values of unity and justice. Sports, career guidance, and cultural events engaged over 4,000 children, linking them to schools and leadership opportunities. Governance participation also deepened, as communities submitted applications for infrastructure, advocated for GPDP inclusions, and created problem-solving platforms. Across states, 18,500 children took part in democratic elections, women mobilized against violence, and youth embraced roles as advocates for equality and environmental sustainability.



Social Protection was expanded by linking families to schemes and rights. Awareness tools included over 60 wall writings and 100 murals displaying information about welfare entitlements. Large health camps reached 2,701 people with services ranging from pediatrics to dermatology, while collective advocacy pressed for roads, water, electricity, and public transport. Hundreds of successful applications resulted in borewells, drainage systems, Anganwadi centres, transformers, and CC roads. Children and women accessed schemes such as Bal Sangopan Yojana, Kishori Samriddhi, Palanhar, pensions, and Maiya Samman Yojana (benefiting 500 women). Families were also connected to housing, ration cards, LPG, bank accounts, and Sukanya Samriddhi Yojna. Documentation drives supported Aadhaar, PAN, voter IDs, and birth certificates for 1,200+ people, generating over ₹2.6 lakh in scheme-linked support. Platforms like Samasya Samadhan Samvad enabled collective problem-solving, while 2,500 individuals continued to access welfare schemes monthly, reflecting steady integration of social protection.



Institution Building laid the foundation for long-term sustainability. Training 350 SDMC members across 20 villages improved knowledge of RTE and NEP, resulting in stronger school environments, libraries, and community advocacy against child marriage. With the support of the Labour Department and the Legal Services Authority, villagers gained access to welfare schemes, scholarships, housing provisions, and legal aid through NALSA's helpline. These initiatives equipped communities with tools to demand accountability, secure justice, and drive child-friendly development from within.

BAL MITRA MANDAL (BMM)

Bal Mitra Mandal (BMM) adapts the award-winning Bal Mitra Gram™ model to urban slums, tackling challenges of child protection, gender inequality, and community empowerment. It builds compassionate communities where children's rights are prioritized and voices heard. By focusing on education, leadership, and gender equality, BMM strengthens resilience and safeguards children. So far, 59,343 lives have been impacted and 13,843 children protected across 4 child-friendly communities. From Sept 2024–Mar 2025, BMM reached 16,294 community members and directly impacted 2,477 children, addressing child labour, trafficking, and marriage. Highlights include zero reported child marriages and 100% enrolment of out-of-school/dropout children. Partnerships with Yuva Mandal, Mahila Mandal, BMM Samiti, and Bal Parishad strengthened child protection in Pune. Sustainability rests on community ownership. Follow-up efforts focus on reinforcing youth, women, advisory, and child councils, ensuring children's active participation as future compassionate citizens. Engagement with RWAs, MCD, NDMC, PMC, and others builds strong community–government linkages.

Objectives of BMM

1. Prevent child labour, child marriage, and abuse through awareness and vigilance.
2. Ensure quality education and skills for all children.
3. Empower Bal Parishad, Yuva Mandal, Mahila Mandal to lead change.
4. Link families to welfare schemes for protection.
5. Strengthen institutions to sustain child rights systems.

Child Protection remained at the heart of BMM's work. Social workers engaged with 816 community members through repeated household visits, building trust and vigilance against child labour, child marriage, and exploitation. On International Girl Child Day, 210 members came together to learn from experts about girls' education and rights. Similarly, on Savitribai Phule Jayanti (Balika Diwas), 171 participants reflected on the importance of girls' education and the need to end child marriage. Awareness on child rights was expanded further through six interactive POCSO sessions that reached 298 children, using videos and discussions to make the message relatable.

Access to Education was advanced through multiple initiatives that tackled dropouts, strengthened school attendance, and promoted holistic growth. Career guidance sessions under Gyanshala engaged 604 children and youth, while eight spoken English classes boosted the confidence of 225 children. Twenty-three child leaders participated in an exposure visit to Hiware Bazar, interacting with Mr. Popat Rao Pawar and drawing inspiration from his community leadership. In September 2024, the Pankh Bhavishyache event celebrated 50 children who had re-enrolled in schools, in the presence of leaders and government officials, with over 200 attendees. Peer-led efforts through the School Chalo Abhiyan encouraged 160 children to join co-learning spaces and remain connected to education.

Community Leadership and Engagement became a powerful channel for collective action. A total of 174 leadership meetings were held to discuss issues like gaming addiction, substance abuse, and irregular school attendance. The BMM Chaupal in Pune gathered 223 members to participate in dialogues facilitated by Mrs. Sumedha Kailash Ji, encouraging ownership and problem-solving. In Bhimnagar, the child council successfully resolved a drainage crisis by engaging authorities, showing the impact of child-led advocacy. Across the communities, 28 child council meetings engaged 140 children on matters of protection, education, and local concerns. At the National Bal Maha Parishad in Rajasthan, 200 children from seven states elected 11 national child leaders—including one from Pune—strengthening children's voices at a national platform.

In addition, a formal complaint was submitted to the MCD/MLA on infrastructure issues like cleaning and roads, demonstrating civic participation.

Social Protection Interventions connected families with welfare schemes and critical documentation. Over 152 individuals were supported in securing Aadhaar, PAN, voter IDs, and MGNREGA cards. Communities were informed about government schemes such as PM Sammanidhi, Sukanya Samriddhi, and Ladli Behen Yojana. Four awareness camps helped 432 members directly access benefits under schemes like Pension Yojana, E-Shram, Caste Certificate, and Janani Suraksha.

Institution Building ensured that local systems grow stronger as lasting protectors of children's rights. BMM collaborated with 10 key stakeholders, including MLAs, police, media, and Nagar Sevaks. More than 600 participants attended sessions, reflecting rising community ownership. Awareness activities such as rallies and focused group discussions reinforced vigilance against child labour, child marriage, and abuse, helping to nurture a protective and proactive environment for children.

FREEDOM FELLOWSHIP

The Freedom Fund Education Fellowship (FFEF) supports children and youth from marginalized communities vulnerable to child labour, trafficking, and child marriage. It addresses financial and systemic barriers to education by providing academic support, safe accommodation, and development resources. Beyond education, the program nurtures leadership, resilience, and independence, especially among girls, equipping them to become advocates for child rights and social change.



Key Activities

1. Monthly Learning Circles: Fellows meet on the 5th of every month to share progress, challenges, and solutions, fostering peer learning and emotional support.
2. Career & Skills Support: Personalized guidance and tools (e.g., LinkedIn use) help fellows define aspirations and career paths.
3. Community Leadership: Fellows apply their learning to build child-friendly, compassionate communities.
4. Digital Empowerment: Access to laptops and digital resources ensures readiness for a tech-driven world.
5. IEC Kits: Distributed to all 11 fellows, enhancing outreach and advocacy.



Impact

- 11 fellows enrolled in higher studies despite hardships.
- Fellows tutor and mentor first-generation learners, promoting education and child protection.
- Girls report greater self-confidence, resilience, and leadership skills.
- Reduced risks of trafficking and early marriage, as fellows now actively prevent such practices in their communities.

SUCCESS STORIES

- A. A journey of hope began in the village of Tatia Jhir during a Child Protection Committee meeting. In this meeting, leaders highlighted the struggles of Pramod Kol, a young boy with a physical disability who could not attend school because of limited mobility. This kept him away from his basic rights, education and a healthy childhood.

The committee acted quickly. They enrolled Pramod in Grade 4 and connected with the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities to ensure he received benefits from government schemes. Pramod was successfully registered under the National Vayoshri and ADIP schemes, and officials also provided him with a battery-operated tricycle.



Today, Pramod rides to school on his own, his face shining with pride and confidence. His journey is proof of what community action, government support, and compassion can achieve, showing that when a village comes together, every child can have the chance of a brighter future.

B. Sanjana's journey began in a Banjara community, where she had to drop out of school after fifth grade because of financial struggles. The Bal Mitra Gram program stepped in to ease the family's burden, enabling Sanjana, a determined sixth grader, to continue her education.

When the Bal Panchayat elections were announced to encourage children to take on leadership roles, Sanjana lacked confidence. But with encouragement from the field staff, she contested and won the position of Child Safety Minister.



Her victory became a symbol of perseverance and resilience. Sanjana's journey shows how guidance, support, and opportunity can change the course of a girl's life and inspire others in her community.

