



DMI MISSION INDIA



ANNUAL REPORT 2024



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MESSAGE FROM THE MISSION DIRECTOR



Dear all,

Since its foundation, DMI has been dedicated to having a positive impact on our programs and the target beneficiaries in 15 districts covering 3 states in India. All our programs and activities share one common goal, to help and empower our communities grow and prosper socio-economically and sustainably.

Despite the economic downturn and the fragility of our organization, we have seen another record year in program growth and quality. We achieved good results in 40 years. Our results perfectly align with our mission, and we will continue to tackle the challenges and seize the opportunities that present themselves to us.

The year 2024 was full of changes! Sr. Vincent Teresa was promoted to Country Director. She is highly experienced, approachable, and inspires action, which will be valuable to our organization. The executive level witnessed a change as well. I take this opportunity to thank the outgoing Country Director, Sr. Jenny Maila. Thank you for your contribution and for making the DMI a key player in promoting women and children on their way to success. You ensured that we remain ingrained in our communities and can contribute to their development.

DMI is a great resource that helps entrepreneurs achieve their goals and turn ideas into action. We offered credit linkages for our women with banks in favor of starting various micro-businesses for their empowerment. We reached 2000 adolescent girls and enhanced their decision-making, problem-solving, and self-confidence skills through life skills education.

This year, we collaborated with Aditya Birla for CSR activity to reach out to over 40,000 adolescent school children, college students, and over 18,000 women members through a mental health program across Tamil Nadu. I thank Aditya Birla for their partnership and collaboration.

I deeply thank the father founder, Superior General, and Provincials for their trust and highlighting their great dedication and active participation. Their commitment and support continuously push us to pursue our goals and are invaluable for our growth.

My heartfelt thanks go to my colleagues who contributed their different skills and ideas to create a positive and challenging work atmosphere. Together, we push our limits to promote progress and continuous improvement.

I thank the Government of Tamil Nadu, Ministers, and local leaders for accepting our programs to enhance the capacities of rural women for their economic growth and sustainability.

I feel happy and proud to share my remarkable journey with you all. It is a source of inspiration and positive energy! Thank you for your continuous support.

May God bless you all.

Rev. Sr. Vijili Dali, DMI Mission Director.

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,



The DMI Mission in India celebrates 40 years of dedicated service to poor and marginalized communities. Our mission is guided by the vision of loving God and serving the poor. 2024 is especially significant as we have launched new programs for adolescent girls and partnered with the Tamil Nadu government to provide skill training. Additionally, we have collaborated with Aditya Birla to implement CSR initiatives focused on mental health.

Our partnerships have greatly contributed to the growth and quality of our programs in women's empowerment, skill development, and child development. These collaborations have promoted the social well-being and mental health of the communities we serve in India.

In 2024, we reached a total of 49589 women, 37314 children, 1926 adolescent girls, 359 youth, and 9542 other community members through a wide range of programs, achieving significant milestones.

Our target communities have made progress in achieving socio-economic stability, women accessing programs and banking services for micro-businesses, children accessing their rights—including quality education and health services along with essential school materials—and school children and adolescent girls receiving life skills and mental health support. Community members have also been able to access various government schemes.

I thank the father founder, superior general, mission director, and provincials for their guidance and support. I take this opportunity to thank my team- DCOs, BCOs, and CCOs for their passion and dedication in serving the poor and the needy to be fully human and alive. I express my thanks to TNSTC of the Government of TN and the Aditya Birla team for their collaboration in transforming the lives of the target communities in Tamil Nadu.

May God Bless You All.

Sr. Vincent Treasa Siluvai Antony DMI

Country Director.

INTRODUCTION

DMI is a non-profit, non-governmental development organization founded by Rev. Fr. J. E. Arul Raj in 1984 in India. It is led by religious sisters and is dedicated to serving the poor and underprivileged without any conditions. DMI began its first social development initiative in Keechalam, Tamil Nadu, and has since expanded its reach to Andhra Pradesh and Bihar.

Currently, DMI's programs impact 683 villages and 216 panchayats, supporting over 71,481 women, children, and young girls across 12 districts. The organization is driven by a committed team of 43 members who are passionate about their mission.

DMI advocates for marginalized communities by addressing critical issues such as poverty reduction, violence against women, health, mental well-being, climate change, and child protection.

This annual report highlights women's empowerment, child development, and the development of adolescent girls through various development initiatives. The organization emphasizes mental health and life skills, promoting equal opportunities for women, young girls, and children to ensure they can lead dignified lives.



COUNTRY GOVERNANCE

Board Members of SDMIC



◆ **Sr. Savarimuthu
Gnanaselvam**
President

◆ **Sr. C. Pushpa**
Member

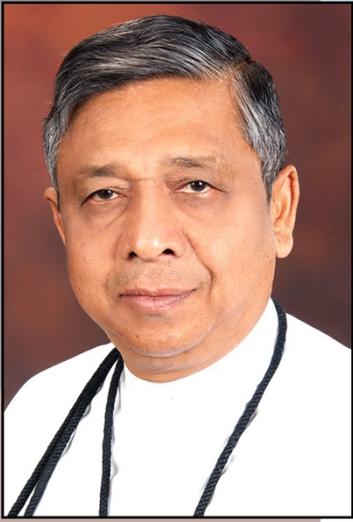
◆ **Sr. Susai Innasi Lalitha**
Vice President

◆ **Sr. J. Rose Mary**
Member

◆ **Sr. A. Mary Jegani**
Secretary

◆ **Sr. I. Markgreat Delphine**
Member

◆ **Sr. A. Selin Mary**
Treasurer



VISION

**Loving God and Serving the Poor
to be Fully Human and Fully Alive**



MISSION

To enable underprivileged communities especially women, children, and youth, to become champions of change by providing them with the best opportunities for their education and development.



CORE VALUE

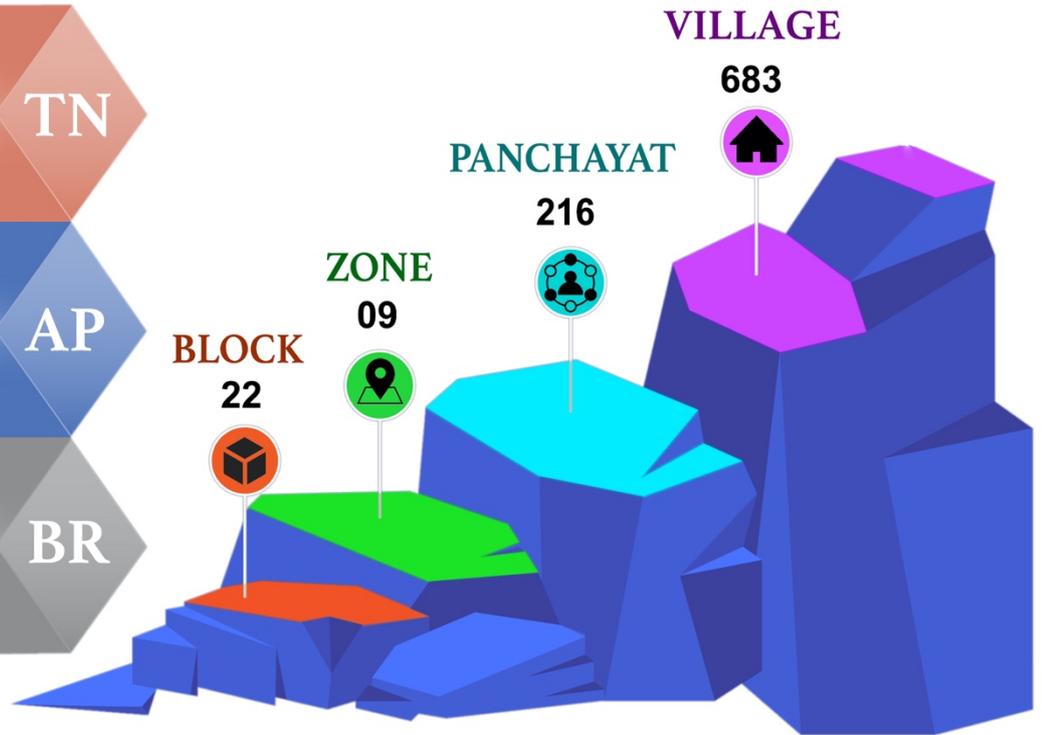


COUNTRY PROGRAM FACT-SHEET

S.No	Particulars	Status as of December, 2023	Plan to be achieved by December, 2024	Actual achieved up to Dec, 2024
A	Geographic Coverage			
1	No. of program states	3	3	3
2	No. of districts	11	11	12
3	No. of Panchayat / Village/Zone / Block, and ward	Panchayat:216 Village: 683 Block:22 Zone: 6 Ward -28	Panchayat:216 Village: 683 Block:22 Zone: 6 Ward:28	Panchayat:216 Village: 683 Block:22 Zone: 6 Ward:28
B	Participant coverage			
4	No. of SHG Members	34,251	40,000	49,589
5	No. of CP members	15,922	18,000	31,481
6	No. of Members in AGG	1,687	1,800	1,926
7	No. of Women Trained in Agriculture	575	4,350	1,512
8	No, of Women Trained SBM	1,604	1,500	853
C	Key results under each program			
10	Women Empowerment (WE)- No. of Women in Various micro-businesses	13,652	20,000	15,526
11	No. of SHG members accessed credit	49 Crores 7,722 members	50 Crores - 8,000 members	65 Crores - 8,039 members
12	No. of Children trained in Governance	765	300	586
13	No of CP members aware of drug abuse, environmental protection, behaviour changes etc..	5,090	6,000	7,153
14	No of Adolescent Girls trained in life skills	-	1,926	1,848
14	No of SHG members participated in Women Day Celebration	-	5,000	26,848

PROGRAM COVERAGE

PROGRAM STATES



9,019 ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

- 8,039 women accessed credit linkages
- 1,512 expanded their businesses
- 468 newly started small businesses after SBM training



49,589 WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

- 27,308 SHG members increased savings to Rs.14,89,70,400.
- 14,567 women learned to manage mental stress and well-being
- 7,714 SHG members started consuming organic and traditional food



26,848 ADOLESCENT GIRLS DEVELOPMENT

- 1,747 members have enhanced their self-confidence
- 132 Adolescent Girls Group formed with 1926 Adolescent Girls
- 25,634 adolescent children know about mental health care



7,153 CHILD DEVELOPMENT

- 3,357 child members were prevented from Child abuse and early marriage
- 3,796 child members reduced mobile usage



PROGRAM IMPACTS & STRATEGIES

I. Women Empowerment

A. People Institution:

- ❖ 134 SHGs formed with 1788 members across 12 districts in India
- ❖ 8039 SHG members accessed bank credit with the support from DMI
- ❖ 2062 SHGs are actively participating in the activities of the 22 Block federations
- ❖ 7 District federations are actively participating in the activities of state federation

B. Small Business Management:

- ❖ 838 SHG members were trained by DMI on Business Management
- ❖ 1450 SHG members were trained by DMI on income generation skills
- ❖ 1512 members started and expanded their business

II. Adolescent Girls Development

- ❖ 116 adolescent Girls Groups were formed with 1926 members in 67 villages
- ❖ 1,848 adolescent girls were trained on life skills by DMI
- ❖ 25,634 adolescent children enhanced their knowledge about mental health.

III. Children Program

- ❖ 27 Children parliament were formed with 439 in 11 villages by DMI
- ❖ 7,153 Children were trained on Country governance structure and functions
- ❖ 5,342 children were trained on child rights, mobile usage, and prevention of tobacco

PROGRAM STRATEGIES

Women Empowerment

The **DMI Women Empowerment Program** played a crucial role in achieving gender equality across 12 districts in three states in India. By engaging women, the program enhanced their ability to shape their own lives and make meaningful contributions to their families, communities, and society at large. The program aimed to empower women to break barriers, access opportunities, and challenge gender norms, fostering a more inclusive and equitable society. Through skill development, leadership training, and support networks, the program enabled women to assume leadership roles, promoting their equal participation in all aspects of life.

Women's Institutions

Formation of SHG and Strengthen Federation: The program mobilized women by educating them on the Self-Help Group (SHG) concept, which included savings, lending, bookkeeping, and fostering cohesion within the group. Leadership training was also provided to enhance their decision-making and organizational skills. The program further facilitated the formation of federations at the state, district, and block levels, empowering these groups to function independently and address their own issues while accessing their rights and resources. This approach helped women challenge harmful social norms and stereotypes about their roles and capabilities, promoting active participation in economic, social, and political spheres and fostering gender equality.

Empowerment Areas

- **Economic Empowerment:** The program provided training in micro-businesses and income-generating activities, both independently and with the support of various stakeholders. This enabled women members to access resources that improved their welfare and gain financial independence. Through entrepreneurship and business development programs, women acquired the skills and knowledge to run successful businesses, ensuring they could lead dignified lives and contribute to the economic growth of their communities.
- **Political Empowerment:** The program encouraged and motivated women to enhance their skills and confidence, enabling them to actively participate in political life and decision-making processes. By promoting equal participation with men, the program aimed to break down barriers and empower women to shape policies and decisions that impacted their lives, families, and communities.

Overall, the DMI Women Empowerment Program fostered a comprehensive approach to gender equality, combining economic and political empowerment to create lasting change and promote the well-being of women across India.

Adolescent Girl Development (AGG)

The DMI Adolescent Girl Development Program encouraged adolescent girls to act in their own interests and take charge of their futures. The formation of Adolescent Girls' Groups (AGG) and life skills training were key components in teaching teamwork, goal-setting, and leadership skills. The program provided space for girls to develop their individual potential and

explore pathways for growth. The theory of change was built on the belief that adolescent girls, their families, and societies benefited from and were empowered by these groups and life skills training. Through this program, gender equality was promoted, mental well-being was supported, and girls were helped to identify and dismantle barriers, improving their quality of life and providing them with access to a world of safe, satisfying, and equitable work.

Formation of Adolescent Girls' Groups (AGG)

Adolescent Girls' Groups (AGG) were formed to promote their rights and protect them from various forms of exploitation and abuse. These groups provided a platform for girls to learn about group functions, leadership skills, and their own empowerment. Through AGG, the program focused on:

- **Developing a sense of identity:** Girls explored their identities and developed a sense of self-sameness and continuity over time.
- **Encouraging open communication:** AGG created a safe space for girls to express their thoughts and feelings freely.
- **Developing empathy:** Girls were trained to develop empathy, a key developmental goal in adolescence, helping them connect with and support their peers.
- **Encouraging healthy sleep routines:** The program emphasized the importance of sleep and sports in promoting health and well-being

Life Skills for Adolescent Girls

Life skills training was organized for adolescent girls to improve their communication, decision-making, critical thinking, interpersonal skills, time management, goal setting, confidence building, assertiveness, and self-defence. This training aimed to prepare them for a sustainable life. Key aspects included:

- **Building self-confidence:** Girls were mentored to boost their self-esteem and confidence, enabling them to make responsible decisions.
- **Encouraging self-compassion:** Self-compassion was promoted, which enhanced well-being, motivation, and life satisfaction.
- **Encouraging sports:** Alongside life skills, girls were encouraged to engage in sports, helping them succeed in all aspects of life.
- **Mental health well-being:** Mental health awareness training was provided to help girls recognize, manage, and learn from difficult emotions.

Through this program, adolescent girls adopted positive attitudes and behaviors, making significant changes in areas such as early marriage, early pregnancy, and suicidal tendencies, leading to a more empowered and fulfilling life.

Child Development:

The DMI Child Development Program mobilized children through Children Parliaments (CP) to foster their development and help them grow into responsible citizens. The program aimed to develop the knowledge, skills, and behaviors children needed to understand the world around them. Children showed their interest in learning by being curious, persistent, and creative as they played and interacted with others.

Formation of Children Parliaments (CP)

Children Parliaments were formed in schools and villages to bring children together to learn, represent their interests, and practice democracy. The program trained children on the concept of CP, the national governance structure, and the principles of democracy, civilization, and parliamentary processes. Key activities included:

- **Life skills development:** Children were taught life skills, including negotiation and group decision-making, to help them function effectively in groups and contribute to discussions.
- **Child rights education:** Children learned about their rights and how to advocate for them.
- **Leadership training:** Children developed leadership skills, preparing them to take on responsible roles within their communities.
- **Participation in decision-making:** The program encouraged children to participate in decisions related to education and healthcare, giving them a voice in matters that affected their lives.

Through these initiatives, children were empowered to become responsible citizens, actively contributing to their communities and the nation.

PROGRAM PHOTOS

New Group Formation



Federation Meetings



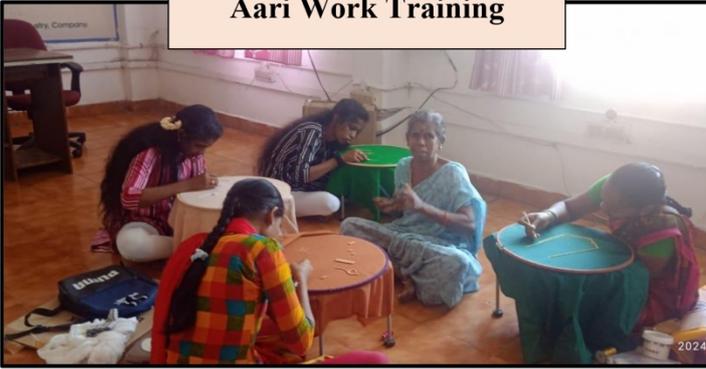
SBM Training



Economic Activities



Aari Work Training



Catering Training



Microcredit Program



Certificate Distribution



SLF Leadership Training





Sewing Machine Distribution



Adolescent Girls Group Formation



Children Development – Formation of Children Parliament and Child Rights Training



Observing the Yoga Day



STORIES OF CHANGE

STORY 1 : A Journey from Hardship to Empowerment: Mrs. Kalimuthu's Story



Mrs. Kalimuthu came from a poor family in Nagapattinam and got married. She has two children, and her husband works as a mason, but he does not have a regular job. They lived in a rented house and faced financial crises, which made it difficult for them to pay rent and manage their family. Providing proper nutrition for their children was also a challenge, which deeply concerned her. Fortunately, she received some assistance from her mother.

Despite her poor health, Mrs. Kalimuthu was determined to improve her situation and was actively seeking job opportunities, but she was unable to find one.

In 2021, she learned about DMI and Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and joined a group called Roja SHG. In 2022, she participated in various capacity-building trainings, including SBM training, which equipped her with knowledge about business and its management. This training helped her identify and start the right type of business for her. She took out a loan from her SHG and opened a cement shop, which now generates an income of Rs. 25,000 per month. This income supports her family, allowing her children to continue their education while covering rent, medical expenses, and other family needs. She has successfully repaid her loan from her earnings.

Mrs. Kalimuthu is now happy and expresses her gratitude to the DMI sisters for the capacity-building training and guidance that transformed her life.

STORY 2: From Struggles to Self-Reliance: Mrs. Tamil Selvi's Inspiring Journey



Mrs. Tamil Selvi resides with her four children in Srikaligapurem village, located in Thiruvallur District. She is a member of the Malaicharal Self-Help Group (SHG). When she married, her parents opposed the love marriage, and she received no support from her relatives. As a result, she and her husband migrated from place to place in search of better livelihood opportunities due to their difficult circumstances. She struggled to provide healthy food and education for her three daughters and one son.

Her husband works as a daily wage laborer, and they typically leave for work early in the morning and return late in the evening, often eating only once a day. Consequently, there are times when their children go to bed hungry. They face significant economic challenges in supporting their family.

Eventually, Mrs. Tamil Selvi learned about the DMI group and joined the Malaicharal SHG. Through this group, she gained knowledge about SHGs, savings, training, and access to credit. Determined to become self-sufficient, she decided not to rely solely on her husband. With the support of the SHG and her own savings, she secured a loan of ₹2,00,000 from a nationalized bank to purchase an auto rickshaw and work as an auto driver.

Initially, her relatives discouraged her decision, but now she is self-employed and earns ₹15,000 per month. Both she and her husband are able to save and manage their household expenses together. They are now content and lead a decent life, allowing their children to receive a quality education. Witnessing her transformation, their families have accepted them and visit frequently to encourage their pursuit of a better socio-economic status.

Mrs. Tamil Selvi expresses her heartfelt gratitude to the DMI sisters and staff for all the support and training they provided to help improve her family income and create better livelihood opportunities.

STORY 3 : From Dependence to Independence: Mrs. Mariya Pushpam's Story



Mrs. Mariya Pushpam is from Kodaikannal in the Dindigul district. She has one son and one daughter. Her husband worked as a coolie, and she was a housewife. Economically, she faced challenges and was unable to send her children to school. She depended entirely on her husband for food, education, medical expenses, and family development.

In 2023, she became a member of the DMI group, which helped her develop a savings habit. She took part in several capacity-building courses offered by DMI. By 2023, she started a small shop to sell stationery items, using a loan from the group. Over time, she expanded her business to include stationery, vegetables, and fruits. She now earns Rs. 12000 per month to support her family.

Mrs. Pushpam has successfully funded her children's schooling and college education. She is very happy with her life and is grateful to the DMI sisters and the training programs that have helped improve her family's living standards.

COUNTRY TEAM



Country Director

District Coordinators



Sr. Jenciya, DCO
Thiruvallur



Sr. Sahayam, DCO
Chennai



Sr. Devi, DCO
Chengalpattu



Sr. Suba, DCO
Kanchipuram



Sr. Philo, DCO
Nagapattinam



Sr. Jeya, DCO
Dindigul



Sr. Flora, DCO
Perambalur



Sr. Susai, DCO
Pudukkottai



Sr. Sheela, DCO
Salem



Sr. Arul Mary, DCO
Sivagangai



Sr. Elizabeth, DCO
Chittoor



Sr. Arockiyam, DCO
Patna



M. Anitha
Admin Office

BLOCK CO-ORDINATORS / FIELD OFFICERS



2024

COUNTRY ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT – 2024
(UNAUDITED)

Details	Receipts (Indian currency)	Payments (Indian currency)	Balances as of December 31, 2024
Opening balance as of January 1, 2024	21,56,115		
Total Receipts from all donors and payments from that fund	1,16,18,507	1,19,37,510	18,37,112
Total	1,37,74,622	1,19,37,510	18,37,112



ANNUAL PLAN FOR 2025

Goal: Empower marginalized women, youth and children to lead a dignified life in their families and community.

Women Empowerment Program (WEP) 80%

Objective - 1:

Capacity enhancement of federation leaders (Block, District and State levels) to function independently.

Objective - 2:

Increased household income of SHG members by starting or expanding small-business.

1. Form and strengthen SHG:

- Form 200 new SHGs with 3,000 members
- Strengthen 476 default SHGs
- Train leaders from the 200 new women groups on SHG management

2. Capacity building of Federation leaders:

- Train 110 federation leaders to lead an effective BLF. DLF & SLF.
- Train 110 leaders to organize events (fund raising/other events) to sustain federation.

3. SBM Training:

- Equip 1050 women group members with SBM skills for starting and sustaining micro-businesses.

4. Income generation Training:

- Provide training in tailoring, Driving, Beautician, Aari work for 1,500 women through DMI and others service providers.

5. Health & Human Rights Awareness:

- Conduct health awareness campaigns for 10,000 women and Human Rights Day event for 2,500 women.

6. Women's Day Celebration:

- Organize an event celebrating International Women's Day with the participation of 8,500 members.

Child Rights' Program (CRP)

Objective - 3: Children (11 to 13 years) from marginalized families learn about their rights and Responsibilities and improve their ability to overcome peer pressure.

1. Forming Children Group:

- Form and strengthen 100 children' groups at village level. (Total 5,000 children- 50 children in each group)
- Train 500 children on leadership and Children Group management (10 children from 50 groups)

2. Capacity Building for children:

- Train 5,000 children on child rights and child protection policies and practices.
- Sensitize 50,000 school children (11- 17) to recognize mental health issues and seek professional support when required with donor support.

3. Children's day Celebration:

- Plan and execute children's Day celebration in 10 districts

Organization Development (OD)

1. Staff Training in Program Management:

- Train staff members on program management focusing on using annual plan – goal, objectives & indicators.
- Train staff on life skills, children group concept, adolescent girls group functions and mental health topics.

2. Donor Identification and Engagement:

- Identify and apply for grants from Corporate donors and government projects for expanding the mission activities.

CONCLUSION

The DMI Empowerment Programs have made significant strides in promoting gender equality, empowering women, and fostering the development of children across various communities. Through initiatives such as the Women Empowerment Program, Adolescent Girl Development, and Child Development through Children Parliaments, we have successfully equipped individuals with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to challenge social norms, access opportunities, and contribute to their families, communities, and societies.

By focusing on economic, political, and social empowerment, the programs have provided a platform for marginalized groups, especially women and girls, to realize their potential and actively participate in decision-making processes. The formation of Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Adolescent Girls' Groups (AGGs), and Children Parliaments has fostered a sense of community, leadership, and responsibility, creating a ripple effect that is improving lives and challenging harmful practices.

Our efforts to promote life skills, mental well-being, and leadership have enabled individuals to make informed decisions, develop self-confidence, and break free from the barriers that limit their opportunities. As a result, these programs have contributed to creating safer, more equitable environments for women, girls, and children, helping them lead dignified lives and fulfil their potential. Moving forward, the continued support, engagement, and expansion of these initiatives will be crucial in sustaining and deepening the impact, ensuring that the next generation of women and children can live in a world of equal opportunities, respect, and empowerment.



DMI MISSION - INDIA

(Society of Daughters of Mary Immaculate & Collaborators)

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