



Executive Summary:

Kakde Vasti was one of the most underprivileged settlements, deprived of all basic facilities. To address the developmental needs of this community, the Asha Community Centre Project was initiated by *Swadhar IDWC in collaboration with Asha for Education, Chicago*. The project aimed to ensure holistic development of children and women through education, awareness, and empowerment-based interventions. The community had long faced multiple challenges — no nearby schools, forcing children to walk 3–4 kilometres daily for basic education. Until 2022, there were no healthcare facilities, and the nearest Pune Municipal Corporation Dispensary started functioning only recently. The area is religiously diverse, and many girls had to discontinue education due to cultural restrictions. The lack of transportation and the language barrier among migrant families further led to a high number of out-of-school children. Women, too, were confined to domestic responsibilities, with no access to skill development or income-generation opportunities, resulting in limited awareness and self-reliance.

The Asha Community Centre was established as a safe, accessible, and inclusive space to respond to these critical needs.

Through the year 2024–25, the project focused on:

- Enrolling and retaining children in early childhood care and education (Balwadi).
- Creating a safe, supportive, and well-equipped study environment where children can receive academic guidance, complete homework, and overcome learning-related difficulties.
- Conducting awareness sessions for parents and adolescents.
- Organising skill-based and financial literacy sessions for women.
- Enrolling women in vocational skill training courses.
- Providing counselling support to families and individuals in distress.

Key achievements during April 2024 – March 2025 include:

- Over **91** children benefited through Support Classes, E-Learning sessions, and Balwadi programs.
- **53** women actively participated in livelihood and financial literacy sessions.
- **10** community awareness sessions were conducted on health, hygiene, and child protection, enhancing knowledge and engagement among residents.
- **127** beneficiaries accessed the library at the centre for academic support and learning.
- **2** out-of-school children were successfully mainstreamed into formal education.
- **53** women under the Phulora initiative benefited from vocational skilling programs, showing increased confidence, improved decision-making, and greater willingness to participate in collective community activities.

The project has not only improved educational access and awareness in Kakde Vasti but also created a strong foundation for community empowerment and self-reliance. The positive response from residents highlights the relevance and sustainability of the intervention.

Beneficiaries' Count:

An at-a-glance representation of the beneficiaries involved in all the interventions is as follows:

Sr.No	Project	Boys	Girls	Women	Men	Total
1	Balwadi	14	18	NA	-	32
2	Support Class	25	27	NA	-	52
3	Study Centre	27	14	NA	-	41
4	Library	63	43	19	2	127
5	E- Learning	45	37	NA	-	-
6	Phulora	NA	9	44	-	53
7	Total no of beneficiaries					305

Total No of Staff: 4 (1 Project Coordinator, 3 Teachers)

Interventions Implemented under Asha Community Center

1. Balwadi

Age Group: 3–6 years

Class Timings: 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Children in the Balwadi receive pre-school education focusing on holistic development. Over the year, 20 sub-projects are taught, covering topics such as family, clothing, animals, birds, fruits, etc. Concepts of language, mathematics, science, and social studies are integrated. For physical development, children participate in small creative activities.



2. Support Classes

Age Group: 7–14 years

Class Timings: Morning – 9:00–11:00 AM;
Afternoon – 2:00–4:00 PM

Support classes are designed for children with learning difficulties, assessed through level tests. Lessons are tailored to their learning levels, and Swadhar-developed educational materials are used to enhance their skills progressively.



3. Abhyasika

Age Group: 7–15 years

Class Timings: 9:00–11:00 AM; 2:00–4:00 PM

A conducive environment is provided to help children overcome learning challenges. Required books and study materials are made available to facilitate better learning outcomes.



4. E-Learning

Age Group: 7–15 years

Timings: 9:00–11:00 AM; 2:00–4:00 PM

Children from Support and Abhyasika classes benefit from digital learning, gaining exposure to modern educational tools. Currently, five E-Learning sets are available in the centre.



5. Library

Open to all age groups in the settlement from 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM.

In addition to school textbooks, other reading materials are available.

The objective is to promote a reading culture within the community



6. Phulora

Class Timings: 1:30–3:30 PM

Age Group: 15–50 years

Focused on adolescent girls and women, Phulora provides vocational training and emphasizes women's empowerment. Efforts are made to bring girls back into the education stream.



7. Hobby Classes (Ages 6–14)

As summer vacations began on 24th April and schools were closed, we took this opportunity to plan the following activities from 25th to 30th April.



Sr No	Activity	Resource Person	Attendance			Total
			Boys	Girls	Women	
1	Variety of Brain Games	Iravati Abhyankar	9	5	-	14
2	Paper Flowers & Origami	Mukti Valvekar	14	15	-	29
3	Crafts from Scrap	Pooja Kamble	14	15	-	29
4	Zentangles	Pooja Kamble	14	15	-	29
5	Doormats/Bathmats from Old clothes/saree	Lata Ghate	-	2	15	17

Special Activities & Events



Support Class Educational Trip



Celebration of Ashadi Ekadashi



Celebration of Gurupournima



Session on the laws related to women



Session on the RTE



March of the Health Awareness (Arogya Dindi)

- **Parent Meetings:** 3 sessions on children's progress, RTE awareness, and engagement (attended by 16–30 parents).
- **Field Visits:** Balwadi children visited Rajiv Gandhi Zoological Park; Phulora women visited local offices for social awareness.
- **Festivals & Celebrations:** Independence Day, Republic Day, Dahi Handi, Dussehra, Diwali, Christmas, New Year, and Sports Day were celebrated with educational and cultural activities.
- **Annual Gathering:** Sneha Sammelan held on 19 February 2025 with cultural performances, competitions, and prize distribution.
- **Phulora Excursion:** 15 women and 7 adolescent girls visited Darekar Wada for skill-building and social interaction.
- **Abhyasika & Support Excursion:** Children visited Ekvira Hill, Lonavala, Aagha Khan Palace for historical learning.

Staff Training

- Topics included lesson planning, learning assessments, holistic child development, library management, English language activities, cyber safety, child protection policies, mental health, Kaizen, and effective community engagement.
- Two days' workshop training conducted by Mr. Raju Inamdar on the topic of "Communication & Social worker's roles & responsibilities in the community".



Workshop on the "Communication & Social worker's roles & responsibilities in the community"

Session on the RTE

Awareness Sessions

- Total 8 awareness sessions were conducted this year on the topics of Right to Education, nutrition, vaccination, menstrual hygiene, stress management, women's legal rights, and municipal welfare schemes.

Special Community Initiatives

- Dengue awareness and cleanliness drives in collaboration with women's committees.
- Visits to PMC dispensary to familiarize the community with health services.
- Successful mainstreaming of a 14-year-old girl into 8th grade after year-long preparation.

Success Story

In the previous year (2024–2025), the Abhyasika class had a total of 6 students in 10th grade. All of them successfully passed their 10th-grade examinations:

1. Revati Kamble – 75%
2. Pragati Jadhav – 72%
3. Siddharth Waghmare – 64%
4. Shrāvani Kamble – 52%
5. Snehal Jadhav – 50%
6. Kundan Waghmare – 47%

Last year, Kundan Murlidhar Waghmare's success story was shared. He had struggled to remain in school, but with Swadhar's consistent support, he not only continued his education but also successfully passed the 10th grade this year.

Upcoming Events/Activities

All the regular interventions will be carried forward as they are, along with additional activities and new ideas for execution. This year, we have consciously added one new activity called "Man Maze", which translates to "My Mind" or "My Say". This activity was conducted in the month of October to assess its effectiveness and relevance. The response was very encouraging, and we decided to continue it in the next phase.

The concept of "Man Maze" focuses on exploring what women want, how they feel, and what they wish to do during their personal or leisure time. Recognizing this need, we designed the activity to provide time and space for women to be themselves — whether they want to dance, recite poetry, play with children, paint, or simply sit and discuss their concerns or share their thoughts.

This activity offers women a platform for free expression, where they can ask for support or simply enjoy some leisure time for themselves. Additionally, a counselor will be present during the activity for anyone who wishes to seek guidance or help.

Frequency: This activity will be conducted once a month on one of the Saturday.

