# Impact Assessment Report

## REC Foundation

July 2022

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pwc

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# This report

1. We have not performed an audit or review (as that term is defined under generally accepted assurance standards) of the information in this report. Professional assurance standards issued by bodies such as the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board, including ISAs (assurance over financial statements) and ISAEs (assurance over information other than financial statements), do not apply to our work or the findings herein.
2. This report intends to provide the findings/recommendation of assessments conducted by PwC for 21 CSR projects allocated to us, to RECF. The focus of the review was to assess the impact created by the CSR projects of RECF, identify and highlight the areas of improvement in different CSR projects of RECF to enable better project monitoring and tracking for Management's consideration. The projects have been assessed on five key parameters under IRECS framework (Inclusiveness, Relevance, Effectiveness, Convergence and Sustainability) which has been used to measure the impact of the projects. Basis the review of the projects, each project has been assessed on the above key parameters and further categorised into High/ Medium/ Low basis the impact generated:

| Colour Code | Categories | Description |
|---|---|---|
| | **High** | This category highlights that the project has been able to meet the key evaluation parameters of impact within the said IRECS framework. |
| | **Medium** | This category highlights that the project has been able to partially meet the key evaluation parameters of impact within the said IRECS framework. |
| | **Low** | This category highlights that the project has yet to meet the key evaluation parameters of impact within the said IRECS framework. |

# Abbreviations

| | |
|---|---|
| **ATM** | Anytime Water Machines |
| **BCI** | Better Cotton Initiative |
| **BPL** | Below Poverty Line |
| **BSGSS** | Bisnouli Sarvodaya Gramodyog Sewa Sansthan |
| **CAD** | Computer Aided Design |
| **CAPI** | Computer Assisted Personal Interview |
| **CATI** | Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing |
| **CBO** | Community Based Organisation |
| **CCTV** | Closed Circuit Television |
| **CIPET** | Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering & Technology (formerly known as Central Institute of Plastics Engineering & Technology) |
| **CPSE** | Central Public Sector Enterprise |
| **CPWD** | Central Public Works Department |
| **CSR** | Corporate Social Responsibility |
| **DM** | District Magistrate |
| **FGD** | Focus Group Discussion |
| **GDA** | Ghaziabad Developmental Authority |
| **HH** | Household |
| **ICU** | Intensive Care Unit |
| **ICI-ITI** | ICI Industrial Training Institute |
| **IDI** | In depth Interview |
| **IEC** | Information, Education & Communication |
| **IIM-T** | Indian Institute of Management, Tiruchirappalli |

| | |
|---|---|
| **IRECS** | Inclusiveness, Relevance, Effectiveness, Convergence and Sustainability |
| **KABP** | Knowledge, Attitude, Behaviour & Practice |
| **KII** | Key Informant Interviews |
| **KISS** | Kalinga Institute of Social Science |
| **KSCST** | Karnataka State Council for Science & Technology |
| **KWp** | Kilo Watt “Peak” |
| **LCD** | Liquid Crystal Display |
| **LPG** | Liquified Petroleum Gas |
| **MNRE** | Ministry of New & Renewable Energy |
| **MoA** | Memorandum of Agreement |
| **MSP** | Minimum Selling Price |
| **NCERT** | National Council of Educational Research and Training |
| **NCF** | National Culture Fund |
| **NISE** | National Institute of Solar Energy |
| **NREDCAP** | New & Renewable Energy Development Corporation of Andhra Pradesh Limited |
| **NSDC** | National Skill Development Corporation |
| **NSFDC** | National Scheduled Castes Finance & Development Corporation |
| **NSM** | National Solar mission |
| **NTTF** | Nettur Technical Training Foundation |
| **PSPSF** | Pilo Shudh Pani Seva Foundation |
| **PV** | Photovoltaic |
| **RECF** | REC Foundation |
| **RO** | Reverse Osmosis |
| **SC** | Scheduled Caste |

| | |
|---|---|
| **SDG** | Sustainable Development Goals |
| **SECI** | Solar Energy Corporation India Limited |
| **SEWA** | Self Employed Women's Association |
| **SHG** | Self-help groups |
| **SIDUR** | Society for Integrated Development in Urban & Rural Areas |
| **ST** | Schedule Tribe |
| **SUSPU** | Shaheed Udham Singh Panjab University |
| **SWRC** | Social Work and Research Centre |
| **TDS** | Total Dissolved Solids |
| **TLA** | Textile Labor Association |
| **TNREDDCL** | Telangana New & Renewable Energy Development Corporation Limited |
| **UC** | Utilisation Certificate |
| **VBSS** | Vishwasindu Bhahu-Udeshiya Sevabhavi Sanstha |
| **VCR** | Virtual Classrooms |
| **WASH** | Water, Sanitation & Hygiene |

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# 1. Executive Summary

# 1. Executive Summary

REC Limited (formerly Rural Electrification Corporation Limited) is a Navratna company under the Ministry of Power. REC Foundation is the CSR arm of the REC Limited. The CSR programmes cover a wide spectrum of beneficiaries with a view to empower economically and socially backward communities. The CSR projects supported by the company include projects on sanitation and hygiene, healthcare, skill development, women empowerment, environmental sustainability, and rural infrastructural development. REC Foundation has engaged PricewaterhouseCoopers Pvt Ltd (PwC) to undertake impact assessment of its CSR projects. The present report focusses on the impact assessment of REC Foundation's twenty-one (21) CSR projects. The objective of the study was to assess the outcomes and impact created on the stakeholders covered under the project. The scope of work included the following:

- Conducting impact assessment study of the CSR projects.
- Review of existing documents such as DPR, MoA, Baseline report, Closure report and End line assessment report
- Assess and report findings in relation to impact created
- Assessing gaps and providing recommendation

The study was based on an analytical approach to understand the impact of REC Foundation's programmes on beneficiaries. PwC has adopted IRECS assessment framework for its analysis. IRECS is used to provide an overall feedback on the efficacy of implementation as well as its efficiency in terms of achievement of the desired outcome of the projects. The IRECS framework evaluates the projects based on five fundamental questions

- How inclusive the projects are for beneficiaries from all backgrounds?
- How relevant are the projects to the current needs of the beneficiaries?
- How effective are the projects in meeting the needs of the beneficiaries?
- How the projects are convergent or aligned towards the concurrent government programmes?
- How the projects can be sustained after the implementation process is completed?

For the study, PwC team reviewed the documents and data provided by the REC Foundation team to understand the objective and impact generated by the programs. Documents reviewed included the MoA signed with REC Foundation for the projects, baseline and end-line assessment reports, audited utilization certificates, completion reports, etc., basis availability of the documents. The team also conducted interactions with the project stakeholders to further understand the projects, its objective and impact, as well as the sustainability strategy for ensuring benefits.

The following were the key findings as observed from the assessment of the 21 CSR projects:

- The support provided by RECF through the **SEWA Federation** is inclusive in nature as it provides benefits to all the women artisans irrespective of their social community, caste, religion, etc. 100% of the beneficiaries found the quality of training and capacity building to be good. The project has led to women empowerment (58%) and increased income among women artisans (97%) as stated by the beneficiaries. Economic stability and market linkages were reported as 65% and 15% respectively post project completion.
- As part of project for **distribution of about 1.5 lakh solar lanterns** in poorly electrified areas of backward districts of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha, solar lanterns were provided to 100% of the respondents (n=96). Prior to receiving solar lantern 53% of respondents said that interruption in power supply made their day-to-day tasks difficult, 35% of the respondents agreed that there was inadequate lighting in their villages and the rest highlighted that various other challenges. 73% of the respondents said that challenges were addressed when the solar lanterns were in working conditions. However, certain respondents reported about solar lanterns functionality being an issue after the 6 months of distribution.

- The project on **"Job Oriented Skill Development Training Programme"** was implemented to provide vocational training to 6,400 youth which was later on revised to 7,612. The training sessions also included industry visits, expert talks, and the soft skill sessions. Findings suggest that only **4%** of the respondents were engaged in income generation activities prior to enrolling in the training programmes. Post completion of the training and placement process, these students were placed in the different companies and also a many of them started their own business. The officials from NSDC and NSDF highlighted that around **78%** of the candidates were involved into income generating activities during project completion. However, currently only 18% of the respondents are involved into any income generating activities.
- **Establishment of Virtual Classrooms (VCR) in government schools** contributed to holistic learning and improved academic performance among students. VCR facilities have led to an increase in participation, and academic performance including retention of students. The average pass % of the students in 10th standard across 10 schools has gone up from 67.8% in 2016-17 (pre-intervention) to 77% in 2018-19 (post-intervention). The project empowers the students with digital literacy and instils confidence and helps in mainstreaming. There has been an improvement in the pass % of the students in the critical subjects in 10th standard across majority of the schools. The pass % has gone up from 86% to 88% in Science, 73% to 83% in Maths and 83% to 89% in Social Science. The students stated that they enjoy learning science and mathematics as difficult concepts are available in the VCR laboratory in a very easy and concise way. The VCR facility has also aided the teachers in delivering content to the students as the students grasp the visual and info-graphic contents easily and quickly.
- **Installation of 2 MW SPV system at various locations at campus of IIM, Tiruchirappalli** was done with the goal of reducing grid electricity demand by the IIM-T. Due to the reduction in the grid electricity, the total average monthly saving during the period (August 2020 – January 2021) was INR 12.17 Lakhs. The same was also confirmed by the official from IIM-T during the interactions. Prior to the intervention, disruption in grid supply was common, and to run the facilities portable diesel generators were used. These generators are extremely harmful as it can produce more than 40 toxic gas emissions. The estimated reduction in the GHG levels/CFP levels is estimated to be about 1214.85 T CO2 for the first 6 months of running the Solar PV and can be estimated to 2429.708 T CO2/y. The rooftop solar panel provides reliable and assured supply for 24x7 to the IIM-T, thereby increasing the comfort of the institute students as well as saving on energy costs for the university.
- In the project, delivering **WASH services to marginalized scheduled caste communities and primary schools** in Andhra Pradesh 65% of the respondents reported that the major source of water for drinking and other day to day needs was community water plants located 500-1,000 metres away from home. By providing the water connections at home, the travel time and efforts reduced. 71% of the respondents reported that in their HH, no one was ill due to the water borne infections in the last 6 months. 98% of the respondents agreed that they use the provided toilets and now do not defecate in open. 94% of the respondents mentioned that they clean the toilet on daily basis as community members were of the opinion that irregular maintenance leads to spread of diseases.
- **A Job oriented skill development training** (residential) project was implemented to train 1,650 beneficiaries belonging to SC in various states of India. Overall, respondents were largely satisfied with the different aspects of the training programmes. Hands-on practical training was rated 4.12 out of 5, ease of understanding (4.05/5) and good faculty (4.00/5) were stated as the key reasons for successfully completing the courses by the respondents. 99% of the respondents were not involved in any income generating activities before enrolling into the course. 74% of the respondents highlighted they are currently involved in an income generating activities. 67% respondents shared that they now lead a more comfortable lifestyle. NSFDC and training institutes provided certificates to all trainees who completed the course as noted during the discussions with the official of NSFDC. The certification was in partnership with respective skill council applicable for the course and were accredited by NSDC.
- **Electric crematorium built in Ghaziabad** provided support to all the beneficiaries, irrespective of caste and gender. Workers at the traditional crematorium facilities highlighted that the electric crematorium is used only 2-3 times in a month. Since the start of the project in 2019, around 600 bodies have been cremated in the electric crematorium. Lasting over six hours, a traditional Hindu funeral pyre burns between 400 to 500 kilograms of wood and generates large amounts of ashes. The electric crematorium has the potential to combat these challenges as there are no gas emissions and no wood is not burned.
- The **new 135 KWp panels installed at Barefoot College** funded by RECF is more efficient in terms of providing uninterrupted power supply, as compared to the old structure. The machinery used by the college which are heavily dependent on a constant source of power are now able to run without any issues. Maintenance of solar panels is done by staff of the college but due to the lack of proper equipment; the staff

climb on top of the panels and clean using a wet cloth attached on a broom. The solar panel at Barefoot college prevents 444 Tons of Carbon di-oxide & 319 Tons of Sulphur di-Oxide & 2.1 Tons of Nitrous oxide (greenhouse gas) from entering the atmosphere every year as highlighted by the Solar Manager of Barefoot college. On an average, 0.15 million litres of kerosene or 195 metric tons of firewood or 0.22 million LPG cylinders every year is saved due to the solar panel at barefoot college.

- **900 KWp rooftop solar PV plant** and **insulation of the existing rabbit ACSR conductor** were completed in 30 Government residential schools. 81% of the respondents (n=68) faced interruption in power supply before the project intervention as compared to 24% students (n=68) post the project intervention. 84% of the respondents highlighted that they feel more safe and secure due to the availability of improved lighting condition in the campus during the night**.** 97% of the respondents agreed that the project has led to improve the studying hours for school students. 79% of the respondents stated that it was difficult to understand complex subjects (& topics) such as Science and Mathematics. 96% of the respondents highlighted that learning and understanding of the topics has become easier while rest have said the classes have become more interactive.
- **The project on "Job oriented skill development training to 1,300 nos. of women & youth** belonging to economically weaker section of the society" was initiated by RECF. 97% of respondents received the information about the training/ project through word of mouth from the ex-students of training centre, friends, relatives, and family members. 93% of the respondents were not engaged in any income generating activity prior to the training programmes. Post completion of the training course/project, it was reported that 63 respondents (70% of the total respondents) are now involved in income generating activities. Prior to the interventions, the average monthly salary of the 7% respondents (who were into any income generating job) was INR 8,194 per month. The average salary of the 70% of the respondents (who are into any income generating activities currently) is around INR 10,000/- per month.
- RECF initiated the project titled "**Job oriented skill development training to 880 women** belonging to economically weaker sections". 87.4% of women were referred to the training centre by ex-students, friends, or family members/relatives. Additionally, majority of women (97.7%) reported that the reason for joining the project was because of their own interest in the particular trade skill being advertised in the course curriculum. 55 candidates are currently involved in income generating activities which constitutes around 63% of the total respondents interviewed (n=87). 9% of the respondents (n=87) were into the wage employment (salaried) whereas 54% of the respondents (n=87) were into the self-employment and daily wage employment. Prior to the interventions, the average monthly salary of the 14% respondents (who were into any income generating job) was INR 7,187/- per month. Post completion of the training, the average salary of the 63% of the respondents (who are into any income generating activities) is around INR 8,500/- per month.
- **A project was initiated on "Job oriented skill development training** (residential) to 1,000 nos. of youth belonging to economically weaker section in approx. 20 districts across India". It was reported that 76% of respondents received the information about the training through word of mouth from the ex-students of training centre, friends, relatives, and family members. 65% of the respondents were interested to join the training Centre due to the good faculty, and infrastructure, while 22% of the reported that they joined the course as it was accredited by NSDC. 86% of the respondents were not engaged in any income generating activity prior to the training programmes. Post the completion of the training it is reported that 84% of the total respondents are involved in the income generating activities (through wage/ self-employment). The average monthly income prior to enrolment in the course was INR 6,544 per month among the 12 working respondents prior to the enrolment as compared to average monthly income currently post project completion which is INR 8,604 per month among the 74 respondents post the implementation of the project. Beneficiaries reported that their overall standard of living has improved post their placement.
- **Stakeholder residing in Bagaha block, Bihar** interactions revealed that the water being sourced earlier was of poorer quality and required the villagers to manually purify it by boiling or filtering as it had high arsenic counts. This resulted in increased fuel wood and other energy sources for household cooking (like gas, kerosene) and increase in the overall household expenses. This project has enabled easier access to better quality water and led to reduction in monthly expenses. Excavation of the pond adjoining the temple premises enabled the temple officials to dispense with daily duties associated to the temple in an efficient and orderly manner. The pond also proved beneficial to farmers owning land in the region neighbouring the temple which provided water for irrigation. The pond has improved the natural aesthetics and the greenery around the fringes. However, currently it was observed that owing to scarcity of rains in the region and long dry spells and the pond not being connected to any natural sources it has dried up entirely forcing the community to revert to the earlier situation of dependency on other sources of water.

- **The 283 KWp solar panels installed at SUSPU** is producing around 1,200 – 1,500 units of electricity per day and the current electricity demand of University is one third of total production of electricity. Prior to installation, disruption in grid supply was common, and to run the various facilities (such as computer labs, water RO, etc.), portable diesel generators were used which emit harmful emission. Solar PV systems do not generate noise or chemical pollutants, thereby leading to a significant reduction in harmful emissions as highlighted by the officials from SUSPU. The solar panels installed at SUSPU ensure the uninterrupted electricity supply to run several campus facilities, 2 RO plants that provide clean and safe drinking water, computer labs where the students access the internet to learn new skills take online practical classes and make use of the internet as a research facility to further improve knowledge.
- **Job oriented skill development training** (residential) was provided to beneficiaries belonging to economically weaker sections of the society. The respondents were timid when they first started the training courses and officials conducted classes on behavioural science and confidence building session. These sessions (included as part of training) led to an overall improvement in behaviour, confidence, dressing sense, peer interactions. The mean monthly income for the **59 respondents** who are currently in income generating activities was reported as INR 12,671/- vis-a-vis the mean monthly wages for **19 respondents** who were involved in income generating activities prior to enrolment was INR 11,894/-. **The number of earning individuals has increased pre project implementation to post project completion/training completion**
- The **construction of the Govt. Medical College** aimed to resolve the challenge of availability and accessibility of quality health care infrastructure. It has improved health care service delivery in the area during the initial phase of COVID-19. The improved infrastructure facilities provided by the new medical college has helped to manage the COVID-19 situation in the district with the help of the district hospital staff as currently there is no staff employed in the medical college. The academic wing of the medical college is yet to be operational for student enrolment. In the long term the medical college has the potential to develop into a centre of excellence in the area providing motivation and opportunity to pursue careers in the medical field and create community of indigenous medical practitioners uplifting the standards of health and nutrition in the district.
- **The project was initiated by RECF to distribute free seeds** to 5,000 farmers residing in drought prone areas of Maharashtra. The project aimed at distributing quality seeds to small and marginal farmers of Aurangabad free of cost so that farmers can utilise these seeds to plant and grow crops. 36% of the respondents have reported that their harvest has increased due to the availability of new type of seeds. 60% of the respondent have reported that the three has been an increase in the productivity(yield). The average annual income of the farmers raised by 18% (INR 1,01,467) after the implementation of the project. The average annual savings of the farmers prior to the implementation of project was INR 9,574. The average annual savings has raised by 75% (INR 16,813) after the implementation of the project.
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- The **water ATMs installed at iconic locations**, have been effective in reducing the high raw water TDS (1,204 – 4,650 mg/L) in Agra to safe and drinkable water TDS (89 – 153 mg/L). Water ATMs provide water for 12 hours/day in all the locations, thus ensuring clean and uninterrupted supply of drinking water to the visitors at the iconic locations. The project has also been instrumental in creating potential employment opportunities in respective locations, has also increased community participation in maintaining ATMs and prompts environmental sustainability.
- The **park built by CPWD** appeals to all age groups and provide a much-needed community place for recreational activities. Before 2018, park was not well maintained, lacked the basic amenities and security for the local visitors. However, after the redevelopment of park, it is now well-equipped with the many amenities that encourage people to visit the park. It was noted that the redevelopment of park has also led to the creation of the many employment opportunities for the community like maintenance and security staff.

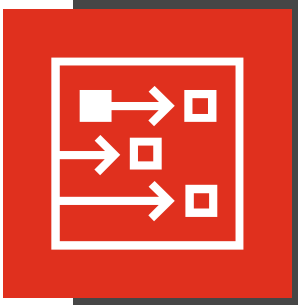
The IRECS analysis indicates that majority of the projects have been able to meet the key evaluation parameters of impact with regard to the I**nclusiveness, Relevance and Effectiveness**. The marginalized communities were reached out irrespective of their socio- economic and cultural background and benefits

derived under these CSR projects were relevant and effective. The **convergence and sustainability** aspects should be further strengthened and defined at the time of designing the project activities so that overall efficacy of the project and sustainability continues in the longer run for the targeted beneficiaries.

Additionally, based on our analysis of individual projects following broad recommendations are as follows:

- Consideration of M&E framework and digital monitoring tool for regular tracking of projects.
- Establish an exit strategy to ensure project sustainability post support withdrawal.
- Inclusion of awareness/knowledge generation activities during the project implementation.
- Strengthening the overall skilling eco-system

Please refer to section 2 onwards for the detailed report and its findings.



# 2. Background of the Study

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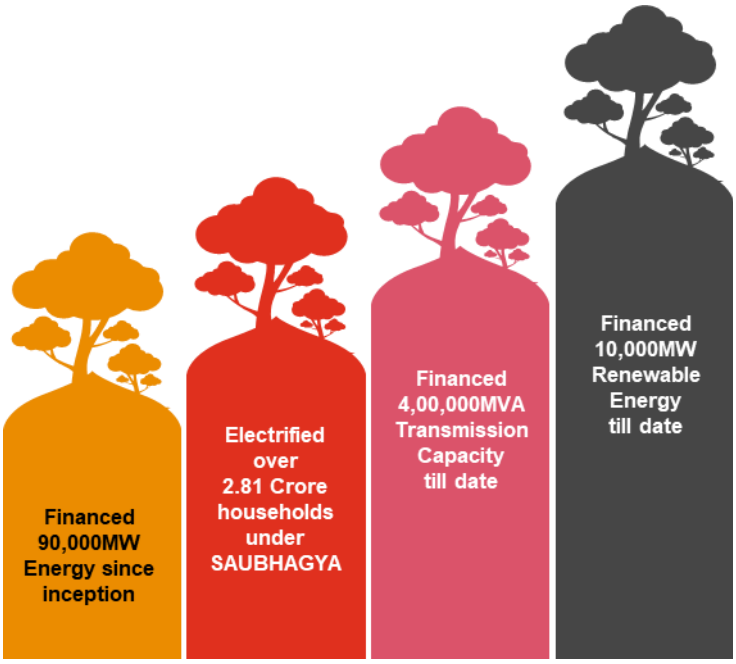
## 2.1. About REC Limited & REC Foundation

Established in 1969, REC Limited is a Navratna Central Public Sector Enterprise company under the Ministry of Power, Government of India. It provides financial assistance across the entire power sector value chain. The objective of REC Limited is to promote and finance projects which are aimed at integrating system improvement, power generation, promotion of decentralized and non-conventional energy sources, energy conservation, renovation and maintenance, power distribution with focus on pump set energisation, implementation of Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana, a Government of India scheme for rural electricity infrastructure and household electrification.[1&2]

**Figure 1: REC Limited's corporate profile**




REC Limited has presence across 22 states with a corporate office at New Delhi. [3] With a mission to act as a competitive, client-friendly, and development-oriented organisation for financing and promoting projects covering power generation, power conservation, power transmission and power distribution network in the country, REC Limited also aims to achieve a balance of economic, environmental, and social imperatives. Hence, the company has been funding and supporting many CSR projects to address the issues of local community and reach out to spectrum of beneficiaries with a view to empower economically and socially backward communities. It has been actively involved in designing and implementing the projects to reduce its carbon footprints and ensure sustainable growth.

**REC Foundation is the CSR arm of the REC Limited** which was set up with an objective of carrying out impactful and sustainable CSR projects. The Foundation was promoted by the company with an aim to undertake socially relevant, impactful, and sustainable CSR projects. The CSR programmes cover a wide spectrum of beneficiaries with a view to empower economically and socially backward communities. The CSR projects supported by the company include projects on sanitation and hygiene, healthcare, skill development, women empowerment, environmental sustainability, and rural infrastructural development.

The REC Foundation (RECF) believes in "we care, we empower" and hence, the Foundation has adopted an integrated following CSR model[4]:

1 REC India website (https://recindia.nic.in/saubhagya) as retrieved on 10 June 2022
2 REC CSR activities (https://recindia.nic.in/uploads/files/CSR-CTB26-JulyLow-Resspreadfor-website.pdf) as retrieved on 10 June 2022
3 REC CSR activities (https://recindia.nic.in/uploads/files/CSR-CTB26-JulyLow-Resspreadfor-website.pdf) as retrieved on 10 June 2022

## Figure 2: RECF's CSR Model[5]


## Figure 3: REC's CSR thematic area[6]


[5] REC CSR Compendium (https://recindia.nic.in/uploads/files/CSR-CTB26-JulyLow-Ressprеadfor-website.pdf) data retrieved on 07 June 2022

[6] REC India website (https://recindia.nic.in/csr-sustainability-policy) as retrieved on 10 June 2022

## 2.2. CSR projects under impact evaluation

REC Foundation (RECF) has been proactive in CSR programming and implementing a gamut of interventions for communities in & around their geographical presence. At this stage, the study was commissioned to carry out impact assessment of 21 CSR projects implemented by RECF across India to understand the direct and indirect impacts of CSR interventions on the communities. For all the projects, RECF signed MOAs with the implementing partners stating project name, cost, duration, reach, geographical location, etc. The role of RECF was to provide support and monitor the project activities undertaken by the implementing partners. The below schematic presents the sector wise grouping of 21 projects which formed a part of impact assessment:

**Figure 4: Sector wise grouping of RECF CSR projects**


The below table provides the list of 21 CSR projects whose impact assessment study has been carried out:

**Table 1: List of 21 CSR project under impact evaluation**

| # | Sector | Data collection process* | CSR projects under impact evaluation |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | **Skill Development and Livelihood** | Virtual | Reviving Crafts Heritage and Providing Sustainable Livelihood to the Artisans |
| 2. | **Environmental sustainability** | In-person | Distribution of about 1.5 lakh Solar Lanterns in poorly electrified areas of backward districts of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha |
| 3. | **Skill Development and Livelihood** | Virtual | Job Oriented Skill Development Training Programme |
| 4. | **Education** | In-person | Establishment of Virtual Classrooms (VCR) in 10 nos. of Government high schools in Karnataka |
| 5. | **Environmental sustainability** | In-person | Installation of 2 MW SPV system at various locations at campus of IIM Tiruchirappalli |
| 6. | **Water, sanitation & hygiene** | In-person | 'Water, Sanitation & Hygiene for all' services in urban and rural areas to marginalized Scheduled caste communities and primary schools |
| 7. | **Skill Development and Livelihood** | Virtual | Job oriented skill development training (residential) to 1,650 beneficiaries belonging to Scheduled caste in various states of India |
| 8. | **Environmental sustainability** | In-person | Setting up of electric crematorium in Ghaziabad district of Uttar Pradesh |
| 9. | **Environmental sustainability** | In-person | Replacement of the non-functional old structure and install 135 KWp off-grid solar plant (with battery) at various |

| # | Sector | Data collection process* | CSR projects under impact evaluation |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | locations on the campus of the Barefoot College, Tilonia (SWRC), Rajasthan |
| **10.** | **Environmental sustainability** | In-person | Setting-up of 900 KWp rooftop solar PV plant in 30 nos. of government residential schools; Insulating the existing rabbit ACSR conductor in 30 nos. of campuses. Providing polyolefin insulation through heat shrinking process to the existing open rabbit conductor campuses; Establishment e-learning centres (virtual classrooms) in 10 residential schools. |
| **11.** | **Skill Development and Livelihood** | Virtual | Job oriented skill development training to 1,300 nos. of women & youth belonging to economically weaker section of society |
| **12.** | **Skill Development and Livelihood** | Virtual | Job oriented skill development training to 880 women belonging to economically weaker section |
| **13.** | **Skill Development and Livelihood** | Virtual | Job oriented skill development training (residential) to 1000 nos. of youth belonging to economically weaker section in approx. 20 districts across India. |
| **14.** | **Environmental sustainability** | In-person | Installation of 100 nos. of hand pumps and excavation of pond at Bairati temple campus |
| **15.** | **Environmental sustainability** | In-person | Installation of 283 KWp solar PV system on roof top of Shaheed Udham Singh Panjab University, Constituent College |
| **16.** | **Skill Development and Livelihood** | Virtual | Job oriented skill development training (residential) to nos. of beneficiaries belonging to economically weaker sections of the society |
| **17.** | **Health** | In-person | Infrastructure development of Pandit Ram Sumer Shukla Smriti Govt. Medical College, Rudrapur, Udham Singh Nagar |
| **18.** | **Skill Development and Livelihood** | Virtual | Free distribution of seeds to 5,000 nos. farmers residing in drought prone area |
| **19.** | **Skill Development and Livelihood** | Virtual | Free distribution of seeds to 10,000 nos. of farmers residing in drought prone area |
| **20.** | **Water, sanitation & hygiene** | In-person | Installation of 20 nos. of water ATM machines at the site of Kumbh Mela 2019, Prayagraj and various iconic locations of India |
| **21.** | **Environmental sustainability** | In-person | Development and maintenance of public park at Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, New Delhi |

*As part of approach agreed with RECF, we were asked to cover all the "Skill Development and Livelihood projects" through desk review / telephonic or virtual interactions with stakeholder(s).

### Need for impact assessment study

Rule 8(3) of the Companies (CSR Policy) Amendment Rules, 2021 mandates following class of companies to conduct impact assessment[7]:

- companies with minimum average CSR obligation of Rs. 10 crore or more in the immediately preceding 3 financial years; and

[7] MCA website (https://www.mca.gov.in/Ministry/pdf/FAQ_CSR.pdf) page 20, as retrieved on 10 June 2022

- companies that have CSR projects with outlays of minimum Rs. 1 crore and which have been completed not less than 1 year before undertaking impact assessment.

RECF intended to carry out the impact assessment studies to access the effectiveness and efficiency of the CSR projects implemented by them. **To assess the impact, REC Foundation engaged PricewaterhouseCoopers Private Limited (PwC) India to conduct the impact assessment study of its 21 projects.**

## 2.3. About the agency conducting impact assessment

**PricewaterhouseCoopers Pvt. Ltd**, India was originally incorporated in 1983 and is a member of the global network. The legacy firms of PwC have been present in India for over 130 years and have a deep understanding of the country's business environment. At present, our consultants operate out of fifteen cities (Delhi NCR, Bengaluru, Chennai, Kolkata (registered office), Ahmedabad, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Pune, Jaipur, Bhubaneswar, Jamshedpur, Bhopal, Atal Nagar, Shimla, Dehradun) in the country and have a strong team of over 15,000 professionals involved in providing services to private sector, public sector, and various levels of government in India and abroad, international donor agencies etc.

PricewaterhouseCoopers Pvt. Ltd, India has a diverse set of professionals, which includes civil engineers, economists, sociologists, accounting and financial management specialists, urban planners, information technology specialists, education, and training specialists. PricewaterhouseCoopers Pvt. Ltd, India has suitable resource pool and experience to provide technical and functional backstopping for the project.

PricewaterhouseCoopers Pvt. Ltd, India has successfully worked with several national, subnational, and local/regional Government, multilateral, and bi-lateral.

**Figure 5: About PwC India**

# 3. Evaluation and impact assessment methodology

# 3. Evaluation and impact assessment methodology

This section provides an overview of the evaluation and impact assessment methodology of **21 CSR projects.** Following table depicts the list of 21 CSR projects covered under the impact assessment as per MOA:

**Table 2: List of 21 projects assessed**

| # | Sector | CSR project name | Implementing Partner | Project Location(s) | Project sanctioned amount (in INR) * | Project Reach |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **1.** | **Skill Development and Livelihood** | Reviving Crafts Heritage and Providing Sustainable Livelihood to the Artisans | National Culture Fund (Trust) /Gujarat State Women SEWA Cooperative Federation Ltd | Gujarat (Ahmedabad, Mehsana, Patan, Kutch and Surat) | 1.5 Cr. | 1,200 women artisans |
| **2.** | **Environmental sustainability** | Distribution of about 1.5 lakh Solar Lanterns in poorly electrified areas of backward districts of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha | Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) | Andhra Pradesh and Odisha | 12.9 Cr. | 1,50,000 community members |
| **3.** | **Skill Development and Livelihood** | Job Oriented Skill Development Training Programme | National Skill Development Fund (NSDF) /National Skill Development Corporation | Central and Eastern regions of India including Bihar, Odisha, Jharkhand, etc. | 8.7 Cr. | 6,400 youth, women and school going students |
| **4.** | **Education** | Establishment of Virtual Classrooms (VCR) in 10 nos. of Government high schools in Karnataka | Karnataka State Council for Science & Technology (KSCST), Bangalore | Uttara Kannada, Tumakuru, Chikmagalur, Kodagu, Chamarajanagara, Udupi, Mandya, Bellary, Bagalkote, Vijayapura districts in Karnataka | 1.9 Cr. | Students from 10 nos. of Govt. High Schools |

| # | Sector | CSR project name | Implementing Partner | Project Location(s) | Project sanctioned amount (in INR) * | Project Reach |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **5.** | **Environmental sustainability** | Installation of 2 MW SPV system at various locations at campus of IIM Tiruchirappalli | Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu | IIM Tiruchirappalli campus, Tamil Nadu | 15.1 Cr. | Approx. 2,000 including students, support staff and administrative officials would be benefited under this project |
| **6.** | **Water, sanitation & hygiene** | 'Water, Sanitation & Hygiene for all' service in urban and rural areas to Scheduled caste communities and primary schools | Society for Integrated Development in Urban & Rural Areas (SIDUR) | Andhra Pradesh | 4.2 Cr. | 19,000 persons & 4,000 school going children |
| **7.** | **Skill Development and Livelihood** | Job oriented skill development training (residential) to 1,650 beneficiaries belonging to Scheduled caste in various states of India | National Scheduled Castes Finance & Development Corporation (NSCFDC) | Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh | 3.9 Cr. | 1,650 youth belonging to SC community |
| **8.** | **Environmental sustainability** | Setting up of electric crematorium in Ghaziabad district of Uttar Pradesh | Ghaziabad Developmental Authority (GDA) | Hindan River areas, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh | 1.2 Cr. | Local community from Ghaziabad who use crematorium |
| **9.** | **Environmental sustainability** | Replacement of the non-functional old structure and install 135 KWp off-grid solar plant (with battery) at various locations on the campus of the Barefoot College, Tilonia (SWRC), Rajasthan | Social Work and Research Centre (Barefoot College) | Barefoot College, Tilonia | 1.4 Cr. | Students and Staff from college and nearby villages |

| # | Sector | CSR project name | Implementing Partner | Project Location(s) | Project sanctioned amount (in INR) * | Project Reach |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **10.** | **Environmental sustainability** | Setting-up of 900 KWp rooftop solar PV plant in 30 nos. of government residential schools; Insulating the existing rabbit ACSR conductor in 30 nos. of campuses. Providing polyolefin insulation through heat shrinking process to the existing open rabbit conductor campuses; Establishment e-learning centres (virtual classrooms) in 10 residential schools. | Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society (KREIS) | Various districts of Karnataka | 12.9 Cr. | Approx. 6,500 students per year |
| **11.** | **Skill Development and Livelihood** | Job oriented skill development training to 1,300 nos. of women & youth belonging to economically weaker section of society | Mahila Ashram Muwani, Pithoragarh | Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand | 1.4 Cr. | 1,300 no. of women & youth belonging to economically weaker section of the society |
| **12.** | **Skill Development and Livelihood** | Job oriented skill development training to 880 women belonging to economically weaker section | Bisnouli Sarvodaya Gramodaya Sewa Sansthan (BSGSS) | Gurdaspur, Punjab and Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh | 1.2 Cr. | 880 women belonging to economically weaker section |
| **13.** | **Skill Development and Livelihood** | Job oriented skill development training (residential) to 1,000 nos. of youth belonging to economically weaker section in approx. 20 districts across India. | Central Institute of Plastic Engineering & Technology (CIPET), Chennai | Across India | 5.8 Cr. | 1,000 nos. of youth |
| **14.** | **Environmental sustainability** | Installation of 100 nos. of hand pumps and excavation of pond at Bairati temple campus | Paryavaran Care Society | Bagaha, Bihar | 1.0 Cr. | 1,000 household residing in the proposed land |
| **15.** | **Environmental sustainability** | Installation of 283 KWp solar PV system on roof top of Shaheed | Shaheed Udham Singh Panjab University | Shaheed Udham Singh, Panjab University | 1.6 Cr. | Students who attend the university |

| # | Sector | CSR project name | Implementing Partner | Project Location(s) | Project sanctioned amount (in INR) * | Project Reach |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Udham Singh Panjab University, Constituent College | | | | |
| **16.** | **Skill Development and Livelihood** | Job oriented skill development training (residential) to nos. of beneficiaries belonging to economically weaker sections of the society | International Computer Institute (ICI), Noida | Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Bihar, Uttarakhand | 1.6 Cr. | 500 nos. of beneficiaries belonging to economically weaker sections of society |
| **17.** | **Health** | Infrastructure development of Pandit Ram Sumer Shukla Smriti Govt. Medical College, Rudrapur' Udham Singh Nagar | District Magistrate | Rudrapur, Uttarakhand | 18.3 Cr | 1.50 Cr people residing in and around Udham Singh Nagar of Uttarakhand |
| **18.** | **Skill Development and Livelihood** | Free distribution of seeds to 5,000 nos. farmers residing in drought prone area | Vishwasindhu Bhahudeshiya Seva Bhavi Sanstha | Aurangabad District, Maharashtra | 1.9 Cr. | 5,000 farmers |
| **19.** | **Skill Development and Livelihood** | Free distribution of seeds to 10,000 nos. of farmers residing in drought prone area | Vishwasindhu Bhahudeshiya Seva Bhavi Sanstha | Aurangabad District, Maharashtra | 4.1 Cr. | 10,000 farmers |
| **20.** | **Water, sanitation & hygiene** | Installation of 20 nos. of water ATM machines at the site of Kumbh Mela 2019, Prayagraj and various iconic locations of India | Bisnouli Sarvodaya Gramodyog Sewa Sansthan (BSGSS) | Kumbh Mela and other iconic locations in India | 1.7 Cr. | 3,000 people/day on average |
| **21.** | **Environmental sustainability** | Development and maintenance of public park at Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, New Delhi | Central Public Works Department | Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, New Delhi | 5.0 Cr. | People living in and around the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg |

* As per disbursed amount shared by RECF

Above projects are discussed in detail in respective project sections.

## 3.1. Scope of the study

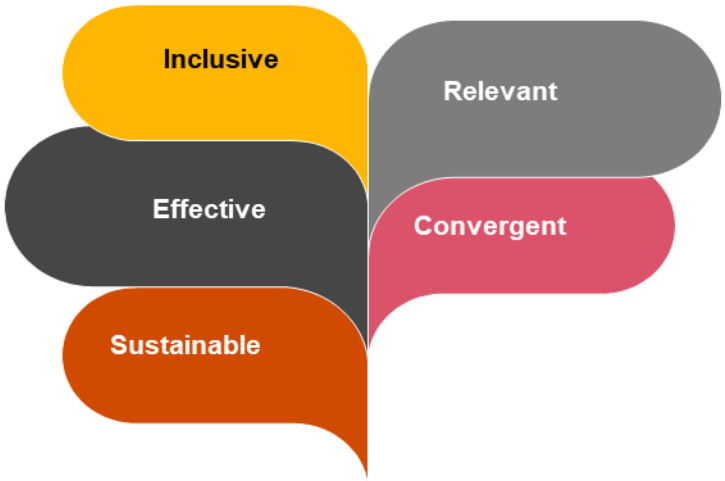
The objective of the study was to assess the outcomes and impact created on the stakeholders covered under the project. The scope of work included the following:

- Conducting impact assessment study of the CSR projects.
- Review of existing project documents such as MoA, Baseline report, Closure report and End line assessment report
- Assess and report findings in relation to impact created
- Assessing gaps and providing recommendations

## 3.2. Methods of evaluation

The impact of the programme was assessed using the IRECS framework. IRECS is geared to provide an overall feedback on the efficacy of implementation as well, as its efficiency in terms of achievement of the desired project outputs with reference to inputs. IRECS framework measured the performance of programme on five parameters – Inclusiveness, Relevance, Effectiveness, Convergence and Sustainability. Overview of areas assessed under each of these five parameters is provided below:

**Figure 6: IRECS Framework and key evaluation parameters**

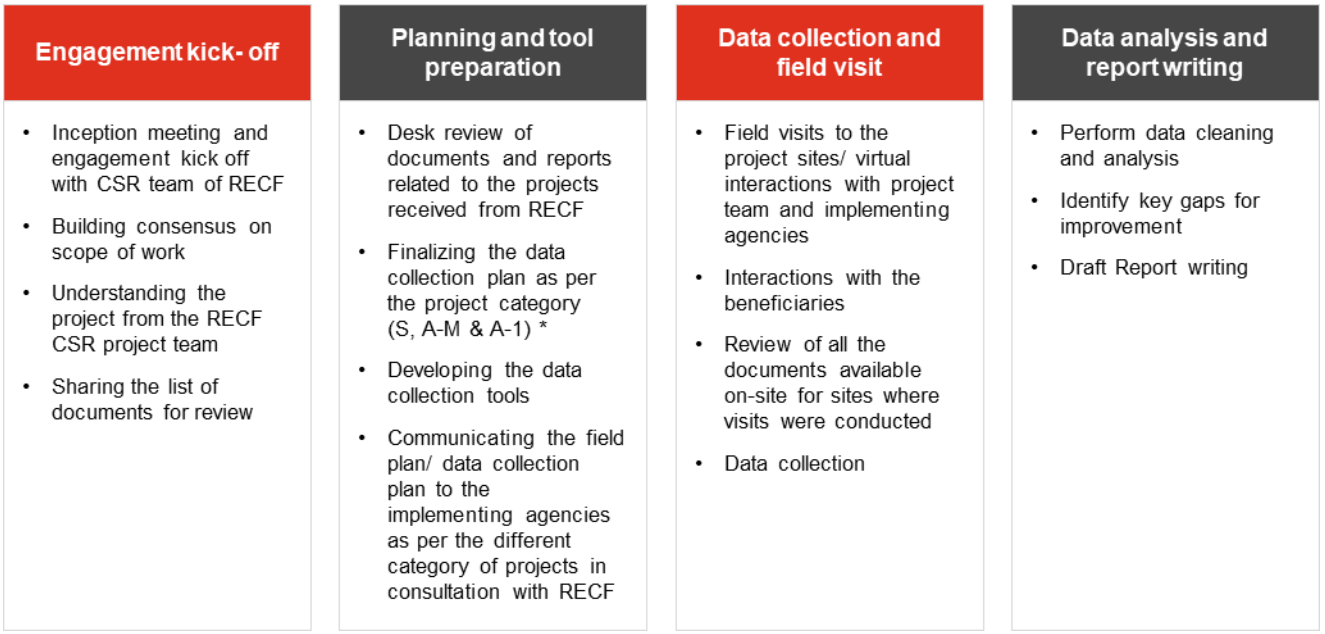



| Key Evaluation Parameters under IRECS | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Inclusiveness** | **Relevance** | **Effectiveness** | **Convergence** | **Sustainability** |
| Ability of different stakeholders (particularly poorest and most marginalised) to access the benefits of activities and derive equitable benefits from assets created. | Are the services /inputs /institutions facilitated in the project able to meet community priorities? Are the services provided needed by beneficiaries? | How effectively the activities have been able to manage/ mitigate community expectations? How efficiently have the resources been deployed, monitored and utilized? | Degree of convergence with government/other partnerships; relationship between individuals, community, institutions and other stakeholders | How will the projects help beneficiaries sustain in the long run? |

## 3.3. Detailed methodology

Guided by the overall IRECS framework as presented earlier, the study took a cohesive and integrated approach to assess the socio-economic impact of CSR projects implemented by RECF and assessed its impact on the lives of communities or beneficiaries. An outline of the methodology to address the process for **21 CSR projects** is highlighted in the figure below:

**Figure 7: Study Methodology**




*S: no asset created

A-M: Asset created at multiple locations

A-1: Asset created at a single location

### 1. Engagement kick-off stage:

PwC team initiated the assignment by conducting an inception meeting with the RECF personnel. Post the inception meeting, PwC team prepared a formal request for information including the required list of documents for desk research to validate as well as augment our understanding about the RECF projects. PwC also discussed with RECF their desired outputs for the projects, documented understanding of the same before proceeding to next phase of the evaluation. To further understand the overall mechanism of how the programme is being implemented on ground by RECF, PwC team reviewed and understood the implementation processes from the Foundation team and the implementing partners.

### 2. Planning and tool preparation:

The documents available with RECF (i.e., Memorandum of Agreement, baseline report, audited utilization certificate and project completion certificate etc.) were shared and PwC team started the desk review of the project documents. Basis the desk review of the documents, the team developed the tools for data collection and field visit plan. At the same time, PwC team started interacting with the project implementing agencies to sensitize them on the impact assessment requirements and communicating the dates for field visit.

**Sampling:**

Based on the nature of some projects a mix of quantitative and qualitative research methods was adopted. The sampling design for quantitative data collection is provided below:

The sample size for quantitative was calculated using the following:

$n' = n/1+ \{[z^2 * p (1-p)]/m^2*N\}$

where the parameters are.

- n' – sample
- Z is z score depending on Confidence Interval (in this case CI = 95% and z = 1.96)
- $n = z^2 * p(1-p)/m^2$
- N = population size (depending on individual projects as obtained from each project MOA)
- M = margin of error (10%)
- p = population proportion (considered as 50%,0.5)

Interactions were planned for all projects after mapping key stakeholders and focus group discussions and in-depth interviews and Key informant interviews were done (Refer table for the details.)

**Table 3: Sampling and stakeholder mapping for data collection**

| # | Sector | CSR project under impact evaluation | Sample | Stakeholders interacted with |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **1.** | **Skill Development and Livelihood** | Reviving Crafts Heritage and Providing Sustainable Livelihood to the Artisans | 89 | • Women artisans<br>• Officials from SEWA |
| **2.** | **Environmental sustainability** | Distribution of about 1.5 lakh Solar Lanterns in poorly electrified areas of backward districts of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha | 96 | • Students from Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences<br>• Officials from SECI Delhi (Senior Manager) and Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences |
| **3.** | **Skill Development and Livelihood** | Job Oriented Skill Development Training Programme | 95 | • Students<br>• Training officials<br>• CIPET head |
| **4.** | **Education** | Establishment of Virtual Classrooms (VCR) in 10 nos. of Government high schools in Karnataka | - | • Principal, Teachers, and school management<br>• Officials from Karnataka State Council for Science and Technology<br>• School Students where project support has been provided |
| **5.** | **Environmental sustainability** | Installation of 2 MW SPV system at various locations at campus of IIM Tiruchirappalli | - | • Administration and Management of IIM Tiruchirappalli<br>• Junior engineer (Civil), Campus project manager and control unit operators. |

| # | Sector | CSR project under impact evaluation | Sample | Stakeholders interacted with |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **6.** | **Water, sanitation & hygiene** | 'Water, Sanitation & Hygiene for all' service in urban and rural areas to Scheduled caste communities and primary schools | 96 | • Community from Yazali & Perali villages, Karlapalem block<br>• School students from Yazili village, Karlapalem block<br>• Officials from SIDUR Hyderabad |
| **7.** | **Skill Development and Livelihood** | Job oriented skill development training (residential) to 1,650 beneficiaries belonging to Scheduled caste in various states of India | 91 | |
| **8.** | **Environmental sustainability** | Setting up of electric crematorium in Ghaziabad district of Uttar Pradesh | - | • The Ghaziabad Developmental Authority<br>• Nagar Nigam |
| **9.** | **Environmental sustainability** | Replacement of the non-functional old structure and install 135 KWp off-grid solar plant (with battery) at various locations on the campus of the Barefoot College, Tilonia (SWRC), Rajasthan | - | • Campus Manager<br>• Solar Project Manager<br>• Solar Technician<br>• Teaching staff<br>• Students & villagers |
| **10.** | **Environmental sustainability** | Setting-up of 900 KWp rooftop solar PV plant in 30 nos. of government residential schools; Insulating the existing rabbit ACSR conductor in 30 nos. of campuses. Providing polyolefin insulation through heat shrinking process to the existing open rabbit conductor campuses; Establishment e-learning centres (virtual classrooms) in 10 residential schools. | 95 (68) | • Student respondents from Kodagu district<br>• Students, teachers, principal & school management<br>• Officials from KREIS for key informant interviews |
| **11.** | **Skill Development and Livelihood** | Job oriented skill development training to 1,300 nos. of women & youth belonging to economically weaker section of society | 90 | • Beneficiaries who received training across the seven trades<br>• Employers<br>• Families of beneficiaries<br>• Officials from Mahila Ashram Muwani (Secretary) |

| # | Sector | CSR project under impact evaluation | Sample | Stakeholders interacted with |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **12.** | **Skill Development and Livelihood** | Job oriented skill development training to 880 women belonging to economically weaker section | 87 | • Women from Gurdaspur district of Punjab and Ghaziabad district of Uttar Pradesh<br>• Officials from BSGSS (project manager, Director) |
| **13.** | **Skill Development and Livelihood** | Job oriented skill development training (residential) to 1,000 nos. of youth belonging to economically weaker section in approx. 20 districts across India. | 88 | • Students enrolled in for the Course<br>• CIPET Trainers<br>• CIEPT head |
| **14.** | **Environmental sustainability** | Installation of 100 nos. of hand pumps and excavation of pond at Bairati temple campus | - | • Village panchayat and community members<br>• Temple community members<br>• Officials of Paryavaran Care Society |
| **15.** | **Environmental sustainability** | Installation of 283 KWp solar PV system on roof top of Shaheed Udham Singh Panjab University, Constituent College | - | • Principal/Dean of college<br>• Campus project manager<br>• College teaching staff |
| **16.** | **Skill Development and Livelihood** | Job oriented skill development training (residential) to nos. of beneficiaries belonging to economically weaker sections of the society | 81 | • Individuals belonging to economically weaker sections of society<br>• Officials from ICI (project trainers, Manager, and ICI Director)<br>• Focus group discussion with beneficiaries |
| **17.** | **Health** | Infrastructure development of Pandit Ram Sumer Shukla Smriti Govt. Medical College, Rudrapur' Udham Singh Nagar | - | • Chief Medical Officers Office<br>• Medical stuff<br>• Nursing stuff |
| **18.** | **Skill Development and Livelihood** | Free distribution of seeds to 5,000 nos. farmers residing in drought prone area | 95 | • Farmers<br>• Implementing partners |
| **19.** | **Skill Development and Livelihood** | Free distribution of seeds to 10,000 nos. of farmers residing in drought prone area | 95 | • Farmers<br>• Implementing partners |

| # | Sector | CSR project under impact evaluation | Sample | Stakeholders interacted with |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **20.** | **Water, sanitation & hygiene** | Installation of 20 nos. of water ATM machines at the site of Kumbh Mela 2019, Prayagraj and various iconic locations of India | - | • PSPSF Chief Executive Officer<br>• Overall project site manager<br>• Lead engineer<br>• ATM operators |
| **21.** | **Environmental sustainability** | Development and maintenance of public park at Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, New Delhi | - | • Officials from Central Public Works Department<br>• Official from M/s KBG Engineers<br>• 10 individuals who are regular visitors |

### 3. Data collection and field visit:

Data collection was conducted both virtually and on field as per the categorization of RECF. The team collected data from beneficiaries and other stakeholders. Data from programme documents available on-site were also collected. Interaction with the implementing partners, beneficiaries and other project stakeholders were held for understanding the projects' impact, as well as the sustainability aspect of the programme and long-term benefits.

**The data collection for all the projects was done from 23rd of May 2022 to 08th June 2022.**

### 4. Data analysis and report writing:

The analysis of the data collected from the study was carried out and the inferences and findings were summarised, and a report was developed for the consideration and feedback of RECF.

# Project-wise impact assessment

# 4. Project 1: Reviving Crafts Heritage and Providing Sustainable Livelihood to the Artisans

# 4. Project 1: Reviving Crafts Heritage and Providing Sustainable Livelihood to the Artisans

## 4.1. About the project

RECF initiated a project for **promotion of arts and culture through reviving crafts heritage and providing sustainable livelihood to artisans** (in alignment with its CSR policy's focus area)[8]. RECF signed Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with **The National Culture Fund (NCF), Government of India and Gujarat State Women's SEWA Cooperative (SEWA) Federation Limited (implementation partner) in 2013.** The project had three major components as defined below:

1. **Skill and capacity building was done for the women artisans** as per the results of the baseline study. This entailed the following activities:
    - Skill upgradation and capacity building for technical skills- The women artisans were provided different skill upgradation training based on their current skill set.
    - Capacity building for self-development and organisation development- The beneficiaries were provided capacity building training for self-development as well as organisation development.
    - Training kits were provided for the artisans to practise arts and crafts and enhance their skills and finishing of the product they develop.
    - Exposure visits were conducted for artisans involving local and regional exposure visits to interact with leading artisans to encourage learning of new skills and provide ideas for product diversification.
2. **The design SEWA centre** was renovated as it is a historical building and an important infrastructure to provide support to the women artisans as part of the project. As informed by the implementing partner, the design SEWA Centre was used for the following purposes:
    - The design SEWA Centre was used as promotion of the crafts heritage Centre for sales and promotion during inauguration, exhibitions, festivals, other promotional events, etc.
    - Documentation and archiving of traditional designs.
    - The Centre has machines and latest technology equipment and rare traditional raw materials for the practice, reference, and use of the women artisans. Separate space for different activities like training, administration, craft demonstration, product development, practicing, etc. has been allocated in the design SEWA Centre.
3. **The market linkage** support provided to the women artisans had the following components:
    - Redesigning of the marketing outlet SEWA Kalakruti by the women artisans including designing logo and brochure.
    - Hiring of marketing professional.
    - Development of marketing materials like banners, posters, brochures, pamphlets etc. for use during sales, exhibitions, and other promotional events.
    - Marketing promotions for simulating sales through print media advertisements, radio programs, kiosks in malls, etc.
    - Local and regional exposure visits, exhibitions, and sales were conducted for some women artisans.

[8] RECF website (https://recindia.nic.in/uploads/files/REC-CSR-Policy-07-12-2021.pdf) as retrieved on 17 June 2022

The **objectives of the project** are as follows:

To help women artisans of the informal economy achieve economic security through traditional livelihoods

To promote greater awareness, acceptance and demand for local arts and crafts

To revive and restore the design SEWA Centre

Following schematic represents the key aspects of project implementation:

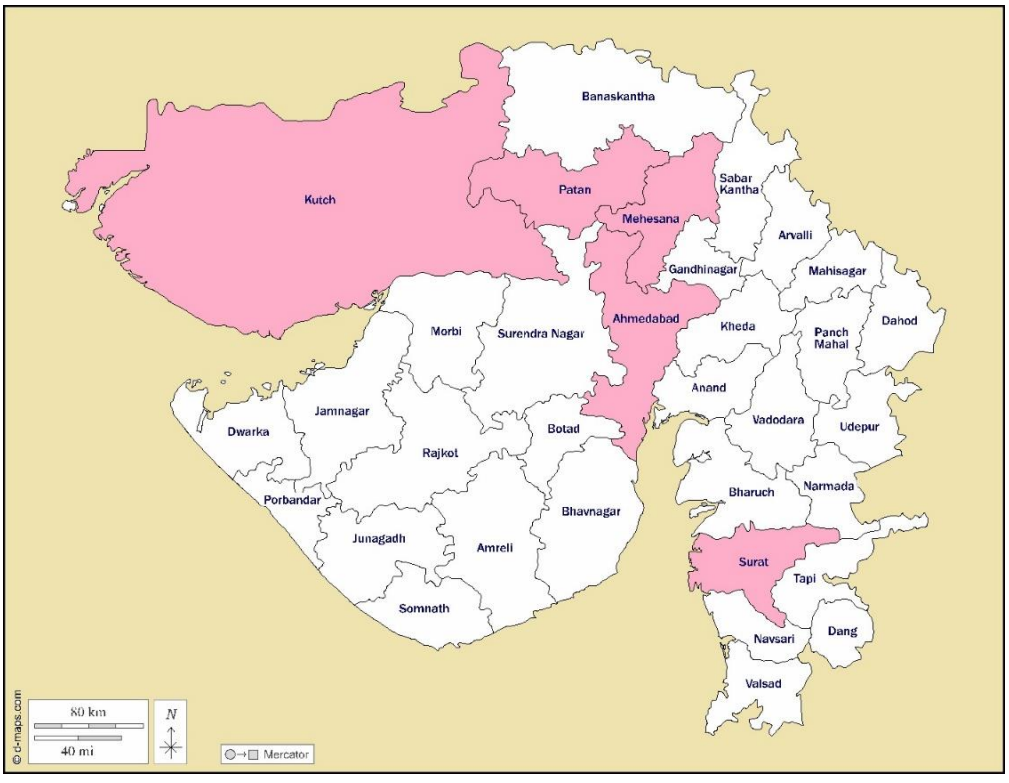
**Project Reach:**
1200 Women artisans in 5 districts of Gujarat

**Project duration:**
3 years (36 months) from 2013 to 2016

**Geographic location:**
Ahmedabad, Mehsana, Patan, Surat and Kutch

**Project Cost:**
INR 1.54 Crore

REC Foundation provided a grant of **INR 1.54 Cr. to SEWA** to be utilised during the project period. Total expenditure incurred by SEWA as per utilisation certificate was **INR 1.52 Cr.** Hence, there has been an **underutilisation of INR 1.81 Lakhs** which was returned to RECF as mentioned by the CSR team of RECF.




**Map source:** https://d-maps.com/carte.php?num_car=30993&lang=en

## 4.2. About the Implementing agency

SEWA was born as a trade union of poor self-employed women in 1972, in the city of Ahmedabad, Gujarat. It grew out of the women's wing of the Textile Labor Association (TLA), India's oldest and largest union of textile workers founded in 1920 by Aanasuya Sarabhai and Mahatma Gandhi. The original purpose of the women's wing was to provide training in sewing, spinning, knitting, embroidery, and other welfare activities to the wives and daughters of mill workers. Over the years, several SEWAs have grown organically across India, bringing together poor, self-employed women working in over 125 different trades, and belonging to many different castes and religions.[9]

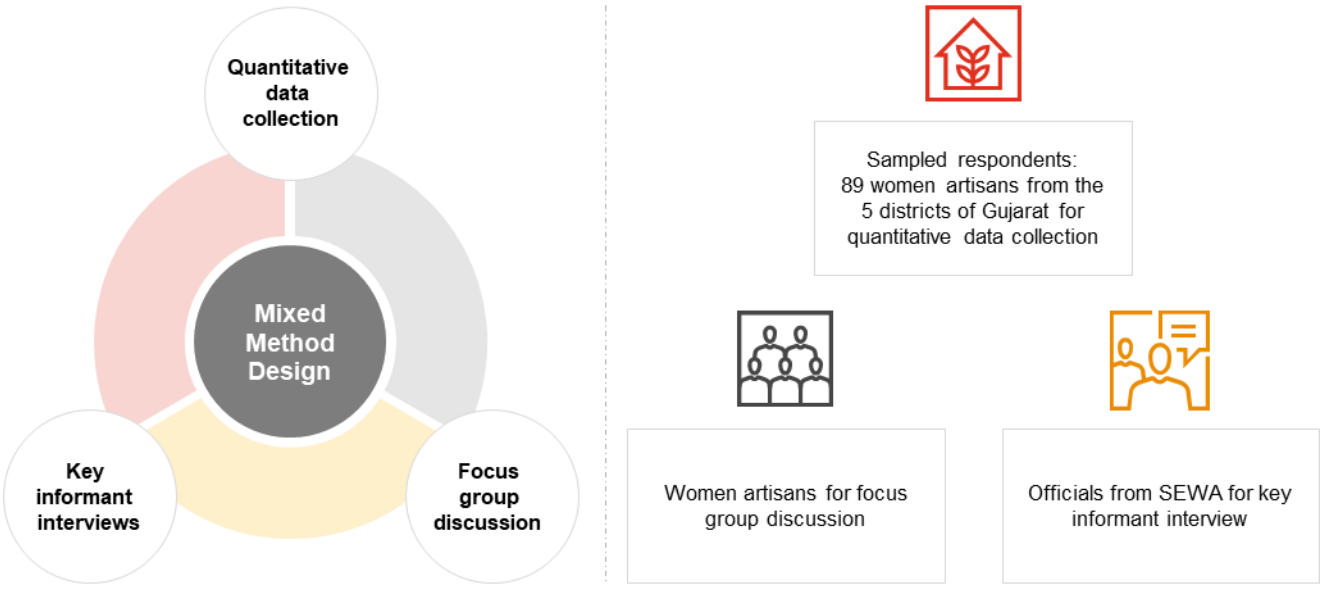
The National Culture Fund (NCF) was established as a funding mechanism distinct from the existing sources and patterns of funding for the arts and culture in India. It enables institutions and individuals to support arts and culture directly as partners with its government. The National Culture Fund (NCF) was set up by the Government of India as a Trust under the Charitable Endowment. NCF is managed by a Council and an Executive Committee. The Council is chaired by the Hon'ble Minister of Culture and has members representing the corporate and public sector, private foundations, and non-profit organizations.[10] In the project, it was responsible for fund disbursement from RECF and part of the project implementation committee.

## 4.3. Method of impact assessment

Impact assessment study of this project was initiated by conducting an inception meeting with the REC Foundation officials. Post the meeting, a list of requisite documents was shared with the REC Foundation's CSR team. Accordingly, following documents were received from RECF team for desk review:

- Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) signed between REC Foundation, NCF and SEWA
- Baseline study submitted by implementing partner to RECF
- Impact assessment report submitted by implementing partner to RECF
- Utilisation certificate

Basis the documents received; PwC team started the desk review of project documents to develop more understanding about the project. Accordingly, the **key stakeholders of project were identified and mapped** to capture their opinions and feedback and a **mixed method research design** was adopted for the study which included the usage of **quantitative** and **qualitative research tools (focus group discussions and key informant interview)** for data collection as mentioned below:




[9] Source: Extracted from https://www.sewa.org/about-us/ as retrieved on 17 June 2022

[10] Source: Extracted from https://ncf.nic.in/about-us as retrieved on 17 June 2022

A plan was developed for **quantitative and qualitative interactions with the key stakeholders identified.** Selection of **89 women artisans** was done by **simple random sampling technique** wherein women artisans were randomly chosen keeping in mind the completeness as well as representation of variations in the sample. Sample was calculated at **confidence interval of 95% and 10% margin of error.**

A pilot testing of the research tools was conducted by the PwC team to ascertain the viability, post which, the tools were modified accordingly. Training of the data collection team was also done.

## 4.4. Analysis & findings

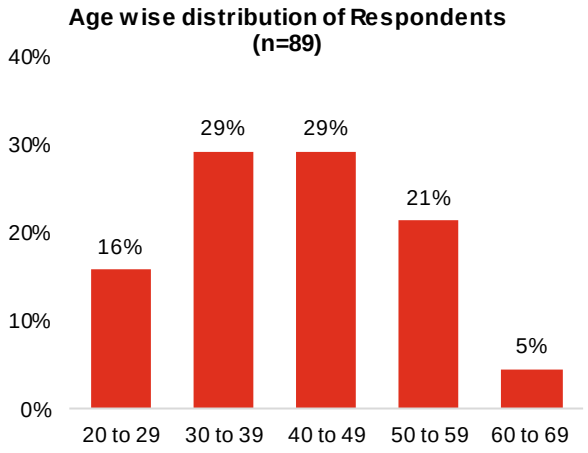
Summary of the key findings is presented below:

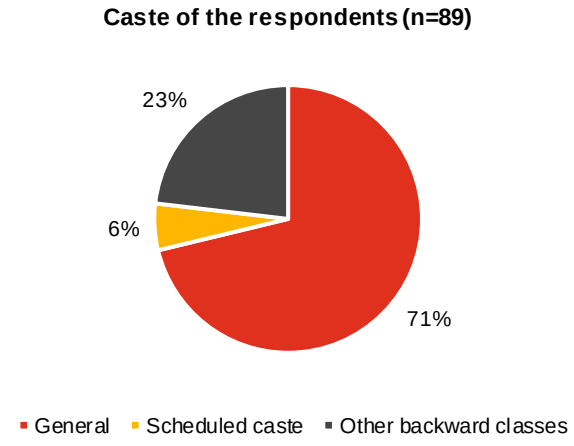
### 4.4.1. Profile of the respondents:

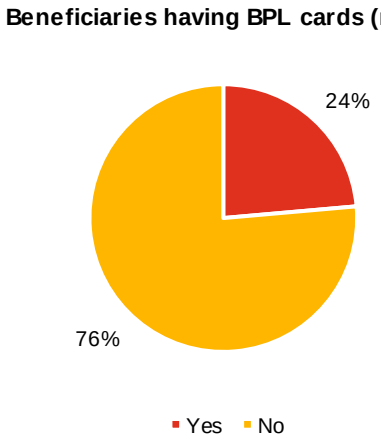
A total of 89 beneficiaries were interviewed to understand the impact of intervention. As depicted in the below graphs, out of the 89 women beneficiaries interviewed, **29% of the respondents** were between the age group of **"30-39 years"** and **"40-49 years" each**. In addition, 71% of the respondents were from the General category and rest were from SC and OBC category. 24% of the respondents claimed that they belonged to Below Poverty Line (BPL) category.

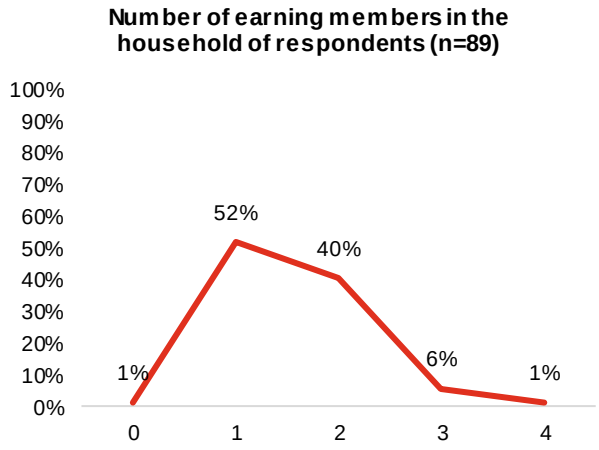
92% of the family members responded saying that they only have 1-2 family members who are involved in any kind of income generating activities. Only 7% respondents highlighted that they have 3 or more earning family members.

**Figure 8: Socio-economic profile of the respondents**



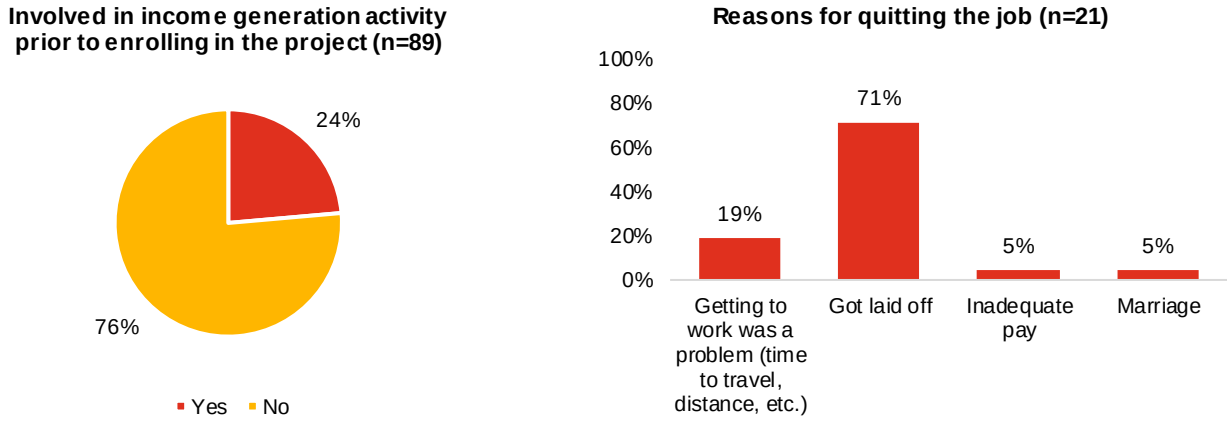



## 4.4.2. Pre-intervention scenario:

24% of the respondents (n=89) stated being involved in income generation activities prior enrolling in the project. Out of the 24% (n=21), respondents who were engaged in income generation activities, highlighted the reasons for quitting their job currently as being laid off for being irregular/ absent, getting to work was a problem, inadequate pay, and marriage (refer graph below):

**Figure 9: Pre-intervention scenario**



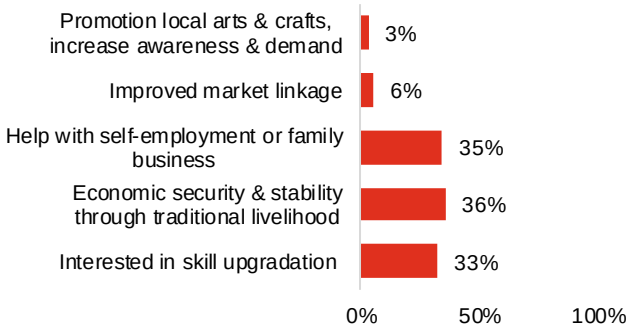

## 4.4.3. Summary of the impact created:

### 1. Reasons for enrolling, benefits received and quality of skill and capacity building

Around 33-36% of the beneficiaries (n=89) stated the reason for enrolling in the course were economic security and stability through traditional livelihood, helped with self-employment and family business and interest in skill upgradation (refer graph).

Majority (92%-93%) of the beneficiaries stated having received the project components like receiving skill upgradation training, exposure visits and capacity building respectively as support provided by the project.

**Figure 10: Reason for enrolling in the course (n=89) ***

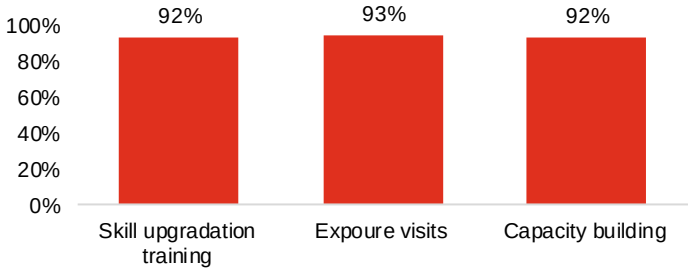



* This was a multiple response question and hence the aggregate is more than 100%

100% of the beneficiaries (n=89) found the quality of training and capacity building to be good.

During the interactions, it was revealed by the beneficiaries that they received regular refresher trainings, self and organisation development trainings for skill and capacity building.

**Figure 11: Received the project components (n=89) ***




* This was a multiple response question and hence the aggregate is more than 100%

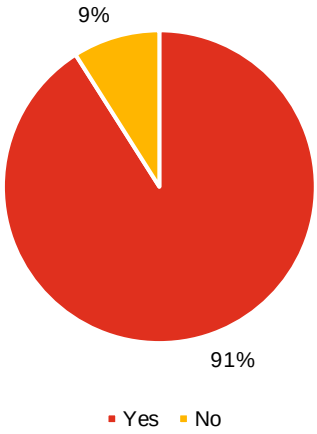
## 2. Usage of renovated Design SEWA centre

91% of the respondents (n=89) stated using the design centre.

Out of the 91% beneficiaries who reported usage of the design SEWA Centre, 54% beneficiaries (n=81) used the design SEWA Centre daily, 34% beneficiaries used it at least once a week while 11% beneficiaries used it 2-3 times a week.

The interactions with the beneficiaries revealed that the artisans used the design SEWA Centre as it served as a hub of design and marketing (37%), space for the women artisans to practise and hone their skills (31%) and exchange ideas with each other on design development and marketing (17%).

**Figure 12: Usage of design centre (n=89)**




The beneficiaries revealed that the Centre had **sales and marketing outlet 'Kalakruti'** where sales of their products were done once in a week. The Centre also had 10 rare and traditional samples for the reference and practice of women artisans. The Centre supported in **market linkages as local exhibitions** were conducted in the Centre where other artisans, local people and visitors came.

The beneficiaries stated that the Centre gave them a **free space where they could practice art, learn from master craft artisans, and learn better designing and finishing** for their products. The Centre acted as a building space for the cooperative formation by the beneficiaries during exchange of ideas as revealed during stakeholder interactions.

## 3. Market linkage support provided

81% of the beneficiaries (n=89) stated receiving market linkage support.

As part of support provided by the project, some of the beneficiaries also received exposure visits, attended local & regional exhibitions, etc. as per planned activities. 60% beneficiaries (n=72) responded to usage of marketing materials as the marketing support provided (refer graph below).

**Figure 13: Support provided on market linkage (n=89)**

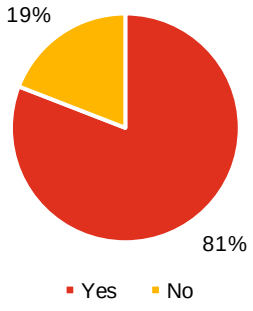
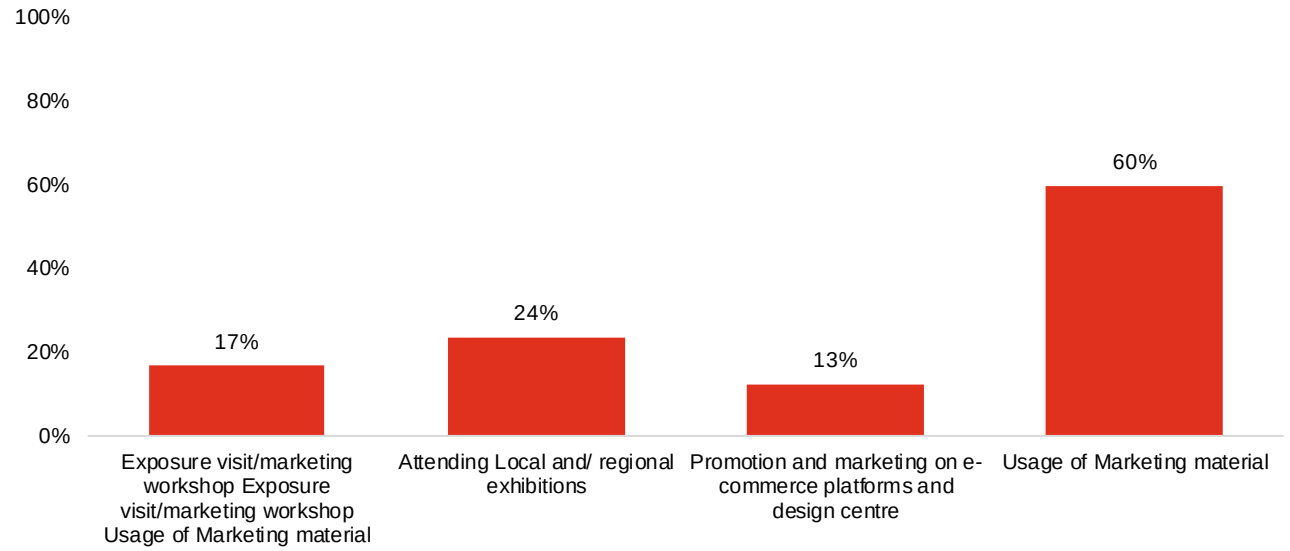


**Figure 14: Type of market linkage support provided (n=72) ***



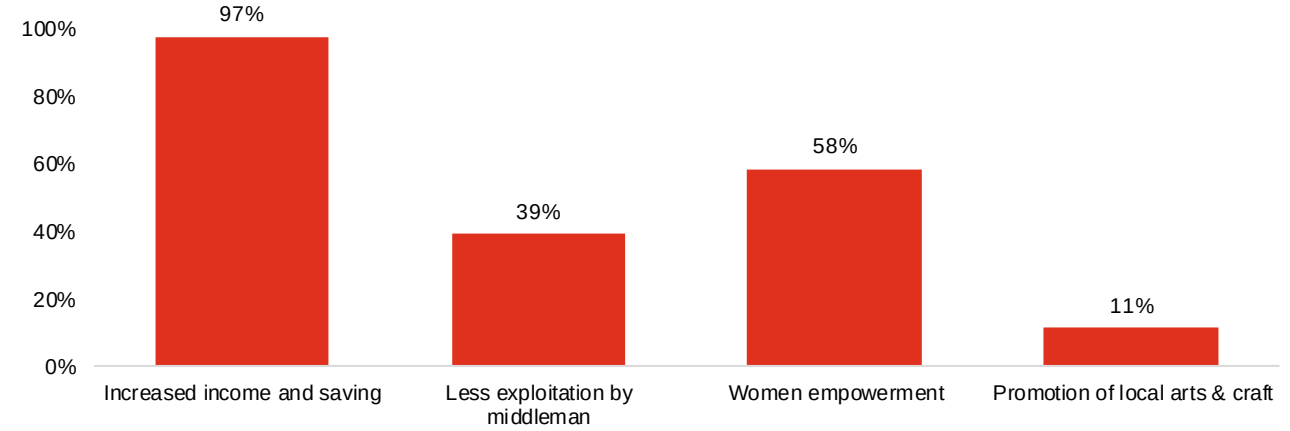

* This was a multiple response question and hence the aggregate is more than 100%

During the interactions with the beneficiaries, it was revealed that 15 women artisans visited malls in Ahmedabad city to gain better understanding of apparel display, quality, finish, and designs. The artisans also participated in 6 local exhibitions and 6 exhibitions out of Gujarat as part of the market linkage support provided.

During the interaction, the beneficiaries stated that with support from the SEWA officials, marketing professional they designed and developed marketing materials like pamphlets, brochures, posters; new logo and brochure of SEWA Kalakruti. The beneficiaries also revealed that news of exhibitions at SEWA Kalakruti and events at design SEWA Centre were regularly published in newspapers for promotion and marketing of their products which helped in the improvement in the sales. A website for SEWA Kalakruti was developed and presence on social media was also done for enhancing the visibility and improvement of the sales of the products developed by the women artisans.

97% and 58% of the respondents (n=72) stated increased income and saving and women empowerment respectively as an impact from the marketing support provided (refer graph below).

**Figure 15: Impact of market linkage support (n=72) ***




* This was a multiple response question and hence the aggregate is more than 100%

## 4. Overall impact from the project

**The median annual income** increased from **INR 18,000 before** the project intervention to **INR 24,000** which is a **~33% improvement** from arts & crafts during the project period.

**57% of the respondents** (n=89) stated that they were **satisfied** by the work and income after the project completion.

The reasons for **satisfaction were women empowerment, economic stability & greater demand and awareness for local arts and crafts as stated by 73%, 45% and 24% of the beneficiaries** (n=51) respectively (refer graph below).

**Figure 16: Satisfaction from work and income after the project (n=89)**

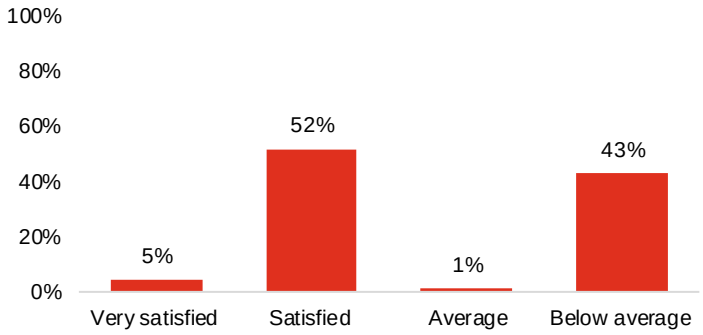
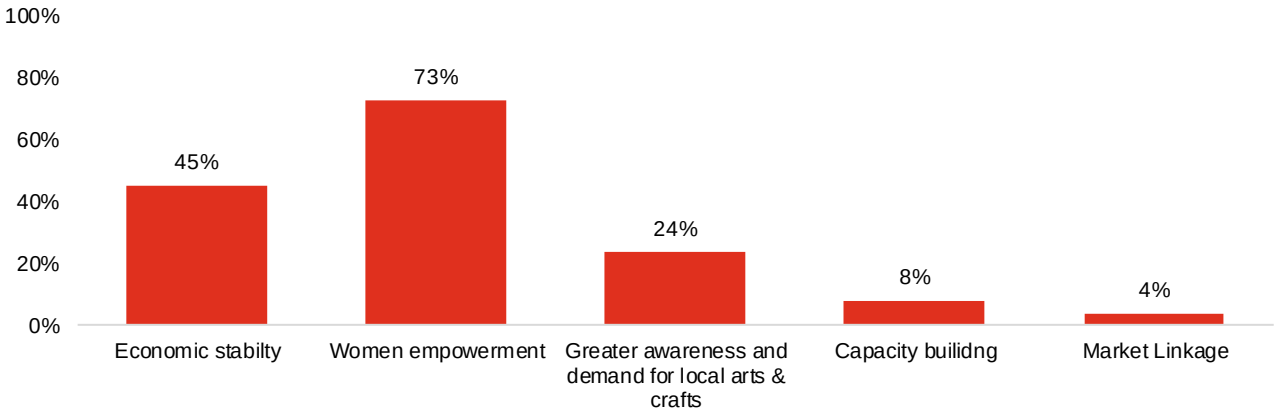


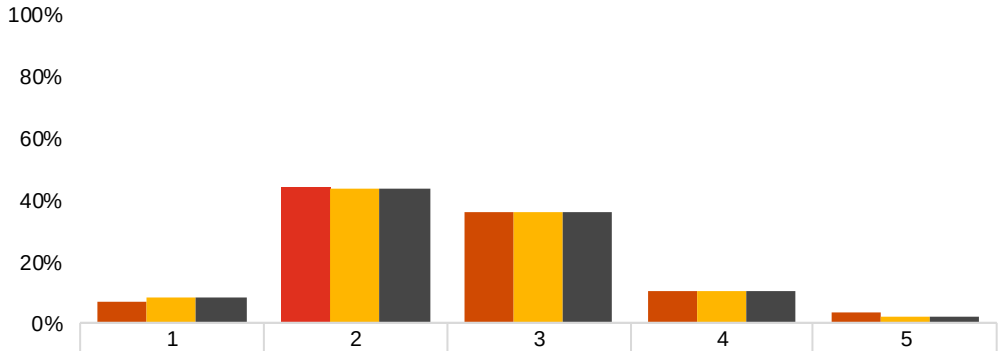

**Figure 17: Reasons for satisfaction (n=51) ***




* This was a multiple response question and hence the aggregate is more than 100%

The average satisfaction level of the beneficiaries (n=89) was rated as 2 and 3 (on a scale of 1-5 with 1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest) for all the components provided by the project (skill upgradation, market linkage & design SEWA centre).

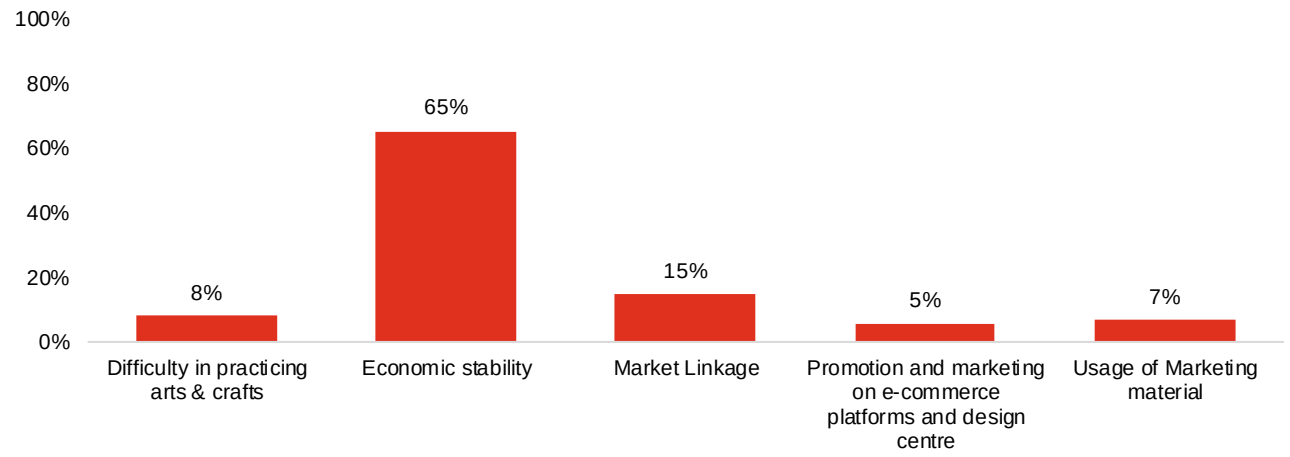
**Figure 18: Satisfaction level (n=89)**




| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Skill upgradation | 7% | 44% | 36% | 10% | 3% |
| Market support & market linkages | 8% | 44% | 36% | 10% | 2% |
| Craft centre- Design SEWA | 8% | 44% | 36% | 10% | 2% |

Post the completion of the project the major challenges were economic stability and market linkages as reported by 65% and 15% respondents as sustained plan for the artisans needed further strengthening. Hence, post support from the project, adequate exit plan for sustainability needed to ensure the continuing support through the artisan cooperatives and groups or market linkage support for e-commerce or other sales opportunities.

**Figure 19: Challenges faced post project completion (n=89)**




## 4.4.4. IRECS Analysis

Basis the interactions with the key stakeholders and desk review of the documents**, the impact of the project was evaluated on 'IRECS framework'**. The IRECS analysis summary has been presented in below table:

**Table 4: IRECS Analysis of Project 1**

| Parameter | Level of impact | Assessment from study |
|---|---|---|
| **Inclusiveness** | **H** | The support provided by the project is inclusive in nature as it provides benefits to all the women artisans without any discrimination by all the artisans irrespective of their social community, caste, religion, etc. |
| **Relevance** | **H** | The support provided is relevant in nature as the artisans already have the traditional arts & crafts skills and the project aimed to develop on the skills and provide them opportunity to market them as well. 100% of the beneficiaries (n=89) found the quality of training and capacity building to be good. The project has led to women empowerment and increased income and saving among women artisans as stated by 58% and 97% of the beneficiaries (n=72) respectively with the market linkage support during the project statement. |
| **Effectiveness** | **M** | 81% of the beneficiaries stated receiving market linkage support and 91% of the respondents (n=89) stated using the design centre. The median annual income increased from INR 18,000 before the project intervention to INR 24,000 which is a ~33% improvement from arts & crafts during the project period. However, certain respondents highlighted the challenge of support through the artisan cooperatives and groups or market linkage post project closure. |

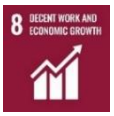
| Parameter | Level of impact | Assessment from study |
|---|---|---|
| **Convergence** | **M** | REC Limited partnered with the National Culture Fund (NCF) which was setup by the Government of India to enable institutions and individuals to support arts and culture directly. In the project, it was responsible for fund disbursement from RECF and part of the project implementation committee. However, the convergence of the project has been observed to be moderate as there were limited support for market linkages which could help the beneficiaries after the project period for sale and marketing of the products. |
| **Sustainability** | **L** | The project enabled women beneficiaries to be independent and further led to women empowerment and increased income and saving among women artisans. However, sustainability has been observed to be low in the support provided as economic stability and marked linkages were reported as 65% and 15% respectively post project completion.. |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **H:** | **High** | | **M:** | **Medium** | | **L:** | **Low** |

## 4.5. Alignment to the REC Foundation's CSR policy & Schedule VII

The project is in alignment with the Schedule VII of the Companies Act 2013 number (ii) Promoting education including special education and employment enhancing vocation skills, especially among children, women, elderly and differently-abled and livelihood enhancement projects;". It is also aligned with the thematic areas of RECF's CSR policy i.e., **"Skill development & livelihood".**

The project is also aligned with Sustainable Development Goal: 8 - Promote sustain, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all.




## 4.6. Recommendation

It was noted that activities related to the Project were executed on time as per the MoA signed between REC Foundation, NCF and SEWA. The impact assessment study identified recommendation for the project which is summarised below:

- Post the project completion, most of the beneficiaries faced economic instability and market linkage as a challenge. A **sustainability plan for improved partnership & linkage of the beneficiaries with institutions & other stakeholders** could be developed for such long-term skill development projects in future, to ensure that the impact is sustained even after the completion of project duration.

## 4.7. Limitation

Following was the limitation to impact assessment study conducted for this project:

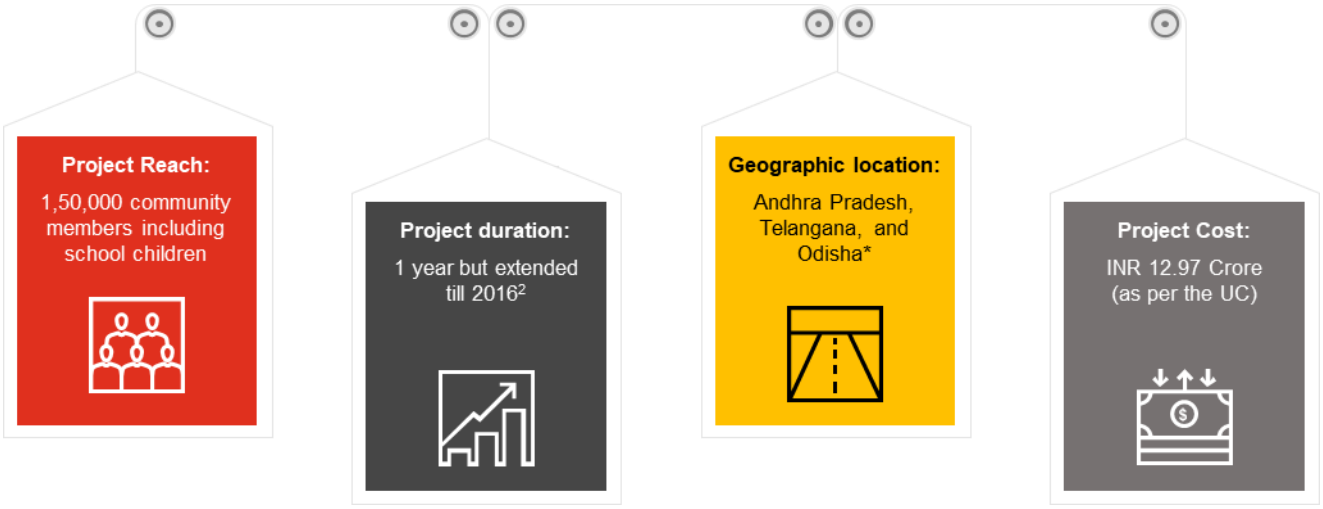
- Since, the project closed in 2016, reaching out to the beneficiaries was difficult as most of them had changed their contact numbers.

# 5. Project 2: Distribution of about 1.5 lakh solar lanterns in poorly electrified areas of backward districts of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha

# 5. Project 2: Distribution of about 1.5 lakh solar lanterns in poorly electrified areas of backward districts of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha

## 5.1. About the project

The project **"Distribution of about 1.5 lakh solar lanterns in poorly electrified areas of backward districts of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha"** was initiated by REC Limited in alignment to its CSR policy. To implement this project, Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) was signed between **REC Limited** and **Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd (SECI) on 19 March 2014.** The project was implemented with an objective **to improve the home-lighting in poorly electrified areas of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha** and further, was based on the following premise:




*As per the MoA signed between the REC Limited and SECI, the geographic location for the project was Andhra Pradesh and Odisha only. Since Telangana was separated from Andhra Pradesh and became a state in 2014, Solar lanterns were distributed in **Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Odisha.**

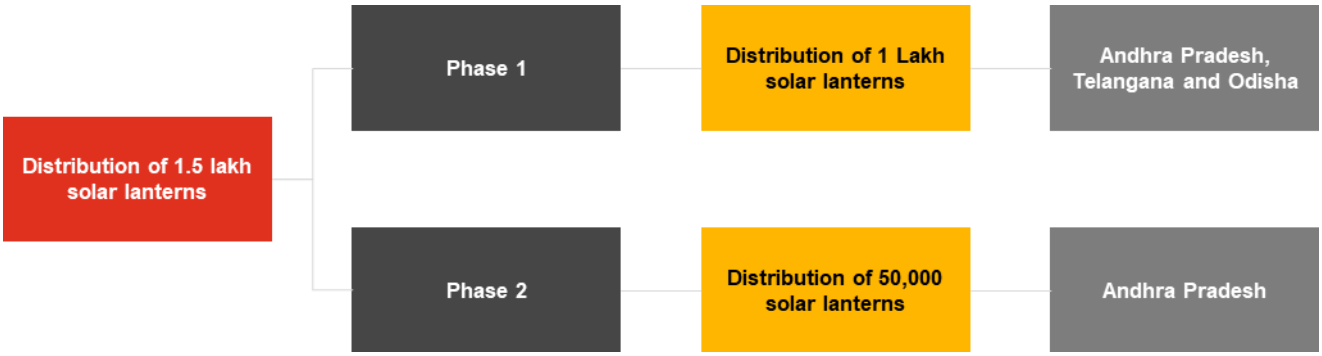
It was noted during the discussion with the official from **SECI, Delhi** that the procurement of solar lanterns was carried out through open tendering process for engaging agencies. **Samples/ prototype developed** for solar lanterns were tested at **National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE).**

Various state nodal agencies were engaged to undertake the distribution of solar lanterns in their respective districts. **New & Renewable Energy Development Corporation of Andhra Pradesh Ltd (NREDCAP)** was engaged for Andhra Pradesh whereas **Telangana New & Renewable Energy Development Corporation Ltd. (TNREDDCL)** was onboarded for Telangana**.** Similarly, **Kalinga Institute of Social Science (KISS)** was roped in to distribute the solar lanterns in Odisha. These institutes/ organizations **were selected due to their local presence, strong administration support and connect with the local community** as highlighted by the official from SECI, Delhi.

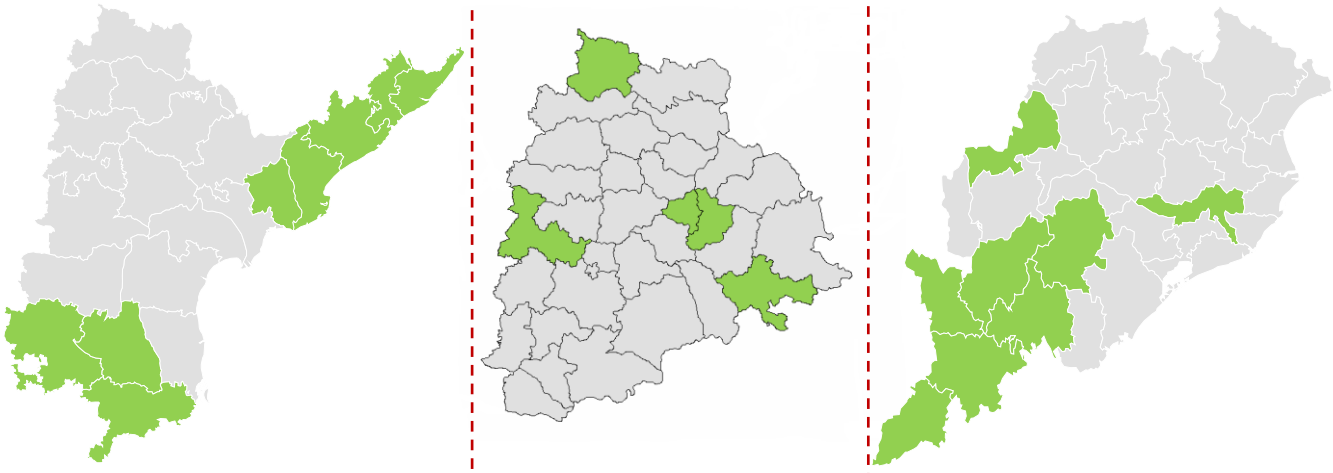
The project also had the provision of setting up of one service Centre/ authorized service Centre/ authorized representative for every 5,000 lanterns distributed for timely maintenance of solan lanterns. The aim of such service Centres was to address all the complaints on the solar lanterns and keep sufficient stock of spare parts.[11]

[11] Project completion report as provided by REC Foundation

The project was executed in two phases as represented below:




The **first phase** involved the **distribution of 1 Lakh solar lanterns** across the three states i.e., Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Odisha. In **Andhra Pradesh**, **36,000 solar lanterns** were distributed across **8 districts** whereas 24,000 solar lanterns were distributed across 4 districts of Telangana. Total **40,000 solar lanterns** were distributed across **8 districts of Odisha**. The project interventions were restricted to Andhra Pradesh only in **second phase** as **distribution of 50,000 lanterns** were completed across the four districts of Andhra Pradesh (as highlighted in respective maps of states).



Project interventions in Andhra Pradesh state

Project interventions in Telangana state

Project interventions in Odisha state

REC Foundation provided a grant of **INR 12.97 Cr. to SECI Delhi** to be utilised during the project period. Total expenditure incurred by SECI Delhi as per utilisation certificate was **INR 14.99 Cr.** Hence, there has been an **excess expenditure of INR 2.02 Cr.** which was made by SECI Delhi from the general pool of expenditure within the stipulated time.

## 5.2. About the Implementing agency

Established in 2011, Solar Energy Corporation of India Ltd (SECI) is a **Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE)** which works under the administrative control of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India **to facilitate the implementation of National Solar Mission (NSM)**. It is the **only CPSU dedicated to the solar energy sector**. The organization aims at **development and promotion of the solar energy technologies** in the country and one such effort towards this is to **facilitate the decentralized application of solar energy and distribution of solar lanterns.**[12]

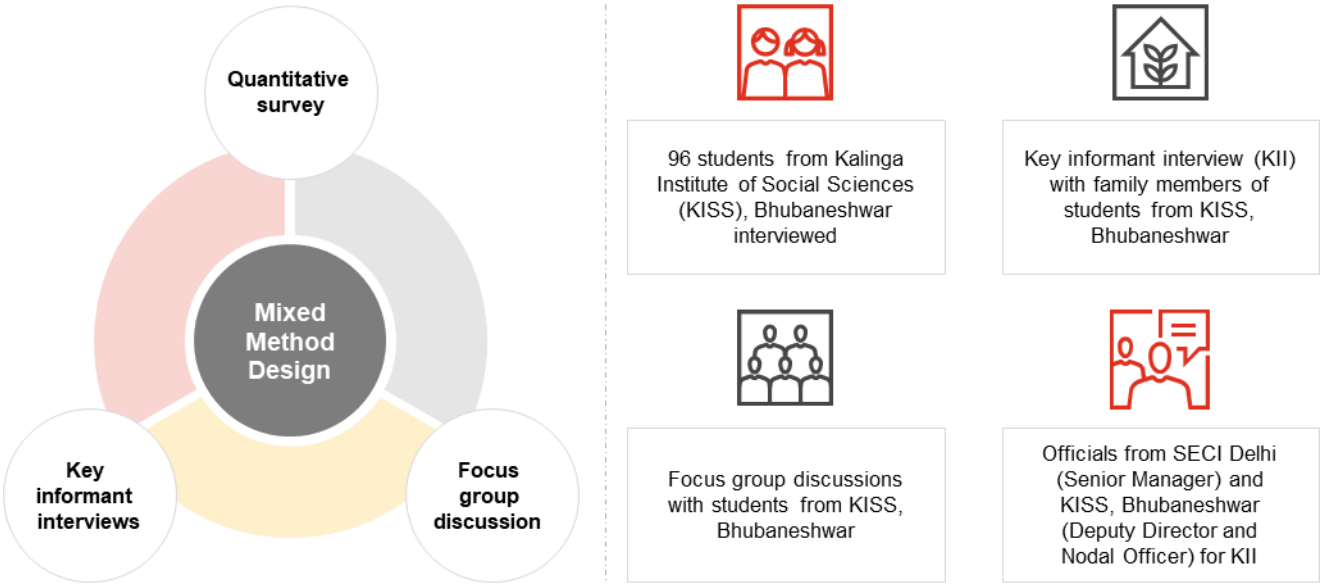
[12] SECI website (https://www.seci.co.in/about/introduction) as retrieved on 13 June 2022

## 5.3. Method of impact assessment

Impact assessment study was carried out to assess the changes that have occurred since the supply of 1.5 Lakh solar lanterns. An inception meeting was organised with RECF to develop the in-depth understanding around the project and discuss the approach to be adopted to carry out the impact assessment study. Post the meeting, the list of requisite documents was prepared by PwC team and shared with the CSR team of RECF. Basis the documents received, PwC team started the review of secondary literature and following documents to develop more understanding about the project:

- Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) signed with the SECI
- Project completion report with the list of beneficiaries
- Audited utilization certificate

Post review of the documents, the **key stakeholders of project were identified and mapped** to capture their opinion and feedback and a **mixed method research design** was adopted for the study as presented below:




As the list of beneficiaries were provided by RECF for this project, hence, it was decided to conduct the quantitative and qualitative interactions through in-person visit of the sample location. A plan was developed for **in-person quantitative and qualitative interactions with the key stakeholders identified.** During the interactions with official from SECI and KISS, it was understood that **solar lanterns were distributed among a wide category of beneficiaries such as tribal people, students, old age home/ orphanage schools, fisheries community etc. Since, the project aimed at improving the home lighting and study hours,** it was decided to select Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS), Bhubaneshwar in consultation with the team of REC Foundation for conducting the impact assessment study. **~20,000 solar lanterns** were distributed to the students at KISS, Bhubaneshwar.

Selection of **96 students** was done by **simple random sampling technique** for in-depth interviews wherein students from KISS, Bhubaneshwar were randomly chosen keeping in mind the completeness as well as representation of variations in the sample. Sample was calculated at **confidence interval of 95% and 10% margin of error.** Data was collected from community through **Computer-Assisted Personal interviews (CAPI) tool**, in the form of structured in-depth interview were developed for the same. For qualitative interactions, a set of questions were developed for each set of stakeholders.

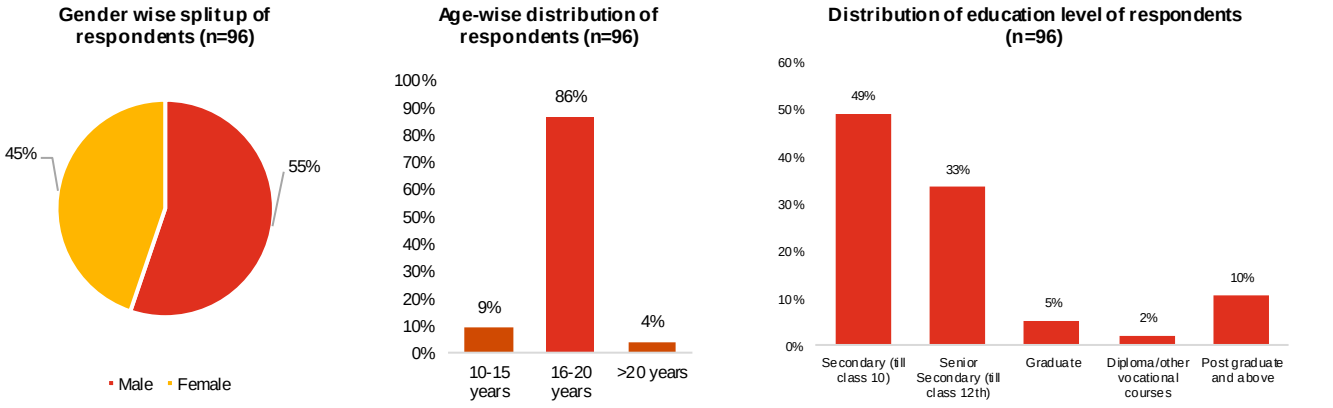
A pilot testing was conducted by the PwC team to ascertain the viability of the research tools, post which, the research tools were modified according to the changes documented. The tools were **then translated into local language (Odia)** for the survey team. **Training of the data collection team** was also conducted to make them understand the importance of each question. **A list of Do's and Don'ts** was also ingrained in them to factor in local contexts.

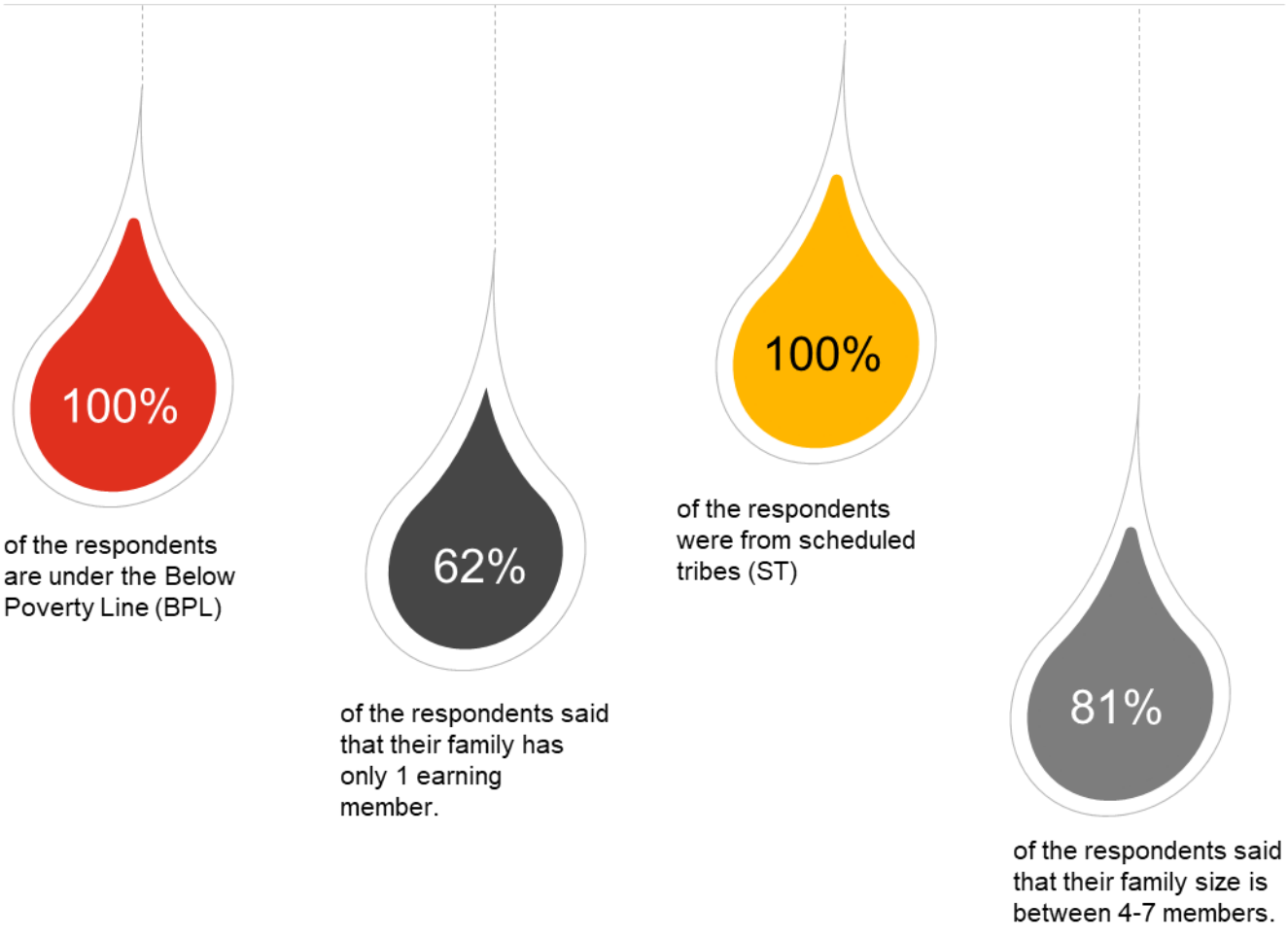
# *5.4.* Analysis & findings

## 5.4.1. Profile of the respondents:

A **total of 96 beneficiaries** were surveyed to understand the impact of interventions related to the **distribution of solar lanterns in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Odisha**. As depicted in the socio-demographic profile of respondents, **45% of the respondents** were female whereas **55% of the respondents** were male. **86% of the respondents** were between the **age-group of 16-20 years**. **49% of the respondents** were from class 10th while **33% of the students** were from class 12th. Rest of the 17% of the respondents were pursuing graduation, post-graduation, and diploma courses.

**Figure 20: Socio-demographic profile of students**



## 5.4.2. Summary of the impact created:

### 1. Increased access to electricity:

Rural electrification is often considered to be the backbone of the rural economy and many day-to-day activities such as cooking, irrigation, study etc. are dependent upon the power supply in far-flung/ remote villages. With the energy crisis, it is quintessential to explore new and affordable ways for providing the electricity. With this vision, solar lanterns were distributed to the students of KISS Bhubaneshwar. **100% of the respondents (n=96) agreed that they received the solar lanterns as a part of the distribution ceremony took place in 2017.**

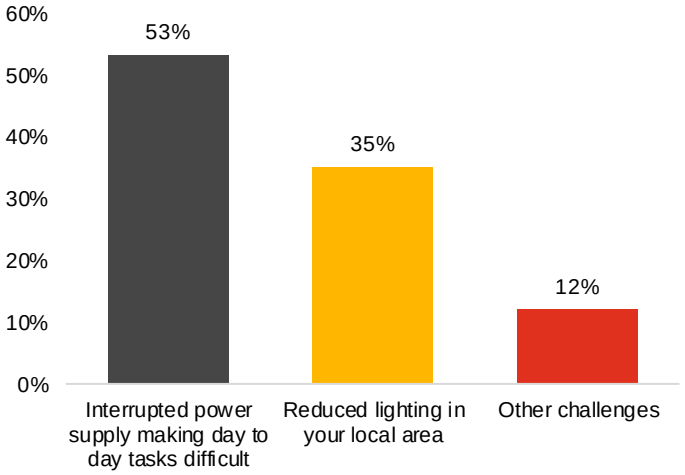
Respondents also highlighted that teachers from KISS told them about this project and distribution process. Post receiving the solar lanterns, **students and/or their family members started using solar lanterns in cases of power cuts at their houses.** Family members during the KII highlighted that solar lantern was an alternative to electricity to complete the day-to-day activities when power was not there.

### 2. Touching a number of lives to brighten them:

Respondents were also probed on the challenges faced by them before the project implementation. **81% of the respondents** highlighted that they used to face frequent power interruptions before the project implementation which made life very difficult. Following were the key findings related to the challenges faced by the respondents and their family members before the intervention:

- **53% of the respondents** said that interruption in power supply made their day-to-day tasks difficult
- **35% of the respondents** agreed that there was inadequate lighting in their villages
- **Rest 12%** highlighted that they were facing challenges such as increased smoke in the area due to burning of fossil fuels (kerosene, coal etc.), increased robbery/criminal activities, recurring expenditure on kerosene and safety and security of women

**Figure 21: Challenges faced by the respondents (n=96)**




Respondents were also asked about **"if the project was able to address challenges or not". 73% of the respondents said that challenges were addressed during the project intervention.** Further, **94% of the respondents** said that **they and their family members** (especially women) felt safe and secure going out during night the when the solar lanterns were working well.

**Official from KISS during the qualitative interactions** highlighted that in these villages, kerosene lamps were used before the intervention. **The nominal expenses incurred on the kerosene was reduced as people started using the Solar Lanterns.** The other benefit was **'less use of kerosene lamps'** as it is the emission of harmful carbon dioxide fumes and soot which leads to cause of indoor air pollution in many domestic households, as added by the official from KISS.

The official from SECI also emphasized the benefits of solar lanterns which was created at the time of implementation of project. **It was reported that with a free input of solar energy, solar lanterns cater to the daily demands of an average Indian family without costing a dime to their pocket as use of kerosene was leading to expenditure of significant proportion of the income of these poor families.**

### 3. Operational challenges pertaining to the usage of solar lanterns:

Within a span of 1-2 months, project started providing the benefits to these villages as reported by different stakeholders. Family members during the key informant interviews highlighted that solar lantern was being used as an alternative of electricity in times of power cut.

Solar lantern at a beneficiary's home

However, these family members and students mentioned during the interactions that, **the solar lanterns required the maintenance and repairing** which was creating burden on the families.

Respondents (beneficiaries) were probed in such areas, and the key findings suggest that:

- **33% of the respondents** agreed that the **frequency of repair work** was 1-2 times in first 6 months. The common **repair and maintenance work** was related to the **battery replacement.** Generally, these respondents used to reach out to the volunteers who were trained for repair and maintenance work but since this used to require spare parts, the respondents started visiting to the nearest repair shops. Only **14% of the respondents** went to the shops for the repair work and expenses incurred was **between the range of INR 200-1,000 (one-time).**
- Further, 58% of the respondents said that it needed repair in the first 6 months and certain solar lanterns were not working properly. When probed, it was cited that due to the lack of briefing/ training session, they were not very clear on 'who should be reached out' to avail free services for repair and maintenance related work of solar lanterns.

## 5.4.3. IRECS Analysis

Basis the interactions with the key stakeholders and desk review of the documents**, the impact of the project was evaluated on 'IRECS framework'**. The IRECS analysis summary has been presented in below table:

**Table 5: IRECS Analysis of Project 2**

| Parameter | Level of impact | Assessment from study |
|---|---|---|
| **Inclusiveness** | **H** | The solar lanterns were distributed to the marginalized communities from those villages/ areas who were poorly electrified. Such villages were identified by SECI Delhi for distribution of 1.5 lakh solar lanterns. The distribution of such lanterns was done among the **wide category of beneficiaries such as tribal people, students, old age home/ orphanage schools, fisheries community** etc. For example, in west Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh, 13,500 lanterns were distributed to the tribal people from un-electrified villages. In Chittor district of Andhra Pradesh, these lanterns were given to students of a government hostel. In Odisha, it was distributed to tribal students at KISS.<br><br>Hence, the support provided was extremely important and reached out to all the **intended beneficiaries, irrespective of caste and gender**. |
| **Relevance** | **H** | The project started with an objective to **address the requirement of lack of electricity which made life difficult in tribal/ far-flung villages, and hence, were of relevance to its beneficiaries.** The demand from the |

| Parameter | Level of impact | Assessment from study |
|---|---|---|
| | | support was directly received from **Government of India due to the ground** need. Poorly electrified districts were identified by the Planning Commission. Further, the benefits in first 6 months were recognized by the respondents and other stakeholders (family etc.). |
| **Effectiveness** | **M** | The project aimed at providing free of cost to the community residing in those areas where **electricity is poor and intermittent**. This could have created more benefits to the students and their families, but due to the issues pertaining to the battery backup and timely maintenance, the project **could not create a sustainable impact at the large scale.** |
| **Convergence** | **H** | SECI was **implementing a scheme by Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) for the distribution of 6 lakhs solar lanterns in backward districts of the country** as identified by the Planning Commission for Backward Regions Grant Fund (highlighted by the official from SECI). **The aim was to distribute these 6 lakhs solar lanterns with the support from different PSUs under their CSR projects. REC Limited partnered with the SECI** for distributing 1.5 lakhs lanterns in three states of India. Further, **SECI partnered with State Nodal Agencies/ Distribution agencies** which had strong hold in the community in these states for the onward distribution of the lanterns to target beneficiaries in backward districts of their states. |
| **Sustainability** | **L** | As per the MoA signed with the SECI, it was required to set up the one service Centre/ authorized service Centre/ authorized representative for **every 5,000 lanterns distributed for timely maintenance of solar lanterns as well as address all complaints on the solar lanterns as they had the sufficient stock of spare parts.** When probed with SECI, it was understood that service centres were established and in areas, where the service Centres were not possible, the training was provided to authorized representative (sarpanch, youth etc.) to resolve such issues.<br><br>However, the officials from **KISS Bhubaneswar were not aware** about such established Centres. It was also applicable for students as well as they were also not aware and once the lanterns required maintenance, their family members used to spend to get it repaired locally. For the HHs with lack of financial resources, they could not use it once it started incurring the maintenance cost.. |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **H:** | **High** | | **M:** | **Medium** | | **L:** | **Low** |

## 5.5. Alignment to the REC Foundation's CSR policy & Schedule VII

The project is in alignment with the Schedule VII of the Companies Act 2013 number (iv) "Ensuring **environmental sustainability**, ecological balance, protection of flora and fauna, animal welfare, agro forestry, conservation of natural resources and maintaining quality of soil, air & water; including contribution to the Clean Ganga Fund set-up by the Central Government for rejuvenation of river Ganga;". It is also aligned with the thematic areas of RECF's CSR policy i.e., **"Environmental Sustainability"**,

The project is also aligned with Sustainable Development Goal: 7- Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all.


## 5.6. Recommendations

The impact assessment study identified a few recommendations for the project which is summarised below:

- **Alignment of the project stakeholders:** It was noted that the beneficiaries were not well equipped with the usage as well as the maintenance of the solar lanterns. In addition, these beneficiaries had a little knowledge about the service Centres established or volunteers trained for the repair and maintenance related work of solar lanterns. The officials from KISS Bhubaneshwar also had a little knowledge around these Centres. Hence, for the future CSR projects at large scale, it is suggested to align the project stakeholders (including the beneficiaries) through regular training/ awareness programmes on the different project related activities so that the project can reach out to the targeted beneficiaries in more effective manner and create a larger impact which is sustainable in nature.
- **Regular tracking of project activities:** Project with multi-stakeholders always have challenges as every stakeholder has different roles and expectations defined. In this project, there were many stakeholders involved (State nodal agencies, service Centres across all the three states, SECI as an implementing partner, REC Limited as the funding partner and beneficiaries). However, it was observed that KISS Bhubaneshwar and beneficiaries had limited knowledge on the service Centres for repair and maintenance of the solar lanterns. Hence, it is recommended to have a strengthened monitoring and reporting system (ex. monthly review meetings, physical site visits, beneficiary interactions on sample basis etc.) which could regularly track all the activities being carried out by the different stakeholders under this system.

## 5.7. Limitation

Following was the limitation to impact assessment study conducted for this project:

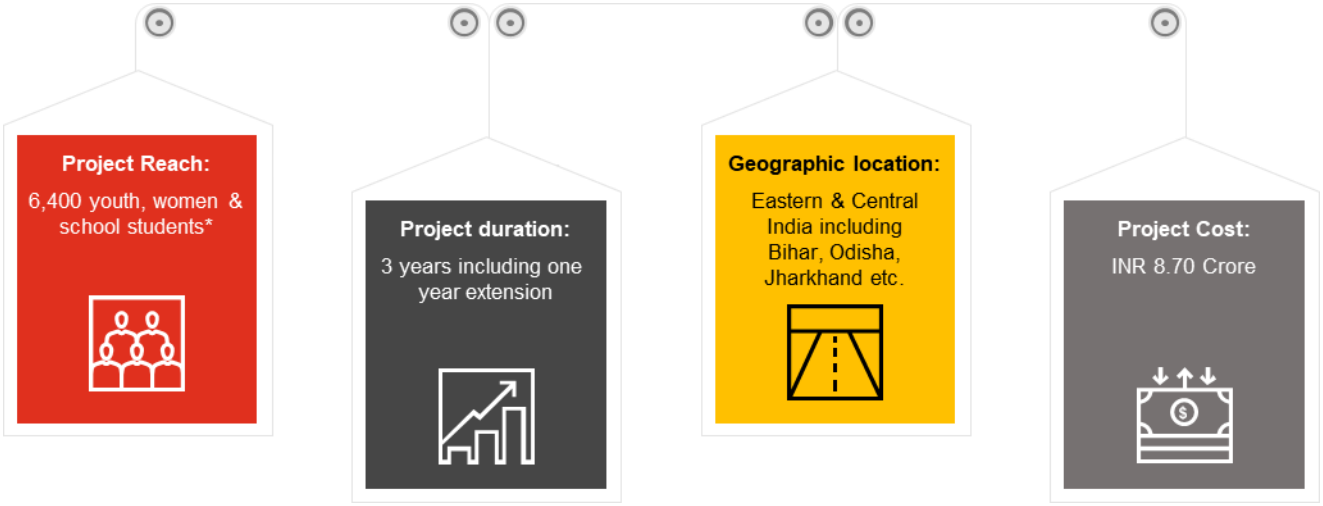
- There was no baseline report available for review. Such baseline study would have helped to assess impact and tracking of the progress.

# 6. Project 3: Job Oriented Skill Development Training Programme

# 6. Project 3: Job Oriented Skill Development Training Programme

## 6.1. About the project

REC Limited initiated a project on "Job Oriented Skill Development Training Programme" to provide vocational training to 6400 youth, women and school going students over a period of 2 years as per National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF) in Central and Eastern regions of India including Bihar, Odisha, and Jharkhand. To implement the project, a tripartite Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) was signed between REC Limited, National Skill Development Fund (NSDF) and National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) on 22 August 2015. The project was implemented with the following key aspects:




The project was executed with a goal "**to instil economic security and stability among youth and women through skill training and holistic development** thereby facilitating enhanced access to opportunities in service sector, manufacturing sector and through Self-employment". NSDC engaged **11 Training Partners (TPs) such as Apollo MedSkills, Orion Edutech, IL&FS Services Limited, B-ABLE, Labournet, The George Telegraph Training Institute, Don Bosco Tech, Ashpra Skills Private Limited, Mahendra's Skills Training & Development Private Limited, Gram Tarang Employability Training Services Pvt. Ltd. and Pinnacle Skills** to provide quality training and placement to the trainees**.** Following sectors were covered as part of the project.

**Table 6: Sectors covered as part of the project**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Apparel | Construction | Manufacturing |
| Automotive | Electronics | Power |
| Beauty & Wellness | Green Jobs | Retail |
| Capital Goods | Healthcare | Telecom |
| Construction | IT-ITeS | Tourism & Hospitality |

The initial training target was **6,400 candidates**; however, the training target was revised to **7,612 candidates in mutual agreement with REC Limited**[13]. During the interactions, it was highlighted that total **7,562 candidates were trained** and **total 6,722 candidates were assessed under the different trades. 5,178 candidates** were placed (wage/ self-employment) across **27 job roles**. It was highlighted by the officials from NSDC and NSDF that the training was imparted according to the NSQF with a combination of theory classes, practical training, and personality development classes (soft skills and entrepreneurship) etc.

REC Limited provided a grant of **INR 8.70 Cr. to NSDC** to be utilised during the project period. Total expenditure incurred by NSDC as per utilisation certificate was **INR 8.19 Cr.** Hence, there has been an **underutilisation of INR 51 Lakhs** which was returned to REC Limited as mentioned by the CSR team of RECF.

## 6.2. About the Implementing agency

REC Limited **signed a tripartite MoA with NSDC and NSDF. NSDC** is a not-for-profit public limited company incorporated in 2008 under section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956 (corresponding to section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013) which aims to promote skill development by creating large, quality, and for-profit vocational institutions. NSDC acts as a catalyst in skill development by providing funding to enterprises, companies and organizations that provide skill training. It also develops appropriate models to enhance, support and coordinate private sector initiatives.[14] **NSDF** was set up in 2009 by the Government of India for raising funds both from Government and Non-Government sectors for skill development in the country. The Fund is contributed by various Government sources, and other donors/ contributors to enhance, stimulate and develop the skills of Indian youth by various sector specific programs. **In the project, NSDF was responsible for mobilization and selection of prospective trainees and extend all necessary cooperation to NSDC and its implementing training partners for fulfilment of the objectives of the Project.**[15] **The role of NSDC was to ensure the selection of training partners, identification of training sites in States/ UTs and providing placement support to the candidates etc.**

## 6.3. Method of impact assessment

Impact assessment study of this project was initiated by conducting an inception meeting with the RECF officials. Post the meeting, a list of requisite documents was shared with the RECF's CSR team. Basis the documents received, PwC team started the review of secondary literature and following documents to develop more understanding about the project:

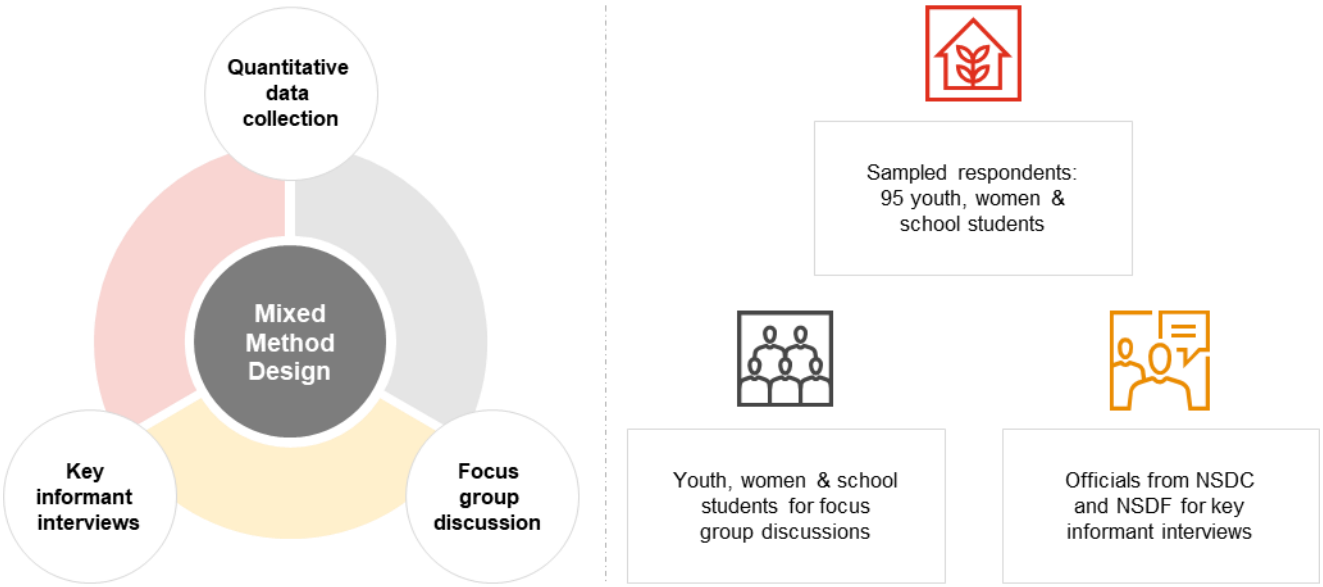
- Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) signed between RECF, NSDC and NSDF
- Detailed project update with the list of beneficiaries
- Skill development project closure report submitted by implementing partner to RECF
- Impact evaluation study submitted by implementing partner to RECF
- Utilisation certificate

Post review of the documents, the **key stakeholders of project were identified and mapped** to capture their opinion and feedback and a **mixed method research design** was adopted for the study as presented below:

[13] Project completion report as shared by RECF

[14] https://nsdcindia.org/about-us as retrieved on 29 June 2022

[15] https://msde.gov.in/en/organizations/nsdf as retrieved on 29 June 2022




RECF provided the list of beneficiaries who received the training under this project. Since it was a skill development project and there were no assets created under this project, hence, it was suggested by RECF to conduct the data collection through **virtual interactions**. A plan was developed for **virtual interactions with the key stakeholders identified.** Selection of **95 candidates** was done by **simple random sampling technique** wherein candidates were randomly chosen keeping in mind the completeness as well as representation of variations in the sample. Sample was calculated at **confidence interval of 95% and 10% margin of error.** Data was collected from community through **Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) tool**, in the form of structured interviews.

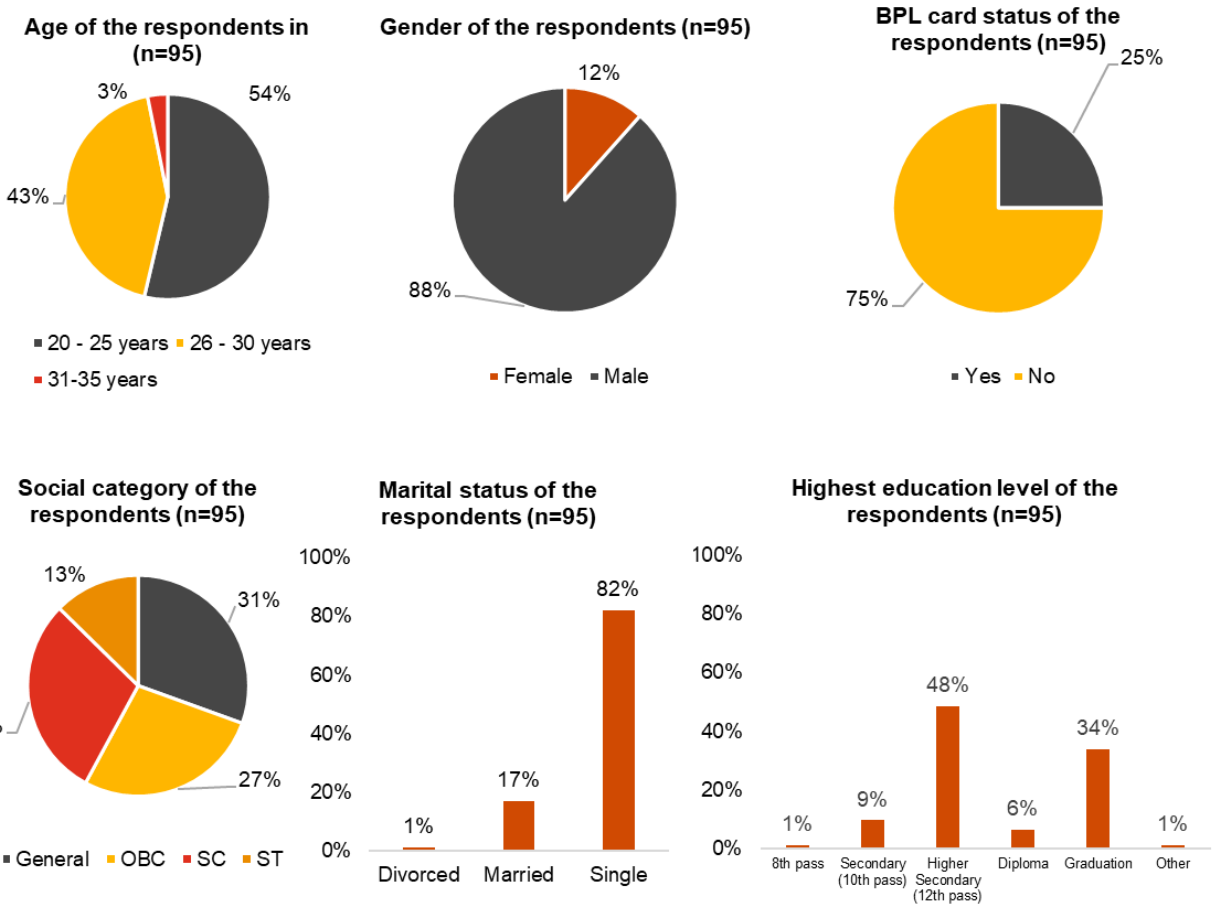
A pilot testing was conducted by the PwC team to ascertain the viability of the research tools, post which, the research tools were modified according to the changes documented. The tools were then **translated into local languages** for the survey team. **Training of the data collection team** was also conducted to make them understand the importance of each question. **A list of Do's and Don'ts** was also ingrained in them to factor in local contexts.

## 6.4. Analysis & findings

Summary of the key findings is presented below:

### 6.4.1. Profile of the respondents:

**Figure 22: Socio-demographic profile of respondents**



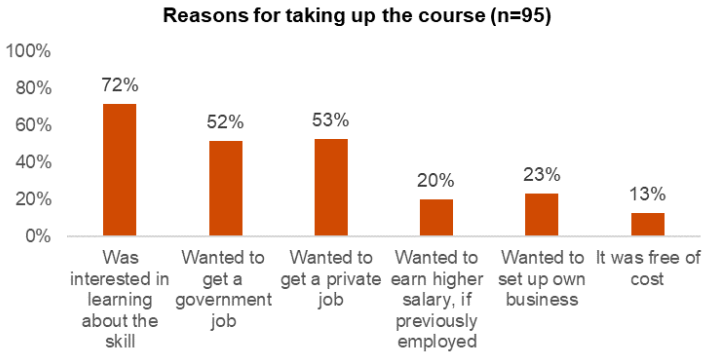

**A total of 95 respondents were interviewed** to understand the impact of training programmes organized under the project. The socio-demographic profile is depicted below:

- 54% of these respondents were from between the age group of 20-25 years whereas the 43% of the respondents were between the age group of 26-30 years.
- 88% of the respondents were male. This suggests the need for conducting focused community mobilisation to ensure enhanced participation from female into the project.
- 25% of the respondents reported to be from below poverty line (BPL).
- 31% of the respondents reported to be from General category and rest of the respondents were from OBC, SC and ST category.
- 82% of the respondents were unmarried.
- 48% of the respondents completed the higher secondary education (12$^{th}$ class) while 27% of the respondents completed graduation.

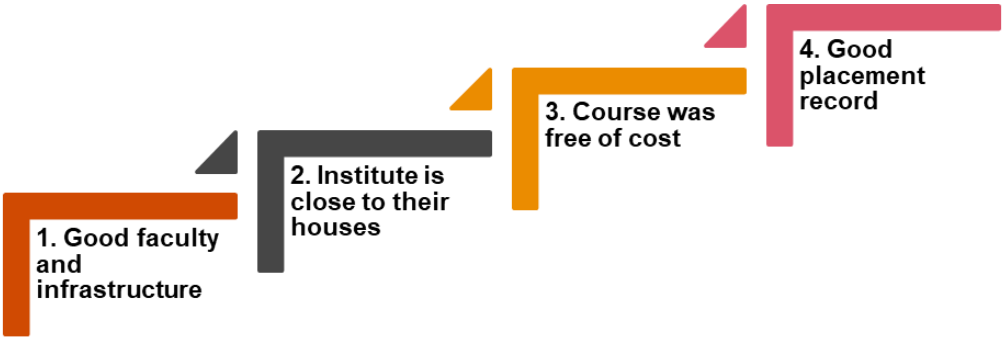
## 6.4.2. Summary of the impact created:

### 1. Effectiveness of the training programmes

Respondents were asked to indicate the reason for joining the training programmes. **72% of the respondents** said that they were interested in learning about the new skill and only **13% of the respondents** said that they joined the course as it was free of cost. This highlights the candidates were self-motivated to join the training programme. **52-53% of the respondents** agreed that they wanted to get a job in a private/ government sector.




NSDC with the support of its training partners conducted the mobilization activities to enrol the candidates under the different courses. it was reported that **78% of the respondents** were referred to the training centre by ex-students, friends, or family members/relatives. Respondents also mentioned that following are the top driving factors for them to participate in the training programme:

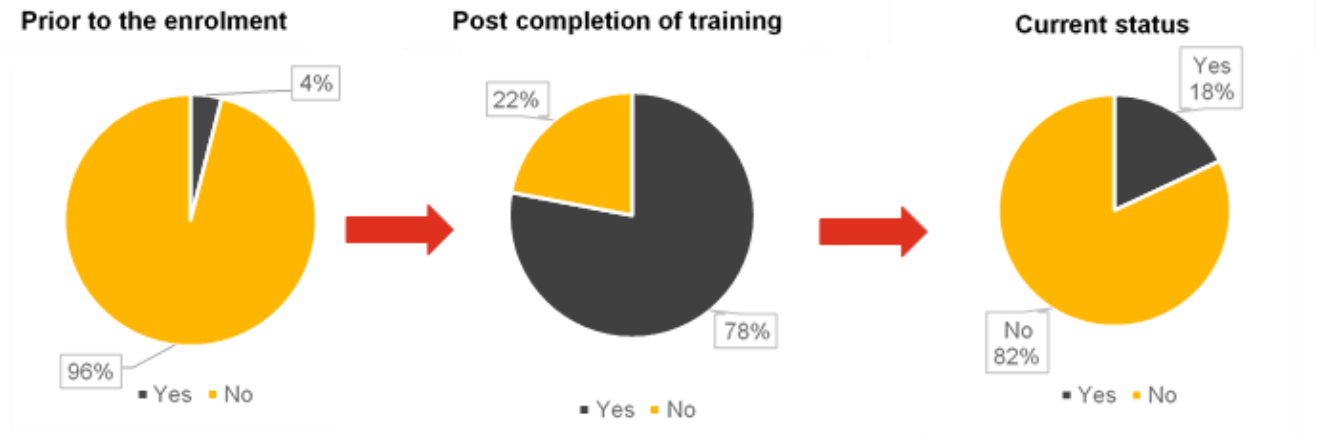



Further, it was reported by **93% of the respondents** that they **did not undergo any pre-joining counselling** before they enrolled in the course.

### 2. Effectiveness of the training programmes:

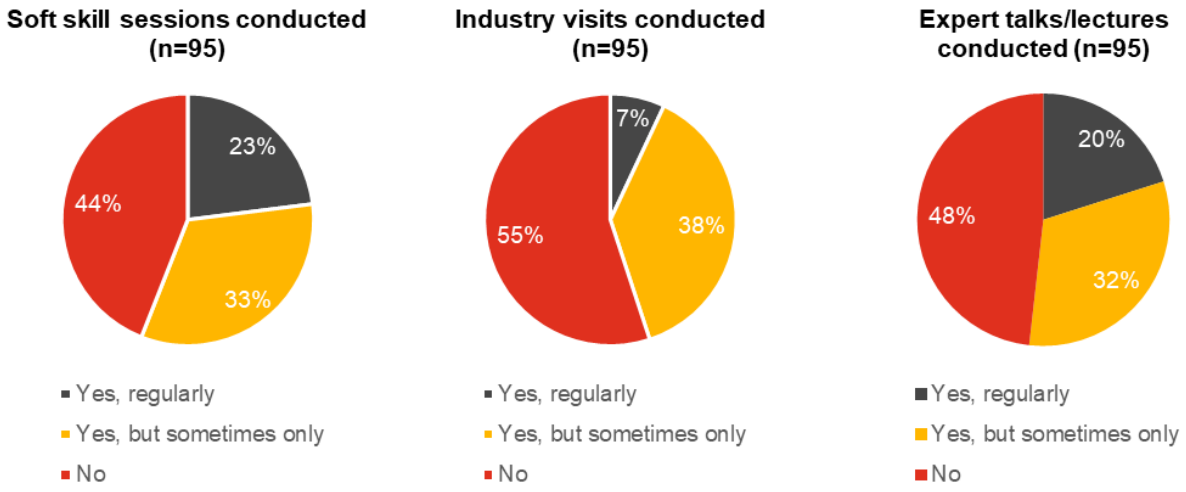
Respondents were probed on their involvement in the income generating activities. Findings suggest that only 4% of the respondents were engaged in income generation activities prior to enrolling in the training programmes. Post completion of the training and placement process, these students were placed in the different companies and also many of them started their own business. The officials from NSDC and NSDF highlighted that around **78% of the candidates were involved into income generating activities.** However, when probed on the current involvement into any income generating activities, only **18% of the respondents are currently involved into any income generating activities.** During interaction with the respondents, it was stated that due to marriage and covid pandemic, many of the respondents lost their jobs (self and wage).

**Figure 23: Involvement in income generation activities (n=95)**



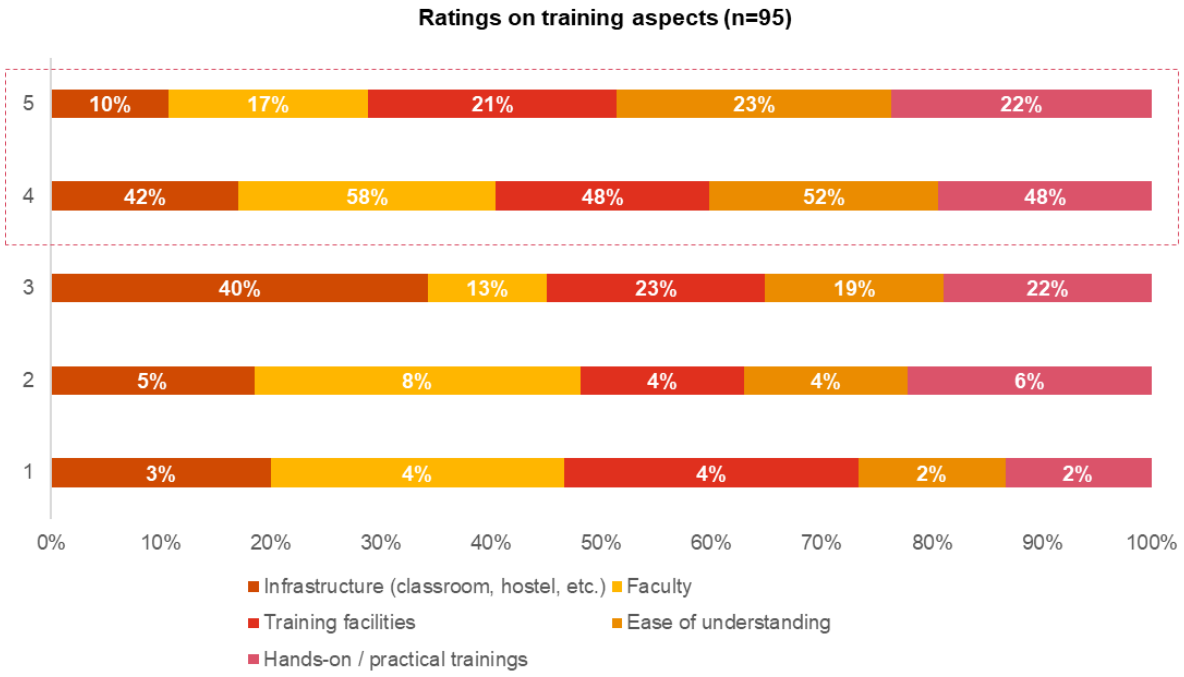

## 3. Enhancement of vocational training and skill upgradation:

**56% respondents (n=95)** reported that soft skill training sessions were part of the training programmes. The training sessions also included industry visits to give the respondents hands-on experience in their chosen trade skill. To further augment the learning experience, talks/ lectures were conducted with experts in the field/trade and **52% of the respondents reported that these "expert talks/lectures" were conducted during the course of training.** These soft skill sessions, industry visits and expert talks helped in the enhancement of skill of the trainees and benefited them during their time of employment.




## 4. Overall perception of the respondents:

Respondents rated various aspects of the training sessions on a scale of 1 to 5 (with 1 being the lowest and 5 being the highest). Overall, in the different training aspects captured (Infrastructure, faculty, training facilities, ease of understanding and hand-on session), findings suggest that that **52% – 75% respondents gave a maximum rating of 4 and 5** which highlights that the various training aspects have been beneficial to the trainees and met the programme objectives.




## 6.4.3. IRECS Analysis:

Basis the interactions with the key stakeholders and desk review of the documents**, the impact of the project was evaluated on 'IRECS framework'**. The IRECS analysis summary has been presented in below table:

**Table 7: IRECS Analysis of Project 3**

| Parameter | Level of impact | Assessment from study |
|---|---|---|
| **Inclusiveness** | **H** | The support provided by the project is **inclusive in nature as all the courses were open to all irrespective of their gender, caste, and religion. The programme saw the participation from different states from central and eastern region of the country. The project reached out to intended beneficiaries.** |
| **Relevance** | **H** | During interaction with NSDC and NSDF officials it came out that the courses were offered as per the market demand and needs of the students in the intervention states. **This was evident in the analysis as only 4% of the respondents (n=95) were involved in any income generating activity prior to the enrolment.** In such a scenario, **the support provided by RECF to provide skill-based training to youth, women and school students in the underserved areas is highly relevant.** Training has helped the students to involve in income generation activities. |
| **Effectiveness** | **M** | The officials from NSDC and NSDF highlighted that around **78% of the candidates were involved into income generation activities post completion of course.** However, when probed on the current involvement into any income generating activities, only **18% of the respondents are currently involved into any income generating activities.** During interaction with the respondents, it was stated that due to marriage and covid pandemic, many of the respondents lost their jobs (self and wage). **The average income of 18% of the total respondents stands at INR 10,187 per month.** |

| Parameter | Level of impact | Assessment from study |
|---|---|---|
| **Convergence** | **H** | There is a high degree of convergence as the **RECF has partnered with NSDC and NSDF**, Government of India. The project is also **linked with Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Vocationalization of secondary and higher secondary education (CSS-VSHSE), Dept, of MHRD.** |
| **Sustainability** | **L** | A low degree of sustainability has been observed in the support as **82% (n=95) of the respondents are currently not engaged in any income generating activities as it was reported that majority of respondents lost their jobs due to the COVID-19.** |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **H:** | **High** | | **M:** | **Medium** | | **L:** | **Low** |

## 6.5. Alignment to the REC Foundation's CSR policy & Schedule VII

The project is in alignment with the Schedule VII of the Companies Act 2013 number (ii) "Promoting education including special education and employment **enhancing vocation skills**, especially among children, women, elderly and differently-abled and livelihood enhancement projects;". It is also aligned with the thematic areas of RECF's CSR policy i.e., **"Skill development & livelihood"**

The project is also aligned with **Sustainable Development Goal: 4- Quality education**[16] and **Sustainable Development Goal: 8- Decent work and economic growth.** [17]


## 6.6. Recommendations

The impact assessment study identified a few recommendations for the project which is summarised below:

- **Ensuring the pre-joining counselling sessions:** During the interactions, **around 93% of the respondents** highlighted that they did not undergo any pre-joining counselling before enrolling into the courses. It is recommended to ensure the pre-joining counselling sessions should be a part of the skill training programmes. Such counselling sessions helps the candidates to understand the type of course he/ she should attend, employment opportunities and career pathway.
- **Strengthened follow-up mechanism:** During the interactions, **only 24% of the respondents** stated being enquired more than twice by the training institute post graduating from the course. It is recommended to ensure strengthening of the post follow-up of all trainees in skill training programmes. Such post-follow up mechanisms help in monitoring, tracking and guidance to the beneficiaries.

## 6.7. Limitations

- **Unavailability of the project documents and project stakeholders:** There was no need assessment report available for review. Such report would have helped to assess impact and tracking of the progress Further, since the project was implemented in 2016-2018, various project stakeholders such as trainers and employers moved to different organizations now and hence, they were not available for the interactions as well. Family members of respondents were not available to provide their perspective on the training

[16] Source: https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal4 as retrieved on 29 June 2022
[17] Source: https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal8 as retrieved on 29 June 2022

programmes as highlighted by the official from NSDC. It was also difficult to reach out to many students as they changed their contact numbers.

# 7. Project 4: Establishment of Virtual Classrooms (VCR) in 10 nos. of Government high schools in Karnataka

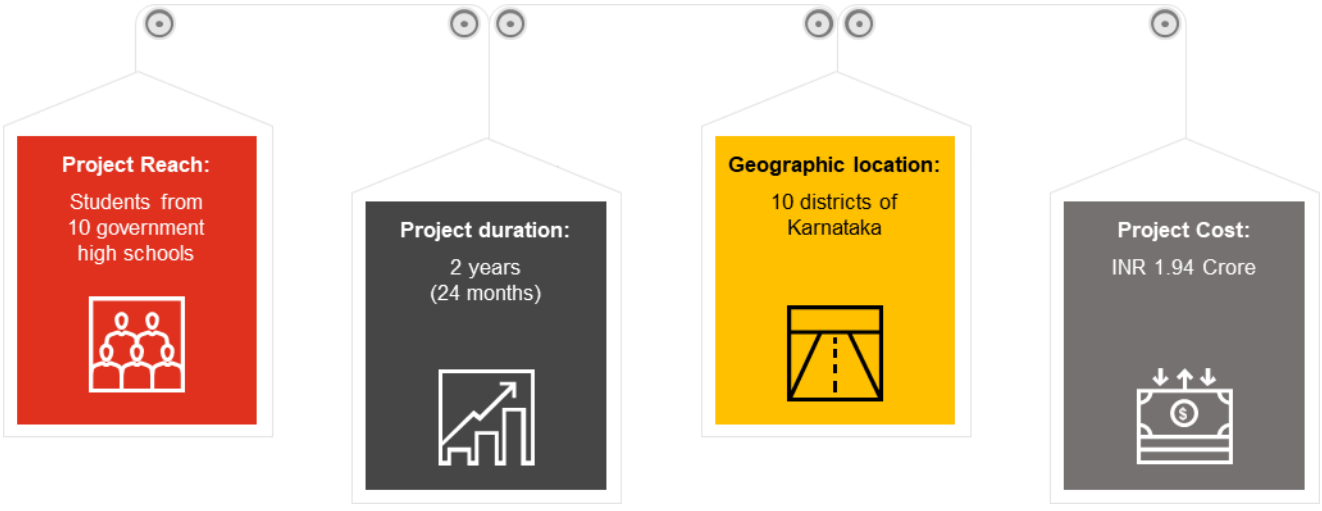
# 7. Project 4: Establishment of Virtual Classrooms (VCR) in 10 nos. of Government high schools in Karnataka

## 7.1. About the project

RECF initiated a project for **Establishment of Virtual Classrooms (VCR) in classes 8th to 10th at ten government high schools to improve the quality of education** (in alignment with the focus areas of its CSR policy)[18]. **RECF signed Memorandum of Agreement (MoA)** with **Karnataka State Council for Science & Technology (KSCST),** Bangalore on 1 April 2016 to implement the project. The objectives of the project are as follows:

- To improve the quality and effectiveness of education by collaborative learning and teaching process
- To support live online classes to understand the syllabus of various subjects in better way and pool academic resources thereby improving access to advanced educational experience and IT gadgets
- To promote the quality of teaching, strengthening of high school education and improve the infrastructure
- To provide remote access to IT gadgets for high schools to enthuse students to enrich their knowledge and arousing their curiosity in curriculum and Science & Technology (S&T) areas.
- To provide a learning environment system around VCR's and avail the various IT tools for learning, including web-resources, video-lectures, and animate demonstration to learn the concept of S&T.
- To increase and improve the accessibility of educational resources for the students and teachers.

The below schematic presents the key aspects of project:




KSCST identified **10 Government high schools across Karnataka to deploy VCR (e-learning Centres) with the help of Department of Education, Deputy Director of Public Instructions, Government of Karnataka, National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) and District Institute of Education & Training (DIET)** as noted during the discussions with the officials from KSCST. The project gets support from reputed science and technology institutions like IISC Bangalore, Raman Research Institute, etc. On National Science day, 2-3 students are selected from all the schools and undergo exposure visits, fun & learning activities, and interactions with a purpose of encouraging science and technology amongst the students. **The VCRs were equipped with an LCD projector, Android based customized laptops for the students and student consoles (20 units) with pre-installed relevant software, 40 units of headphones,**

[18] Source: https://recindia.nic.in/uploads/files/REC-CSR-Policy-07-12-2021.pdf as retrieved on 14 June 2022

**Android based customized laptops for teachers along with 1 point, 1KV UPS with batteries for power backup and IP video camera, HP camera, and a TV monitor. The commissioning, training and demo of the products** were completed in 10 schools in 2017 as highlighted by the official from KSCST.

## Project intervention in 10 districts of Karnataka


Source: https://d-maps.com/carte.php?num_car=8763&lang=en

Following table depicts the list of 10 government schools supported under the project:

**Table 8: List of 10 government schools supported under this project**

| Sr. No. | Name of school | Location (block & district) |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Govt. Composite Pre-University College (High School Section) | Malavalli, Mandya |
| 2. | Government High School | Heskattur Kundapura, Udupi |
| 3. | Government High School | Meghala Hundi Chamarajanagara |
| 4. | Government Junior College (High School Section) | I. D. Halli, Madhugiri, Tumkur |
| 5. | Government Junior College for Girls | Vijayapur, Vijayapur (Bijapur) |
| 6. | Government High School | Hillur, Ankola, Uttara Kannada |

| Sr. No. | Name of school | Location (block & district) |
|---|---|---|
| 7. | Govt. Composite Pre-University College (High School Section) | Koppa, Chikmagalur |
| 8. | Govt. Composite Pre-University College | Suntikoppa, Somarpet, Kodagu |
| 9. | Government P U College for Girls (High School Section) | Bagalkote, Bagalkote |
| 10. | Government Junior College for Girls (High Schools Section) | Hospet, Bellary |

REC Foundation provided a grant of **INR 1.94 Cr. to KSCST** to be utilised during the project period. Total expenditure incurred by KSCST as per utilisation certificate was **INR 1.94 Cr**. Hence, there has been **complete utilisation** of sanctioned grant.

## 7.2. About the Implementing agency

Karnataka State Council for Science and Technology (KSCST) was established in the year 1975 as one of the first State S&T Councils set up in the country. **KSCST is an autonomous S&T organization under Department of Science & Technology, Government of Karnataka**. KSCST has been pro-actively engaging itself to identify, propose and implement S&T based solutions to locale specific needs / problems in the broad areas of Water, Education, Energy, Ecology and Environment, Waste management and Infrastructure. In co-operation with the Indian Institute of Science and several other premier R&D institutions, KSCST executes many projects and programmes aimed at improving socio-economic conditions of the people of the state. KSCST provides support to the Central and State Governments, in formulation of S&T based policies, scientific surveys, project implementation, evaluation, co-ordination & monitoring, organization of scientific meets and awareness campaigns.[19]

## 7.3. Method of impact assessment

Impact Assessment study was carried out by PwC to assess the changes that have occurred since the project was implemented. Prior to initiating the study, PwC conducted an inception meeting with REC Foundation to get more understanding on the project and discuss the requirements. Post the meeting, a list of requisite documents was shared with the RECF's CSR team. Basis the documents received, PwC team started the review of the following documents to develop more understanding about the project:

- Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) signed between RECF and KSCST
- Baseline study report submitted by KSCST to RECF
- Project completion certificate
- Impact assessment report submitted by KSCST to RECF
- Utilisation certificate

PwC team worked on **development of a structured qualitative methodology** for evaluating the project, which included desk review of the project documents (as mentioned above) and qualitative methods for capturing stakeholder opinion and feedback (through Key informant interviews & focus group discussions). Schools were closed due to the vacations. Hence, the availability of the students was limited. Team decided to conduct the qualitative interactions as the overall reach was not available. The PwC team visited the schools to perform data collection with **key stakeholders mentioned below**:

[19] Source: https://www.kscst.org.in/english/index.html as retrieved on 14 June 2022

- Teachers, Principal, and school management in the 2 Government schools visited (Kodagu & Mandya)
- Officials from Karnataka State Council for Science & Technology (KSCST)
- School students from classes 8th to 10th where project support has been provided

A plan was developed for **in-person interactions** and the survey tool included separate key informant interviews (KII) for KSCST officials. FGDs **were conducted** from the identified stakeholders (students, teachers, principal, and school management) of the project during the field visit (in-person)

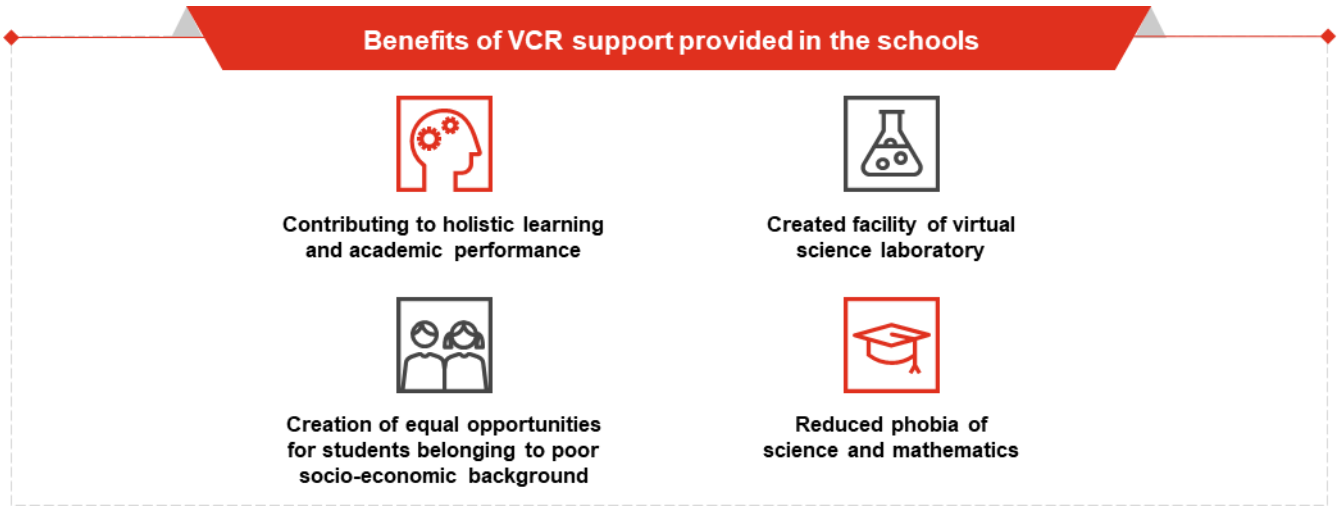
## 7.4. Analysis & findings

### 7.4.1. Summary of impact created:

#### 1. Benefits to school students:

During the discussion it was highlighted by the official from KSCST that **there was lack of equal opportunities amongst the school students** prior to the interventions, as most of these students came from **remote locations with limited means and poor transport connectivity**. There were **no laboratories present in these schools**, which would have helped the students **to enhance their learning by understanding the theoretical concepts of science which are taught in classrooms**. The **academic performance was hampered** due to a lack of enthusiasm amongst the students towards the subjects as observed during the discussion with KSCST. Students were **apprehensive of science and mathematics mostly.**

As was highlighted during the interactions with school students, the VCR support to these schools has been instrumental in bringing about a positive change by providing following benefits:



- **Contributing to holistic learning and academic performance:**

  The students appreciated the facilities available in the VCRs and have enthusiasm to study in the VCR laboratory daily. Many students stated that they joined the school because it is the only school nearby having the VCR facility. The students have been utilizing the planned VCR sessions for the available subjects. This helped the students gain clarity in a particular subject before approaching their teacher for the same. However, it was noted that **digital curriculum does not have languages like English, Hindi, Kannada, Urdu, etc. in their libraries**. The students have benefited as they can access and visualise any subject, through audio-visual means as per their convenience and learn a topic repeatedly till, they understand the same. The students also stated that the VCR laboratory helps them in clarifying their doubts through the digital content before approaching their teachers which saves the time of both students and teachers. It was further reported by the school administration that the **VCR facilities have led to an increase in participation, and academic performance including retention of students.** Under the project:

  - The average pass % of the students in 10$^{th}$ standard across 10 schools has gone up from 67.8% in 2016-17 (pre-intervention) to 77% in 2018-19 (post-intervention). [20]
  - Student strength have been maintained in all the government schools from 2016-17 to 2018-19. **This highlights that VCR facilities have been able to retain students**.[21]

- **Creation of equal opportunities for students belonging to poor socio-economic background:**

  The students come from a poor socio-economic background without having access to computer at home. The teachers and the school staff gave them training on how to use the computer and peripherals so that the students can avail all the benefits of the VCR lab independently. This **empowers the students with digital literacy and instils confidence and helps in mainstreaming.**

- **Reduced phobia of science and mathematics:**

  The VCR facility has **plethora of visual and info-graphic content in science and mathematics** which the students have access to and can learn. The students stated that they enjoy learning science and mathematics as difficult concepts are available in the VCR laboratory in a very easy and concise way. The students can see the contents in 3D with infographics and audio-visuals. The students feel benefitted and stated that **mathematics and science** are their favourite topics to learn in the VCR laboratory. **There has been an improvement in the pass % of the students in the critical subjects in 10th standard across majority of the schools. The pass % has gone up from 86% to 88% in Science, 73% to 83% in Maths and 83% to 89% in Social Science.**[22]

- **Created facility of virtual science laboratory:**

  The junior high schools don't have a facility of physical science laboratories. The VCR facilities help students to access and **perform multitude of science experiments in 3D which have enabled them to get exposure of both theory and practical components of science. The teachers currently use the VCR as an add-on tool to their existing pedagogy. However, there are no blackboards/whiteboards present within the VCR facility, which would help the teachers while explaining the concepts to the students.**

## 2. Benefits to schoolteachers:

- **Easy to teach:**

  The VCR facility has also aided the teachers in delivering content to the students as the students grasp the visual and info-graphic contents easily and quickly. Teachers and Principals in the 2 Government schools (Kodagu & Mandya) highlighted that it has become easy to explain the difficult concepts to students more effectively and students are able to understand the difficult illustrations easily. It was cited that maps and charts which are not physically available to schools can be explained and shown to students using VCR.

[20] Project completion report as shared by RECF
[21] Project completion report as shared by RECF
[22] Project completion report as shared by RECF

- **Self-development of teachers:**

  It was noted during the discussions with the teachers that on a daily basis they are challenged to become more versatile and creative in order to attract the attention of their students. E-learning platforms are one of the channels that they are using to deepen their knowledge and increase their skills.

## 7.4.2. IRECS Analysis

Basis the interactions with the key stakeholders and desk review of the documents**, the impact of the project was evaluated on 'IRECS framework'**. The IRECS analysis summary has been presented in below table:

**Table 9: IRECS Analysis of Project 4**

| Parameter | Level of impact | Assessment from study |
|---|---|---|
| **Inclusiveness** | **H** | This project covered under the study is inclusive in nature as it caters to a wide population of students irrespective of age, gender, social category, or economic status**. Assets created like VCR lab with computer, headsets, etc. at the schools with the CSR funding support of RECF are used by all students** with no preference to any set of students. Further, they have been able to derive equitable benefits from assets (like VCR lab, laptops, headsets, UPS (Uninterruptible Power Supply) with batteries, and Server) created. |
| **Relevance** | **H** | The project **addressed the requirement from the schools and students and hence, are of relevance to its beneficiaries**. The demand for the support was received based on the baseline study done by KSCST. The benefits have been recognized by the students and teachers as they have highlighted the use of amenities as useful. |
| **Effectiveness** | **H** | The VCR lab is **well designed and constructed considering fundamental aspects and needs of the students & teachers**. The students use the VCR lab daily. It was noted that there has been a positive impact on the day – to – day learning of the students and they use the VCR lab for an interactive learning experience. The teachers also leverage the VCR facility, and it aids them in teaching. The **average pass % of the students in 10th standard across 10 schools has gone up from 67.8% in 2016-17 (pre-intervention) to 77% in 2018-19 (post-intervention). Student strength have been maintained** in all the government schools from 2016-17 to 2018-19 after VCR installation. In addition, there has been an improvement in the pass % of the students in the critical subjects in 10th standard across majority of the schools. The pass % has gone up from 86% to 88% in Science, 73% to 83% in Maths and 83% to 89% in Social Science. |
| **Convergence** | **H** | The project is implemented by KSCST, an autonomous body under the Govt. of Karnataka. The project gets support from government science and technology institutions like IISC, Bangalore, Raman Research Institute, etc. in the form of trainings and exposure visits for student and teachers with a purpose of instilling passion of science and technology amongst the students. Further, KSCST identified 10 Government high schools across Karnataka to deploy VCR (e-learning Centres) by partnering with Department of Education, Deputy Director of Public Instructions, Government of Karnataka, National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) and District Institute of Education & Training (DIET). |

| Parameter | Level of impact | Assessment from study |
|---|---|---|
| **Sustainability** | **H** | The hardware, logistics and other assets provided by REC Foundation under the project are still functional, as on the date of assessment. Post the project, the school is funding operation & maintenance from their own as well as taking help from KSCST. KSCST is still funding the schools and helps the schools when they face technical issues by deputing a technical resource person. |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **H:** | **High** | | **M:** | **Medium** | | **L:** | **Low** |

## 7.5. Alignment to the REC Foundation's CSR policy & Schedule VII

The project is in alignment with the Schedule VII of the Companies Act 2013 number (ii) "promoting education, including special education and employment enhancing vocation skills especially among children, women, elderly and the differently abled and livelihood enhancement projects". It is also aligned with the thematic areas of RECF's CSR policy i.e., **"Promoting education, skill development and livelihood".**

The project is also aligned with Sustainable Development Goal: 4- Quality education.[23]


## 7.6. Recommendations

It was noted that activities related to the project were executed on time as per the MoA signed between REC Foundation and KSCST. However, the present study also identified a few recommendations which are summarised below for the project:

- It was observed that there was no black boards or smart boards in the VCR lab, which teachers could use to explain their concepts. The provision of smartboards in the VCR room, would enable the teachers in providing demos and diagrams to explain the concept in a better and efficient way while they are teaching the class.
- The current curriculum is limited to Social Sciences and Mathematics. The other subjects like (English, Hindi, Kannada, Urdu etc.) which although is part of the syllabus is not available in the software library. Hence, the same could be added to the current curriculum of the VCR Lab as per the need and in alignment with Department of Education.

[23] Source: https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal4 as retrieved on 14 June 2022

# 8. Project 5: Installation of 2 MW SPV system at various locations at campus of IIM, Tiruchirappalli

# 8. Project 5: Installation of 2 MW SPV system at various locations at campus of IIM, Tiruchirappalli

## 8.1. About the project

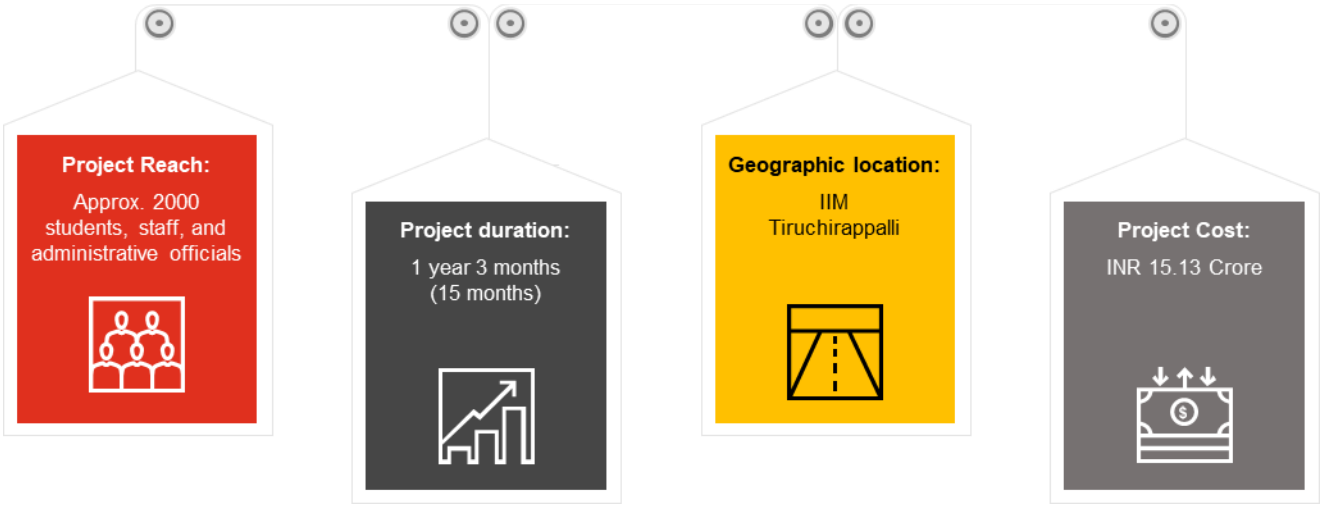
Indian Institute of Management, Tiruchirappalli **(IIM-T)** collaborated with RECF to install 2MW rooftop solar panel (SPV) at various locations in the campus for power generation to reduce peak demand from the grid in the campus with an aim to reduce the carbon footprint and dependency on non-renewable energy sources of the campus from December 2016 to January 2020 (in alignment with its CSR policy's focus area)[24]. RECF **signed Memorandum of Agreement (MoA)** with **IIM-T** on 16 January 2017**.** The project installed 2 MW SPV system at IIM-T permanent campus to meet the power requirements of the following buildings:

**Table 10: Installation of Solar PV (in KWp) at various locations in IIM-T campus**

| S. No. | Description | Solar PV (in KWp) |
|---|---|---|
| **1.** | PGP Hostel/ Block | 378 |
| **2.** | Married Student Hostel/ Block | 300 |
| **3.** | Academic Block | 223 |
| **4.** | Admin Block | 123 |
| **5.** | MDP | 169 |
| **6.** | Library | 230 |
| **7.** | Auditorium | 163 |
| **8.** | Sports Complex | 60 |
| **9.** | Student Mess | 58 |
| **10.** | Others (unit above the artificial pond) | 296 |
| | **Total** | **2,000** |

[24] Source: https://recindia.nic.in/uploads/files/REC-CSR-Policy-07-12-2021.pdf as retrieved on18 June 2022

The below schematic presents the key aspects of project implementation:




REC Foundation provided a grant of **INR 15.13 Cr. to IIM-T** (as per the disbursement details shared by RECF) to be utilised during the project period. Total expenditure incurred by IIM-T as per utilization certificate was **INR 11.58 Cr.** Hence, there has been an **underutilization of INR 3.55 Cr.** which was returned to RECF as mentioned by the CSR team of RECF.

## 8.2. About the Implementing agency

Indian Institute of Management Tiruchirappalli (IIM-T)[25] is the eleventh IIM and was instituted on 4th January 2011. Tiruchirappalli is a city known for its prominence in education, spirituality, art and culture and IIM Trichy tends to benefit from this. IIM-T aims to find its own footing in developing competent professionals for the industry and doing quality research in India with a mission to nurture a learning environment for the creation and dissemination of management knowledge of global standards and to develop leaders of enterprises who add value to society and nation building. The major objectives of the institute are as follows:

- Develop competent, professional, and value-oriented management graduates.
- Contribute to management knowledge through research.
- Strengthen existing management processes through executive education and consulting.
- Strive to contribute to national/regional policy making.

## 8.3. Method of impact assessment

Impact assessment study of this project was initiated by conducting an inception meeting with the REC Foundation officials. Post the meeting, PwC team prepared the list of requisite documents and shared with REC Foundation. Following documents were received from REC Foundation team for desk review:

- Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) signed between REC Foundation and IIM-T
- Baseline verification report submitted by IIM-T to RECF
- Project completion report
- Socio – Economic Assessment report submitted by IIM-T to RECF
- Fund utilisation certificate

[25] Source: https://www.iimtrichy.ac.in/genesis as retrieved on 18 June 2022

PwC team worked on **development of a structured qualitative methodology for evaluating the project**, which included desk review of secondary literature and project documents (as mentioned above) and qualitative methods for capturing stakeholder opinion and feedback (through interactions and key informant interviews). **The following key stakeholders were mapped and finalized** with a focus on including personnel and partners who were directly managing or were involved during the implementation:

- Administration and Management of IIM Tiruchirappalli

- Junior engineer (Civil), Campus project manager and control unit operators

A plan was developed for **in-person interactions** and the survey tool included separate key informant interviews (KII) for Administration & management of IIM Tiruchirappalli and Junior engineer (Civil) and control unit operators. **Interviews were conducted** from the identified stakeholders (administration, management & faculty) of the project during the field visit (in-person).

## 8.4. Analysis & findings

Basis the interactions with the key stakeholders, following are the key findings:

### 8.4.1. Summary of impact created

- **Reduction in grid electricity demand:**

  The project was initiated with the goal of reducing grid electricity demand by the IIM-T. Basis interview with Campus Project Manager, the institute produces solar energy from all the rooftop SPV plants, and the electricity thus produced goes straight to the electricity grid. The electricity grid officials consider the power consumption and offset the units with the electricity produced by the rooftop SPV plants from the total consumption, thereby reducing the grid electricity demand.

  The institute has a partnership with NIWE (National Institute of Wind Energy) an autonomous Research & Development institution under Ministry of New and Renewable Energy. NIWE helps the institute with the operations & maintenance of the rooftop SPV plants and have deputed control unit operators (resource persons) in the control unit of the rooftop SPV plant. **Due to the reduction in the grid electricity, the total average monthly saving during the period (August 2020 – January 2021) was INR 12.17 Lakhs.[26] The same was also confirmed by the official from IIM-T during the interactions.**

- **Reduction in carbon footprint (CFP) and reduced dependency on non-renewable energy:**

  During the interactions, it was noted that the major source of electricity supply was grid electricity prior to the intervention. However, disruption in grid supply was common, and to run the facilities portable diesel generators were used. These generators are extremely harmful, a study shows that diesel generators can produce more than 40 toxic gas emissions. Some of these emissions are carcinogenic such as benzene, arsenic etc. and many others are harmful to the environment (nitrogen oxide)[27]. The SPV systems prevent the emission of these toxic gases in the environment causing less pollution and leading to a reduction in the carbon footprint. **The estimated reduction in the GHG levels/CFP levels is estimated to be about**

[26] Socio – Economic Assessment report submitted by IIM-T to RECF

[27] Source: Page no. 1 of A study on emission inventory of air pollutants from diesel generator used at selected locations in Jaipur city, India https://www.researchgate.net/publication/330005889_EMISSION_INVENTORY_OF_AIR_POLLUTANTS_FROM_DIESEL_GENERATOR_USED_AT_SELECTED_LOCATIONS_IN_JAIPUR_CITY_INDIA as retrieved on 18 June 2022

**1214.85 T CO2 for the first 6 months of running the Solar PV and can be estimated to 2429.708 T CO2/y.[28] The same was also confirmed by the official from IIM-T during the interactions.**

- **Positive impact on the environment:**

  In addition, these generators contribute to noise pollution as well. Solar PV systems do not generate any noise or chemical pollutants, thereby leading to a significant reduction in harmful emissions as noted during the discussion with the officials of IIM-T. **The disruptions caused due to generator noise are no longer a problem for students and teachers.**

  The Campus manager and the Dean of the institute both stated that the solar panels have impacted the environment positively **and reduced carbon emission levels**. However, no documents were provided by the implementing partner to substantiate the claim.

- **Provision of 24*7 power supply:**

  The rooftop solar panel provides **reliable and assured supply of power 24x7 to the IIM-T,** thereby increasing the comfort of the university students as well as saving on electricity costs for the university. Further, the installation of the rooftop solar panels mitigates the problem of low voltage and disruptions in power supply for the IIM-T, thereby increasing the available time for studying to students. Students have now been able to use the campus facilities without any interruptions.

## 8.4.2. IRECS Analysis

Basis the interactions with the key stakeholders and desk review of the documents**, the impact of the project was evaluated on 'IRECS framework'**. The IRECS analysis summary has been presented in below table:

**Table 11: IRECS Analysis of Project 5**

| Parameter | Level of impact | Assessment from study |
|---|---|---|
| **Inclusiveness** | **H** | This project covered under the study is inclusive in nature as all students and staff at the college can avail campus facilities (which are powered by solar panels) **irrespective of their socio-economic status.** |
| **Relevance** | **H** | The project **addressed the requirement from the management and students and hence, are of relevance to its beneficiaries**. The demand for the support was received based on the baseline study done by REC due to the ground need. The other aspect was reduction in carbon footprint and dependence of non-renewable sources of energy. As seen, post installation the use of diesel generators has stopped, **leading to decrease in production of harmful emission and noise pollution.** The benefits have been recognized by the students, faculty, and staff as they have rated the use of amenities as useful. |
| **Effectiveness** | **H** | The rooftop SPV plants are constructed **considering fundamental aspects and needs of the students & management** as **it is a reliable and assured supply of power 24x7** which increases the comfort for the students helps in saving on electricity costs. **Due to the reduction in the grid electricity demand, the total average monthly saving during the period (August 2020 – January 2021) was INR 12.17 Lakhs. The Estimated reduction in the GHG levels/CFP levels is estimated to be about 1214.85 T CO2 for the first 6 months of running the Solar PV and can be estimated to 2429.708 T CO2/y. Similarly, the estimated reduction in the GHG levels/CFP levels is estimated to be about 1214.85 T CO2 for the first 6 months of running the Solar PV and can** |

[28] Socio – Economic Assessment report submitted by IIM-T to RECF

| Parameter | Level of impact | Assessment from study |
|---|---|---|
| | | **be estimated to 2429.708 T CO2/y.[29] The same was also confirmed by the official from IIM-T during the interactions.** |
| **Convergence** | **H** | RECF has partnered with IIM-T which is an institute of national importance. IIM-T partnered with NIWE (National Institute of Wind Energy) an autonomous Research & Development institution under Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India. NIWE helps the institute with the operations & maintenance of the rooftop SPV plants. |
| **Sustainability** | **H** | Post the project, IIM-T is funding operation & maintenance from their own and the NIWE has deputed control unit operators (resource persons) in the control unit of the rooftop SPV plant. The regular inspections and maintenance of the panels ensures the long-term utility and functionality of the panels. |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **H:** | **High** | | **M:** | **Medium** | | **L:** | **Low** |

## 8.5. Alignment to the REC Foundation's CSR policy & Schedule VII

The project is in alignment with activity (iv) "**Ensuring environmental sustainability,** ecological balance, protection of flora and fauna, animal welfare, agroforestry, conservation of natural resources and maintaining quality of soil, air and water including contribution to the Clean Ganga Fund set-up by the Central Government for rejuvenation of river Ganga**."** which is prescribed under the Schedule VII of the Companies Act 2013. It is also aligned with REC Foundations CSR policy. thematic area **"Environmental sustainability".**

The project is also aligned with Sustainable Development Goal: 7- Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all.[30]


[29] Socio – Economic Assessment report submitted by IIM-T to RECF

[30] Source: https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal7 as retrieved on 18 June 2022

## 8.6. Recommendation

It was noted that activities related to the Project were executed on time as per the MoA signed between RECF and IIM-T. However, the present study also identified a recommendation which is summarised below for the project:

- Discussion from the Dean and project manager highlighted that harmful gas emission (like $CO^2$, $N_2O$) have decreased though no documented evidence was provided to collaborate findings. It was also observed neither the baseline study nor the completion report captured the as is status of the emission and carbon footprint. any such findings. For such future projects, it is suggested to carry out a pre and post study of the project to understand the impact better.

## 8.7. Limitation

Following was the limitation to impact assessment study conducted for this project:

- **Non-availability of students**- Students were not present at the time of the field visit due to summer internship. Hence, the PwC team could not interact with the students.

# 9. Project 6: 'Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) for all' services in urban and rural areas to marginalized scheduled caste communities and primary schools

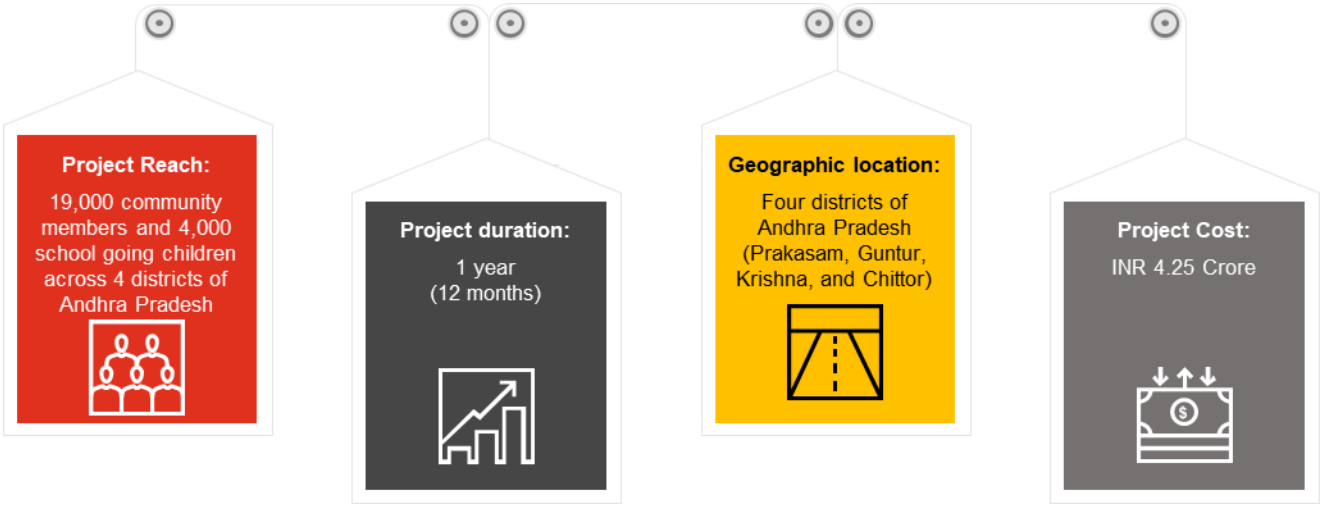
# 9. Project 6: 'Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) for all' services in urban and rural areas to marginalized scheduled caste communities and primary schools

## 9.1. About the project

RECF initiated a project to provide 'Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) for all' services in urban and rural areas to **marginalized scheduled caste communities and primary schools** in the districts- Prakasam, Guntur, Krishna & Chittor of Andhra Pradesh. RECF signed Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with **Society for Integrated Development in Urban & Rural Areas, Hyderabad** on 24 January 2018 **to implement the project with an objective to improve the standard of living for communities through effectively strengthening the effectiveness of and access to the delivery of WASH through:**

- completing water connection to 1,250 HH/ primary schools in four districts
- constructing toilets in 1,750 HH/ primary schools in four districts

Following schematic represents the key aspects of project implementation:




SIDUR Hyderabad initiated the project implementation with the baseline assessment to understand the gaps prevailing in WASH service delivery into these four districts of Andhra Pradesh. Following table highlights the quick overview of gaps pertaining to WASH service delivery in these districts based on the baseline assessment carried out[31]:

[31] REC CSR project completion report

**Table 12: Challenges identified during the baseline**

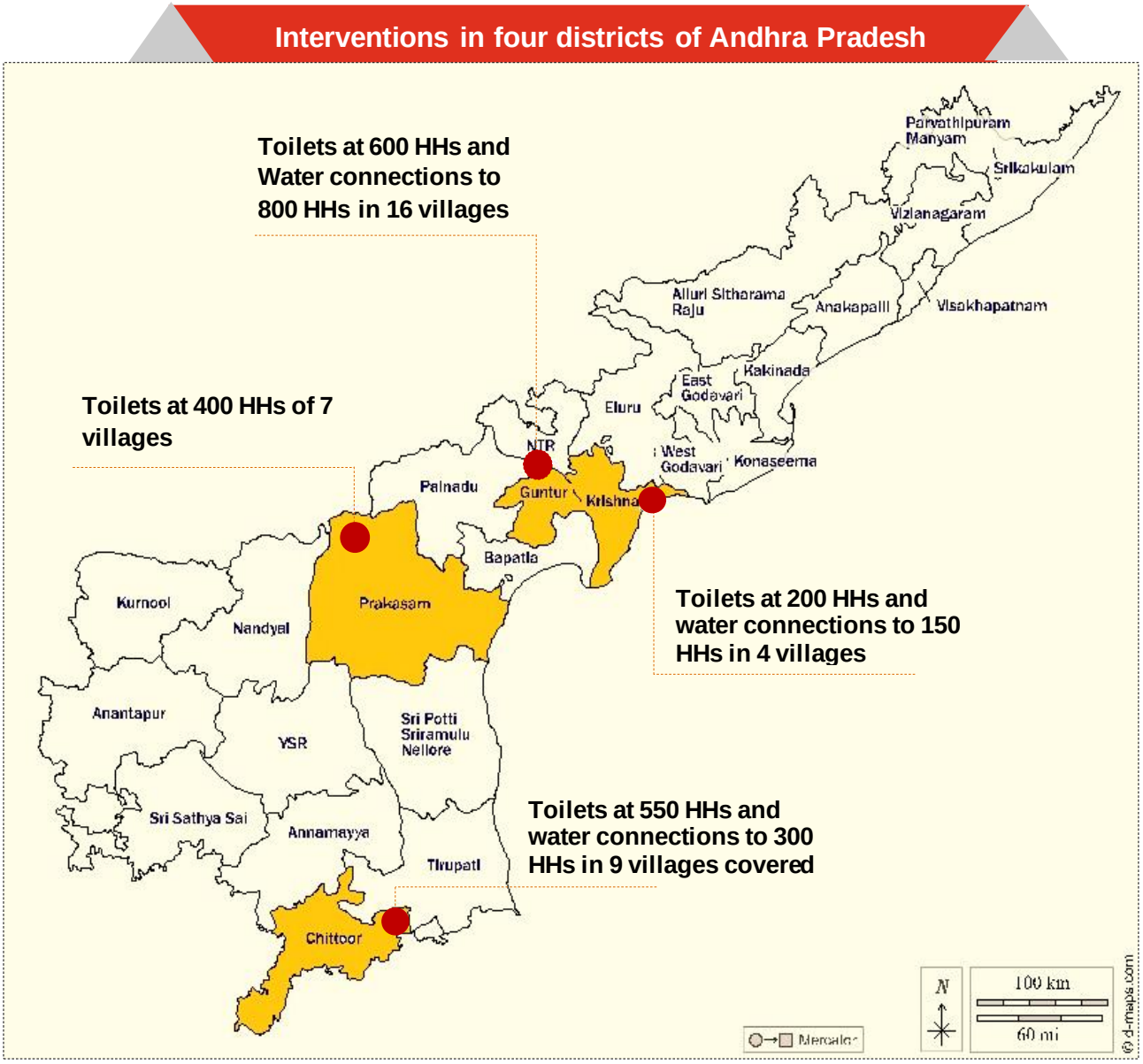
| District | Villages | Blocks | Challenges identified during the baseline |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Guntur** | 684 | 57 | • Community depends upon canals and government's supply of drinking water through overhead tanks<br>• Limited supply of water<br>• Open defecation due to lack of toilets at HH |
| **Prakasam** | 1,095 | 56 | • 85% people practices open defecation<br>• Lack of potable water |
| **Krishna** | 774 | 50 | • 80% people practice open defecation<br>• Issue of potable water<br>• Supply of water through public taps for drinking |
| **Chittor** | 1,545 | 66 | • Use of lands, agriculture fields and near bushes for open defecation<br>• Access to sanitation becomes difficult during the rainy season for the older people and the people living with disabilities |

To address these challenges, the project was piloted with an aim to address the key issues of unequal distribution and management of WASH service delivery in these four districts. The project activities were carried out at community (HHs) and institute level (schools) to optimise the impact of WASH in the state. The project was commenced in 2018 in four districts i.e., Prakasam, Guntur, Krishna, and Chittor of Andhra Pradesh. As per the MoA signed, it was required to **construct toilets in 1,750 households and complete water connections to 1,250 households** across these districts in Andhra Pradesh. Accordingly, the project was carried out into three different phases:

- **First phase** covered the construction of **400 toilets in Prakasam district**
- **Second phase** involved **800 water connections and 600 toilets in Guntur district** and
- **Third and last phase** completed **450 water connections** and **750 toilets in Krishna and Chittor district**[32]

In addition, SIDUR Hyderabad organized **eight awareness programmes** (on benefits of safe water, health, and hygiene, seasonal diseases etc.) before initiating the project. This also included the awareness sessions organized in primary schools for school students.[33]

[32] Impact assessment study report as shared by RECF
[33] Impact assessment study report as shared by RECF




**Map source:** d-maps (https://d-maps.com/carte.php?num_car=31031&lang=en)

REC Foundation provided a grant of **INR 4.25 Cr. to SIDUR Hyderabad** to be utilised during the project period. Total expenditure incurred by SIDUR Hyderabad as per utilisation certificate was **INR 4.19 Cr.** Hence, there has been an **underutilisation of INR 5.54 Lakhs** which was returned to RECF as mentioned by the CSR team of RECF.

## 9.2. About the Implementing agency

Established in 1990, Society for Integrated Development in Urban & Rural Areas (SIDUR), Hyderabad believes in equality of human being irrespective of caste, creed or religion, disability, and sex, aiming to strive for an egalitarian society that is just, free, and equal to everyone. The thematic focus areas of SIDUR, Hyderabad are HIV/AIDS prevention and control, slum development, **water, and sanitation,** dalit empowerment and community-based rehabilitation etc.[34]

## 9.3. Method of impact assessment

[34] SIDUR Hyderabad website (http://www.sidurindia.org/about-us.html) as retrieved on 08 June 2022

Impact assessment study was carried out to assess the changes that have occurred since the construction of toilets and completion of water connections in 3,000 households of these four districts of Andhra Pradesh. The study was initiated with an inception meeting with the CSR team of RECF on the scope of study and approach to be followed. Basis the discussion with the RECF, PwC team prepared the list of requisite documents and shared the list with RECF team. Basis the documents received, PwC team started the review of secondary literature and following documents to develop more understanding about the project:

- Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) signed between RECF and SIDUR, Hyderabad
- Completion report and list of beneficiaries (including the briefs on key findings of baseline)
- Impact assessment study report submitted by SIDUR, Hyderabad to RECF
- Utilization certificate

Post review of the documents, the **key stakeholders of project were identified and mapped** to capture their opinion and feedback and a **mixed method research design** was adopted for the study as presented below:


96 community members from Guntur district were sample respondents

Community from Yazali & Perali villages, Karlapalem block in Guntur for focus group discussions

School students from Yazili village, Karlapalem block for focus group discussions

Officials from SIDUR Hyderabad (Secretary and Project Manager) for key informant interviews (KII)

A plan was developed for **in-person interactions with the key stakeholders identified. Since ~47% of the project activities took place in Guntur district i.e., 600 toilets were constructed and 800 water connections were provided in 16 villages**, Guntur district was selected for conducting the impact assessment study. Selection of **96 community members** was done by **simple random sampling technique** wherein community members from Guntur district were randomly chosen keeping in mind the completeness as well as representation of variations in the sample. Sample was calculated at a **confidence interval of 95% and 10% margin of error.**

As the project aimed at providing only one facility (either toilet or piped water connections) to each HH, hence, out of the total **sample size of 96 community members**, **48 community members** were interviewed to understand the impact of **toilet construction activities** and **48 community members** were selected as a sample to understand the **impact of water connections** provided at the HHs.

Data was collected from community through **Computer-Assisted Personal interviews (CAPI) tool**, in the form of structured in-depth interview were developed for the same. Additionally, FGD and IDI guides were developed for each set of stakeholders.

A pilot testing was conducted by the PwC team to ascertain the viability of the research tools, post which, the research tools were modified according to the changes documented. The tools were then **translated into local language** for the data collection team and subsequently **training of the survey team** was also conducted.

## 9.4. Analysis & findings

Summary of the key findings is presented below:

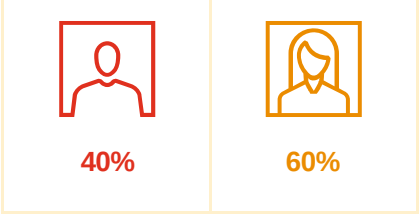
### 9.4.1. Profile of the respondent beneficiaries:

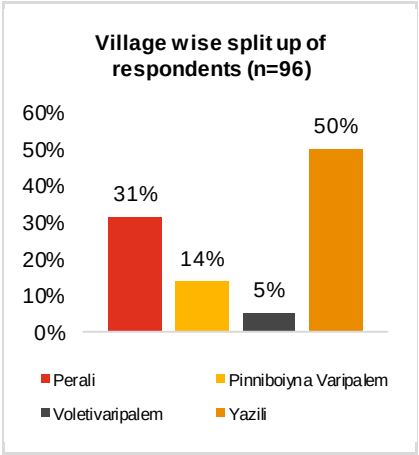
**A total of 96 beneficiaries were interviewed** to understand the impact of interventions related to the construction of toilets and providing water connections to households. As depicted below:

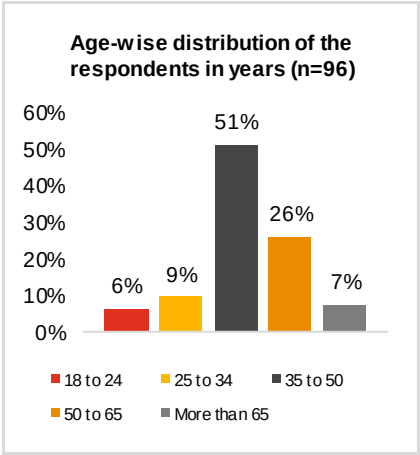
- **60% of the respondents were women.**
- **50% of the respondents** were from Yazili village (Karlapalam block) whereas rest are from Perali village, (Karlapalam block), Pinniboiyna Varipalem village (Bapatla block), and Voletivaripalem village (Bapatla block) in Guntur district.
- **51% of the respondents** were between the age group of **"35-50 years"**.

**Figure 24: Gender, age, and place of residence**

**60% of total respondents were women; the mean age of the respondents being 46 years**



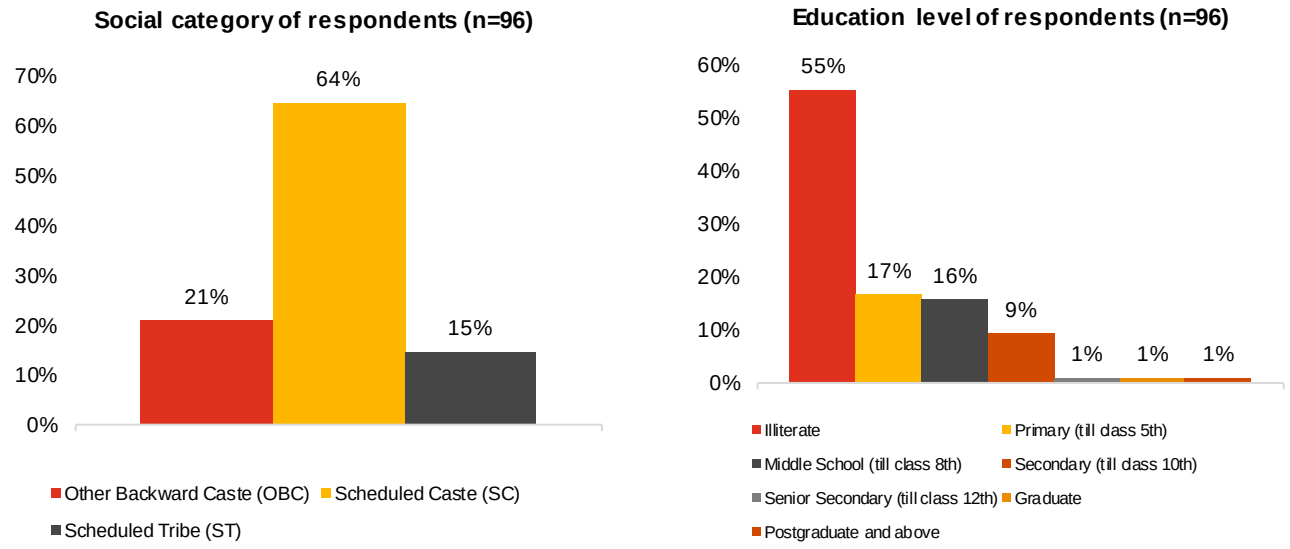



In addition, analysis of social profile of respondents suggests that:

- **65% of the respondents** were from the **SC category** and **rest belong to the ST and OBC category.**
- **55% of the respondents were illiterate.**

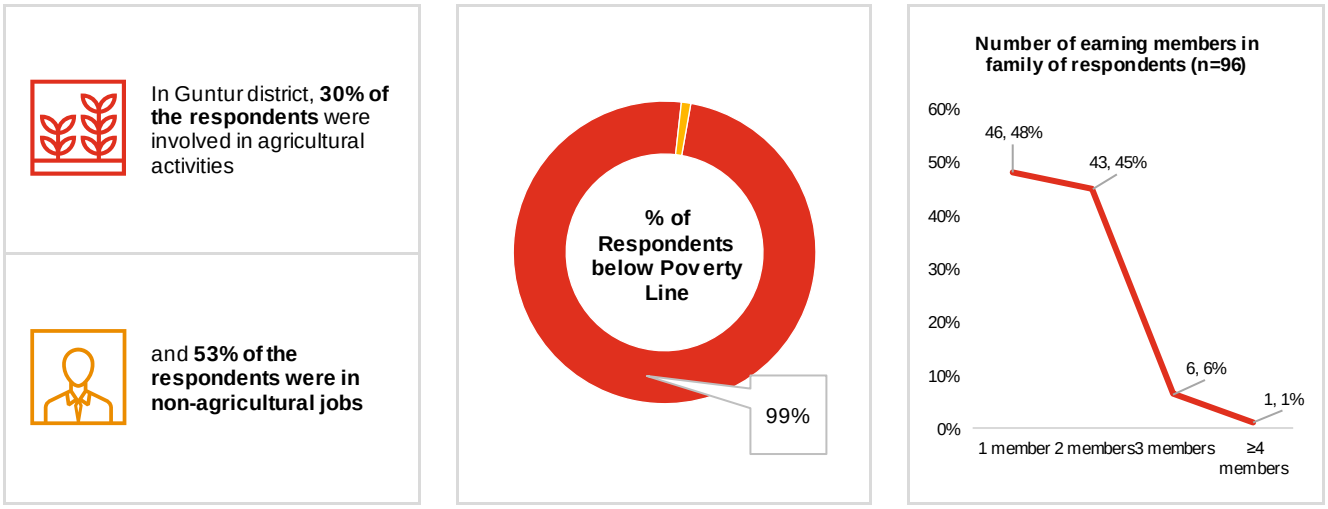
**Figure 25: Social profile**




Economic profile of the respondents depicts that:

- **53% of the respondents were involved in non-agricultural jobs (like carpenters, electricians etc.)**
- **99% of the respondents claimed that they belonged to Below Poverty Line (BPL) category.**
- **93% of the family members responded** saying that they only have 1-2 family members who were indulged in any kind of income generating activities. Only 7% respondents highlighted that they have 3 or more earning family members.

**Figure 26: Economic profile**



## 9.4.2. Summary of the impact created

### 9.4.2.1. Piped water connections at HH level (n=48)

**1. Reduced travel time and effort due to the availability of piped water connections at home**

- **100% of the respondents mentioned that they have received the water connections.**
- It was stated by the **65% of the respondents** that the major source of water for drinking and other day to day needs was **community water plant** whereas **31% of the respondents** highlighted they used to rely on **hand pump in their community** to source the water on daily basis before the intervention. This used to take **20-25 minutes** (one time) to collect water and get back to home as these sources were within a distance of 100-500 mtr. When probed further, it was reported that **44% of the respondents** used to go to these sources more than 2 times in a day. By providing the water connections at home, **the travel time and efforts reduced.**
- Community members used to pay **Rs. 5/- for 20 ltr bottle** for availing the water from 'community water plant' and 'water supplied at doorstep by private vendor' sources which they are able to save now. Now, they only avail paid water facility for drinking purpose if required.
- Further, **100% of the respondents** said that provision of piped water has made their life easier especially women **as it is the prime responsibility of women in rural areas to collect the water even if they are ill or pregnant.** This is evident from the fact that **81% of the respondents** mentioned that adult woman generally went to collect water from the source.
- It was understood that family members could now spend more time with their children with the time saved and spend more time on their business/ any other economic activities and could generate more income as highlighted during the focus group discussions with community.

**Figure 27: Main source of water before the intervention (n=48)**

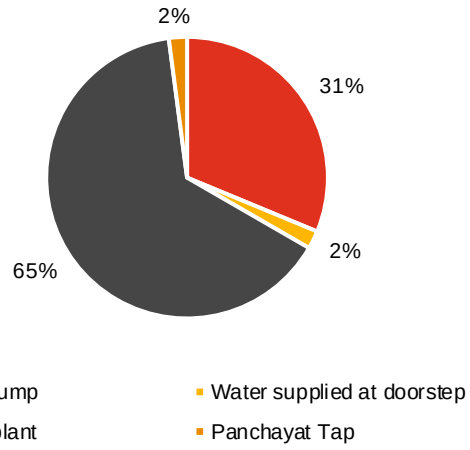



**Figure 28: Frequency of collecting the water from source before the intervention (n=48)**

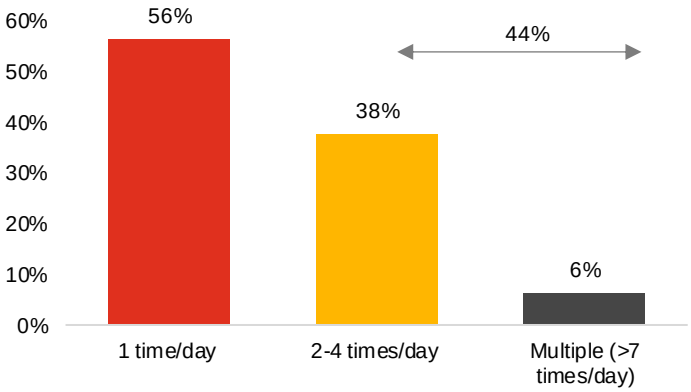
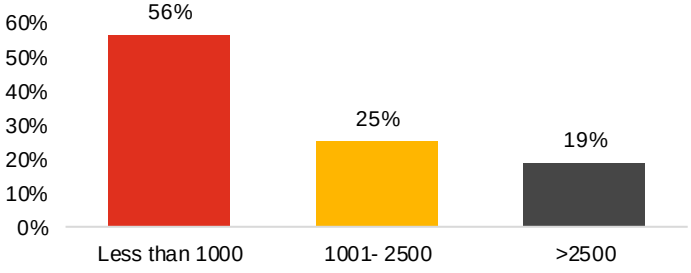


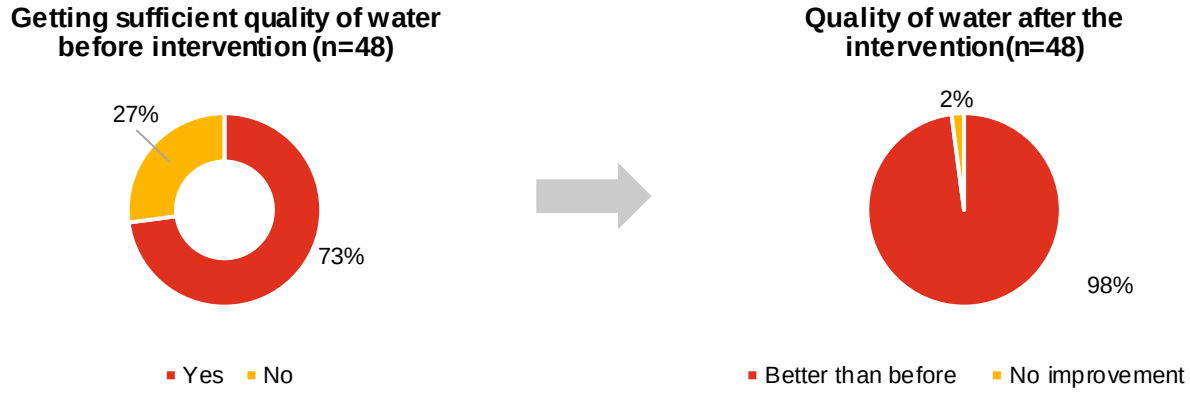

**Figure 29: Average Monthly expenditure for treatment of water borne illnesses before the intervention (in INR)**



## 2. Improved access to quality water

The project has **improved the access to quality water** as **73% of respondents** said that they used to get **sufficient quality of water** whereas **27% of the respondents** highlighted that the water quality was not appropriate before the project intervention. Post the intervention **2% of respondents reported 'no improvement'** whereas **98% of the respondents** mentioned that water quality has been better than what was available before. After the programme intervention, the households have started using tapped water connections for drinking and other day to day water needs (cleaning, bathing, cattle farming etc.).

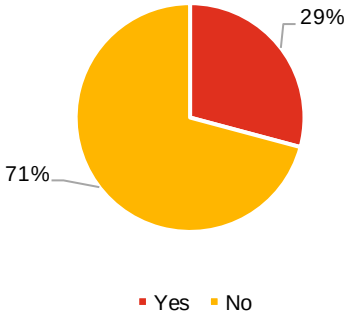
**Figure 30: Quality of water pre and post intervention**




## 3. Reduced the prevalence of water borne diseases and associated expenditure

- The community members were also enquired about the prevalence of water borne diseases water such as typhoid, dysentery and worm infections due to the contaminated water prevalent earlier. **100% of the respondents** agreed that their family members suffered from the water borne diseases and due to that the respondents' family used to spend significant expenditure on the treatment of water borne diseases.

**Figure 31: Sickness in respective HH due to the water borne infections post intervention (n=48)**




- **56% of the respondents** mentioned that the average monthly expenditure on the water borne diseases was 'less than 1,000' rupees per month while 25% of the respondents said that the average monthly expenditure on treatment was between '1,001-2,500' rupees per month. Rest of the **19% respondents** said that this expenditure was **more than 2,500** rupees **per month.** However, the intervention has led to improvement in saving such expenditure of the community members. **71% of the respondents said that in their HH, no one was ill due to the water borne infections in the last 6 months.**
- During the focus group discussions, the community members highlighted that health issues were less prevalent due to reduction in the prevalence of water borne infections **particularly among children, which has allowed them to attend more days of school.**

## 4. Change in behaviour due to the awareness programs

SIDUR Hyderabad organized **eight awareness programmes (on benefits of safe water, health, and hygiene, seasonal diseases etc.)** before initiating the project and it was meant for all the target population in the area who were directly or indirectly benefitted. These **programmes** also targeted **primary and secondary stakeholders (including school students)** to enhance their knowledge and skills and further involve them in the project implementation to ensure the sustainability of the project.

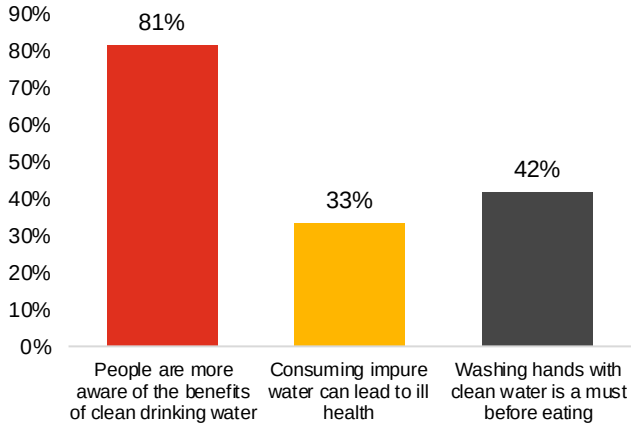
Official from SIDUR Hyderabad mentioned that it was important to develop the community ownership and conduct advocacy meetings with government officials to involve them in the project activities. The community meetings involved stakeholders like SHG groups, local leaders and CBOs as informed by the SIDUR Hyderabad team.

**Figure 32: IEC material used by SIDUR Hyderabad**


The community members were also probed on the awareness about the clean water and hygiene and **90% of the respondents (n=48) said that awareness about clean water and hygiene practices have improved since the introduction of the piped water connections at the respective home.**

When probed further, **81% of the respondents** highlighted that **people are more aware of the benefits of clean drinking water. 33% of the respondents** agreed that **consuming impure water** can lead to ill health whereas **42% of the respondents** mentioned that they are more aware of the fact that washing hands with clean water is an essential requirement before eating.

**Figure 33: Changes observed in the community (n=48)**




* This was a multiple response question and hence the aggregate is more than 100%

## 9.4.3. Construction of toilets at HH level (n=48)

### 1. Access to toilets at HH level has reduced open defecation:

To understand the impact of project activities pertaining to the construction of toilets from the community, **48 community members** were interviewed out of the **total sample size of 96 members**:

- **100% of the respondents mentioned that before the construction of toilets,** the family members used **to defecate in "Bush or field area".**
- **48% of the respondents** said that total distance to visit nearby area to defecate in open was "less than 500 mtr" whereas **50% of the respondents said that they used to visit to the field area** which was at the distance of 501-1000 mtr from their houses. This used to take around **45-60 minutes** to visit these areas for open defecation and get back.
- During the focus group discussions with the community, it was understood that **women used to face a lot of difficulties in such scenarios especially in late evening or night.** It was also very difficult **for people living with disabilities, young girls, and old people to visit such areas.**
- **100% of the respondents** mentioned that they have been provided with the **access of toilet** at their home by SIDUR Hyderabad and all the 98% of the respondents agreed that **they use toilets and now do not defecate in open.** This has addressed the issue of variety of communicable diseases due to open defecation. **Only 1 respondent said that the toilet is broken now, and she does not have money to get it repaired.**

**Figure 34: Distance to visit nearby area to defecate in open before provisioning of toilets (n=48)**

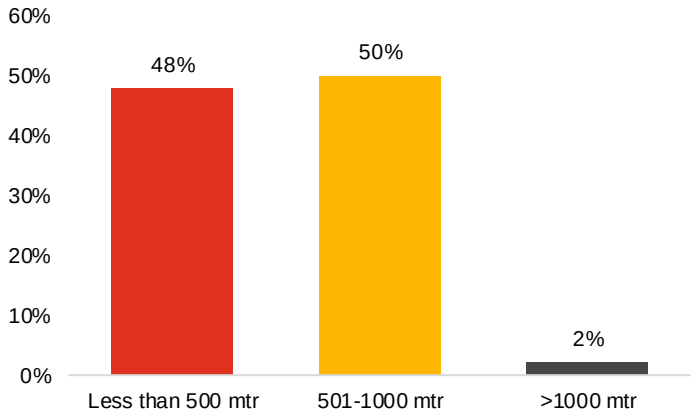
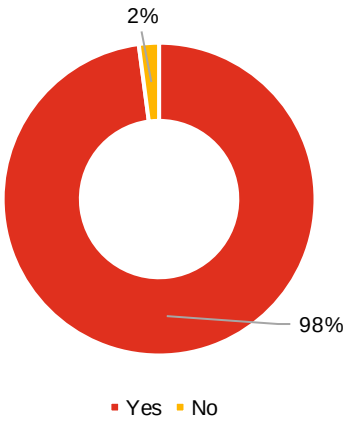


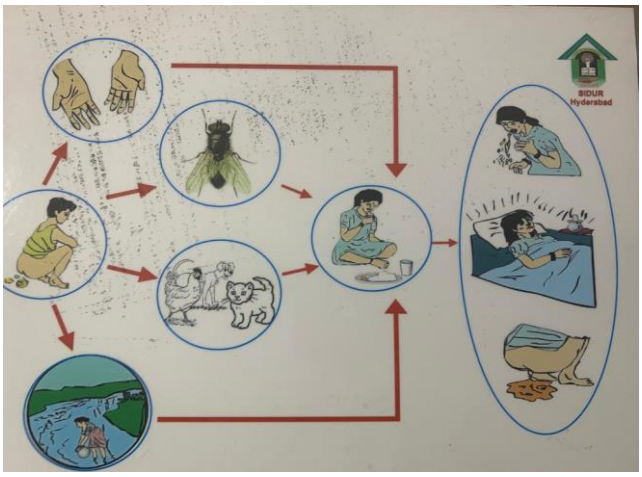

**Figure 35: % distribution of respondents using/ their family members using toilets (n=48)**



## 2. Changes in the behaviour of community members:

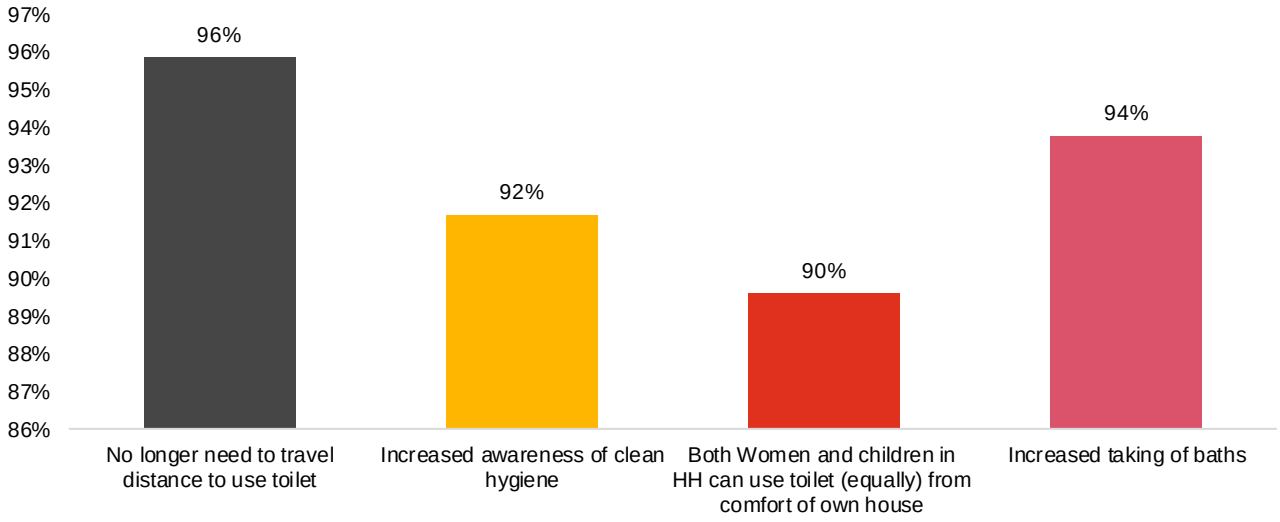
**Provision of toilets was one of the integral components** of the project, but it was also **pivotal to change the behaviour** of local community so that they could start using the toilets constructed at their homes. The awareness programmes organized by the SIDUR Hyderabad have **helped change the behaviour of local community as highlighted by the villagers.**

### Figure 36: IEC material used by SIDUR Hyderabad


Community members were also asked on the different indicators related to the behaviour change. Their perception on such indicators have been captured in the following graph:

### Figure 37: Behavioural changes due to provision of the toilet (n=48) *

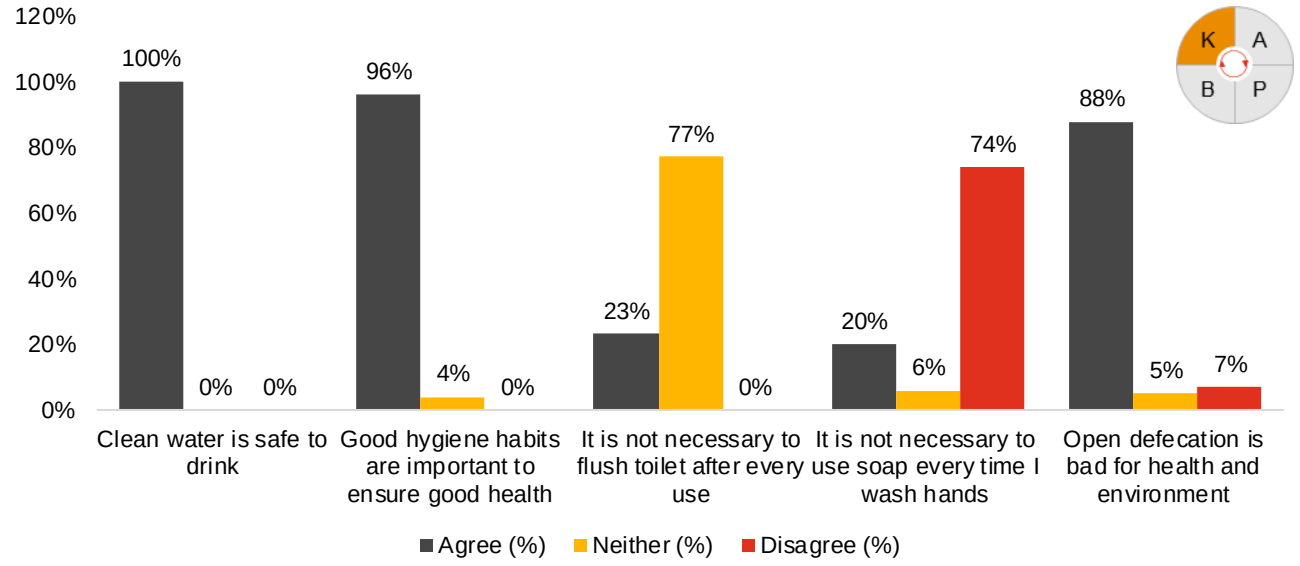



* This was a multiple response question and hence the aggregate is more than 100%

The changes in behaviour also resulted towards regular cleaning and maintenance of toilets. **94% of the respondents** mentioned that they clean the toilet on **daily basis** while the rest of **4% of the respondents** said that they clean the toilet on weekly basis. During the focus group discussions, **community members were of the opinion that irregular maintenance leads to spread of diseases.** Community members also suggested that irregular maintenance of toilets can lead to **developing foul smell** and **the floor becomes dirty due to the water clogging.**

## 9.4.4. Knowledge, Attitude, Behaviour and Practice (KABP) analysis for the project

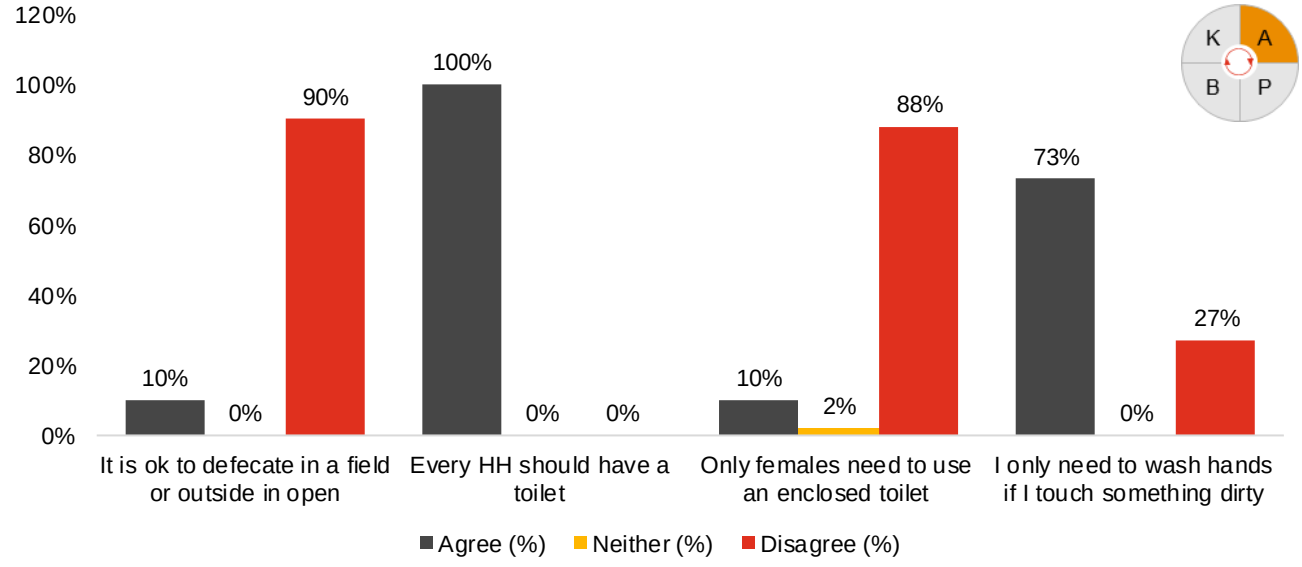
**Figure 38: Knowledge of the respondents (n=96)**




In the above graph, responses to the statements reflect the **community's level of knowledge related to safe sanitation practices and their attitude towards sanitation measures.** Following are the key findings:

1. For the statement, **"clean water is safe to drink",** 100% of the respondents concurred and responded as 'agreed'.
2. For the statement, **"Good hygiene habits are important to ensure good health",** 96% of the community members responded as 'agreed'.
3. Similarly, for the statement, **88% for the respondents** said that **"open defecation is bad for health and environment."**

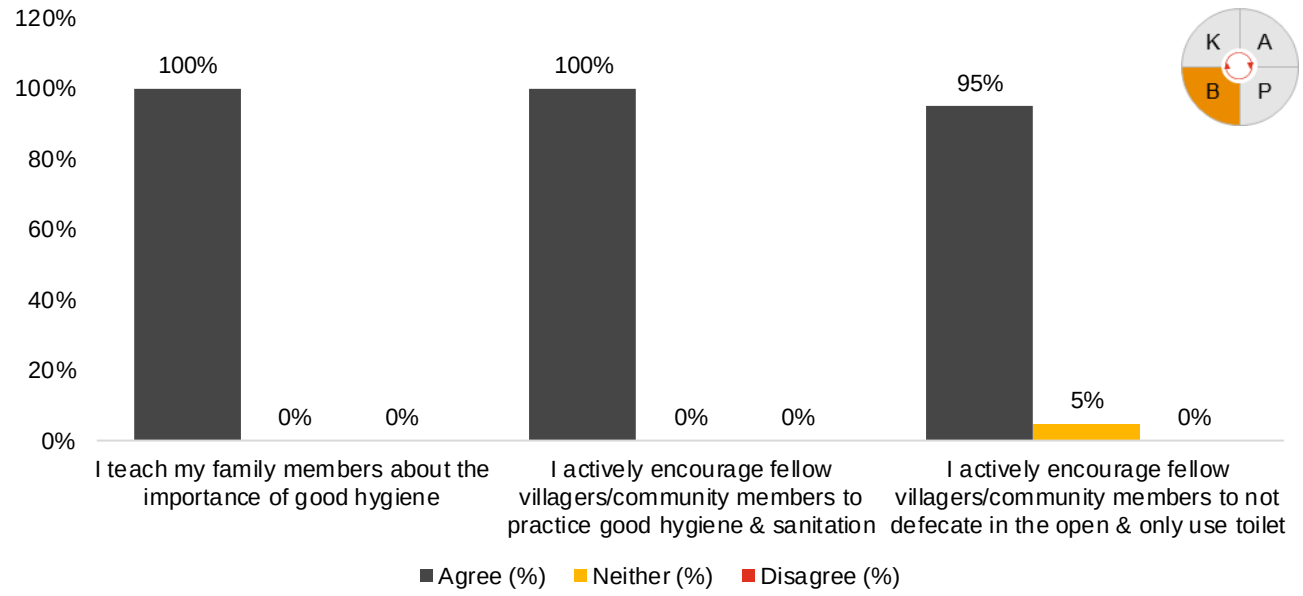
**Figure 39: Attitude of the respondents (n=96)**



In the above graph, responses to the statements under attitude reflect that **the reinforcement of the learnings is essential to enable its internalisation by the respondents and their families.** Following are the key findings:

1. **100% of the respondents** agreed that every HH should have a toilet.
2. **73% of the respondents** highlighted that they are only required to wash hands if I touch something dirty.
3. Only **10% of the respondents** agreed that **"it is ok to defecate in a field or outside in open".**

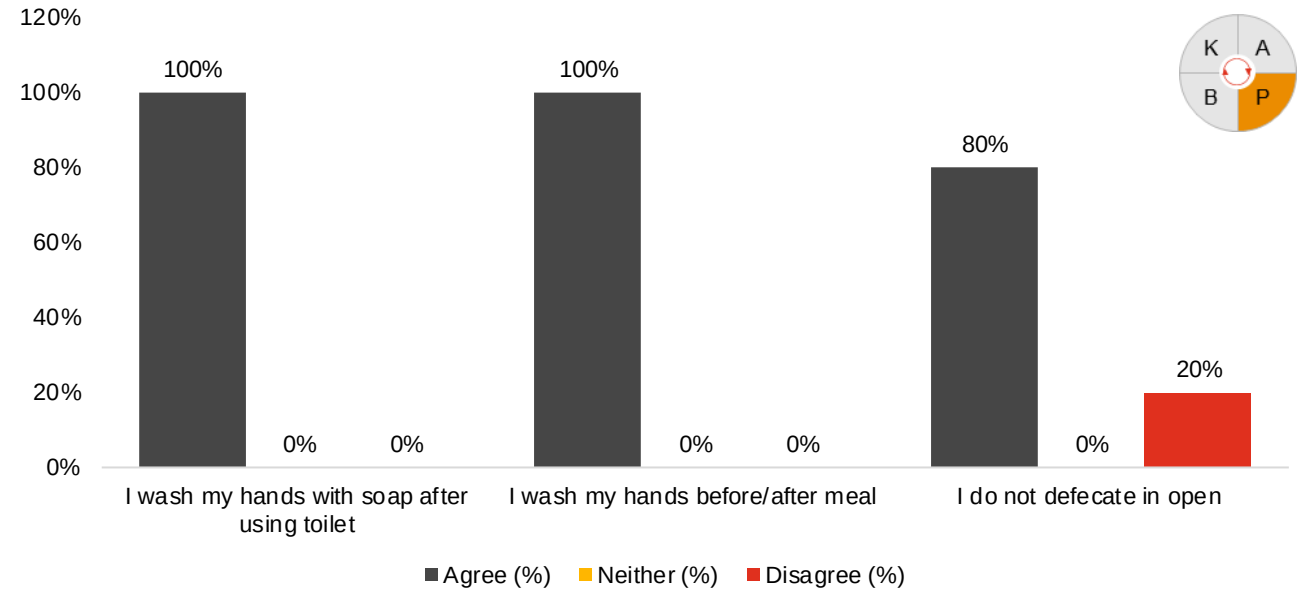
**Figure 40: Behaviour of the respondents (n=96)**




Responses to the above graph reflects the community members behaviour trends with respect to the personal hygiene and sanitation measures. Following are the key findings:

1. For the statement, **"I teach my family members about the importance of good hygiene"**, 100% of the community members responded as 'agreed'.
2. For the statement**, "I actively encourage my fellow villagers/ community members to practice good hygiene and sanitation"**, 100% of the members agreed to doing the same.
3. For the statement, **"I actively encourage fellow villagers/community members to not defecate in the open & only use toilet"**, 95% of the members agreed to doing the same.

**Figure 41: Practice of the respondents (n=96)**




Responses in the above graph reflects the community members practice trends towards personal hygiene and sanitation measures. Following are the key findings:

1. For the statement, **"I wash my hands with soap after using toilet"**, 100% of the community members responded as 'agreed'.
2. For the statement, **"I wash my hands before/after meal",** 100% of the members agreed to doing the same.
3. For the statement, **"I do not defecate in open"**, 80% of the members agreed not going the same.

## 9.4.5. IRECS Analysis

Basis the interactions with the key stakeholders and desk review of the documents**, the impact of the project was evaluated on 'IRECS framework'**. The IRECS analysis summary has been presented in below table:

**Table 13: IRECS Analysis of Project 6**

| Parameter | Level of impact | Assessment from study |
|---|---|---|
| **Inclusiveness** | **H** | The support provided reaches out to all the **intended beneficiaries, irrespective of caste and gender**. Households with lack of water facilities or toilet at home were identified during the baseline assessment, and in discussion with CBOs, SHGs, youth groups and village level group.<br><br>Most of the beneficiaries belong to the **lower strata of the society who were unable to afford toilet and sanitation facilities.** The **benefits of water/ toilet construction** were for all the family members of selected 3,000 households irrespective of any caste and gender thus emphasizing on its inclusiveness. |
| **Relevance** | **M** | **Clean potable water for drinking and other day to day need** was a felt need among community members in the region during the baseline study and the support provided by RECF has helped to a great extent in addressing the challenge. Further, **absence of neat, clean, and well-maintained toilet** was a reason for many villagers across the region. So, **construction of a toilet facility has helped evince positive feedback from the family members** and were relevant in such contexts.<br><br>However, the project aimed at providing **one benefit to one household**. Many of the community members requested (during the focus group discussions) for the toilet facility at their homes in case if they got the piped water connections and vice versa. **Households with lack of water and toilets who received only one of the benefits ideally needed both the support as highlighted by the community hence it would have catered to combined need as per identification during the baseline.** |
| **Effectiveness** | **H** | There has been an increase in access to water and sanitation as total 3000 households have been benefitted under this project. The toilet facility has been built for usage by family members and is equipped with **proper security (pucca structure, door), well maintained and assured water supply to ensure its usage and cleanliness.** Due to the project**,** health has improved due to the reduced consumption of the contaminated water and no cases of open defecation, particularly among children, which has allowed them to attend more days of school.<br><br>Further, the project has been able to **save money of the community members** by way of **reduction on health expenditure** related to the treatment of water borne diseases. **People are able to save more time** due to improved access to water and toilet facility at their home which resulted into saving more time. |

| Parameter | Level of impact | Assessment from study |
|---|---|---|
| **Convergence** | **M** | There was an involvement of the local government authorities (including government schools), SHG groups, local leaders and CBOs in the required approvals, applications and addressing the issues. The key aspect of this project was to build effective partnerships with the district stakeholders and **SIDUR Hyderabad used their experience of advocacy to strengthen stakeholder and community ownership of the project. However, there were limited steps undertaken for the convergence with government schemes for this project.** |
| **Sustainability** | **H** | The basic tenet of the project was the provision of sustainable WASH service under the purview of the communities and hence, the **maintenance of the toilet and piped water connection system were to be handled by the respective household**, under the oversight of the village sarpanch, thereby **facilitating local control and ownership**. The c**ommunity (man and women both) were entrusted** with the responsibility t**o maintain the cleanliness of the toilet and piped water connection system, once operationalized**. Owing to the usefulness of the asset, there is a definite ownership of the same among the rural communities. During the visit, the piped water connections and toilets were maintained well by the community members as they consider the facility as an asset. |

| H: | High | | M: | Medium | | L: | Low |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

## 9.5. Alignment to the REC Foundation's CSR policy & Schedule VII

The project is in alignment with the Schedule VII of the Companies Act 2013 number (i) "Eradicating hunger, poverty and malnutrition, **promoting health care including** preventive health care and **sanitation** including contribution to the Swach Bharat Kosh set-up by the Central Government for the promotion of sanitation and making available safe drinking water". It is also aligned with the thematic areas of RECF's CSR policy i.e., **"Sanitation".**

The project is also aligned with Sustainable Development Goal: 3- Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages and Sustainable Development Goal: 6- Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

## 9.6. Recommendations

It was noted that activities related to the Project were executed as per the mutually agreed timeline as per the MoA signed between RECF and SIDUR Hyderabad. However, the present study also identified a few recommendations which are summarized below for the project:

- **Adopting a holistic approach:** It was noted that one household was given one benefit so that maximum number of households with immediate requirements could be reached out. However, during the discussions with the community members, it was reported by them that there was a need of both water and toilet to those households. Hence, it is recommended that both water and sanitation could be offered as a package to those households who are in requirement to create a larger impact.
- **Provisions of dustbins outside toilets:** During the visit, it was noted that none of the toilet had dustbin installed outside. It is recommended that for the future WASH service delivery projects, there should be a provision of **dustbins which could be installed in toilets.** This would be more helpful **for girls in the family for safe and hygienic disposal of sanitary napkins.**
- **Integration of IEC component:** To achieve the desired positive result, it is important to have well-defined activities in the MoA for implementing the information, education, and communication (IEC) strategy in WASH service delivery project. However, it was noted that there was no provision of IEC/ Awareness sessions in the MoA but SIDUR Hyderabad had initiated the project activities by organizing the awareness sessions and developed IEC material to benefit the community at the large scale. Hence, it is recommended to integrate the IEC component and define it in the scope for such large-scale projects which target the software aspects to benefit the community members from 'bottom of pyramid'.

# 10. Project 7: Job oriented skill development training (residential) to 1,650 beneficiaries belonging to Scheduled caste in various states of India

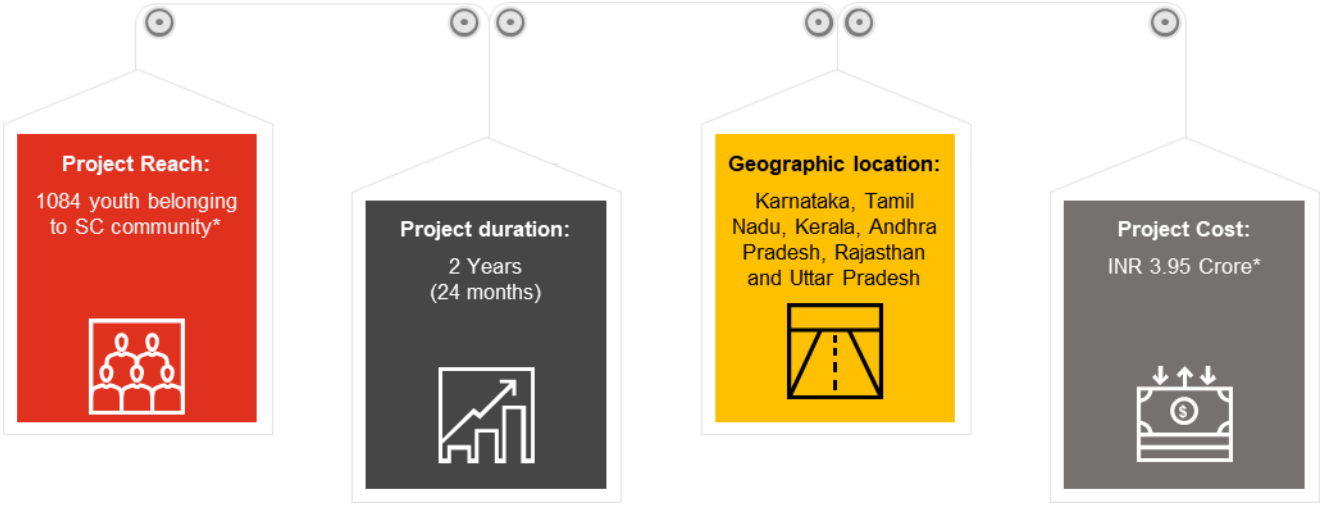
# 10. Project 7: Job oriented skill development training (residential) to 1,650 beneficiaries belonging to Scheduled caste in various states of India

## 10.1. About the project

RECF initiated **"Job oriented skill development training (residential) to 1,650 beneficiaries belonging to Scheduled caste (SC) in various states of India"** in alignment to its CSR policy. To implement this project, RECF signed Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with **National Scheduled Castes Finance & Development Corporation (NSFDC) on 30 November 2017.** The project was implemented with the following objectives:

- to identify and provide job-oriented skill development training to SC youth preferably living in backward districts
- to enable trainees to gain hands-on-learning experience beyond generic learning programmes
- to give preference to women candidates

The project was further based on the following premise:




NSFDC engaged two training partners namely **ICI Industrial Training Institute (ICI-ITI)** and **Nettur Technical Training Foundation (NTTF).** These two training partners offered the trainings into the **Backhoe Loader Operator and Fitter & allied courses** respectively. Following table depicts the quick overview of the training programmes offered under this project:

*As per the MoA signed between the RECF and NSFDC, the project intended to complete the **training target of 1650 youth belonging to the SC community** by training them on Backhoe Loader Operator and Fitter & allied courses with the approved project cost of INR 6.17 Crore. Due to the various issues in mobilization and enrolment of the candidates for Fitter and allied courses, NSFDC was only able to **complete the training of 1084 candidates** as highlighted by the official from NSFDC. Accordingly, the total **fund disbursed by RECF to NSFDC** was **INR 3.94 crore**.

**Table 14: Overview of the training programmes offered under the project**

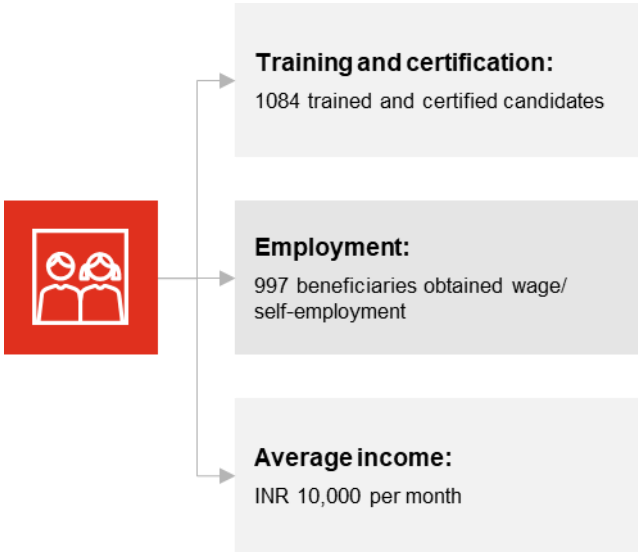
| Training partner | Trade/ course | Location | Total target as per the MoA | Total target completed[35] |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **ICI-ITI** | Backhoe Loader Operator | Uttar Pradesh | 150 | 150 |
| **NTTF** | Fitter & allied courses (Fitter Mechanical Assembly, Fitter Electrical and Electronic Assembly, Fitter Fabrication and Technician Instrumentation) | Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh | 1,500 | 934 |
| **Total** | | | **1,650** | **1,084** |

It was discussed during the **key informant interview with the official from NSFDC** that the criteria for selection of beneficiaries was **"a person should belong to the Scheduled Castes having annual family income not exceeding the poverty line limit of INR 98,000/- for rural areas and INR 1,20,000/- for urban areas."** After defining the selection criteria, NSFDC issued **newspaper advertisements for inviting the applications** from prospective candidates to enrol under the courses. NSFDC with the support of training partners verified the received applications. A selection committee was also formed at the level of NSFDC to facilitate the verification of applications. It was further noted that these **two training institutes i.e., ICI-ITI and NTTF are affiliated with the sector skill councils i.e., Infrastructure Skill Council and Capital Goods Skill Council respectively which comes under the purview of National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Govt. of India**. Hence the course content, curriculum, third-party assessment, and certification of the students were as per the norms laid by relevant sector skill council.

The outcomes of this project[36] were as follows:

- A total **1,084 beneficiaries were trained (~10% were female) and certified** by the two training partners.
- All **1,084 beneficiaries** were provided with the placement assistance as highlighted by the officials from NSFDC, ICI-ITI and NTTF.
- **997 beneficiaries obtained** wage/ self-employment which constitutes **92% of the** total candidates trained under this project and **met one of the requirements of providing placement to 70% beneficiaries as per the MoA as highlighted by the official from NSFDC.**
- The job roles included **fitter trainee, electrical technician, welder, operator, technician trainee, fabricator site engineer, QA inspector, assembler, JCB loader/ operator/handler etc.**
- The **average remuneration was INR 10,000/- per month** as per project completion report.

**Figure 42: Overview of trained candidates**




[35] Completion and outcome report submitted by NSFDC to RECF
[36] Completion and outcome report submitted by NSFDC to RECF

Further, to carry out the project, RECF provided a grant of **INR 3.95 Crore**[37] to NSFDC to be utilised during the project period. Total expenditure incurred by NSFDC as per utilisation certificate **was INR 3.08 Crore.** Hence, there has been **an underutilization of INR 87 Lakhs** which was returned back to RECF.

## 10.2. About the Implementing agency

Established in 1989, NSFDC works under the purview of **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India** with an objective for **financing, facilitating, and mobilizing funds for the socio-economic development of Scheduled Caste person** for both rural and urban areas. NSFDC also **sponsors skill development training programmes** for persons belonging to the target group with the support of training providers/ institutions through whom NSFDC's skill training programmes are conducted.[38]

For the said project, **NSFDC engaged two training partners ICI Industrial Training Institute (ICI-ITI) and Nettur Technical Training Foundation (NTTF).** ICI-ITI was founded in 1985 and currently offers training programmes in electrician, fitter, welder, and industrial painter whereas NTTF was setup in 1963 and offers short term vocational programs, diploma, post graduate diploma and post graduate degree.[39]

## 10.3. Method of impact assessment

Impact assessment study was carried out to assess the impact due to the training programmes organized for **training 1,084 beneficiaries across the six states**. An inception meeting was organised with RECF to develop in- depth understanding around the project and discuss the approach to be adopted to carry out the impact assessment study. Post the meeting, the list of requisite documents was prepared by PwC team and shared with the CSR team of RECF. Basis the documents received, PwC team started the review of secondary literature and following documents to develop more understanding about the project:

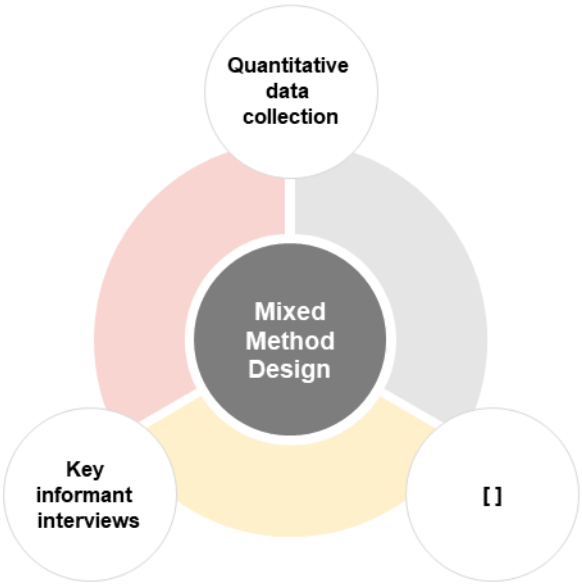
- Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) signed with the NSFDC
- List of approved training partners submitted by NSFDC to RECF
- Baseline report submitted by NSFDC to RECF
- Completion and outcome report with the list of beneficiaries submitted by NSFDC to RECF
- Impact report submitted by NSFDC to RECF
- Form of utilization certificate

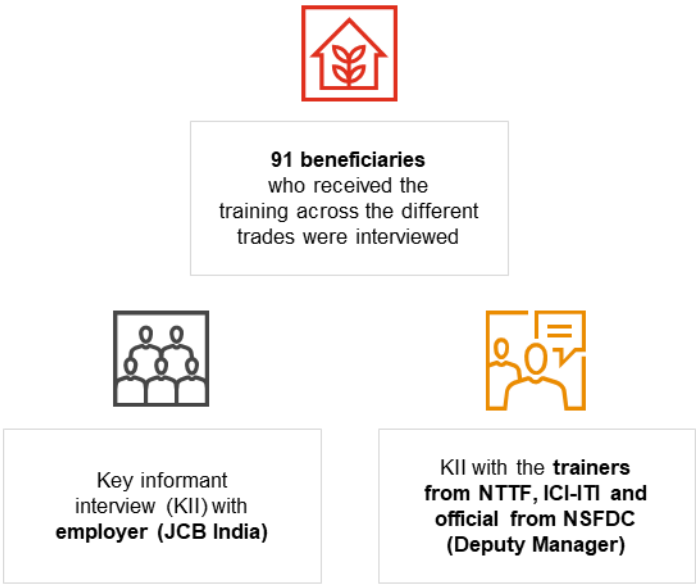
Post review of the documents, the **key stakeholders of project were identified and mapped** to capture their opinion and feedback and a **mixed method research design** was adopted for the study as presented below:

[37] Disbursement details shared by REC Foundation on 05 April 2022

[38] NSFDC website (https://nsfdc.nic.in/en/incorporations), (https://nsfdc.nic.in/en/skill-training) & (https://nsfdc.nic.in/en/list-of-training-partners) as retrieved on 30 June, 2022

[39] ICI-ITI website (http://iciiti.org/) and NTTF website (https://www.nttftrg.com/) as retrieved on 30 June 2022




RECF provided the list of beneficiaries who received the training under this project. Since it was a skill development project and there were no assets created under this project, hence, it was suggested by RECF to conduct the data collection through **virtual interactions**. A plan was developed for **virtual interactions with the key stakeholders identified.**

Selection of **91 students** was done by **simple random sampling technique** for interviews. These students were randomly chosen keeping in mind the completeness as well as representation of variations in the sample. Sample was calculated at **confidence interval of 95% and 10% margin of error.** Data was collected from community through **Computer- Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) tool**, in the form of structured interview. For qualitative interactions, a set of questions were developed for each set of stakeholders.

A pilot testing was conducted by the PwC team to ascertain the viability of the research tools, post which, the research tools were modified according to the changes documented. The tools were then **translated into local languages (Hindi, Telugu, and Kannada)** for the survey team. **Training of the data collection team** was also conducted to make them understand the importance of each question. **A list of Do's and Don'ts** was also ingrained in them to factor in local contexts.

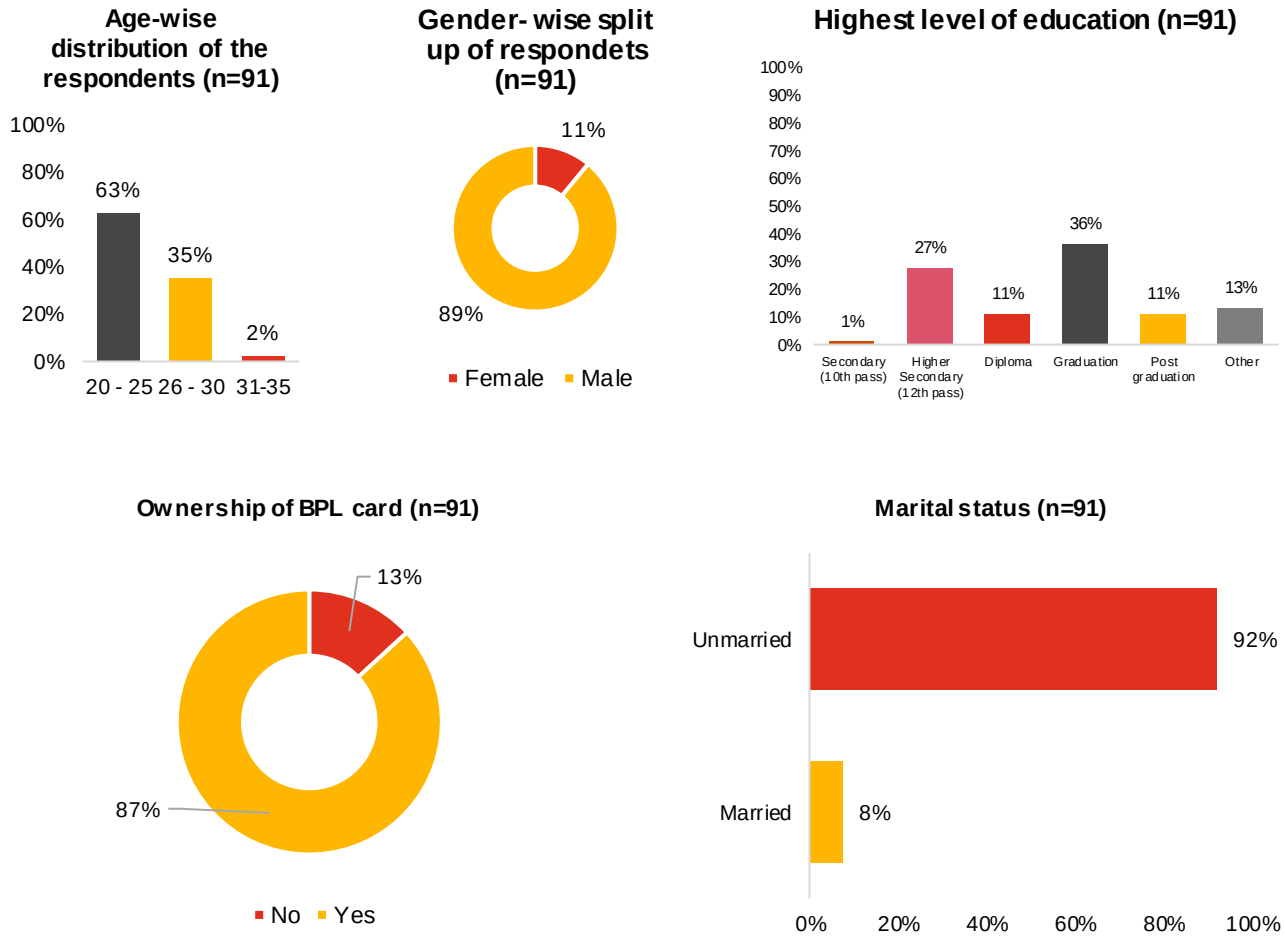
## 10.4. Analysis & findings

### 10.4.1. Profile of the respondents:

In order to understand the impact of the project interventions, **a total 91 respondents** were surveyed, and **socio-demographic profile of these respondents** depicts that:

- **63% of these respondents** were between the **age group of 20-25 years**. The **mean age of the respondents is 25 years**. This highlights the relevance of this skill development project in filling up the skill gap to enhance employability of youth.
- **89% of the respondents** were male. This was evident in terms of type of courses being offered under this project. This suggests the need for either to include the female centric trades or conduct focused community mobilisation to ensure enhanced participation from female into the project.
- **36% of the respondents** completed the **graduation** while **27% of the respondents** completed higher secondary education (12$^{th}$ class).
- **87% of the respondents** reported to be from below poverty line (BPL).
- **92% of the respondents** were unmarried.

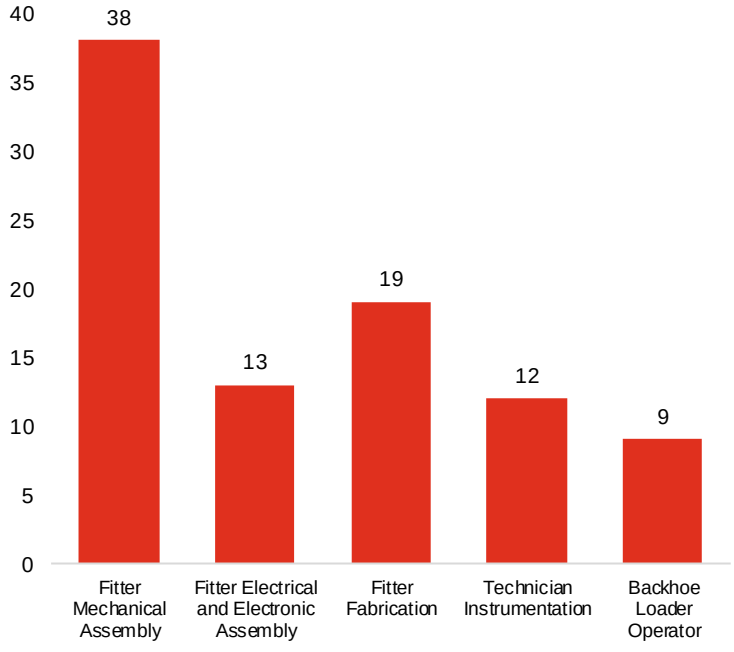
## Figure 43: Socio-demographic profile of respondents




Further, in order to ensure the representation of all trades in the interactions, beneficiaries were selected from **all the trades (Fitter Mechanical Assembly, Fitter Electrical and Electronic Assembly, Fitter Fabrication, Technician Instrumentation and Backhoe Loader Operator)** which were offered under these training programmes funded by the RECF. The graph here depicts that:

- **38 respondents** attended the Fitter Mechanical Assembly.
- **13 respondents** attended the Fitter Electrical and Electronic Assembly trade.
- **19 respondents** completed the Fitter Fabrication trade.
- **12 respondents** completed the Technician Instrumentation trade.
- **9 respondents** were from Backhoe Loader Operator trade.

## Figure 44: Sample distribution (n=91)



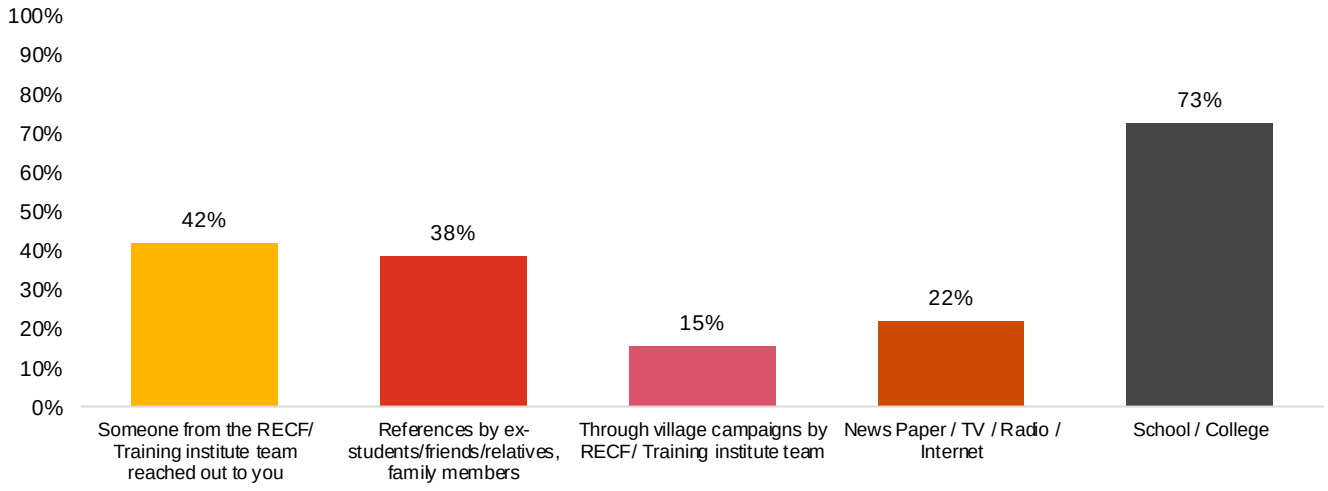
## 10.4.2. Summary of the impact created:

### 1. Reaching out to the beneficiaries

Mobilization activities were conducted by NSFDC to promote the project and invite applications from the potential trainees. Under the present study, the respondents were probed on the source of information about the project. 73% of the respondents got to know about the training programmes through their respective school/ college. 42% of the respondents identified the programmes when REC Foundation / NSFDC team reached out to them for the enrolment whereas 38% of the respondents heard about the training programmes through references from previous years' students and friends. Only 15% of respondents heard about the training programmes through village campaigns by RECF/ NSFDC team whereas 22% of respondents got to know about this training programme through newspaper advertisements by NSFDC team. This indicates that a small proportion of respondents hear about the trainings through the village campaigns and mass media platforms and word of mouth are more successful modes of reaching the potential candidates.

**Figure 45: Newspaper advertisement by NTTF**

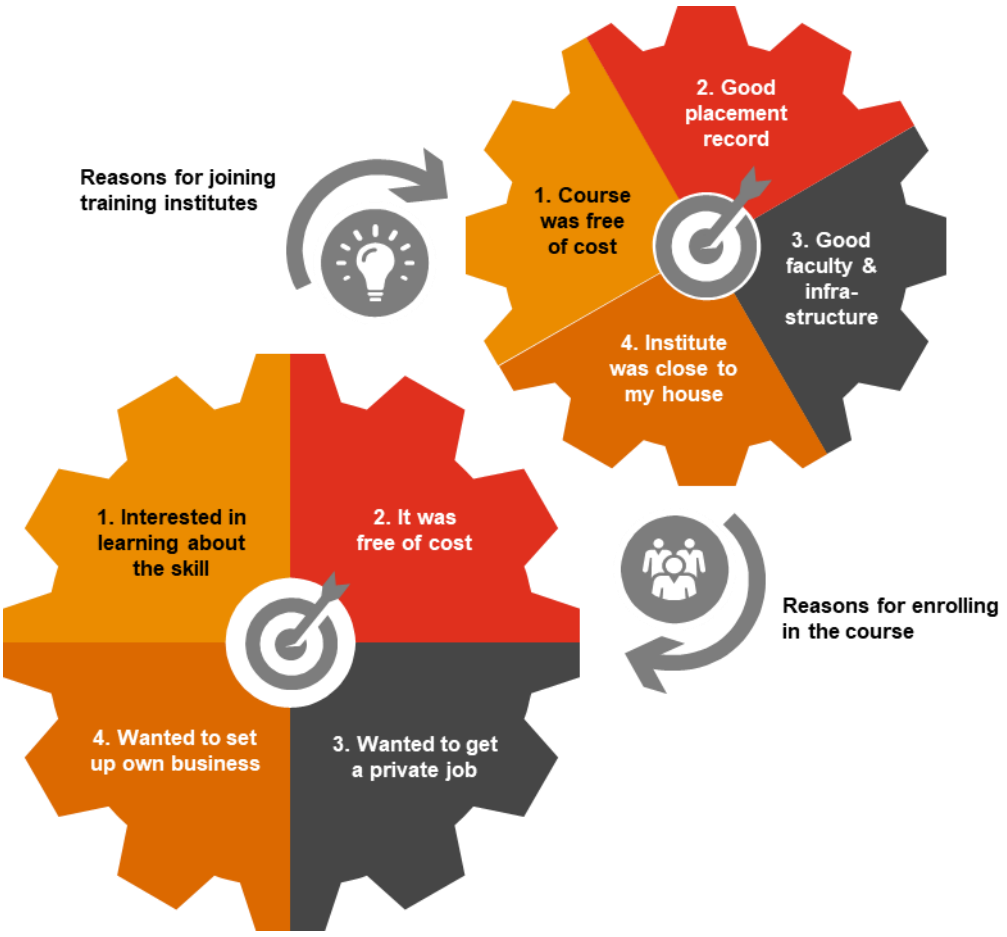

**Figure 46: Source of information**



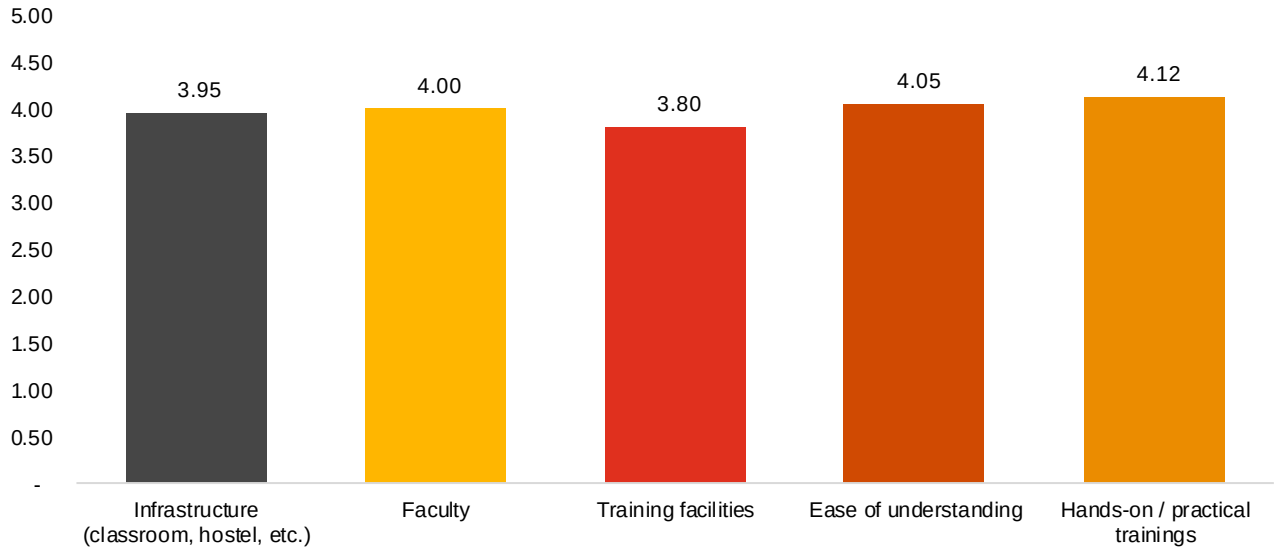

Respondents were asked to indicate their driving factors for deciding to participate in the programme. As evident the major reasons for enrolling in the course are that the trainees wanted to make a change in their lives by learning a skill and get a job, the course being free of cost and good placement record of NSFDC. This indicates that although the trainees were self-motivated, they applied for the course as it was free of cost and they were hopeful of getting a job. **Leveraging the findings,** following figure highlights the top four reasons:

## 2. Effectiveness of the training programmes

### Figure 47: Top four driving factors for participating in the trainings




### Figure 48: Rating of various aspects of the programs



Once enrolled, the students start their course with the theory sessions. Key tools, backhoe loader machines, safety, and precautions, etc, being provided by experienced faculty of these two training institutes as informed by the NSFDC. Along with theoretical classes, the students were made to understand the practical aspects of the work where individual processes such as fitting fabrication, drilling and driving backhoe loader operator were taught in a secured environment. All the trainees were provided accommodation at the residential facilities of these training Centres as highlighted by the ICI-ITI and NTTF. To gauge the effectiveness of the programme implementation, the key beneficiaries were asked to rate the different aspects of the programme on a scale of 1 (min.) to 5 (max.).

Hands-on practical training was **rated 4.12 out of 5**. For the backhoe loader operator training, practical training included on how to operate a backhoe whereas for Fitter & allied courses included carrying out fitting and fabrication operations like measuring, marking out, sawing, grinding, drilling, chiselling, threading, tapping, scraping, manual lapping and inspecting as informed by the trainers from ICI-ITI and NTTF. **Ease of understanding (4.05/5) and Good Faculty (4.00/5)** were stated as the key reasons for successfully completing the courses by the respondents. **Overall, respondents were largely satisfied with the different aspects of the training programmes.**

### 3. Change in the involvement in income generating activities:

It was analysed that **99% of the respondents** were not involved in any income generating activities before enrolling into the course. When probed, **74% of the respondents highlighted** they are currently involved in an **income generating activities (through wage/ self-employment).** Among the ones who are not currently working, it was highlighted by a few students that they were not interested to work in these sectors and hence, currently not involved in any income generating activities while rest of the students had left the jobs due to the COVID-19 as informed by the official from NSFDC.

**Figure 49: Involvement in income generating activity pre project implementation**

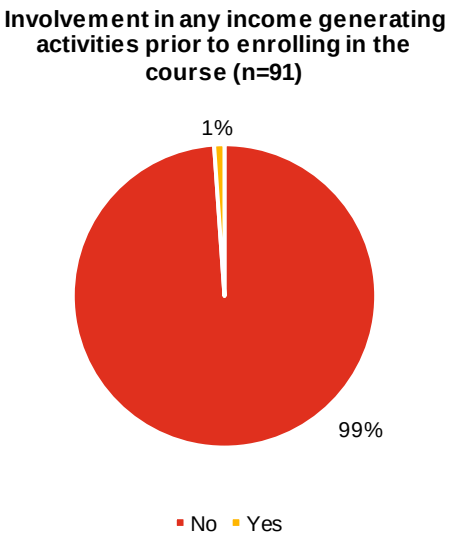
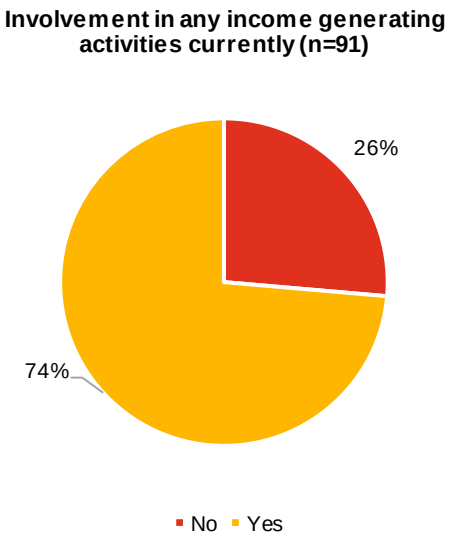


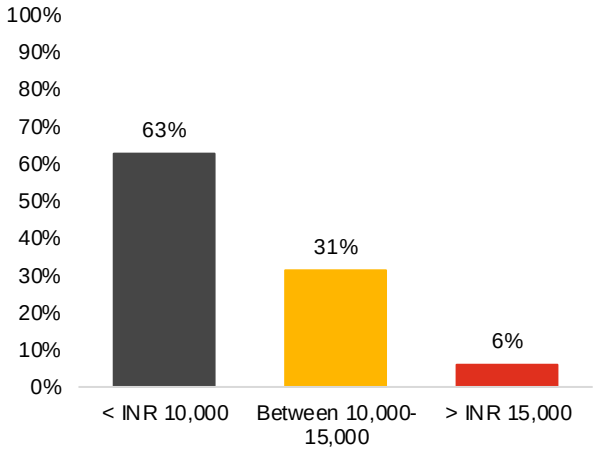

**Figure 50: Involvement in income generating activity post project completion**




**63% of the total respondents** (67 respondents who are currently involved in any income generating activities) are earning less than **INR 10,000 per month**. **31% of the respondents** are earning between **INR 10,000-15,000 per month** whereas rest of the **6% respondents are earning more than INR 15,000 per month**. **The average income stands at INR 10,187 per month.**

**Figure 51: Employment status of beneficiaries**


**Figure 52: Current monthly income of the respondents who are engaged in the income generating activities (n=67)**




Out **of the 67 respondents** who are currently engaged in any income generating activities, **45 respondents have started their own business**. As observed in **Figure 8**, only 1 respondent was working previously, and rest of the respondents were not involved in any income generating activities. The project has helped to create the opportunities for the students to **bring them into the mainstream** as **67 respondents are now currently engaged in any income generating activities.**

Interactions with trainees also highlighted that the centre helped them to be informed about job options, connect them to potential employers, share details about job opportunities and conduct the placement drives at the institute as highlighted below:

**Figure 53: Respondents on kind of placement support was provided**


This is a multiple response question and hence the aggregate of responses is more than 100%.

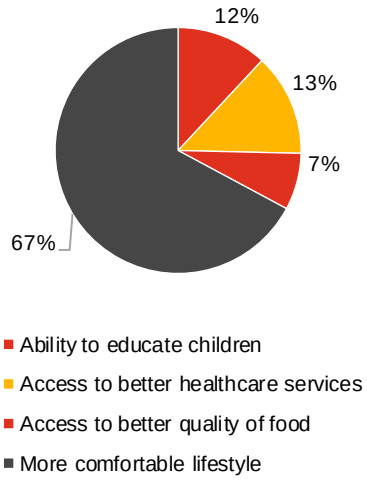
**Further, 51% of the respondents** highlighted that industry visits were conducted under the training programmes. This highlights the need of increasing the frequency of industry visits as such exposures can help them gain practical experience along with an insight into the operations of respective course. It was reported that the institute provided **training on improving soft skills and organised personality development classes** as well.

## 4. Improved standard of living and economic empowerment:

The primary outcomes for a skill development programme post the training completion is gainful employment leading to economic empowerment and finally, an improvement in the quality of life. Improved living standard equates with better access to education, healthcare, food, among others.

Respondents were asked what change/s they have observed in their standard of living after getting placed post their training completion. **67% respondents** shared that they now led a more comfortable lifestyle. When probed further, the respondents stated that their quality of life has improved post completing the training programme as they could support their families better through the incomes generated post placement in the industry. About 12-13% responded that now **they could afford quality healthcare facilities and educate the children in their families.**

**Figure 54: Change in standard of living (n=67)**



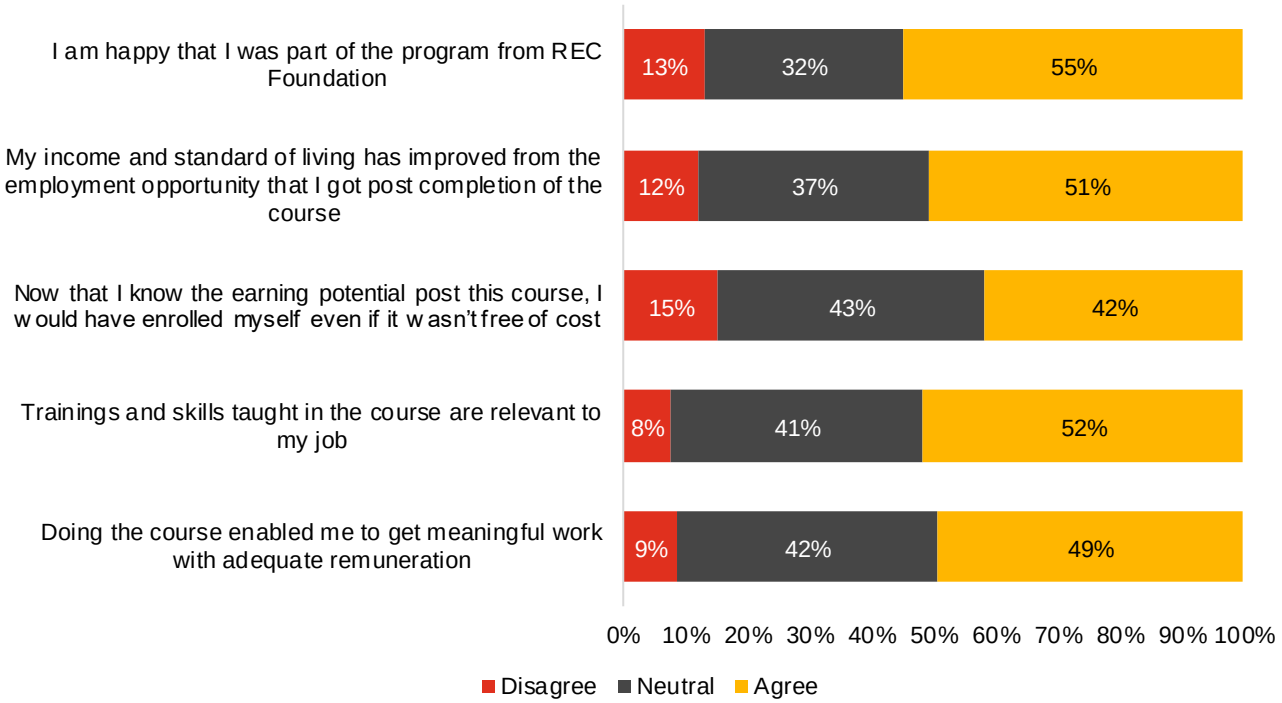

Trainees were also asked about consumer durables that they have bought for themselves / family members. **About 77% of the respondents** said that they have bought a smart phone either for themselves or a family member from the money they saved from their salaries. **About 10% of the respondents** added that they have bought TV for themselves.

NSFDC and training institutes provided certificates to all trainees who completed the course as noted during the discussions with the official of NSFDC. The certification was in partnership with respective skill council applicable for the course and were accredited by **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC).**

## 5. Overall perception of the respondents:

Respondents were satisfied with different aspects of the skill development programme run by NSFDC and RECF. The training module is imparted by quality trainers and provides adequate teaching material and classroom infrastructure including practical exposure. When asked about their level of satisfaction with the training provided, the respondents largely agreed on various aspects of the programme which is presented in the below graph:

**Figure 55: Perception of respondents on different aspects of the training programs**




## 10.4.3. IRECS Analysis

Basis the interactions with the key stakeholders and desk review of the documents**, the impact of the project was evaluated on 'IRECS framework'**. The IRECS analysis summary has been presented in below table:

**Table 15: IRECS Analysis of Project 7**

| Parameter | Level of impact | Assessment from study |
|---|---|---|
| **Inclusiveness** | **M** | The project caters to SC youth irrespective of their age, marital status and education and aimed at reaching out to the intended beneficiaries. However, the project is less inclusive from the gender perspective as only **10% of the candidates trained in Fitter & allied courses are women as highlighted by the official from NSFDC. Backhoe Loader Operator trade did not have any female beneficiary as the programme caters to training on heavy vehicle machineries. The mobilization approach by such projects needs to be reviewed to encourage more female applicants to the programs or RECF may look to include the trades which are more women centric in future programmes.** |
| **Relevance** | **H** | The project aimed to cater the needs of SC youth by skilling them into the relevant sectors. The **baseline study was carried out by both the training institutes before rolling out the training programmes to understand the expectations of the SC youth.** In order to address the felt need, **the support provided by RECF to provide skill-based training to youth is highly relevant**. Further, the project has also received the positive feedback from the candidates. |

| Parameter | Level of impact | Assessment from study |
|---|---|---|
| **Effectiveness** | **H** | The project has provided the platform to impart the job-oriented quality skill training. As noted during the discussions, the project trained and certified 1,084 candidates and around 92% of the candidates were placed during the project period. During the interactions with the candidates, it was analyzed that only **1% out of 91 respondents was engaged in an income generating activity prior joining the course**. **74% of the respondents are currently involved in the income generating activities.** In addition, **67% respondents** shared that they now led a more comfortable lifestyle as their quality of life has improved post completing the training project as they could support their families better through the incomes generated post placement in the industry. |
| **Convergence** | **H** | RECF partnered with NSFDC which comes under the purview of **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India.** The project has also involved two training partners i.e., NTTF and ICI-ITI to offer the training programmes. NSFDC has also developed linkages with many employers to recruit the candidates from these two training institutes. In addition, the courses are accredited by NSDC as these two training institutes are affiliated with **Infrastructure Skill Council and Capital Goods Skill Council. Also, the project is strengthening the efforts of Skill India mission of Government of India.** |
| **Sustainability** | **H** | **74% of the respondents** are currently involved in any income generating activities even after project. This also included the **youth who have now started their own business.** In this context, **the project has been able to create sustainable impact on the life of beneficiaries.** |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **H:** | **High** | | **M:** | **Medium** | | **L:** | **Low** |

## 10.5. Alignment to the REC Foundation's CSR policy & Schedule VII

The project is in alignment with the Schedule VII of the Companies Act 2013 number (ii) "promoting education, including special education and employment **enhancing vocation skills** especially among children, women, elderly and the differently abled and livelihood enhancement projects". It is also aligned with the thematic areas of RECF's CSR policy i.e., **"Promoting education, skill development and livelihood".**

The project is also aligned with **Sustainable Development Goal: 4- Quality and education and Sustainable Development Goal: 8- Decent work and economic growth.**

## 10.6. Recommendations

The impact assessment study identified a few recommendations for the project which is summarised below:

- **Industry exposure and orientation:** As per the trainees interviewed, the industry visits and expert talks during the course were limited. In order to ensure that the trainees gain industry insights, training partners in current and future training programmes sponsored by RECF could increase the number of industry exposure visits and expert talks. This would also help the trainees to better understand the expectations that their employers in the capital goods and infrastructure sectors would have from them once they start working post course completion.
- **Include women-oriented courses:** Currently the project is offering courses which are less female oriented as the total trained candidates included only 10% female trainees. This may be due to the nature of the type of courses being offered under this project which requires extensive manual labour. Hence, it is recommended to explore trainings / courses within the capital goods and infrastructure sectors which may be more suited to female to ensure better gender balance in the skilling programme.
- **Ensuring the pre-joining counselling sessions:** During the interactions, **around 76% of the respondents** highlighted that they did not undergo any pre-joining counselling before enrolling into the courses. It is recommended to ensure the pre-joining counselling sessions should be a part of the skill training programmes. Such counselling sessions helps the candidates to understand the type of course he/she should attend, employment opportunities and career pathway.

## 10.7. Limitation

Following was the limitation observed during study period:

- **Unavailability of the project stakeholders:** Since the project was implemented in 2017-2018, various project related stakeholders such as trainers and employers moved to different organizations now and hence, they were not available for the interactions. In addition, family members of respondents were also not available to provide their perspective on the training programmes as highlighted by the official from NSFDC and its two training institutes. Interactions with such key stakeholders would have helped to understand the impact of the training programmes on the other aspects. It was also difficult to reach out to many students as they changed their contact numbers.

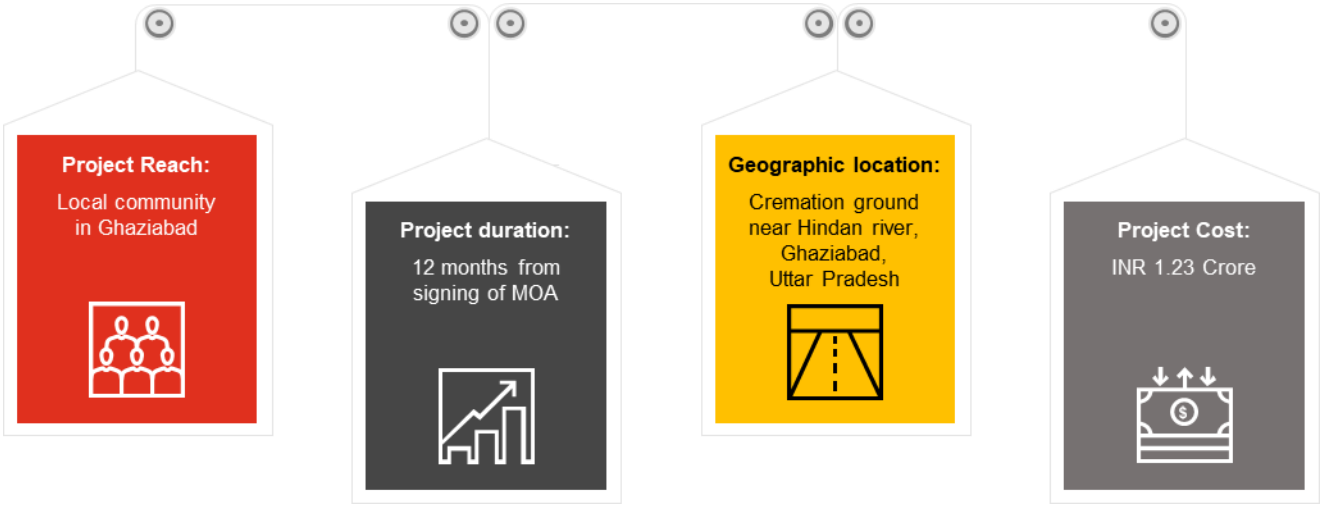
# 11. Project 8: Setting up of an electric crematorium in Ghaziabad district of Uttar Pradesh

# 11. Project 8: Setting up of an electric crematorium in Ghaziabad district of Uttar Pradesh

## 11.1. About the project

RECF initiated a project to set up an electric crematorium in the Ghaziabad district of Uttar Pradesh with an objective to improve green cover and prevent air pollution by reducing the production of carbon dioxide and other harmful gases. To implement the project, RECF signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Ghaziabad Developmental Authority (GDA), District Magistrate office, Ghaziabad[40]. GDA has handed over the running and maintenance work to Nagar Nigam (Municipal Corporation) Ghaziabad which is an urban and local governing body that works for providing necessary community services like health centres, educational institutes, and housing and property tax to a district.

Following schematic represents the key aspects of project implementation:




REC Foundation provided a grant of **INR 1.23 Cr**[41] to Ghaziabad Developmental Authority (GDA), District Magistrate office, Ghaziabad to be utilised during the project period. Total expenditure incurred Ghaziabad Developmental Authority (GDA), District Magistrate office, Ghaziabad as per utilisation certificate was **INR 84.12 Lakhs.** Hence, there has been **underutilisation of INR 38.64 Lakhs** which was returned to RECF as mentioned by the CSR team of RECF.

## 11.2. About the Implementing agency

**The Ghaziabad Developmental Authority (GDA)** is the entity responsible for the planned urban development, housing construction, and providing social infrastructural facilities in Ghaziabad city and areas that come under its jurisdiction. The authority has also been working towards the world class infrastructure like smart city, hi-tech city, green city, and inclusive city. The Authority has played a pivotal role in modernising the infrastructure and implementing various development schemes in the city.[42]

[40] MOA signed between RECF & GDA – as received from REC on 12th May 2022
[41] As disbursement data shared by RECF 5th April 2022
[42] GDA website - https://gdaghaziabad.in/about-us/ - retrieved on 14th June 2022

## 11.3. Method of impact assessment

Impact Assessment study was carried out by PwC to assess the changes that have occurred since the project was implemented. Prior to starting the study, PwC conducted an inception meeting with REC Foundation to get more understanding on the project and discuss the requirements. Post the meeting, a list of requisite documents was shared with the RECF's CSR team. Basis the documents received, PwC team started the review of secondary literature and following documents to develop more understanding about the project:

- Signed MOA between RECF and Ghaziabad Developmental Authority (GDA), District Magistrate office, Ghaziabad
- Form of utilization certificate year 2019-2020

PwC team worked on **development of a structured qualitative methodology for evaluating the project**, which included desk review of project documents (as mentioned above) and qualitative methods for capturing stakeholder opinion and feedback (through in–depth interviews). The project was benefiting the local community members, but it was difficult to quantify the number of beneficiaries, hence it was decided in consultation with RECF to conduct the qualitative study for this project.

## 11.4. Analysis & findings

### 11.4.1. Summary of the impact created

The two main drawbacks of the traditional method of cremation are air pollution and deforestation. Lasting over six hours, a traditional Hindu funeral pyre burns between **400 to 500 kilograms of wood**. As a result, India's **eight million wood-based cremations** lead to the deforestation of more than **16 million trees per year** – trees which would otherwise capture **54 million tonnes** of carbon dioxide and prevent them from entering Earth's atmosphere and adding to global warming. [43] Also, cremation in open grounds generate large amounts of ashes, which are later thrown into rivers and water bodies, thereby polluting the water. Hence, the conventional way of wood-based cremations causes large scale deforestation and air pollution in the cities of India. Based on the discussion with the representative, the project on setting up electric crematorium has the potential to combat these challenges as there are no gas emissions as the wood is not burned. Relatives can take mortal remains within a few hours of cremation as compared to 6-8 hours in the traditional cremation. In addition, it is free of cost.

The project site has 50 conventional cremation facilities (wood-based) and 1 electricity operated crematorium. **Since the start of the project in 2018, around 600 bodies have been cremated in the electric crematorium,** but the local community members are more inclined towards using the traditional crematoriums for the cremation purpose. The average number of bodies cremated through a single conventional cremation facility is 8-10 bodies in a day i.e. (~2,500- 3,000 per year) which is much higher than the total bodies cremated since the start of project. This was evident at the project site as well as the electric crematorium was closed and not in use despite being free of cost. When probed, **it was noted that the reason for continued use of wood-based crematorium is the traditional belief (including religious reasons) of community members. Workers at the traditional crematorium facilities highlighted that the electric crematorium is used only 2-3 times in a month** and sometimes there exists large gaps between successive use of the electric crematorium funded by RECF.

[43] London Business School (https://www.london.edu/think/project-arth-reducing-pollution-with-dung) as retrieved on 22 June 2022


Electric Crematorium funded by RECF at Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh

In addition, the surge in deaths from COVID-19 had triggered a shortage of wood needed for cremations. This solution had the potential to address such problem in the area as the wood was not burned **but, families preferred to use the wood-based crematorium over the electric crematorium due to their traditional belief.**

A representative from Nagar Nigam stated that overheating was also a constant issue faced after project implementation and the overheated coils were in constant need of replacement. A total replacement of the electrical systems was funded by Nagar Nigam and was completed by end of January 2022. Post which overheating of the electrical coils has reduced.


Electric Crematorium funded by RECF at Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh

## 11.4.2. IRECS Analysis

Basis the interactions with the key stakeholder and desk review of the documents, the impact of the project was evaluated on 'IRECS framework'. The IRECS analysis summary has been presented in below table:

**Table 16: IRECS Analysis of Project 8**

| Parameter | Level of impact | Assessment from study |
|---|---|---|
| **Inclusiveness** | **H** | The support provided was aimed at reaching out to all the **intended beneficiaries, irrespective of caste and gender**. The electric crematorium **is free** as compared to the traditional crematoriums. |
| **Relevance** | **M** | The electric crematorium was **built to prevent air pollution by reducing the production of carbon dioxide and other harmful gases.** The project had the capacity to meet the needs of the local community through addressing the environmental related challenges.<br>However, due to the traditional belief, local community members prefer traditional ways of cremating bodies over the electric crematorium. **This was due to lack of awareness among the community members regarding the benefits of the electric crematorium. The project lacked the component of creating awareness among the community members.** |
| **Effectiveness** | **L** | Based on interaction with the Nagar Nigam representative, the beneficiaries (family members of the deceased) find the electric crematorium to be less expensive and faster than traditional mean. **However, a very small proportion of the community uses the electric crematorium (2-3/month). Also, the programme lacked the use of IEC strategy which could have created impact at the larger scale.** |
| **Convergence** | **H** | RECF provided funding support to build the electric crematorium to Ghaziabad Developmental Authority (GDA), District Magistrate office, Ghaziabad. GDA has further partnered with Nagar Nigam (Municipal Corporation), Ghaziabad for running and maintenance of the electric crematorium. |
| **Sustainability** | **M** | Post RECF project completion, Nagar Nigam has been responsible for operation and maintenance of the electric crematorium. Replacement of the overheating electric coils was done by Nagar Nigam.<br>However, it was not being used by community members adequately and impact is not sustainable. Hence for the project to be sustainable and create an impact at the larger community level, adequate messaging around the benefits or the electric crematorium use to be strengthened. |

| H: | High | | M: | Medium | | L: | Low |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

## 11.5. Alignment to the REC Foundation's CSR policy & Schedule VII

The project is in alignment with the Schedule VII of the Companies Act 2013 number (iv) **"Ensuring environmental sustainability**, ecological balance, protection of flora and fauna, animal welfare, agroforestry, **conservation of natural resources** and maintaining quality of soil, air and water including contribution to the Clean Ganga Fund set-up by the Central Government for rejuvenation of river Ganga." It is also aligned with the thematic areas of RECF's CSR policy on **"Environmental sustainability".**

The project is also aligned with Sustainable Development Goal: 12 - Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.


## 11.6. Recommendation

Based on the field visit and interaction with project stakeholders, the present study also identified the recommendation summarized below for the project:

- **Awareness generation –** The local community due to their traditions and beliefs prefers the use of traditional crematorium. Proper awareness campaigns should be conducted with the religious leaders and community members to instil in them the benefits/ importance of the electric crematorium over the traditional means of crematorium.

## 11.7. Limitation

**Unavailability of the project documents and concerned officials:** Since the project was implemented in 2019, various project related documents such as need assessment report, project progress report, project completion report and other relevant documents were not available for the review. Review of such documents would have helped to assess impact and tracking of the progress. In addition, the Project Lead Engineer from GDA (in-charge of the project) has retired and was not available for responding to the project related questions. Interactions with such key stakeholders would have helped provide their perspective of such programmes.

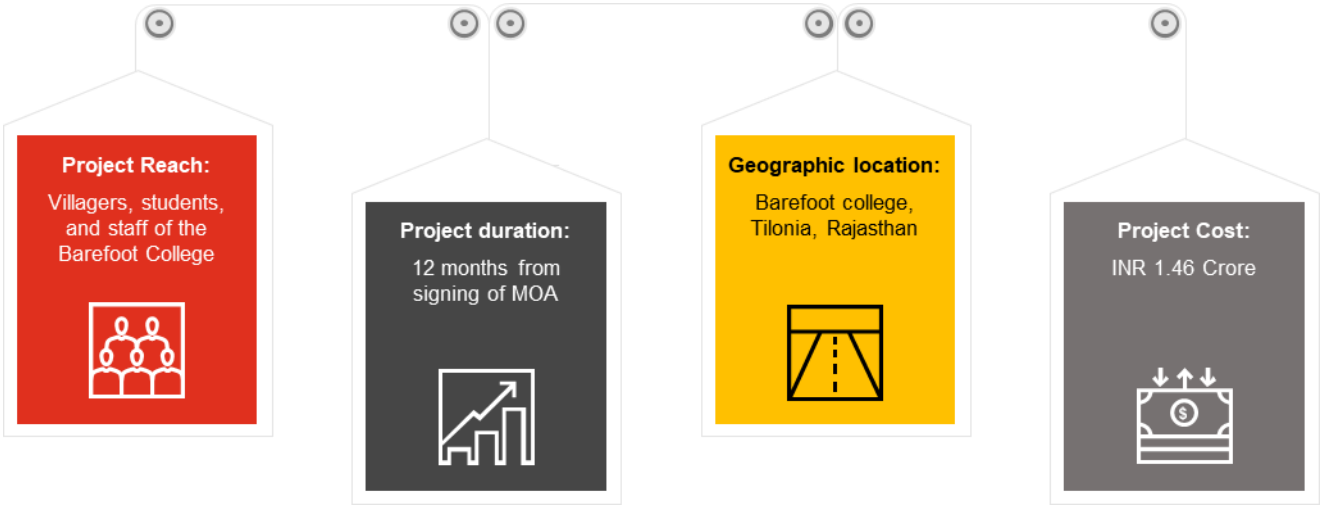
# 12. Project 9: Replacement of the non-functional old structure and install 135 KWp off-grid solar plant (with battery) at various locations on the campus of the Barefoot college, Tilonia (SWRC), Rajasthan

# 12. Project 9: Replacement of the non-functional old structure and install 135 KWp off-grid solar plant (with battery) at various locations on the campus of the Barefoot college, Tilonia (SWRC), Rajasthan

## 12.1. About the project

A project was envisioned by RECF to **replace the non-functional old structure and install 135 Kilo Watt "peak" (KWp) off-grid solar plant (with battery) at various locations on the campus of the Barefoot college, Tilonia (SWRC), Rajasthan** resulting in providing basic services like drinking water, running schools, providing medical services etc. directly or indirectly to people living in 100 villages spread over 500 square miles of Ajmer district, Rajasthan. A Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) was signed between RECF and Social Work and Research Centre (also known as The Barefoot College, Tilonia) on 12th May 2017.

Following schematic represents the key aspects of project implementation:




During the visit to project site, it was noted that due to the abundance of solar energy in Rajasthan, the project **provided a constant supply of Direct current (DC) power to run the various facilities and activities on campus and further aimed at decreasing dependency on fossil fuels for the populations living in and around the Barefoot college, Tilonia.**

The 135-KWp off-grid solar plant project has been installed at Barefoot College which distributed over a 9-acre area in the village of Tilonia. The campus location is approximately 10 km away from the National Highway 48 and the nearest city to the site is Kishangarh. The 135-KWp solar power plant installation is spread over 1175 m2 area and equally distributed over three separate housing rooftops located in the nearby areas. The project has been executed as a fixed tilt-type roof-top solar plant.

A total of 412 PV (photovoltaic) modules with each module of 330 Wp (Watt peak) generation capacity was installed on the roof tops of the following blocks as per the MoA requirements:

**Table 17: Solar power panel (in KWp) commissioned capacity**

| S. No. | Description | Solar power panel (in KWp) commissioned capacity[44] |
|---|---|---|
| **1.** | Admin and accounts block | 46.2 |
| **2.** | AV Puppetry block | 45.9 |
| **3.** | Solar energy centre/Residence block | 42.9 |
| | **Total** | **135.0** |

It was noted that the residential facilities are provided to the local staff members and trainees living with their family and the vacant roof area has been utilized for solar panel installation which are mounted in arrays on frames of anodized aluminium and galvanized steel supported on beams and pillar structures of the roofs[45].


Source: Work completion certificate shared by RECF

REC Foundation provided a grant of **INR 1.46 Cr. to Barefoot college, Tilonia** to be utilised during the project period. Total expenditure incurred by Barefoot college, Tilonia as per utilisation certificate was **INR 1.62 Cr.** Hence, there has been an **excess expenditure of INR 15.54 Lakhs** which was made by Barefoot college, Tilonia from the general pool of expenditure within the stipulated time.

[44] Work completion certificate as received from RECF
[45] Project completions report as shared by RECF

## 12.2. About the Implementing agency

Founded more than 50 years ago, the Social Work and Research Centre (SWRC) also known as The Barefoot College is a voluntary institute in India working in the fields of education, skill development, health, drinking water, empowerment of women and electrification through solar power. The mission of the institute is to improve the lives of people across the world by providing access to basic needs like safe drinking water, clean light, basic education, and dignified livelihoods to the rural communities. SWRC aspire to increase economic mobility by making vocational and educational opportunities accessible to women and girls from the most marginalized communities of the world.[46]

## 12.3. Method of impact assessment

Impact Assessment study was carried out by PwC to assess the changes that have occurred since the project was implemented. Prior to starting the study, PwC **conducted an inception meeting** with REC Foundation to get clarity on the project and to understand their requirements. Post the meeting, a list of requisite documents was shared with the REC Foundation's CSR team. Basis the documents received, PwC team started the review of secondary literature and following documents to develop more understanding about the project:

- Signed MOA between RECF and SWRC
- Work Completion Certificate and Project Completion Report with Photographs
- Impact assessment report
- Audited Utilization Certificate

PwC team worked on **development of a structured qualitative methodology for evaluating the project**, which included desk review of secondary literature and project documents (as mentioned above) and qualitative methods for capturing stakeholder opinions and feedback (through in–depth interviews). The project was benefiting the local community members, but it was difficult to quantify the number of beneficiaries, hence it was decided in consultation with RECF to conduct the qualitative study for this project. The PwC team visited the college to perform data collection with **key stakeholders mentioned below:**

- Overall Campus Manager responsible for management of entire campus, staff, students, and programmes

- College Solar Project Manager responsible for management of the solar programme, includes solar panel installation, training for students in solar energy programme.

- College Solar Technician responsible for maintenance and running of the solar panels and corresponding systems

- College teaching staff responsible for teaching in individual programmes

- Students and villagers at college

[46] Project completion report

# 12.4. Analysis & findings

## 12.4.1. Summary of the impact created

Based on the interactions with various stakeholders mentioned above, the findings are presented below:

1. During the interactions with project stakeholders, it was noted that the Barefoot college uses a variety of machineries **(Laser cutters, 3D printers, solar training centres/classrooms, puppetry centre, health centre – Ventilators, oxygen machines, dentist equipment)** which are **dependent heavily on the electricity.** However, the old structure was unable to meet such requirements due to the constant interruptions in the power supply. Hence, it was replaced with the 135 KWp solar panels funded by RECF which is more efficient in terms of providing uninterrupted power supply than the previous structure as highlighted by the Solar Technician from the college.

Conditioning unit

2. These solar panels provide constant DC source of power to the **various machineries and other campus facilities which benefits the campus residents.** Based on information from college students, the RO plant now provides a constant supply of clean and chilled drinking water as there is no major power disruption.
3. The solar panel at Barefoot college prevents **444 Tons of Carbon di-oxide & 319 Tons of Sulphur di-Oxide & 2.1 Tons of Nitrous oxide (greenhouse gas) from entering the atmosphere every year as highlighted by the Solar Manager of Barefoot college.** On an average, **0.15 million litres of kerosene or 195 metric tons of firewood or 0.22 million LPG cylinders every year** is saved due to the solar panel at barefoot college.
4. The new structure is now able to run the **various medical equipment such as operational ventilator unit, oxygen machine, and dentist chair (with dental engine: spit bowls, suction tubes, pneumatic tubes to power various pieces of equipment used in cleaning and so forth.) at the health facility in the college without any major disruptions in supply.**
5. Barefoot college also provides vocational training to the campus residents and community members. The previous structure was unable to supply the power to the machines required for practical training. **The new structure has enabled the constant power to these machines which has resulted into the completion of the practical component in the training.** For an example, the puppetry training centre utilizes the power supply in the stitching of puppets. This has made the process of puppet creation faster. Basis the discussion with teachers, it was noted that trained candidates are given valuable knowledge of traditional puppet creation with a mix of modern methods which was made possible due to the uninterrupted power supply.

135 KWp Solar panels installed on roof top on Barefoot College, Tilonia

6. It was also observed that the conditioning unit and batteries require a stable operating temperature. Due to the intense heat in Tilonia, the temperature of the units exceeds 60 degrees centigrade. This led to the system shutting down multiple times (4-5 times) in a day in the case of old structure which resulted in the interruptions in the power supply. **Now, the system takes no longer than 30 – 40 mins to cool down and restarts which does not result into major interruptions in the power supply.** This has improved the campus functioning due to the reduction in power disruptions.
7. **Maintenance of solar panels** is done by staff of the college. However, due to the lack of proper equipment, the staff climb on top of the panels and clean using a wet cloth attached on a broom. This is not only dangerous to the staff, but it can also cause damages to the panels.
8. As per the requirement of MoA, branding for REC was done at the key locations of Account's block, A.V Puppetry section and Resident housing at the Barefoot college, Tilonia. Sign boards with REC logo was observed.

Cleaning of the solar panels

9. It was noted during the interactions with College campus Manager that the abundant availability of electricity from solar plants is benefiting people living in more than 100 villages spread across all over the Ajmer district by **strengthening the development of basic facilities at Barefoot campus** and **enhancing the accessibility of the facilities**, such as health, water, teaching and learning.
10. The effort made by the Barefoot College towards the use of solar panel is **one of the important steps towards reducing the carbon footprints as added by the Campus Manager of Barefoot college**. The use of solar panel at the campus is **also increasing the awareness among the students and local community towards the role of renewable energy in reducing the carbon footprints and also inspire the local community members to invest in the solar energy.**

## 12.4.2. IRECS Analysis

Basis the interactions with the key stakeholders and desk review of the documents, the impact of the project was evaluated on 'IRECS framework'. The IRECS analysis summary has been presented in below table:

**Table 18: IRECS Analysis of Project 9**

| Parameter | Level of impact | Assessment from study |
|---|---|---|
| **Inclusiveness** | **H** | The support provided reaches **out to all the intended beneficiaries irrespective of caste and gender**. The project is **directly benefiting the college staff and students** by ensuring the uninterrupted power supply, and it has also been able to reach local villagers by enhancing the accessibility of the facilities, such as health centre, RO drinking water plant, and exposure to practical training. |
| **Relevance** | **H** | Uninterrupted power supply to run the various campus facilities was a felt need among college students and staff during the qualitative interactions and **the support provided by RECF has helped to a great extent in addressing the challenges**.<br>**The project is aligned to the CSR policy of REC and has been able to gather positive feedback from the targeted beneficiaries. Hence, it is relevant in such context.** |

| Parameter | Level of impact | Assessment from study |
|---|---|---|
| **Effectiveness** | **H** | As the project site is in a remote area, the regular availability of electricity and lighting at the campus and the residential facilities provide security from animal attacks and dangerous local species as highlighted by the College campus manager.<br>**In addition, the effort made by the Barefoot College towards the use of solar panel is an important step towards reducing the carbon footprints in Tilonia.** The solar panel at Barefoot college prevents **444 Tons of Carbon di-oxide & 319 Tons of Sulphur di-Oxide & 2.1 Tons of Nitrous oxide (greenhouse gas) from entering the atmosphere every year as highlighted by the Solar Manager of Barefoot college.** On an average**, 0.15 million litres of kerosene or 195 metric tons of firewood or 0.22 million LPG cylinders every year** is saved due to the solar panel at barefoot college. |
| **Convergence** | **H** | The entire college runs on solar energy and to achieve the same, college has partnered with many corporates along with RECF in installing the off-grid solar plant at campus to run the various facilities. The partnership is benefitting the college staff and students by ensuring the uninterrupted power supply to run the campus facilities. |
| **Sustainability** | **H** | Post completion of the project, the college has been conducting regular inspection and maintenance of the solar panels. Maintenance of the panels is being handled by the college staff who were trained at the college only. The constant overheating of the system was the problem in the previous structure which has been addressed after the installation and operationalization of solar panels at the campus. |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **H:** | **High** | | **M:** | **Medium** | | **L:** | **Low** |

## 12.5. Alignment to the REC Foundation's CSR policy & Schedule VII

The project is in alignment with the Schedule VII of the Companies Act 2013 number (iv) "**Ensuring environmental sustainability,** ecological balance, protection of flora and fauna, animal welfare, agroforestry, **conservation of natural resources and maintaining quality of soil, air and water** including contribution to the Clean Ganga Fund set-up by the Central Government for rejuvenation of river Ganga." It is also aligned with the RECF's CSR policy thematic area on **"Environmental sustainability".**

The project is also aligned with Sustainable Development Goal: 7 - Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all.

## 12.6. Recommendation

Based on the field visit and interaction with project stakeholders, the present study also identified a recommendation summarized below for the project:

- **Due to lack of equipment for maintenance of solar panels,** staff of Barefoot College was observed climbing on top of the panels and cleaning using a wet cloth attached on a broom. Manual cleaning of solar panels with cloth attached to a broom as was observed, often has risk of damage to panels cause by abrasive cloth material. Hence, efficient, and less expensive cleaning can be done using soapy water and a hose[47] or any other suitable method.

## 12.7. Limitation

The following was the limitation observed during study period:

- **Unavailability of the project documents and concerned stakeholders:** Need assessment study report and other relevant documents were not available for review. Such reports would have helped to understand the carbon level footprint in Tilonia before the intervention and further assess impact and tracking of the progress. In addition**,** many students do not stay on campus and have migrated back to their villages due to the pandemic and only a few students were available for interviews for a short time. More interactions with such key stakeholders would have helped to understand their perspective on the project.

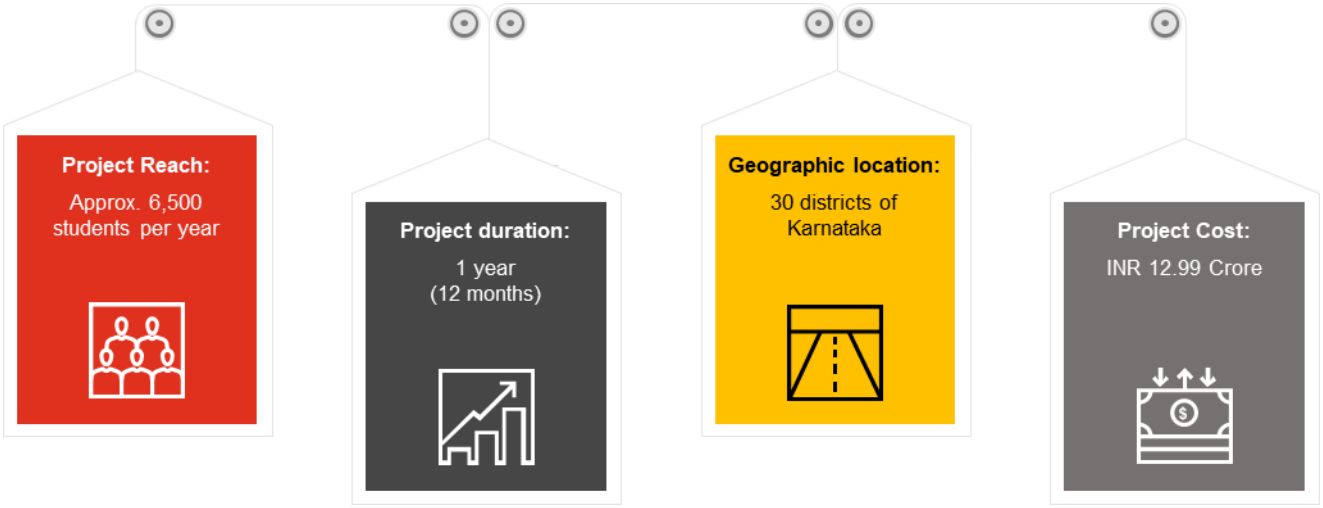
[47] Maintenance of solar panels - S., Saravanan & Darvekar, Sanjay. (2018). Solar Photovoltaic Panels Cleaning Methods A Review. International Journal of Pure and Applied Mathematics. 118. 1-17.

# 13. Project 10: Setting-up 900 KWp rooftop solar PV plant in 30 nos. of government residential schools; Insulating the existing rabbit ACSR conductor in 30 nos. of campuses; Providing polyolefin insulation through heat shrinking process to the existing open rabbit conductor campuses; Establishing e-learning centres (virtual classrooms) in 10 residential schools

# 13. Project 10: Setting-up 900 KWp rooftop solar PV plant in 30 nos. of government residential schools; Insulating the existing rabbit ACSR conductor in 30 nos. of campuses; Providing polyolefin insulation through heat shrinking process to the existing open rabbit conductor campuses; Establishing e-learning centres (virtual classrooms) in 10 residential schools

## 13.1. About the project

Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society (KREIS) collaborated with RECF to **install 900 KW rooftop solar panel (SPV) in 30 government residential schools, insulate the existing rabbit ACSR conductor in 30 number of campuses and establish e-learning centres in 10 residential schools** (in alignment with the focus areas of its CSR policy)[48]. RECF signed Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society (KREIS) on 29 December 2017. Following schematic presents the key aspects of project implementation:




The objectives of the project are as follows:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| • Setting up of rooftop solar PV plant will help in providing green, sustainable, reliable, and continuous power supply | • To make safer and accident-free environment in the campus and reducing danger to hostel children in case of accidents with polyolefin insulation through heat shrinking process | • To provide advanced learning environment by usage of digital contents, internet, computers, and supplemented video conferences |

[48] Source: https://recindia.nic.in/uploads/files/REC-CSR-Policy-07-12-2021.pdf as retrieved on 19 June 2022

In order to achieve the objectives, following activities were performed as a part of scope of work outlined in the signed MoA[49]:

- Setting up 900 KWp rooftop solar PV plants in 30 Govt. residential schools
- Insulating the existing Rabbit ACSR conductor in campuses of 30 Govt. residential schools
- Establishing e-learning centres (virtual classrooms) in 10 residential schools for classes VI to XII

RECF provided a grant of **INR 12.99 Cr. to KREIS** (as per the disbursement details shared by RECF) to be utilised during the project period. Total expenditure incurred by KREIS as per utilisation certificate was **INR 9.53 Cr.** Hence, there has been an **underutilisation of INR 3.46 Cr.** which was returned to RECF as mentioned by the CSR team of RECF.

## 13.2. About the Implementing agency

Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society (KREIS) was set up with a vision to provide quality modern education including a strong component of culture, inculcation of values, awareness of the environment, adventure activities and physical education to the talented children predominantly from the rural areas irrespective to their family's socio-economic conditions.[50] The State Government has sanctioned 826 residential schools and pre university colleges which are working under KREIS. These schools offer quality education to students coming from social and educationally backward areas to help them in pursuing higher studies and thereby bringing them in the mainstream of the society.[51]

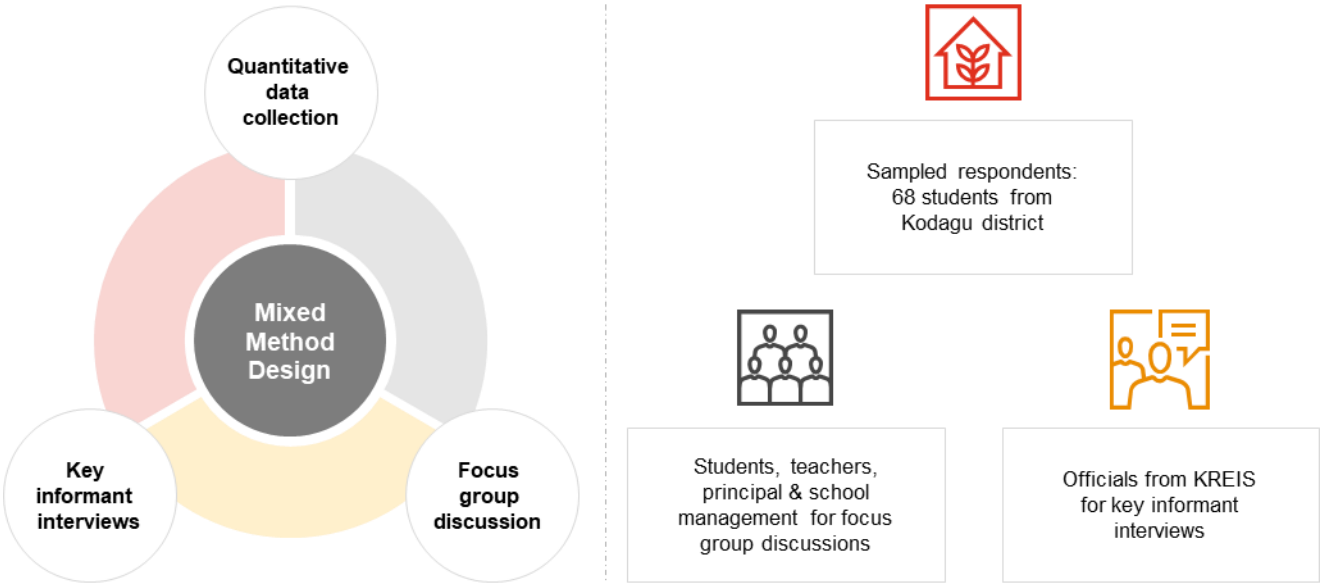
## 13.3. Method of Impact Assessment

Impact Assessment study was carried out by PwC to assess the changes that have occurred since the project was implemented. Prior to initiating the study, PwC conducted an inception meeting with RECF to get more understanding on the project and discuss the requirements. Post the meeting, a list of requisite documents was shared with the RECF's CSR team. Basis the documents received; PwC team started the review of the following documents to develop more understanding about the project:

- Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) signed between RECF and KREIS
- Baseline survey report submitted by KREIS to RECF
- Certificate of compliance submitted by KREIS to RECF
- Report on Impact analysis study submitted by KREIS to RECF
- Utilisation certificate

Post review of the documents, the **key stakeholders of project were identified and mapped** to capture their opinion and feedback and a **mixed method research design** was adopted for the study as presented below:

[49] Report on impact analysis study of REC-CSR sponsored projects in residential schools as shared by RECF
[50] https://kreis.karnataka.gov.in/info-1/Vision/en as retrieved on 05 July 2022
[51] https://kreis.karnataka.gov.in/info-1/About+Us/en as retrieved on 19 June 2022




As the list of beneficiaries was provided by RECF for this project, it was decided to conduct the quantitative and qualitative interactions through in-person visit of the sample location. A plan was developed for **in-person interactions with the key stakeholders identified.** Total sample size for the study was **95 students** which was calculated at **confidence interval of 95% and 10% margin of error.** However, interviews with only **68 students** were completed as children were not available due to new academic sessions not being started. Selection of 68 students for interactions was done by **simple random sampling technique** wherein students were randomly chosen keeping in mind the completeness as well as representation of variations in the sample. Data was collected from students through **Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) tool,** in the form of structured interview.

A pilot testing was conducted by the PwC team to ascertain the viability of the research tools, post which, the research tools were modified according to the changes documented. The tools were then **translated into local language (Kannada)** for the survey team. **Training of the data collection team** was also conducted to make them understand the importance of each question. **A list of Do's and Don'ts** was also ingrained in them to factor in local contexts.

## 13.4. Analysis & findings:

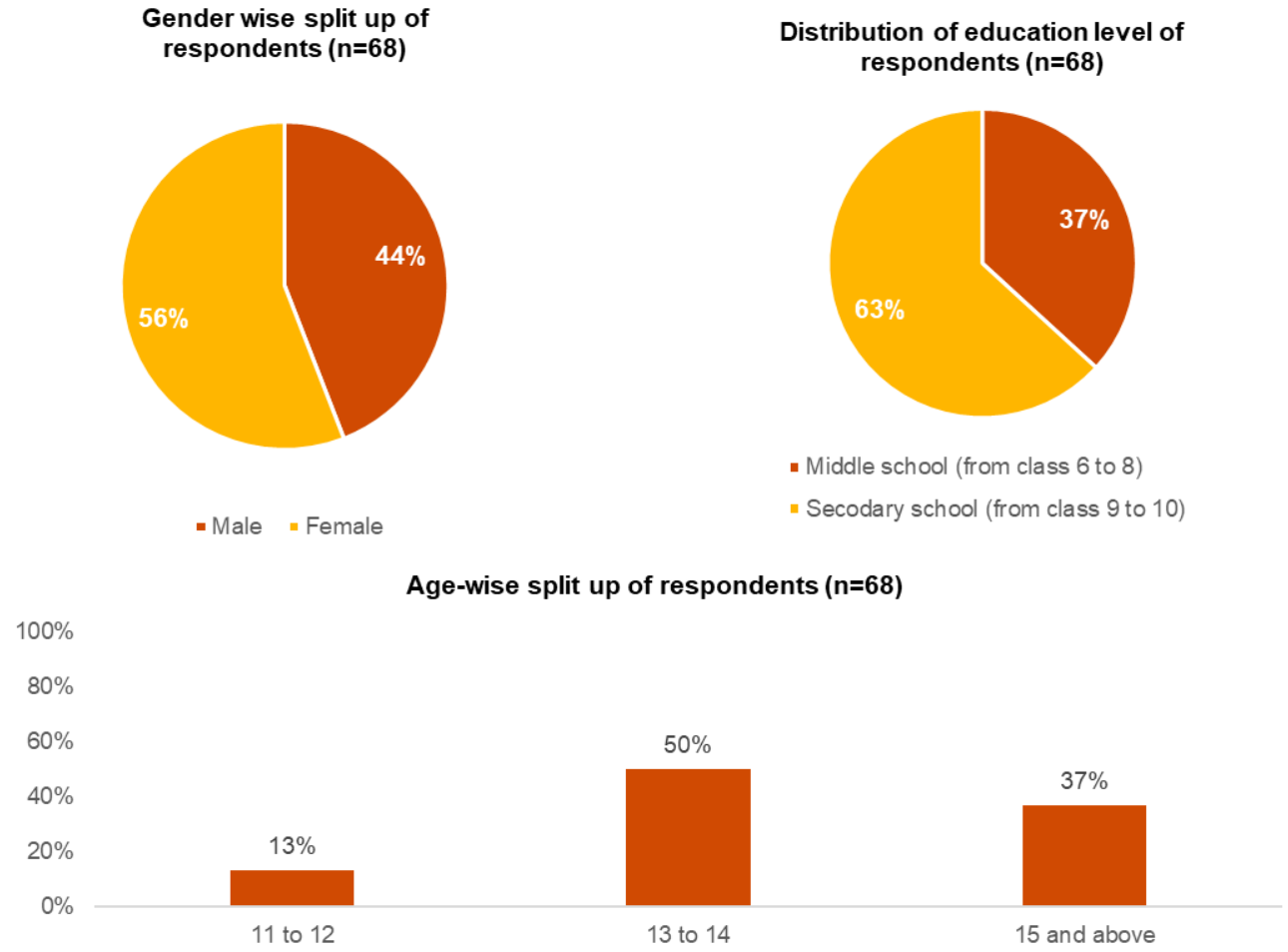
Summary of the key findings is presented below:

### 13.4.1. Profile of the respondents

A **total of 68 students** were surveyed to understand the impact of project interventions. As depicted in the socio-demographic profile of respondents:

- **56% of the respondents (n=68)** were female.
- **63% of the respondents (n=68)** were from middle school (from class 6 to 8).
- **50% of the respondents** were of the 13-14 years age group.

**Figure 56: Socio-demographic profile of respondents**




Findings also suggest that:

- **93% of the respondents** are under the Below Poverty Line (BPL)
- **95% of the respondents** are scheduled tribe (ST), Scheduled Caste (SC) & Other Backward Classes (OBC)
- **93% of the respondents** stated having family size between 4-7 members.

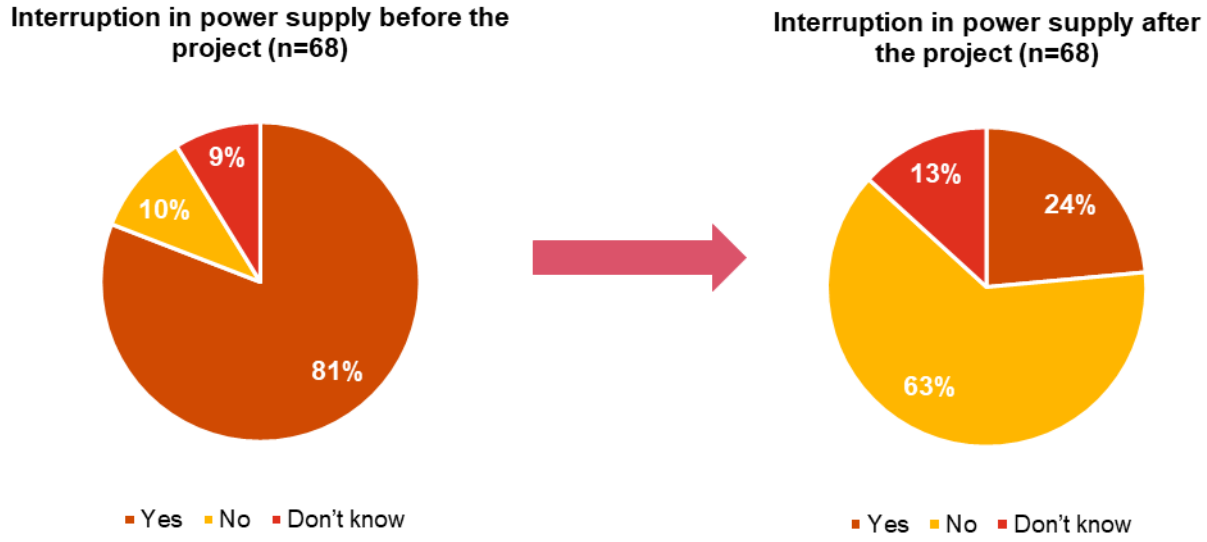
## 13.4.2. Summary of the impact created

### 1. Impact created due to the setting up 900 KWp rooftop solar PV plants in 30 Govt. residential schools:

The regions where these schools are situated experiences heavy rainfall and frequent power outrages throughout the year as mentioned by the Principal, teachers, & school management during the focus group discussions. This is a big challenge for the students residing in the hostels as well and causes a lot of challenges in their studies. To address these challenges, **900 KWp rooftop solar PV plants were installed in 30 Govt. residential schools. As reported by the respondents:**

- **81% of the respondents (n=68) faced interruption in power supply before** the project intervention as compared to **24% students (n=68) post the project intervention.** As depicted in the below graph, there has been a considerable reduction in power outrages reported in the school (surveyed for study) since the intervention. This is a direct impact of the solar roof top panels installed in the campus.

**Figure 57: Interruption in power supply pre and post interventions**




- The schools are located in the **tribal belts and surrounded by the dense forests and hilly terrains**. There was always fear of wild animals attacking in the night among the students as highlighted by the students during the interactions. When probed further, **84% of the respondents highlighted that they feel more safe and secure due to the availability of improved lighting condition in the campus during the night post the project completion.** In addition, the students are now happy as they do not need to wind up their schoolwork at sunset and go to bed. The provision of solar panel to improve the lighting in the local area allows them continue studies at night.
- School management highlighted that they were **using diesel powered generators during power cuts**, which **resulted in a lot of noise and smoke pollution** as well prior to the intervention. **The SPV has been instrumental in providing an alternate and clean source of energy**. The reduction in noise and smoke has also led to decrease in hindrance to the study.
- Students were also probed on different parameters to understand the benefits as per below graph. The findings suggest that:
  - **58% of the respondents** agreed that overall pollution in local area surrounding has decreased whereas **38% of the respondents** were neutral. This is due to the replacement of **diesel-powered generators which contributes to the air and noise pollution.**
  - **97% of the respondents** agreed that the project has led to improve the studying hours for school students. This highlights that **there is no disturbance during the classes** because of the frequent power cuts and noise pollution due to the use of diesel generators.
  - **56% of the respondents** agreed that the project has improved the lighting conditions in local area while 44% of the respondents were neutral.

**Figure 58: Feeling more safe/ secure in the school during the night (n=68)**

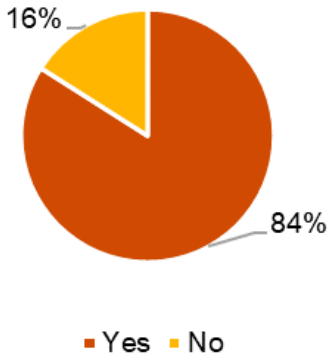
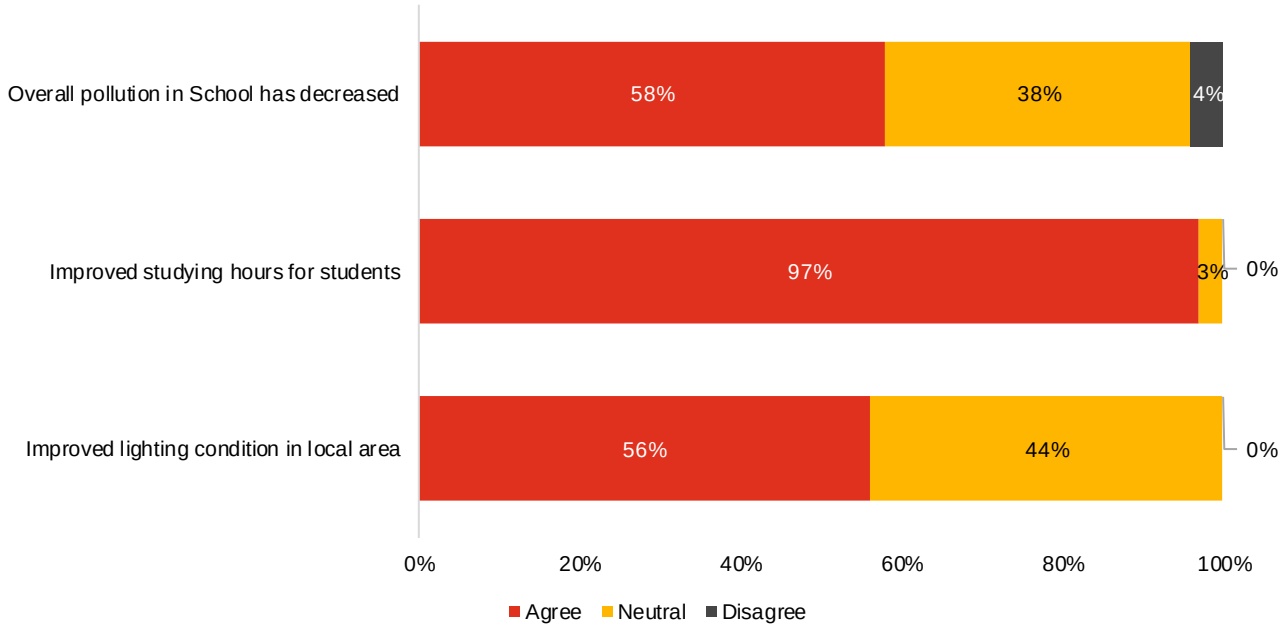


**Figure 59: Students' perception (n=68)**



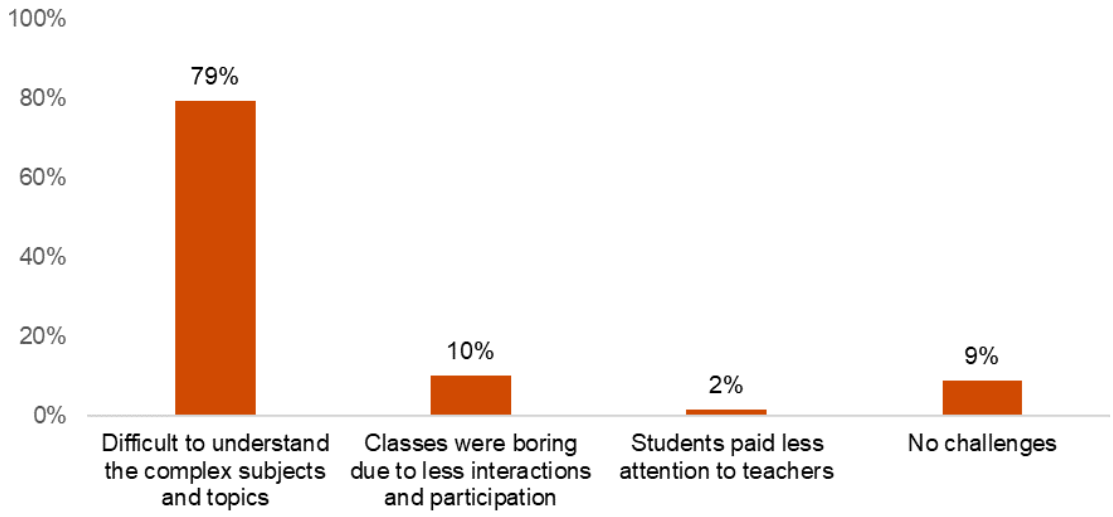

### 2. Impact created due to the setting up 900 KWp rooftop solar PV plants in 30 Govt. residential schools:

The school premises have Rabbit conductors to distribute power internally among the campuses, which initially were installed as bare/ open rabbit conductors. This usually led to severe safety risk due to the possibility of fire hazard. As a part of the support these bare/ open rabbit conductors were covered with polyolefin heat shrinkable sheath to reduce the risk. During the interactions with the school administration, **it was highlighted that the project has ensured safer environment for students, staffs and other people who visit the school premises.**

### 3. Impact created due to the establishing e-learning centres (virtual classrooms) in 10 residential schools for classes VI to XII

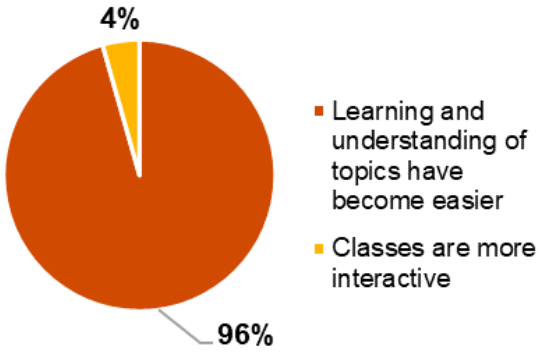
- **79% of the respondents (n=68)** stated that it was difficult to understand complex subjects (& topics) such as Science and Mathematics etc. before the e-learning centres were set-up. **10% of the respondents** mentioned that they found that classes were boring due to the less interactions and participation.

**Figure 60: Challenges faced before e-learning centres were set-up (n=68)**



- **100% students (n=68) are aware of the e-learning centres and used the same daily.** E-learning setup under this project have been able to address the challenges cited by the students. School students have been **appreciating the facilities available in the e-learning centres and were enthusiastic to study. 96% of the respondents highlighted that learning and understanding of the topics has become easier while rest have said the classes have become more interactive.**
- The e-learning centre facility has aided the teachers in delivering content for the students as the students grasp the visual and info-graphic contents easily and quickly than the traditional method of blackboard teaching. The students have benefited as they can access any subject as per the convenience and clear their doubts with the help from the digital content.

**Figure 61: Improvement in education quality by e-learning centre (n=68)**




## 13.4.3. IRECS Analysis

Basis the interactions with the key stakeholders and desk review of the documents**, the impact of the project was evaluated on 'IRECS framework'**. The IRECS analysis summary has been presented in below table:

**Table 19: IRECS Analysis of Project 10**

| Parameter | Level of impact | Assessment from study |
|---|---|---|
| **Inclusiveness** | **H** | This project covered under the study is inclusive in nature as it caters to a wide population of students irrespective of age, gender, social category, or economic status**. The project had setup 900 KWp rooftop solar PV plants (assets) created at 30 residential government schools and established e-learning Centres (equipped with the assets like computer, headsets, projector, and white board etc.) at 10 residential schools with the CSR funding support of RECF. The assets created have been used by all students** with no preference to any set of students and further, they have been able to derive equitable benefits from it. |
| **Relevance** | **H** | All the government schools are located in the tribal belt and prone to frequent power outages. Baseline study carried out by KREIS also suggests that these students were from remote areas and it was difficult to understand complex subjects (& topics) such as Science and Mathematics etc. before the e-learning centres were set-up. The project **addressed the requirement from the schools and students and hence, are of relevance to its beneficiaries**. **The benefits have been recognized by the students as they have rated the use of amenities as useful.** |
| **Effectiveness** | **H** | The e-learning Centre , rooftop SPV plants & insulation to rabbit conductor **are designed considering fundamental aspects as highlighted by the school management and needs of the school management, students & teachers.**<br>**For the rooftop SPV plants, 81% of the respondents (n=68) faced interruption** in power supply before the project intervention. **24% students report that they face the interruption in power supply (n=68) post the project intervention.** |

| Parameter | Level of impact | Assessment from study |
|---|---|---|
| | | **84% of the respondents highlighted that they feel more safe and secure due to the availability of improved lighting condition in the campus during the night post the project completion. 97% of the respondents agreed that the project has led to improve the studying hours for school students. This highlights that there is no disturbance during their study hours or classes because of the frequent power cuts and noise pollution due to the use of diesel generators.**<br>The school management, before the intervention, used diesel generators during power outages, which resulted in noise and smoke, hampering the environment, school operations, and studies. The solar PV has therefore, had a positive impact as it produces no noise or air pollution.<br>The Rabbit conductors in the school premises were installed as bare/ open rabbit conductors which led to severe safety risk. As a part of the support the bare/ open rabbit conductors were covered with polyolefin heat shrinkable sheath to reduce the risk and ensured safer environment.<br>It was noted that there has been a positive impact on the day-to-day study of the students, and they use the e-learning centre for an interactive learning experience. The teachers also leverage the e-learning centre facility, and it aids them in teaching. |
| **Convergence** | **H** | The support extended by the RECF to KREIS supports the efforts of Government of Karnataka to provide the quality education to the students of the 30 government residential schools which comes under the purview of KREIS. |
| **Sustainability** | **H** | The SPV plants and e-learning centres at these schools are still functional, as on the date of the assessment. Post the project, the school is funding operation & maintenance from their general pool of expenses. KREIS is still funding the schools and helps the schools when they face technical issues by deputing a technical resource person. |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **H:** | **High** | | **M:** | **Medium** | | **L:** | **Low** |

## 13.5. Alignment to the REC Foundation's CSR policy & Schedule VII

The project is in alignment with the Schedule VII of the Companies Act 2013 number (ii) "**Promoting education**, including special education and employment enhancing vocation skills especially among children, women, elderly and the differently abled and livelihood enhancement projects**"** and number (iv) **"Ensuring environmental sustainability**, ecological balance, protection of flora and fauna, animal welfare, agroforestry, conservation of natural resources and maintaining quality of soil, air and water including contribution to the Clean Ganga Fund set-up by the Central Government for rejuvenation of river Ganga**"** which are one of the activities prescribed under the Schedule VII of the Companies Act 2013. It is also aligned with the **'Education and Environmental sustainability'** which is one of the thematic areas of REC Foundation's CSR policy.

The project is also aligned with Sustainable Development Goal: 4- Quality education[52] and Sustainable Development Goal: 7 - Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all.[53]


[52] Source: https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal4 as retrieved on 19 June 2022
[53] Source: https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal7 as retrieved on 19 June 2022

## 13.6. Recommendations

The impact assessment study identified a recommendation which are summarised below for the project:

- **E-learning Centre** is **only open during the regular school hours for 45 minutes**. During the school hours, students are usually busy with their regular school classes, hence, they are not able to use the e-learning facilities. Therefore, it is recommended e-learning Centre is kept open in the morning (before regular classes) or in the evening (after regular classes). This will ensure that more time is available to students to access the E-learning Centre.
- It was observed that there was no black boards or smart boards in the E-learning centres, which teachers could use to explain their concepts. The provision of smartboards in the E-learning centres, would enable the teachers in providing demos and diagrams to explain the concept in a better and efficient way while they are teaching the class.

## 13.7. Limitations

The following were the limitations observed during study period:

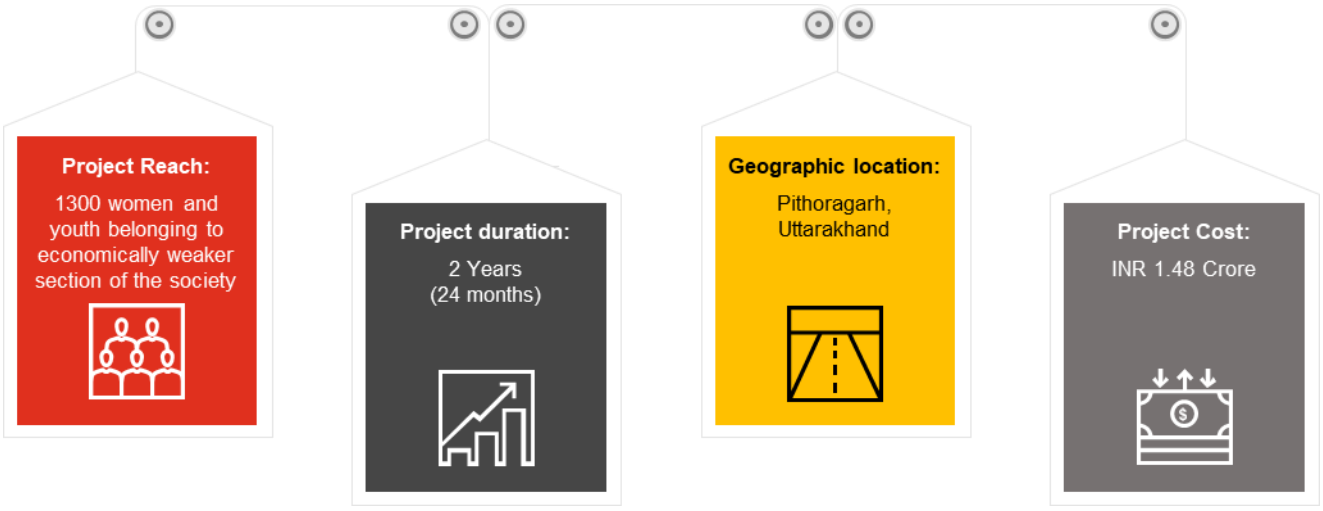
- **Unavailability of the class XI & XII students:** The sessions for class XI and XII students were not started at the time of assessment and hence, they were unavailable for the interactions.

# 14. Project 11: Job oriented skill development training to 1,300 nos. of women & youth belonging to economically weaker section of the society

# 14. Project 11: Job oriented skill development training to 1,300 nos. of women & youth belonging to economically weaker section of the society

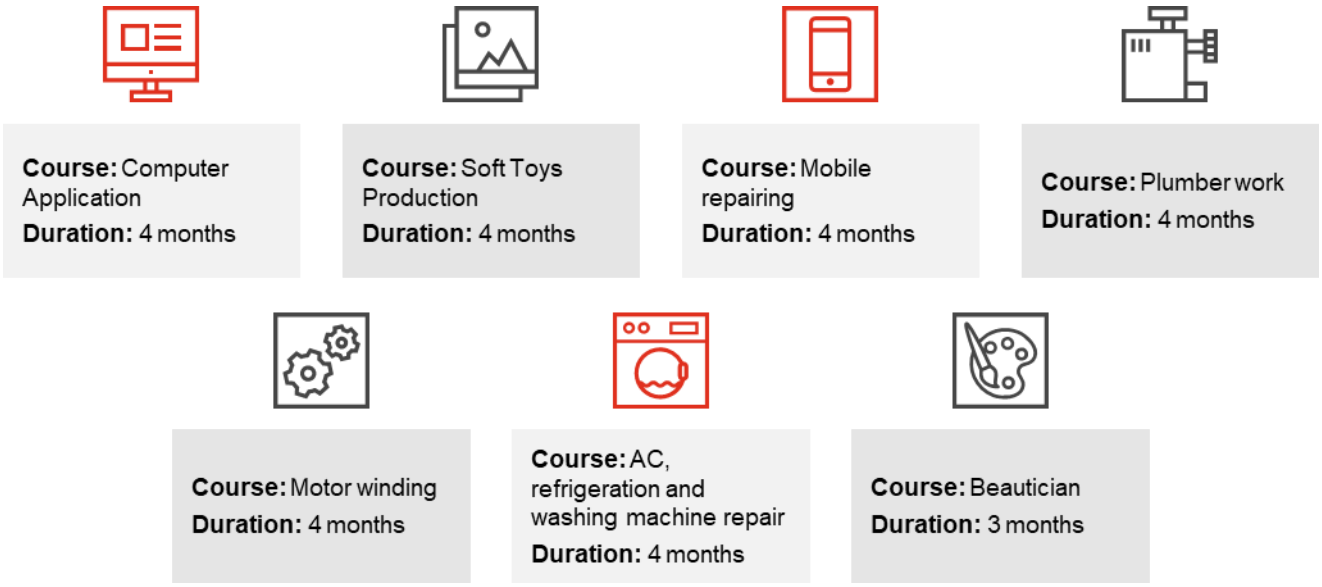
## 14.1. About the project

The project **"Job oriented skill development training to 1,300 nos. of women & youth belonging to economically weaker section of the society"** was initiated by RECF in alignment to its CSR policy. To implement this project, Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) was signed between **RECF** and **Mahila Ashram Muwani (MAM) on 11 September 2018.** The project was implemented with an objective "**to work for social upliftment of people by providing job-oriented skill development training which will help them to earn their livelihood".** The project was further based on the following premise:




During the **discussion with the official from MAM** it was highlighted that there are a large number of young people in remote areas who are not able to complete their education due to imbalanced economic development and the disparities in the natural and geographical conditions in Uttarakhand. In order to provide a platform for acquiring skills and improve their livelihood to such youth from the poor families, the project offered following training programmes[54]:

[54] MoA signed between REC Foundation and Mahila Ashram Muwani




It was highlighted that the project commenced with the total target of **1,300 individuals training across seven trades** as mentioned above. However, due to the increased demand from the aspirants for **computer application course** and **less employment opportunities in the other trades**, MAM requested RECF to re-distribute the trade wise targets based on demand of the respective trades. REC accepted the request of redistribution of the targets without any revision in the overall target of 1,300 trainee candidates. The below table depicts the **target as per the signed MoA, request letter to revise the target and total target achieved across seven different trades:**

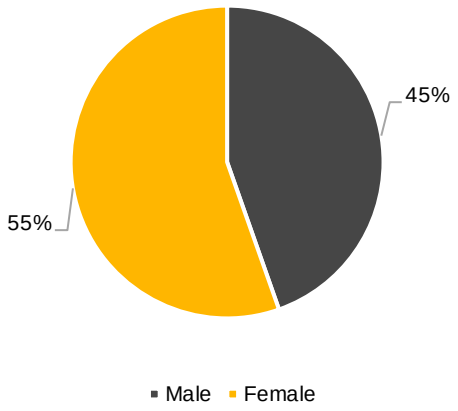
**Table 20: Training targets across the seven different trades**

| Trade name | Target as per the signed MoA | Revised Target as per the request letter to RECF[55] | Total target achieved |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Computer application** | 300 | 600 | 600 |
| **Soft Toys production** | 200 | 150 | 150 |
| **Mobile repairing** | 150 | 100 | 100 |
| **Plumber work** | 150 | 100 | 100 |
| **Motor winding** | 100 | 50 | 50 |
| **A.C., refrigeration and washing machine repair** | 200 | 100 | 100 |
| **Beautification** | 200 | 200 | 200 |
| **Total** | **1,300** | **1,300** | **1,300** |

[55] Request letter to seek permission in interchanging the beneficiaries by MAM to RECF dated 15 October 2018

Out of the **1,300 candidates trained**, **720 candidates (55%) were female** students. These female candidates were trained in trades like computer application, soft toys production and beautification. **This highlights that trades were women centric and focused community mobilization conducted by MAM to ensure enhanced participation from females. 580 candidates (45%)** were male and trained in computer application, mobile repairing, plumber work, motor winding and AC, refrigerator and washing machine repair as informed by the official from MAM. This also highlights that there was high demand by both female and male students for computer application course. The project also had a component of placement support to the candidates. **Total 1,200 candidates (92% of the total students) were employed (wage and self)** under the project as noted during the discussion with the MAM official.

**Figure 62: % split up of candidates trained (n=1300)**




REC Foundation provided a grant of **INR 1.48 Cr.**[56] to Mahila Ashram Muwani to be utilised during the project period. Total expenditure incurred by Mahila Ashram Muwani as per utilisation certificate **was INR 1.52 Cr**. Hence, there has been **an excess expenditure of INR 2.9 Lakhs** which was made by Mahila Ashram Muwani from the general pool of expenditure.

## 14.2. About the Implementing agency

**Established in 1962**, **Mahila Ashram Muwani** is working with a mission to enable the underprivileged section of society to recognize the important role, initiatives, and participation in the process of development. One of their initiatives is **training and capacity building** which includes conducting numerous workshops, seminars, trainings, and awareness programs in the region. The organization works in the entire district of Pithoragarh to create awareness about the rights, and responsibilities of the rural members.[57]

## 14.3. Method of impact assessment

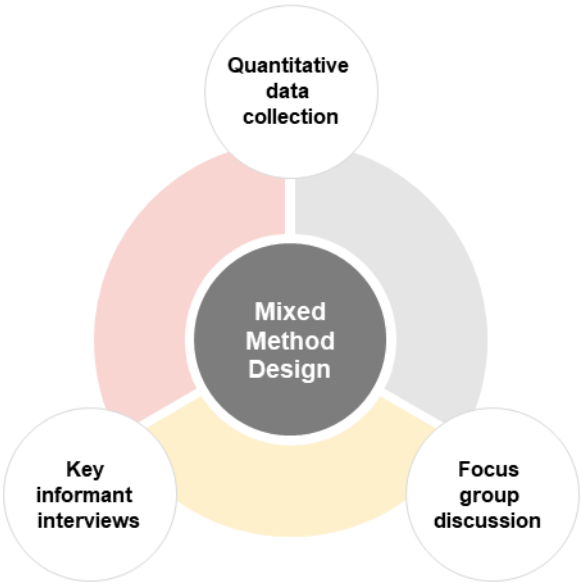
Impact assessment study was carried out to assess the impact due to the training programs organized to **train 1,300 candidates from Pithoragarh district**. An inception meeting was organised with RECF to develop in-depth understanding around the project and discuss the approach to be adopted to carry out the impact assessment study. Post the meeting, the list of requisite documents was prepared by PwC team and shared with the CSR team of RECF. Basis the documents received, PwC team started the review of secondary literature and following documents to develop more understanding about the project:

- Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) signed with the Mahila Ashram Muwani
- Baseline report submitted by MAM to RECF
- Progress summary report submitted by MAM to RECF
- Project completion report with the list of beneficiaries submitted by MAM to RECF
- Impact assessment report submitted by MAM to RECF
- Utilization certificate

Post review of the documents, the **key stakeholders of project were identified and mapped** to capture their opinion and feedback and a **mixed method research design** was adopted for the study as presented below:

[56] Disbursement details shared by REC Foundation on 05 April 2022

[57] MAM website (http://www.mahilaashrammuwani.org/) as retrieved on 28 June 2022 and Baseline report as shared by REC Foundation




**90 beneficiaries** who received the training across the seven trades were interviewed

Key informant interview (KII) with **employers** (Shree Shyam Infra, Harsha Enterprise and AR Enterprise)

Focus group discussion (FGD) with the **families of beneficiaries and trainers** from Mahila Ashram Muwani

**KII with official** from **Mahila Ashram Muwani (Secretary)**

RECF provided the list of beneficiaries who received the training under this project. Since it was a skill development project and there were no assets created under this project, hence, it was suggested by RECF to conduct the data collection through **virtual interactions**. A plan was developed for **virtual interactions with the key stakeholders identified.** Selection of **90 students** was done by **simple random sampling technique** for interviews. These students were randomly chosen keeping in mind the completeness as well as representation of variations in the sample. Sample was calculated at **confidence interval of 95% and 10% margin of error.** Data was collected from community through **Computer- Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) tool**, in the form of structured interview. For qualitative interactions, a set of questions were developed for each set of stakeholders.

A pilot testing was conducted by the PwC team to ascertain the viability of the research tools, post which, the research tools were modified according to the changes documented. The tools were then **translated into local language (Hindi)** for the survey team. **Training of the data collection team** was also conducted to make them understand the importance of each question. **A list of Do's and Don'ts** was also ingrained in them to factor in local contexts.

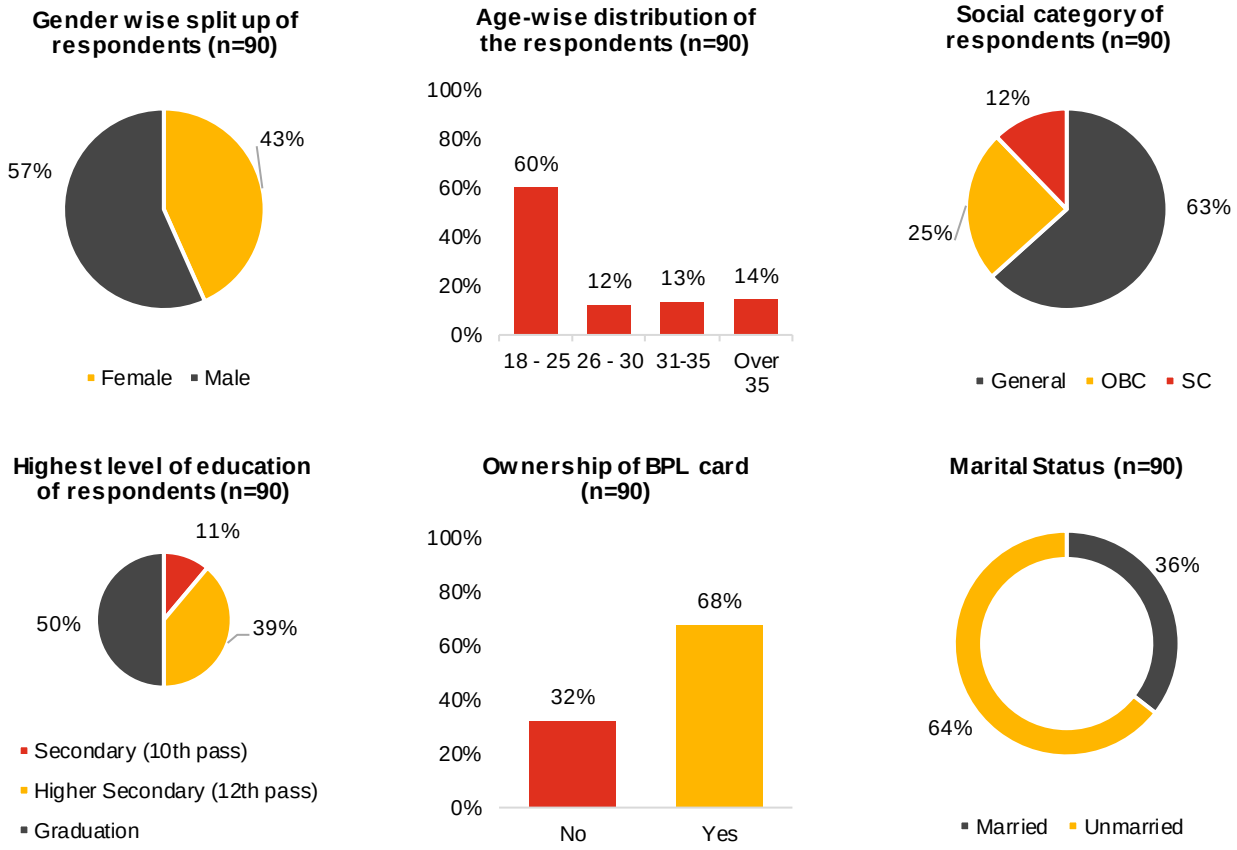
## 14.4. Analysis & findings

### 14.4.1. Profile of the respondents:

A **total of 90 beneficiaries (respondents)** were surveyed to understand the impact of interventions related to the **training programs organized under this project**. As depicted in the socio-demographic profile of respondents:

- **57% of the respondents** were male.
- **60% of the respondents** were between the age-group of 18-25 years **and the mean age** of the respondents **is 26 years.**
- **63% of the respondents** were from the "General" category.
- Highest level of education of **50% of the respondents was graduation** whereas rest have completed 10th/ 12th class. This also highlights the relevance of the project in filling up the gap for skill-based training to enhance employability of youth.
- **68% of the respondents** responded below poverty line (BPL).
- **36% of the respondents** were married.

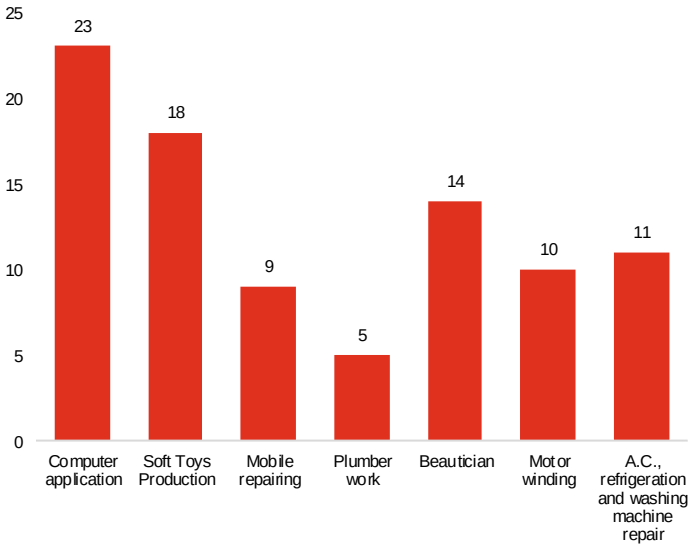
## Figure 63: Socio-demographic profile of respondents




Further, in order to ensure the representation of all trades in the interactions, beneficiaries were selected from **all the seven trades** which were offered under these training programmes funded by the RECF.
The graph here depicts that:

- **23 respondents** attended computer application trade.
- **18 respondents** completed the training in soft toys production trade.
- **14 respondents** completed the training in Beautician trade.
- Rest of the respondents were from other trades like Mobile repairing, plumber work, motor winding and A.C., refrigeration and washing machine repair.

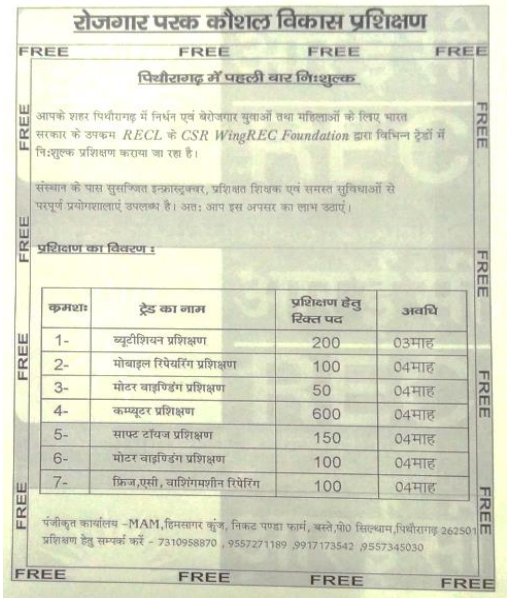
## Figure 64: Spilt up of respondents as per the trades (n=90)



## 14.4.2. Summary of the impact created:

- **Awareness on the training programmes:** As informed during the interactions with the official of MAM, the organization engaged into the community mobilization and spread awareness about this skill development project. At the beginning of the project, MAM conducted discussions with the local youth in Pithoragarh district to explain them the need and importance of the training programmes under this project. When probed, it was noted that:
  - **97% of respondents** received the information about the training through word of mouth from the ex-students of training Centre, friends, relatives, and family members.
  - **70% of respondents** mentioned that a team from MAM reached out to them to sensitize about the training.
  - **Close to 62% of respondents** got to know about the training programmes through different media sources such as (newspaper/ TV/ radio/ internet).**53% of the respondents** got to know about the trainings in their respective schools and colleges.

**Figure 65: Pamphlet distribution by MAM to create awareness among the youth**


रोजगार परक कौशल विकास प्रशिक्षण

FREE FREE FREE FREE

पिथौरागढ़ में पहली बार निःशुल्क

आपके शहर पिथौरागढ़ में निर्धन एवं बेरोजगार युवाओं तथा महिलाओं के लिए भारत सरकार के उपक्रम *RECL* के *CSR WingREC Foundation* द्वारा विभिन्न ट्रेडों में निःशुल्क प्रशिक्षण कराया जा रहा है।

संस्थान के पास सुसज्जित इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर, प्रशिक्षित शिक्षक एवं समस्त सुविधाओं से परपूर्ण प्रयोगशालाएं उपलब्ध है। अतः आप इस अपसर का लाभ उठाएं।

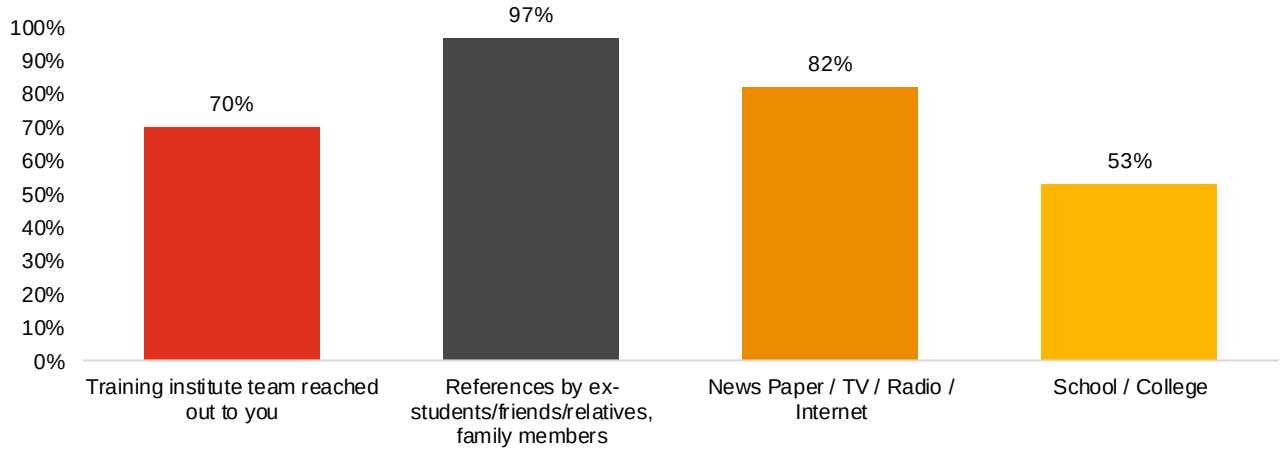
प्रशिक्षण का विवरण :

| क्रमशः | ट्रेड का नाम | प्रशिक्षण हेतु रिक्त पद | अवधि |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1- | ब्यूटीशियन प्रशिक्षण | 200 | 03माह |
| 2- | मोबाइल रिपेयरिंग प्रशिक्षण | 100 | 04माह |
| 3- | मोटर वाइण्डिंग प्रशिक्षण | 50 | 04माह |
| 4- | कम्प्यूटर प्रशिक्षण | 600 | 04माह |
| 5- | साफ्ट टॉयज प्रशिक्षण | 150 | 04माह |
| 6- | मोटर वाइण्डिंग प्रशिक्षण | 100 | 04माह |
| 7- | फ्रिज,एसी, वाशिंगमशीन रिपेरिंग | 100 | 04माह |

पंजीकृत कार्यालय –MAM, हिमसागर कुंज, निकट पण्डा फार्म, बस्ते,पो0 सिल्थाम,पिथौरागढ़ 262501
प्रशिक्षण हेतु सम्पर्क करें – 7310958870 , 9557271189 ,9917173542 ,9557345030

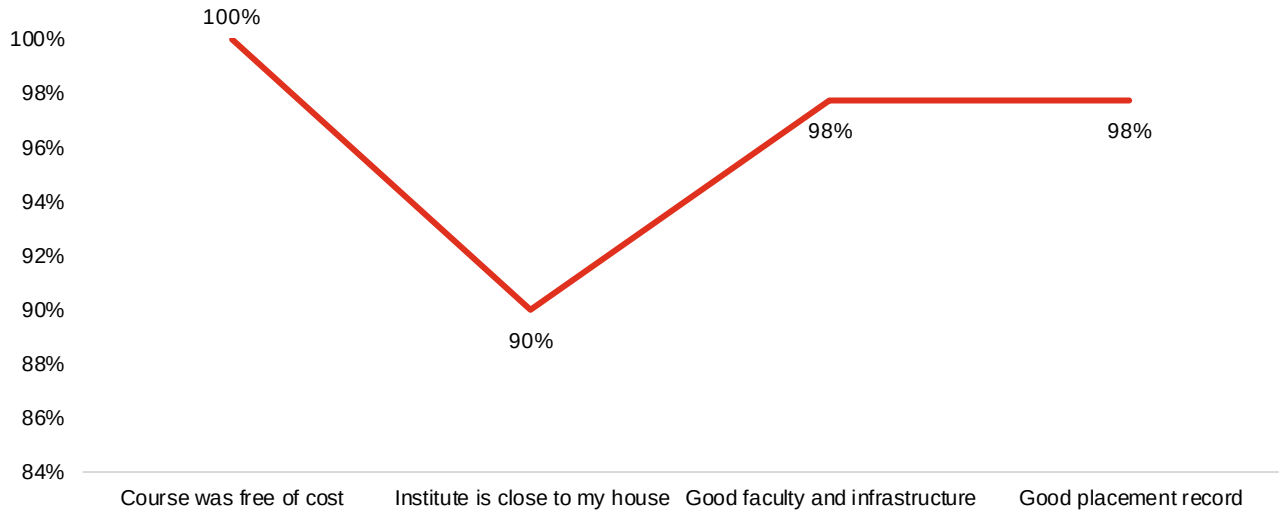
FREE FREE FREE FREE

**Figure 66: Source of information about the training being conducted by the skill training Centre (n=90)**




Respondents were also probed on the **reasons for joining skill development programmes** for which they decided to join the training Centre run by Mahila Ashram Muwani. While **100% of the respondents joined the institute** as it was free of cost, **98% of the respondents were interested** to join the training Centre due to the **good faculty, infrastructure, and placement records. Interaction with family members suggested that they value the course content and its importance in helping their children to get employment.** Family members of these students also cited that earlier their children were not working, and the project had served as a platform to offer them the opportunities to acquire new skills on no cost basis.

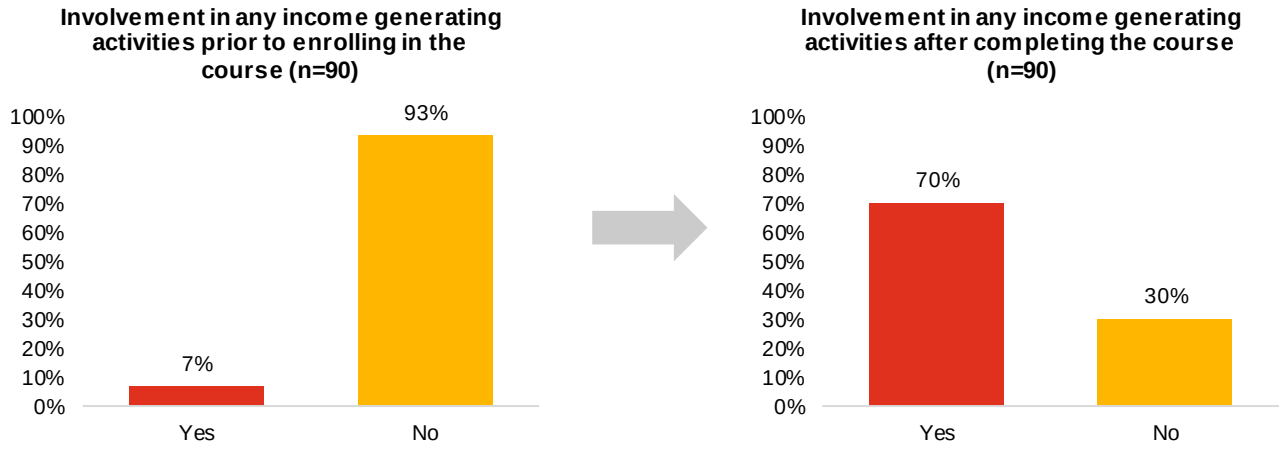
**Figure 67: Reason for joining the course (n=90)**




## 1. Change in the involvement in income generating activities

To further understand the financial impact of skill-based training, respondents were also asked about their involvement in income generating activities pre and post training. As depicted below, **93% of the respondents** were not engaged in any income generating activity prior to the training programmes. This was reduced to only **30% post the training and placement. 63 respondents (70% of the total respondents) are involved in the income generating activities (through wage/ self-employment). Discussions were also carried out with the 27 respondents** who remained unemployed. It was noted that training partner provided them the opportunity to join the companies and also encouraged them for starting their own business in case they do not opt for wage employment. However, **due to COVID-19, many of these respondents did not engage into any income generating activity.** In addition, it was also observed that these courses were more "self-employment" centric and training Centre could have considered offering the courses which are more technical in nature as per the demand of employers nearby.

**Figure 68: Change in the involvement in income generating activities pre and post intervention**




When probed further, it was analysed that **67% of the respondents (out of the total 63 respondents who are involved in any income generating activities)** are earning **less than INR 10,000 per month** whereas **only 33% of the respondents are earning more than INR 10,000 per month. MAM has a tie up with State Industries Development Corporation of Uttarakhand Ltd (SIDCUL) which enabled them to place the candidates in companies located in Rudrapur, Udham Singh Nagar, Pant Nagar, Sitarganj and Haldwani.**

**Prior to the interventions, the average monthly salary of the 7% respondents (who were into any income generating job) was INR 8,194 per month. The average salary of the 70% of the respondents (who are into any income generating activities) is around INR 10,000/- per month.**

**Figure 69: Employment status of beneficiaries**

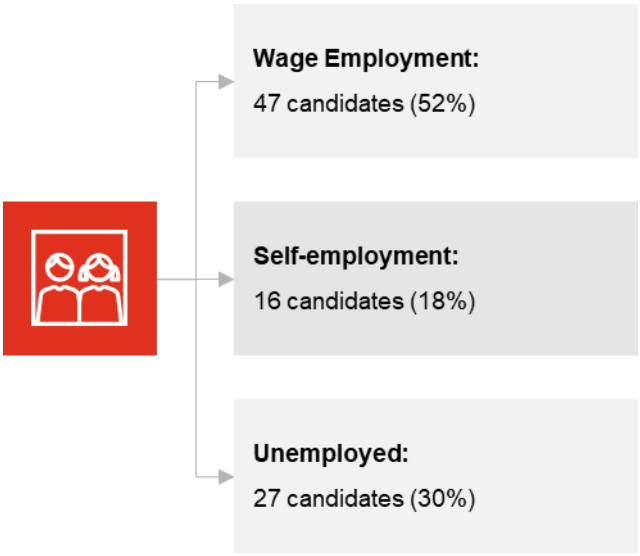
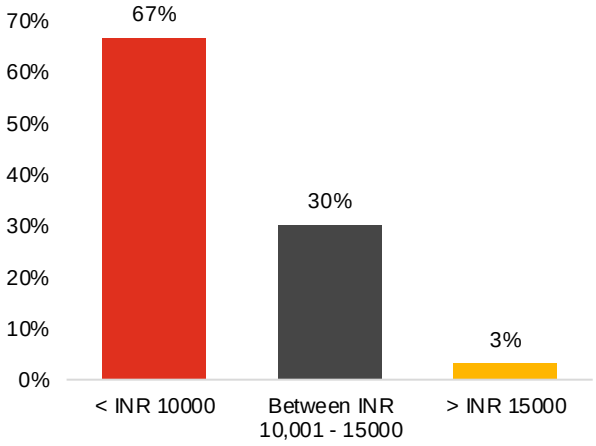



**Figure 70: Current monthly income of respondents who are engaged in income generating activities (n=63)**

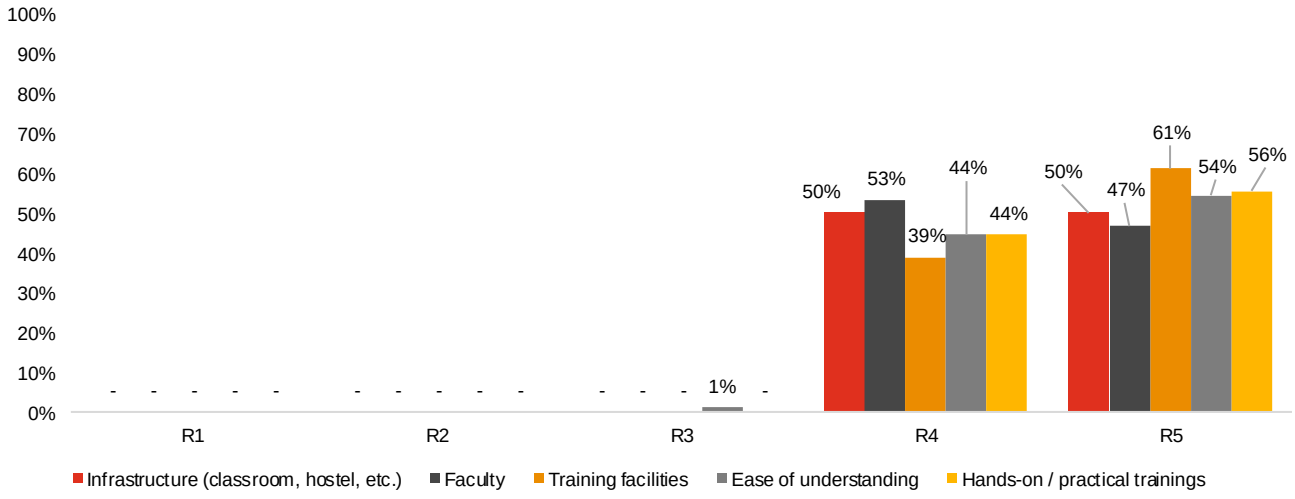



**Out of the 16 candidates** who opted for the self-employment, **12 were women** and they started their own business related to the **beauty parlour and soft toy making. Rest 4 respondents were male**, and they started **their work in the areas of mobile repairing, motor winding and plumbing**. MAM supported these candidates by creating awareness related to the schemes **for starting the business, providing raw material, and developing the marketing linkages** as responded by the beneficiaries under this project. Interactions with trainees also highlighted that the centre helped them to inform about job options, connect them to potential employers, share details about job opportunities and conduct the placement drive at the institute.

## 2. Satisfaction, industry exposure and personality development

Overall, respondents were satisfied with different aspects of the skill development programme run by MAM and RECF. The training module is imparted by quality trainers and provides adequate teaching material and classroom infrastructure including practical exposure. When asked about their level of satisfaction with the training provided, the trainees gave high ratings on various aspects of the programme **(on a scale of R1-low to R5-high)**:

**Figure 71: Rating the different aspects of the training programmes**



**100% of the respondents** highlighted that industry visits were conducted under the training programmes. The trainees mentioned that such exposure was first of a kind for them and they gained practical experience along with an insight into the operations of respective course. It was also noted that the institute provided **training on improving soft skills and organised personality development classes** as well.

Mahila Ashram Muwani provided certificates to all trainees who completed the course as noted during the discussions with the official of Mahila Ashram Muwani. However, the certification was not in partnership with/ accredited by **national skill development bodies like National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC).**

**Figure 72: Sample certificate to candidates under the project as provided by MAM**


## 14.4.3. IRECS Analysis

Basis the interactions with the key stakeholders and desk review of the documents**, the impact of the project was evaluated on 'IRECS framework'**. The IRECS analysis summary has been presented in below table:

**Table 21: IRECS Analysis of Project 11**

| Parameter | Level of impact | Assessment from study |
|---|---|---|
| **Inclusiveness** | **H** | The project was targeted towards improving the skills for employability of youth in Pithoragarh district. The enrolment under the training programmes was open for all and training Centre accepted youth regardless of their socio-economic status. **The project was extremely important and reached out to intended beneficiaries irrespective of their caste and gender.** |
| **Relevance** | **H** | Beneficiaries are from Pithoragarh district and education and employment of children from these families is a challenge as noted during the focus group discussions with the families of beneficiaries. Most of the youth are school dropouts and their employability is compromised. In such a scenario, **the support provided by RECF to provide skill-based training to youth is highly relevant.** It helped them to become more employable. The training centre also provided support for placements. The project **has helped evince positive feedback from the family members and students** and were relevant in such contexts. The family members during the FGD expressed that their children were able to get the platform to acquire new skills and get employment opportunities on no-cost basis. |
| **Effectiveness** | **H** | **The training has helped many youth gain employments in the nearby industries as well as supported the students to start their own business (beauty parlor, soft toys making etc.). As reported by MAM, training Centre had completed the target of training 1,300 candidates.** Post completion of the course, **92% of the candidates were involved in the income generating activities**. Offering women centric courses was effective in increasing support for girls' career development and family pressure was reduced for marriage among girls just after schooling as noted during the focus group discussions with the families of children. |

| Parameter | Level of impact | Assessment from study |
|---|---|---|
| | | During the interactions with the beneficiaries (sample size of 90), it was noted that around **70% of the candidates are still engaged in any income generating activities.** Those trained from the institute are confident and possess the necessary skill to be employable. It was also noted during the discussions with local employers that **they preferred candidates trained from the institute over other candidates.** |
| **Convergence** | **H** | Skill based training was provided by MAM through the funding support of RECF. MAM had also tied up with **State Industries Development Corporation of Uttarakhand Ltd (SIDCUL) which enabled them to place the candidates in companies located in Rudrapur, Udham Singh Nagar, Pant Nagar, Sitarganj and Haldwani.** However, there was no other association with an industry or Government bodies such as NSDC for the third-party assessment and certification. |
| **Sustainability** | **H** | **70% of the respondents** are currently involved in any income generating activities even after project including the **youth are into self-employment**. In this context, **the project has been able to create sustainable impact on the life of beneficiaries.** |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **H:** | **High** | | **M:** | **Medium** | | **L:** | **Low** |

## 14.5. Alignment to the REC Foundation's CSR policy & Schedule VII

The project is in alignment with the Schedule VII of the Companies Act 2013 number (ii) "promoting education, including special education and employment **enhancing vocation skills** especially among children, women, elderly and the differently abled and livelihood enhancement projects". It is also aligned with the thematic areas of RECF's CSR policy i.e., "Promoting education, **skill development and livelihood".**

The project is also aligned with **Sustainable Development Goal: 4- Quality and education and Sustainable Development Goal: 8- Decent work and economic growth.**


## 14.6. Recommendations

The impact assessment study identified a few recommendations for the project which is summarised below:

- **Develop partnership & affiliations:** The institute assessed and certified the trainees in-house only and there were no linkages observed with the Sector Skill Councils, NSDC for offering the courses. The Sector Skill Councils, NSDC has defined course outline, fee structure, framework for third party assessment, evaluation, and certification. Hence, it is suggested to engage a training partner which is affiliated with the NSDC and follows the curriculum structure as per the Sector Skill Council. This would help ensure recognition of the skill level, by way of an industry standard certification, increasing the employability and sustainability prospects of the individual thus trained.
- **Industry specific sessions:** Currently, the training Centre offers traditional courses like beautician, soft toy making etc. It is also recommended to have more industry specific courses for students in order to provide them the opportunity to get wage employment. This can be done through a rapid assessment to understand the requirements of the local companies and youth to select the courses.

# 15. Project 12: Job oriented skill development training to 880 women belonging to economically weaker section

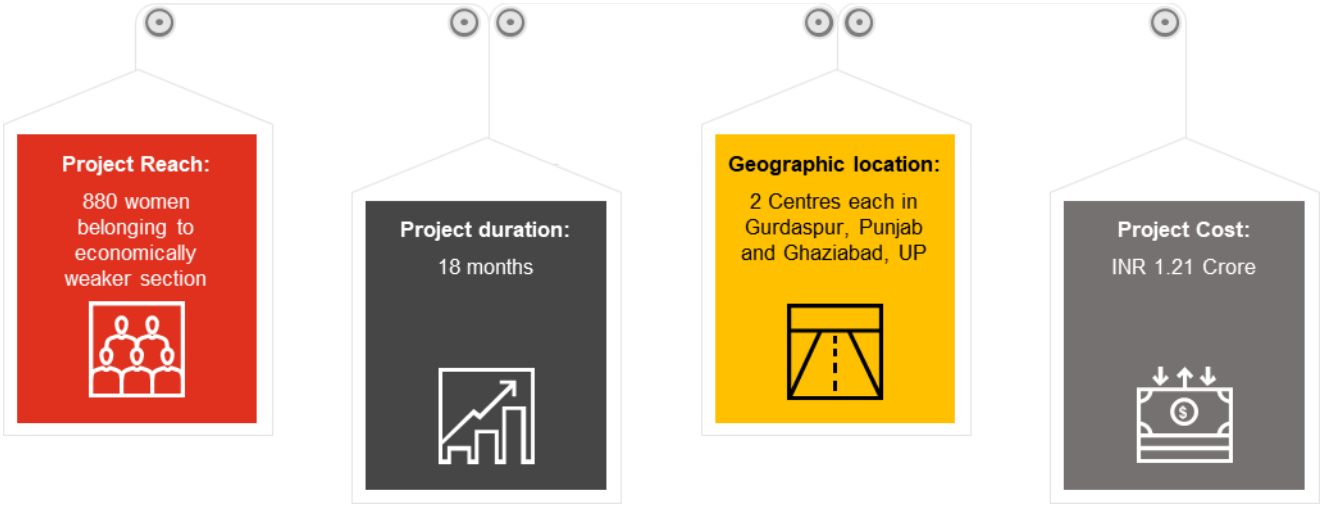
# 15. Project 12: Job oriented skill development training to 880 women belonging to economically weaker section

## 15.1. About the project

RECF initiated the project titled "**Job oriented skill development training to 880 women belonging to economically weaker section"** in alignment to its CSR policy. To implement this project, Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) was signed between **RECF** and **Bisnouli Sarvodaya Gramodyog Sewa Sansthan (BSGSS)** on 13 September 2018. The project was implemented in the Gurdaspur district of Punjab and Ghaziabad district of Uttar Pradesh with the following three objectives:

- To promote employment oriented vocational training and skill upgradation to the identified women.
- To provide alternate and regular income generation opportunities among women through awareness, training, and upgradation of skills.
- To improve the standard of living of people belonging to economically weaker section of the society.

Further the project was based on the **following premise**:



Baseline study was conducted by BSGSS in Dina Nagar Block, Gurdaspur, Punjab and Khora colony, Ghaziabad distirct, Uttar Pradesh and based on study findings the following 4 trades were selected for skill upgradation training. The **duration of training was 6 months.** The training was implemented in 2 batches in each of the two locations. The **first batch of trainings** at the centres in Ghaziabad started on 20.03.2019 and was completed by 19.9.2019, similarly at Gurdaspur the training started on 15.07.2019 and completed on 14.01.2020. The second batch in Ghaziabad started their training on 1.10.2019 and in Gurdaspur on 1.11.2019.

**Table 22: Beneficiary and trade skill breakup**

| S. No | Trade | No. of beneficiaries |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Cutting & tailoring | 240 |
| 2. | Computer operator | 240 |
| 3. | Beauty culture | 200 |
| 4. | English speaking | 200 |

**The trainings were to be completed on/by 31st March 2020**, however **due to COVID-19 lockdown in the states, the operations closed a few days prior to completion date**. The total period of training was reduced to 5 months and to **compensate the reduction in number of training days**, the **number of working hours per day were increased** so that the total number of hours spent on training over the project period remained the same. This was done in consultation with RECF in order to complete the project within the financial year of 2019-2020. The Centres for training were located in the **Khora colony of Ghaziabad district and Dina Nagar block of Gurdaspur district.**

REC Foundation provided a grant of **INR 1.21 Cr. to BSGSS** to be utilised during the project period. Total expenditure incurred by BSGSS as per utilisation certificate was **INR 1.25 Cr.** Hence, there has been an **excess expenditure of INR 3.68 Lakhs** which was made by BSGSS from the general pool of expenditure within the stipulated time.

## 15.2. About the Implementing agency

**Bisnouli Sarvodaya Gramodyog Sewa Sansthan (BSGSS)**, an Uttar Pradesh based voluntary organization, is working in the realm **of women empowerment** with focus on healthcare, education, vocational/skill training, social mobilization, micro-finance, handicrafts, and awareness generation on various socio-economic issues. With multi-faceted developmental interventions, BSGSS **strives to bring about positive changes in the quality of life** of the underprivileged through viable socio-economic programmes touching various aspects of peoples' lives, whether it is health, education, gender equality, employment, or income generation.[58]

## 15.3. Method of impact assessment

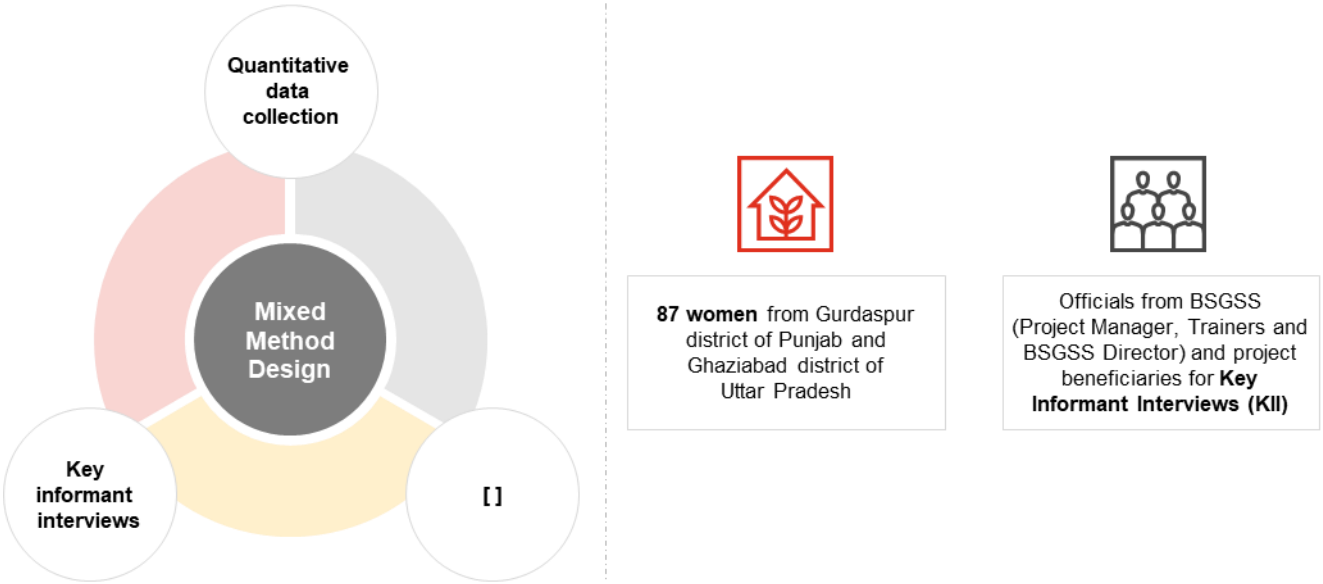
Impact Assessment study was carried out by PwC to assess the changes that have occurred since the project was implemented. Prior to initiating the study, PwC **conducted an inception meeting** with RECF to get clarity on the project and to understand their requirements. Post the meeting, a list of requisite documents was shared with the RECF's CSR team. Basis the documents received; PwC team started the review of the following documents to develop more understanding about the project:

- Signed MOA between RECF and BSGSS
- Baseline survey report submitted by BSGSS to RECF
- Impact assessment report submitted by BSGSS to RECF
- Utilization Certificate

Post review of the documents, the **key stakeholders of project were identified and mapped** to capture their opinion and feedback and a **mixed method research design** was adopted for the study as presented below:

[58] BSGSS website (https://www.bsgssindia.org/about-us.php) - Retrieved on 27 June 2022

**Figure 73: Mixed methodology design**




A plan was developed for **virtual interactions with the key stakeholders identified.** Selection of **87 women** was done by **simple random sampling technique** wherein women belonging to economically weaker sections of society from **Gurdaspur, Punjab and Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh** were randomly chosen keeping in mind **the trade skill chosen by the beneficiaries for skill upgradation and availability of respondents for interview**. Sample was calculated at a **confidence interval of 95% and 10% margin of error.**

Data was collected from community through **Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) tool**, in the form of structured interview. For qualitative interactions, a set of questions were developed for each set of stakeholders.

A pilot testing was conducted by the PwC team to ascertain the viability of the research tools, post which, the research tools were modified according to the changes documented. The tools were then **translated into local language (Hindi) for** the data collection team and subsequently **training of the survey team** was also conducted.

## 15.4. Analysis & findings

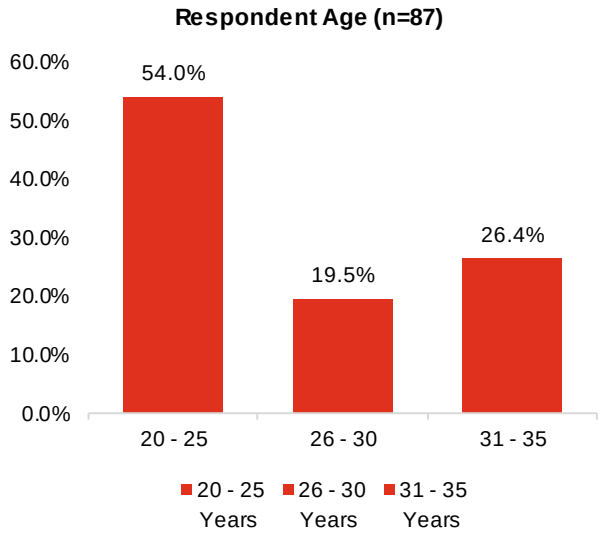
Summary of the key findings is presented below:

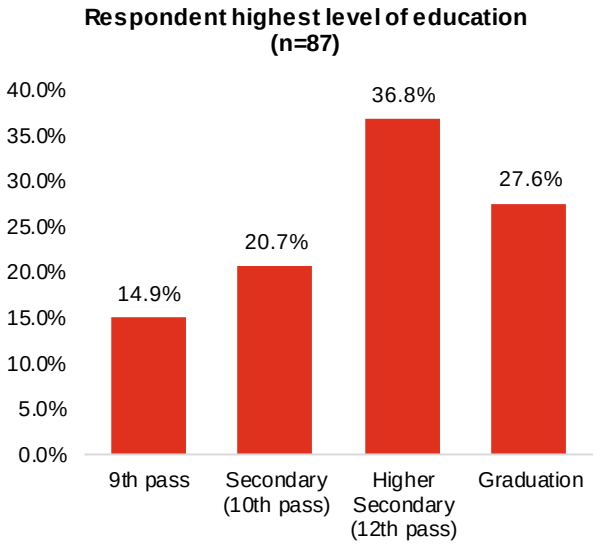
### 15.4.1. Profile of the respondent beneficiaries:

**A total of 87 beneficiaries were interviewed** to understand the impact of training and skill upgradation courses related to the project. The socio-demographic profile is depicted below:

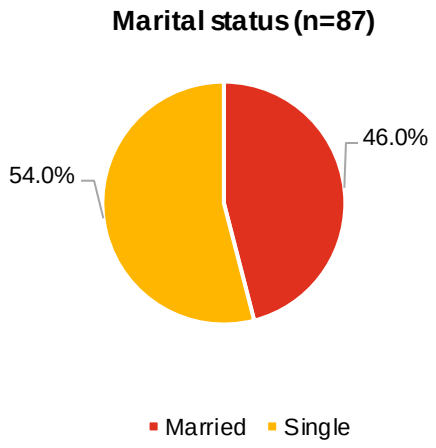
- **54%** of respondents were in the **20-25 age** group, the rest in age groups of 26-30 & 31-35.
- **35.6%** of respondents were in the **General Category.**
- A majority of respondents **(36.8%)** reported to have completed "**Higher Secondary (12th pass)"** as highest level of education.
- The number of respondents who were **married** was reported as **46%** out of which **82.5% had children.**
- **60.9 %** reported to have **a Below Poverty Line (BPL)** card.

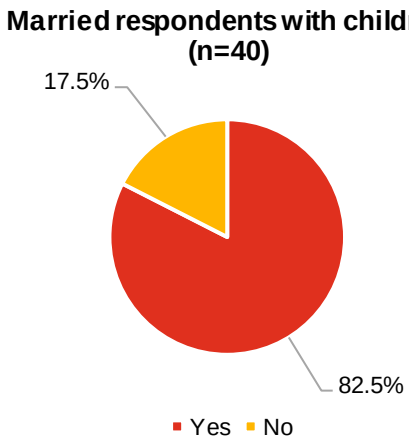
## Figure 74: Socio-demographic profile (n=87)

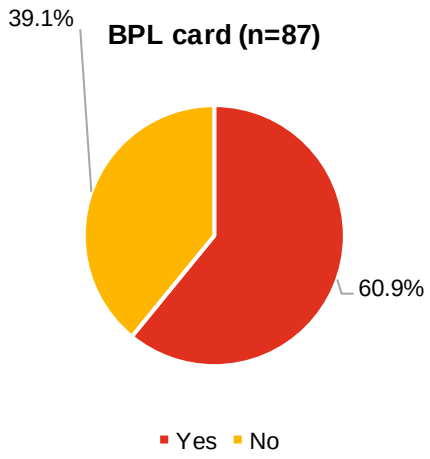


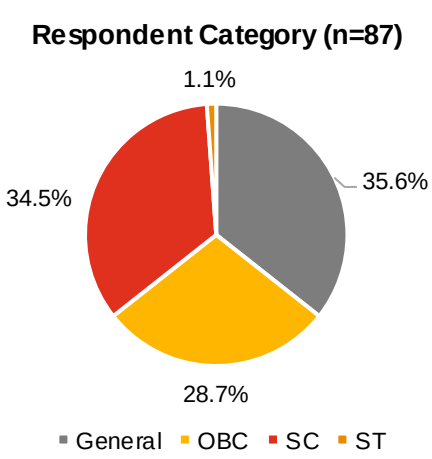




## Figure 75: Socio-demographic profile continued (n=87)



In order to ensure the representation of all trades in the interactions, beneficiaries were selected from **all the four trades** which were offered under these training programmes funded by the RECF. The table below reflects the sample reached across the trades. Due to unavailability of respondents during data collection from the English-speaking trade, purposive sampling was done to ensure coverage of the overall sample from the rest of the trades.

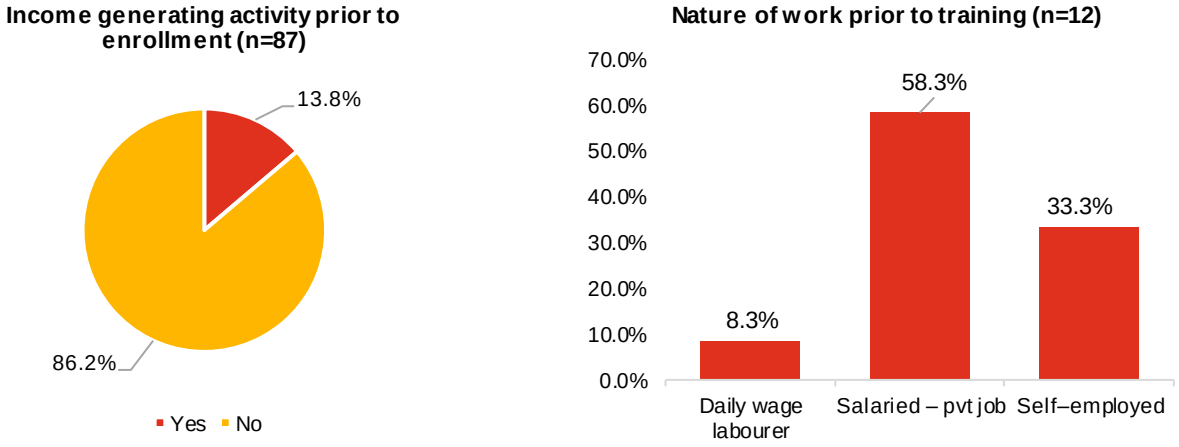
**Table 23: Sample reached by skill breakup**

| S. No | Trade | No. of beneficiaries |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Cutting & tailoring | 27 |
| 2. | Computer operator | 25 |
| 3. | Beauty culture | 29 |
| 4. | English speaking | 06 |

## 15.4.2. Pre-intervention scenario:

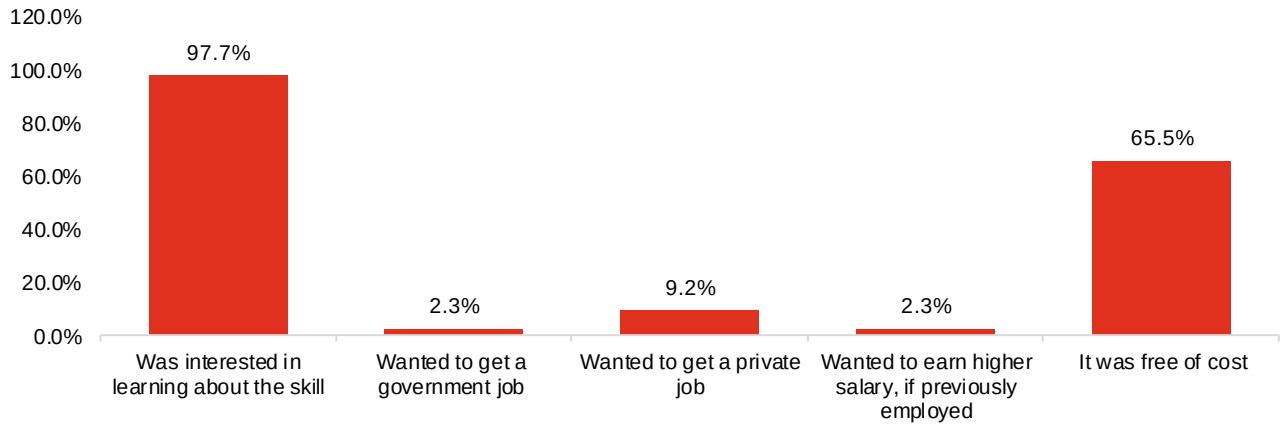
**13.8% of women reported that prior to** enrolling in the project they were involved in some income generating activity such as a salaried private job or a self-employed worker. The **average monthly income, of the above women, prior** to project implementation/ training **was reported as INR 7,187/-**

**Figure 76: Income generation and nature of work**




It was reported that **87.4%** of women were referred to the training centre by ex-students, friends, or family members/relatives. Additionally, majority of **women (97.7%)** reported that the reason for joining the project was because of their own interest in the particular trade skill offered as part of the course curriculum. However, 75.9% of the women reported that they did not undergo any pre-joining counselling (from BSGSS).

**Figure 77: Reason for taking up course in project (n=87)**



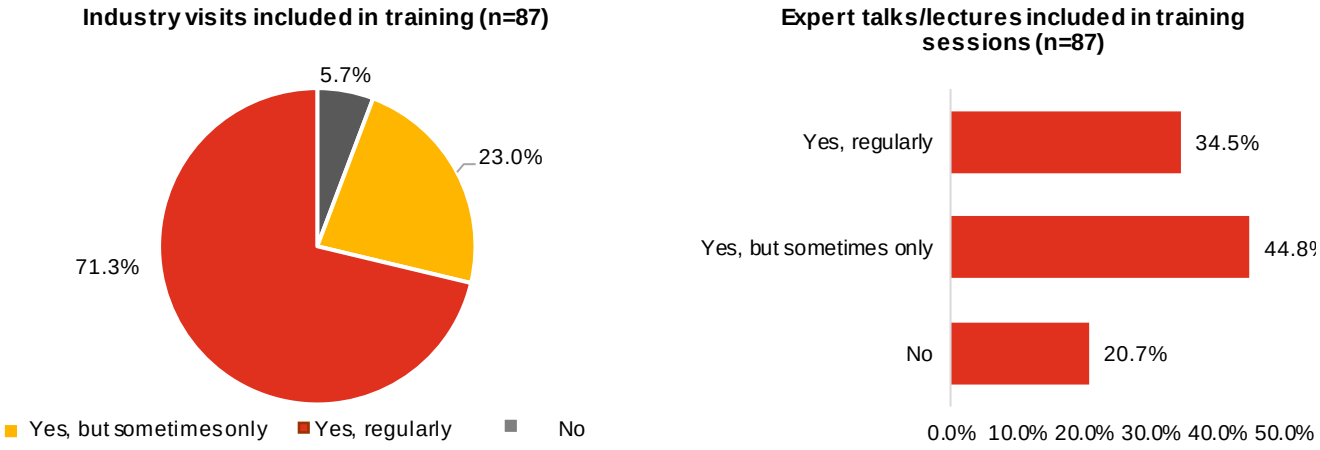

This is a multiple response question and hence the aggregate of responses is more than 100%.

## 15.4.3. Summary of impact created:

### 1. Promotion of vocational training and skill upgradation of women

58.6% respondents reported that soft skill training sessions were conducted on a regular basis. The training sessions also included an aspect of industry visits (except for the English-speaking course) to give the women hands-on experience in their chosen trade skill. To further augment the learning experience, talks/ lectures were conducted with experts in the field/trade, and 79.3% of women reported that these "expert talks/lectures" were conducted during the course of training. During interaction with officials from BSGSS it was understood that the experts involved in the programme were Deputy Education Minister of Ghaziabad, local tailoring contractors who provide school uniforms to government schools in area, owners of fancy boutiques and other prominent experts in IT industry.

**Figure 78: Vocational training aspects (n=87)**

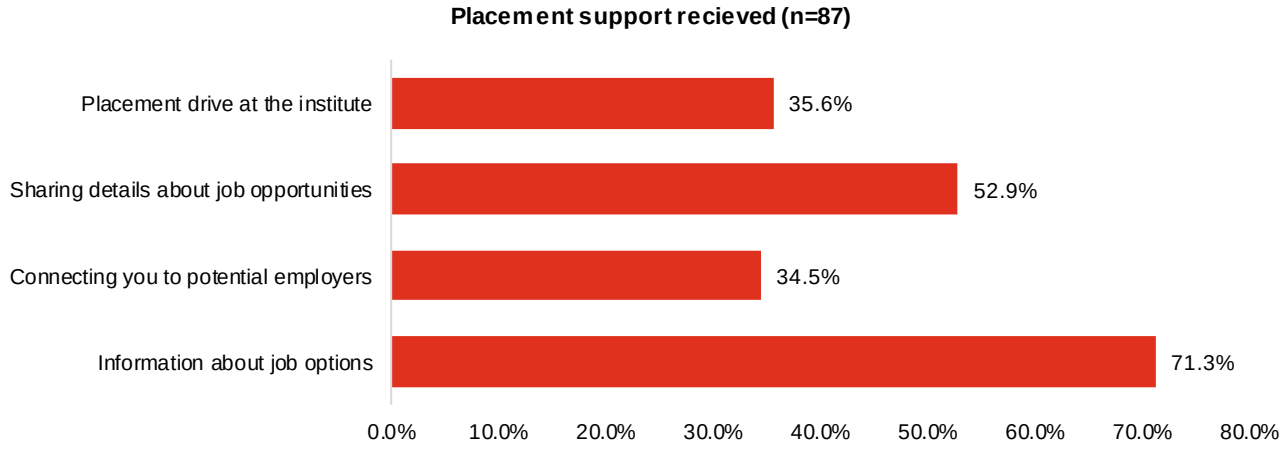



Basis interaction with project manager at BSGSS, it was reported that regular assessments were conducted by the institute. This was primarily done via monthly assessments which consisted of a practical exam (with written component in some cases like English & Computer courses). This data was corroborated with findings from trainee interviews which showed that all respondents took part in assessments regularly during the course.

### 2. Placement post project completion and generation of alternate revenue sources:

Findings (in table below) showed that beneficiaries received placement support post project completion.

**Figure 79: Placement support received (n=87)**



**9.2% of beneficiaries received placements in jobs post project completion. These beneficiaries have been placed in the local boutiques and IT company.**

Based on the data shared by RECF, **75% (660 out of 880) of the total candidates** got placed after completion of training.[59] Respondents were probed on their current involvement in the income generating activities. Findings suggest that **55 candidates are currently involved in income generating activities which constitutes around 63% of the total respondents interviewed (n=87). 9% of the respondents (n=87)** were into the wage employment (salaried) whereas **54% of the respondents (n=87)** were into the self-employment and daily wage employment.

On interaction with BSGSS staff, it was reported that a majority of trained individuals rather than waiting for employment have **created their own revenue sources**. **The girls in beauty and wellness training started their own beauty and wellness services and earn on average INR 1,000/- per month** vis-a vis their previous unemployment status whereas candidates from the computer operator trainings, started coaching classes for local community/Sarpanch and earn up to INR 5,000/- per month.

During the Covid 19 pandemic, masks were produced and sold in partnership with Ghaziabad and Gurdaspur government, non-governmental authorities to consumers earning **~25 lakhs in total by the women in tailoring trade**

Rest 37% of the respondents (n=87) were also probed to understand the reason for not involving into the any income generating activities. It was reported that the main reason for these candidates (37%) to quit the job was that their expectation of salary or job role was not aligned.

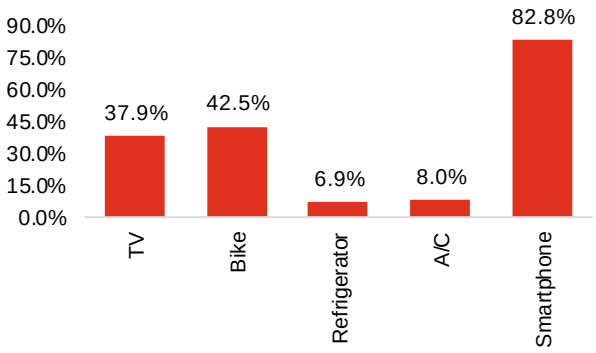
Prior to the interventions, the average monthly salary of the 14% respondents (who were into any income generating activities) was INR 7,187/- per month. Post completion of the training, the average salary of the 63% of the respondents (who are into any income generating activities) is INR 8,500/- per month

### 3. Improvement in standard of living:

Beneficiaries reported that their overall standard of living has improved post completion of the project. The training received has enabled them to generate additional sources of income which they use to better their daily lives. 90.8.% reported that their standard of living has improved, while others report that they have access to better quality of food, better health care, and the ability to pay for child's education. The training and additional income has provided them with the means to buy consumer goods (TV, Refrigerator, smart phones etc.) that they were unable to buy previously (prior to training).

When asked about their level of satisfaction with the training provided, the trainees rated various aspects of the programme as high **(on a scale of 1-low to 5-high)**:

**Figure 80: Consumer goods purchased post placement (n=87)**



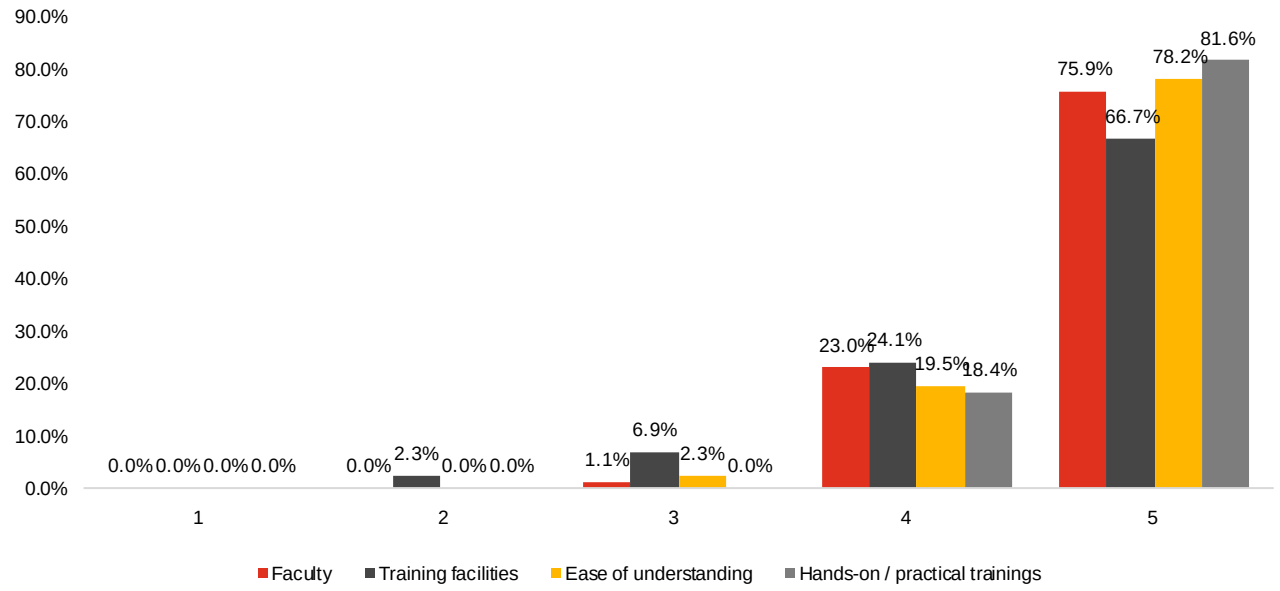

This is a multiple response question and hence the aggregate of responses is more than 100%.

Beneficiaries reported that their overall standard of living has improved post completion of the project. The training received has enabled them to generate additional sources of income which they use to better their daily lives. 90.8.% reported that their standard of living has improved, while others report that they have access to better quality of food, better health care, and the ability to pay for child's education. The training and additional income has provided them with the means to buy consumer goods (TV, Refrigerator, smart phones etc.) that they were unable to buy previously (prior to training).

[59] Impact Assessment report shared by RECF

When asked about their level of satisfaction with the training provided, the trainees rated various aspects of the programme as high **(on a scale of 1-low to 5-high)**:

**Figure 81: Training aspects rated on scale (n=87)**




BSGSS provided certificates to all trainees who completed the course as noted during the discussions with the official of BSGSS. However, the certification was not in partnership with/ accredited by national skill development bodies like National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC).


Bisnouli Sarvodaya Gramodyog Sewa Sansthan (Regd.)

CERTIFICATE

This certificate is awarded to Ms./Mrs. ... on the successful completion of a six-month course in ... organised by Bisnouli Sarvodaya Gramodyog Sewa Sansthan in association with M/s. RURAL ELECTRIFICATION CORPORATION LIMITED under its CSR initiative from ... to ... at ... She was placed in Grade ... in theory and Grade ... in practicals

Director – Operations (Skill Development) | President BSGSS | Patron-in-Chief BSGSS

## 15.4.4. IRECS Analysis:

Basis the interactions with the key stakeholders and desk review of the documents**, the impact of the project was evaluated on 'IRECS framework'**. The IRECS analysis summary has been presented in below table:

**Table 24: IRECS Analysis of Project 12**

| Parameter & Rating | Level of impact | Assessment from study |
|---|---|---|
| **Inclusiveness** | **H** | The support provided by the project is **inclusive in nature** as it provides benefits to all the women belonging to economically weaker sections of society in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh and Gurdaspur, Punjab regions **irrespective of their caste and religion.** |
| **Relevance** | **H** | Baseline study report shared by RECF highlights that there was an acute need for implementing the skill development training programmes which can provide a platform to the women beneficiaries to start employment or their own enterprises. The project has led to **women empowerment and increased income generation** among women belonging to economically weaker sections of society, **the support provided by RECF to provide** |

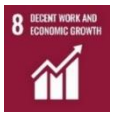
| Parameter & Rating | Level of impact | Assessment from study |
|---|---|---|
| | | **skill-based training to women is highly relevant,** it has helped them become more employable. |
| **Effectiveness** | **M** | **As per the data shared by RECF, 75% of the women were placed in job post project completion.** Respondents were probed on their current involvement in the income generating activities. Findings suggest that **55 candidates are currently involved in income generating activities which constitutes around 63% of the total respondents interviewed (n=87). 9% of the respondents (n=87)** were into the wage employment (salaried) whereas **54% of the respondents (n=87)** were into the self-employment and daily wage employment. However, rest 37% of the respondents (n=87) were not involved into any income generating activities as their expectation of salary or job role was not aligned. |
| **Convergence** | **H** | Project involved local government authorities (Deputy Education Minister of Ghaziabad) during training. The training received has also enabled beneficiaries to partner with local sarpanch and communities in providing services (computer classes). During the Covid 19 pandemic masks were produced by those in the tailoring trade, these masks were sold in partnership with Ghaziabad and Gurdaspur government, non-governmental authorities to consumers. However, there was no other association with an industry or Government bodies such as NSDC for the third-party assessment and certification. |
| **Sustainability** | **H** | On interaction with BSGSS staff, it was reported that a majority of trained individuals rather than waiting for employment have **created their own revenue sources**. Findings suggest that **63% of the respondents (n=87) are currently involved in income generating activities out of which 54% of the respondents (n=87)** were into the self-employment and daily wage employment. **The impact created by this project is sustainable in nature as it provided beneficiaries the necessary skills to generate income after project completion.** |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **H:** | **High** | | **M:** | **Medium** | | **L:** | **Low** |

## 15.5. Alignment to the REC Foundation's CSR policy & Schedule VII

The project is in alignment with the Schedule VII of the Companies Act 2013 number (ii) "Promoting education including special education and employment enhancing vocation skills, especially among children, women, elderly and differently-abled and livelihood enhancement projects;". It is also aligned with the thematic areas of RECF's CSR policy i.e., **"Skill development & livelihood"**

The project is also aligned with Sustainable Development Goal: 8 - Promote sustain, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all.




## 15.6. Recommendations

It was noted that activities related to the Project were executed on time as per the MoA signed between REC Foundation and BSGSS. The impact assessment study identified recommendation for the project which is summarised below:

- **Integration of an awareness and expectation setting: 75.9% of the women** reported that they **did not undergo any pre-joining counselling** (from BSGSS) before they enrolled in the course. It was reported that majority of beneficiaries switched course midway because they felt it was not relevant for employability. Additionally, it was reported that their expectation around salary and job role were not aligned during the placement which led majority of them to quit their jobs. Hence, awareness session and expectation setting process should be integrated into project planning stage.
- **Develop partnership & affiliations:** The institute assessed and certified the trainees in-house only and there were no linkages observed with the Sector Skill Councils, NSDC for offering the courses. The Sector Skill Councils, NSDC has defined course outline, fee structure, framework for third party assessment, evaluation, and certification. Hence, it is suggested to engage a training partner which is affiliated with the NSDC and follows the curriculum structure as per the Sector Skill Council. This would help ensure recognition of the skill level, by way of an industry standard certification, increasing the employability and sustainability prospects of the individual thus trained.

# 16. Project 13: Job oriented skill development training (residential) to 1000 nos. of youth belonging to economically weaker section in approx. 20 districts across India

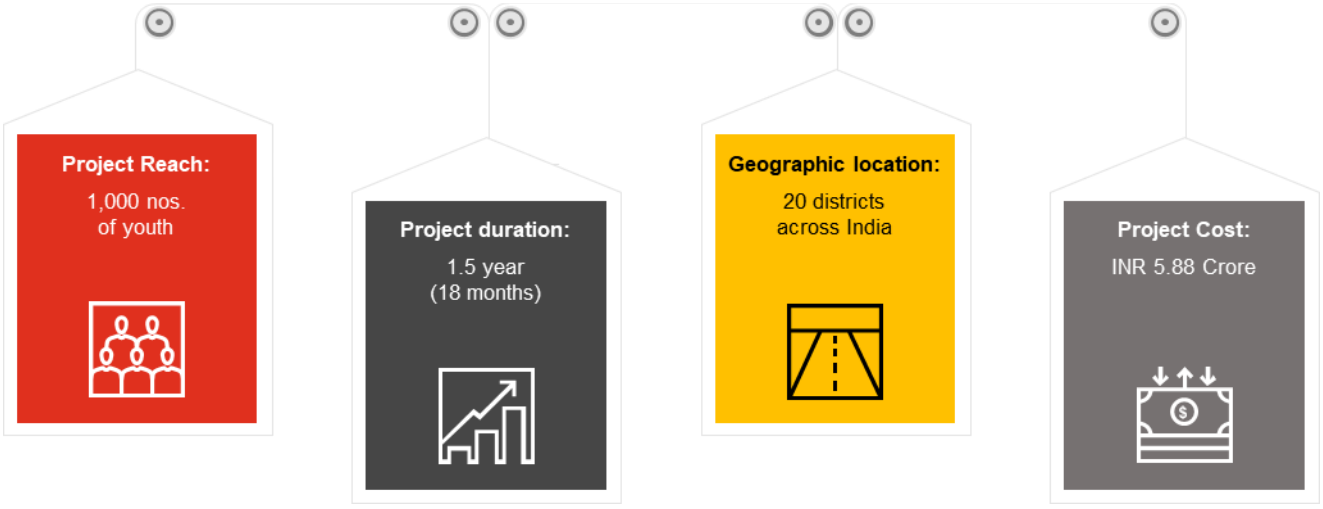
# 16. Project 13: Job oriented skill development training (residential) to 1000 nos. of youth belonging to economically weaker section in approx. 20 districts across India

## 16.1. About the project

The project "Job oriented skill development training (residential) to 1,000 nos. of youth belonging to economically weaker section in approx. 20 districts across India" was initiated by RECF in alignment to its CSR policy. To implement this project, Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) was signed between RECF and Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering & Technology (CIPET) (formerly known as Central Institute of Plastics Engineering & Technology (CIPET). The project was implemented with the following objectives:

- Equipping the skill sets in young people who are the major driving force for economic development and technology innovation.
- To impact job-oriented skill development training to the underprivilege/ unemployed youth for developing technical and professional skills.
- Enhancing the employability of underprivileged/ Unemployed youth through skill development in selected areas.

Following schematic represents the key aspects of project implementation:




During the interaction with the officials from CIPET they reported that there are a large number of underprivileged youths for developing technical and professional skills. Enhancing the employability of these youth through skill development was the objective of CIPET.

Some of the trainings provided by CIEPT were: [60]

- Plastic processing
- Injection moulding
- Blow moulding
- Plastic extrusion
- Tool room

[60] MoA Signed between CIEPT and RECF

The training programme is structured as a residential programme with duration of six months and offered at 16 of CIPET's Training Centres on the above courses. The focus of the programme was to provide a residential job oriented, training programme to 1,000 youths for the year 2018-19.

**Table 25: Enrolment details**

| S. No. | State | CIPET Centre Name | Name of the Skill Development Training Programme | Target Allotted |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | **Assam** | Guwahati | Machine Operator – Injection Moulding | 40 |
| | | PWMC-Guwahati | Machine Operator – Plastic recycling | 40 |
| 2. | **Bihar** | Hajipur | Machine Operator – Plastics Processing | 40 |
| | | | Machine Operator – Blow Moulding | 40 |
| 3. | **Chhattisgarh** | Raipur | Machine Operator – Injection Moulding | 40 |
| 4. | **Haryana** | Murthal | Machine Operator – Plastics Processing | 40 |
| | | | Machine Operator – Injection Moulding | 40 |
| | | | Machine Operator – Blow Moulding | 40 |
| | | | Machine Operator – Plastics Extrusion | 40 |
| | | | Machine Operator – Tool Room | 40 |
| 5. | **Himachal Pradesh** | Baddi | Machine Operator – Plastics Processing | 40 |
| 6. | **Madhya Pradesh** | Bhopal | Machine Operator – Plastics Processing | 40 |
| | | | Machine Operator – Injection Moulding | 40 |
| 7. | **Maharashtra** | Aurangabad | Machine Operator – Injection Moulding | 40 |
| | | | Machine Operator – Plastics Extrusion | 40 |
| 8. | **Manipur** | Imphal | Machine Operator – Plastics Processing | 40 |
| 9. | **Odisha** | Bhubaneswar-I | Machine Operator – Injection Moulding | 40 |
| | | Bhubaneswar-II | Machine Operator – Plastics Processing | 40 |
| | | | Machine Operator – Blow Moulding | 40 |
| | | Balasore | Machine Operator – Plastics Recycling | 40 |
| 10. | **Punjab** | Amritsar | Machine Operator – Plastics Processing | 40 |
| 11. | **Rajasthan** | Jaipur | Machine Operator – Injection Moulding | 40 |
| | | | Machine Operator – Tool Room | 40 |

| S. No. | State | CIPET Centre Name | Name of the Skill Development Training Programme | Target Allotted |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **12.** | **Telangana** | Hyderabad | Machine Operator – Injection Moulding | 40 |
| **13.** | **West Bengal** | Haldia | Machine Operator – Plastics Processing | 40 |

As evident from the data shared by RECF out of 1,000 candidates enrolled, 980 candidates have completed the certification **(total of 98%). Out of 980 certified candidates, 805 (82%) candidates have been placed.**

REC Foundation provided a grant of **INR 5.88 Cr**[61]. to CIPET to be utilised during the project period. Total expenditure incurred by CIPET as per utilisation certificate was **INR 5.88 Cr** i.e., full utilization by CIPET.

## 16.2. About the implementing partner

Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering & Technology (CIPET) (formerly known as Central Institute of Plastics Engineering & Technology (CIPET)) was established in 1968 by Government of India with the assistance of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) at Chennai. The main objective of setting up of this specialized institute was to develop manpower in different disciplines of Plastics Engineering & Technology as no similar institute was in existence in the country. International Labour Organization (ILO) served as the executing agency. During the initial project period between 1968 and 1973, the institute achieved the targets envisaged and was rated as one of the most successful UNDP projects implemented worldwide. CIPET is a premier Academic institution for higher & technical education under the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, Govt. of India fully devoted in all the domains of plastics viz: - Design, CAD/CAM/CAE, Tooling & Mould Manufacturing, Production Engineering, Testing and Quality Assurance. CIPET operates from various locations spread across the country to cater the needs of the Polymer and allied industries.[62]

## 16.3. Method of impact assessment

The study was initiated with an inception meeting with the CSR team of RECF on the scope of study and approach to be followed. Basis the discussion with the RECF, PwC team prepared the list of requisite documents and shared the list with RECF team. Basis the documents received, PwC research team started the review of secondary literature and following documents to develop more understanding about the project:

- Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) signed between RECF and CIEPT
- Baseline report submitted by CIPET to RECF
- Impact assessment study report submitted by CIEPT to RECF
- Fund utilisation certificate

RECF provided the list of beneficiaries who received the training under this project. Since it was a skill development project and there were no assets created under this project, hence, it was suggested by RECF to conduct the data collection through **virtual interactions**. A plan was developed for **virtual interactions with the key stakeholders identified.** Post review of the documents, the key stakeholders of project were identified and mapped to capture their opinion and feedback and a mixed method research design was adopted for the study as presented below:

[61] As per data shared by RECF

[62] CIPET Website (https://www.cipet.gov.in/aboutus/index.php) Data retrieved on 15 June 2022


Selection of 88 beneficiaries was done by simple random sampling technique for interviews wherein the farmers from the taluka were randomly chosen keeping in mind the completeness as well as representation of variations in the sample. Sample was calculated at confidence interval of 95% and 10% margin of error. Data was collected from community through **Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) tool**.

## 16.4. Analysis & findings

Summary of the key findings is presented below:

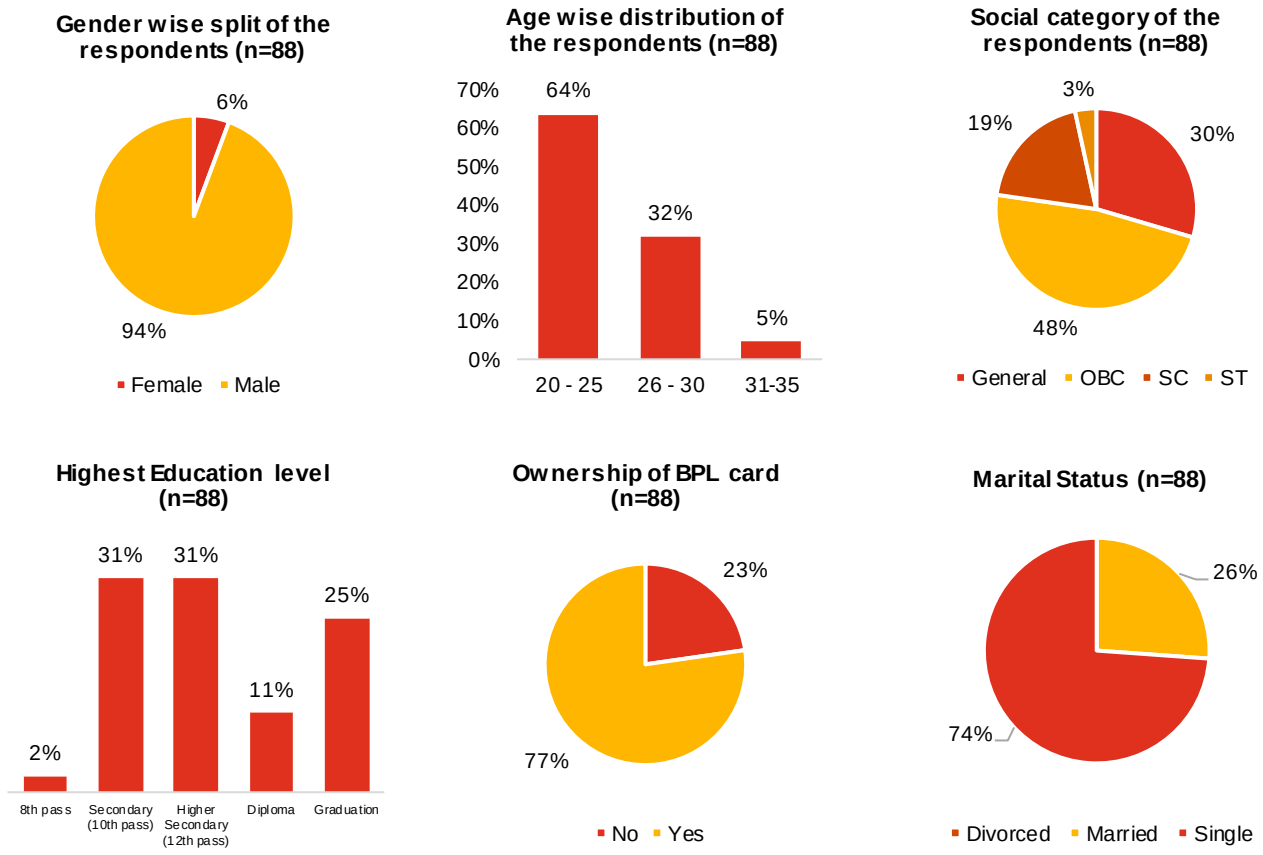
### 16.4.1. Profile of the respondents:

A total of 88 beneficiaries were interviewed to understand the impact of interventions related to the Job oriented skill development training (residential) to 1,000 nos. of youth belonging to economically weaker section in approx. 20 districts across India:

- **94% of the respondents** were male.
- **64% of the respondents** were between the age-group of 20-25 years **with mean age** of the respondents **being 25 years.**
- **48% of the respondents** were from the "OBC" category.
- **25%** of the respondents were graduates
- **31% of the respondents were** 12th pass.
- **25% of the respondents** responded below poverty line (BPL)
- **74% of the respondents were single**

A pilot testing was conducted by the PwC research team to ascertain the viability of the research tools, post which, the research tools were modified according to the changes documented. The tools were then **translated into local language (Hindi and Odia) for** the survey team. **Training of the survey team** Including **list of Do's and Don'ts** was also ingrained in them to factor in local contexts.

**Figure 82: Socio-Demographic profile of respondents**

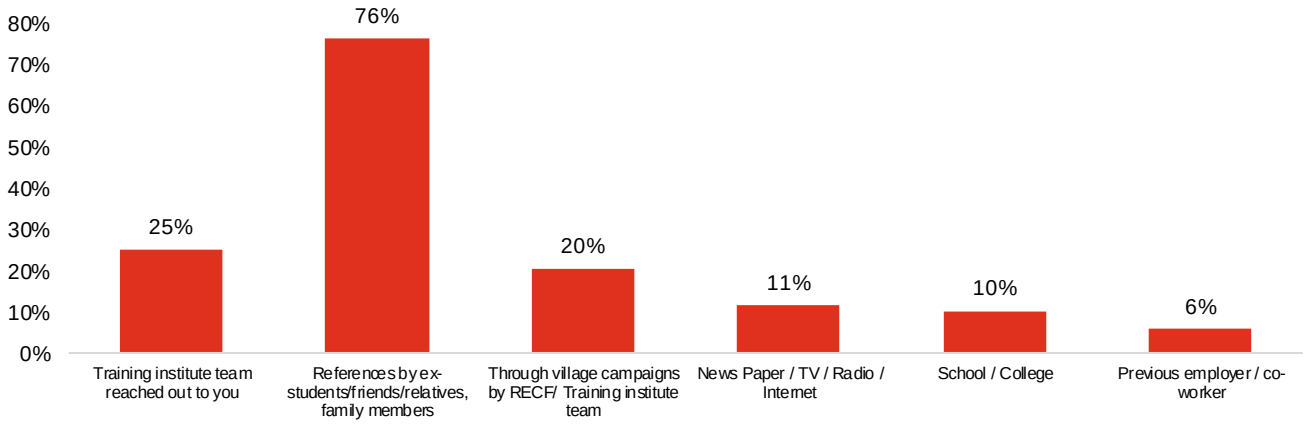



## 16.4.2. Summary of the impact created

### 1. Awareness of the training

Discussion with the implementing partner, they reported that all the CIPET centres circulated the information brochures, leaflets, pamphlets to spread word and wide publicity about the courses. Advertisements had also been released in leading newspapers in region / vernacular language to reach out to the needy candidates for Skill Development Training Programme.

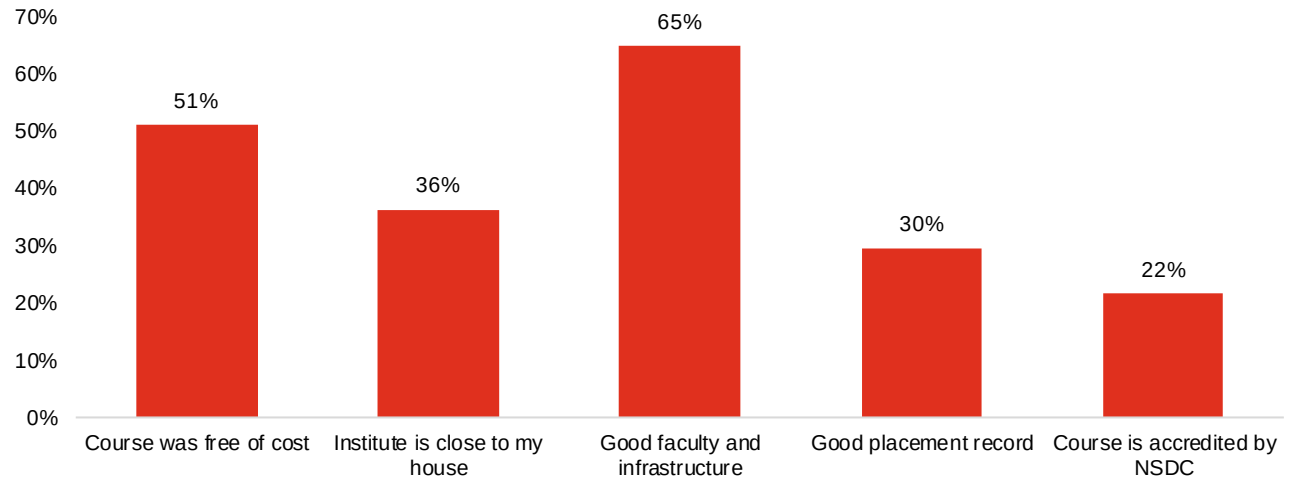
**Figure 83: Source of information (n=88) ***




* This was a multiple response question and hence the aggregate is more than 100%

- **Majority of the respondents (76%)** received the information about the training through word of mouth from the ex-students of training Centre, friends, relatives, and family members followed by others means a highlighted in the graph above.

**Figure 84: Reason for joining the course (n=88) ***

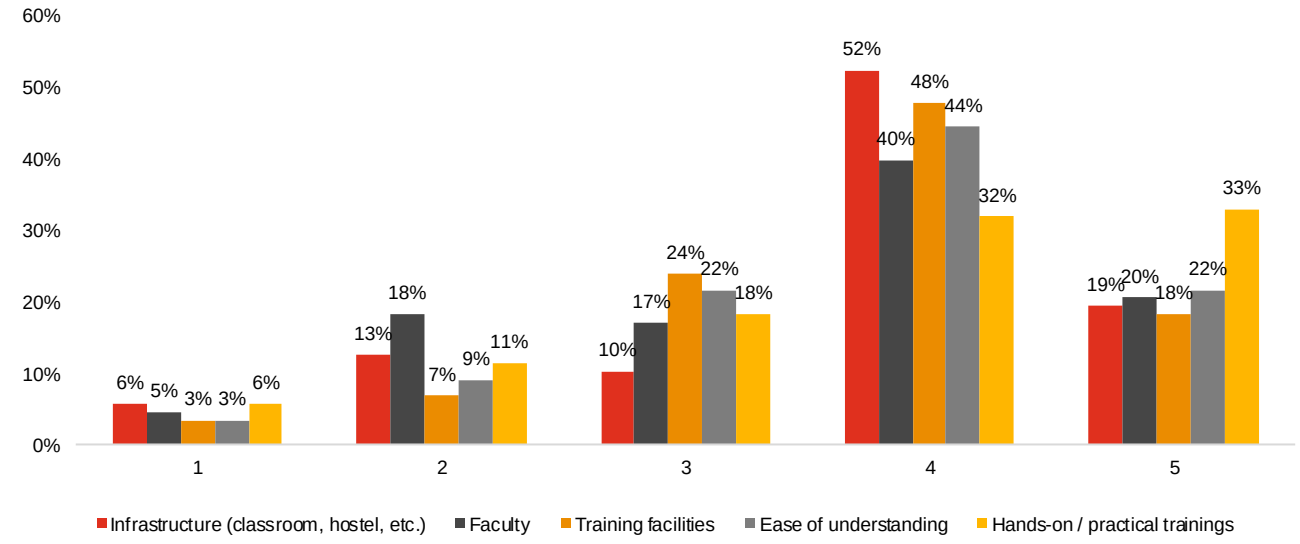



* This was a multiple response question and hence the aggregate is more than 100%

- While 51% of the respondents joined the institute as it was free of cost
- 65% of the respondents were interested to join the training Centre due to the good faculty, infrastructure
- 30% of the respondent reported they joined the course because of good placement records and 22% of them reported because it was accredited by NSDC.

Overall, respondents were satisfied with different aspects of the skill development programme which is presented in the graph below **(on a scale of 1-low to 5-high)**

**Figure 85: Rating the different aspects of the training programmes (n=88) ***

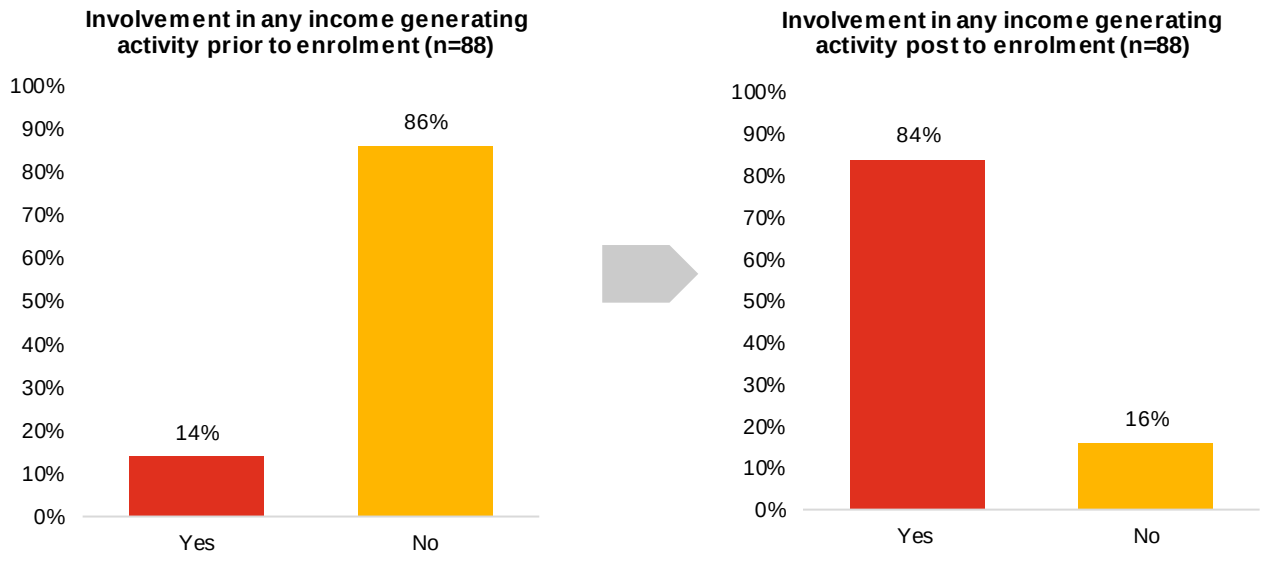



* This was a multiple response question and hence the aggregate is more than 100%

## 2. Placement and income generating activity:

The respondents were also asked about their involvement in income generating activities pre and post training.

**Figure 86: Income activity (n=88) ***




- **86% of the respondents** were not engaged in any income generating activity prior to the training programmes.
- **Only 14% of the respondents were involved in income generating** activity prior to enrolment to the course. Post the completion of the training it is reported that **84% of the total respondents are involved in the income generating activities (through wage/ self-employment).**
- The average monthly income prior to enrolment in the course was INR 6,544 among the 12 working respondents prior to the enrolment as compared to average monthly income currently post project completion which is INR 8,604 among the 74 respondents post the implementation of the project. This shows that the average income has increased by 31% from the prior stage.
- When probed further, **18% of the respondents (out of the total respondents who are involved in any income generating activities post completion of the course**) reported to be earning more **INR 15,000 per month**.

CIPET provided certificates to all trainees who completed the course. The certification is in partnership with/ accredited by **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), Sector Skill authorities and Government of India (Ministry of Skill development).** This has helped to ensure recognition of the skill level, by way of an industry standard certification, increasing the employability and sustainability prospects of the individual thus trained.


CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF PLASTICS ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY
HEAD OFFICE : GUINDY, CHENNAI - 600 032
CENTRE : BHUBANESWAR
CERTIFICATE
This is to certify that
Shri / Smt. / Ms SITANSU SEKHAR SETHI
S/o / D/o / W/o PARAMANANDA SETHI
has successfully completed the Skill Development Training Programme titled
"MACHINE OPERATOR INJECTION MOULDING"
as per NSQF Level 4 in Chemicals & Petrochemicals Sector
Sponsored by RURAL ELECTRIFICATION CORPORATION FOUNDATION, NEW DELHI
Organised at BHUBANESWAR from 08.01.2019 to 16.07.2019
DOI: 16.07.2019 COURSE COORDINATOR TRAINING I/C - VTC CENTRE HEAD

### 3. Change in the standard of living

Through the placements drive from CIPET candidates were placed in various job roles. Where they received employ benefits (like free food, accommodation etc). which help them save money. Beneficiaries reported that their overall standard of living has improved post their placement. **58% reported that they now lead more comfortable lifestyle, while others report that they have access to health care services and quality of food and save money with which they can afford** buying additional consumer goods (Bike, smart phones etc.)

## 16.4.3. IRECS Analysis

Basis the interactions with the key stakeholders and desk review of the documents**, the impact of the project was evaluated on 'IRECS framework'**. The IRECS analysis summary has been presented in below table:

**Table 26: IRECS Analysis of Project 13**

| Parameter | Level of impact | Assessment from study |
|---|---|---|
| **Inclusiveness** | **H** | The project catered towards employability of youth in 20 districts of India. The opportunity was available for the interested candidates regardless of their socio-economic status. The project has reached out to intended beneficiaries irrespective of their caste and gender. |
| **Relevance** | **H** | Employability is one of the major concerns faced by the respondents. Majority of the youth in India lack the technical ability to increase their opportunity of employment. In such a scenario, **the support provided by RECF to provide skill-based training to youth is highly relevant.** It helped them to become more employable. The training Centre also provided support for placements. Hence, was relevant in this context. |
| **Effectiveness** | **H** | Out of 1,000 candidates enrolled, 980 candidates have completed the certification **(total of 98%). Out of 980 certified candidates 805 candidates has been placed (82% out of 980).** Hence, the programme was effective in training the candidates with the necessary skill to be employable as per industry standards |
| **Convergence** | **H** | The project was implemented by CIPET which is a premier govt. of India institute for higher & technical education and research organisations and funded by RECF. It is also accredited with the National Skill Development Corporation. This has helped to ensure recognition of the skill level, by way of an industry standard certification, increasing the employability and sustainability prospects of the individual thus trained. |
| **Sustainability** | **H** | 84% of the respondents are currently involved in income generating activities even after project. **The project has been able to create sustainable impact on the life of majority of beneficiaries.** |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **H:** | **High** | | **M:** | **Medium** | | **L:** | **Low** |

## 16.5. Alignment to the REC Foundation's CSR policy & Schedule VII

The project is in alignment with the Schedule VII of the Companies Act 2013 number (ii) "promoting education, including special education and employment **enhancing vocation skills** especially among children, women, elderly and the differently abled and livelihood enhancement projects". It is also aligned with the thematic areas of RECF's CSR policy i.e., "Promoting education, **skill development and livelihood".**

The project is also aligned with **Sustainable Development Goal: 4- Quality and education and Sustainable Development Goal: 8- Decent work and economic growth.**


## 16.6. Recommendation

The impact assessment study identified a few recommendations for the project which is summarised below:

- As highlighted during the discussions with the beneficiaries, post placement the candidates had to re-learn certain skill as per the current industry process and systems which were not part of the training course for example automation of the systems from the traditional methods. Hence, it is recommended that more the curriculum is updated and aligned as per the current market changes so that the skills are more effectively utilised during execution of their job roles.

## 16.7. Limitation

The following was the limitation observed during study period:

- Interactions with the family members of the candidates were not possible as many of the candidates were working in the city and their families were residing in their respective hometowns.

# 17. Project 14: Installation of 100 nos. of hand pumps and excavation of pond at Bairati temple campus

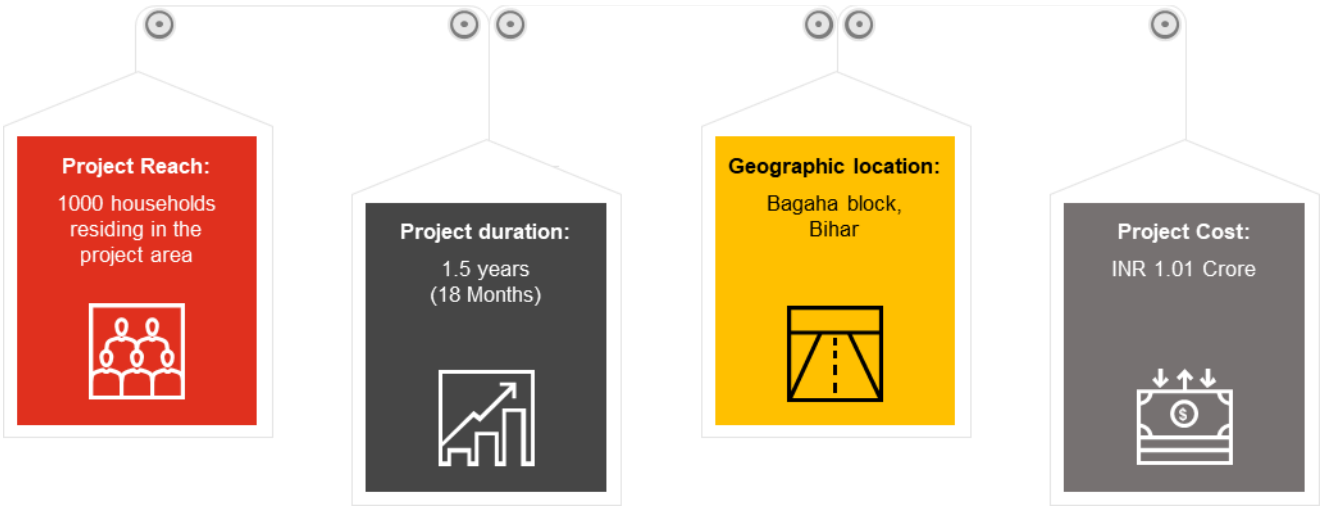
# 17. Project 14: Installation of 100 nos. of hand pumps and excavation of pond at Bairati temple campus

## 17.1. About the Project

RECF funded the project to help the society residing in Bagaha block, Bihar who were facing acute crisis of water in their villages. The project involved "installation of 100 hand pumps and excavation of pond" in rural areas of Bagaha, Bihar. Each hand pump has aimed to benefit more than 10 households around the locations where installation was done. These locations were primarily at public places where more people could access the supply of water from the hand pumps.

During the summer season the water level of the pond near the Bairati temple dries and the community around faces storges of water for the farming and other day to day activities. There was no pre-defined concrete boundary around the pond area. RECF project supported the excavation (including construction of the boundary wall) of the temple pond with an aim to maintain water level of the pond. This project was implemented by Paryavaran Care Society

During the interaction with the REC Patna team who were the internal monitoring team during the implementation of the programme, it was highlighted that the target was to reach 1,000 households (3,000 to 4,000 individual beneficiaries) and help in resolving the water crisis in the area. Following schematic represents the key aspects of project implementation:




As defined in the MoA, the objective of the project was to make available drinking water to the community and maintain the balance of the ecosystem by excavation of the pond. The implementation of the project started in 2018. It had the following components: -

- Installation of 100 hand pumps in Bagaha, Bihar
- Excavation of pond in the Bairati temple campus, Gram Panchayat Bairagi Sonbarsha, P.S Chiwantaha, Bagaha Bihar.

REC Foundation provided a grant of **INR 1.01 Cr. to Paryavaran Care Society** to be utilised during the project period. Total expenditure incurred by Paryavaran Care Society as per utilisation certificate was **INR 65.64 Lakhs** Hence, there has been an **underutilization of INR 35.34 Lakhs** which was returned back to RECF.

## 17.2. About the Implementing partner

Paryavaran Care Society [63] is a charitable society working for the upliftment of rural India. The goal of Paryavaran Care Society is not only to improve the socio-economic condition of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes community but also to work on programmes, services, and advocacy to eliminate deprivation and grounds for discrimination. Paryavaran Care Society took a step forward to provide the facility of drinking water in rural areas of Bihar. They work on some of the crucial aspects of the society like water conservation, soil conservation and to improve socio-economic conditions of the rural people in India.

## 17.3. Method of impact assessment

Impact assessment study of this project was initiated by conducting an inception meeting with the REC Foundation officials. Post the meeting, PwC team prepared the list of requisite documents and shared with REC Foundation. Following documents were received from RECF team for desk review:

- MoA signed between Paryavaran Care Society and RECF
- Baseline report submitted by implementing partner to RECF
- Impact assessment report submitted by implementing partner to RECF
- Fund utilisation certificate

The project was benefiting the local community members, but it was difficult to quantify the number of beneficiaries, hence it was decided in consultation with RECF to conduct the qualitative study for this project. Basis the documents received; PwC team initiated the review of the project documents to develop more understanding about the project. Accordingly, the key stakeholders of project were identified and mapped to capture their opinions and feedback which included the usage of qualitative research tool (focus group discussions) for data collection as mentioned below:

- Discussion with Panchayat Pradhan of the village

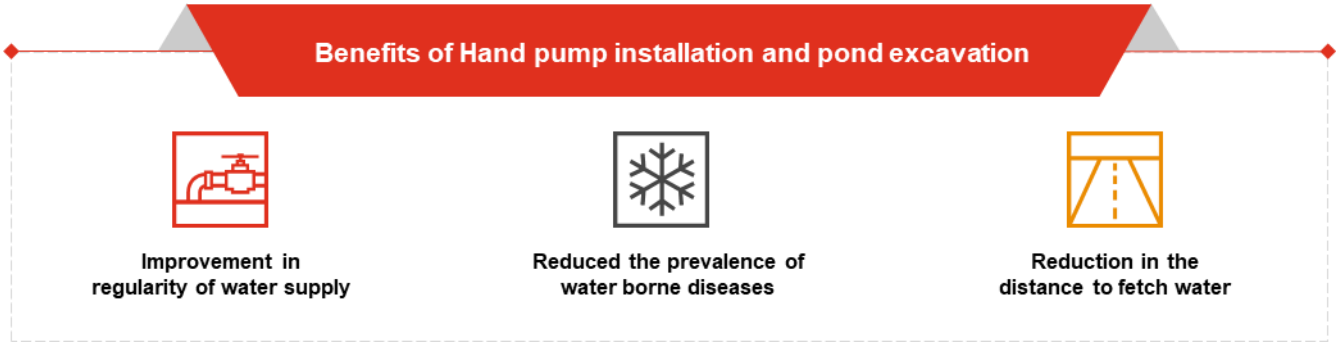
- Focus group discussion with the village community members

[63] Paryavaran Care Society was not operational at the time of our visit. Information of the implementing partner has been taken from the project documents shared by RECF.

## 17.4. Analysis & findings

Basis the interactions with the key stakeholders, following are the key findings:

### 17.4.1. Summary of the impact created




#### 17.4.1.1. Hand pump installation

- **Improvement in regularity of water supply –** The project has culminated in the availability of easy accessibility of water source from the hand pumps installed. The stakeholder interactions revealed that the water being sourced earlier was of poorer quality and required the villagers to manually purify it by boiling or filtering as it had high arsenic counts. This resulted in increased fuel wood and other energy sources for household cooking (like gas, kerosene) and increase in the overall household expenses. This project has enabled easier access to better quality water and led to reduction in monthly expenses.
- **Reduced the prevalence of water borne diseases –** The community members corroborated the fact that health related expenses stemming from water borne diseases had reduced though the degree of reduction could not be empirically established.
- **Reduction in the distance to fetch water –** The project has helped in reducing the average distance travelled to source water for daily domestic needs. The women and children would have to travel nearly 1 km to access water from the pond which was the only water source in the area. Due to the dependency of water on the sole source, routine household activities and children reporting to school use to get delayed. With the increased availability of hand pumps in the vicinity, the time and energy spent in commuting has reduced and community members are able to fulfil other activities more efficiently and timely.

#### 17.4.1.2. Pond excavation

- Establishment of the pond adjoining the temple premises enabled the temple officials to dispense with daily duties associated to the temple in an efficient and orderly manner. Earlier the temple official would have to **travel approximately 1 km** to bring water from the nearest water body.
- The pond also proved **beneficial to farmers** owning land in the region neighbouring the temple which provided water for irrigation. This resulted in overall improvement in crop yield which was corroborated by the community members during the interaction.
- The pond has **improved the natural aesthetics** and has improved the greenery around the fringes as observed during the visit. The pond serves as an important **rainwater harvesting site** and at the same time provides a source of drinking water for birds in the area. The pond also serves as a habitat for fish during the monsoons. However, currently it was observed that owing to scarcity of rains in the region and long dry spells and the pond not being connected to any natural sources it has dried up entirely forcing the community to revert to the earlier situation of dependency on other sources of water.

## 17.4.2. IRECS Analysis

Basis the interactions with the key stakeholders and desk review of the documents, the impact of the project was evaluated on 'IRECS framework'. The IRECS analysis summary has been presented in below table:

**Table 27: IRECS Analysis of Project 14**

| Parameter | Level of impact | Assessment from study |
|---|---|---|
| **Inclusiveness** | **H** | The support provided by RECF in terms of provisioning of hand pumps has benefited all community members irrespective of caste, gender, and socio – economic status. Most of the community members utilising the hand pumps belong to lower strata of society and would normally be unable to afford similar facilities. The pond is situated in the temple complex which is public space with free admission rites. Thus, the pond can be freely accessed by all community members. |
| **Relevance** | **M** | Field interaction with the community members revealed that many of the household had piped water connections under "Jal Jeevan Mission - Har Ghar Jal". However, prior to this project, baseline survey highlighted clean potable water for drinking and other daily needs as a lacking amenity and this has been directly addressed by the support provided by RECF. Currently Household do have alternative water sources like piped water connections.<br>Similarly, availability of a pond near the temple complex has supplemented the availability of water for daily needs. |
| **Effectiveness** | **H** | The availability of water from hand pumps and the temple pond has offset the need for extra commutes by community members to access water, leading to less time and energy. The community members are able to engage in more activities and dispense with their daily duties in a timely and efficient manner. |
| **Convergence** | **L** | There was no involvement from the local government authorities, panchayat, SHGs etc., RECF was the sole funding organisation, and the project was implemented in collaboration with Paryavaran Care Society. |
| **Sustainability** | **L** | With respect to project sustainability, Paryavaran Care Society recommended formulation of a committee during the baseline that would be responsible for the maintenance of the pond. However, during the visit to the project location and interaction with the community it was observed that proper maintenance activities have not been carried out post project implementation.<br>Furthermore, during the interaction with the Panchayat members, it was highlighted that there was no involvement of the Panchayat in the maintenance of the hand pumps, and this was being done by the community members on a collective basis. |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **H:** | **High** | | **M:** | **Medium** | | **L:** | **Low** |

## 17.5. Alignment to the REC Foundation's CSR policy & Schedule VII

The project is in alignment with the Schedule VII of the Companies Act 2013 number (i) **"**Eradicating hunger, poverty and malnutrition, promoting health care including preventive health care and sanitation including contribution to the Swach Bharat Kosh set-up by the Central Government for the promotion of sanitation **and making available safe drinking water"**. It is also aligned with the thematic areas of RECF's CSR policy i.e., **"Safe drinking water".**

The project is also aligned with Sustainable Development Goal: 6- Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.


## 17.6. Recommendations

Based on the field visit and interaction with project stakeholders, the present study also identified a few recommendations summarized below for the project:

- With respect to project sustainability, Paryavaran Care Society recommended formulation of a committee that would be responsible for the maintenance of the pond. However, during the visit to the project location and interaction with the community it was observed that proper maintenance activities have not been carried out and no such functional committees were in place
- Involvement of the panchayat from the initial level is suggested to ensure ownership of the assets.

## 17.7. Limitations

The following was the limitation observed during study period:

- **Unavailability of the project documents and concerned officials:** Since the project finished its implementation in 2019, various project related documents such as project progress report etc. Review of such documents would have helped to assess impact and tracking of the progress. Additionally, Paryavaran Care Society who was the implementing partner for the project was not operational within the project area and hence it was not possible for the field team to have in-depth interviews with the implementing agency.

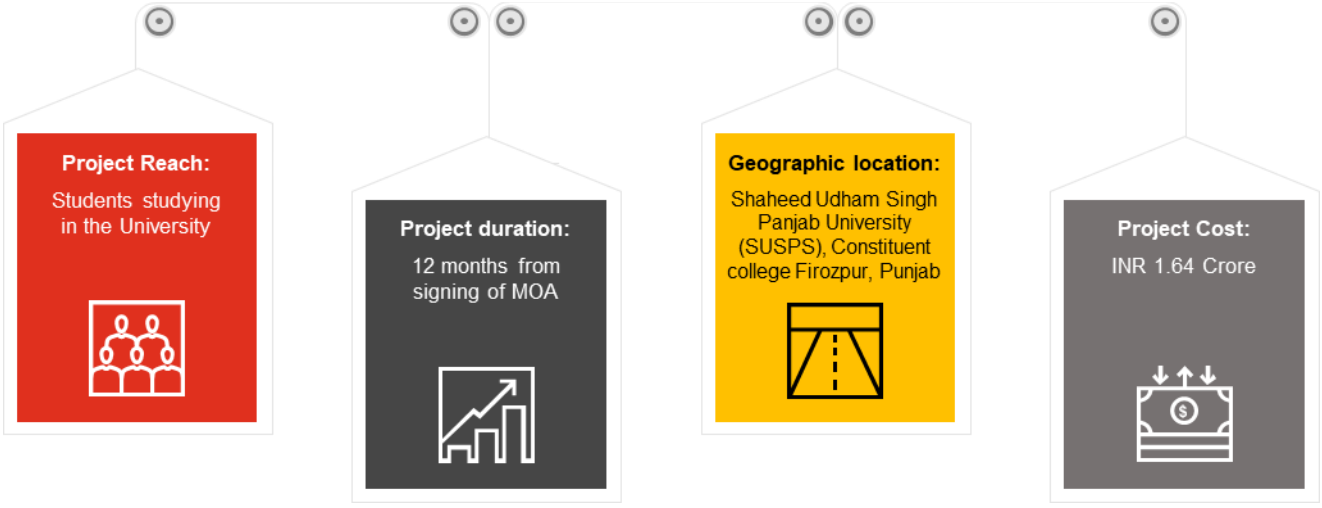
# 18. Project 15: Installation of 283 KWp solar PV system on the roof top of Shaheed Udham Singh Panjab University, Constituent College

# 18. Project 15: Installation of 283 KWp solar PV system on the roof top of Shaheed Udham Singh Panjab University, Constituent College

## 18.1. About the project

Firozpur district in Punjab is an aspirational district[64] and a lesser developed area. The project was initiated with the felt need of erratic power supply which was hampering the smooth execution of day-to-day operations at Shaheed Udham Singh Panjab University. Accordingly, RECF initiated a project on "Installation of 283 KWp solar PV system on roof top of Shaheed Udham Singh Panjab University, Constituent College, Ferozepur, Punjab" with an objective to reduce grid demand of electricity and to reduce the campus carbon footprint and dependency on non-renewable energy sources.

RECF signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with **Shaheed Udham Singh Panjab University (SUSPS)** on 25 March 2019 to implement the project to **install a 283 KWp solar PV system** on the roof tops of Panjab University. Following schematic represents the key aspects of project implementation:




It was noted during the visit that the project also aimed at improving the quality of education by ensuring regular electric supply in computer labs, classrooms with projectors, seminar rooms and libraries through the provision of Solar Panel. The SUSPS took full responsibility for installation, maintenance, and proper running of the system. According to the MOA signed between REC Foundation and SUSPS, the project was to be completed within 12 months of signing the MOA, however due to delay in construction (COVID-19 pandemic), the installation of Solar Panel was completed in early 2021.[65]

REC Foundation provided a grant of **INR 1.64 Cr. to Shaheed Udham Singh Panjab University** to be utilised during the project period. Total expenditure incurred by **Shaheed Udham Singh Panjab University** as per utilisation certificate was **INR 1.75 Cr.** Hence, there has been an **excess expenditure of INR 10.09 Lakhs** which was made by **Shaheed Udham Singh Panjab University** from the general pool of expenditure within the stipulated time.

[64] NITI Aayog, Government of India website (https://www.niti.gov.in/sites/default/files/2019-01/Aspirational_Districts-Overall-Theme-wise-Full-Delta-Ranks_0.pdf) as retrieved on 22 June 2022

[65] MOA signed between RECF and SUSPU

## 18.2. About the Implementing agency

The Shaheed Udham Singh Panjab University Constituent College (SUSPU) caters to the needs of students in educationally backward areas of Punjab and was established to provide these students much needed professional skills, promote value-based education thereby enhancing their lives, while ingraining in them the ideals of social equality, services, discipline, and respect[66]. The college aims to:

- Create a conducive learning environment
- Provide quality education to backward border area of Punjab
- Work for overall development of the students enrolled
- Raise the quality of manpower in the border area'

## 18.3. Method of impact assessment

Impact Assessment study was carried out by PwC to assess the changes that have occurred since the project was implemented. Prior to starting the study, PwC conducted an inception meeting with RECF to get clarity on the project and to understand their requirements. Post the meeting, a list of requisite documents was shared with the RECF's CSR team. Basis the documents received, PwC team started the review of secondary literature and following documents to develop more understanding about the project:

- Signed MOA between RECF and SUSPU
- Detailed engineering report
- Impact assessment report of 283KWp Solar PV Power Project at SUSPU Ferozepur, Punjab by third party
- Form of Utilization Certificate

PwC team developed a structured qualitative methodology for evaluating the project, which included desk review of secondary literature and project documents (as mentioned above) and qualitative methods for capturing stakeholder opinion and feedback (through in–depth interviews). The project was benefiting the local community members, but it was difficult to quantify the number of beneficiaries, **hence it was decided in consultation with RECF to conduct the qualitative study for this project**. PW team visited the college to perform interviews of key stakeholders mentioned below:

- Principal of University
- Campus Project Manager, University
- Solar Technician responsible for maintenance and running of the solar panels and corresponding systems
- Teaching staff and students

[66] SUSPU website (http://puccghs.org/blog/our-college as retrieved on 11th June 2022

## 18.4. Analysis & findings

Basis the interactions with the key stakeholders, following are the key findings:

### 18.4.1. Summary of the impact created

**1. Reduction in grid electricity demand:**

The project was initiated with the goal of reducing grid electricity demand by the university. Basis the interactions with Campus Project Manager, the university is no longer dependent on energy supply from the grid. The requirement of electricity is fulfilled directly from the roof top solar panels installed in the university campus. Furthermore, the university is producing an excess amount of energy as stated by officials from the university. The 283 KWp solar panels is producing around 1,200 – 1,500 units of electricity per day and the current electricity demand of University is one third of total production of electricity. This has reduced the operational and running expenditure of the University due to the no longer being dependent on the grid supply.

**2. Reduction in carbon footprint and dependency on non-renewable energy:**

Prior to installation of the solar plant, the university was dependent on grid supply. However, disruption in grid supply was common, and to run the various facilities (such as computer labs, water RO, conference rooms, seminar halls etc.), portable diesel generators were used. These generators were extremely harmful as it generated toxic emissions such as benzene, arsenic etc. and many others which are harmful to the environment (nitrogen oxide). These generators also contributed to noise pollution in the campus.

Off-grid solar panels installed on campus roof tops

Solar PV systems do not generate noise or chemical pollutants, thereby leading to a significant reduction in harmful emissions as highlighted by the officials from SUSPU. When probed from the campus students and teaching staff, **the local plant life has thrived** post installation of the solar panels. **The disruptions caused due to generator's noise are no longer a problem for students and teachers.** Officials from SUSPU also mentioned that the panels have the potential to impact the environment positively **and reduce carbon emission levels**.

### 3. Improving the quality of education:

The solar panels installed at SUSPU ensure the uninterrupted electricity supply to run several campus facilities. The university campus has **2 RO plants that provide clean and safe drinking water** to university students, teaching staff and admin staff. Other campus facilities as seminar halls and computer labs etc. require the constant supply of electricity. The **computer labs** are another important place for students. Here, the students access the internet to learn new skills, take online practical classes, and make use of the internet as a research facility to further improve knowledge. This lab was only possible post installation of the solar plant, as constant power fluctuations before made it unfeasible to run computer labs. Prior to installation, power fluctuations were common in the university which used to cause disruption in student activities. However, **post installation of the solar panel on campus, power fluctuations have stopped**. Further, the campus had many plaques and boards depicting REC contribution and involvement in installation of the solar plant. The Shaheed Udham Singh Panjab University website also provides a description on the solar project with REC involvement clearly depicted.

REC plaque on college roof top

## 18.4.2. IRECS Analysis

Basis the interactions with the key stakeholders and desk review of the documents, the impact of the project was evaluated on 'IRECS framework'. Summary has been presented in below table:

**Table 28: IRECS Analysis of Project 15**

| Parameter | Level of impact | Assessment from study |
|---|---|---|
| **Inclusiveness** | **H** | The support provided reaches **out to all the intended beneficiaries irrespective of caste and gender**. The project is **directly benefiting the college staff and students** by ensuring the uninterrupted power supply which has allowed them to avail the campus facilities that are powered by solar panels (RO, conference/seminar halls, admin offices, and computer labs)**.** |
| **Relevance** | **H** | Uninterrupted power supply to run the various campus facilities was a felt need among college students and staff during the qualitative interactions and **the support provided by RECF has helped to a great extent in addressing the challenges**. **The project is aligned to the CSR policy of REC and has been able to gather positive feedback from the targeted beneficiaries. Hence, it is relevant in such context.** |
| **Effectiveness** | **H** | The regular availability of electricity and lighting at the campus and the residential facilities provide security from anti-social activities. The project is meeting the current campus demand of power to run the various campus facilities such as RO plant, conference/seminar halls, computer labs, admin offices, and classrooms. |

| Parameter | Level of impact | Assessment from study |
|---|---|---|
| **Convergence** | **H** | The 283 KWp solar panels is producing around 1200 – 1500 units of electricity per day and the current electricity demand of University is one third of total production of electricity. **The unutilized power is supplied to the State Government free of cost by the University.** |
| **Sustainability** | **M** | The college has been conducting regular maintenance of the solar panels. Maintenance of the panels is being handled by the third party appointed by the university through the funding support of RECF for a period of five years. However, **there is no defined strategy in place for operation and maintenance of solar panels once the maintenance agency exits from the project.** |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **H:** | **High** | | **M:** | **Medium** | | **L:** | **Low** |

## 18.5. Alignment to the REC Foundation's CSR policy & Schedule VII

The project is in alignment with activity (iv) "**Ensuring environmental sustainability,** ecological balance, protection of flora and fauna, animal welfare, agroforestry, conservation of natural resources and maintaining quality of soil, air and water including contribution to the Clean Ganga Fund set-up by the Central Government for rejuvenation of river Ganga**."** Which is prescribed under the Schedule VII of the Companies Act 2013. It is also aligned with REC Foundations CSR policy. thematic area **"Environmental sustainability".**

The project is also aligned with Sustainable Development Goal: 7 - Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all.


## 18.6. Recommendation

As per the MOA, the study was executed as per agreed timelines, however the study also identified recommendation which is mentioned below:

- **Developing a sustainability plan:** Currently, the maintenance of the solar panel is being done through third party appointed by the university through the funding support of RECF for a period of five years. However, **there is no defined strategy in place for operation and maintenance of solar panels once the maintenance agency exits from the project.** Hence, it is required to develop a sustainability plan to ensure the functioning and maintenance of the solar panel at the campus.

## 18.7. Limitation

The following was the limitation observed during study period:

- **Unavailability of the project documents:** Need assessment study report and other relevant documents were not available for review. Such reports would have helped to understand the carbon level footprint in the district before the intervention as well as it would have helped to assess impact and tracking of the progress.

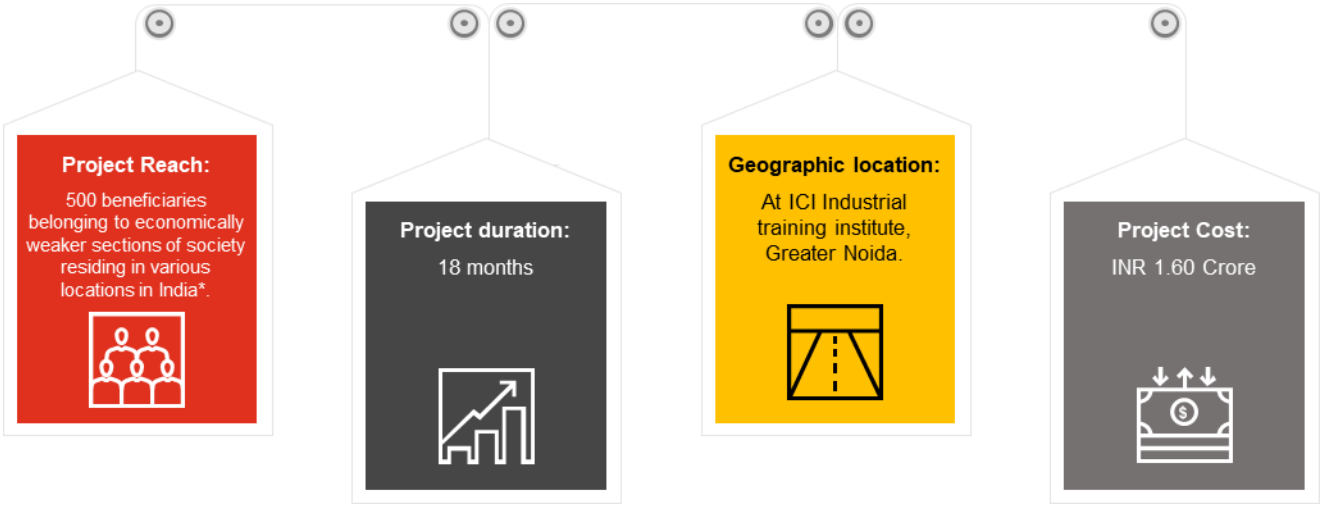
# 19. Project 16: Job oriented skill development training (residential) to 500 nos. of beneficiaries belonging to economically weaker sections of the society

# 19. Project 16: Job oriented skill development training (residential) to 500 nos. of beneficiaries belonging to economically weaker sections of the society

## 19.1. About the project

The project **Job oriented skill development training (residential) to 500 nos. of beneficiaries belonging to economically weaker sections of the society** was initiated by RECF in alignment to its CSR policy. To implement this project, Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) was signed between **RECF** and **International Computer Institute (ICI)** on 3 May 2019. The project was implemented with the objective of creating gainful employment for youth belonging to economically weaker section with industry partners and meeting the skill requirement of related industry. Further, the project was based on the **following premise**:

**Figure 87: Project implementation details**




Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Udham Singh Nagar-(Uttarakhand), Muzaffarpur – (Bihar) and other nearby states were selected as project sites basis of baseline survey conducted by ICI prior to project implementation. It was found through the baseline survey that to uplift the socio-economic status of people, their employability skills needed improvement. There was high demand of formal training and while considering the reasons of drop out from previous trainings, the curriculum needed change and therefore, backhoe loader operator (JCB training), electrician domestic solution, inventory clerk & hospitality for clerks were high in demand and were selected as courses to be included in the training curriculum/project.

Based on the MoA, the skill development training was done in 2 phases, i.e., a total of 250 beneficiaries were to be trained in phase 1 and remaining in phase 2. However, based on interaction with officials from International Computer Institute (ICI, Noida) while a total of 250 were trained in phase 1, phase 2 trained 200 candidates due to drop out of 50 candidates who were initially enrolled. The project was underway, and ICI was unable to enrol more candidates to take their place. This information was conveyed to RECF by ICI. The training programme for all courses was for six months. The beneficiaries attended the training at ICI campus

The trade selected (based on baseline study report), and distribution according to trade skills selected was to be done is as follows[67]:

[67] Impact assessment report as submitted to RECF from ICI, Noida

**Table 29: Trade skill and trainee nos.**

| S. No. | Trade | Trainee no. |
|---|---|---|
| **1.** | Electrician Domestic Solutions | 63 |
| **2.** | Consumer Energy Meter Technician | 72 |
| **3.** | Pipe Fitter | 72 |
| **4.** | Inventory clerk | 54 |
| **5.** | Backhoe Loader operator (JCB) training | 162 |
| **6.** | Others (Stitching, computer application) | 27 |

REC Foundation provided a grant of **INR 1.60 Cr. to ICI Noida** to be utilised during the project period. Total expenditure incurred by ICI Noida as per utilisation certificate was **INR 1.60 Cr.** Hence, the disbursed amount was fully utilized by ICI, Noida during the course of the project.

## 19.2. About the Implementing agency

ICI Industrial Training Institute, working under the aegis of International Computer Institute, is a government affiliated I.T.I that was founded in 2000 at Greater Noida. The institute has its own buildings located in the Greater Noida district. With over three decades of experience in executing skill development projects for rural India with central & state ministries, public sector units and private organisations, ICI is highly recognized for its quality training, industrial linkages, and meeting time-bound objectives. Now, in its 16th successful year, the institute has risen to the status of one the most reputed I.T.I. of the state with an intake capacity of 292 seats.

It is also registered as a Vocational Training Provider (VTP) for conducting Modular Employable Skill (MES). With 4 sectors of Modular Employable Skill (MES) viz. Electrical, Information & Communication Technology, Construction & Beauty Culture under Skill Development Initiative Scheme (SDIS), ICI has trained more than 450 students.[68]

## 19.3. Method of impact assessment

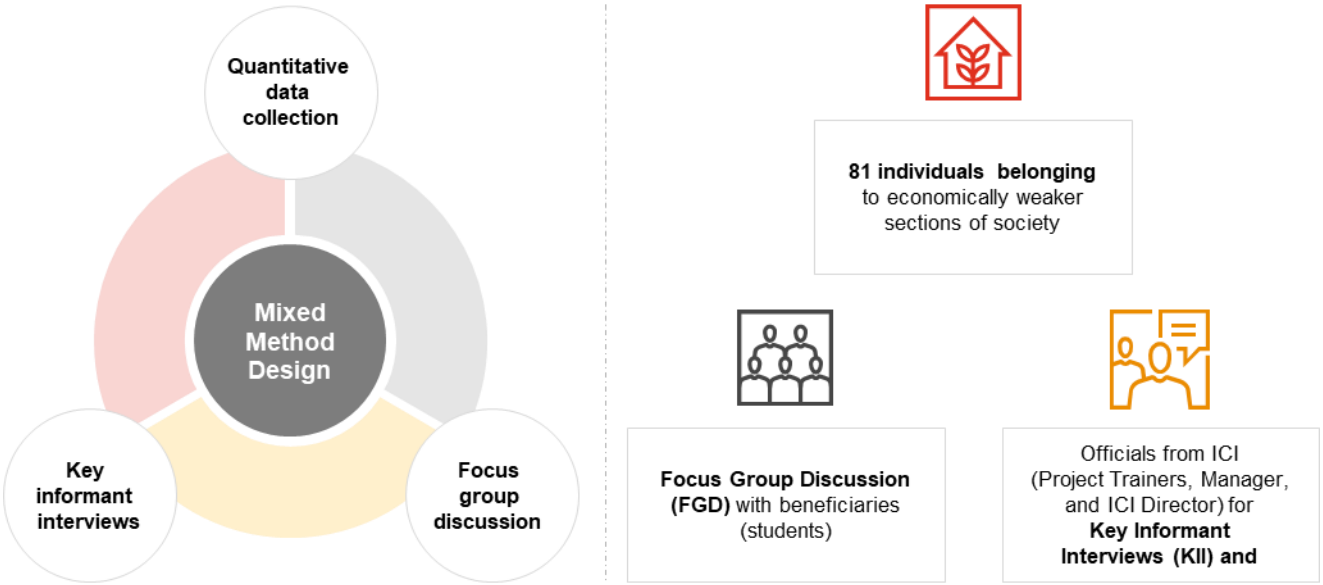
Impact Assessment study was carried out by PwC to assess the changes that have occurred since the project was implemented. Prior to initiating the study, PwC **conducted an inception meeting** with RECF to get clarity on the project and to understand their requirements. Post the meeting, a list of requisite documents was shared with the RECF's CSR team. Basis the documents received; PwC team started the review of the following documents to develop more understanding about the project:

- Signed MOA between RECF and ICI, Noida
- Baseline survey report for job-oriented skill development training submitted by ICI, Noida to RECF
- Impact study on Job oriented skill development training submitted by ICI, Noida to RECF
- Utilization Certificate

Post review of the documents, the **key stakeholders of project were identified and mapped** to capture their opinion and feedback and a **mixed method research design** was adopted for the study as presented below:

[68] ICI Noida website - http://iciiti.org/ - retrieved on 29th June 2022

**Figure 88: Mixed methodology design**




A plan was developed for **virtual interactions with the key stakeholders identified.** Selection of **81 beneficiaries** was done by **simple random sampling technique** wherein respondents belonging to economically weaker sections of society from **Uttar Pradesh**, **Haryana**, Udham Singh Nagar, **Uttarakhand**, Muzaffarpur, **Bihar** and other nearby states were randomly chosen for interview. Additionally, the sample was proportionately distributed among different trade skills opted by beneficiaries. Final sample included those individuals who were available for interview. Sample was calculated at a **confidence interval of 95% and 10% margin of error.**

Data was collected from community through **Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) tool.** Key Informant Interview (KII) questionnaires were developed for stakeholders (Project manager, ICI director, Project trainers -2) involved in planning and implementation of the project. Similarly, focus group discussion was held with beneficiaries of the project.

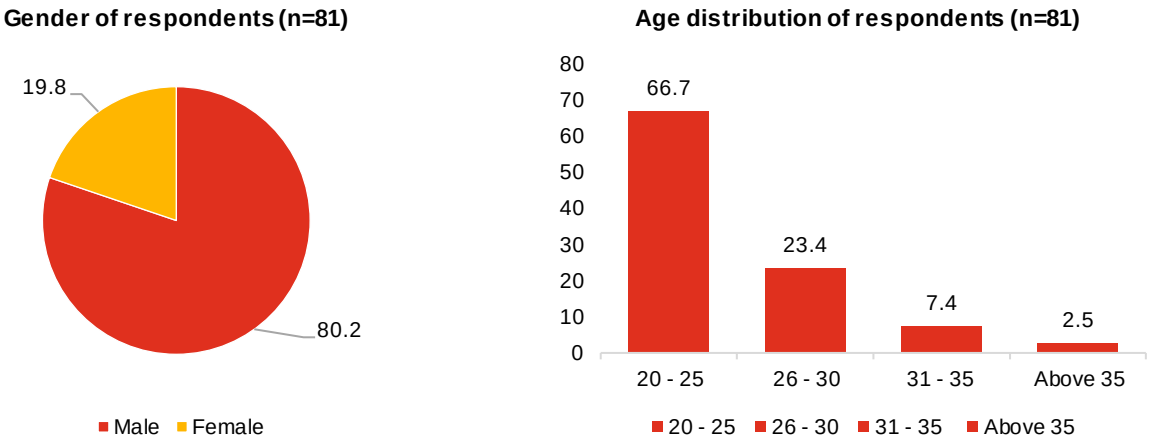
A pilot testing was conducted by the PwC team to ascertain the viability of the research tools, post which, the research tools were modified according to the changes documented. The tools were then **translated into local language (Hindi)** for the data collection team and subsequently **training of the survey team** was also conducted. **A list of Do's and Don'ts** was also ingrained in them to factor in local contexts.

# 19.4. Analysis & findings

Summary of the key findings is presented below:

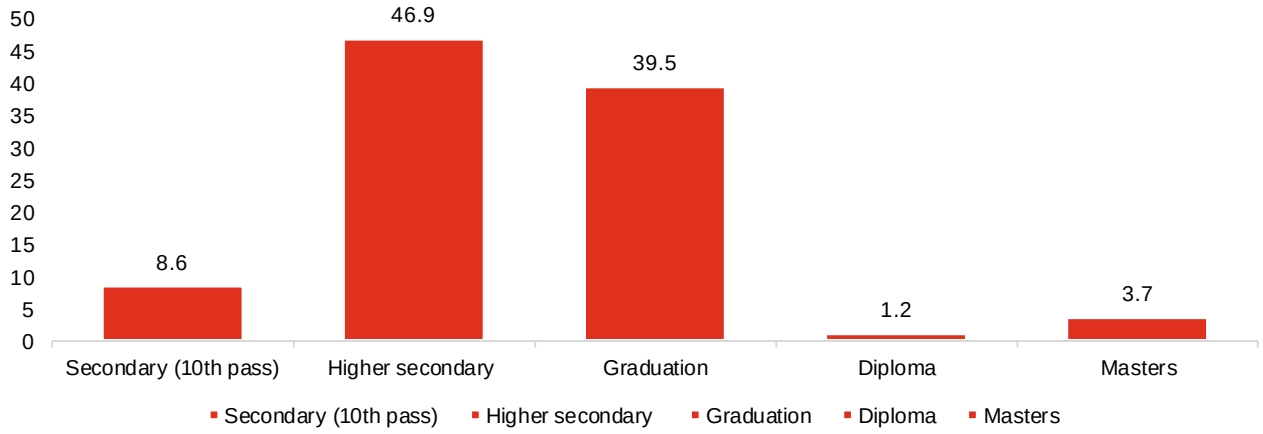
## 19.4.1. Profile of the respondent beneficiaries:

**Figure 89: Socio-Demographic profile of respondents**




A total of 81 beneficiaries were interviewed to understand the impact of intervention. As depicted in the socio-demographic profile of respondents, **19.8% of the respondents** were female whereas **80.2% of the respondents** were male. **66.7% of the respondents** were between the **age-group of 20-25 years**. **46.9% of the respondent's** highest education qualification was reported to be class 12 followed by **39.5% graduate students.**

**Figure 90: Respondents highest level of education (n=81)**

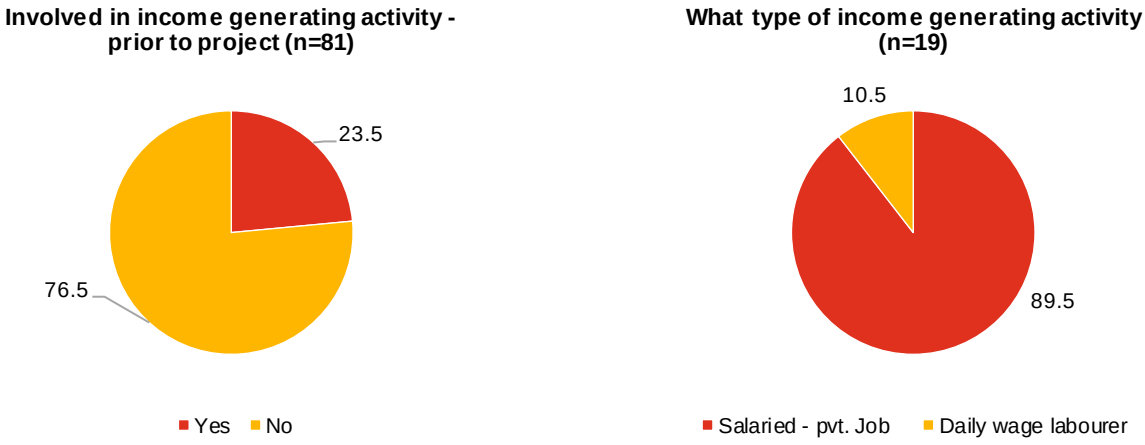



**37%** of respondents belonged to Other Backward Classes (OBC). ICI Noida reached out to beneficiaries from various states for enrolling in the training course at their centre in Noida. It was reported that **67.9%** of the respondents were from Uttar Pradesh, the rest being enrolled from their home states of Bihar, Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Uttarakhand.

## 19.4.2. Pre-intervention scenario:

**76.5% of respondents reported** that they **were not involved in any income generating** activities prior to project implementation. 19 respondents who were involved in income generating activities reported working in a private job or as a daily wage worker.

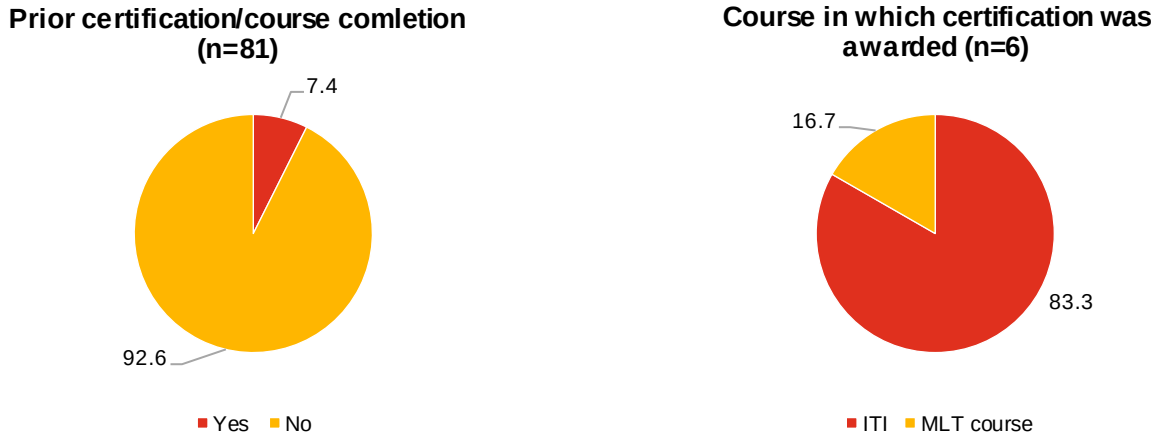
**Figure 91: Income generating activity (n=81)**




**The mean monthly income of the 19 respondents was reported as INR 11,894/- prior to project implementation.**

**93.8%** of respondents reported that they heard about the project from friends/family or students who were previously enrolled in similar training courses. **100% of beneficiaries joined the course because it was free of cost. 30.8% of respondents** reported reason for enrolling in the project as the courses were accredited by the National Skill Development Centre (NSDC). **54.3%** of the respondents reported that they did not undergo any pre-joining counselling prior to enrolment in the project. Respondents were enquired on any prior certification/similar course completed before enrolling in this project, it was reported by 92.6% of respondents that they were not involved in prior course or related training. The beneficiaries who reported as having prior certification from other Industrial training Institutes (ITI), completed courses in different trade skills and wanted to learn new skills to improve their employment opportunities/revenue streams as informed by ICI officials.

**Figure 92: Prior certification in similar course (n=81)**



## 19.4.3. Summary of impact created:

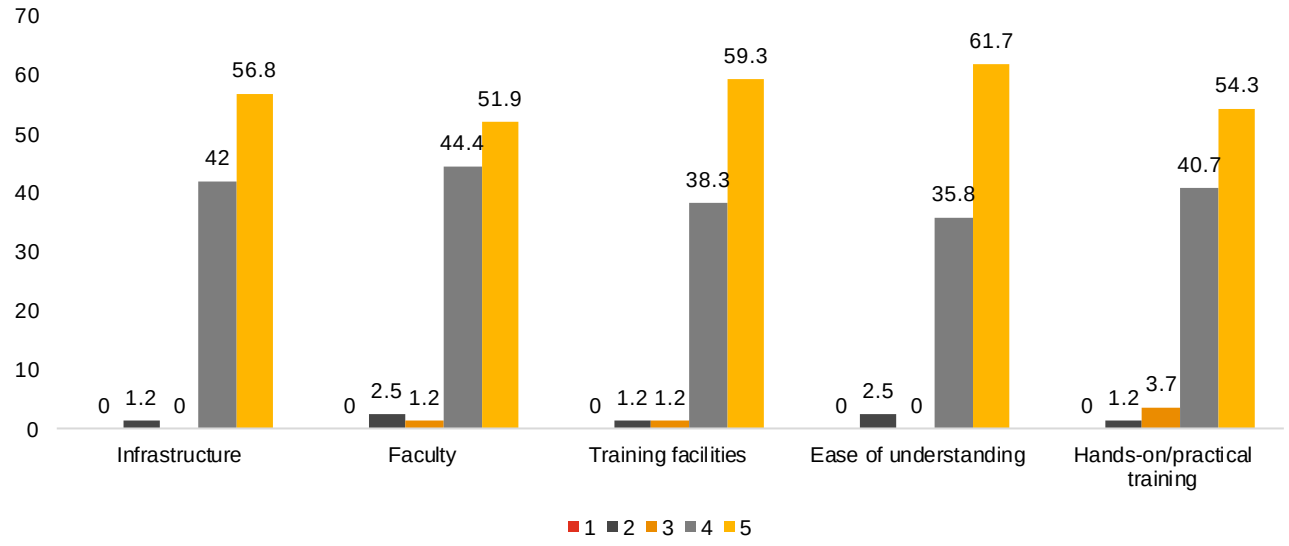
### 1. Training and assessments

As part of the course, beneficiaries were to receive training in soft skills, hands-on training via industry visits and talk by industry experts. **71.6% beneficiaries** reported that soft skill training sessions were conducted on a regular basis. The training sessions also included an aspect of industry visits to give the beneficiaries hands-on experience in their chosen trade skill. To further augment the learning experience, talks/ lectures were conducted with experts in the field/trade, and **61.7%** of respondents reported that these "expert talks/lectures". were conducted regularly during the course of training.

Overall, respondents were satisfied with different aspects of the training module. The training was imparted by quality trainers and provided adequate teaching material and classroom infrastructure including practical exposure. When asked about their level of satisfaction with the training provided, the trainees gave high ratings on various aspects of the programme **(on a scale of 1-low to 5-High)** As observed, **the respondents on average rated all 5 aspects of the training as a 4 or a 5**.

During focus group discussion with beneficiaries, it was noted that respondents were satisfied with the above aspects of training. The respondents were timid when they first started the training courses and officials conducted classes on behavioural science and confidence building session. These sessions (included as part of training) led to an overall improvement in behaviour, confidence, dressing sense, peer interactions. It also led to the beneficiaries becoming more cautious about responsibilities towards their families. On interacting with the ICI Director, it was reported that these sessions were invaluable as they proved to improve the beneficiaries learning and retention skills throughout the project duration.

**Figure 93: Rating of training aspects in project (n=81)**



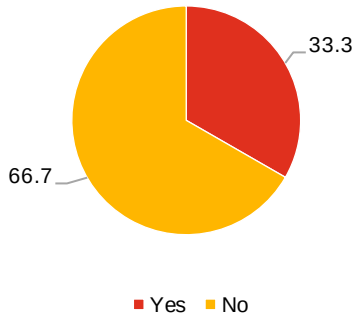
## 2. Placement and income generation

All the beneficiaries were provided placement support in the form of, information about job options (87.6%), connecting to a particular employer (43.2%), Sharing job opportunity details (74%) or through organisation of placement drives at the institute (32.1%).

78.4% of beneficiaries trained in were placed in a job post training as per data shared by RECF[69] As reported by 81 respondents, 33.3% were provided job placements who are currently in the job.

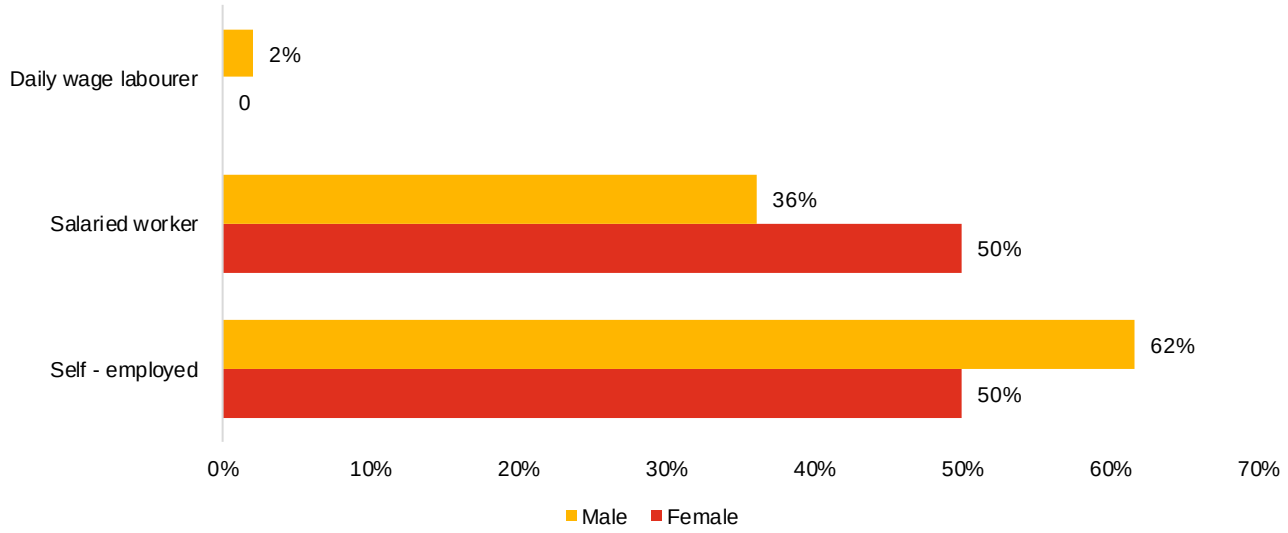
The monthly average income of those who received placements was reported as **INR 11,259/-** as reported by the respondents during the study.

**Figure 94: Beneficiaries who are currently in a job (n=81)**




Based on interactions with teachers (JCB and Pipe fitter instructors) and project manager, a majority of respondents who were not placed in a job are now self-employed or are generating income from other avenues. It was also noted that out of the 50 women who enrolled in the training of inventory clerk course were usually placed at retail shops like Big Bazaar etc. However, a majority of them had to quit due to family pressure for marriage. they dropped out of contact, 34 are now married and are not in contact with the institute. Out of the 16 women who participated in this study, a majority **(75%) are currently involved in some income generating activity. 72.3% of men** who participated in this study are currently involved in some income generating activity. The below graph shows the income generating activity that respondents are currently involved in.

**Figure 95: Current income generating activity (n=59)**




The mean monthly income for the 59 (72.8%) respondents was reported as **INR 12,671/-**. In comparison the mean monthly wages for 19 respondents who were involved in income generating activities prior to enrolment was **INR 11,894/-**. However, the number of earning (from job and self-employment) individuals has **increased pre project implementation to post project completion (19 to 59).**

[69] Impact assessment report as submitted to RECF by ICI, Noida

### 3. Standard of living, post project completion:

Beneficiaries reported that their overall standard of living has improved post completion of the project. The training received has enabled them to generate income which they use to better their daily lives. 66.7% reported that they now lead more comfortable lives, while others report that they have access to better quality of food, better health care, and the ability to pay for child's education. The training and additional income has provided them with the means to buy consumer goods (TV, Refrigerator, smart phones etc.) that they were unable to buy previously (prior to training).

**Figure 96: Certificate provided by ICI post project completion**


ICI Noida provided certificates to all trainees who completed the course as noted during the discussions with the official of ICI Noida. The certification is in partnership with/ accredited by **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), Sector Skill authorities and Government of India (Ministry of Skill development).**

## 19.4.4. IRECS Analysis:

Basis the interactions with the key stakeholders and desk review of the documents**, the impact of the project was evaluated on 'IRECS framework'**. The IRECS analysis summary has been presented in below table:

**Table 30: IRECS Analysis of Project 16**

| Parameter | Level of impact | Assessment from study |
|---|---|---|
| **Inclusiveness** | **H** | The project was targeted towards creating gainful employment for youth belonging to economically weaker sections of society in various states of India. The enrolment under the training programmes was open for all and training centre accepted youth regardless of their socio-economic status. **The project reached out to intended beneficiaries irrespective of their caste and gender.** |
| **Relevance** | **H** | Beneficiaries belong to socio-economically weaker sections of society. Based on baseline survey conducted by ICI, Noida there was a high demand of the courses included in the programme and skill upgradation was required for the same. Focus group discussion with beneficiaries suggested that initially they were timid, lacked confidence and did not have the required skills to seek employment. The training led to behavioural improvement and increased confidence in oneself. The beneficiaries were more conscious about career paths and also responsibilities towards family members.<br>Overall, the training improved their employability and provided support for placements. Therefore, **the support provided by RECF to provide skill-based training to beneficiaries from socio-economical weaker societies is highly relevant.** |
| **Effectiveness** | **H** | The primary objective of the project was to increase employability of the beneficiaries with industry partners and 33.3% were provided job placements who are currently in the job. Post completion of the course, 72.8% of the candidates were involved in some income generating activities. |

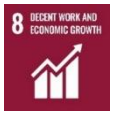
| Parameter | Level of impact | Assessment from study |
|---|---|---|
| | | The training has helped the beneficiaries gain employment in the nearby industries as well as supported the students to start their own business (electrician services, garment shop etc.).<br>The project reach to women beneficiaries was limited, out of the total 450 beneficiaries only 11.12% (50) were women trainees. The types of courses offered by such projects need to be reviewed to encourage female participants to join the programme. |
| **Convergence** | **H** | Skill based training was provided by ICI through the funding support of RECF. ICI also tied up with **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), Sector Skill Authorities and Government of India (Ministry of Skill development) to provide certification to** the trainees. Trainers were also brought in from nearby industries like JCB experts.<br>Additionally, ICI Noida partnered with other industrial skill training centres located at the various project sites to reach out to beneficiaries who might be interested in joining course. |
| **Sustainability** | **H** | Continuity of this project is entirely dependent on availability of funds which was provided by RECF. However, the impact created by this project is sustainable in nature as it provided beneficiaries the necessary skills to be employed even after project completion 72.8% are currently involved in income generating activities. The project has also improved the beneficiary's standard of living (66.7%) as reported by respondents. |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **H:** | **High** | | **M:** | **Medium** | | **L:** | **Low** |

## 19.5. Alignment to the REC Foundation's CSR policy & Schedule VII

The project is in alignment with the Schedule VII of the Companies Act 2013 number (ii) "Promoting education including special education and **employment enhancing vocation skills**, especially among children, women, elderly and differently-abled and livelihood enhancement projects;". It is also aligned with the thematic areas of RECF's CSR policy i.e., **"Skill development & livelihood".**

The project is also aligned with Sustainable Development Goal: 8 - Promote sustain, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all.




## 19.6. Recommendations

The impact assessment study identified a few recommendations for the project which is summarised below:

- **There should be active involvement of the industry representatives:** It was reported that JCB representative were actively involved in training activities, but no other industry representatives were reported to be involved in the project. For the project to be more effective in ensuring placements and exposure to industries, it is recommended that more diverse industry representatives are also included as part of the training w.r.t. placement drives, exposure visits.
- **Female participation in training and enhance women empowerment:** As reported only 11% of the total beneficiaries enrolled in the project were women. It is recommended that the types of courses offered by such projects need to be reviewed to encourage female participants to join the programme.

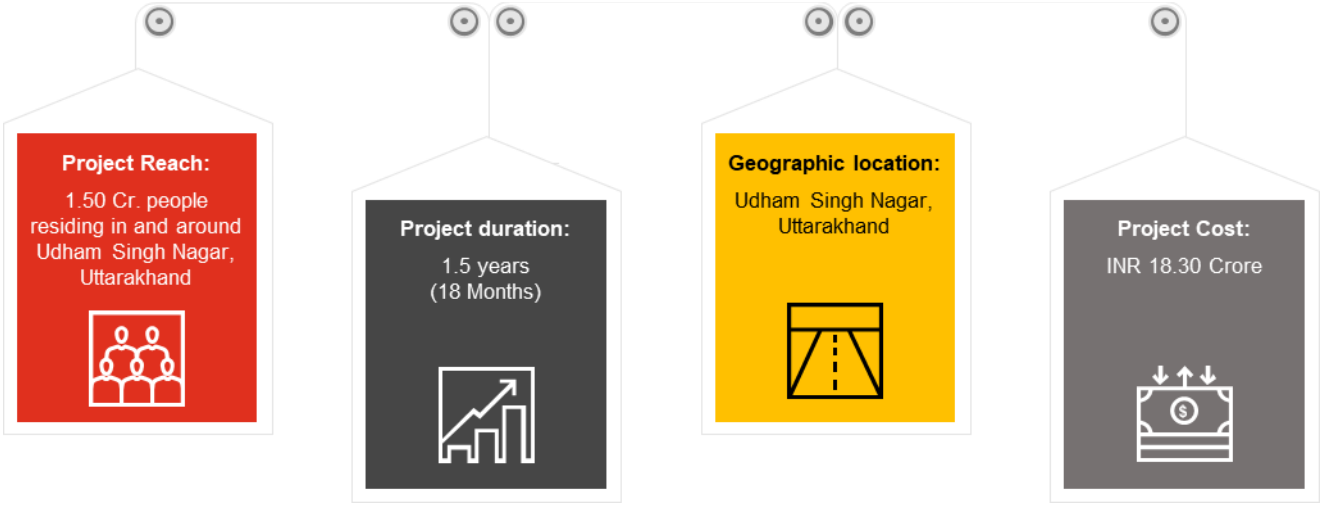
# 20. Project 17: Infrastructure development of Pandit Ram Sumer Shukla Smriti Govt. Medical College, Rudrapur, Udham Singh Nagar

# 20. Project 17: Infrastructure development of Pandit Ram Sumer Shukla Smriti Govt. Medical College, Rudrapur, Udham Singh Nagar

## 20.1. About the project

As per the programme anchored by NITI Aayog on Aspirational District which intends to turn development into a mass movement in some of the most backward districts of the country, Udham Singh Nagar was identified as one such priority district by RECF for their CSR project. During the interaction with the medical officials, it was reported that the district did not have a medical college earlier and the existing district hospital could not cater to the medical needs of the community in the region. A project to build district medical college was announced by the Government in 2004 and work started in 2005. However, due to lack of funds, the project had come to a halt by 2012.[70] The patients from the district had to travel to access medical facility in Haldwani, Bareilly, Lucknow, and Delhi.

In January 2020 RECF signed an agreement with the district administration to support construction of district medical college. RECF has provided its financial contribution as a part funding to DM Udham Singh Nagar in January of 2020 for the construction of the medical college. Following schematic represents the key aspects of project implementation:




The project's main objective was to provide better health services for people in Uttarakhand through infrastructure development of Pandit Ram Sumer Shukla Smriti Govt. Medical College in Udham Singh Nagar. The project support had the following two components

- Complete construction of building- (pathology lab & blood bank, OPD block, radiology, OPD reparatory & skin diseases, central hospital store, toilet block for OPD & connecting corridor, connecting corridor of block, earth filling due to low lining, CC road, water supply pipeline, septic tank & soak pit tank, external electrification LED streetlight, two main gate of campus, one main gate & one small gate, RCC culverts, and ICCU & ICU block)
- Provisioning of essential services, transformer (1,500 KVA) & transmission line, air conditioning for building, incinerator & gas supply unit, external armoured cable from transformer to main panel & sub panel.

[70] News article (https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/dehradun/nine-years-on-rudrapur-med-college-still-underway/articleshow/44911385.cms) Data retrieved on 06 June 2022

The project was implemented by the district administration which undertook maintenance of the facility post completion of the project. The role of RECF was to support the project financially under its CSR programme. The support helped make the hospital operational after the halt of the project within a period of six months.

REC Foundation provided a grant of **INR 18.30 Cr. to District Magistrate (DM) Udham Singh Nagar** to be utilised during the project period. Total expenditure incurred by **District Magistrate (DM) Udham Singh Nagar** as per utilisation certificate was **INR 16.35 Cr.** Hence, there has been an **underutilization of INR 1.95 Cr.** which was returned back to **RECF**.

## 20.2. About the Implementing partner

**The District Magistrate (DM) Udham Singh Nagar** is the foremost officer in charge responsible for the implementation of urban development, housing construction, and providing social infrastructural facilities project. The MoA was signed between DM Udham Singh Nagar and RECF.

The project's construction and design were done by Uttar Pradesh Jal Nigam (Municipal Corporation), which is a local governing body that works for providing necessary community services like health centres, educational institutes, and housing. The project was monitored and implemented by District Magistrate, Udham Singh Nagar.

## 20.3. Method of impact assessment

Impact assessment study of this project was initiated by conducting an inception meeting with the RECF officials. Post the meeting, PwC team prepared the list of requisite documents and shared with RECF. Following documents were received from REC Foundation team for desk review:

- MoA signed between District Magistrate Udham Singh Nagar and RECF
- Project completion report submitted by District Magistrate Udham Singh Nagar
- Impact assessment report submitted by the implementation partner to RECF
- Utilisation certificate

The project was benefiting the local community members, but it was difficult to quantify the number of beneficiaries, hence it was decided in consultation with RECF to conduct the qualitative study for this project. PwC team worked on development of a structured qualitative methodology for evaluating the project, which included desk review of the project documents (as mentioned above) and qualitative methods for capturing stakeholder opinion and feedback (through in–depth interviews). The following key stakeholders were mapped to capture the opinion and feedback.

- Office of Chief Medical Officer, Rudrapur (Chief Medical Officer and Assistant Chief Medical Officer)

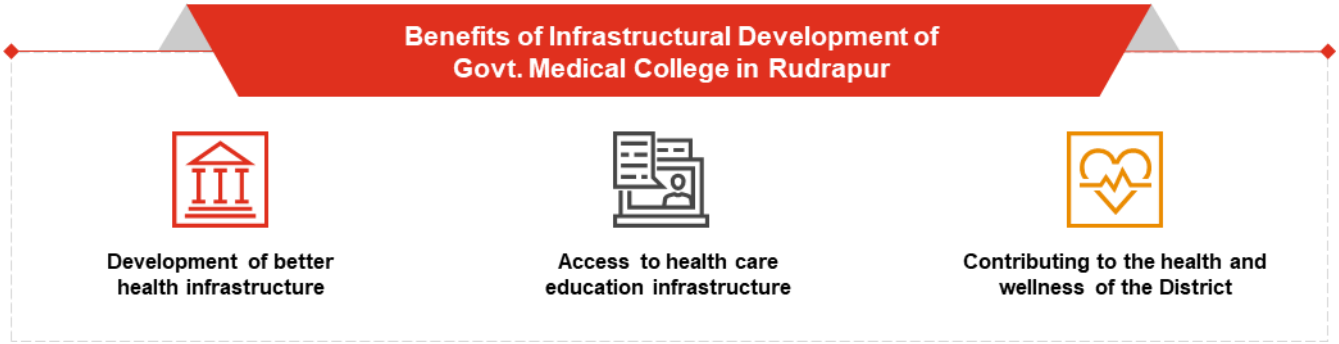
- Interactions with Doctors, Nurses and district hospital management

## 20.4. Analysis & findings

Basis the interactions with the key stakeholders, following are the key findings:

### 20.4.1. Summary of the impact created

Basis the interactions with the key stakeholders, following are the key findings as perceived during the evaluation of this CSR project:




**1. Development of better health infrastructure –**

- Udham Singh Nagar, despite being an aspirational district had only one district hospital which was insufficient to cater to the medical needs of the community. The construction of the Govt. Medical College aimed to resolve the challenge of availability and accessibility of quality health care infrastructure. Initially the construction was planned in 2004 and commenced in 2005. However, the construction work could not be completed even till 2012 which led to the project being put on hold. After the support provided by RECF through their CSR initiative the project recommenced and was completed within a span of 6 months. Project management inputs from RECF helped operationalisation of the medical college.
- The new 300 bedded government medical college (including a 36 bed ICU ward) has improved health care service delivery in the area during the initial phase of COVID-19. The interaction with the stakeholders revealed that the facility was being used as a COVID-19 hospital since November 2020 during the pandemic period. This helped the community to avail healthcare services for covid in the district. As mentioned by the hospital administration approx. 3,800 patients were treated during the pandemic.
- As per the MoA requirement, the support was provided for infrastructure development of Pandit Ram Sumer Shukla Smriti Govt. Medical College, Rudrapur' Udham Singh Nagar, Uttarakhand.

**2. Access to health care education infrastructure –**

- The existing district hospital in Udham Singh Nagar had limited seats for medical and other health care related courses, hence students aspiring to pursue a career in medical science or health care would have to travel to other states for the higher education in this field. Moreover, facilities like laboratories were not equipped adequately to fully cater to the needs of the medical aspirants thereby leading to a drop in the number of enrolments in the district hospital. The academic wing of the medical college is yet to be operational for student enrolment.
- The recently established government medical college would improve the situation by providing better infrastructure and increased capacity to accommodate a larger number of medical students. In the long term the medical college has the potential to develop into a centre of excellence in the area providing motivation and opportunity to pursue careers in the medical field and create community of indigenous medical practitioners uplifting the standards of health and nutrition in the district.

### 3. Contributing to the health and wellness of the District –

- The improved infrastructure facilities provided by the new medical college has **helped to manage the COVID-19 situation** in the district with the help of the district hospital staff as currently there is no staff employed in the medical college.
- The increased capacity of the new facility to **treat and accommodate a greater number of patients** ensures the timely administration of the medical treatment. The interaction with the district hospital medical staff who were deputed to the new medical college during the pandemic revealed that in the absence of the new facility, procedures like RT-PCR test would be delayed due to long waiting times. Increased capacity has enabled the treatment of increased number of patients. The expedited medical test and procedures had also led to **early diagnosis and treatment of the patients** as highlighted by the hospital administration.
- Though the operationalisation of the hospital and its facility has been used during the initial phase of COVID-19, but the full functionality of the hospital aims to cater to both the community in need of healthcare and the medical and academic aspirants in the district.

## 20.4.2. IRECS Analysis

Basis the interactions with the key stakeholders and desk review of the documents, the impact of the project was evaluated using the 'IRECS framework'. The IRECS analysis summary has been presented in below table:

**Table 31: IRECS Analysis of Project 17**

| Parameter | Level of impact | Assessment from study |
|---|---|---|
| **Inclusiveness** | **H** | The existing district hospital did not have the capacity to handle the influx of COVID -19 cases during the pandemic despite the addition of an isolation ward. The additional infrastructure in the new medical college has enhanced the capacity to handle increased patient inflow and case complexity. Furthermore, the medical college catered to the needs of the individuals belonging from various socio-economic strata during the COVID times.<br>The newly established medical college will also aspire to cater to the educational aspirations of students from the entire district. |
| **Relevance** | **M** | Existing health care facilities in the district lacked infrastructure such as ICU beds, ventilation units, oxygen units and vacuum systems required to support patients during the pandemic. The support extended by RECF was appropriately timed and helped management of COVID cases during the pandemic However, healthcare services are yet to be operationalised, where the community and aspiring doctors can avail all the services. |
| **Effectiveness** | **M** | Planning and execution of the infrastructure development for the medical college had started in 2005 but operations were suspended in 2012 due to the lack of funds. Funding support extended by RECF expedited the process and enabled the project to be completed within a further six months. The completed facility was utilised by the district administration to cater to COVID-19 patients eliminating the need for patients to be referred to outstation facilities as was the norm before the new facility was established. Although medical college was operational during the Covid-19 pandemic. The day-to-day operations have not yet commenced and hence the project effectiveness can be tracked after the college is fully functional. |

| Parameter | Level of impact | Assessment from study |
|---|---|---|
| **Convergence** | **H** | Udham Singh Nagar and adjoining areas required a modernised medical facility and support extended by RECF and the district administration were the main drivers that ensured timely completion of the project. The financial assistance provided by RECF initiative and project management inputs streamlined the project execution and fast forwarded its completion. |
| **Sustainability** | **M** | REC has provided support for construction of the facility and provision of amenities like electricity, safety, hygiene etc. The operational aspects of the medical college will be maintained by the district administration as the medical college falls under the purview of the government initiative. However, the sustainability of project is moderate due to the lack of staff with district hospital for running the operations of the medical college. |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **H:** | **High** | | **M:** | **Medium** | | **L:** | **Low** |

## 20.5. Alignment to the REC Foundation's CSR policy and Schedule VII

The project is in alignment with the Schedule VII of the Companies Act 2013 number (i) **"**Eradicating hunger, poverty and malnutrition, promoting health care including preventive **health care** and sanitation including contribution to the Swach Bharat Kosh set-up by the Central Government for the promotion of sanitation and making available safe drinking water**"**. It is also aligned with the thematic areas of RECF's CSR policy i.e., **"Health care".**

The project is also aligned with Sustainable Development Goal: 8 - Promote sustain, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all.


## 20.6. Recommendation

As per the MOA, the study was executed as per agreed timelines, however the study also identified recommendation which is mentioned below:

- The new medical college saw a strong start to its inceptions and physical constructions. However, follow up measures are still needed in terms of sustainability of operations to ensure long term benefits for the community. In particular, clauses pertaining to operational aspects need to be incorporated in the MoA and other supplementary documents to ensure that assets developed using the CSR funds are fully functional and fit to be used to serve the community.

## 20.7. Limitations

The following were the limitations observed during study period:

- **Unavailability of the project documents and concerned officials:** Since the project was implemented in 2020, various project related documents such as need assessment report, project progress report were not available. Review of such documents would have helped to assess impact and tracking of the progress.
- The college was not functional during the time the visit was conducted. Hence interaction of with the students were not possible.

# 21. Project 18: Free distribution of Seeds to 5000 nos. farmers residing in drought prone area

# 21. Project 18: Free distribution of Seeds to 5000 nos. farmers residing in drought prone area

## 21.1. About the project

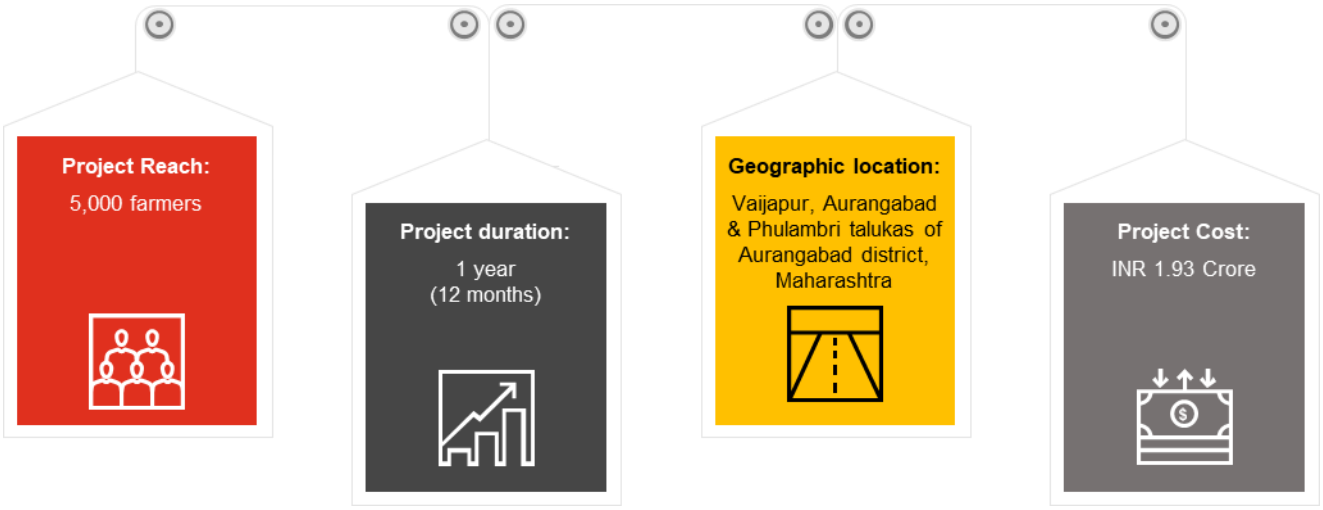
The project **"Free distribution of Seeds to 5,000 farmers residing in drought prone area"** was initiated by RECF in alignment to its CSR policy. To implement this project, Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) was signed between RECF and **Vishwasindu Bhahu-Udeshiya Sevabhavi Sanstha (VBSS)**, distribution of Rabi season seeds wheat, maize, jawar. The project was implemented with the objective to:

- increase the income of the farmers
- increase the yield of the crops by provision of hybrid seeds
- increase the socio-economic status of the farmers

Farmer income is dependent on the weather conditions like rainfall, drought, storms and hailstorms etc. which affect the crop yield and quality. Drought situation and unpredictable weather has impacted crop production and in turn has led to the declining financial status of the farmers and their family in this region. It became difficult for farmers to seek financing from banking institutions and increased their dependencies on local landlords for money lending at high interest rates.

To address these distresses the project was implemented with the help of RECF as the funding partner for the seed distribution to farmers. The aim for free seed distribution was to provide help to the farmers to become self-reliant and earn from their own land. Seeds are an important part of farming and quality of seed has a direct and significant bearing on productivity. An improved variety or hybrid can make a difference to production to the extent of 45%.[71] It can also respond to the fertilizers and other inputs in expected manner and adopt them for extreme climatic conditions and cropping system of the location.

Following schematic represents the key aspects of project implementation:




REC Foundation provided a grant of **INR 1.93 Cr. to VBSS** to be utilised during the project period and the entire amount has been utilised by VBSS as per utilisation certificate.

[71] Promoting Cereal Hybrid Seeds (https://agricoop.nic.in/sites/default/files/Guidelines%20for%20Implementation%20of%20Component%20Promoting%20Hybrid%20Seed.pdf) data retrieved on 16th June 2022

## 21.2. About the implementing partner

VBSS is working for backward and rural areas of Marathwada. The NGO runs two schools for the rural children with Govt. affiliated and high recognition in the region. The NGO believes that, the agriculture is the backbone of the rural household and find themselves privileged to work with farmers. [72]

For the last 10+ years, VBSS has dedicated their services for farmers and agriculture related activities for betterment of the society. The NGO's few lists of initiatives are listed below

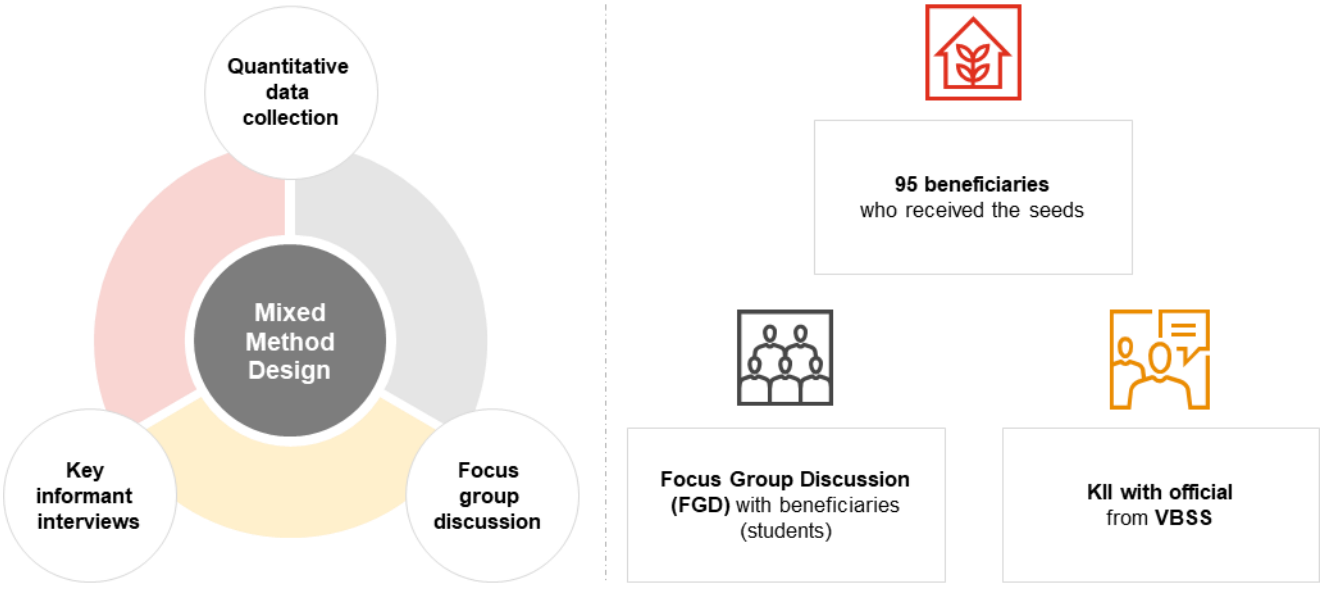
- Farmers Training
- Productivity and Crop Patterns awareness
- Introduction Government subsidy and scheme

## 21.3. Method of impact assessment

Impact assessment study was carried out to assess the changes that have occurred since distribution of seed to 5,000 farmers. The study was initiated with an inception meeting with the CSR team of RECF on the scope of study and approach to be followed. Basis the discussion with the RECF, PwC team prepared the list of requisite documents and shared the list with RECF team. Basis the documents received, PwC research team started the review of secondary literature and following documents to develop more understanding about the project:

- Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) signed between RECF and VBSS
- Progress report and list of beneficiaries submitted by VBSS to RECF
- Impact assessment study report submitted by VBSS to RECF
- Fund utilisation certificate

Post review of the documents, the **key stakeholders of project were identified and mapped** to capture their opinion and feedback and a **mixed method research design** was adopted for the study as presented below:




Selection of **95 farmers** was done by simple random sampling technique for interviews wherein the farmers from the three talukas were randomly chosen keeping in mind the completeness as well as representation of variations in the sample. Sample was calculated at confidence interval of 95% and 10% margin of error. Data was collected from community through **Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) tool**.

[72] Impact assessment report shared by RECF

# 21.4. Analysis & findings

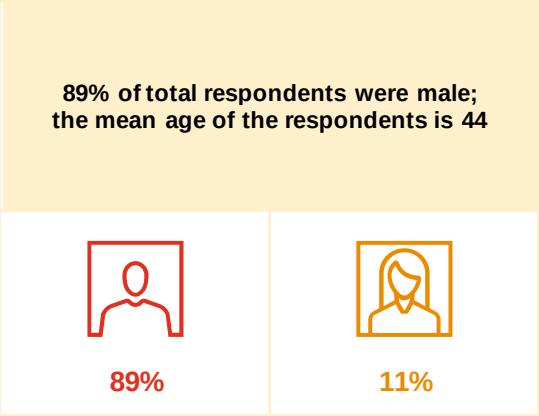
Summary of the key findings is presented below:

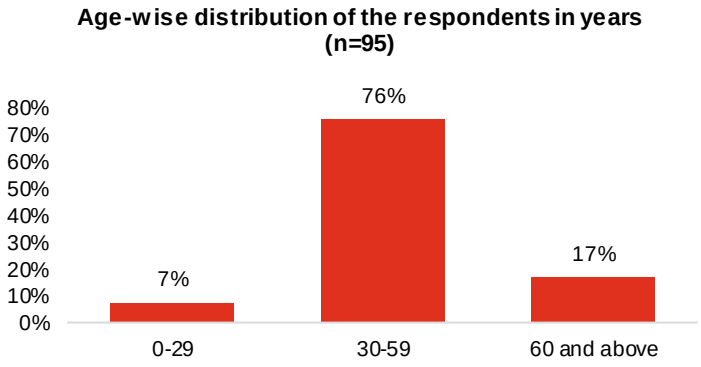
## 21.4.1. Profile of the respondent beneficiaries:

**A total of 95 beneficiaries were interviewed** to understand the impact of interventions related to the free distribution of seeds. As depicted below:

- **89% of the respondents were male.**
- **The mean age of the farmer group is 44**

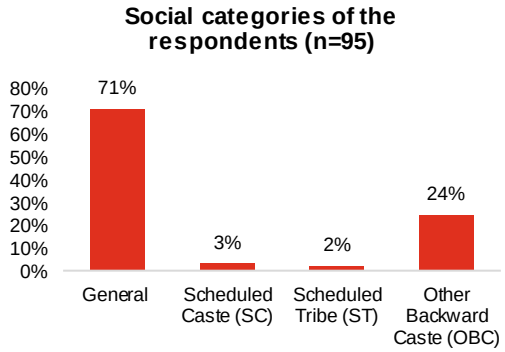
**Figure 97: Gender and age (n=95)**

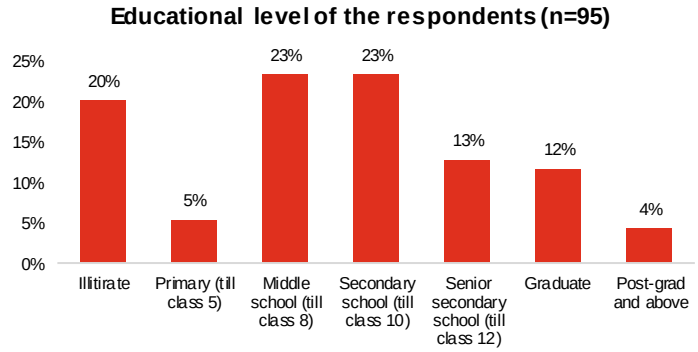



A pilot testing was conducted by the PwC research team to ascertain the viability of the research tools, post which, the research tools were modified according to the changes documented. The tools were then **translated into local language (Marathi)** for the survey team. **Training of the survey team** Including **list of Do's and Don'ts** was also ingrained in them to factor in local contexts.

**Figure 98: Social profile (n=95)**

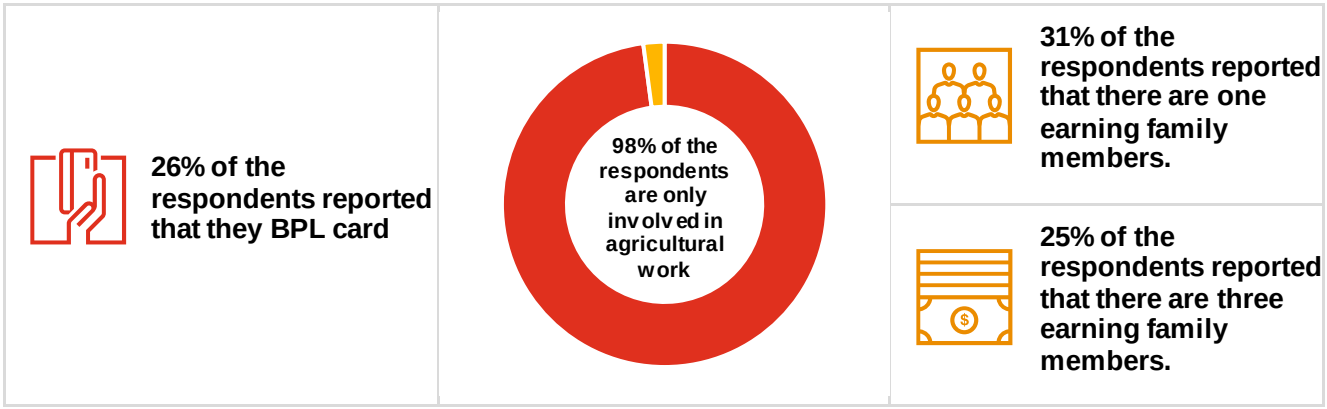



In addition, analysis of social profile of respondents suggests that:

- **71% of the respondents** were from the **general category** and **rest belong to the ST, SC and OBC category.**
- **80% of the respondents were literate.**

**Figure 99: Economic profile (n=95)**




- **26% of the respondents claimed that they belonged to Below Poverty Line (BPL) category.**
- **98% of the respondents were involved in agricultural jobs**
- **75% of the respondent reported** saying that they only have 1 to 2 family members who are indulged in any kind of income generating activities.
- **25% respondents highlighted that they have three or more earning family members.**

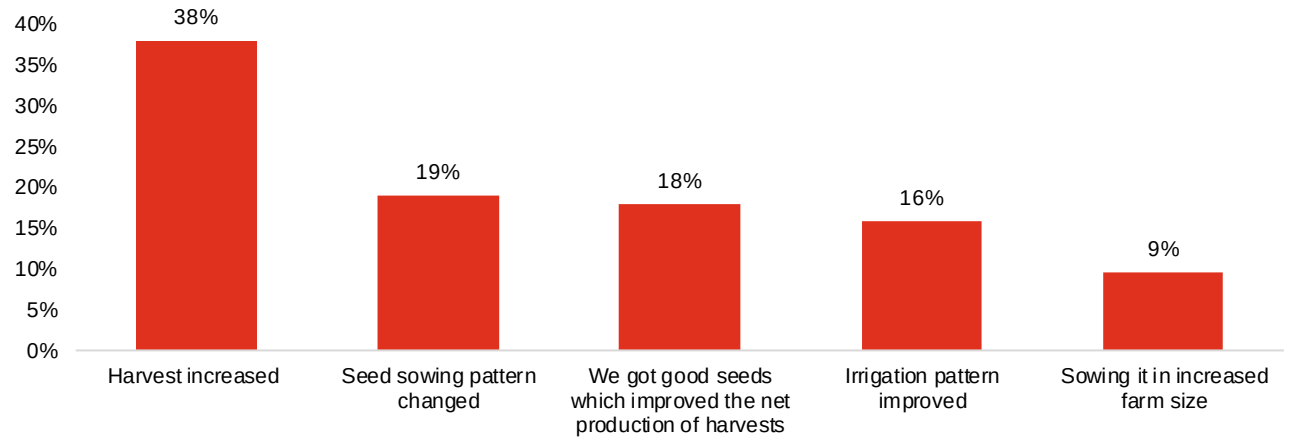
## 21.4.2. Summary of the impact created

### 1. Increased crop yield

Understanding the various geographical parameters, Marathwada region has seen four droughts in last one decade with the last one being the worst hit in 2018 as informed by the official from VBSS. The dry agricultural fields, depleted groundwater level have turned out to be a reason for the highest number of farmer distress. Farmers with large plots of 10 hectares (and above) have access to modern machines and pumps which consume large amount of water. However, the small farmers who are unable to install the same pumps have less access to availability of water. They are left to rely largely on rains for growing crops, or else, to buy water from nearby tube-wells which resulted in crop failure due to lack of irrigation, failure due to poor seed germination, etc. The crop failure has resulted in low income and large level of disparity between the agricultural workers was the important reason for the agrarian distress. Realising the need to increase the income of the farmers by promoting farmer welfare, reduce agrarian distress[73]. Hence, the project aimed at distributing quality seeds to small and marginal farmers of without any cost so that farmers can utilise these seeds to plant and grow crops.

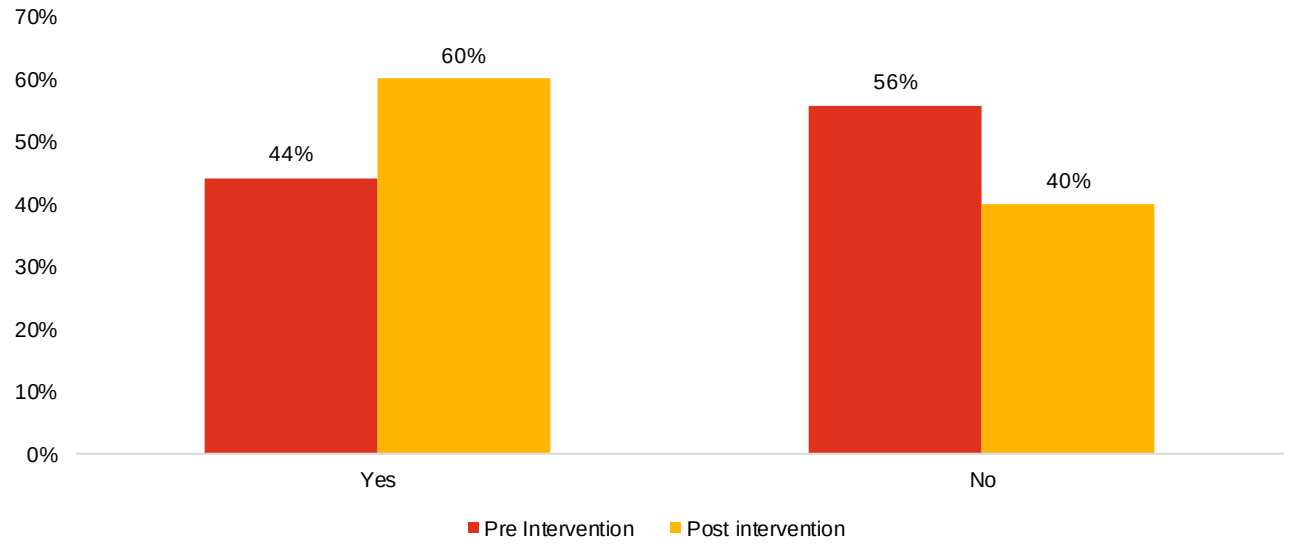
[73] Niti Ayog (https://www.niti.gov.in/writereaddata/files/document_publication/DOUBLING%20FARMERS%20INCOME.pdf) Data retrieved on 16th June 2022

**Figure 100: Changes observed in the cropping pattern (n=95)**




- **36% of the respondents** have reported that their **harvest has increased** due to the availability of new type of seeds.
- 18% of the respondents reported that the new type of seeds has improved the production.

**Figure 101: Increase in productivity of land (n=95)**



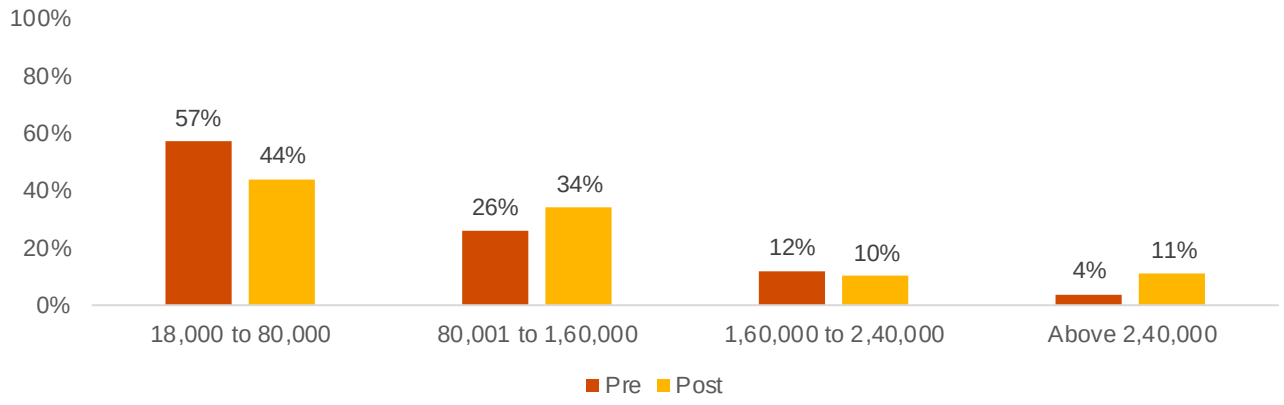

- 60% of the respondent have reported that there has been an increase in the productivity(yield).
- 54% of the respondents have reported that they are **satisfied with the growth of the crop**.
- 60% of the respondent have reported that the **quality of seeds to be good**.

During the interaction with the implementing partner, they reported that the farmers have requested for specific brand of seeds before the initiation of the project. The brands selected by the implementing partners for providing seeds were the ones which were majorly suggested by 60% of the respondents who reported increase in yield of crop while 40% of the farmers have reported that the quality of the seeds is not good as their preferred brand was not provided to them.

## 2. Increase in the annual income of the farmers and savings

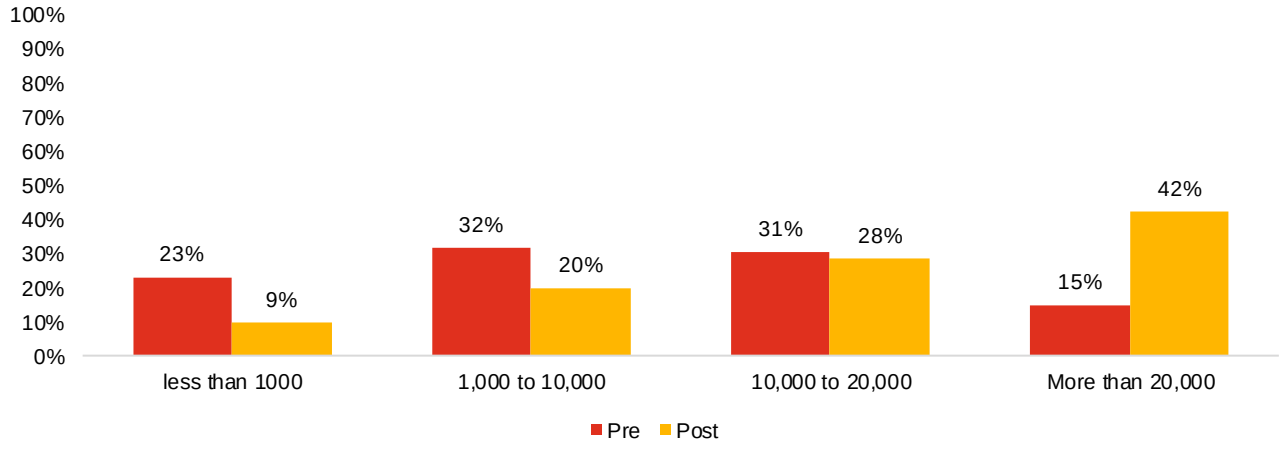
During the interaction with the officials from the implementing partner, it was noted that the project has helped the farmers to grow crops which are high on yield and has resulted in increase in the agricultural income of the farmers. The increase in income has helped the farmers to reclaim their socio- economic status as depicted below.

**Figure 102: Average annual income from agriculture (n=95)**




- The pre-intervention scenario highlights that **57% (54 respondents) were earning annually between "INR 18,000-80,000".** Post intervention, this has reduced to 44% (42 respondents) only. This shows that the average annual income of the respondents has increased above INR 80,000
- Prior to the implementation of the project the **average annual income of the farmers was INR 86,281.**
- **The average annual income of the farmers raised by 18% (INR 1,01,467) after the implementation of the project.**

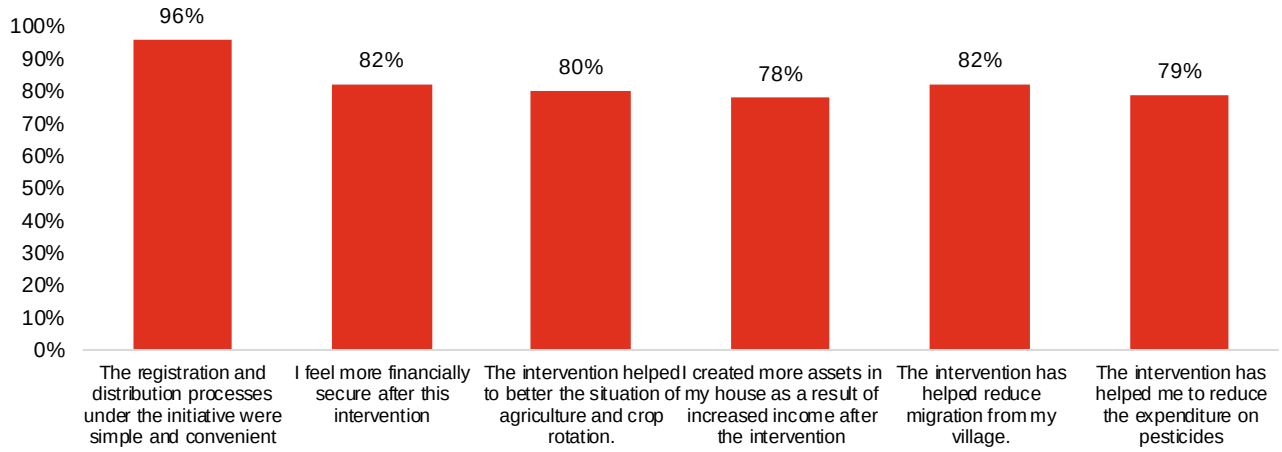
**Figure 103: Average annual savings (n=95)**




- The average annual savings of the farmers prior to the implementation of project was INR 9,574.
- The average annual savings has raised by 75% (INR 16,813) after the implementation of the project.

### 3. Other benefits perceived by the farmers.

**Figure 104: Other benefits***




* This was a multiple response question and hence the aggregate is more than 100%

- 96% of the respondents have reported that the process undertaken for the distribution of seeds was convenient.
- 80% of the respondents have agreed that this project have also helped in the crop rotation situation.
- Due to increase in the income of the farmers 78% of the respondents have been able to create more assets at home.
- 82% of the respondent have reported that this project has helped the community to stop migration of the agrarian family.

## 21.4.3. IRECS Analysis

Basis the interactions with the key stakeholders and desk review of the documents**, the impact of the project was evaluated on 'IRECS framework'**. The IRECS analysis summary has been presented in below table:

**Table 32: IRECS Analysis of Project 18**

| Parameter | Level of impact | Assessment from study |
|---|---|---|
| **Inclusiveness** | **H** | The support provided reaches out to all the **intended beneficiaries, irrespective of caste and gender.**<br>Most of the beneficiaries belong to the **lower strata of the society who are unable to afford the hybrid seeds for farming.** The **benefits seeds distribution to 5000 farmers** irrespective of any caste and gender thus emphasizing on its inclusiveness. |
| **Relevance** | **H** | The dry agricultural fields, depleted groundwater level was the main reason behind failure of the crops yield. Moreover, for small and medium farmers the availability of water is also limited. They are left to rely largely on rains for growing crops. High yield variety of hybrid seed was felt need for the farmers hence highly relevant. |
| **Effectiveness** | **H** | 60% of the respondent have reported that there is an increase in the productivity(yield), which resulted in the increase in the income of farmers and as result the farmers were able to reclaim their socio- economic status. |

| Parameter | Level of impact | Assessment from study |
|---|---|---|
| | | The project has also helped in reduction of migration of the farming family from rural to urban and help them create more assets for their family. Thus, emphasising on its effectiveness. |
| **Convergence** | **H** | The project is in direct alignment with the "Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers welfare" aim and objective to promote farmers welfare reduce agrarian distress and bring parity between income of farmers. The Panchayat of the villages were also involved. Hence making the project a highly convergent. |
| **Sustainability** | **H** | The project provided hybrid seeds to the farmers which increased the crop yield/ per hector. The farmers were now able to sell more crops and therefore, are able to generate more income as compared to the income prior to the intervention. More income has enabled the farmers to sustain their living and re-invest in the agricultural activities. |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **H:** | **High** | | **M:** | **Medium** | | **L:** | **Low** |

## 21.5. Alignment to the REC Foundation's CSR policy & Schedule VII

The project is in alignment with the Schedule VII of the Companies Act 2013 (ii) "Promoting education including special education and employment enhancing vocation skills, especially among children, women, elderly and differently-abled and livelihood enhancement projects". It is also aligned with the thematic areas of RECF's CSR policy i.e., **"Livelihood enhancement"**.

The project is also aligned with Sustainable Development Goal: 2- End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture


## 21.6. Recommendation

It was noted that activities related to the Project were executed on time as per the MoA signed between REC Foundation and VBSS. The impact assessment study identified recommendation for the project which is summarised below:

- **Linking the farmers with MSP –** As reported by farmers if they would have received the MSP for their crops. Their revenue would have further grown by ~20% compared to previous year. The project can also contribute towards registering the farmers for selling their products to government which will help to better their product and get a grade A certification.

## 21.7. Limitation

Following was the limitation to impact assessment study conducted for this project:

- Crop yield can only be measured as per the seeds or grains which is produced from a given land plot. Yield can be usually expressed in kilograms per hectare or in bushels per acre. Thus, the assessment can only determine the increase in productivity based on what was reported by the respondents.

# 22. Project 19: Free distribution of Seeds to 10000 nos. farmers residing in drought prone area

# 22. Project 19: Free distribution of Seeds to 10000 nos. farmers residing in drought prone area

## 22.1. About the project

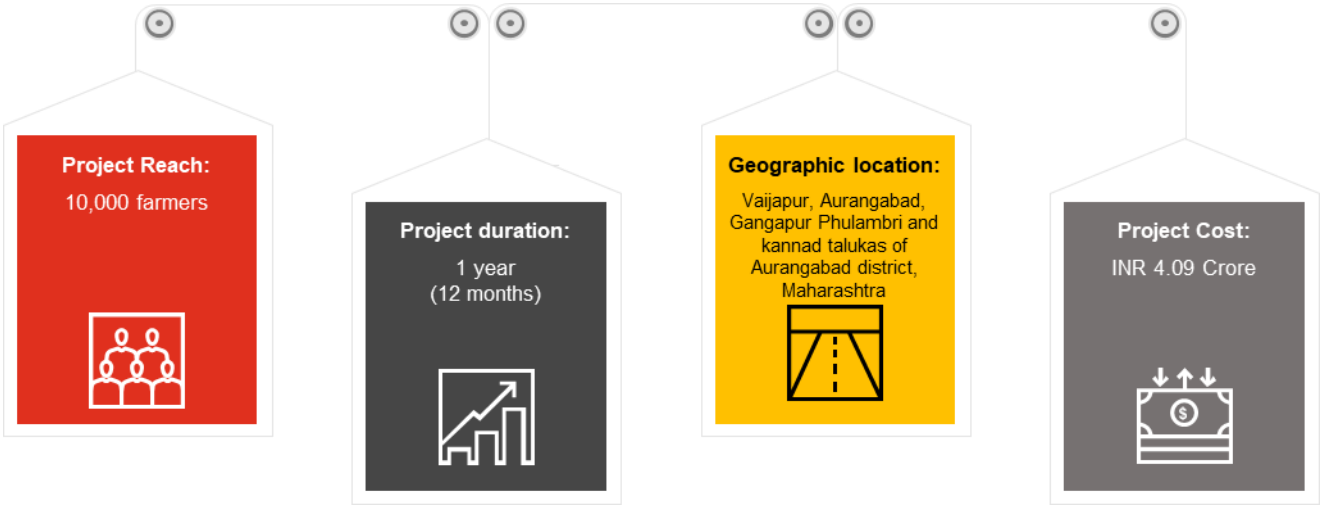
The project **"Free distribution of Seeds to 10,000 farmers residing in drought prone area"** was initiated by RECF in alignment to its CSR policy. To implement this project, Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) was signed between RECF and **Vishwasindu Bhahu-Udeshiya Sevabhavi Sanstha (VBSS)**, distribution of Kharif season seeds maize, cotton, bajra. The project was implemented with the objective to:

- increase the income of the farmers.
- increase the yield of the crops by provision of hybrid seeds.
- increase the socio-economic status of the farmers.

Farmer income is dependent on the weather conditions like rainfall, drought, storms and hailstorms etc. which affect the crop yield and quality. Drought situation and unpredictable weather has impacted crop production and in turn has led to the declining financial status of the farmers and their family in this region. It became difficult for farmers to seek financing from banking institutions and increased their dependencies on local landlords for money lending at high interest rates.

To address these distresses the project was implemented with the help of RECF as the funding partner for the seed distribution to farmers. The aim for free seed distribution was to provide help to the farmers to become self-reliant and earn from their own land. Seeds are an important part of farming and quality of seed has a direct and significant bearing on productivity. An improved variety or hybrid can make a difference to production to the extent of 45%. It can also respond to the fertilizers and other inputs in expected manner and adopt them for extreme climatic conditions and cropping system of the location.

Following schematic represents the key aspects of project implementation:




REC Foundation provided a grant of **INR 4.09 Cr. to VBSS** to be utilised during the project period. Total expenditure incurred by VBSS as per utilisation certificate was **INR 4.11 Cr.** Hence, there has been an **excess expenditure of INR 2.00 Lakhs.** which was made by VBSS from the general pool of expenditure within the stipulated time.

## 22.2. About the implementing partner

VBSS is NGO working for backward and rural areas of Marathwada. The NGO runs two schools for the rural children with Govt. affiliated and high recognition in the region. The NGO believe that, the agriculture being the backbone of the rural household and find themselves privileged to work with farmers. [74]

For the last 10+ years, VBSS have been dedicated services for farmers and agriculture related activities for betterment of the society. The NGO's few lists of initiatives are listed below

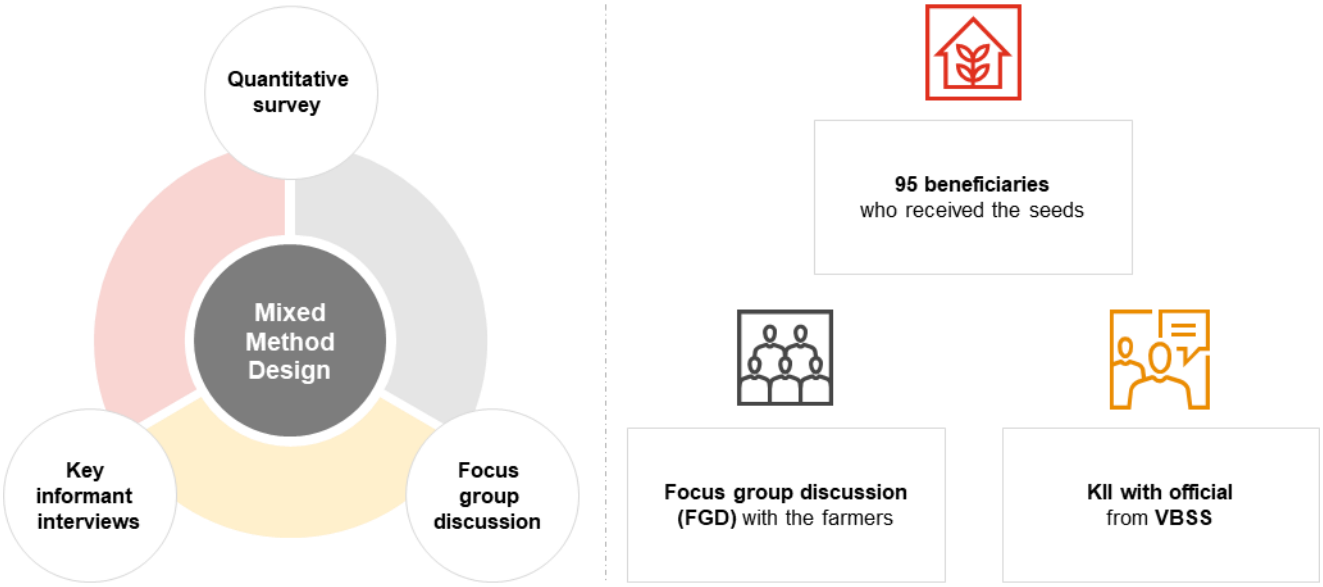
- Farmers Training
- Productivity and Crop Patterns awareness
- Introduction Government subsidy and scheme

## 22.3. Method of impact assessment

Impact assessment study was carried out to assess the changes that have occurred since distribution of seed to 10,000 farmers. The study was initiated with an inception meeting with the CSR team of RECF on the scope of study and approach to be followed. Basis the discussion with the RECF, PwC team prepared the list of requisite documents and shared the list with RECF team. Basis the documents received, PwC team started the review of secondary literature and following documents to develop more understanding about the project:

- Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) signed between RECF and VBSS
- List of beneficiaries
- Impact assessment study report submitted by VBSS to RECF
- Fund utilisation certificate

Post review of the documents, the **key stakeholders of project were identified and mapped** to capture their opinion and feedback and a **mixed method research design** was adopted for the study as presented below:




[74] Impact assessment report shared by RECF

Selection of 95 farmers was done by simple random sampling technique for interviews wherein the farmers from four talukas were randomly chosen keeping in mind the completeness as well as representation of variations in the sample. Sample was calculated at confidence interval of 95% and 10% margin of error. Data was collected from community through **Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) tool**.

A pilot testing was conducted by the PwC research team to ascertain the viability of the research tools, post which, the research tools were modified according to the changes documented. The tools were then **translated into local language (Marathi)** for the survey team. **Training of the survey team** Including **list of Do's and Don'ts** was also ingrained in them to factor in local contexts.

## 22.4. Analysis & findings

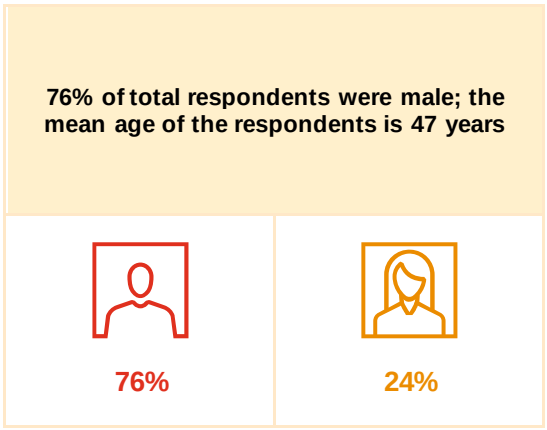
Summary of the key findings is presented below:

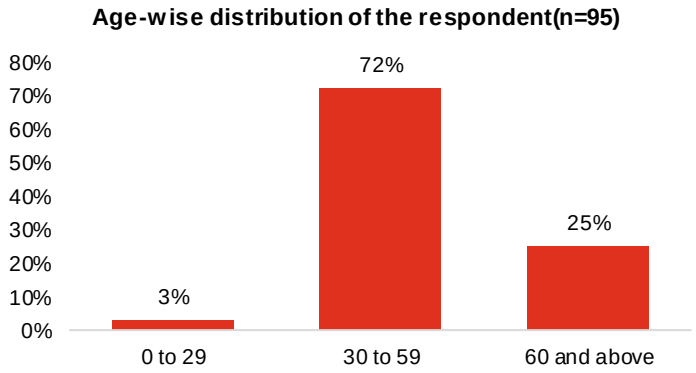
### 22.4.1. Profile of the respondent beneficiaries:

**A total of 95 beneficiaries were interviewed** to understand the impact of interventions related to the free distribution of seeds. As depicted below:

- **76% of the respondents were male.**
- **The mean age** of the farmers is 47 years

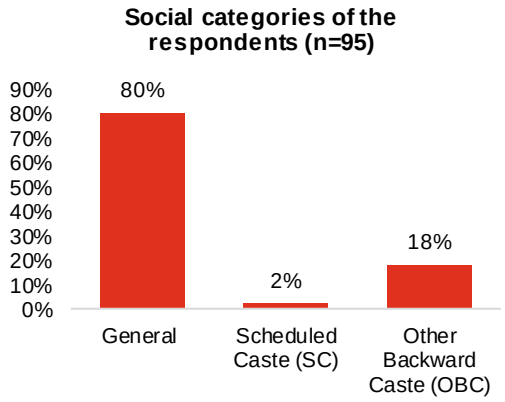
**Figure 105: Gender and age**

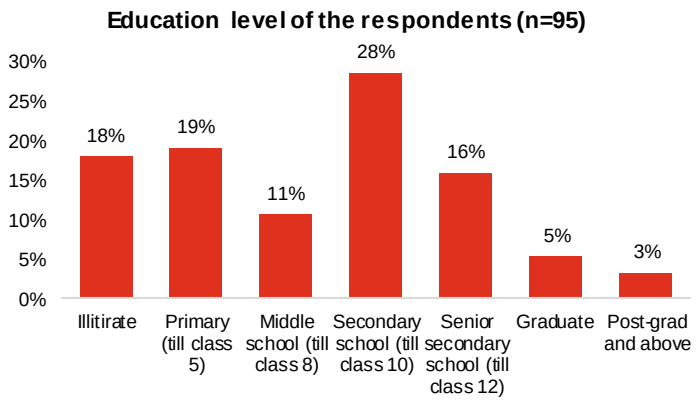



In addition, analysis of social profile of respondents suggests that:

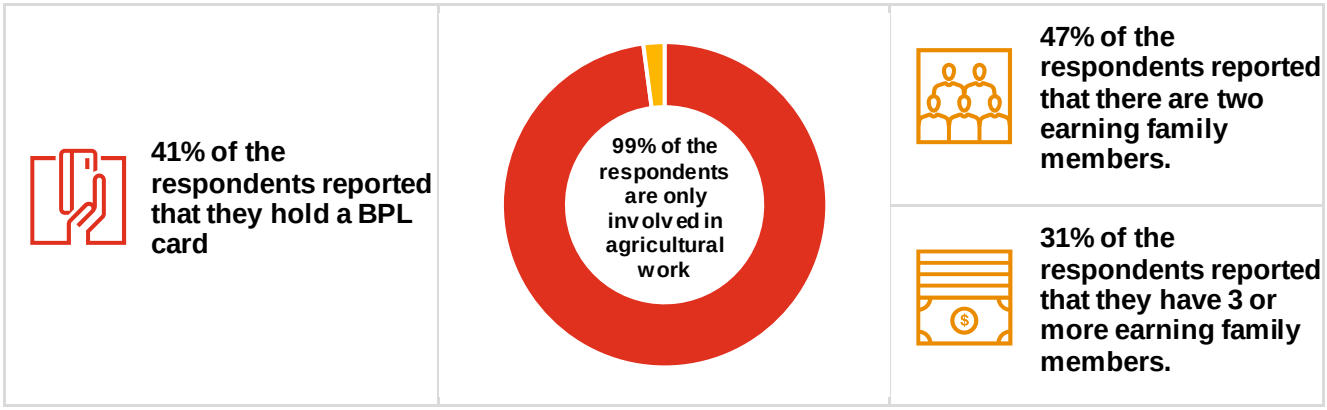
**Figure 106: Social profile**



- **80% of the respondents** were from the **general category** and **rest belong to the SC and OBC category.**
- **82% of the respondents were literate.**
- **41% of the respondents claimed that they belonged to Below Poverty Line (BPL) category.**
- **99% of the respondents were involved in agricultural work.**
- **47% of the respondent reported** saying that they only have 1 to 2 family members who are indulged in any kind of income generating activities. **31% respondents highlighted that they have 3 or more earning family members.**

**Figure 107: Economic profile**

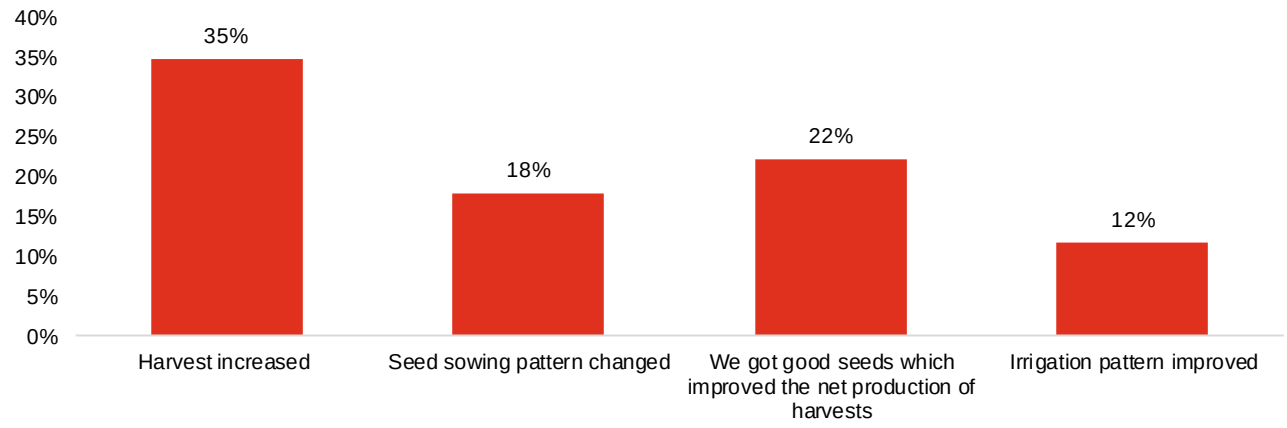



## 22.4.2. Summary of the impact created

### 1. Increased crop yield:

The small farmers have less access to availability of water. They are left to rely largely on rains for growing crops, or else, to buy water from nearby tube-wells which resulted in crop failure due to lack of irrigation, failure due to poor seed germination, etc. The crop failure has resulted in low income and large level of disparity between the agricultural workers was the important reason for the agrarian distress. Realising the need to increase the income of the farmers by promoting farmer welfare, reduce agrarian distress[75]. Hence, the project aimed at distributing quality seeds to small and marginal farmers of without any cost so that farmers can utilise these seeds to plant and grow crops.

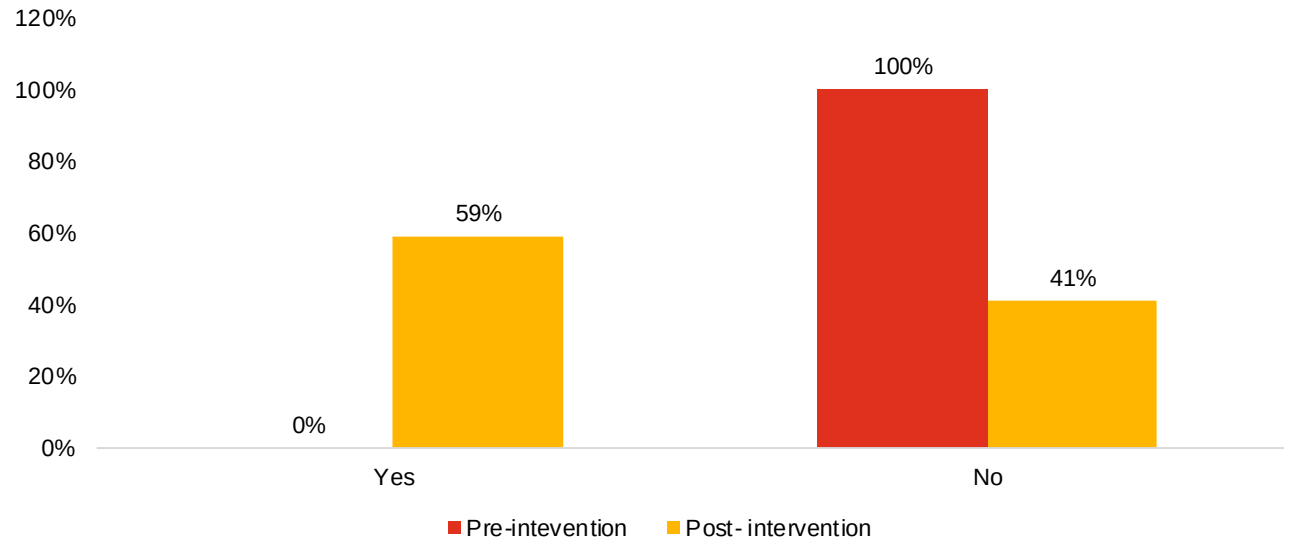
**Figure 108: Changes observed in the cropping pattern (n=95)**




[75] Niti Ayog (https://www.niti.gov.in/writereaddata/files/document_publication/DOUBLING%20FARMERS%20INCOME.pdf) Data retrieved on 16th June 2022

- **35% of the respondents** have reported that their **harvest has increased** due to the availability of new type of seeds.
- **22% of the respondents** reported that the new type of seeds has **improved the production.**

**Figure 109: Increase in productivity of land**



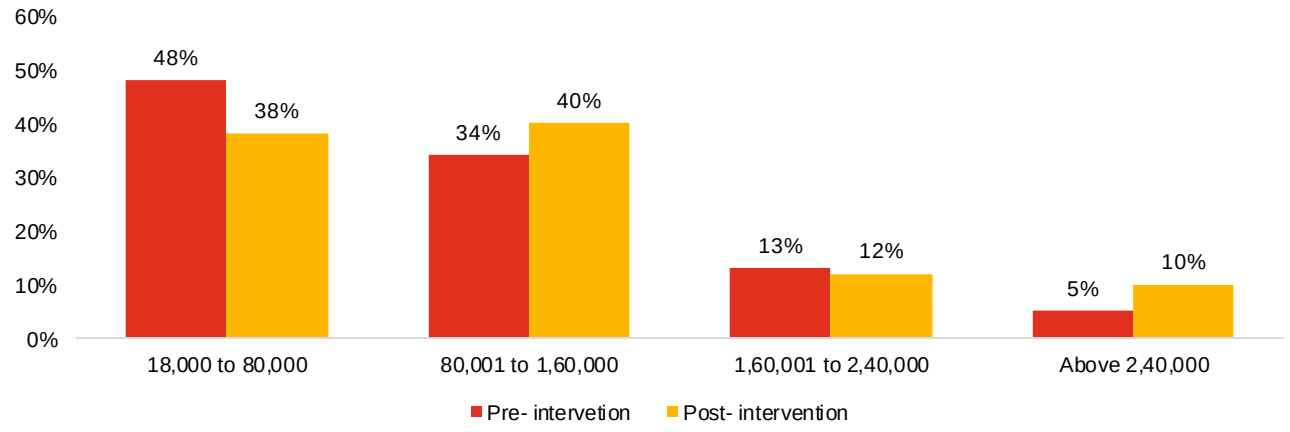

- 59% of the respondent have reported that the there is an increase in the productivity (yield).
- 63% of the respondents have reported that they are **satisfied with the growth of the crop**.
- 59% of the respondent have reported that the **quality of seeds to be good**.

During the interaction with the implementing partner, they reported that the farmers have requested for specific brand of seeds before the initiation of the project. The brands selected by the implementing partners for providing seeds were the ones which were majorly suggested by 59% of the respondents who reported increase in yield of crop while 41% of the farmers have reported that the quality of the seeds is not good as their preferred brand was not provided to them.

## 2. Increased in the annual income of the farmers and savings.

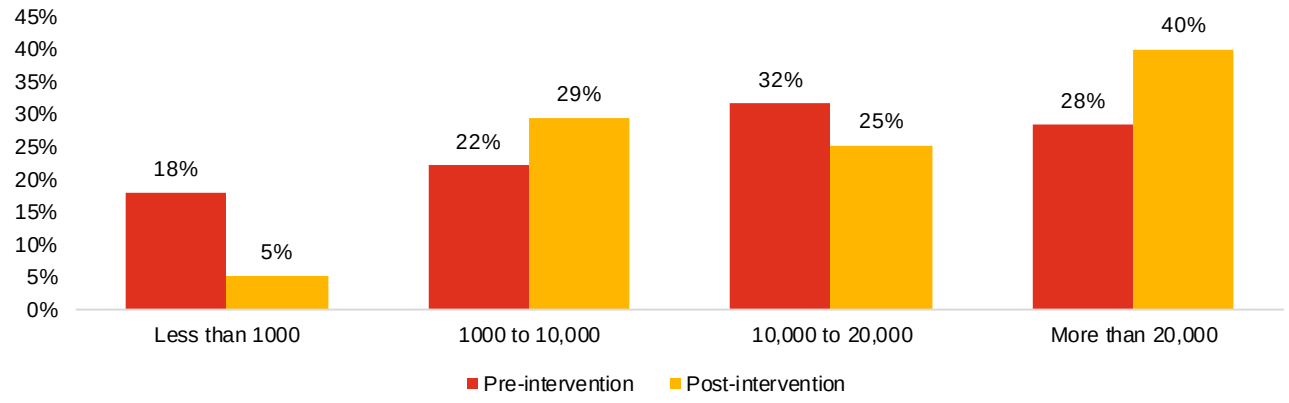
During the interaction with the officials from the implementing partner, it was noted that the project has helped the farmers to grow crops which are high on yield which has resulted in increase in the agricultural income of the farmers. The increase in income has helped the farmers to reclaim their socio- economic status. The same was evident while analysing the responses received from the respondents as depicted below.

**Figure 110: Average annual income from agriculture**



- The pre-intervention scenario highlights that **48% 46 number of the respondents were earning annually between "INR 18,000-80,000".** Post intervention, this has reduced to 38% (36 number of respondents) and now they have shifted to a higher income bracket above INR 80,000.
- Prior to the implementation of the project the **average annual income of the farmers was INR 90,130.**
- **The average annual income of the farmers raised by 16% (INR 1,04,645) after the implementation of the project.**

**Figure 111: Average annual saving (n=95)**

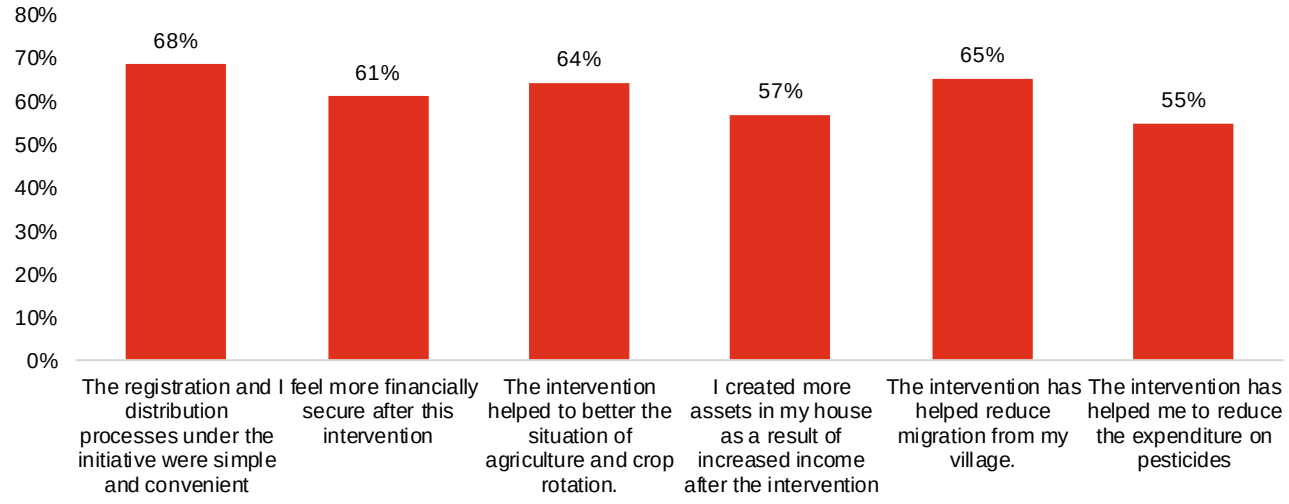



- The average annual savings of the farmers prior to the implementation of project was INR 12,960.
- The average annual savings has raised by 22% (INR 15,777) after the implementation of the project.

### 3. Other benefits perceived by the farmers.

Below is the response of the respondents during the interaction.

**Figure 112: Perceived benefits***




* This was a multiple response question and hence the aggregate is more than 100%

- 68% of the respondents have reported that the process undertaken for the distribution of seeds was convenient.
- 64% of the respondents have agreed that this project have also helped in the crop rotation situation.
- Due to increase in the income of the farmers 57% of the respondents have been able to create more assets at home.

## 22.4.3. IRECS Analysis

Basis the interactions with the key stakeholders and desk review of the documents**, the impact of the project was evaluated on 'IRECS framework'**. The IRECS analysis summary has been presented in below table:

**Table 33: IRECS Analysis of Project 19**

| Parameter | Level of impact | Assessment from study |
|---|---|---|
| **Inclusiveness** | **H** | Irrespective of the caste and gender, the support provided from the project has reaches out to all the **intended beneficiaries, irrespective of caste and gender**. Most of the beneficiaries belong to the **lower strata of the society who are unable to afford the hybrid seeds for farming.** The **benefits seeds distribution to 10,000 farmers** irrespective of any caste and gender thus emphasizing on its inclusiveness. |
| **Relevance** | **H** | Marathwada region has seen 4 droughts in last one decade with the last one being the worst hit in 2018 as informed by the officials from implementing partner. The dry agricultural fields, depleted groundwater level. Moreover, for small and medium farmers the availability of water is also limited. They are left to rely largely on rains for growing crops. High yield variety of hybrid seed was felt need for the farmers. |
| **Effectiveness** | **H** | 59% of the respondent have reported that there is an increase in the productivity (yield), which resulted in the increase in the income of farmers and as result the farmers were able to reclaim their socio- economic status.<br>The project has also helped in reduction of migration of the farming family from rural to urban and help them create more assets for their family. Thus, emphasising on its effectiveness. |
| **Convergence** | **H** | The project is in direct alignment with the "Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers welfare" aim and objective to promote farmers welfare reduce agrarian distress and bring parity between income of farmers.<br>The Panchayat of the villages were also involved. |
| **Sustainability** | **H** | The project provided hybrid seeds to the farmers which increased the crop yield/ per hector. The farmers were now able to sell more crops and therefore, are able to generate more income as compared to the income prior to the intervention. More income has enabled the farmers to sustain their living and re-invest in the agricultural activities. Quality seeds distributed under this project has allowed the farmers to grow more cotton and other crops. Farmers were able to sell more crops on MSP as compared to previous seasons prior to the intervention. |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **H:** | **High** | | **M:** | **Medium** | | **L:** | **Low** |

## 22.5. Alignment to the REC Foundation's CSR policy & Schedule VII

The project is in alignment with the Schedule VII of the Companies Act 2013 (ii) "Promoting education including special education and employment enhancing vocation skills, especially among children, women, elderly and differently-abled and livelihood enhancement projects". It is also aligned with the thematic areas of RECF's CSR policy i.e., **"Livelihood enhancement".**

The project is also aligned with Sustainable Development Goal: 2- End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture


## 22.6. Recommendation

It was noted that activities related to the Project were executed on time as per the MoA signed between REC Foundation and VBSS. The impact assessment study identified recommendation for the project which is summarised below:

- Following the international cotton standards- The farmers can be empanelled with BCI standard where they can be trained on the how to farm as per the international standards. This can bring farmers the opportunity to sell their cotton internationally and increase their income as per the standards.

## 22.7. Limitation

Following was the limitation to impact assessment study conducted for this project:

- Crop yield can only be measured as per the seeds or grains which is produced from a given land plot. Yield can be usually expressed in kilograms per hectare or in bushels per acre. Thus, the assessment can only determine the increase in productivity based on what was reported by the respondents.

# 23. Project 20: Installation of 20 nos. of water ATM machines at the site of Kumbh Mela 2019 and various iconic locations of India

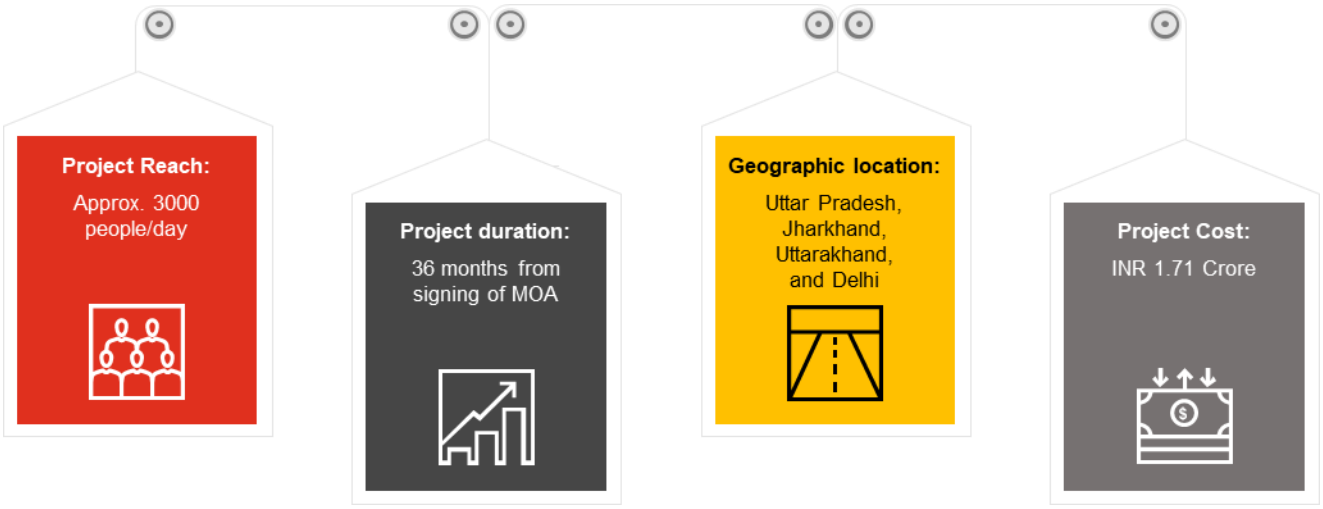
# 23. Project 20: Installation of 20 nos. of water ATM machines at the site of Kumbh Mela 2019 and various iconic locations of India

## 23.1. About the project

RECF initiated the project to **'install 20 nos. of water ATM machines at the site of Kumbh Mela 2019, Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh and various iconic locations of India'** with an aim to address **the lack of clean & safe drinking water**. RECF signed Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with Bisnouli Sarvodaya Gramodyog Sewa Sansthan (BSGSS) on the 14th February 2019.

BSGSS partnered with Pilo Shudh Pani Seva Foundation (PSPSF) for setting up these water ATMs at the proposed site of the Kumbh Mela 2019. The objective behind setting up these water ATMs was to serve clean and safe drinking water by setting up a network of Smart Water ATMs which would ensure uninterrupted supply of clean drinking water for all target groups[76].

Following schematic represents the key aspects of project implementation:



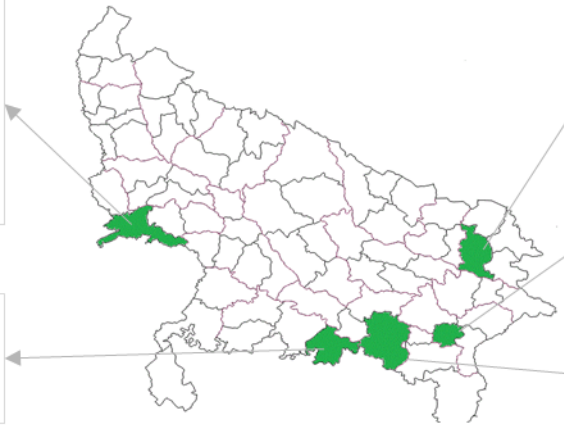

After completion of the Kumbh Mela, **the ATMs were relocated to various locations in Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Uttarakhand, and Delhi** which were identified as the key strategic locations (due to the high footfall) for shifting these ATMs. **Total 20 ATMs** were set up across the different locations of these four states which are represented graphically below:

[76] Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) as provided by REC Foundation

## Locations of Water ATMs in Uttar Pradesh

**AGRA**
- Taj Mahal – 3
- Red Fort
- Sikandra
- District hospital
- Itmad-Ud-Duala

**CHITRAKOOT**
- Kamadgiri temple
- Ramghat temple



**GORAHPUR**
- Gorakhpur hos.
- Gorakhpur temple

**VARANASI**
- Shri Kashi Vishwanath temple

**PRAYAGRAJ**
- Bade Hanuman Ji temple

www.d-maps.com/pays.php?num_pay=440&lang=en

## Locations of Water ATMs in Jharkhand

**DEOGHAR**
- Badi Baidyanath Dham Suvidha Kendra
- Baba Baidyanath Cham near Shivganga filtration plant

https://www.d-maps.com/pays.php?num_pay=424&lang=en

## Locations of Water ATMs in Uttarakhand

**HARIDWAR**
- Hathipul Har Ki Pauri
- Near CCR Bhawan

https://www.d-maps.com/pays.php?num_pay=439&lang=en

**Locations of Water ATMs in Delhi**


Source: https://www.d-maps.com/pays.php?num_pay=446&lang=en

REC Foundation provided a grant of **INR 1.71 Cr. to Bisnouli Sarvodaya Gramodyog Sewa Sansthan (BSGSS)** to be utilised during the project period. Total expenditure incurred by **Bisnouli Sarvodaya Gramodyog Sewa Sansthan (BSGSS)** as per utilisation certificate was **INR 1.52 Cr.** Hence, there has been an **underutilization of INR 19.17 Lakhs** which was returned back to **RECF**.

## 23.2. About the Implementing agency

Originally an Uttar Pradesh based voluntary organization, **Bisnouli Sarvodaya Gramodyog Sewa Sansthan (BSGSS)**, works in the realm of women empowerment with focus on healthcare, education, vocational/skill training, social mobilization, micro-finance, handicrafts, and awareness generation on various socio-economic issues. With multi-faceted developmental interventions, BSGSS **strives to bring about positive changes in the quality of life** of the underprivileged through viable socio-economic programmes touching various aspects of peoples' lives, whether it is health, education, gender equality, employment, or income generation.[77]

For this project, BSGSS entered into a partnership with **Pilo Shudh Pani Seva Foundation (PSPSF)** who was the technical partner for the project. PSPSF is a water technology firm with years of experience in drinking water solutions, as a technical partner. PSPSF was set up in 2015 to meet the growing demands of clean & safe drinking water in various communities around the nation. The organization became the **first mover of "smart water ATM's",** which use reverse osmosis and ultraviolet purification methods to deliver clean/safe drinking water[78]. **The project was managed by PSPSF with oversight from BSGSS.**

## 23.3. Method of impact assessment

Impact Assessment study was carried out by PwC to assess the changes that have occurred since the project was implemented. Prior to starting the study, PwC conducted an inception meeting with REC Foundation to get clarity on the project and to understand their requirements. Post the meeting, a list of requisite documents was shared with the REC Foundation's CSR team. Basis the documents received, PwC team started the review of secondary literature and following documents to develop more understanding about the project:

- Signed MOA between RECF and with Bisnouli Sarvodaya Gramodyog Sewa Sansthan (BSGSS)
- Baseline study report
- Utilization Certificate

PwC team worked on **development of a structured qualitative methodology for evaluating the project**, which included desk review of secondary literature and project documents (as mentioned above) and

[77] BSGSS website (https://www.bsgssindia.org/about-us.php)- Retrieved on 12th June 2022
[78] PSPSF website (http://www.pi-lo.in/overview/) - Retrieved on 12th June 2022

qualitative methods for capturing stakeholder opinion and feedback (through in–depth interviews). The project was benefiting the local community members, but it was difficult to quantify the number of beneficiaries, hence it was decided in consultation with RECF to conduct the qualitative study for this project. After the consultation with RECF**, Agra was selected as site for data collection as majority of the water ATMs were installed in the city**. The PwC team visited Agra to perform data collection with **key stakeholders mentioned below:**


Furthermore, the team had also carried out the interactions with the beneficiaries using the ATMs at time of field visit to directly understand the impact of project on beneficiaries.

## 23.4. Analysis & findings

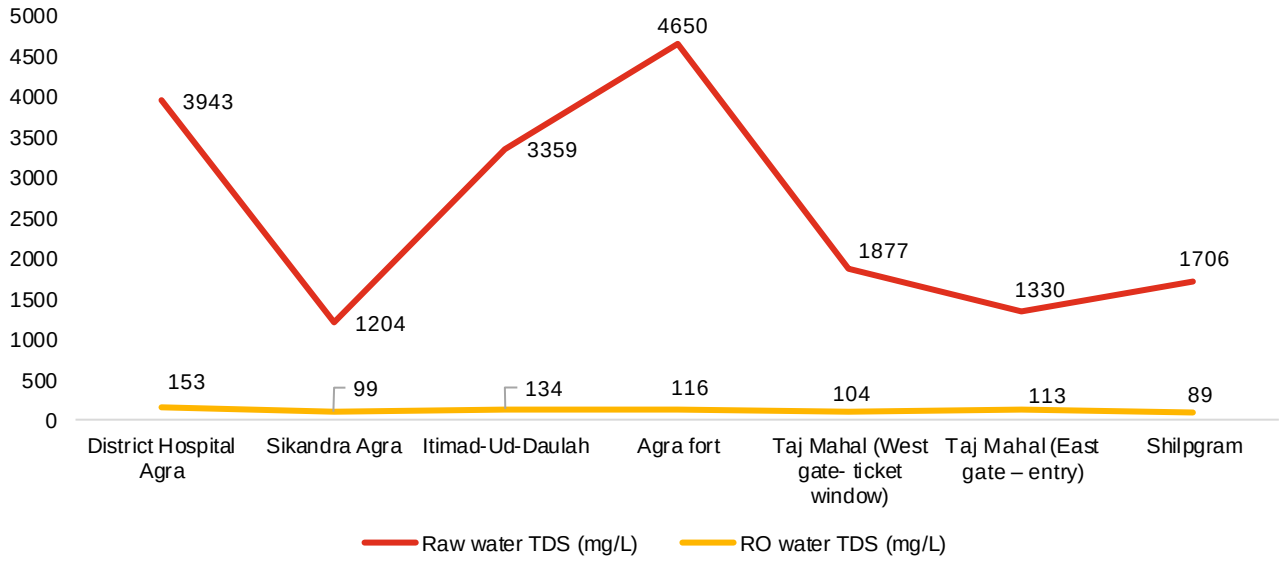
Basis the interactions with the key stakeholders, following are the key findings:

### 23.4.1. Summary of the impact created

#### 1. Access to safe, clean, and uninterrupted water supply to site visitors:

Agra is situated on the banks of the Yamuna River which known for its brackish (salty/saline) water. Besides, the southwest side of the city lies near the fluoride rich areas of Rajasthan. As noted from the interactions with Lead Engineer, the raw water TDS in the seven locations of Agra city was **between the range of 1,204-4,650 mg/L before the setting up the water ATMs**. **Water ATMs have brought down the TDS levels to the range of 89 -153 mg/L as reflected in the below graph in these locations through their extensive Reverse Osmosis (RO) filtration process:**

**Figure 113: Comparison of TDS from raw water vs TDS from water ATMs***




*Source: Data provided by PSPSF on comparison of TDS from raw water vs TDS from water ATMs

According to WHO, the palatability of water with TDS levels less than 600 PPM mg/L is generally considered good. Hence, it is considered safe and clean water to consume as per the WHO defined limits that is TDS levels <600 mg/L across the locations. *

*Source: Guidelines for drinking-water quality by WHO (https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240045064) as retrieved on 14 June 2022


TDS Filtration Meter used at Itimad-Ud-Daulah, Taj Mahal – West gate and Agra Fort

It was noted during the discussions that **these ATMs provide water for 12 hours/day in all the locations, thus ensuring clean and uninterrupted supply of drinking water to the visitors.** The ATMs are closed only when the heritage site is closed for public access. During the interactions with local visitors at the sites, it was noted that these water ATMs funded by RECF provides uninterrupted supply, unlike the water machines and pumps installed by the local authorities which constantly breakdown.

Water is pumped into the machine either directly from groundwater source or through a feeding tank which is cleaned regularly by the operator. **It was highlighted by the Engineer from PSPSF that the local authority provided the water pumps which do not effectively filter water and are unsafe for the people.** In addition, if these pumps fail, a technician used to take a 1-3 days to fix the issue. Visitors at the site were unable to use the pump for the duration and are forced to buy water or trek far distances from another pump. **Even staff at the heritage site prefer to use the water ATMs provided by RECF rather than use the pumps installed by the heritage site authority.**

Water ATM with feeding tank

It was also noted that to maintain the "attractiveness" of the heritage sites, the **ATM machines were built to match the surrounding architecture**.

## 2. Creation of potential employment opportunities:

For each location, **one operator was employed for the operations of water ATMs**. In total, **20 operators across all the locations were employed**. There was also a **provision of one reliever for each location** in case if any of these operators is not available.

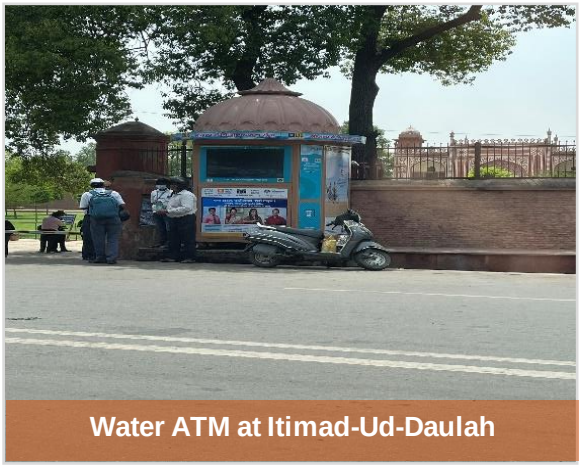
The **monthly salary of one operator is INR 18,000 per month** paid by PSPSF. These operators were employed from the local community and received the skill training to operate the water ATMs. To ensure that the operators worked properly, cameras and LCD screens were installed on all the ATM machines. **Staff from PSPSF Noida office would randomly make calls to the ATM to check on the operator and machine status** as highlighted by the project manager from PSPSF.

Water ATM with operator, camera, and LCD screen – District Hospital

## 3. Increase community participation in maintaining ATMs:

It was noted based on interactions with PSPSP project manager that **vandalism** was a common occurrence at some ATM sites. During the night hours when the operator is off duty, there have been cases of stealing the LCD screen from the site. For an example, the ATM outside Itimad-Ud-Daulah (tomb/fort) accessible via main highway into Agra, was prone to vandalism.

Awareness sessions were conducted with the community residing in that area and community ownership was developed among them. Now the cases of vandalism are negligible as informed by PSPSF project manager and local community.



Water ATM at Itimad-Ud-Daulah

It was noted based on the discussion with the chief executive of PSPSF that majority of ATM machines except Delhi (funded by RECF) provide **water free of cost to beneficiaries.** Only the ATM machines in Delhi **(Red fort and Humayun's tomb)** charge **INR 2/- per visit** from the beneficiaries. It was added that visitors to Delhi locations were willing to pay money for the water. **The amount is marginal and contributes towards operational and maintenance costs of ATM.**

**4. Promoting environmental sustainability:**

All ATMs are built with external water taps and the operators would fill water in steel jugs and/or serve it to beneficiaries in paper cups. These paper cups are bought by PSPSF using their funds. The reuse of plastic bottles to fill water up is now a common occurrence at these sites which according to plant operators has led to a decrease in usage of "one-time use and throw" plastic bottles. Each ATM also comes with a dustbin /disposal unit attached to the machine itself. Also, the PSPSF team has provided segregated waste disposal baskets at the site.

ATM machine with REC branding, Advertisement space and disposal unit

All water ATMs had the **REC Limited and REC Foundation logo displayed on the ATMs.** The ATMs also had space where interested parties could place advertisements. The **income generated** from these advertisements would go **towards maintenance and repair work on the ATM machine.**

## 23.4.2. IRECS Analysis

Basis the interactions with the key stakeholders and desk review of the documents, the impact of the project was evaluated on 'IRECS framework'. Summary has been presented in below table:

**Table 34: IRECS Analysis of Project 20**

| Parameter | Level of impact | Assessment from study |
|---|---|---|
| **Inclusiveness** | **H** | Water ATM services are **provided free of cost (except the two Water ATMs in Delhi charging INR 2/- per visit) to all the visitors who are visiting (irrespective of caste and gender) the ATMs in any of the iconic locations and are accessed by all without any restrictions hence inclusive** |
| **Relevance** | **H** | The water ATMs set up under the funding support of RECF aimed at **providing clean, safe, and uninterrupted water** to people who are visiting the selected sites. From the interactions with stakeholders, **the support provided by RECF has helped to a great extent in addressing the issues pertaining to the safe drinking water.**<br>**The project is aligned to the CSR policy of RECF and has been able to gather positive feedback from the targeted beneficiaries. Hence, it is relevant in such context.** |
| **Effectiveness** | **H** | During the interactions with PSPSF, it was noted that the local authority provided water pumps earlier which do not filter water effectively and are unsafe for the people due to the high TDS. The project has brought down the TDS level of the seven locations of Agra city from 1204-4650 mg/L to 89 |

| Parameter | Level of impact | Assessment from study |
|---|---|---|
| | | -153 mg/L **through their extensive Reverse Osmosis (RO) filtration process. The water ATMs provide clean safe and uninterrupted supply of drinking water for 12 hours a day.** Even staff at the heritage site prefer to use the water ATMs provided by RECF rather than use the pumps installed by the heritage site authority. |
| **Convergence** | **H** | During the project planning and implementation phase, PSPSF was in constant communication with local government authorities for obtaining the approvals required for making changes in existing infrastructure to accommodate the ATM (raising a platform, removing a wall, etc.).<br>However, no other partnership was observed with any private, or community-based organizations. |
| **Sustainability** | **H** | Post withdrawal of support from RECF, the project is still running and catering to the needs of the community and tourists. To mitigate high cost of operations and maintenance, PSPSF has also provided advertisement space to other companies. |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **H:** | **High** | | **M:** | **Medium** | | **L:** | **Low** |

## 23.5. Alignment to the REC Foundation's CSR policy and Schedule VII

The project is in alignment with the Schedule VII of the Companies Act 2013 number (i) "Eradicating hunger, poverty and malnutrition, promoting health care including preventive health care and sanitation including contribution to the Swach Bharat Kosh set-up by the Central Government for the promotion of sanitation **and making available safe drinking water**." It is also aligned with RECF's CSR policy thematic area **"Safe drinking water".**

The project is also aligned with Sustainable Development Goal: 3- Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages and Sustainable Development Goal: 6- Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.


## 23.6. Recommendation

As per the MOA, the study was executed as per agreed timelines. The study also identified recommendations which are mentioned below:

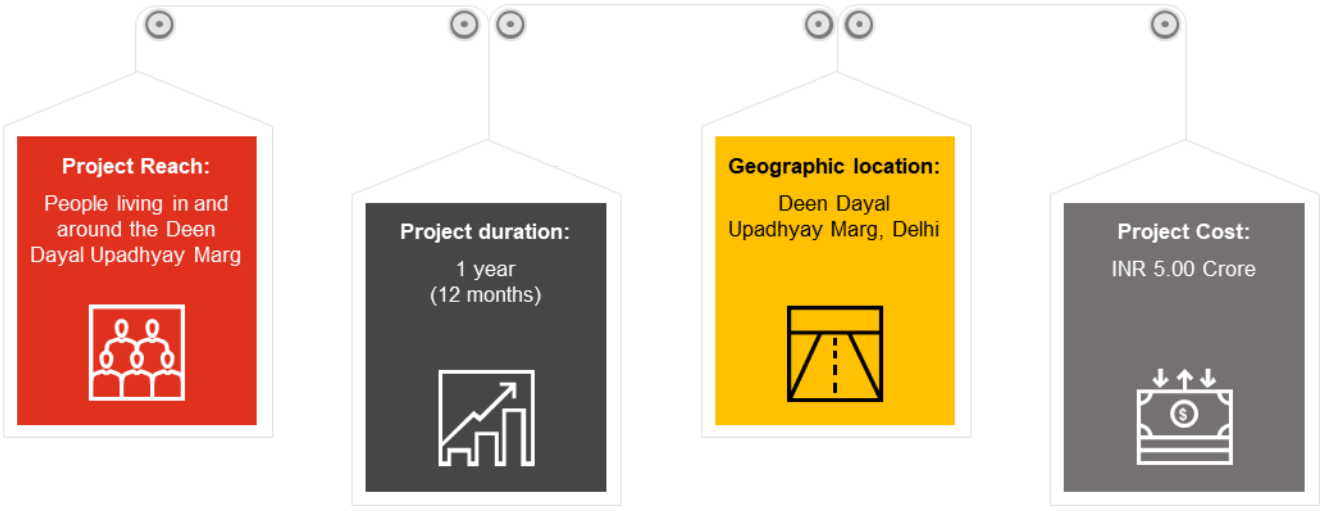
- **Exit strategy for maintenance of the ATMs**: Water ATMs operate for 12 hrs. daily and the high TDS levels in ground water signifies the requirement of high level of filtration. The filtration system installed allows minimal wastage but also requires a high maintenance cost. It is recommended that for future projects RECF should develop an exit strategy in consultation with the implementing partner prior to withdrawing support to ensure sustainability post project implementation.

# 24. Project 21: Development and maintenance of park at Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, New Delhi

# 24. Project 21: Development and maintenance of park at Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, New Delhi

## 24.1. About the project

RECF initiated a project to redevelop and maintain public park at Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, New Delhi with an objective to protect flora, maintain environmental sustainability and maintain quality of soil (in alignment with its CSR policy's focus area). RECF signed Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with Central Public Works Department (CPWD), Government of India (implementing partner) in 2018.




The project supported the civil, electrical and horticulture related work in three different pockets (3A, 6B and 7A) at Deendayal Upadhyay Park, Delhi and maintenance work including watch & ward, cleaning/ sweeping works etc. The total project cost for redeveloping and maintenance of the project was INR 12.10 Cr., however, **the CSR funding support from RECF was restricted to INR 5.00 Cr. Rest of the amount was funded by two other Government of India undertakings i.e., Power Finance Corporation Limited, and National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Limited as noted during the field visit.**

The 3A and 7A pockets have become major attraction points among the local community and visitors due to the facilities **like kids play area with sports equipment, football ground, jogging track, pathway, water bodies with fountains, energy efficient lighting system, CCTV surveillance system, 24*7 security guards, open gym, restroom complexes (separate units for men, women, and people living with disabilities). These two pockets are spread over 61,919 sq. mtr. with more than 80% area under green cover** and has plants such as Thirthankar, Nakshatra, Panchvati and Rashi. Further, these two pockets are open for public access from 5 AM- 9 AM and 5 PM- 8 PM (summers) and 6 AM- 10 AM and 4 PM- 7 PM (winters). It was noted that 6B pocket is not available for public access as it is handed over to Delhi Water Board, Government of NCT of Delhi (after the redevelopment) for the sewer line diversion as mentioned by officials from CPWD and M/s KBG Engineers.

REC Foundation provided a grant of **INR 5.00 Cr. to Central Public Works Department (CPWD), Government of India** to be utilised during the project period. Total expenditure incurred by **Central Public Works Department (CPWD), Government of India** as informed was **INR 5.00 Cr.**

## 24.2. About the Implementing agency

Established in 1854, **Central Public Works Department (CPWD) works under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India**. CPWD has grown as a comprehensive construction management department which provides services from project conception to completion and maintenance management of buildings, roads, **public parks**, bridges, flyovers and complicated structures like stadiums, auditoriums, laboratories, bunkers etc.[79]

## 24.3. Method of impact assessment

Impact assessment study of this project was initiated by conducting an inception meeting with the RECF officials. Post the meeting, PwC team prepared the list of requisite documents and shared with RECF. Basis the documents received, PwC team started the review of secondary literature and following documents to develop more understanding about the project:

- Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) signed between RECF and CPWD, Delhi
- Photographs of redeveloped Deen Dayal Upadhyay Park, New Delhi
- Work completion certificate

The project was benefiting the local community members, but it was difficult to quantify the number of beneficiaries, hence it was decided in consultation with RECF to conduct the qualitative study for this project. PwC team worked on **development of a structured qualitative methodology for evaluating the project**, which included desk review of secondary literature and project documents and qualitative methods for capturing stakeholder opinion and feedback (through in–depth interviews). **The following key stakeholders were mapped and finalized** with a focus on including personnel and partners who were directly managing or were involved during the implementation:

- Officials from Central Public Works Department, New Delhi (Area in-charge and Junior Executive Engineer)

- Official from M/s KBG Engineers (maintenance agency) engaged by CPWD for a period of five years (Maintenance in-charge and Caretaker)

- 10 individuals who are regular visitors in Deen Dayal Upadhyay Park, New Delhi

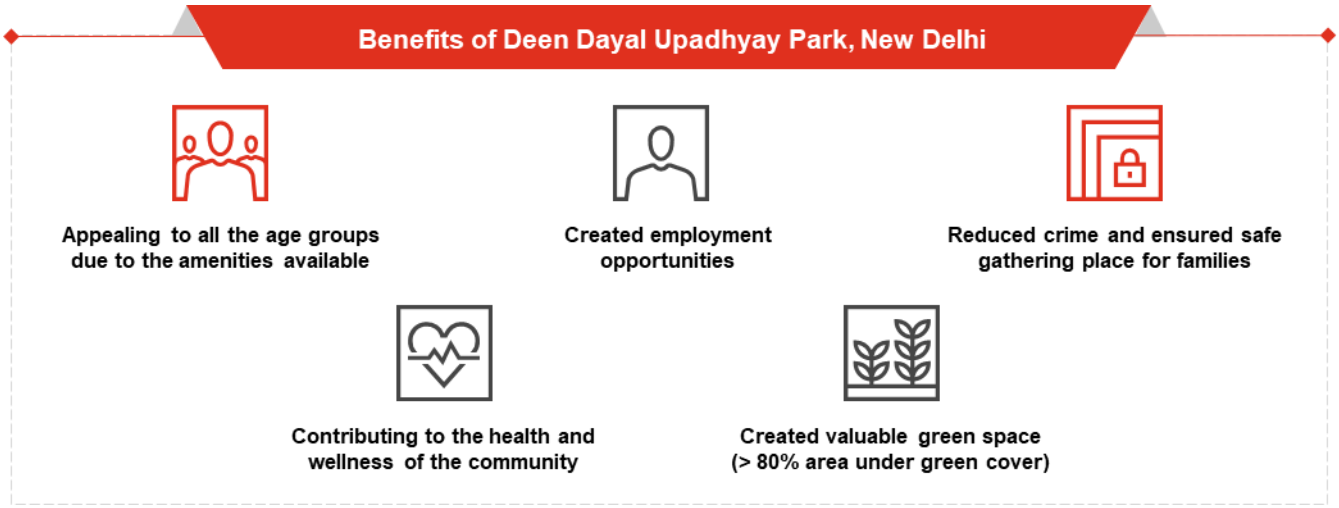
A plan was developed for **in-person qualitative interactions** with park visitors, CPWD officials and its maintenance agency. In-depth interviews were conducted from the identified stakeholders of the project during the field visit (in-person).

[79] CPWD website (https://cpwd.gov.in/AboutUS/AboutCPWD.aspx) as retrieved on 05 June 2022

## 24.4. Analysis & findings

Basis the interactions with the key stakeholders, following are the key findings:

### 24.4.1. Summary of the impact created

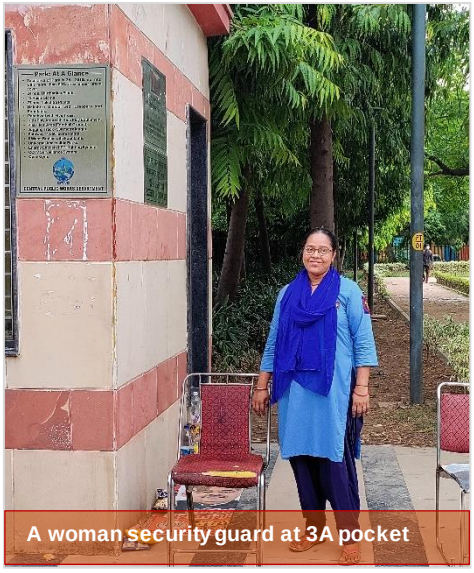



**1. Appealing to all the age groups due to the amenities:**

The park provides much needed community place for recreational activities as indicated by the local visitors. It was cited by the **park visitors that this community park is one of the few options for residents to enjoy nature and be active. Before 2018, park was not well maintained, and it also lacked the basic amenities for the local visitors. Less people used to visit on daily basis.** However, after the redevelopment of park, **it is now well-equipped with the many amenities like kids play area having sports equipment, open gym for youth, jogging track & pathway for runners and old people, football ground** etc. as added by the visitors when probed.

**2. Contributing to health and wellness of the community:**

Park used to lack the jogging tracks and pathway in all the three pockets in 2018 as highlighted by the park visitors. **All the visitors agreed that after the intervention, they have started visiting the park very frequently for their morning and evening walks which has improved the mental well-being and physical fitness among them.** Officials from CPWD also stated that there were only 10-20 visitors who used to visit park on daily basis before the redevelopment of park. Now, during weekdays, about 500 visitors come daily and this gets increased to about **1,000 visitors on weekends (Saturday and Sunday)** as confirmed by official from M/s KBG Engineers. The park has become a central point of attraction among the local community and one can have difficulties in finding a place to sit in the park on weekends, as added by CPWD officials**. The park provides a common area (amphitheatre etc.) for the community to gather and socialize without incurring any cost.**



A woman security guard at 3A pocket

### 3. Creation of employment opportunities leading to the economic advancement:

After the interactions with M/s KBG Engineers, it was noted that the redevelopment of park has also led to the creation of the many employment opportunities for the community. Park requires maintenance and effective management and hence, **a team of security personnel (Nos. 18 guards), caretaker (Nos. 1) and maintenance staff i.e., electricians, sweepers, gardener, and fountain worker (Nos. 20) are employed** and currently working in the park as informed by the M/s KBG Engineers. **There is a dedicated control room with a full-time IT operator to ensure the surveillance through CCTV cameras. This was possible due to the pool of funds created due to the CSR funding support of RECF and other two CPSEs.**

### 4. Reduced crime and ensured safe gathering place for families:

It was noted during the interactions with the visitors that **there used to be a lot of cases of theft and other anti-social activities due to the lack of security and poor lighting system at the park before 2018.** Official from M/s KBG Engineer also highlighted that there were 2-3 cases of theft every month. **Post the intervention, provision of 24*7 security and lighting system has led to the no more cases of theft or any crime scene at the park.** There are three security guards in one shift at the main gate (total 3 shifts) who monitor every single visitor. In addition, the park is well-equipped with the security **CCTV cameras with a fully operational control room** to control any anti-social activity in the park.

CCTV cameras with a fully operational control room

### 5. Created valuable green space:

**Two pockets (3A and 7A) are spread over 61,919 sq. mtr. with more than 80% area under green cover** which ensures the health of environment as it plays a critical role in maintaining healthy ecosystems, providing clean water and clean air, and enabling conservation of natural resources as informed by the visitors. It was noted that park was clean, green, and accessible and has open spaces which can improve the quality of life for local community.

## 24.4.2. IRECS Analysis

Basis the interactions with the key stakeholders and desk review of the documents**, the impact of the project was evaluated on 'IRECS framework'**. The IRECS analysis summary has been presented in below table:

**Table 35: IRECS Analysis of Project 21**

| Parameter | Level of impact | Assessment from study |
|---|---|---|
| **Inclusiveness** | **H** | This project covered under the study is inclusive in nature as it caters to a wide population irrespective of age, gender, social category, or economic status. Infrastructure created (open gym, kids play area with sports equipment, football ground, jogging track etc.) at Deen Dayal Upadhyay Park with the CSR funding support of RECF is used by visitors with no preference to any particular set of stakeholders and further, they have been able to derive equitable benefits from assets created. |
| **Relevance** | **H** | The project addressed the requirement from park visitors and hence, are of relevance to its beneficiaries. The demand from the support was directly received from Government of India due to the ground need. The benefits have been recognized by the regular visitors as they have rated the use of amenities as satisfactory and useful. |
| **Effectiveness** | **H** | The park is well designed and constructed as per high standards considering environmental aspects and needs of all age group and it has been beneficial for the community members. Several community members visit the park for their morning evening walks, exercises & for socializing with other community members.<br>It was noted that there has been a positive impact on the day – to – day lifestyle of people after the development of the park as mentioned by the park visitors. In addition, the park is well-equipped with the 24*7 security guards and CCTV surveillance system which makes people feel safe while visiting to the park in the evening. Children are able to play on a regular basis due to the football ground and sports equipment available in the park. |
| **Convergence** | **H** | The request for support was received from CPWD, Government of India and there is a high degree of linkages with the objectives of Government. Other CPSEs such as Power Finance Corporation Limited, and National Thermal Power Corporation Limited also partnered with Government of India and extended CSR funding support towards redevelopment and maintenance of park. |
| **Sustainability** | **M** | The support extended by RECF was limited towards redevelopment and maintenance of park. To address the challenges (which could impact sustainability) pertaining to the maintenance of park, safety & security of visitors etc. accordingly, CPWD engaged M/s KBG Engineers in 2017-18 for a period of five years for the redevelopment as well as maintenance of the park. Since then, park has been well-maintained. However, there was no clarity on the contract extension of M/s KBG Engineers or engagement of new maintenance agency for the said work once the contract ends this year as mentioned by CPWD officials |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **H:** | **High** | | **M:** | **Medium** | | **L:** | **Low** |

## 24.5. Alignment to the REC Foundation's CSR policy & Schedule VII

The project is in alignment with the Schedule VII of the Companies Act 2013 number (iv) **"**Ensuring environmental sustainability, ecological balance, protection of flora and fauna, animal welfare, agro forestry, conservation of natural resources and maintaining quality of soil, air & water; including contribution to the Clean Ganga Fund set-up by the Central Government for rejuvenation of river Ganga**"**. It is also aligned with the thematic areas of RECF's CSR policy i.e., **"Environmental Sustainability".**

The project is also aligned with Sustainable Development Goal: 3- Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages and Sustainable Development Goal: 13- Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.


## 24.6. Recommendations

It was noted that activities related to the Project were executed on time as per the MoA signed between RECF and CPWD. However, the present study also identified a few recommendations which are summarized below for the project:

- As per the MoA, it was noted that RECF's funding support of INR 5.00 Cr. was related to civil, electrical and horticulture work in the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Park, New Delhi. During the interactions with CPWD and M/s KBG Engineers, it was understood that the total project cost for such work was INR 12.10 Cr. and two more CPSEs were engaged to extend the support for the remaining civil, electrical and horticulture work in the park. **However, there was no distribution available with the CPWD officials and M/s KBG Engineers with regard to the work undertaken with the funding support of RECF.** While the impact of the project is visible on the ground through this convergence with other two CPSEs, **it is recommended for the future projects that there should be clear segregation of the project activities in the MoA and such project activities need to be tracked and monitored on regular basis.**
- The contract with current maintenance agency M/s KBG Engineers is going to expire shortly. It will be important for CPWD to have a maintenance agency onboard to manage the maintenance of park if the current maintenance agency exits but it was noted during the interactions there was no clarity on the contract extension of M/s KBG Engineers or engagement of new maintenance agency even from CPWD end after the end of RECF support **Hence, it is important for RECF to put a sustainability plan in place for such large infrastructure related projects in future, to ensure that the impact is sustained even after the maintenance agency exits.**
- As per the MoA signed with the CPWD, **REC's name and logo was required to be displayed prominently at stone/ metal plaque at appropriate places in the park**. During the visit, there was only **one metal plaque with REC name and logo at the entry gate of pocket 3A of park**. Rest of the two pockets did not have any plaque with REC name and logo. Going forward, it is recommended that, RECF should **communicate the branding related guidelines (if any) to its implementing partners for the existing CSR/ potential CSR projects.**

## 24.7. Limitation

- **Unavailability of the project documents and concerned officials:** Since the project was implemented in 2018, various project related documents such as need assessment report, project progress report, project completion report and other relevant documents were not available for the review. Review of such documents would have helped to assess impact and tracking of the progress. In addition, the Executive Engineer from CPWD (in-charge of the redevelopment and maintenance of the park) was transferred and not available for responding to the project related questions. Interactions with such key stakeholders would have helped provide their perspective of such programmes.

# 25. Overall summary

# 25. Overall summary

The primary objective of the impact assessment study was to review the impact created by **21 CSR projects** across the different thematic areas such as skill development & livelihood, environmental sustainability, education, health, and sanitation & hygiene. **The projects had the defined timeline of 12-36 months with the CSR outlay between the range of INR 1.00 Crore - 18.30 Crore.** The study was also carried out to review the key activities carried out as per the MoA signed between the RECF and respective implementing agency.

It was noted that the projects were aligned with the thematic areas defined under the CSR policy of RECF and further mapped out with the different permissible activities as per the **Schedule VII of Section 135 of Companies Act, 2013**.

**Each project was further assessed based on the IRECS framework** to measure the performance on five parameters – Inclusiveness, Relevance, Effectiveness, Convergence and Sustainability. Basis the desk review and our analysis, IRECS evaluation was carried out and following table presents the summary of IRECS evaluation of 21 CSR projects:

**Table 36: Summary of IRECS Analysis of 21 CSR projects**

| # | CSR project name | IRECS Framework | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Inclusiveness | Relevance | Effectiveness | Convergence | Sustainability |
| 1. | Reviving Crafts Heritage and Providing Sustainable Livelihood to the Artisans | | | | | |
| 2. | Distribution of about 1.5 lakh Solar Lanterns in poorly electrified areas of backward districts of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha | | | | | |
| 3. | Job Oriented Skill Development Training Programme | | | | | |
| 4. | Establishment of Virtual Classrooms (VCR) in 10 nos. of Government high schools in Karnataka | | | | | |
| 5. | Installation of 2 MW SPV system at various locations at campus of IIM Tiruchirappalli | | | | | |
| 6. | 'Water, Sanitation & Hygiene for all' service in urban and rural areas to Scheduled caste communities and primary schools | | | | | |
| 7. | Job oriented skill development training (residential) to 1650 beneficiaries belonging to | | | | | |

| # | CSR project name | IRECS Framework | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Inclusiveness | Relevance | Effectiveness | Convergence | Sustainability |
| | Scheduled caste in various states of India | | | | | |
| **8.** | Setting up of electric crematorium in Ghaziabad district of Uttar Pradesh | | | | | |
| **9.** | Replacement of the non-functional old structure and install 135 KWp off-grid solar plant (with battery) at various locations on the campus of the Barefoot College, Tilonia (SWRC), Rajasthan | | | | | |
| **10.** | Setting-up of 900 KWp rooftop solar PV plant in 30 nos. of government residential schools; Insulating the existing rabbit ACSR conductor in 30 nos. of campuses. Providing polyolefin insulation through heat shrinking process to the existing open rabbit conductor campuses; Establishment e-learning centres (virtual classrooms) in 10 residential schools. | | | | | |
| **11.** | Job oriented skill development training to 1,300 nos. of women & youth belonging to economically weaker section of society | | | | | |
| **12.** | Job oriented skill development training to 880 women belonging to economically weaker section | | | | | |
| **13.** | Job oriented skill development training (residential) to 1000 nos. of youth belonging to economically weaker section in approx. 20 districts across India. | | | | | |
| **14.** | Installation of 100 nos. of hand pumps and excavation of pond at Bairati temple campus | | | | | |

| # | CSR project name | IRECS Framework | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Inclusiveness | Relevance | Effectiveness | Convergence | Sustainability |
| 15. | Installation of 283 KWp solar PV system on roof top of Shaheed Udham Singh Panjab University, Constituent College | | | | | |
| 16. | Job oriented skill development training (residential) to nos. of beneficiaries belonging to economically weaker sections of the society | | | | | |
| 17. | Infrastructure development of Pandit Ram Sumer Shukla Smriti Govt. Medical College, Rudrapur' Udham Singh Nagar | | | | | |
| 18. | Free distribution of seeds to 5000 nos. farmers residing in drought prone area | | | | | |
| 19. | Free distribution of seeds to 10000 nos. of farmers residing in drought prone area | | | | | |
| 20. | Installation of 20 nos. of water ATM machines at the site of Kumbh Mela 2019, Prayagraj and various iconic locations of India | | | | | |
| 21. | Development and maintenance of public park at Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, New Delhi | | | | | |

| H: | High | | M: | Medium | | L: | Low |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

The above table indicates that majority of the projects have been able to meet the key evaluation parameters of impact with regard to the Inclusiveness, Relevance and Effectiveness. The marginalized communities were reached out irrespective of their socio- economic and cultural background and benefits derived under these CSR projects were relevant and effective. For example, a project on **"Assistance for promotion of arts and culture through reviving crafts heritage and providing sustainable livelihood to artisans"** was **inclusive** in nature **as it provides benefits to all the women artisans without any discrimination by all the artisans irrespective of their social community, caste, religion, etc.** At the same time, the project related to the **"Free distribution of seeds to 10,000 farmers in drought prone areas"** were found to be inclusive in nature as they reached out to farmers irrespective of their socio-economic, cultural, or religious backgrounds.

Similarly, the project on **"Distribution of about 1.5 lakh solar lanterns in poorly electrified areas of backward districts of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha"** was **relevant** to the beneficiaries as it was implemented to address the challenge of power cuts which made life difficult in tribal and far-flung villages of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha. At the same time, the project on "**WASH for all services in urban and rural areas to marginalized scheduled caste communities and primary schools in the districts of Andhra Pradesh"** was **effective** as there has been an **increase in access to water and sanitation for 3,000 households who have been benefitted under this project.**

However, **convergence and sustainability** aspects of few CSR projects reviewed above can be further strengthened **to bring about a noticeable and more incremental impact on the remaining parameters**. For example, with respect to the sustainability of project on **"Installation of 100 nos. of hand pumps and excavation of pond at Bairati temple campus"**, Paryavaran Care Society recommended formulation of a committee during the baseline that would be responsible for the maintenance of the pond. However, during the visit, it was noted that proper maintenance activities have not been carried out post project implementation and there was no involvement of the Panchayat in the maintenance of the hand pumps.

Hence, the **convergence and sustainability** aspects should be defined at the time of designing the project activities so that overall efficacy of the project and sustainability continues in the longer run post project closure and/or the benefits are sustained for future.

# 26. Recommendations

# 26. Recommendations

This section presents the overall recommendations basis the impact evaluation study of 21 projects. We have provided recommendations for each project in **"project wise impact assessment"** section:

- **Defined M&E framework for monitoring projects**

RECF has documentation (like baseline study, impact assessment study, project completion report) in place for most of the CSR projects. However, there are some key documents that need to be prepared while moving ahead. These include development of M&E framework/s for individual projects and clear identification of outputs, outcomes and intended impact over a period of time. The outputs and outcomes should be measured on a quarterly basis against a benchmark (baseline status) so that status of the project could be tracked. This will enable incorporation of mid-term correctives during Project monitoring and enable RECF to report more vividly on their CSR achievements. **An online platform or dashboard for tracking of key indicators could also be considered for tracking purposes for multiple CSR project management.**

- **Sustainability strategy and exit plan**

RECF can consider integrating the sustainability analysis and exit strategy for the projects into their CSR strategy. A sustainability strategy also needs to be defined while **undertaking project planning. There is a need to critically evaluate the scenario in the absence of RECF, where support from them would be restricted, diverted, or stopped.** This strategy should clearly articulate **how a project would be sustainable, how a project created assets would be managed and role of stakeholders to maintain assets once a project is closed.**

- **Integrating awareness or IEC component during the project designing phase**

Role of Information Education & Communication (IEC) is important in CSR projects which aim to address behavioural changes. For such projects, IEC strategy needs to be well- defined to spread awareness through communication channels to a target audience and achieve a desired positive result. For an example, for a project on "WASH for all services in urban and rural areas to marginalized scheduled caste communities and primary schools in the districts of Andhra Pradesh", **SIDUR Hyderabad (implementing partner) held awareness generation programmes within the community to ensure the use of toilets and water piped connections. This has helped them to understand the importance of clean water and hygiene and hence the community availed the services provided by the project. However, in case of a project on "Setting up of an electric crematorium' in Ghaziabad district of Uttar Pradesh" has seen little use due to the community's lack of awareness on using the electric crematorium.**

- **Strengthening the overall skilling eco-system:**

RECF has been undertaking many vocational skill training programmes and there is a need to evaluate the following measures to strengthen the ongoing and future skilling programmes:

  - Trainings / courses in different sectors which can attract more females could be explored to ensure better opportunities for women through such skilling programmes.
  - In order to ensure that the trainees gain industry insights, training partners in current and future training programmes funded by RECF could increase the number of industry visits and expert talks. This would also help the trainees to better understand the expectations that their employers in the different sectors would have from them once they start working post course completion.
  - Engagement of training partner which is affiliated with the relevant sector skill councils/ NSDC to impart the vocational training in the respective sector (job role) should be ideally considered as this certification is accepted by the industry. This would ensure recognition of the skill level, by way of an industry standard certification, increasing the employability and sustainability prospects of the trained candidates.

# 27. Annexures

# 27. Annexures

## 27.1. Annexure 1- Stakeholders speak

### Project 1: Reviving Crafts Heritage and Providing Sustainable Livelihood to the Artisans

Ayeshaben Marfatia from Kadi is a **Patchwork - Master Craft Person and entrepreneur**. She used to work part-time before the project and did not have choice to pursue her passion in arts & crafts and was not confident. Post the project, she worked hard and became a master craft person. Now, she is a confident woman and teaches patchwork to new women artisans. Apart from the master craft person, she has also started her own entrepreneurship venture. She is grateful for the project and the support provided.

Amishaben from Dhal ni Pole is an **Embroidery- Manager and Master Craft Person**. She is manager of the SEWA Kalakruti (marketing shop in the renovated design SEWA centre). She appreciated and expressed her gratitude for the independence given to her and the women artisans in deciding their own logo of the SEWA Kalakruti, preparation of marketing materials like pamphlets, flyers, etc. She said that the self and organisational development support provided from the project has groomed and enabled her to be a confident and professional person. She is managing the centre as well as mentoring other women artisans in embroidery being a master craft person.

Sonalben Gohil from Wadhwan is a **Tie and Dye, Board Member and Master Craft Person**. She is a board member of the cooperative formed by the women artisans. She stated that the project has developed them professionally and personally which have resulted in the formation and sustaining of the cooperative. She is thankful that the project has provided her and the women artisans safe and secure livelihood in traditional arts & crafts. She was thankful that the artisans got regular work in covid pandemic which helped them face the hardships. She is also a master craft person and teaches tie and dye to other women artisans.

## Project 2: Distribution of about 1.5 lakh Solar Lanterns in poorly electrified areas of backward districts of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha

**Sunita Sara (18 years), UG student at KISS, Bhubaneshwar**

She comes from a very lower-class family in Pandugadia village, Mayurbhanj district, Odisha. In her family, there are 5 members. Their only source of income for her family comes from the agriculture activities. She has been studying in this institute since 2009 and currently, pursuing under graduation in commerce.

Few years back, she received a Solar lantern during the ceremony held at the institute. When she got to know about the usage from her teacher, she was very happy as kerosene lamp was a permanent source of frustration and concern for her family. The lamp hindered basic household activities, and she was always worried constantly that one might get burned accidentally. It was life changing when her family started using the solar lantern as there was no such issue. In addition, her brother and sister can complete the studies without worrying about the intermittent electricity. However, the lantern remained functional for 6 months only due to the issue related to battery backup as they did not have any money to get it repaired.

**Rina Mallick (22 years), UG student at KISS, Bhubaneshwar**

Rina comes from Mahaganda village of Gajapati district. She has been studying in this institute since 2011 and currently pursuing Arts as a part of under graduation. She stays with her mother, two brothers and one sister. Both of her brothers are into the agriculture activities. She was very happy after receiving the solar lantern; however, she was a little confused on how to operate it as there was a small piece of equipment which was supposed to be powered by sunlight.

Her teacher told her on the operations and usage of the lantern and after that she was very excited to use it. She added that her family used solar lanterns for 4-5 months and realized that it has multiple uses in our home. The first one was getting rid of noxious fumes of kerosene lamp. Second was the completing the household related work without any hassle when there was a poor connectivity. She used to take lantern whenever she/ her family used to go out in the night. After few months, repair work was required to be done on lantern but due to the financial crunch, it was not done. Hence, it is not operational as of now. However, the joy of talking about the benefits of lantern was quite visible on her face.

## Project 3: Job Oriented Skill Development Training Programme

**Raj Kumar**

Raj Kumar is a resident of Jharkhand and has a family size of eight members. His father was the sole bread earner of the family before the project intervention. Raj Kumar had to leave his education after 10th standard to help his father with farming activities. The mobilisation team reached out and he came to know about the project and subsequently he joined the training programme. Post the training, he has gained machine operation skills, computer, and life skills. Currently, he is working in a reputed organisation in Gujarat and earning INR 10,500 per month and simultaneously pursuing ITI from an institute.

**Siddhant Raj**

Siddhant Raj (name changed request) is a resident of Patna and has a family size of nine. He completed his training at Apollo MedSkills, Patna centre. He shared that before the project intervention he was depressed due to his jobless status. Post the course, he got placed in a reputed organisation in Delhi. He highlighted that the course and the project has been life-changing for him and he is grateful for the support provided. Currently, he is earning INR 11,000 per month.

## Project 4: Establishment of Virtual Classrooms (VCR) in 10 nos. of Government high schools in Karnataka

**Pavitra Gowda**

Pavithra Gowda has recently joined the school and is currently in 8th standard. She highlighted the fact that her parents got her admitted in the school as it is the only school in the vicinity having the VCR facility. She shared that although it was a bit difficult to learn and use the VCR facilities initially, it was worth it. She likes doing science experiments in the VCR lab and explore maps and science concepts in 3D. She highlighted the availability of contents in multiple languages even in offline mode without the access to internet which has helped her in understanding the concepts.

**Saiyyad Aslam**

Saiyyad Aslam is a class 10 student at the school. He opined that earlier he had phobia of mathematics and used to score less marks in the subject. VCR had enabled him to see the boring and complex mathematics in a much simpler and interesting audio-visual format. He further mentioned that now he first gets his doubts s his doubts cleared by going through the curriculum in the VCR lab and then approached his teachers to strengthen his understanding. He highlighted that he has overcome his fear of maths and his grades have improved in the subject by 20%.

## Project 6: 'Water, Sanitation & Hygiene for all' service in urban and rural areas to Scheduled caste communities and primary schools

**Nasina Nagendra (55 years) w/o Surya Narayana**

Nasina lives in Bolaya Palem Village, Pittanavani Palem Mandal, Guntur district. She and her husband are agriculture labourers, and they struggle very hard to make their living. Life was very difficult as they had to go nearly a kilometre in the bushes for defecating in open as there was no toilet at their home. This further made their life miserable as it used to take time and energy. Rainy seasons and during ill health, the situation was worse. The construction of a toilet has made their lives easy and happy.

**Vaka Thirupathamma (62 years) w/o Durga Rao.**

Vaka lives in Bolaya Palem Village, Pittanavani Palem Mandal, Guntur district. There are four members in her family and her husband is old. They used to go very far for defecation and sometimes when it was heavily raining during rainy season, it used to become very difficult. During the night, she and her husband used to go together to help each other. SIDUR with the support of RECF had saved them from this hardship.


**Thulluri Muneswari (42 years) w/o Srinu**

She comes from Bolaya Palem Village, Pittanavani Palem Mandal, Guntur district. She and her family have been living in this village for 15 years. Since then, they have been suffering due to the lack of toilet. She used to struggle during her monthly periods. Sometimes it was so difficult that her mother arranged temporary arrangement in the house during her pregnancy. The challenges are now no more as she is having toilet. She says that this is one of the valuable assets which they have.


**Badugu Shiva Kumari (40 years) w/o Srinivas**

She lives in Bolaya Palem Village, Pittanavani Palem Mandal, Guntur district. After her marriage, she came to this village in her in-laws' place. She struggled a lot to use open place for defecation. Later her children, who were now grown up suffered a lot. She has two daughters and she along with her daughters used to go together to the nearby fields especially late evenings. No more of these struggles now. Life is easy now, she said with the smiling face.


**Yenumala Laxmi (32 years) w/o Yenumala Laxmi**

She comes from Bolaya Palem Village, Pittanavani Palem Mandal, Guntur district. Going to the fields for open defecation was very embarrassing. Everyone would know where she was going. There were men along the way, as she used to pass by. When her first child was small, she had to ask her neighbour to watch over while she went. She was always in fear. She thanks SIDUR and RECF for this great support in her life.

## Stakeholders speak - related to the support extended for piped water services

**Tavanam Aliana (38 years) w/o Kruparao**

She lives in Yazali, SC Colony, Guntur district. She and her husband work as labourers for living. They are family of five members. Drinking water was a major problem in their village and this led to frequent sickness and spending of money. Their earnings are less, and it is nearly impossible to spend on health.

The timely help of SIDUR through RECF installing water connection at their doorstep is a God's given boon to them.

**Chellapally Beula (55 years) w/o Mariya Dasu.**

She lives in SC colony, Yazali, Karlapalem Mandal, Guntur district. She used to go to boring pumps in her village to collect water. It was so crowded that she had to walk for 30min – 1 hour. Sometimes, the water used to get over, and she had to go home empty handed. They never had bath regularly. SIDUR came in and constructed household waterlines and now they get water regularly. They need not go far away and wait for water.

**Marpu Anitha w/o Marpu. Samson.**

She lives in Yazali, Karlapalem Mandal, Guntur district. For fifteen years, they used to live in this village without sufficient water. She and her daughters used to wake up very early in the morning to fetch water from the boring pump. After which her daughters used to go to school. Sometimes they were late and often fell sick with dysentery and diarrhoea. They are very fortunate to get household water connection and now they are able to collect water within their house premises. Their health also has improved.

**Yepruri Parushuddam w/o Bullabbai.**

She comes from Yazali, Karlapalem Mandal, Guntur district. Her family was habituated by getting water from the boring pump which is near a school. It was a regular duty for her family to collect water which was about 150 yards from her house. Fetching water was purely duty of ladies in her house. Most of the time, they suffered with body pains and had to spend money buying medicines, even the rice was not cooked well as the water was hard sometimes. Now fortunately, they got the household water connection. Her family including her children are very happy for the water and good health.

## Project 7: Job oriented skill development training (residential) to 1,650 beneficiaries belonging to Scheduled caste in various states of India

### Yallamma B, student of Fitter Electrical and Electronic Assembly

Ms. Yallamma B aged 24 years stays in Bangalore and hails from a daily wage family. His father is a coolie and mother a home maker. She has completed her SSLC from Govt High School. She wanted to be a role model in her family. She was waiting for an opportunity as her family had poor financial condition and she wanted to help them to overcome this financial burden.

After completion of her studies, she came across a lot of problems. She realized that her knowledge level may not be adequate to get her a job in a company. She saw the advertisement issued by REC-NSFDC Skill development programme in a Newspaper and came at Electronic city Bangalore Centre for more information. After understanding the benefits, she applied for the course. Her application was scrutinized by the selection committee and she got selected for the training course in Fitter Electrical and Electronic Assembly from 12-03-2018 to 21-05-2018. She participated and completed the training programme successfully.

After completion of the training programme, she was fully equipped with the domestic wiring, to interface PLC from software to hardware, electrical assembly line. She started her career in TESCOM company with an annual income of INR 1,20,000/-. She appreciated the technical training imparted under this project.

### Rakesh S., student of Fitter Electrical and Electronic Assembly

Mr Rakesh S. aged 21 years comes from Bangalore. His father works as a labour and his mother is a home maker. He wanted to do higher education but due to economic problems, he could not continue his education further. He was waiting for the opportunity to work and earn. He realized that he has not gained the required knowledge in technical field to acquire the wage employment.

Meanwhile, he had come across the advertisement of NSFDC skill development programmes in a newspaper advertisement. He applied for the training programme and got selected. He was happy as he got the opportunity to get training in Fitter Electrical and Electronic Assembly from 31-03-2018 to 12-06-2018. He got to know many technical areas pertaining to the assembly and domestic wiring. After completion of the training, he joined in Schneider Electric India Pvt. Ltd., Bangalore and earning INR 9,500/- per month under NEEM scheme where he is earning and also learning to fulfil his desire of higher education by getting diploma in manufacturing certificate from NTTF.

### Naveen Kumar M.S., student of Fitter Electrical and Electronic Assembly

Mr Naveen Kumar M S aged 24 years completed his education from Tumkur district. He was interested in pursuing higher education but due to financial problems, he was not able to continue his studies. He wanted a platform to upskill himself as he realized that he has not gained the required knowledge in the technical field to acquire the required wage employment. However, due to financial constraints, he was not able to pursue further.

He came to know about this training programme, he applied and joined the course. He completed the training from 23-07-2018 to 03-10-2018. After completion of the training, he joined Mahabell Industries India Pvt Ltd. Bangalore and earns INR 9,500/- per month.

## Project 9: Replacement of the non-functional old structure and install 135 KWp off-grid solar plant (with battery) at various locations on the campus of the Barefoot College, Tilonia (SWRC), Rajasthan

**Mr Ramnivas** is a Barefoot Professor at the Barefoot college. He hails from a village which is 37 KM away from the college and stays at the campus housing complex. For the past 15 years, he has worked in the puppetry department and is responsible for creating new puppets, teaching the art of puppet making to those interested and running various puppet shows in the college as well as around India.

He opined that the **solar panel has made the creation of puppets faster and provides enough electricity** to run the stitching equipment. **His team has found a middle ground in puppet creation (preserving traditional arts and merging with modern machinery). All this was possible only due to the solar panel system, he highlighted.**

**Ms Bauri Singh** works as a dentist at the Barefoot college. She was trained to handle cleaning to teeth, filling of cavities and similar tasks. Though the training was only for 6 months, the access to such modern facilities (dentist chair with all inbuilt tools which require constant power supply) has made the task easier. **She can handle multiple (5-6) patients per day and provide adequate service to all. All this was made possible by the electricity supplied by the Solar panels.**

## Project 10: Setting-up of 900 KWp rooftop solar PV plant in 30 nos. of government residential schools; Insulating the existing rabbit ACSR conductor in 30 nos. of campuses. Providing polyolefin insulation through heat shrinking process to the existing open rabbit conductor campuses; Establishment e-learning centres (virtual classrooms) in 10 residential schools.

**Shiv Kumar**

Shiv Kumar is a class 9 student. He said that the e-learning facility provided have been very useful for him. He shared that the e-learning facility acts like an add-on to the concepts already taught in the class which helps in further strengthening and grasping of the concept. Additionally, he enjoys studying difficult and boring topics being taught in very simple and concise ways using real life examples, the audio-visuals keep the content engaging. The time spent in the e-learning lab is his favourite time while studying.

**Ankitha Rai**

Ankitha Rai is a class 10 student. She shared that prior to the project intervention, the school campus faced lot of power outbreaks due to heavy rainfall for days at times. The school used generators which caused lot of smoke, noise, and pollution but even they were not sufficient due to the frequency and duration of the power cuts resulting in hindrance of school operations, studies, and hostel facilities. Post the project, the school has uninterrupted power supply, and the use of diesel generators has stopped. He is thankful for the solar plant support from the project intervention.

## Project 11: Job oriented skill development training to 1,300 nos. of women & youth belonging to economically weaker section of the society

**Khajaan Singh, student of Mobile repairing trade**

Khajaan comes from Dakhana village of Pithoragarh district. He completed the training programme in mobile repairing course. He highlighted that the training was very helpful to get the job. He added that he was unemployed for 6 months prior joining the course and then he came to know about this skill development course. He added that the trainers were co-operative, and delivery of training content was very good. He highlighted that the institute provided necessary support for the placement. He is now earning INR 10,000 per month.

**Prema Pant, mother of Sarika Pant from Computer application trade**

Prema Pant's daughter, Sarika Pant had participated in the skill training programme and honed her skills through 'Computer applications'. They hail from BPL (Below Poverty Line) and prior to the training, her family had experienced wide range of issues both economically and socially. She is one happy parent who is satisfied with the outcome of the training as it helped her daughter getting a job in SIDCUL, Rudrapur in the district of US Nagar on a salary of INR 18,000/- per month. She also emphasized on the fact how the learning has helped Sarika enhance her self-esteem and pride.

**Uma Rani, mother of Preeti from soft toys production course**

Uma Rani is another proud mother who is equally excited by the achievements of her daughter, Preeti who learnt the skill of making soft toys and currently runs her own shop. She makes different kinds of soft toys and makes a decent income by selling them. She has been grateful to this project for helping young people like her daughter to create their own life on their own capability.

## Project 12: Job oriented skill development training to 880 women belonging to economically weaker section

**Ms. Shanti (name changed on request)** Is 24 yr. old women living in the Ghaziabad district of Uttar Pradesh. She is married and has 2 children. She was enrolled in the Tailoring trade skill building training. Post project completion she has started her own stitching and tailoring business from her home. A few months post training she earned 10,000 rupees from her business and was able to visit the Ghaziabad mall with her 5 yr. old son to buy a toy car. Her son was very happy and immediately after returning home showed his car to all other family members. His exact words were “Dekho mama nay mere liye kya kharida” (See, look what mother bought me). This incident turned her life around at home, she known had a voice at home. She is immensely happy and satisfied with the training she received via the course funded by RECF.

**Ms Kumari (name changed on request)** is 25 yr. old women from Punjab, now living in Delhi. She is suffering from Polio since a young age. The training provided the necessary skill in beauty and wellness to set up her own shop in Delhi. She is happy that even with her disability she is able to provide for herself and send money back home to her aging parents. She has also managed to get work for 9 more girls from here local community in Punjab. She is grateful to RECF and BSGSS for giving her the opportunity to become a contributing member of society.

## Project 13: Job oriented skill development training (residential) to 1,000 nos. of youth belonging to economically weaker section in approx. 20 districts across India.

Deepak Kumar Swain, the son of a farmer from Ganjam district was inspired by his cousin who was working in the Plastics Industry and decided to take up career in the same field. Encouraged by an advertisement, he decided to take up skill development training in the plastics sector and enrolled himself in the Plastic Product Manufacturing (PPM) program at CIPET: IPT, Bhubaneswar. He underwent training for the next six months at the institute that built and enhanced his skills. Post completion of the program MME, Deepak secured a position as machine operator at Raghav Lifestyle Products in Baddi. With a salary of INR 7,000/, he was also given free accommodation. During his time at Raghav Lifestyle, he gained rich experience in the sector and is presently working as a production operator in Gujarat. Drawing a salary of INR 12,000/, he also receives benefits like subsidised canteen and transportation facilities. Now, he is able to support his family financially and is leading a happy and healthy life.

Rahul Nonia was in a dilemma regarding his future due to financial constraints. However, inspired by an advertisement, he travelled to Bhubaneshwar and enrolled in job-oriented course sponsored by RECF and delivered free of cost under a CSR scheme. After completing the 6 months course, Rahul was successful in securing a job as a trainee operator through a campus interview facilitated by the CIPET placement cell. His current monthly salary is INR. 12700 for 8 hours of work daily.

## Project 14: Installation of 100 nos. of hand pumps and excavation of pond at Bairati temple campus

**Chandra Shekhar Biswas -Majhowa gaon**

Chandra Shekhar Biswas is a resident of Majhowa gaon owning farmland in the area. He and his family have benefited from the installation of hand pumps close to their residence. Earlier women and children of the family would have to rise early and commute a certain distance daily to the village pond in order to fetch water for household needs. Owing to the availability of hand pumps in the near vicinity, it became easier for the family members to gain access to water. This has helped to save time and energy that would otherwise have been spent commuting and the family members are able to fulfil their day-to-day activities more efficiently.

**Pratibha Mishra wife of Dilip Mishra - Majhowa gaon**

Prathiba Mishra and her family are residents of Majhowa gaon. She is a home maker and one of her daily chores was collecting water from the village pond. The queue at the village pond would often be long and the water collected required multiple rounds of filtration to ensure potability. Ever since the hand pumps were installed, sourcing potable water became an easy task for Pratibha who no longer had to spend time and energy standing in the queue or manually filtering water.

**Amarnath Pandit - Salha Bariarwa**

According to Amarnath Pandit, a resident of Salha Bariarwa, the water used by the villagers for drinking contained certain impurities. Due to which residents were prone to water borne diseases which demanded medical attention resulting into the increased expenditure on health. Post installation of the hand pumps by RECF, the residents finally had access to better quality water that they could use for their daily purposes.

## Project 15: Installation of 283 KWp solar PV system on the roof top of Shaheed Udham Singh Panjab University, Constituent College

**Rakhi – 1st year student**

Ms Rakhi, a 1st year student at the university, highlighted that the RO plant provides everyone with clean and chilled drinking water at all times due to the constant power supply. She understands the power comes from the solar panels on the roof top installed. However, she stated that the seminar hall and conference room are a great place where she and her friends gather to discuss their classes, and the airconditioned room is a comfortable place for studies. Coming from a poor household, she mentioned that the computer lab is a great place to learn and research topics on the internet. She is very thankful that these facilitates exist and that no disruptions in power supply happen.

**Gurdeep – 2nd year student**

Mr Gurdeep, a 2nd year student, emphasised the difference he observed from before that now they don't have to worry about clean drinking water. He not only avails the service on campus but also makes sure to fill up a couple of bottles and take home every day to his aging mother. He is thankful that no disruptions in power supply happen and he only wishes that the library has an AC installed, since he spends a lot of his time the studying here.

## Project 16: Job oriented skill development training (residential) to 500 nos. of beneficiaries belonging to economically weaker sections of the society

**Dinesh, student of JCB training**

Dinesh comes from Udham Singh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh. He completed the training programme in JCB (Backhoe Loader operator) at ICI training institute in Noida. He highlighted that the training was very helpful to get the job. He was unemployed for many months prior to the training and lacked the confidence, skills needed to obtain employment, then he came to know about this skill development course through a friend. He is now earning INR 11,000/- as a base salary and is a manager at a local firm. Including overtime charges and conveyance fees he earns approximately 25,000/month. He is incredibly thankful as he was able to pay for his sister's wedding, which brought joy to his family and to himself.

**Amar Singh, student of Pipe Fitter training**

Amar comes from the Pilibheet district of Uttar Pradesh. He completed his training in the pipe fitting course provided at the ICI institute. He is currently employed in DANA Graziano India Pvt. Limited as a pipe fitter. He earns a monthly salary of INR 11,800/- and is extremely thankful that he got the opportunity to be part of this project funded by RECF.

## Project 17: Infrastructure development of Pandit Ram Sumer Shukla Smriti Govt. Medical College, Rudrapur, Udham Singh Nagar

**Sangeeta Das, Senior Nursing Officer**

Ms Das is the Senior Nursing Officer at the District hospital. She appreciated the support extended by RECF in infrastructure development for the dedicated COVID -19 treatment and testing facility. She added that the new facility enhanced the capacity and provided modern equipment. This has resulted into the better management of the pandemic and further led to the improved community health management. Specialised medical equipment (oxygen delivery and vacuum systems) allowed hospital staff to serve the patients more efficiently.

**Dr. Ajay Veer Singh - Hospital Manager**

Dr. Ajay Veer Singh is the Hospital Manager at the district hospital lauded the new medical hospital cum college. The facility has the potential to operate as the centre of excellence for the dissemination of quality medical education and provide skilled professionals in the medical field. Such institutes will aid the career development of medical aspirants in the long term.

## Project 18: Free distribution of Seeds to 5,000 nos. farmers residing in drought prone area.

**Vilas Tryambakrao Phand**

Mr Phand is a resident of Adgaon Sara village. Before the initiation of the project, Mr Phand monthly earning were not enough to pay the loan instalments which resulted in payment defaults. This has further hampered his financial earnings as the productivity was not improving. He has benefited from this project in terms of an increase in monthly income. This has helped him to pay off his loan instalments in a timely manner.

**Dnyaneshwar Shamrao Palaskar**

Mr Palaskar, who is a resident of Palshi village. Owns three hectors of land in the area. He used to procure low quality seed from the local vendors which has resulted in low yield of the crops. Due to the low yield their income level has also reduced. He has benefited from the project in terms of improvement in quantity and quality of their seasonal yields. Due to this there has been an increase in their average income levels as well, which in turn has enabled them to afford buying of household assets which he could not do earlier.

## Project 19: Free distribution of Seeds to 10,000 nos. farmers residing in drought prone area.

**Shantabai Shenkar Jadhav**

Mrs Jadhav, who is a resident of Mundwadi village, lost her husband due to an accident. Since her husband was the only earning source, after his death the financial stability of the family decreased. Further, the crops cultivated productivity is also very low which resulted in very low savings. She has benefited from this project in terms of an increase in monthly income. This has helped her to increase her savings as a result she was able to build her house. Before the initiation of the project, Mrs Jadhav monthly savings were not enough to earlier to build her house.

**Suresh Punjahari Tayade**

Mr Suresh Punjahari Tayade is a resident of Mundwadi. He is a cash crop cultivator owning approximately 3 hectres of land in the area. Cotton is the main cash crop cultivated by Mr Tayade. Owing to the distribution of high-quality seeds the subsequent cotton yield has also been of higher quality than what he has farmed in previous years. This has led him to fetch higher prices in the market and resulted in higher income and savings.

## Project 20: Installation of 20 nos. of water ATM machines at the site of Kumbh Mela 2019 and various iconic locations of India

**Mr. Pavan Sharma**

Mr. Pavan Sharma is a 34-year-old man who lives near the district hospital in Agra. The water ATM here in the district hospital has been very important to his family. The water is cold and provides much help in overcoming the Agra heat. The operator makes sure that everyone receives the water and the un-interruption in supply is something that makes his life easier and saves on time. He lives close by and for the past week has been visiting the hospital because his family member is admitted here. He no longer needs to carry multiple bottles of water and can get free cold water whenever he or his family want.
He wants to thank REC and PSPSF, and only wishes more would be created around the city.

**Mr. Shafaujmin Lama**

Mr. Lama mentioned that the water ATM in Sikandra, always provides nice, chilled water. He has felt his health become better ever since he started using this water for drinking. He makes sure to fil bottles from the machine before going home and says that the wat provided here tastes much better than what he gets at his house. He says that the ATMs provided **work much better than the other ones which were installed by the heritage sites**. Like others his only wish is that more such ATMs are built close to his home.

## Project 21: Development and maintenance of park at Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, New Delhi

Surendra Singh (42 years) is a resident of Chawri Bazar, Chandni Chowk, Delhi. Before coming to this park, he used to visit a park near to his hometown, but the maintenance and management of that park was not appropriate**.** Two years back, his friend suggested him to visit this park and since then he comes daily for evening walks and have been a regular visitor in this park. Whether walking, playing, hiking, running, doing yoga, or anything else, **he feels that this park has the facilities for every age group to improve their physical well-being in a safe and natural area. Further, the park remains clean, well-managed and very safe for all the visitors as it is equipped with the CCTV cameras and tight security at the gate**. He mentioned that he also sees many families every day coming here in the evening as this park give people ample space to enjoy the family time **with no cost.**

Shayastha (31 years) is a resident of Daryaganj, Delhi. She comes here daily with her mother for the morning and evening walks. On weekends, her whole family visits to this park. She added that **the primary reason for visiting this park frequently is opportunities which it creates for people of all ages to have fun and families can engage in recreational activities together.** Her family and friends sometime gather here together for the **small celebrations/ reunions because this offer space without any cost. She believes that recreational activities can strengthen the bonds between the family members/ closed ones.** Park is also well-equipped with the **playground for kids which allows them to jump, climb and slide on and this also helps in building social interactions between the kids,** she added**.** There are multiple options for the kids to play in the playground area.

Manoj Kumar (37 years) is a resident of Pahadganj, Delhi. He has been a regular visitor of this park and used to visit to the park as well before the redevelopment of park took place in 2018. He said that **the park was surrounded by the slums and park was not at all maintained. There were instances when visitors used to complain very frequently for the theft and other criminal activities in park. Park did not have any security guards, making family especially women unsafe in the evening. Due to the lack of security and poor lighting arrangements, there were also instances when he saw people drinking alcohol and smoking weed in late evening and staring at women.**

He has seen the redevelopment and he proudly added that **this place is very safe for all the visitors (including women) due to the enhanced security. The park is now well equipped with men and women security guards as well as CCTV cameras in all the corners to reduce such anti-social activities. Since the intervention, he has not seen anyone complaining now on such activities.** Many families now come and enjoy the amenities available in the park.

# Thank you

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