

ASMITA



Annual 23 Report 24

**Charity to sustainable
solutions**

ASMITA, D 64/137 J, Sagra,
Varanasi. 221002



Message from the Director

Dear Friends,
Greetings!



As we enter a new year, we reflect on the hard work and dedication that defined 2023-24. Our mission at ASMITA remains focused on creating a brighter future for slum residents, and your support has been crucial. You, our supporters and sponsors, provide the inspiration that drives our work on the ground.

The past year brought us significant satisfaction as we expanded our efforts to focus on teenagers and youth. We facilitated school enrollments, established youth clubs, and organized skill development activities. These efforts have helped many boys and girls integrate into mainstream society.

Continuing our work from previous years, we supported 637 pregnant and lactating women across 25 slums under our Safe Motherhood Program. We also helped 142 malnourished children, including those with acute malnutrition, regain their health.

In addition to tailoring, we expanded skill development initiatives, particularly for women. We trained 24 women as domestic workers and provided 10 street vending carts to generate income.

However, we faced a significant setback with the closure of the CHILDLINE (1098) services, which we coordinated for the past 15 years. This service was a vital part of ASMITA's identity, and its closure deeply affects us, especially in providing emergency services for children.

We extend our deepest gratitude to all our supporters, including the CHILDLINE India Foundation, Manos Unidas, Missio Muenchen, SEED, Ananda VWZ, Dn. Raimund, Radisson, and others, for your generous support. We also thank the Rotary Club, Tibetan Woolen Traders, K E Karmel School, W H Smith School, and our volunteers and interns from BHU, VKM, MGKVP, and IGNOU.

Thank you in anticipation for your invaluable contributions and continued support in the coming years.

Maju Mathew
Director & Hon. Secretary

■ ASMITA

VISION

An integrated Human Society living in freedom, equality, and justice; above all leading a dignified life.

MISSION

Empowering the marginalised especially women and Children of the unorganised labourers/ slum dwellers to live a life with total Dignity.



**Goal of
the year**

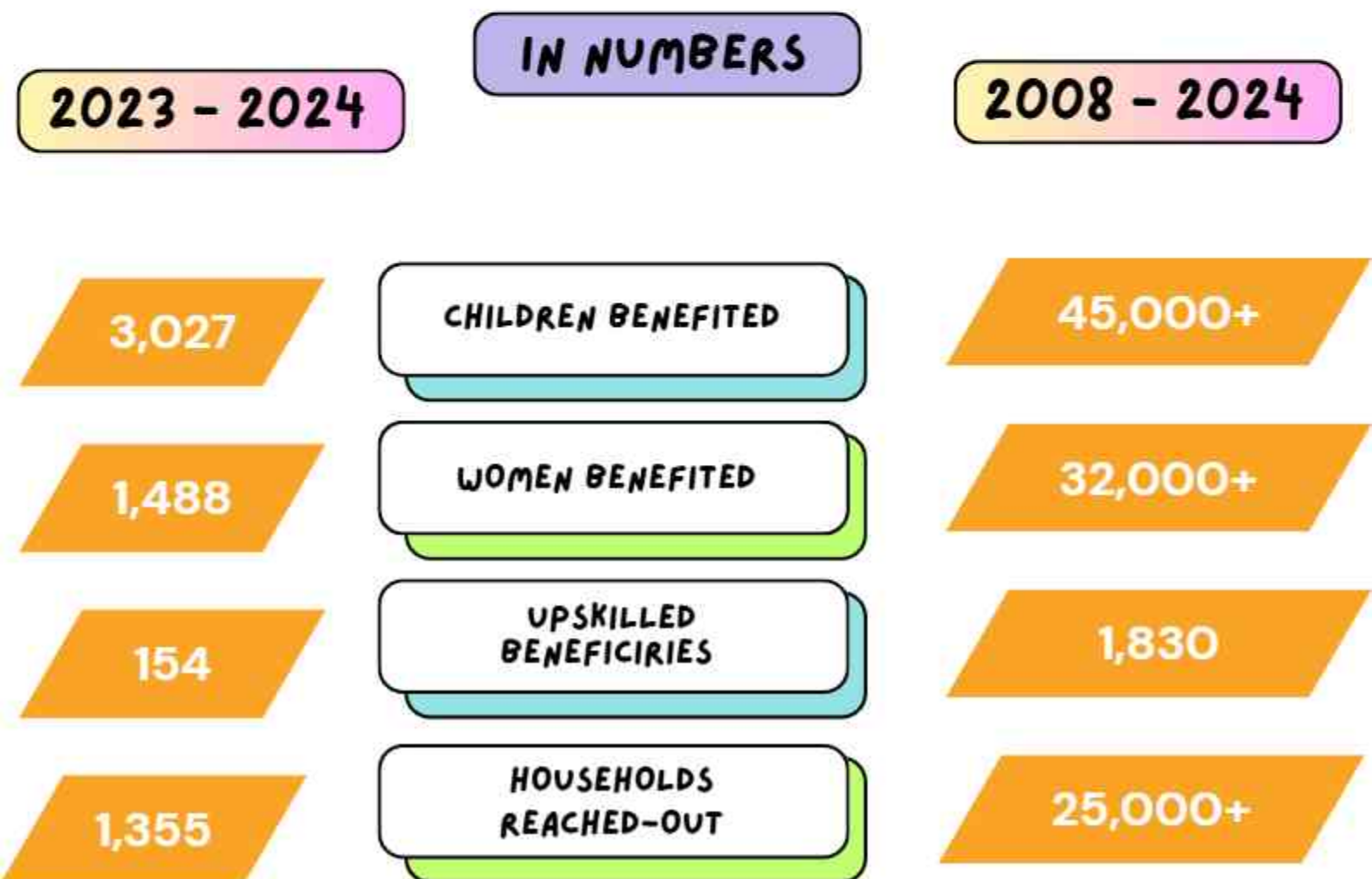
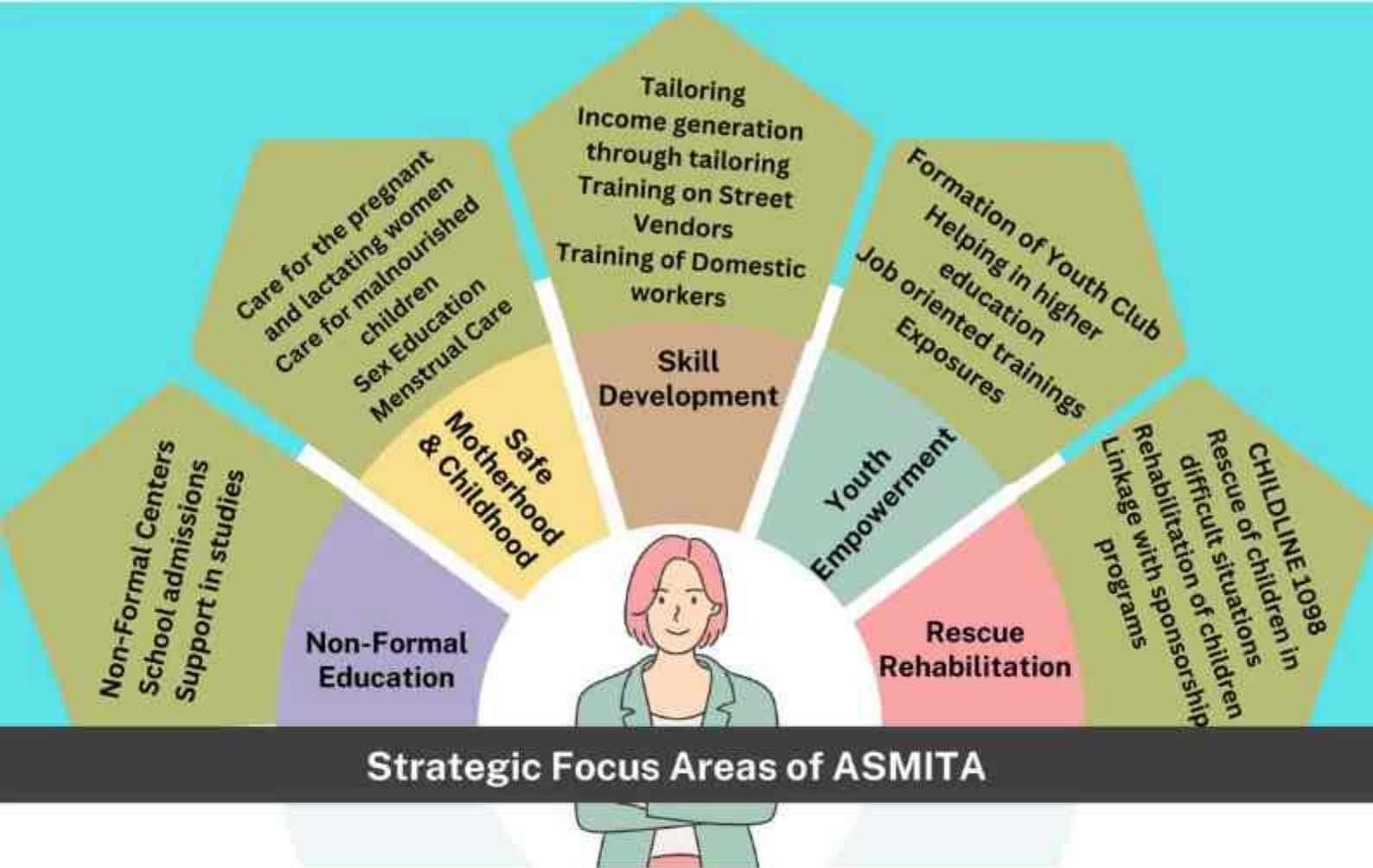
Charity to sustainable solutions-
Empowering individuals through
education and skill development.

■ About ASMITA

ASMITA, founded by Fr. Dilraj in 2008, is dedicated to empowering marginalized and unorganized migrant laborers, with a special focus on women and children living in the slums of Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. The organization is actively involved in educating non-school going children and adolescents, providing skill development opportunities for women and teenagers, ensuring healthcare for pregnant and lactating mothers, and supporting elderly widows. ASMITA strives to uplift the upcoming generation from the slums through education and skill development, enabling them to live a dignified lives. It believes in the dignity of every slum dweller.



**Dilraj
The Founder**



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ASMITA believes that the upliftment of slum dwellers can only be achieved through education. An educated mind is essential for overcoming the challenges of their current circumstances. The founder of ASMITA was initially determined that the organization would not run its own schools but would instead assist children in enrolling in formal schools. However, the major obstacle was that the educational level of these migrant children was often so low that they struggled to keep up after being admitted to school. This challenge led to the creation of non-formal education centers.

Since then, ASMITA has been actively working in the major slums of Varanasi, teaching children the fundamental skills of reading, writing, basic language, and mathematics before enrolling them in formal schools. This approach has been in practice for the past 26 years.

Last year, ASMITA began to ask, "What is status of the children we have enrolled in schools?" The answers were both gratifying and disheartening. On the positive side, many girls have successfully completed their 10th and 12th grades, and many continue to regularly attend school. However, it was painful to learn that many boys had been dropped out after a few years of schooling.

In response to this situation, ASMITA has devised a plan to ensure that school-going children can continue their formal education. The organization is committed to enrolling 5-6 students into college each year, with the belief that once these young individuals enter higher education, they will have the chance to break the cycle of poverty in the slums."

Non-formal Education

The year 2023-24 was particularly fruitful for ASMITA, as we were able to reach a greater number of children, establish centers in new slums, and introduce various activities for their development. ASMITA is currently running 12 non-formal education centers, serving 312 children. Additionally, we have opened an Early Childhood Learning Center at our ASMITA campus to provide focused learning. Beyond these 12 centers, four others were initiated by dedicated volunteers.

Formal Schooling

A key focus for the year was enrolling children into formal schooling. After spending one year at our non-formal centers, each child is expected to be enrolled to a formal school. Depending on the financial capacity of the parents, children are enrolled in either government or private schools. We counsel parents on the importance of their children's education and the role they play in supporting it. This year, we successfully enrolled 174 children into the formal schooling system.

Education Aid

Children who faced significant challenges in continuing their education due to financial constraints were identified for support. ASMITA provided educational aid to 24 children, including uniforms, school fees, books, and bicycles to 7 children, helping to ensure they could stay in school and continue their studies.



IMPACT Education

Progress in Literacy

01



- 312 children, able to read and write the basic.
- Progressed from identifying individual letters to reading four-letter words.
- Capable of multiplying three-digit numbers.
- Identification of English alphabets.
- Able to recite poems and read stories.

Social Transformation

- 140 children transitioned from rag-picking to mainstream education.
- 312 children have undergone a transformative journey, integrating more confidently into mainstream society.
- Widening of vision happening through exposures
- 14 exposure visits, 36 special activities such as competitions, games, cultural programs were conducted

02



Mainstreaming in Education"

03



- 174 Children enrolled into formal education
- 46 children are given cycle to go to school.
- 18 children are assisted with school fees.
- 46 children are provided with uniforms
- 26 children are given Teaching Learning Materials (TLM)
- 400+ children given jackets

Non-Formal Classes



Exposure Visits



Competitions



Parents Meetings



HEALTH

A key focus area for ASMITA is providing health care to slum dwellers, particularly uneducated migrant women who are often unaware of basic health care practices. Many of these women lack knowledge about health care facilities, how to approach hospitals, complete necessary documentation, or undergo check-ups and tests, which leads them to avoid seeking medical help.

Three years ago, we began offering pregnancy and post-pregnancy care in 12 slums. This year, we expanded our efforts to another 25 urban slums, also addressing malnutrition in children. The results have been highly satisfactory, with visible improvements in these communities. Women are now regularly taken to hospitals for consultations and check-ups, ensuring consistent care..

Additionally, ASMITA is actively working on raising awareness about menstrual hygiene among adolescent girls and providing sex education for adolescent boys. Sex education is often a taboo subject, leading to misconceptions and violations due to ignorance or misunderstanding. Our initiatives aim to address these gaps and foster a more informed and healthy community.

Safe Motherhood

THE OBJECTIVE

Ensure Safe-Motherhood through health training programmes and target interventions among slum communities to enhance well-being of pregnant women, and new born babies.



CASES

- 637 new cases attended
- 389 lactating mothers
- 248 pregnant women

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

- 25 Community health Groups created.
- 338 meetings held this year
- Regular awareness programs

MEDICAL

- 30 medical camps conducted
- 912 women benefitted
- Regular health check ups, vaccinations, hospitalised deliveries, treatments

NUTRITIONAL SUPPORT

- 275 women and children are given regular nutrition
- 2350 nutrition kits distributed

TRAININGS

- Regular Training of the ASHAs and ANMs
- 5 one day camps for pregnant women conducted
- 5 one day camps for lactating women conducted

FAMILY COUNSELLING

- Regular meetings of these pregnant and lactating mothers are held.
- The entire family is involved in caring for the mother and child.
- Husbands are motivated to stand by their wife at the time of pregnancy



Alleviation of malnourishment

Malnourishment has been a central focus of our health care efforts. Our volunteers and our animators conducted a comprehensive survey in 25 slums, assessing a total of 972 children. Of these, 755 were deemed to have normal nutritional status, 87 were classified as having Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM), and 130 were identified with Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM).

Following the survey, a medical camp was organized to verify these results with a doctor. The camp confirmed that 142 children were indeed malnourished and required special care. Since then, special medical camps have been held monthly for malnourished children, and monthly nutrition supplements are provided. Additionally, 9 children were admitted to the hospital for further treatment.

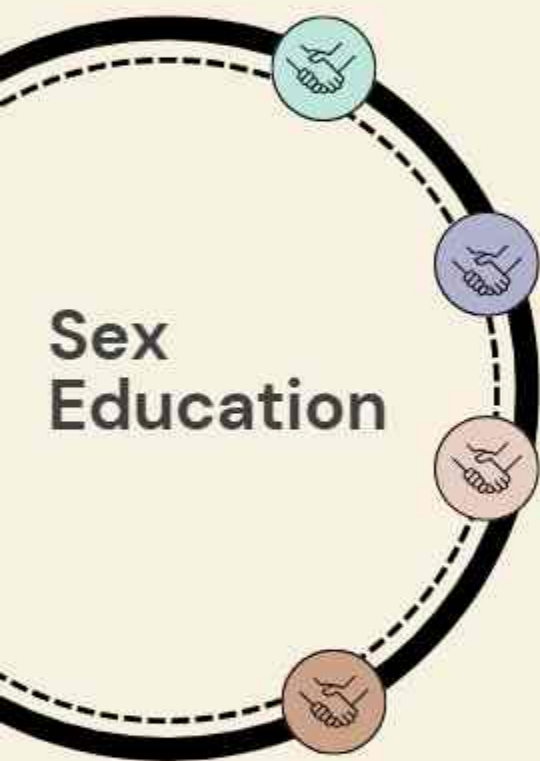
Significant progress has been made in addressing malnutrition, but there remains a need to reach more families, particularly those where women are not yet involved in our safe motherhood program.

OUR APPROACH

- Identification
- Family counselling
- Hospitalisation
- Nutritional supplements
- Regular check-ups

Sex Education

This year, ASMITA dedicated substantial efforts to sex education. We engaged with communities and established groups for adolescent boys, who met monthly to discuss topics such as sex, sexuality, gender, safe sex, biological changes, and the sexual needs of both men and women. During the year, we held 272 such meetings. Additionally, our team conducted 18 awareness sessions in schools, reaching over 2,300 children on these important topics.



Adolescent boys groups

- 25 adolescent boys' groups are established across 25 slums.
- 272 meetings were conducted, with 367 boys actively participating in these sessions.

One day camps

5 one day camps are conducted at ASMITA to give specific inputs on the subject.

Awareness programs in schools

Our goal was to reach 2,000 children in schools with awareness on the subject. This year, we exceeded our target by covering 18 schools and reaching over 2,300 children.

Inter school speech competition

ASMITA organized an inter-school speech competition on gender equality, which took place across 24 schools with 348 children participating. The final round was held at ASMITA on December 5, 2023, where 58 children competed. Varsha Maurya secured first place in the final round.

Eye Camp

Cataract is a common issue among the elderly. On January 2, 2024, ASMITA, in collaboration with Sai Ma Ashram, conducted an eye check-up at the ASMITA campus. A total of 160 individuals underwent the check-up, with 103 receiving prescription glasses and 21 underwent free cataract surgery.





IMPACT & NUMBERS



637

Beneficiaries

107

Pregnant women assisted

389

Lactating women assisted

141

Malnourished children assisted

3000+

Vaccinations

336

Deliveries

134

Hospitalizations

09

Training Programs

30

Medical camps

2350

Nutritional support

140

Adolescent boys part of program

2300

Sex education in the schools

122

Children taken out of malnourishment

338

Community Meetings

24%

First Time availing medical facility during pregnancy



Community Meetings



Medical Camp



Speech Comp

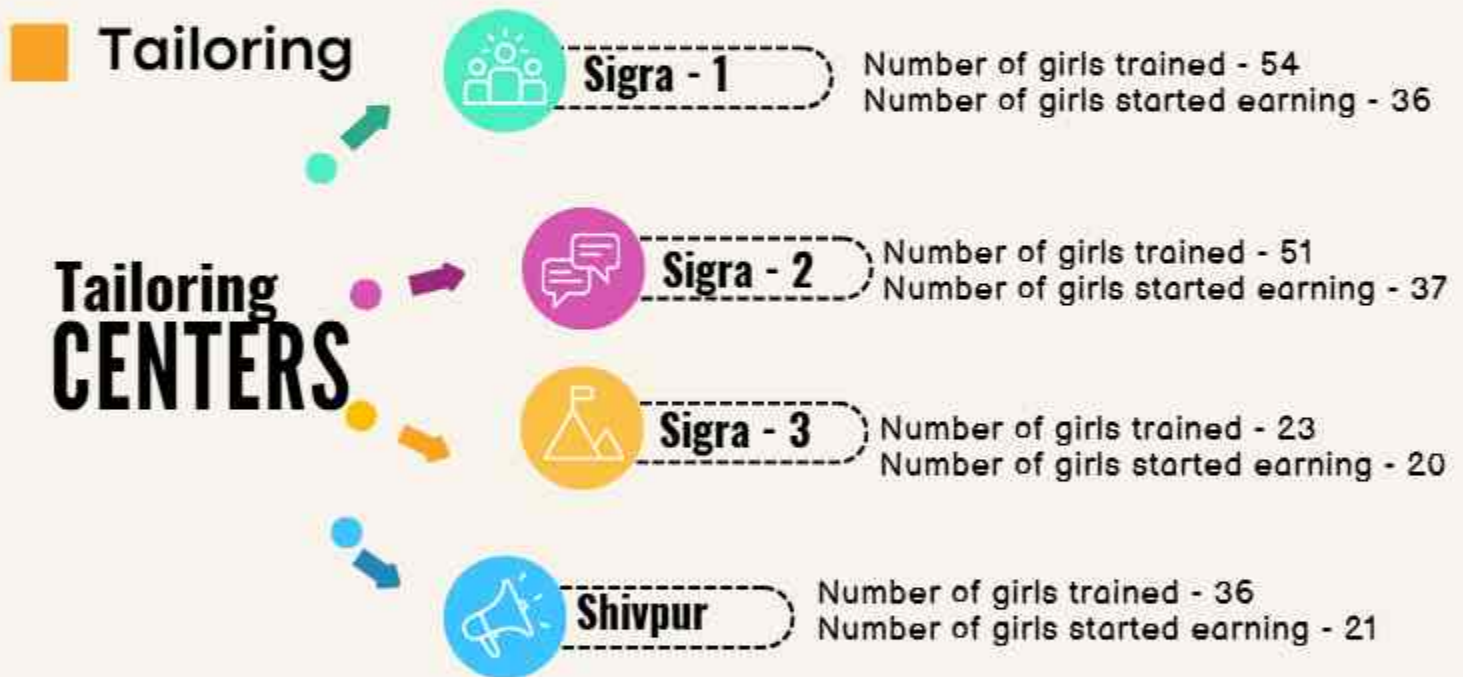
Meetings with Boys



SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Lack of entrepreneurial skills is a major reason for slum dwellers to remain trapped in cycles of rag-picking. While teenagers in the slums may not be interested in academic subjects, they are often quick to learn new skills. However, they lack exposure to alternative options.

To address this, ASMITA focused on providing skill development opportunities. For the past 20 years, we have conducted tailoring classes, and this year we operated 4 tailoring centers. In addition, we offered skill training for domestic workers. Ten individuals were trained in idli making and marketing, and were provided with materials to sell their products.





Exhibition



Tailoring Class - Sagra

ASMITA has entered an agreement with JCI company for cloths productions. A group of 9 girls who have learned tailoring from ASMITA are engaged in stitching pillow cases, bedsheets, stalls, bed and table runners for the company. They are able to make an impressive earning for themselves.



Girls involved in production work

■ Training of Domestic Workers



Cooking Classes



Personality Development Classes

The second aspect of our skill development program focused on training women as domestic helpers and assisting with placement. Initiated in May, this program identified 20 women from the slums. During the four months program, they received comprehensive training covering various aspects of domestic work. Upon completion, 15 of these women were ready for employment, and ASMITA facilitated placements for all of them. Today, these 15 women are earning between 8,000 and 12,000 rupees per month, leading more stable and fulfilling lives.



Cooking Classes



Cooking Classes

Training on Street Vending



Inauguration of the carts



Idli stall

Another initiative by ASMITA this year involved supporting 10 families in street vending. We provided these families with comprehensive training, and provided a full idli-making setup, including a tela, vessels, and stove. At ASMITA we prepare the batter for idli and provide to all the vendors to keep the up the taste alike. The training program, which began in July, was inaugurated by Shri Saurav Srivastav, MLA, Cantonment.

Special unit in ASMITA also prepares idli batter at and supplies to the families at a reduced cost. Currently, each family is making a profit of 400-500 rupees per day.



Cooking Classes



Idli Stall

Tailoring Classes



New Center



Exhibition

Street Vending Carts



YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

7
5
4

CYCLES

EXPOSURES

HOTEL
MANAGEMENT

14 SCHOOL
ADMISSIONS



ASMITA YOUTH CLUB

To effectively engage with youth, organizing them into structured groups was essential. We established youth clubs in 8 slums, where regular meetings are held to foster engagement and development.

AWARENESS PROS

Awareness programs expand the horizons of young individuals. We have conducted sessions on career guidance, gender, sexuality, yoga, mental health, and reading, among other topics.

EXPOSURES

Exposures provide a broader perspective of the world beyond the slums. Through these experiences, adolescents and youth have been taken to colleges, universities, hospitals, and historical sites. To date, we have organized 5 such exposure trips.

YOUTH & TEENS

SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Many youths lack alternative skills needed to transition into other fields. To address this, we are connecting them with skill programs, including computer classes, hotel management, and cooking. Some participants have already secured placements through these programs.

ENROLMENTS

Some adolescents face significant challenges in continuing their studies up to the 12th grade. ASMITA supports these youths by assisting with admissions into higher classes, providing financial support for fees, and supplying bicycles to help them complete their education and achieve graduation.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATIONS

Youths are encouraged to participate in programs and meetings that involve interaction with the general public. This helps them integrate more effectively into mainstream society.

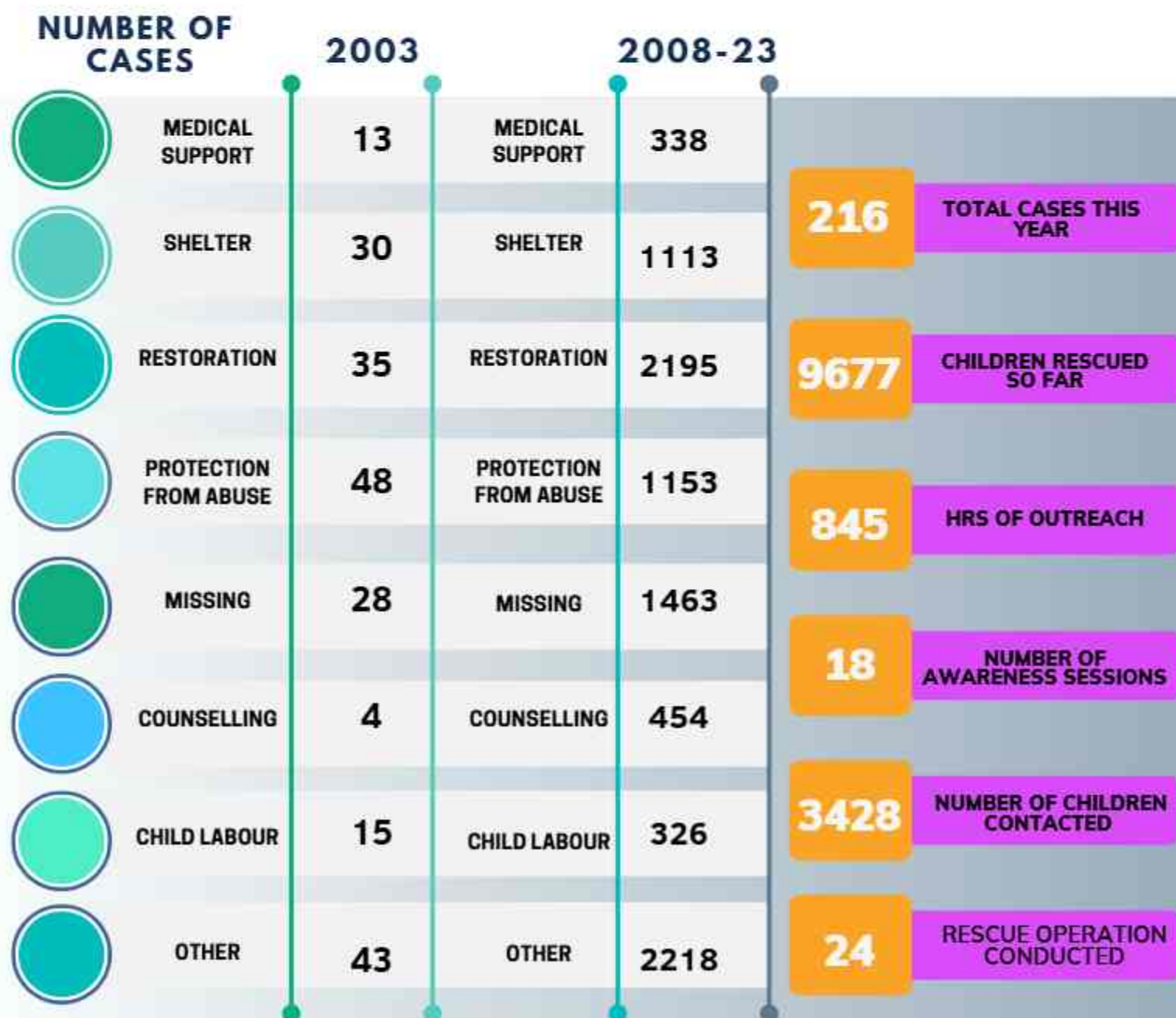


CHILDLINE 1098

CHILDLINE, an emergency Helpline programme (under the Ministry of Women and Child Development) run by ASMITA takes care of children in need of care and protection in the district of Varanasi.



It is an emergency service 24x7 for children in distress. It handles, on an average, 70-80 cases a month. This includes cases of new born babies thrown away, child labour, child marriages, child sexual abuse, trafficking, child begging, runaway children, cybercrime, etc. Besides dealing with such cases legally, it also undertakes awareness and outreach programmes to prevent such cases listed above and provides emotional support such children in distress.



Winding up of CHILDLINE Services

The rescue and rehabilitation service for children in need of care and protection concluded on August 31, 2023. The Ministry of Women and Child Development decided to take over the service through the District Child Protection Unit (DCPU). As part of this transition, all partner units phased out their services, with the Varanasi unit completing its final service on August 31, marking the end of a 16-year effort.

ASMITA extends its gratitude to all allied systems for their collaboration and support throughout this period. On 1st September, a gathering of partners was held at ASMITA as the final step of winding up the services.



Notable Events and Initiatives of the Year

Blanket Distribution

This winter, ASMITA distributed 760 blankets to widows and children from its non-formal education centers. The initiative included 500 blankets purchased by ASMITA with local support and 260 donated by W.H. Smith School.



Visitation of Rotary Club governor, Rotarians Varanasi South and donated 5 tailoring machines to our students on 28th of April 23.



Holi Milan

It has been the tradition of ASMITA to celebrate Holi Milan Samaroh with our staffs and associates. This year too, we celebrated in on 28th March 2024.



Christmas Celebration

This year, ASMITA celebrated Christmas with children from the centers on December 23rd, as part of its tradition of marking special occasions..



Children's Day

ASMITA celebrated children's day on 11th of November at ASMITA campus. Children from the centers put-up various programs.



Roza Iftar

On April 19th, ASMITA celebrated Roza Iftar with a special "women-only gathering" for breaking the fast.



Women's Day

ASMITA celebrated women's day on 12th of March at Ravidas Ghat. It had a great presence of 250 women.



Cloths collection and distribution

This year, ASMITA organized two major clothing drives, receiving generous donations from K E Karmel School in Kerala and CWM in Tamil Nadu. The collected clothes were distributed to children and slum dwellers in our communities..

TATA Strive

In collaboration with Tata Strive, ASMITA supported 40 aspiring entrepreneurs by providing monetary assistance of ₹20,000 each. The selected individuals received 10 days of technical training, equipping them to launch their businesses successfully.





670 additional kits were distributed, other than those provided under the health program.



42 Student interns from BHU, MGKVP, IIM Rohtas, Simbiosis, IGNOU, VKM. Two groups underwent 10 days and 30 days residential training at ASMITA.



Sari distribution - Humanity Trust



15 days Zari Zardosi Training



Our Partners



SEED FRANCE



LEGAL

Registered under Public Trust Act 1982 ,
vide Number - **276/08 IV**
Supplementary Regi No - **IV 329/2023**

TAX EXEMPTION

12A Reg. Number - **AACTA3608EE20210**
80G Reg. Number - **AACTA3608E23LK01**

OTHERS

PAN Number: **AACTA3608E**
NITI AYOOG Registration: **UP/2016/0099637**
CSR - 1 : **CSR00020819**
TAN - **ALDA07841B**

ASMITA acknowledges the valuable contributions our funding agencies, associates and benefactors. Your supports reached out to the utmost needy people in the slums of Varanasi.





THE ASMITA FAMILY

Your support and collaboration
were crucial in making this
happen."

Thank You!



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ASMITA



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