



Annual Report 2023-24

RAMAKRISHNA SARADA SAMITI

Women and Child Empowerment



Chairperson's Foreword

It is my privilege to present the Annual Report of Ramakrishna Sarada Samiti, highlighting a year of growth, resilience, and impactful work. This year, we have been able to expand our programs and strengthen our commitment to empowering marginalized communities through our focus on education, vocational training, and women's empowerment.

At the heart of our work is the belief that every individual deserves the opportunity to lead a life of dignity, self-respect, and fulfillment. Through the combined efforts of our dedicated staff, volunteers, and the unwavering support of our donors and partners, we have continued to bring this vision to life, transforming lives across communities.

I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to everyone who has supported us on this journey—our corporate and individual donors, foundations, government bodies, volunteers, and our tireless staff. Special thanks to Ambit Oditi Foundation for reposing faith in us for eleven continuous years supporting our SATTVA tailoring and artisan collective.

As we look forward to the coming year, we are committed to building on this foundation, expanding our reach, and ensuring that our programs continue to create lasting, positive change. Together, let us continue working towards an inclusive and equitable society.

Thank you for being part of this journey.

Warm regards,
Vidya Raghu
Chairperson, Ramakrishna Sarada Samiti



From the Director's Desk

It is a great honor to share the achievements and milestones of the past year, especially through the launch and growth of Project JEET (Joint Efforts for Educational Transformation), one of our most transformative initiatives to date. Project JEET is a nationwide effort to bring quality education and digital resources directly to underprivileged students in government schools.

This groundbreaking project has been made possible through the generous support of the SBI Foundation and our technology collaboration with J.P. Morgan Chase, Mumbai under their Force For Good Program. But the first donor to this Project was Cleanroom Technologies P. Ltd., Hyderabad. Together, we are developing an innovative digital platform that connects disadvantaged students with free, high-quality educational content, empowering them to learn, grow, and succeed academically.

Our vision for Project JEET goes beyond academics; it is about creating an inclusive, sustainable, and free for a lifetime model that fosters lifelong learning and equal opportunities for students from underserved communities. On behalf of the entire team at Ramakrishna Sarada Samiti, I extend heartfelt thanks to our partners, supporters, and volunteers. Together, we are transforming the lives of children, and vocational abilities of women from the marginalized communities.

With gratitude,

Raghu Pilaka
Director, Ramakrishna Sarada Samiti.



RKSS Gammatwadi

We reopened on June 20, 2024, after the summer break, welcoming back all the children with bright, eager smiles! It was clear that they had been looking forward to returning to Gammatwadi for learning and fun.

The vibrant and playful atmosphere at Gammatwadi fills children with joy and enthusiasm, making them eagerly anticipate each new term. Gammatwadi teachers thoughtfully design a wide range of engaging activities that not only sustain children's interest but also foster full participation and a love of learning.



The warm, child-friendly approach of the teachers makes Gammatwadi feel like a second home for the children. Over 60 children have benefited from its pre-primary program.

At Gammatwadi, children not only receive an academic foundation but also gain a deep appreciation for culture, patriotism, and moral values through a variety of cultural activities and festival celebrations. Gammatwadi emphasizes hands-on activities, which makes learning fun and helps instill cultural values in a meaningful way. Celebrating festivals from all religions also fosters a sense of equality and non-discrimination, teaching children these values through experience rather than lecture.



Celebration of Diwali festival



Celebration of Ganesh festival





Celebration of Ashadi Ekadashi festival



Children also enjoying colorful Holi and Christmas party



Gammatwadi also enhances learning through various exposure visits.

This year, a visit was organized to a local market, where children gained hands-on experience in purchasing vegetables and groceries.





Annual Day

The Annual Day was celebrated in February 2024, featuring wonderful performances by the children. This event provided a platform for them to showcase their talents and build stage confidence. Parents participated enthusiastically in the celebration, expressing their appreciation for the teachers' efforts and their happiness in seeing their children's progress.



Summer Camp

Summer camp was held in May 2024, blending learning with fun! The children learned various exercises and understood their importance for a healthy daily routine. They also enjoyed creating unique items from cut pieces or *Chindhi*, discovering the joy of crafting with reusable materials. The children had a wonderful time!



Gappagoshti

Parents of children from Gammatwadi are invited to open and free-for-all "Gappagoshti" sessions, where they can actively participate and discuss important topics. These sessions cover areas such as nutritious food, health and hygiene, yoga, child psychology, and positive parenting.



JEET

Joint Efforts for Educational Transformation (JEET) (www.jeet.in.net) is a nationwide alliance of NGOs dedicated to delivering quality education to under-resourced and disadvantaged students in government schools by providing free, high-quality educational resources and videos.

Ramakrishna Sarada Samiti is leading the development of this digital platform for children, with SBI Foundation as the funding partner and JP Morgan Chase supporting the creation of an advanced AI/ML-powered search engine.

During the year, we launched a separate website for JEET, distinct from that of RKSS, at www.jeet.in.net. Additionally, we have reserved an alternative web address, jeet.asia, in case we decide to use a shorter domain name in the future. JEET has its own office space within RKSS.



SATTVA

The Street Artisans and Trained Tailors Vocational Association has been empowering women on their journey toward self-reliance since 2020. Sattva, a women-led social enterprise, provides vocational training for women from disadvantaged communities, equipping them with skills to create a diverse range of innovative, upcycled, stylish, and durable handcrafted products that promote green fashion. These artisans are supported with essential resources, such as sewing machines, and artisanal kits to foster their craft.

Many of these skilled women are now self-employed and have gained the confidence to lead independent lives. A dozen women form the core team of Sattva working as interns at RKSS.

SATTVA is now expanding skill development activity through partnerships with other NGOs in Mumbai. Trained artisans and tailors from SATTVA are going to NGOs like Khushi Trust and teaching their artisans and tailors handcraft and tailoring tips.



These women now feel independent and confident, having never imagined they could work or earn an income on their own. However, after completing SATTVA's vocational courses, they have begun to achieve financial independence.

One of these women, Jyoti Jangam, who has transformed from trainee to trainer, shared her story with tears of joy: "I was searching for work when I approached RKSS. I never dreamed that I would one day become a trainer. I am grateful to RKSS for transforming my life and helping me realize my potential. It brings me so much happiness to now be able to train and empower women like myself."



Savita Bandi, one of our Sattva trainees, is now working as a Sattva tailor. She shared her journey with us: “I never imagined working anywhere. When RKSS visited our community, it gave me a new direction in life. I was just a housewife, but RKSS empowered me to earn on my own and instilled the confidence to live independently. Earning my own income has brought me immense happiness and allowed me to meet my family's needs. I have gained respect in my family, and I never thought my life would change so positively. RKSS has not only transformed me but also completely changed my life.”

Sattva provides real-life examples of how women’s journeys toward excellence can be transformed. The enterprise is dedicated to creating upcycled, uniquely handcrafted, trendy products that promote a green and sustainable environment.



Mallakhamb

Mallakhamb, uses a combination of Gymnastics and Yoga, was initiated as part of a sports education program aimed at empowering children from disadvantaged communities by providing training in a unique national level sport.

This initiative offers underprivileged children the opportunity to discover and develop their athletic abilities and balancing skills. Many of our students have gone on to excel in Mallakhamb at the district and state levels.

This year, three of our children won medals at the Bhausahab Ranade Navodit Mallakhamb competition. Additionally, one of our students from RKSS was a member of the Mumbai City team at the Maharashtra Mini Olympics 2023.

We are proud to announce that one of our students has played at the national level for the first time.

RKSS Students won medals in Bhausahab Ranade Navodit Mallakhamb Competition 2023, and they are:

- U/12 :- Sohail Ali
- U/10 :- Shaura Bhange, and
- U/12:- Saloni Ali



V.Y.A.S.A

RKSS has welcomed a large number of volunteers, including professionals and students from both national and international schools and colleges, to actively participate in nation-building through social work.

Volunteers from diverse backgrounds have joined us in our efforts to provide education to the underprivileged, offer upskilling opportunities for women from informal settlements in Mumbai, and empower disadvantaged groups through a range of initiatives, including health, education, arts, sports, cultural programs, and vocational training activities. Our collaboration with AIESEC, Mumbai is noteworthy in this regard.

Pimmada Klaudphuang (Pim) Thailand





Free Cycle Distribution

Under the CSR initiatives of Canara Robeco Asset Management Company Limited, Mumbai, Ramakrishna Sarada Samiti (RKSS) worked tirelessly to ensure that economically disadvantaged children from government schools in rural areas receive free bicycles. With our sponsor providing the required funds under their CSR commitments and RKSS leveraging its extensive all-India reach, we meticulously identified and validated deserving beneficiaries.

In the first year of this partnership, RKSS collaborated with Parivaar.org in Madhya Pradesh and MSP Foundation in Maharashtra to assist our sponsor in distributing 133 adult bicycles, valued approximately at ₹6.65 lakhs. The bicycles were provided to children from marginalized communities attending government schools, including:

- ZP School, Chavanwasti, Paritewad, Parite, Solapur, Maharashtra - 15 cycles
- ZP Secondary School, Takalsingh, Beed, Maharashtra - 55 cycles
- Various tribal schools in Madhya Pradesh - 63 cycles

We are excited about this collaboration and look forward to continuing our efforts to empower our sponsor Canara Robeco AMC to support deserving rural students.



Below is the press coverage highlighting this impactful initiative:

उपक्रम • मुंबईच्या संस्थेने घेतली टाकळसिंग जिल्हा परिषद शाळेची दखल; ग्रामस्थांसह पालकांनी मानले आभार

५५ विद्यार्थ्यांना मोफत सायकलचे वाटप

आष्टी, (वा.) मागोल पाच वर्षांत टाकळसिंग जिल्हा परिषद शाळेतील शिक्षकांनी अथक परिश्रमातून विद्यार्थी घडवण्याचे काम केले. शाळेतील विद्यार्थ्यांना वेगवेगळ्या परीसेच्या माध्यमातून जवळपास दैनंदिन कोटी रुपये स्कॉलरशिप मिळाले आहे. त्यामुळे मुंबई येथील कॅनरा रोबेको म्युचलफंड या संस्थेने दखल घेऊन टाकळसिंग जिल्हा परिषद शाळेतील अकरा गावातून पाचौ चालवण्याच्या विद्यार्थ्यांना शाळेत ये-जा करण्यासाठी ५५ मोफत सायकली वाटप करण्यात आल्या आहेत. बौद्ध जिल्ह्याच्या आष्टी तालुक्यातील टाकळसिंग येथे गुणवान पूर्ण शिक्षण घेण्यासाठी म्युचल फंड सीएसआर फंडातून ५५ सायकलींचे वितरण करण्यात आले.



विद्यार्थ्यांची झाली गैरसोय दूर; कार्यक्रमास अनेकांची होती उपस्थिती

या कार्यक्रमासाठी दिवाळी, देवणा, हनुमंतगवा, खानापूर, सांगवी, दिग्वी, बळेखडी, फारगव, बळकुन तालुका, टाकळसिंग या गावांमधून शिक्षण घेत असलेल्या ५५ विद्यार्थ्यांच्या पालकांना बोलावून घेऊन सायकलचे वितरण करण्यात आले. तसेच या कार्यक्रमासाठी प्रमुख उपस्थिती म्हणून कॅनरा रोबेको म्युचल फंड यांच्याकडून मध्यस्था दुरे, बाळसाहेब कुमकार,

सतीश जगतपा, बबनराव जोषीदेव आदी मान्यवर उपस्थित होते. प्रमुख पाहुणे माधव्या दुरे यांची संबोधन वसुन गावातून मिरवणूक सोबत ५५ विद्यार्थी यांची सयकलद्वारा पालकांसोबत वजान - गावत गावतून मिरवणूक काढण्यात आली. या कार्यक्रमासाठी परिसरातील पालक तसेच आष्टी पंचायत समितीचे सहाय्यी, गावचे सरपंच, उपसरपंच,

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शिष्यवृत्तीची माहिती

प्रशासनेचे मुख्यध्यापक महेशकुमार शिंदे म्हणाले की, २०२४ या वर्षात प्रशासनेस मिळालेल्या इन्व्हेस्टिस कंपनीकडून ३५ वॉर्मथ्यूटर, आयसीआयसीआय फंडाडेशन वसुन मिळालेले सोलर पॅनल तसेच बॉटल फिल्टर, महाराष्ट्र राज्य शासनाकडून मिळालेले एपीजे अद्वयल कलास सायन्स लॅब, पीएम श्री योजनेत निवड झालेली शाळेची माहिती, समग्र शिक्षा अभियानातून शाळेची मिळालेल्या वार प्रोजेक्टरशिथी माहिती दिली. मन्त्री विद्याधी अन यांच्याकडून शाळेकडून शाळेकडून घेतलेल्या २० लाख रुपयांच्या इमारत बांधकाम जागेसंदर्भात माहिती दिली. प्रशस्तीमध्ये आतापर्यंत वेगवेगळ्या शिष्यवृत्ती परीक्षेमध्ये विद्यार्थ्यांनी मिळवलेल्या टीड कोटी रुपये शिष्यवृत्ती विषयी माहिती दिली.



पुण्य नगरी

टाकळसिंग येथे ५५ विद्यार्थ्यांना सायकलचे वाटप

आष्टी / इतिमिती : शाळावर्गीय विद्या परिषद शाळेतील शिक्षकांनी अथक परिश्रमातून विद्यार्थी घडवण्याचे काम केले. शाळेतील विद्यार्थ्यांना वेगवेगळ्या परीसेच्या माध्यमातून जवळपास दैनंदिन कोटी रुपये स्कॉलरशिप मिळाले आहे. त्यामुळे मुंबई येथील कॅनरा रोबेको म्युचलफंड या संस्थेने दखल घेऊन टाकळसिंग जिल्हा परिषद शाळेतील अकरा गावातून पाचौ चालवण्याच्या विद्यार्थ्यांना शाळेत ये-जा करण्यासाठी ५५ मोफत सायकली वाटप करण्यात आल्या आहेत. बौद्ध जिल्ह्याच्या आष्टी तालुक्यातील टाकळसिंग येथे गुणवान पूर्ण शिक्षण घेण्यासाठी म्युचल फंड सीएसआर फंडातून ५५ सायकलींचे वितरण करण्यात आले.

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Scholarships

For the first time, Ramakrishna Sarada Samiti (RKSS) is formally partnering with NGOs and CSR departments interested in supporting merit-based scholarships for students from informal urban communities in Mumbai. While we have previously provided need-based scholarships on a case-to-case basis, we have now made it our mission to collaborate with like-minded organizations to identify and support deserving children in their educational journeys.

This year, we have partnered with the CSR division of EY (Ernst & Young, Delhi) to provide scholarships to five students from BMC schools. The selected students who scored 80% to 90% in 10th exams, are as follows:

1. Ansari Mohd Yusuf Raja Mohd Istiyak - 8976733772
2. Singh Bharati Gullan - 9167515169
3. Ansari Mohd Aadil Noorulhuda - 9867935855
4. Yadav Yuvraj Gyan Singh - 9082584977
5. Shaikh Mohd Salman Mohd Asgar - 9819606233

EY scholarship will cover their college fees and support them until the completion of their higher education.

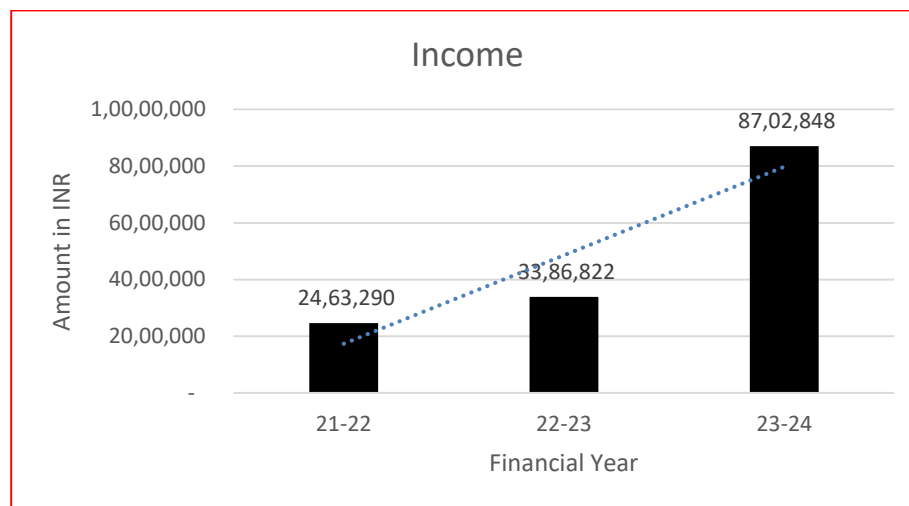
We are excited about this collaboration and look forward to continuing our efforts to empower bright, needy students with the support of our partners.

Dharam Khata

In this section we will provide you with a snapshot of growth in the last three years through our financial numbers namely Income, Expenditure, Surplus/ deficit, and Assets.

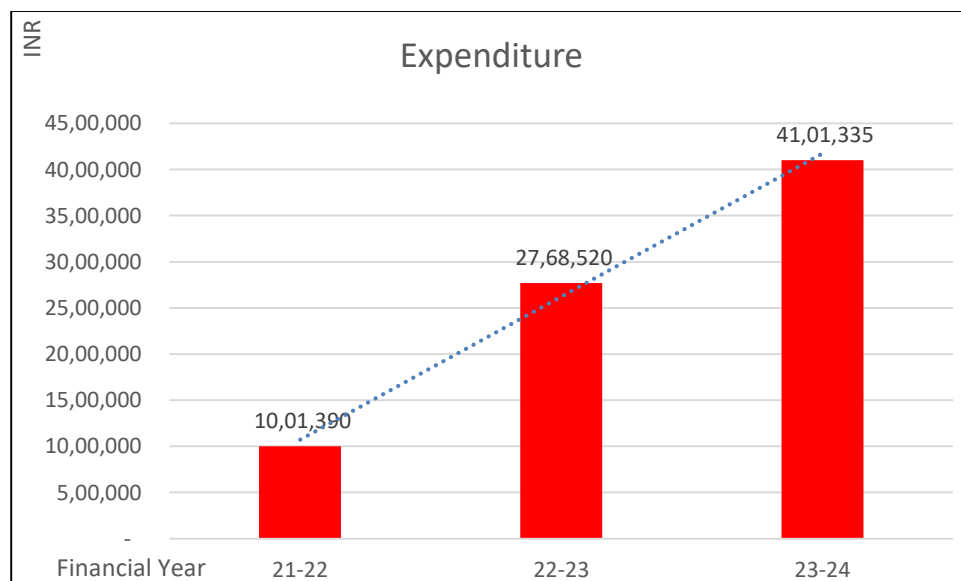
Income

In the past three years, income has increased by 85% per annum.



Expenditure

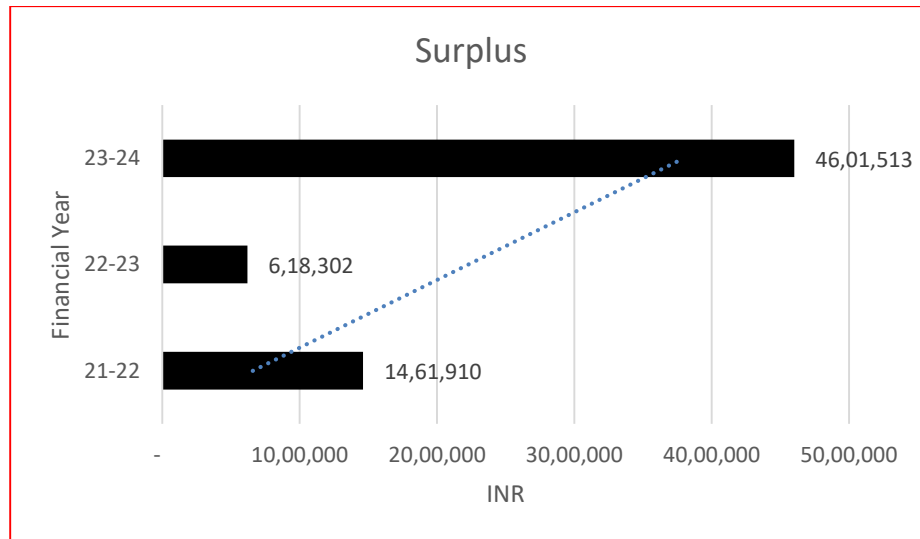
In the past three years, expenditure has increased by 103% per annum.





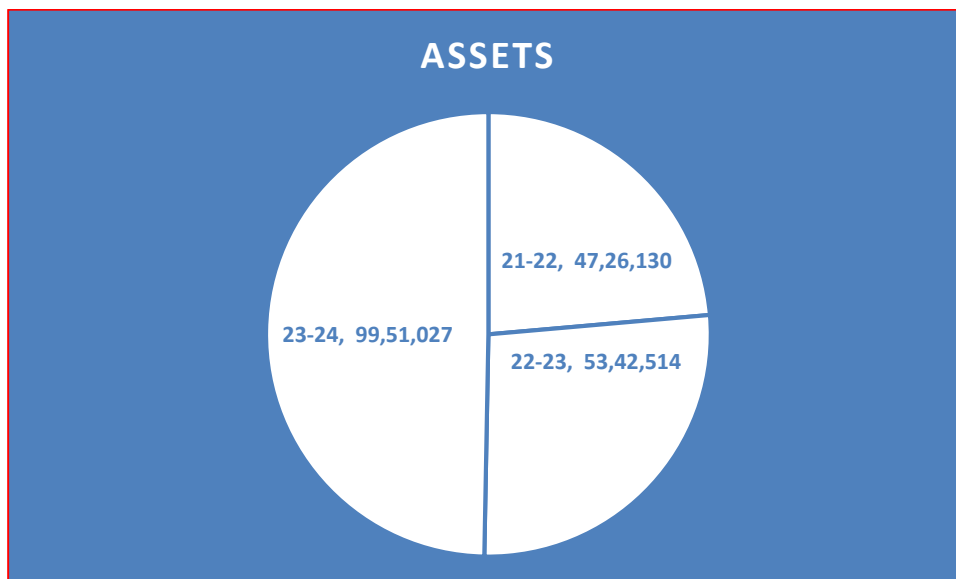
Surplus

In the past three years, surplus has increased by 72% per annum, which is because of tail-end donations.



Assets

In the past three years, assets have increased by 37% per annum.





Acknowledgements

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks and deep gratitude to all our trustees, corporate donors, individual donors, volunteers, banks, institutions, foundations, friends and families, and the dedicated staff members who have supported us in turning our vision into a reality in our focus areas of Education, Skilling, and Women's empowerment. Your generosity and commitment have been an incredible source of inspiration, enabling us to continue our work in transforming the lives of marginalized communities.

With your invaluable support, we have been able to empower individuals and families, providing them with the tools and resources to live lives of dignity and self-respect. Your contributions play a vital role in promoting social inclusion, breaking down barriers, and creating opportunities for those who need them most.

Together, we are making a meaningful impact and working toward a more equitable society. Thank you for believing in our mission and standing alongside us in this important journey. Your continued support strengthens our resolve and drives us to achieve even greater outcomes for those we serve.

Donations to Ramakrishna Sarada Samiti are tax-exempt under Section 80G, and our Form-1 certification also qualifies us to receive CSR contributions. We gratefully acknowledge all donations and voluntary services extended in support of our mission.