GivingPi
India Family Philanthropy Network

Dear GivingPi Member,

What makes an approach to philanthropy worth backing? Often, the answer lies in the choices that shape the work: how a problem is understood, whose perspectives inform the response, and what it takes to make a solution relevant to the people it serves. These choices may look different across sectors, but they can determine whether an intervention addresses an immediate gap or creates the conditions for progress to continue.

Across the GivingPi community, we see these questions taking shape in different ways. From designing more accessible learning environments for children with visual impairments to connecting artisan skills with market opportunities and involving rural communities in identifying their own development priorities, our members are supporting approaches grounded in the realities of the people they serve. Each offers a different perspective on what effective engagement can look like, and the importance of looking beyond the stated objective to understand how the work is designed and delivered.

These experiences sit within a wider philanthropic landscape that is also evolving. New research and sector conversations are examining how different forms of capital can complement one another, how social outcomes can inform economic decisions, and what stronger philanthropic infrastructure could mean for India's development priorities. Together, they raise important questions about how philanthropy is practiced, what enables it to be effective, and how these approaches might inform future giving.

In this edition, we bring together member initiatives, emerging research and perspectives from across the sector to explore the ideas shaping philanthropic practice today, and the choices that could influence its direction in the years ahead.

With gratitude,
Team GivingPi

Global Pulse
Opportunities & Insights in Philanthropy

This section curates timely opportunities, events, and thought leadership shaping philanthropy and the social sector globally. Whether you're a funder, nonprofit leader, or ecosystem builder - here's where you'll find tools, conversations, and collaborations worth exploring.

Living Heritage Festival | Mayurbhanj

The Mayurbhanj Living Heritage Festival, supported by GivingPi Member and Trustee of Mayurbhanj Foundation, Akshita Bhanj Deo, brings together local artisans, performers, and communities to celebrate the region's craft and cultural heritage, from 27th to 29th November. The craft and art groups went through rigorous design intervention as this is an opportunity to boost market linkages and showcase new forms while raising awareness about these dying forms and their patrons. As traditional art forms and artisan livelihoods face changing markets and limited opportunities, the festival also explores how design interventions and philanthropy can help strengthen skills, create sustainable livelihoods for artists, and open new pathways for young people in sport. The festival is organized with Bangla Natak.com and Heritage4Prosperity and supported by Axis Bank Foundation, hosted at The Belgadia Palace. To register your interest in attending or knowing more, reach out to mayurbhanjfoundation@gmail.com.

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Funding Her Future | Advancing Philanthropy for Women and Girls in India

Dasra's new research, Funding Her Future, supported by Ford Foundation and MacArthur Foundation, maps how philanthropic capital reaches organizations working with women and girls in India. Drawing on a survey of 169 organizations working with and for women and girls, alongside 38 interviews with nonprofit leaders and ecosystem actors, this research explores what investing in women and girls looks like, with a focus on philanthropy and civil society action. It is an invitation to think differently and suggests that the returns are intergenerational and measurable. To explore this research, click here.

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The Impact Economy | Turning Disclosure into Demand

Drawing on case studies and emerging models, this report by the World Economic Forum and the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship in collaboration with SK Group's Center for Social Value Enhancement Studies (CSES) and Social Finance International (SFI), demonstrates how measurable social outcomes can be connected to economic value and financed at scale. It also calls for coordinated action to move impact beyond disclosure and the margins of corporate responsibility, making it an ordinary part of economic decision-making. To read the report, click here.

Powered by GivingPi
What We're Unlocking

Where partnerships are sparked, networks deepen, and bold conversations take shape.

Learning Circle on Philanthropy for Women and Girls

The first gathering of Dasra's Learning Circle on Philanthropy for Women and Girls in Pune brought together GivingPi members, along with members from Social Venture Partners (SVP), foundation leaders and Rotary Club Riverside members. Building on insights from Dasra's new research, Funding Her Future, supported by Ford Foundation and MacArthur Foundation, the conversation moved beyond access to ask what it takes for women and girls to exercise greater agency, economic power, and decision-making authority.

A key insight that emerged from the discussion was that access alone does not guarantee agency. There was also a focus on how women's priorities should shape the support they receive. Drawing on her experience at Mann Deshi, Anagha Kamath reflected on the importance of listening to women and responding to their realities, rather than prescribing solutions. GivingPi Member Dr. Ganesh Natarajan extended this thinking to the transition from education and skilling to employment, retention, and advancement, highlighting how gaps can emerge even after a woman has secured a qualification or first job.

The conversation also raised questions about the kind of capital required to support these longer journeys. For organizations working closely with communities, short-term and project-based funding can be poorly matched to the time it takes to build livelihoods, shift norms, and strengthen agency. Longer-term, flexible support can give organizations the space to adapt to what women actually need, while also allowing them to bring those realities back to funders, even when they challenge prevailing priorities.

The session marked the beginning of a broader learning journey: from funding women's access to thinking more deeply about the conditions that enable agency, choice, and lasting participation.

Updates from our Community

Rashi Mehta: Creating Greater Access to Learning for Children with Visual Impairments

GivingPi Founders Circle Member and Founder of Iron Lady Foundation, Rashi Mehta, is supporting the Dungarpur Blind School in Rajasthan, helping create a safer and more accessible learning environment for approximately 100 visually impaired students aged 6–17.

The initiative combines two forms of support: the development of purpose-built school infrastructure designed around students' needs, and Braille typewriters that enable them to read, write, practice, and participate more independently. While the Braille typewriters have already been provided, construction of the new school building is underway, with a focus on safer navigation, functional classroom spaces, and greater independence and confidence.

Together, these interventions recognize that inclusive education requires more than access to a classroom. It also requires the right tools and environment for students to learn and participate with greater dignity and independence. The initiative also reaches approximately 300 people across the wider school community. To learn more, click here.

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Gurpreet Sunny Singh: Connecting Artisan Skills to Market Opportunities

GivingPi Founders Circle Member and Founder of Roundglass Foundation, Gurpreet Sunny Singh, is supporting women artisans through the Foundation's Livelihoods Program, which connects skill development with market access and formal recognition. In collaboration with the Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, the program has brought together 30 women for a 30-day Crochet Soft Toy Training Program focused on product quality, design, and market-oriented skills.

The program extends beyond training by giving participants opportunities to showcase their products at exhibitions, enabling them to understand customer preferences, receive feedback, and explore potential markets. All 30 women have also been registered for Artisan Cards, strengthening their formal recognition as artisans and access to relevant opportunities. By connecting craft skills with market exposure and recognition, the program is helping women build pathways toward more sustainable livelihoods. To learn more, click here.

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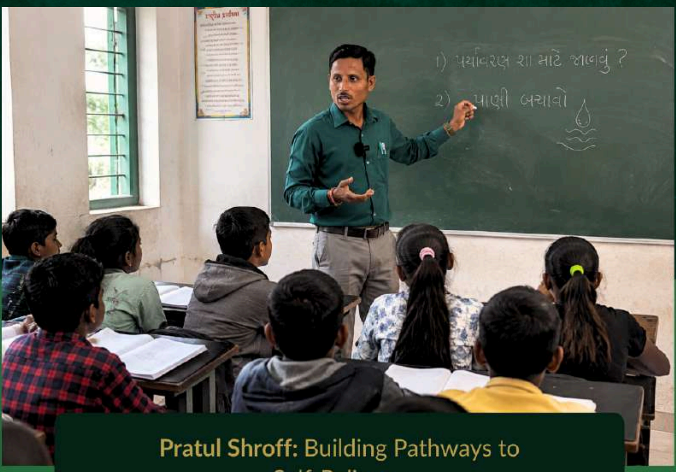

Pratul Shroff: Building Pathways to Self-Reliance

GivingPi Member and Founder of Dr. K. R. Shroff Foundation (KRSF), Pratul Shroff works across education, livelihoods, advocacy, climate action, and healthcare, partnering with NGOs to drive sustainable change. He steers investments of approximately INR 50 crores annually, collaborating with 30+ organizations across eight states.

Guided by its vision to cultivate leaders who enable communities to be self-reliant, KRSF believes in "Measuring What Matters," with meaningful, measurable, and time-bound outcomes. Alongside financial support, it strengthens grassroots organizations through governance, leadership, organizational systems, digitization, and capacity building.

Since 2012, education initiatives have reached 300,000+ students across 1,000+ villages. Livelihood programs have supported 30,000+ families across Gujarat, Maharashtra, and the Northeast, increasing annual income by INR 35,000–50,000. Advocacy has helped 50,000+ people access government schemes, unlocking benefits worth INR 100 crores+. Environmental efforts have restored 105 lakes and 13 check dams, benefited 150,000 people, and supported planting over 1 million trees. To learn more, click here.

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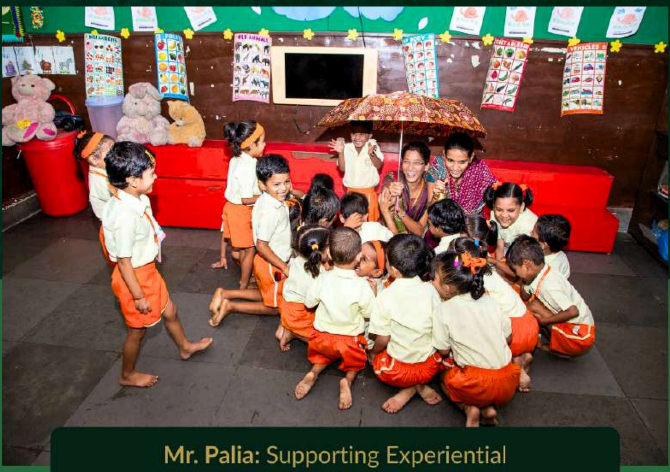

Mr. Palia: Supporting Experiential and Inclusive Education

GivingPi Member and Partner at HonenMyo Ventures LLP, Mr. Palia, visited Rishi Valmiki Eco School through an engagement facilitated by Dasra. During the visit, he was introduced to the school's approach to experiential and inclusive education, with Founder Principal Nikita Pimple Sawant sharing its pedagogy and work with children from economically disadvantaged communities.

Students demonstrated how the school connects classroom learning with geography, biodiversity, food cycles, and conservation through interactive presentations and performances. Mr. Palia experienced first-hand an educational model that brings together academic learning, environmental stewardship and life skills. The experience strengthened his interest in the school's approach to education and community development and led him to support its work more closely. To learn more, click here.

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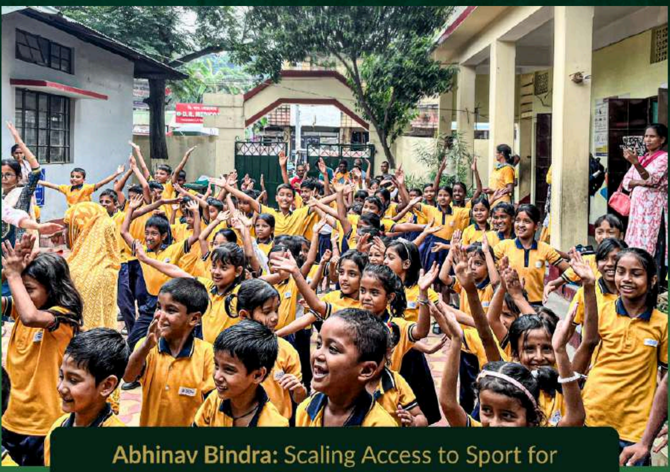
Stanford PACS
Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society
Philanthropy Innovation Summit

Radhika Bharat Ram: Advancing Women's Health Through Prevention

GivingPi Member, Joint Vice Chairperson of The Shri Ram Schools and Trustee of CAPED, Radhika Bharat Ram, is supporting efforts to strengthen awareness, prevention and early detection of cancers affecting women. CAPED works to address critical gaps in cancer prevention and make preventive care more accessible to women.

CAPED was selected as one of 80+ global awardees of the Lever for Change Action for Women's Health Challenge, supported by Melinda French Gates. Chosen from more than 4,000 organizations across 119 countries, the recognition highlights CAPED's work to improve access to cancer prevention and early detection for women.

The recognition also reflects the potential of CAPED's model to address women's health needs at scale. Through her engagement with CAPED, Radhika is contributing to a broader effort to strengthen preventive healthcare and ensure more women have access to the information and care they need. To learn more, click here.



Abhinav Bindra: Scaling Access to Sport for Young People

GivingPi Member and Founder of the Abhinav Bindra Foundation, Abhinav Bindra, is supporting the expansion of the International Olympic Committee (IOC)'s Let's Move initiative in India, in collaboration with Reliance Foundation. The latest phase is extending the Foundation's sports programming to Odisha, Assam, Chandigarh, Telangana, and Meghalaya, with Telangana and Meghalaya joining the initiative for the first time.

On Olympic Day, students across these regions took part in indoor sports, yoga, and classroom-based activities, with the campaign aiming to engage approximately 4 million students. Building on two years of collaboration, the initiative has already reached more than 12 million children, bringing opportunities for physical activity and sport into school environments across India. To learn more, click here.

In the Media

The connective layer to unlock India's next wave of giving

Ami Misra & Isha Maniar | The Week

Drawing on the India Philanthropy Report 2026 and India Nonprofit Report 2026, this article explores how stronger philanthropic infrastructure can help connect emerging givers with credible nonprofits and enable more strategic, long-term giving.

The changing landscape of India's philanthropic capital

Bhavini Malhotra & Prachi Pal | Hindustan Times

As private wealth grows and family philanthropy evolves, giving in India is becoming more intentional, diverse, and professionally managed. The article looks at this shift through changing giving priorities, the growing influence of women and next-generation givers, and the need for stronger infrastructure to support long-term philanthropy.

India's development trajectory has been shaped by women

Sangeeta Bhattacharya & Ankita Bhatkhande | Hindustan Times

This article highlights how women grassroots leaders are shaping community-led solutions through their lived experience and proximity to the issues they address. It calls on philanthropy to recognize them as institution-builders and back their leadership through flexible, multi-year funding, organizational support, and greater access to networks and decision-making spaces.

Reach out to us

Amplify

We would love to amplify your philanthropic efforts with the GivingPi community.

Please share relevant updates with us on communications@givingpi.org

Concierge

If you have a query, need any support with your philanthropic journey, or would simply like to have a conversation, reach out to us on connect@givingpi.org

For more information on the network, membership or philanthropy-focused offerings, visit

www.givingpi.org

The information, data, and impact figures featured in this newsletter have been provided by the respective organizations and are shared for informational purposes. They do not represent independent verification by GivingPi.