

SUSTAINABLE SOCIAL INSIGHTS

CSR | ESG | SUSTAINABILITY



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KEY NEWS ON CSR, ESG & SUSTAINABILITY

GRI LAUNCHES NEW BIODIVERSITY REPORTING STANDARD

The Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), one of the leading organizations promoting standardized ESG reporting, announced today the publication today of “GRI 101: Biodiversity 2024...”

MAHARASHTRA GOVERNMENT WOULD LOVE TO PARTNER WITH SUSTAINABL..

NEW DELHI: Maharashtra's deputy chief minister Devendra Fadnavis said that the state government would love to partner with startup ideas that are sustainable and recognises sustainability as a collective responsibility....



KERALA GOVERNOR'S POLICY ADDRESS | GOVT. PLANS NEW EXPORT, LOGISTICS, ESG AND GRAPHENE POLICIES

The policy address by Governor Arif Mohammed Khan in the Kerala Assembly on Thursday proposed a new export policy, environmental, social and governance (ESG)...

REPORT SAYS 30% OF INDIA'S TOP 1,000 FIRMS HAVE SET CLIMATE ACTION GOALS

The report, 'State of Sector: Climate Action by India Inc 2023' by cKinetics looked into the Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting (BRSR) reports filed by the companies as per the mandates given by the Securities and Exchange Board of ..

STATE TO UNVEIL URBAN POLICY WITH FOCUS ON SUSTAINABILITY

Hyderabad: The Revanth Reddy-led government is poised to unveil a comprehensive urban policy, signalling its....

SUSTAINABLE BOND ISSUANCE IN 2024 TO HOLD STEADY AT \$950 BILLION, DESPITE ECONOMY

The breakdown of the 2024 sustainable bond forecast includes \$580 billion in green bonds.....



INNOVATIVE CSR PROJECT- SHAKTI



Spark Minda Foundation's (SMF) reformative initiative - Project Shakti is an endeavor that goes beyond traditional boundaries to address a critical yet often disregarded concern - menstrual hygiene among women inmates in Indian prisons. SMF has a firm belief that every woman, regardless of her circumstances, has the right to prioritize her health.

1.0 INTRODUCTION OF ORGANISATION

Spark Minda Group has a legacy of several decades of Community Development. Spark Minda Foundation (SMF) was incorporated under Section 8 of the Companies Act and is the CSR wing for the group companies to undertake CSR programmes since 2014. The main aim of SMF is to work for community development through initiatives in Skilling, Livelihood Promotion, Women Empowerment, Facilitation of Healthcare, Empowerment of People with Disabilities (PwDs) and Sustaining the Environment. Spark Minda has supported menstrual health initiatives across India. Menstrual health and hygiene management workshops with communities have been conducted in

collaboration with India Vision Foundation in Haryana, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra, along with sessions conducted in the prisons for the female inmates of Haryana and Uttarakhand.



2.0 PROBLEM STATEMENT

Addressing menstrual hygiene is imperative in the pursuit of holistic well-being for women. Unfortunately, women inmates in Indian prisons face unique challenges in this regard. Limited access to sanitary products and a low awareness create a scenario where the health of these women is compromised. It's time to shed light on this issue and work towards empowering these women to take charge of their overall well-being.

3.0 THEORY OF CHANGE

Proper menstrual hygiene management is not just a physical health matter and a human right too; it has profound psychological implications. Project Shakti, under Spark Minda Foundation, aims to empower women in prisons through menstrual hygiene awareness workshops. These workshops, conducted in collaboration with the India Vision Foundation and knowledge partners such as CSR Box and Jatana Sansthan, cover vulnerable communities in Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttarakhand, Haryana, and Tamil Nadu.



4.0 STEPS IN THE PROJECT

Aligned with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 3, 5, 6, 11, and 17, Project

Shakti organizes camps within communities and multiple prisons. Sanitary napkin vending machines have been installed in these prisons, ensuring access to essential hygiene products. Awareness workshops, facilitated by professional knowledge partners, are conducted within the prison facilities, accompanied by the distribution of informational booklets and interactive sessions to encourage open discussions about menstrual health and breaking the taboos. Women inmates were also taught how to use cloth in hygienic manner multiple times considering the limitation of access of sanitary pads inside the prison.



5.0 MONITORING AND EVALUATION PROCESSES

- Given the project's specific and measurable goals, a set of indicators have been established. These indicators, including the number of workshops conducted, participation rates, changes in awareness levels and access to sanitary napkins, provide a quantitative basis for measuring progress.
- To capture relevant information, a systematic data collection process has been implemented. This approach incorporates a variety of methods, such as surveys, interviews, focus group discussions, and observations, ensuring understanding of the MHM practices.
- The M&E framework also embraces various mediums of regular reporting to monitor ongoing activities and track progress toward objectives.
- In addition, qualitative insights are gathered through site visits. These visits allow for the direct observation of workshops, assessment of initiative implementations, and the collection of qualitative data that enriches the evaluation process.

- Recognizing the importance of diverse perspectives, key stakeholders, including prison authorities and inmates, are actively involved in the monitoring process. This inclusive approach ensures a well-rounded assessment and fosters engagement with those directly impacted by the project.
- To assess the overall impact of Project Shakti, both quarterly and financial year evaluations are conducted, which are recorded in our reports.
- In line with a commitment to transparency and knowledge-sharing, a communication strategy has been developed. This strategy aims to disseminate impactful stories to society and stakeholders, fostering a wider understanding of Project Shakti's achievements and contributions.





6.0 OUTCOMES AND IMPACTS

- One-on-one counseling sessions have clarified doubts and increased understanding.
 - Knowledge about Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) has led to an increased demand for sanitary pads from prison authorities.
 - Women are more comfortable acknowledging and understanding reproductive health.
-

SAT KRISHNA

CSR PRACTICES AND PROJECTS



1.0 INTRODUCTION OF ORGANISATION

Krishna Group is a reputed automotive components manufacturing group that has soared to claim a prestigious position in the field of manufacturing various automobile components for leading OEM's in India.

The Group has a legacy of value-based community development initiatives for decades which are guided by the vision and philosophy of our Founder Chairman, Mr. Ashok Kapur, and his wife Mrs. Arti Kapur, who embodied the concept of social development in business and laid the foundation for ethical, value-based and transparent functioning. Since its inception, KML has been going beyond legal and statutory requirements to make responsible investments in the community.

Krishna Group has come a long way since its inception and its commitment towards the community has taken up several initiatives which have shown the values instilled in the company, and endeavored to conduct its business responsibly.

Through our commitment to sustainable development, we aim to

enrich the environment, communities, and the lives of the people in conjunction with our Vision Statement, viz. "To be Happy, Positive, Technology and Growth driven organization". The core values of the company are Customer delight, Ownership, Respect for the individual, Quality, innovation and creativity.



Our vision for development has been on the lines of the company vision i.e. "Spreading happiness, positivity, awareness through human, social, economic and natural capital development for ensuring healthy, educated, skilled and empowered communities. Krishna Group believes in proactively involving communities around us and those deprived of fruits of development to be equal stakeholders in growth and development. The Sat Krishna Public



A charitable trust has been set up with this passion of returning to society and systematically implementing various programs and projects.

Sat Krishna Public Charitable Trust is also a partner for implementing various CSR activities on behalf of group companies. The scope of CSR activities of the Trust includes community development programs in specific areas which fall under Schedule VII of the Companies Act 2013.



2.0 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

Sat Krishna Charitable Trust has been implementing activities/projects based on the recommendation of the CSR Committee members and trustees as approved by the Board of Directors. The contribution has been made by various

group companies out of their profit to Sat Krishna Charitable Trust and is being pooled up and spent on the most impactful developmental activities for unprivileged and vulnerable sections of society. Before starting any initiative, a need assessment is undertaken, and all activities are carried out in discussion with village stakeholders, after rigorous project planning Krishna Trust has been either implementing the programs directly or through the reputed NGO partners. Sat Krishna Charitable Trust has been implementing various initiatives directly through a team of development professionals, mentors, educationalists, doctors, and paramedical staff who are working to render support and help various stakeholders and unprivileged sections of society.



When required, the expertise of external agencies and reputed NGOs is taken. These partners are selected after appropriate due diligence for implementing projects.

3.0 SAT KRISHNA CSR PRACTICES AND PROJECTS

Sat Krishna Charitable development activities began over a decade ago with the initiation of our Orphanage project and Public Charitable Hospital at Narsinghpur, Gurugram, Haryana. These projects have been running successfully and serving society since its inception. Today, the Trust is implementing several other programs in areas of education, health, and skill development adjoining its operational area benefiting thousands of beneficiaries.

4.0 BRIEF DETAIL OF PROGRAM WITH OUTREACH

A. Sat Krishna Udayan Care Orphanage project

Sat Krishna Trust believes that a loving home and family is the right of every child. With this belief and passion, Sat Krishna Trust established an orphanage in Narsinghpur village. Since its inception,

Udayan Gharis nurturing orphaned and abandoned children in the warmth of a family at Krishna -.The orphanage has two facilities- Orphanage Home for children below 18 years and after-care for children above 18 years. At present, there are 24 children under 18 years of age and about 3 children in after-care between 18 and 21 years of age. We are nurturing these children in a loving family atmosphere with supervisors of the home taking the role of father and mother who look after them in all aspects and help them in education, skilling, and employment, helping them to grow as responsible citizens.



The home provides the following facilities and care to these children

- Provision of food and shelter in a loving family environment.
- Ensuring quality education to all children at the best educational

institutes of Gurgaon.

- Monthly health checkups and care for all the children.
- Support provided for showcasing talents and participation in extracurricular activities and sports.
- Guidance provided on life skills, and career.
- Supporting these children to be independent by helping them get employment.

Some of the children at home have completed their stay and their studies and have been employed in different companies including group companies, and are a part of society as respectful citizens.

B. ACHIEVEMENT OF ORPHANAGE CENTER

At Sat Krishna Orphanage Home, Children are nurtured to achieve go of career and provided opportunities to develop all necessary skills to become successful people. Many of the children of our home have developed excellent skills in arts, sports and academics. Some of our children are pursuing BBA, Fine Arts, IT, Cyber security, and Physiotherapy courses from reputed institute such as



GD Goenka University etc. One of the boys of our home have participated in the National Taekwondo Championship and won Bronze medal, and has qualified for Asian Championship. Meritorious Boys from our home are supported for scholarships for pursuing higher studies abroad from reputed foreign universities.

UNVEILING THE TRANSFORMATIVE JOURNEY OF CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY IN INDIA: FROM COMPLIANCE TO SOCIAL COMMITMENT AND SUSTAINABLE PARTNERSHIPS

By Ms. Pooja Thakran

Senior Director - Corporate Communications and CSR, Honeywell India



In the dynamic landscape of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in India, the journey from a compliance-driven approach to a strategic, impactful paradigm has been a transformative one. Over the last two decades, CSR initiatives have evolved from mere regulatory obligations to a construct that drives meaningful collaborations for holistic community impact. A notable transition in this ecosystem has been the emergence of public-private partnerships & collaborations between industry players and NGOs/government bodies, which is pioneering high impact CSR campaigns worldwide. Interestingly, global spend on CSR has also increased significantly over the years, with Fortune 500 companies devoting approximately \$20 billion every year towards their CSR imperatives.

Today, while the fundamental principles of CSR, such as responsible business conduct and contribution to social welfare, remain consistent worldwide, specific practices and approaches vary based on the regulatory environment, cultural values, and regional challenges.

On the domestic front, India has been at the cusp of rising philanthropic endeavors led by both large and mid/small scale organizations. The roots of CSR in India trace back to 1950s when only few large-scale organizations undertook social causes, primarily in the form of volunteering for the community. Moreover, in the past, societal development relied heavily on the personal philanthropy and public sector.

However, policy interventions paved a new path, urging businesses to not only get more involved but also go beyond basic economic and legal obligations. India, inspired by Gandhian principles of Trusteeship and Giving Back to Society. Companies Act, 2013, marked as one of the world's largest experiments in CSR and made India the first country in the world who made CSR mandatory. This not only mandated the entry of businesses into CSR but also expanded the focus of CSR to include key socio-economic aspects such as education, poverty, infrastructural development, and healthcare amongst others.

Today, we see a new horizon wherein the government, NGOs and India Inc.

companies are making many strategic interventions for social innovation, with extended focus on instruments like education, skilling, gender equality, entrepreneurship, women welfare, LGBTQIA+ welfare etc. Interestingly, due to rising environmental concerns and climate change challenges, sustainability and self-reliance has also become an important element in the CSR portfolio.

Incidentally, CSR spending in India is also increasing year on year. According to Dasra and Bain & Company's India Philanthropy Report, CSR spending in India has witnessed a remarkable 13% growth over the last five years, reaching \$3.3 billion (₹27,000 crore) in FY22. However, India faces its own gamut of challenges when it comes to CSR. On one hand, regulatory challenges and ease of doing CSR has been a major concern for companies. On the other hand, identifying the right causes, measuring SROI and impact of CSR programs and optimizing funds are also other concerns that corporates face. In response to these challenges, the government has introduced many reforms to enhance business accountability towards environmental and community development. For example, the establishment of a dedicated CSR Cell and a National Fund for CSR promoted

transparent fund utilization and effective collaboration with the government, non-governmental organizations, civil society, and local community organizations. Additionally, the subsequent Companies (CSR Policy) Rules, 2014 brought in compliance clarity in CSR. The collaboration between the corporates and the social sector has also influenced the latter to be more structured, streamlined and process oriented in its approach. The mandate for corporates to structurally report impact has enabled implementing agencies to become more accurate in reporting, increased accountability and resulted in better tangible outcomes. This has also brought more financial discipline and prudence in managing overhead expenses.

The success stories of NGO and corporate sector partnerships underscores the potential of the development sector to bring about positive, lasting change. However, as we look ahead, critical interventions are required by both the industry and the social/government bodies to further bolster the CSR framework. For example, relaxation of current laws and introduction of tax rebates will encourage more mid/small scale players to engage in CSR. Additionally, today corporates bear high-cost pressures when it comes to employee-volunteering

for CSR as well as for executing larger CSR campaigns. Introduction of financial impetus can address these concerns, encouraging better participation from all stakeholders.

Moreover as the world moves from CSR to ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) modules, prioritizing environment in the CSR vehicle will become even more prominent. CSR Box's study indicates that already 23% of Indian companies are prioritizing environment in their CSR spending and this is likely to grow. Hence, there is need to bring ease of doing CSR in this spectrum.

In the realm of CSR in India, a monumental transformation is underway, turning it from a philanthropic gesture to a potent catalyst for social innovation, with companies and the development sector together assuming a visionary role. Social innovation, the art of finding novel solutions to societal challenges, has become a focal point of CSR initiatives in India. Companies are actively exploring innovative approaches and forming partnerships with non-profit organizations, research institutions, and social enterprises to address social issues effectively. Companies are also integrating CSR with core business strategies, exploring

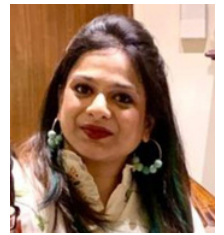
innovative approaches and forming partnerships with non-profit organizations, research institutions, and social enterprises to address social issues effectively. Companies are also integrating CSR with core business strategies, exploring impact investing, and promoting social entrepreneurship. Notably, there is also a shift towards technology-driven solutions to address social and environmental issues.

As India embarks on the journey to become a \$5 trillion economy, the need of the hour is to uplift the underprivileged and augment our socio-economic dividend and make development more inclusive. Additionally, leading employment generation and creating a pool of skilled talent is also crucial. The partnerships between the development sector and corporate India will play a crucial role in this journey. The ongoing evolution of CSR in India holds promise for a more inclusive, equitable, environmentally conscious and innovative society.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

Interview with Ms. Surangini Sharma

Deputy Manager- ESG/CSR, EverEnviro Resource Management Pvt. Ltd.



Ques: What do you think about the women inclusivity in today's India in comparison to historic India?

India has faced deep gender issues culturally as well as historically--India has been a patriarchal culture. Marriage at early age, female foeticides etc. were prevalent. Even today the gender disparity is a serious issue in the country.

However, it has been widely recognized now that socio-economic progress as well as sustainable development cannot be brought about without the inclusion of women as equal stakeholders. Hence, there are now several national government policy commitments and programmes to bring about gender parity in the society.

In spite of the policy thrust, gender discrimination remains deeply entrenched in society because of the subtle and complex nature of the problem. Lack of education, poverty, health issues, are affecting women's development as well as overall socio-economic development.

Ques: As you have experience of working with marginalised group, do you think DEI frameworks would be helpful to the underprivileged group?

As per several surveys, it has been established that one of the underlying causes of poverty is an unjust distribution of power and resources among men and women, or gender inequality. Societal expectations of women as homemakers and caregivers restrict their mobility and autonomy, reinforcing their economic dependence on male family members and reduced bargaining power .

Due to lack in education, women lack in knowledge, It affects their health awareness and health-seeking behaviour and they suffer from poor overall health and nutrition. They are more exposed to unhygienic conditions of life. For example, most other nations in the world \more men die from TB. In India on the contrary, deaths from TB are higher among young women.

Hence, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion plays a vital role in every community. Engaging with different individuals is

important and valuing their inputs at every juncture of life should be the integral part of the community.

Ques: Working into the waste management industry for several years now , do you think that it could give inclusivity platform of livelihood to people belongs to weaker section?

In India a big challenge we are facing is handling waste management. It is a major cause of climate change. Mandated by the government all companies have adopted sustainable practices to overcome the problem of climate change.

In many cities like Delhi and Mumbai there are huge legacy waste landfills affecting the environment of the cities. Nearby locality (weaker section group) is engaged in collecting, sorting and picking wastes and selling the dry waste (recyclables) for their livelihoods to local dealers informally, irrespective of hazardous consequences.

The women and their children (below 15 years of age) are also involved in collecting the waste and supplementing income generation. Selling, recyclables has become big source of the income of the marginalized groups, with whole families from adolescents to adults involved in such practices.

Whole families are totally dependent on waste collection.

As per the mandated govt. norms many companies under PPP model are delving into the integrated waste management solutions and handling approximately 20000 tonnes of waste per day, eventually trying to dial down the problem related to climate change and promoting renewable energy for sustainable development.

For the operations and services, the nearby local waste pickers are being hired for collecting segregated waste, on contract, by these companies and are earning monthly wages.

Waste management is often regarded as gender-neutral, but gender inequalities and gender divided roles are deeply embedded in many aspects of current waste management. We see a division of labour in the waste sector based on conventional gender roles and stereotypes. The perpetuation of gender-based stereotypes and cultural norms limits women's economic empowerment and growth in this sector. This issue is perpetuated by a lack of community understanding of the advantages of women's economic empowerment, making it difficult to find effective solutions.

A most common phrase **“Waste to Wealth”** is going around nowadays. This dry and wet waste gives opportunity to generate local livelihoods for all diverse group through recycling and composting but due to lack of inclusivity the women of ostracized group are unable to take advantage of this.

Ques: How does the concept of an inclusive society and collective effort contribute to encouraging women's involvement in waste management?

The Unique approaches on increasing women’s participation in waste management sector by incentivising them :-

- Hybrid model combining CBO (Community based organization) and NGO elements which helps engaging local women, develop their leadership skills, awareness about waste management amongst them, creating women team to lead and bring behavioural change within the community related to same and also create the platform for livelihood with the help of NGO team.
- Transformation of mindset and societal norms.
- Inclusive society and collective effort.
- Social justice and economic benefits.
- Involvement with any government set up women SHGs /Industrial training institutes to train the potential and interested local community group for skill development, creating livelihood platform and upliftment of their standard of living.
- Regular Gender sensitisation trainings.
- Explore potential of recycling and upcycling initiatives with local communities especially those from economically weaker backgrounds. Upcycling of dry waste like textiles, paper and cardboard to be given a priority along with conversion of temple waste/floral waste projects under the guidance of a CBOs or SHGs.
- Interested women can be inducted and trained into handling Light Motor vehicles, auto tippers (ergonomically designed) etc. for collection of door to door waste and be a part of the plant’s value chain especially in transportation aspects.
- Health education and good hygiene practices/ access to finance and resources and awareness about government schemes amongst local communities especially for women and upskill development programmes for slum children .
- Awareness building activities in communities around health, hygiene, diet and nutrition.

- Establishing a Material recovery Facilities centers to engage the potential women of marginalized group with sorters, dealers and recyclers to generate income. MRF is a centre where the women of disadvantaged group (like rag pickers family) to engage and sort the collected dry waste according to the dealers requirement and sell them.
- Establish links with local NGOs for outreach activities and inclusion of income generating opportunities from waste amongst local communities.

Ques: What are the key components of a strategy that aims to create a more

inclusive and equitable society for women in terms of economic engagement?

To combat gender norms and stereotypes, advance women's economic empowerment, and reform economic policies/practices that harm women, a concerted and joint effort is required. Sensitization efforts should make people more aware of the advantages of economic empowerment for women, and interventions should be created to meet the particular difficulties experienced by women. To build a more inclusive and equitable society where women may fully engage in the economy and society, a systematic and multifaceted strategy involving different stakeholders is required.

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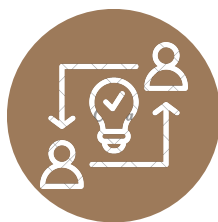
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