



Seeds of Change: Highlights from Our India Trip

1 message



Dear Friends,

At Social Capital Initiatives (formerly Asia Initiatives), our work is rooted in urban settlements and remote villages where dreams become reality through partnerships with our dedicated local partners and communities. On our **recent trip to India**, our founder Geeta Mehta and program associate Emma Gardephe were joined by board member Marianne Clyde and supporter Prashe Shah. Meet some of the incredible people we encountered along our trip!



Visits with Karunodaya Foundation in Gaya, Bihar



In Gaya, our local partner Karunodaya Foundation is helping transform education for children through the use of **SoCCs** in our **Digital Literacy Program** and **Sambodhi Library Program**. In our Digital Literacy program, 836 7th and 8th graders across 14 schools mentor 1,672 mentees to help them with their reading, school activities, and to encourage them to stay and succeed in school. In doing so, these mentors are able to learn how to use Microsoft Suite programs like Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. The students from MS Suryapura (pictured above) and MS Gurunanak were so happy to show off their skills on the computer.



From left: Our Cascades of Learning mentoring session in action; a student delivers a presentation on her culture and tradition, and a student showcases a creative way to practice her addition skills.

We also visited our program for pre-service teachers with the District Institute of Education and Training (**DIET**). This program helps improve digital skills for 100 pre-service teachers, and literacy and numeracy skills of primary grade students across 33 DIET Lab schools. During our visit at DIET, students and teachers across 15 schools took part in a fair where they showcased innovative Teaching Learning Materials (TLM) across subjects like grammar and mathematics.



Geeta speaks to pre-service teachers, staff, and DIET's principal.



Pre-service teachers at DIET, Karunodaya's team, and SCI's team share a photo in front of DIET's historic building.

Field Visits with Savera Foundation in Jharkhand

We had the joy of visiting our partner, Savera Foundation, which works specifically with tribal and Dalit communities who were once making a living by collecting scraps of mica from nearby mines. At the heart of our

work together is our **Organic Vegetable Gardens Initiative** where women earn **SoCCs** for learning how to grow organic vegetables and help rejuvenate the watershed area around their villages. SoCCs are then redeemed for seeds, tools and equipment. From 2021 to today, we've helped over 600 women grow their own organic backyard gardens and sell vegetables to make a solid living for themselves and their families.



A majority of women in our Savera project now have smart phones, which they proudly placed in front of them during the meeting.

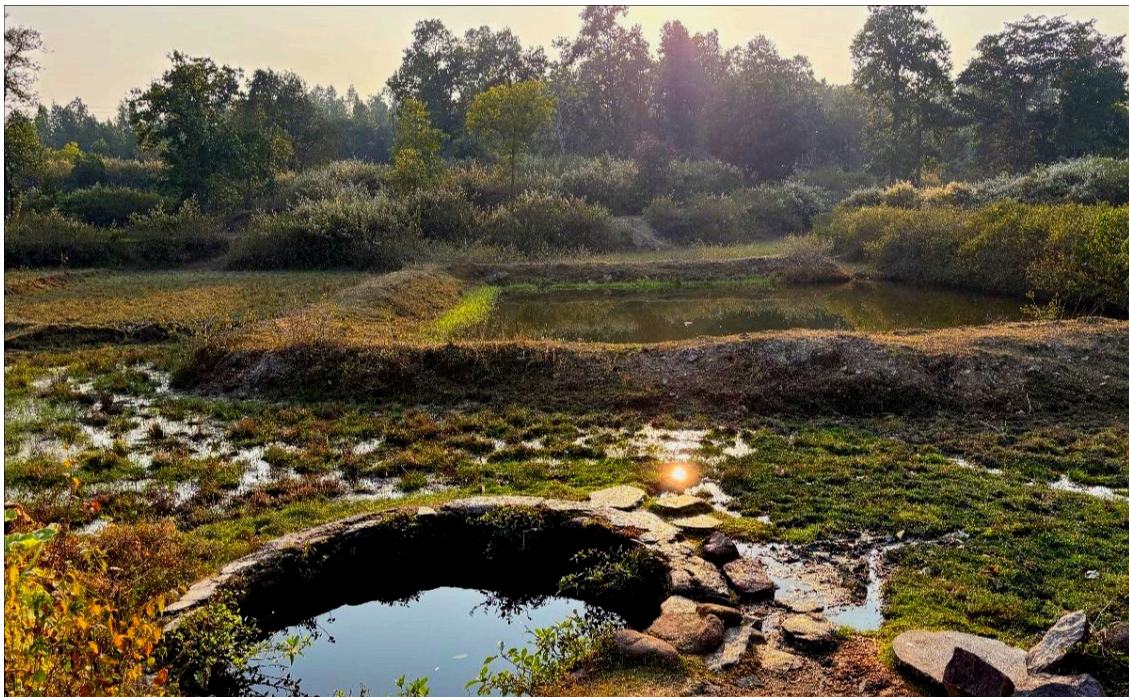




This community seed bank helps preserve seeds of native plants for the next cycle.



The produce and products created by women fetch a good price in nearby markets.



With the support of Savera Foundation, we have also rejuvenated over 22 ponds and wells across Koderma village. As a result of this effort, the entire watershed around the villages has been restored and families and communities have a year-round supply of water for farming and daily life.

Meetings with Partners in Delhi



In Delhi, Nageshwar Panchal, co-founder of **Mera Gaon Meri Duniya** (MGMD), shared about the vital roles students, teachers, and parents play in not only transforming a school but also inspiring change throughout the community.

Ravi Kiran, CEO of **Ujhala Foundation** and his colleague Pradharam discussed their implementation of our Cascades of Learning program. We also distributed laptops sent by our advisory board member Dilshad to support their work.

From connecting with passionate change-makers to seeing the magic happen on the ground and talking directly with women and children of all ages, this trip was once for the books, and we are overflowing with gratitude. Here's to more collaborations, impact, and fun along the way!

More about Social Capital Initiatives' (formerly Asia Initiatives) mission and work is on our [website](#) and on our [Youtube](#) channel. We would love your ideas and advice about our work so please do reach out, and join us on future trips to our field sites!

Geeta and the Social Capital Initiatives Team

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United Nations
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Social Capital Initiatives is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that promotes sustainable development for underserved communities, with a particular focus on women and their families.

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