

### **CENTRE FOR KNOWLEDGE AND DEVELOPMENT**

Envisioning a world where women, adolescents & children realise their full potential



## **ANNUAL REPORT**



2023-2024



### **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

	From the desk of the Chief Mentor	1
П	Message from the Advisor	2
Ш	Our Governing Board	3
IV	About Centre for Knowledge and	
	Development	4
V	Our Initiatives	5
VI	Project Utthan	6
VII	Project Surakshit	7
VIII	Project Sashakt	8
IX	Prabhat Poshan Sathi	10
Χ	Project Jigyasa	12
ΧI	MOMENTUM: Advancing Safe Surgery	
	in Family Planning and Obstetrics	14
XII	Mapping Climate Readiness at Sub	
	National Level	16
XIII	Niti Samvad: Nurturing a Vibrant Girl	
	Capital in India	17
XIII	Knowledge Partners for The	
	NATHEALTHCARE CSR Awards	18
XIII	Our Partners	19

### From the Desk of the Chief Mentor



As we reflect on another year of progress, learning, and deepened impact, I am delighted to present the Annual Report of Centre for Knowledge and Development (CKD). This report is not only a record of our achievements—it is a story of the people, partnerships, and perseverance that define our journey.

Rooted in our commitment to equity, inclusiveness, and systemic change, CKD has continued to drive innovative and scalable solutions to uplift the lives of women, adolescents, and children across some of India's most underserved geographies. From enabling access to essential health services and addressing the nutritional needs of tribal communities, to building digital skills and advocating for adolescent mental well-being, our work is guided by one constant: empowering the most marginalised to lead change.

This year, we expanded our footprint in health systems strengthening, gender-responsive programming, adolescent development, and public policy engagement. Projects such as Utthan, Sashakt, and Prabhat Poshan Saathi have demonstrated what is possible when communities, governments, and civil society come together with a shared purpose. Through strategic collaborations and human-centered approaches, we have created spaces that are safe, inclusive, and responsive to local needs.

The strength of CKD lies in its people—the dedicated professionals, field teams, technical experts, and partners who bring passion and purpose to every initiative. To all our donors, government collaborators, and community champions, I extend my sincere gratitude. Your trust and partnership have been central to our growth.

Looking ahead, we recognise the urgency of addressing intersecting vulnerabilities and are committed to adapting our strategies to an ever-changing world. We aim to deepen our work on climate resilience, disability inclusion, and social protection while continuing to champion adolescent health and gender equity at scale.

On behalf of the entire CKD team, thank you for walking this path with us. As we envision the next chapter, I invite you to continue standing with us—to build a future that is fairer, healthier, and filled with opportunity for all.

With gratitude, MK Padma Kumar Chief Mentor

### Message from the Advisor



#### Dear Friends and Partners,

It gives me great pride to present this year's Annual Report from the Centre for Knowledge and Development (CKD). This document is more than a compilation of activities and achievements—it is a testament to our unwavering commitment to improving the lives of women, adolescents, and children through inclusive, evidence-based solutions in health, nutrition, education, and beyond. At CKD, we believe that knowledge should lead to action—and action must lead to impact. Over the past year, we have continued to champion community-driven development, foster dynamic partnerships, and drive policy and practice changes through innovation and collaboration. Guided by equity and sustainability, our work has grown in depth and scale—reaching some of the most underserved populations in the country.

Whether through Project Sashakt, which has strengthened maternal and child health systems, or Win with Vaccines, which has supported timely and equitable immunization, our health and nutrition initiatives have been crucial lifelines for vulnerable communities. In the education sector, programs like DIGITS (Digitech for Teachers in Schools) and our adolescent-focused interventions are equipping young people and educators with tools and competencies needed to thrive in the 21st century.

These milestones would not be possible without the extraordinary commitment of our team, the invaluable collaboration of our partners—including governments, civil society, and academic institutions—and the continued trust of our supporters. Together, we have nurtured a community grounded in shared values and a collective vision for social equity.

As we look ahead, we remain steadfast in our purpose—to amplify voices from the margins, to bridge systemic gaps through data and innovation, and to build resilience in the face of growing global challenges. In a world marked by complexity and change, CKD will continue to be a responsive, learning organisation—anchored in integrity and inspired by possibility.

Thank you for walking this path with us. Your support strengthens our resolve and fuels our journey. Together, we can shape a more just, inclusive, and empowered future for all. With heartfelt gratitude and hope,

Seema Gupta Advisor, Centre for Knowledge and Development (CKD)

### **GOVERNING BOARD**

Our Board of Directors are pioneers of their fields who are committed to solve developmental concerns with systemic sustainable changes. The Directors converge perspectives from the public, corporate, academic and CSO sectors and guide CKD to achieve its vision.



**Amita Sharma** 

She is a former Civil Servant with 33 years in the development sector as a public policy maker, and programme manager in different fields.



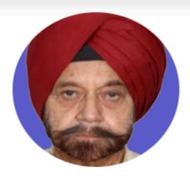
Geeta Mathur

She has expertise in finance, development, and strategy. Valued for honesty and transparency she contributes as an independent director in many companies.



Padma Shri Dr. Harsh Mahajan

He is a pioneer in Magnetic Resonance Imaging. His exceptional knowledge, spirit of entrepreneurship, teaching abilities, and social service sets him apart.



**Kawaljit Singh** 

He has over 40 years of experience in governance, development, valuation analysis, revenue, and policy formulation & implementation.



Prof. Dr. Nijavalli Hanumantha Rao Ravindranath

He is internationally acclaimed for his knowledge, research, academic papers and books interlinking various dimensions of Climate Change.



Padma Shri Dr. Randhir Sud

He is one of the best Gastroenterologists in the country. He has pioneered various treatment options and is respected for his trainings and workshops.



**Tanya Singh** 

She has expertise in strategy and organisational development. Committed to creating a gender-inclusive environment, she believes in giving back to the society by mentoring organisations in their CSR activities to bring a positive change in the society.

# ABOUT CENTRE FOR KNOWLEDGE AND DEVELOPMENT (CKD)

CKD is a knowledge-driven organisation, and our vision mission goal reflects our commitment towards empowering women, girls and children to receive equitable access to health, nutrition, education, 21st-century skills, livelihood, and employability. CKD views developmental challenges through a gendered lens and turns them into opportunities for transformation. With an aim to leave no one behind, values of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) are the overarching principles that tie our actions to our goal.

### **VISION**

Creating a world imbued with values of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity where women, adolescents, and children realise their full potential.

### **MISSION**

To empower women, adolescents, and children to gain equitable access to health and nutrition, 21st-century skills, education, and equal employment opportunities.

### **GOALS**

Create an alliance of engendered and mission-aligned partners to support 20 million women and girls in realising their fullest potential by 2040.

### **FOCUS AREAS**













### **OUR FOOTPRINTS**





# **Our Initiatives**

Project Utthan - Adolescent Health & Wellbeing: Improving Program Convergence in UP



**Geography:** 3 districts in Uttar Pradesh (Barabanki, Bareilly, Sonbhadra)

**Duration**: Nov 2023 - Oct 2026 (3 years)

Project Utthan is being implemented in partnership with the National Health Mission, Uttar Pradesh, to enhance adolescent health outcomes in the districts of Barabanki, Bareilly, and Sonbhadra. The project design addresses barriers to adolescent growth and well-being through the convergence of key government schemes, including the Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK), School Health and Wellness Program (SHWP), Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK), and Tele Mental Health Assistance and Networking Across States (Tele-MANAS).

In these districts, Adolescent Health Counsellors (AHCs) are being trained on adolescent health concerns. This involves co-creating innovations like 'Mentors Online,' developing attractive communication materials (posters, leaflets, calendars, videos) to build awareness, and gathering/analyzing data for evidence-based action. The Weekly Iron and Folic Acid Supplementation (WIFS) program is being streamlined, ensuring that all school-going adolescents receive Iron and Folic Acid (IFA) tablets. We are catalyzing increased anemia testing among adolescents in the districts and encouraging adequate follow-up. Adolescents are educated on dietary diversity, adolescent health concerns, mental health, and substance abuse.

Innovative government programs, such as Kishor Swasthya Manch (KSM) and Adolescent Health Days (AHDs), actively engage adolescents. These encourage participation through poster competitions, role-plays, and nukkad nataks (street plays). Additionally, anemia testing has been streamlined for effective anemia detection and management.

Project Utthan is also working to revitalise the School Health and Wellness Program (SHWP). Health and Wellness Ambassadors (HWAs) have been trained and equipped with communication tools and job aids to effectively address key health issues of adolescents.

We are addressing mental health concerns among adolescents by promoting the Tele-MANAS helpline number. As a pilot, trained mental health counsellors in Bareilly are bridging gaps in accessing mental health counselling, providing services through regular group sessions and one-on-one interactions.

Project Utthan leverages government health and education platforms at state, district, and block levels to improve the health and well-being of adolescents, ensuring enhanced impact and sustainability for future generations.

# **Project Surakshit**

Geography: Noida, UP, Duration: December 2023 – March 2024



Centre for Knowledge and Development (CKD) implemented Project Surakshit, a targeted healthcare intervention in Noida, Uttar Pradesh, designed to address critical health gaps among vulnerable populations. The initiative provided on-the-ground medical services, essential treatments, and sustainable referral pathways, ensuring immediate and long-term care for beneficiaries.

### **KEY INTERVENTIONS AND IMPACT**



#### **HEALTH CAMPS**

Provided check-ups, eye screenings, and pediatric consultations for early diagnosis and timely care, led by medical professionals and trained volunteers



#### FREE DISTRIBUTION

Supplied medicines, spectacles, and learning aids for children with disabilities, supporting health and education.



#### REFERRAL SYSTEM

Linked beneficiaries to local healthcare centers for ongoing care.



### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Conducted awareness drives on preventive care and early intervention.

### **ACHIEVEMENTS**

1,000+ individuals received screenings, treatments, and essential supplies.

Strengthened community-health system linkages, improving long-term healthcare access.

Demonstrated a scalable, short-term intervention model for resource-limited settings.

# Project Sashakt

Empowering Women & Girls through Health & Nutrition Awareness (2023-24)

Geography: Jhabua, Madhya Pradesh



Project Sashakt, supported by GAIL (India) Limited, embodied a holistic approach towards tackling anemia, focusing on empowering tribal women and girls with knowledge on health and nutrition in two blocks of Jhabua district. The project was implemented across 14 Gram Panchayats and 9 schools in 2 blocks, Jhabua and Meghnagar.

By leveraging existing touchpoints in educational institutions and community, Project Sashakt sought to catalyze lasting change at the grassroots level. With the use of expansive SBCC strategies the project was able to reach out to the adolescents and the community to strengthen the ecosystem.

Central to the project's strategy was the dissemination of essential information on nutrition and health among tribal communities.

Project Sashakt endeavoured to foster a culture of preventive healthcare by promoting awareness about the causes and consequences of anemia and sickle cell anemia, addressing the prevalent misconceptions and cultural practices that contribute to its persistence and the promoting knowledge on diet diversity along with other adolescent health concerns.

# Project Sashakt

### STRONG LAUNCH WITH GOVERNMENT & COMMUNITY SUPPORT:

High-profile inauguration attended by the Assistant Commissioner (Tribal Welfare), Superintendent of Police, and representatives from Gram Panchayats, Health, and Education Departments.

**1,000+ participants,** including 700+ students, engaged enthusiastically in the launch event.

### EXPANDING REACH THROUGH AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS:

### **IEC/BCC Material Development:**

Informational videos and a project mascot are in progress to enhance engagement (IEC: Information, Education, and Communication; BCC: Behavior Change Communication).

### **Expert Partnership:**

A communications agency has been onboarded to ensure compelling, culturally resonant messaging

#### **INNOVATIVE COMMUNICATION FOR LASTING IMPACT:**

### **School & Community Sessions:**

Interactive awareness sessions and miking (public announcements) conducted, reaching 4,000+ students and 700+ community members.

### **Baseline Survey Completed:**

Data-driven insights now guide tailored interventions.

### Wall Paintings & SHG Engagements:

Permissions secured from Gram Panchayats for wall art, miking, and Self-Help Group (SHG) sessions to amplify messaging.

Project Sashakt built momentum as a sustainable model for women's and girls' empowerment, combining education, advocacy, and community participation to improve health and nutrition outcomes. The learnings from this project led to the launch of Project Sashakt 2.0 in Ganjam, Odisha. With strong stakeholder collaboration and innovative outreach strategies, this next phase is set to create a lasting ripple effect in tribal communities.

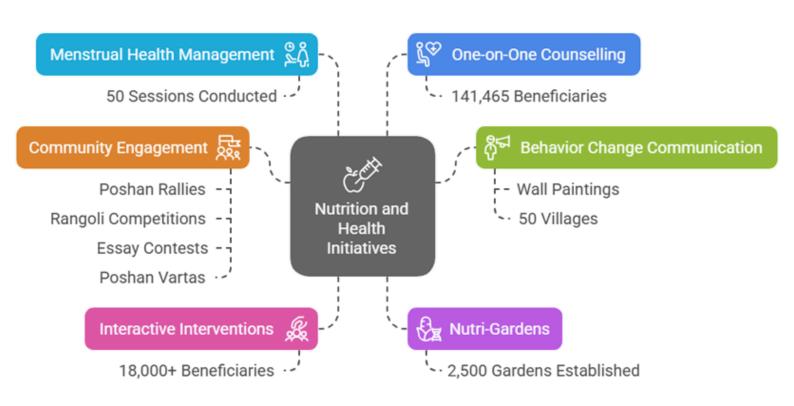
### PRABHAT POSHAN SATHI

Nourishing Communities Through Holistic Nutrition Interventions 2022-2025



Supported by Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL), the Prabhat Poshan Saathi initiative is driving transformative change in nutrition awareness and practices across Maharashtra and Gujarat. By focusing on adolescent girls, pregnant women, and caregivers, the project delivers personalized counselling on critical nutrition needs during menstruation, pregnancy, lactation, and early childhood.

### **NUTRITION AND HEALTH INITIATIVES 2023-2024**



## **Prabhat Poshan Saathi**

### **Innovative Collaterals for Lasting Impact**

The project developed a comprehensive suite of Information. Education, and Communication (IEC) materials in Marathi, Gujarati, and Hindi, including:

- 1. User Guides & Training Manuals
- 2. Nutri Planners, Puzzles, and Games (Snake & Ladder, AAA Cards, Prabhat Cards)
- 3. Posters on Maternal & Child Nutrition, High-Risk Pregnancies, Anemia, and MHM



### **Evidence-Based Strategy & Collaborative Approach**

- 1. Formative Study: Completed, with findings informing program refinement.
  2. Multi-Stakeholder Consultation: Held with Nutrition International & JSI to eliminate implementation overlaps and enhance synergies, as recommended by the Secretary,
- 3. Collaboration Matrix: Developed by CKD to streamline partnerships and maximize impact.

Prabhat Poshan Saathi exemplifies community-driven, sustainable nutrition intervention, bridging knowledge gaps and fostering healthier futures for women and children. By combining grassroots engagement, innovative tools, and strategic partnerships, the project is setting a benchmark for scalable nutrition programs in India.

## **PROJECT JIGYASA**

Leveraging Digital Design Technology for Transformative Education (2019–2023)



Centre for Knowledge and Development (CKD), in partnership with the Vodafone Foundation, implemented Project Jigyasa as a flagship initiative to strengthen digital learning and promote technology-enabled education across government schools in India

From 2019 to 2023, the project enhanced digital literacy for over 15,000 teachers across Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and Uttarakhand. Using participatory design, teachers co-created interactive, story- and game-based digital modules aligned with state curricula.

These materials engaged students across learning levels and regional contexts, ensuring relevance and accessibility. The initiative also built a rich repository of teacher-generated, culturally appropriate digital teaching-learning materials (TLMs).

A key feature of the program was the integration of sustainability through formal partnerships with state governments. Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) were signed with the Departments of Education in all five project states, enabling institutional ownership and embedding the program within the larger state-level education ecosystem. These partnerships not only ensured smoother implementation but also paved the way for continuity and scale.

## **PROJECT JIGYASA**

44,514 +

teachers trained in using digital teaching-learning materials and tools.

7,272+

teachers independently developed and created contextualized digital TLMs, contributing to a growing library of open educational resources 13,540+

teachers actively using digital content for their own professional development and instructional planning.

Through Jigyasa, CKD has demonstrated its commitment to strengthening public education by integrating technology into everyday teaching practices, bridging the digital divide, and ensuring that no child is left behind in the journey toward quality education.

## **MOMENTUM**

Advancing Safe Surgery in Family Planning and Obstetrics (2022–2023)

As part of its commitment to enhancing access to quality reproductive and maternal healthcare services, Centre for Knowledge and Development (CKD) has been implementing the MOMENTUM Safe Surgery in Family Planning and Obstetrics initiative across six districts—two each in Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, and Karnataka—since 2022. The project aims to complement existing efforts in maternal health and family planning by strengthening surgical safety protocols and enhancing the provision of high-quality, client-centered services. This includes the integration of safe cesarean deliveries (CD) and long-acting reversible contraceptives (LARCs), with a strong focus on addressing the needs of youth and young married couples.

### **KEY OBJECTIVES AND INTERVENTIONS:**

**Strengthening Surgical Safety:** 

By focusing on both maternal health and family planning programs, the initiative supports the delivery of safe and indicated cesarean sections, thereby contributing to improved maternal and neonatal outcomes.

**Improving Access to LARCs:** 

The project places a strong emphasis on increasing awareness and availability of long-acting reversible contraceptive options, especially for postpartum and post-abortion clients, reducing unmet needs for family planning.

Focus on Youth Engagement:

Through targeted interventions, including the mapping and sensitization of youth-led organizations, the project ensures that young people are informed about and empowered to access quality family planning services.

## **MOMENTUM**

### **District Landscaping:**

A comprehensive mapping exercise was conducted to identify and assess primary, secondary, and tertiary care facilities in both public and private sectors. This ensured that interventions are responsive to local service delivery gaps and resource distribution.

### **Capacity Building of Health Workers:**

ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activist) supervisors and frontline workers received extensive orientation and training to enable them to train ASHAs and support community-level engagement on family planning and safe surgery practices.

### Stakeholder Engagement:

Partnerships were forged with district health authorities and youth-focused civil society organizations to create a supportive ecosystem for family planning services.

The MOMENTUM initiative underscores CKD's commitment to strengthening health systems through evidence-based, equity-driven approaches. By bridging service delivery gaps and building the capacity of grassroots health workers, the project continues to make significant strides in ensuring that women—especially young mothers—have access to safe, timely, and respectful reproductive healthcare.

# MAPPING CLIMATE READINESS AT A SUB-NATIONAL LEVEL (2024-2025)



To accelerate India's low-carbon transition, CKD, under its growing climate action portfolio, initiated the Mapping Climate Readiness at a Sub-national Level project in 2024. This forward-looking initiative is focused on the 10 highest greenhouse gas (GHG) emitting states in India, aiming to assess and strengthen their preparedness for climate-responsive planning and implementation.

At the heart of the initiative is the Climate Readiness Index (CRI) and its Dynamic Decision Support System (DSS)—a data-driven framework designed to evaluate and enhance each state's system, financial, and technological readiness. Together, these tools serve as enablers for sub-national governments to identify gaps, design effective policy responses, and scale up proven low-carbon interventions.

### Key objectives of the project include:

1. Mapping and analyzing ongoing climate efforts across states.

2. Identifying readiness gaps across systems, finances, and technology.

3. Offering tailored recommendations and innovative policy pathways.

4. Enabling low-carbon solutions in priority sectors such as energy, urban infrastructure, and mobility.

This initiative is also geared toward mobilizing investments and catalyzing state-level innovation for the adoption of renewable energy and other climate-smart technologies. Through the CRI and DSS, state governments are supported with actionable insights to shape evidence-based, ambitious, and context-specific climate strategies.

By bridging data with action, and readiness with implementation, this project marks a critical step in India's journey toward achieving its net-zero commitments, and reinforces CKD's commitment to equitable, sustainable, and inclusive climate development.

### **NITI SAMVAAD**

### **Nurturing a Vibrant Girl Capital in India**



Marking International Girl Child Day (October 11th, 2023), -CKD partnered with Social Empowerment & Equity (SEE) as the knowledge partner for Niti Samvaad—a high-level dialogue on empowering India's girls through education, skill development, and policy action.

The event was inaugurated by Hon'ble Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan (Education & Skill Development), who delivered the keynote address. A high-profile panel discussion featured insights from:

- 1. Mr. Atul Kumar Tiwari, Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development
- 2. Ms. Roli Singh, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Health
- 3. Ms. V Radha, Ádditional Secretary, NITI Aayog
- 4. Prof. Devang Khakhar, Former Director, IIT Bombay

A policy brief on Nurturing a Vibrant Girl Capital in India was released, outlining actionable strategies for girls' holistic development. The event underscored CKD's commitment to gender-inclusive policymaking and collaborative solutions for girls' empowerment.

# KNOWLEDGE PARTNERS FOR THE NATHEALTH HEALTHCARE CSR AWARDS (2023)

CKD had the privilege of serving as the Knowledge Partner for the prestigious NATHEALTH Healthcare CSR Awards 2023, held during the NATHEALTH Annual Summit. Collaborating closely with the summit organizers, we played a pivotal role in shaping and executing the awards process, ensuring a platform that recognized excellence in healthcare Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives.

#### **KEY CONTRIBUTIONS:**

#### **End-to-End Awards Design:**

Structured the entire application and evaluation framework across four award categories, ensuring a fair and transparent selection process.

#### **Outreach & Engagement:**

Mobilized 63 high-quality applications from leading CSR donors and implementing partners, showcasing impactful healthcare interventions.

#### Jury Coordination:

Onboarded and facilitated deliberations by six distinguished jury members, bringing expertise and credibility to the awards.

#### **Awards Session Curation:**

Designed an engaging CSR Awards session at the summit, celebrating innovation and best practices in healthcare CSR.

#### Special Launch:

Unveiled an exclusive coffee table book and a project video for Win with Vaccines in the presence of Shri Rao Inderjit Singh, Hon'ble Minister of State for Corporate Affairs, highlighting CKD's commitment to impactful healthcare solutions.

By anchoring the NATHEALTH CSR Awards, CKD reinforced its role as a thought leader in healthcare philanthropy and corporate social responsibility. The initiative not only recognized outstanding contributions but also fostered knowledge-sharing and collaboration among key stakeholders in India's healthcare ecosystem.

# **OUR PARTNERS**

### **Nurturing Lasting Collaborations**













































B - 84, Defence Colony, New Delhi-110024







Watch the CKD Film here: <a href="youtube.com/watch?v=6XybbzVFqhU&t=7s">youtube.com/watch?v=6XybbzVFqhU&t=7s</a>

WEBSITE: www.ipeckd.org LINKEDIN: linkedin.com/company/ipeckd