

SMILE FOUNDATION USA

NEWSLETTER

Education & Empowerment

Curiosity Expands Possibilities

Students supported under Mission Education Programme by Smile Foundation recently experienced an immersive learning journey during a two-day visit to IIT Bombay. Through hands-on sessions in physics, mathematics, biology, and astronomy, they engaged directly with scientific concepts, exploring microscopy, blood testing, and sky observation. The experience bridged the gap between classroom theory and real-world application, transforming abstract lessons into tangible understanding. More importantly, the exposure nurtured curiosity, sharpened critical thinking, and instilled a deeper confidence to question, explore, and envision futures shaped by knowledge, discovery, and the disciplined pursuit of learning.



Where Curiosity Is Allowed, Confidence Follows



For many girls in Ikauna, Shravasti district, science often became an abstract subject confined to printed pages. Smile Foundation, in partnership with Borges Pvt. Ltd., has established a STEM laboratory at Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya, creating a space where girls can learn through experimentation and inquiry. Designed for students in Classes 6–10, the lab also supports teacher training in activity-based learning. Chief Development Officer (CDO), Chief Finance Officer (Basic Education), Basic Shiksha Adhikari (BSA), and the Director of DIET, appreciated the initiative stating that, beyond technical exposure, this initiative is equipping young girls with confidence, curiosity, and the belief that their futures can extend far beyond traditional limitations.

Livelihood

Power Begins With Skill

A silent shift toward empowerment is unfolding across Bengaluru, where young individuals from underserved backgrounds, are transforming their life trajectories through skill development. Through Smile Foundation’s Skill Training and Employability Programme, they gain specialized training in IT and IT-enabled services alongside mentorship, workplace skills, and industry exposure. The program’s structured approach equips participants not only for employment, but for sustained professional growth. Having trained more than 90,000 youth and enabled over 56,500 job placements nationwide, the initiative continues to convert potential into stability, confidence, and lasting dignity.



Smile Foundation’s Large-Scale Livelihood Impact Recognized at Biz Connect Summit



Smile Foundation received the Social Entrepreneurship Project of the Year Award at the Biz Connect Summit in Kochi for its iTrain on Wheels initiative, supported by Berger Paints India Ltd. implemented nationwide, the programme has trained over 3,15,000 paint applicators, strengthening technical expertise alongside entrepreneurial and workplace skills. Independent assessments indicate sustained socio-economic improvements, including higher incomes and greater household stability. The recognition reflects the dedication of programme teams and collaborative partners who have consistently, advanced a model centered on skill mastery, economic resilience, and long-term empowerment of working communities.

Health and well being

Health Awareness that Protects the Future

In Jaipur, an interactive session under Smile Foundation’s Health Cannot Wait program advanced students’s understanding of nutrition, anemia prevention, and informed dietary choices. Through discussions, role-play, and practical recipe demonstrations, adolescents connected everyday food habits with long-term health, encouraging reflection, behavior change, and proactive ownership of their well-being.



Scaling Cancer Awareness Through Mobile Medical Units

Marking National Cancer Awareness Day, Smile Foundation's Smile on Wheels program, intensified its outreach to communities where reliable health information remains scarce. Medical teams conducted awareness drives and counseling sessions across schools, rural settlements, and underserved urban neighborhoods, focusing on early symptoms, prevention, and the importance of timely diagnosis. Through mobile healthcare units and telemedicine support, the initiative ensured that even remote populations received guidance and screening referrals. By addressing misconceptions and encouraging routine checks for oral, breast, and cervical cancers, each intervention strengthened informed decision-making and helped communities move from fear toward early action and hope.



Women leading the change

Prepared Responders Change Community Outcomes



In Gurugram, strengthening community health often begins with empowering those who serve as families' first point of contact. Through its Swabhiman initiative, Smile Foundation recently conducted a capacity-building training for frontline health workers, including ANMs, ASHAs, and Anganwadi personnel. The session focused on anemia prevention, nutrition management, growth monitoring, and community counseling. By addressing real field challenges and improving referral and follow-up practices, the training equipped participants to identify risks earlier, support mothers more effectively, and promote informed, preventive caregiving across vulnerable communities.

Advancing Women's Economic Participation at the Community Level

Entrepreneurship is enabling women from underserved communities to step forward with confidence, financial independence, and a stronger voice within their households. Through Smile Foundation's Swabhiman initiative, participants have established small enterprises in areas such as pottery, beekeeping, and mushroom cultivation. These livelihood opportunities extend beyond income generation, fostering self-belief, strengthening decision-making authority, and creating greater stability for families. As women gain economic control, they not only improve their own circumstances, but also contribute to more resilient households, demonstrating how access to enterprise can transform vulnerability, into sustained empowerment and long-term security.

