

SMILE FOUNDATION USA NEWSLETTER

Power of Partnerships

Early Detection Begins with Empowered Frontline Workers

Health systems become more effective when frontline workers are equipped to identify risks early and guide communities toward timely care. Under the **Smile on Wheels program** supported by **Relaxo Footwears Limited in Bhiwadi**, Smile Foundation organized a specialised healthcare training focused on Non-Communicable Diseases, cervical and breast cancer, nutrition, and preventive healthcare practices. Bringing together healthcare experts and frontline workers, the initiative strengthens awareness around early diagnosis, screening and treatment pathways. Such partnerships play a critical role in bridging healthcare awareness gaps, improving community-level intervention and building stronger, more responsive healthcare ecosystems for underserved populations.



Bridging India's Employability Gap Through Industry-Ready Skills

*Creating pathways through
a new skilling centre!*



Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh

Sustainable economic growth begins with creating equitable access to employability and market-relevant skills for young people. Through the newly launched skilling centre in Bareilly, **HDFC Parivartan**, along with **Smile Foundation's livelihood program STeP**, is enabling **850 youth** with industry-focused training in BFSI and retail sectors. The initiative is designed to bridge critical skill gaps, enhance workforce readiness and improve access to formal employment opportunities for underserved communities. By aligning skilling programs with evolving industry demands, such partnerships help build inclusive livelihood ecosystems, strengthen local economies and create long-term pathways towards financial independence and sustainable community development.

Education & Empowerment

Scholarships Help Talent and Innovation Get Recognition



Every student's success story demonstrates the transformative impact of access, opportunity and sustained support. Through **Smile Foundation's Engineering Scholarship program**, students like Shashikala are able to pursue higher education, strengthen technical skills and build careers in innovation-driven fields. A Computer Science Engineering graduate with a CGPA of 9.1, Shashikala also presented her research at Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) conference, reflecting her academic excellence and commitment to learning. Her journey highlights how educational support can help overcome barriers to quality education and professional growth, while fostering future-ready talent, advancing gender inclusion in STEM and contributing to stronger, knowledge-based communities and economies.



Training Teachers in Foundational Learning & STEM to bridge learning gaps

A child's future is shaped by the confidence, skills and support they receive in the classroom. Through Smile Foundation's **FLN and STEM teacher training** initiatives, educators are equipped with modern teaching approaches that strengthen foundational learning and critical thinking among children from underserved communities. Teachers like Kanchan from Gurugram highlight how trust-based learning environments help children participate with greater confidence. Investing in teacher capacity-building, helps in addressing learning gaps and improves classroom outcomes, while ensuring children from marginalized backgrounds are better prepared for a rapidly evolving, skills-driven future.



Sustainable Livelihood & Futures

Creating Livelihood Pathways Through Industry-Ready Skills

Economic resilience begins when individuals gain access to skills that align with evolving industry demands and emerging job opportunities. Through **Smile Foundation's STeP program**, skilling and upskilling initiatives are helping individuals secure sustainable livelihoods and achieve greater financial independence. As Bipasha Patnaik, Head – Skilling and Upskilling at Smile Foundation, highlights, industry-relevant skills create impact beyond employment by strengthening families, communities and local economies. Supporting livelihood interventions helps bridge employability gaps, enhance workforce participation and promote inclusive growth, contributing to more resilient, equitable and future-ready economic ecosystems that enable individuals and communities to thrive.



Women Leading The Change

Menstrual Health Awareness Replaces Stigma

Confidence and well-being begin when young girls are empowered with the knowledge to understand and manage their health. Yet, in many parts of India, menstruation remains surrounded by stigma and misinformation, limiting awareness and access to safe practices. **Through Smile Foundation's Swabhiman program**, targeted interventions focused on menstrual hygiene awareness, adolescent health education and community sensitization are helping create safer, more informed environments for women and girls. These efforts promote healthier behaviors, greater confidence and informed decision-making. Supporting such initiatives plays a critical role in closing health awareness gaps, improving hygiene practices and advancing dignity, health equity and gender inclusion across underserved communities.



Women Entrepreneurs Drive Nation's Inclusive Growth

For many young women from marginalized communities, limited financial literacy, restricted access to credit and a lack of mentorship continue to hinder entrepreneurship and workforce participation. Through **Smile Foundation's Swabhiman Entrepreneurship Development Program**, women like Puja receive business support, skills training and guidance to start and grow their enterprises with confidence. Supporting women entrepreneurs plays a critical role in expanding economic participation, strengthening women-led businesses and advancing gender equality, while contributing to more inclusive, resilient and self-reliant communities aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals.



Smile Corner

Smile Drives Impact With Collaborative CSR Leadership

Meaningful social impact is built on trust, transparency and long-term collaboration. The efforts and impact of Smile Foundation and its **400+ partnerships earned recognition as the "Most Trusted NGO of the Year" at the CSR & Sustainability Connect Summit 2026** reflecting the collective strength of partnerships driving sustainable development across education, healthcare, skilling, women empowerment and livelihood. The summit brought together CSR leaders, corporates and changemakers to discuss responsible business practices, climate action and collaborative impact models under the vision of **"Together Towards Tomorrow."** Such platforms play a critical role in strengthening cross-sector partnerships, encouraging accountability and creating scalable, community-centric solutions aligned with sustainable development goals.

