



2025 Annual Newsletter



BHARATIYA SAMAJ SEVA KENDRA



From small steps to big milestones, here's how your support transformed lives in 2025!

Dear Well-Wisher,

“It takes a village to raise a child” has never been more meaningful than now. At BSSK, we remain dedicated to empowering our community with the knowledge and awareness needed to support every child’s wellbeing.

2025 bore witness to numerous awareness activities — reaching schools, colleges, hospitals, grassroots workers, and police personnel to ensure safe surrender and legal adoption. These efforts gained momentum during the National Adoption Month in November, when several initiatives were carried out under the guiding theme “Every Child Matters.”

This year brought special recognition to BSSK, with our Chiplun centre earning the esteemed Bal Snehi Puraskar for its remarkable work in child welfare. We also celebrated two significant milestones: thirty years of caring for children at the Ch. Sambhaji Nagar centre, and the successful completion of one year of our Daycare centre ‘Gokul’ in Sangli. BSSK’s Education Support Program extended to a new community in Sanjay Park, Pune, and the Child Nutrition Program adding Kumtha, Sangli. In addition, BSSK Sangli facilitated an Entrepreneurial Development Program for mothers engaged in the Education Support initiative, in collaboration with Youth Aid.

Innovation was a defining theme this year, as library spaces were opened to parents—especially mothers—encouraging their active participation. Basic Literacy sessions were taken directly into the community to make learning more accessible for children. A long-cherished dream also came true, with our first alumni meet, Snehmilan, in Sangli.

All of these achievements reflect not only our commitment but also our growth as an organization. With new collaborations, an expanding network of corporate partners, and a growing team of dedicated employees, BSSK has strengthened its capacity to serve more children and families than ever before.

Warmly,

Naganandhini S.



2025 Defining Moments.



GOKUL Anniversary



BalSnehi Puraskar



Staff Moments



Awareness Sessions



30th year celebrations



Library for mothers



New community



Alumini Meet

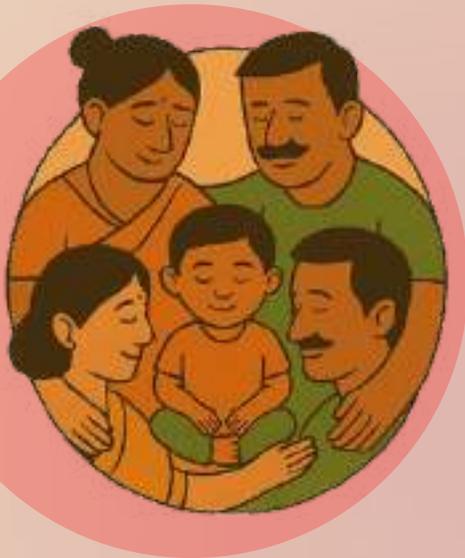


Birth Parent Child Admission



BSSK goes the extra mile to ensure every child has the opportunity to grow within their birth family—whether by tracing relatives from the smallest clues available, counselling parents, providing financial support, or facilitating rehabilitation.

Stories of Impact



1. A 4½-year-old girl, found roadside with her mentally ill mother, was placed with a family after her maternal uncle chose adoption. This gave her safety, stability, and a hopeful future.
2. A young couple, once ready to surrender their baby, found strength through BSSK's guidance and chose to raise their daughter—embracing parenthood with renewed hope
3. Despite her baby's health challenges, the birth mother of an 8-month-old found the courage to take her child back. When she later visited BSSK, she was full of joy and grateful to have made the decision.
4. Three siblings admitted to BSSK Chiplun—with various health issues—gradually improved with structured nutrition, medical care, and developmental support. Their parents, guided through counselling and multiple home visits, began overcoming poverty and the father's alcohol addiction. Recognizing the eldest child's need for specialized care, the family consented to placement in a Special Care Home, while the younger two were restored to their parents. This case stands as a powerful example of how compassion, persistence, and belief in change can restore families and dignity to children.

SAA-CCI Linkage BSSK, Pune has actively supported a Childcare Institution to explore permanent rehabilitation for children living there.

- Two children were declared free for adoption.
- A girl, abandoned at the age of 5 years, was restored to her grandparents after investigation.

Through such collective efforts, **16 children were reunited with their birth families**—a testament to BSSK's unwavering commitment to family preservation and child wellbeing.

Childcare

This year, more children with serious medical and developmental needs, as well as older children, were admitted to BSSK. These changes required our team to stay alert, learn new skills, and be fully prepared to give each child the right care.



Gudi Padwa



Sports Day



Summer camp



Republic Day



Yoga Day



Independence Day



Language class

70

NICU

11

Physiotherapy

8

Speech Therapy

24

Schooling

40

Special Care

4

Surgeries

30

Celebrations

Stories of Resilience:

- A premature baby weighing just 2.1 kg at admission, born with cleft palate and laryngomalacia, required tube feeding, strict infection control, and weekly specialist follow-ups. After eight months of intensive care, she reached 5 kg, was weaned off the feeding tube
- A two-year-old abandoned child, diagnosed HIV positive, underwent prolonged hospitalization and rehabilitation. Today, the child is medically stable and legally free for adoption
- An abandoned baby admitted in poor health with animal bites required hospitalization and continues to receive medical treatment in Ch. Sambhaji Nagar
- A child with intraventricular haemorrhage, hydrocephalus, and right-eye haemorrhage needed extended hospitalization. Specialists have recommended VP shunt surgery
- A six-month-old underweight infant at the Chiplun centre was diagnosed with PFO and a heart condition affecting growth. Intensive medical management and close monitoring are ongoing.

Older children at BSSK often come from experiences of abandonment, abuse or trafficking, carrying deep trauma that is addressed with therapy, structured care, and support

- One child remained non-communicative for over a month and was supported through BERA testing, multilingual engagement, and has finally settled down
- A child from a sibling group of three, found living on the streets, received psychological care for addiction-related behavioural issues
- An eight-year-old was rescued from an interstate trafficking case
- A 6½-year-old in Ch. Sambhaji Nagar, subjected to severe abuse, struggling with hyperactivity, is under neurological evaluation and speech therapy. Progress is gradual, but consistent care has helped her begin to settle.

In total, **BSSK cared for 153 children this year**—each story a testament to resilience, compassion, and the power of dedicated care.

Adoption

This year, the Ministry of Women and Child Development launched the revamped Mission Vatsalya Portal, creating an integrated digital platform for child protection services. While our team invested significant time in trainings and online sessions to understand the new system, child referrals temporarily came to a halt.

Despite an increase in families registering for adoption, preparing them for the responsibilities of parenthood remains a challenge, requiring extensive counselling. A few difficult cases highlighted this need:

- In one case, prospective parents cited behavioral issues after taking custody, though a home visit revealed the child's behavior was normal and parental support inadequate. The child was returned back to the institution in the best interest of care
- Another family, after adopting a girl, reported difficulty bonding following medical tests indicating developmental delays. Despite counselling, they chose to return the child
- An older child reserved from BSSK Chiplun required extensive counselling before placement, and the family continues to seek support in their parenting journey
- Two sisters from a CCI were placed with a family from another state and bonding was facilitated with interpreter support. The family spent time with the children before going ahead with the decision. The adoption was later withdrawn, and the children were returned by court order.

Amidst these challenges, **56 children** were successfully placed in loving families this year, reaffirming our commitment to ensuring every child finds a safe and nurturing home.



Adoption Support

At BSSK, we believe adoption is not just a process—it is a lifelong journey that requires guidance, encouragement, and a supportive community. This year, we walked alongside families and adoptees in many meaningful ways.

PreAdoption

- **5 Parent Preparation Workshops** to guide families.
- A **Live Streaming Session** on Medical Aspects of Children in Institutions

Post Adoption

- **305 families** connected with BSSK for various reasons such as visiting the child's first home, sharing the child's achievements or seeking advice
- **Listening Circles** introduced as monthly online forums where parents discuss their adoption journey and support one another. 7 sessions were held this year
- **WhatsApp group** for single parents launched, complementing the existing family groups
- **3 Parenting Sessions** – Positive Parenting, Screen Addiction, and Sharing the Fact of Adoption
- **24 families** received individual counselling with challenges such as behavioral issues, mobile addiction, and lack of academic interest

Adoptees

- **2 Summer Camps** organized by older adoptees for younger ones
- **10 adoptees** initiated root searches, while 16 sought information about their origins
- **2 adoptees** requested support with adoption documents, as their parents were unwilling to acknowledge their legal rights to property



Summer Camp



Janmashtami



Parent Prep Workshop

Daycare

The Daycare initiative in Sangli is a family strengthening program that ensures children thrive in a safe and nurturing environment. It provides a secure space during the day, guides parents on positive parenting skills, and supports the holistic development of children—helping them grow confidently within their family setting.



- 111 Total Children Served To Date
- 64 Enrollment in 2025
- 45 Average Daily Attendance
- 20 Single Parent Families Supported
- 9 Parenting Sessions Conducted
- 80 Families Supported To Date

Touching Lives:

- Jay (5 years, single-mother family): Initially aggressive and withdrawn, Jay blossomed into a disciplined, happy child through regular daycare participation.
- Shivansh (3 years, single-mother family): With daycare support, Shivansh's mother secured employment and independence. She feels reassured knowing her child is safe and thriving while she works.
- During a daycare health camp, Shlok was diagnosed with a serious heart condition. With BSSK's help in accessing government benefits and timely medical care, he underwent surgery and is now recovering well
- Once dependent on mobile phones and struggling with speech and social interaction, Saisha improved through daycare guidance and parental support. She now speaks fluently, eats without screens, and enjoys learning and playing with peers



Education Support & Community Services



International Children's Day



Health Camp



Prize Distribution



Post Office Visit



Sexuality Education



Summer Camp

Our Shining Stars

Sangli

- Ranjit Patil (Std. 10) scored 95%, Rushikesh Adumuthe (Std. 10) scored 91% while Tarranum Makandar (Std. 12, Science) scored 76%
- Sakshi Kamble won the First Prize in a District level Singing Competition
- Shravani Matale's group won the first prize in the District level Kabaddi tournament
- Nirjala Hajare (Std 9) won the Blue Costume in Wrestling and can now participate in District level competitions
- Sanvi Kamble, Aditya Jagtap, Aayan Mujawar, Arnav Mane (Std. 1-4) – Excelled in Scholarship Preparatory Talent Search Exam
- Uday Chavan won the 6th Rank in the District level Shatabdi Exam
- Aniket Kumbar awarded the Rashtriya Khel Puraskar for excellence in karate

Pune

- Aditya Kale (Std. 10) scored 88.2%, Rajan Sonawane (Std. 10) 88% and Viha Ingale (Std. 10) 87.8% and Siddhesh Kokare (Std 12) 72.17%
- Datta Talwade (Std 5) and Samruddhi Mane (Std 7) won a Gold in Karate demonstration and Silver in the fighting category
- Raturaj Nikam won a Bronze medal in National Rock Climbing

Ch. Sambhaji Nagar

- Dyandeep Jadhav (Std. 10) scored 93%, Sharvari Pawar (Std. 10) 90%, Harshita Reswal (Std. 10) 88% while Vishaka Abhang (Std. 12) scored 83.1% and Nisha Waghmare (Std. 12) 82.17%
- Poornima Survade (Std 9) was selected for the National Handball competition in Rajasthan
- Parth Waghmare (Std 8) cleared Classical Music Level 2 and performed at the State level Bhakti Geet competition

Chiplun

- Rutuja Jadhav (Std. 10) scored 93.2% and Ashwini Kadam (Std. 12, Commerce) 81.33%
- Anuradha Bhise (BMS): Represented Konkan Division Girls' Kabaddi Team (3rd place, Mumbai University Inter Divisional) and selected for Ratnagiri District Girls' Team at the 52nd State level Kabaddi Competition.
- Shravani Gamre (Std. 8): Excelled in Janu Vidnyan and Anubhav Vidnyan exams by Zilla Parishad Ratnagiri; selected to visit NASA, USA with the Ratnagiri team.

In total, BSSK supported **2,369 children** in their education this year, helping them shine in academics, sports, arts, and beyond.

Camps & Activities

- Children from Sangli visited the 'Space on Wheels' bus from ISRO
- Through 'Cause to Connect – Skills on Wheels,' students gained practical, hands-on exposure to food making
- A creative lab festival in Pune introduced students to the eight senses through neuroscience, psychology, and art
- A mathematics camp was conducted at Chiplun to develop clarity on basic mathematical concepts
- Various workshops on Exam skills, Positive attitude, Stress management were also conducted



Creative Labs



Skills on Wheels



Space on Wheels



Summer Camp



Basic Literacy

BSSK has been actively working towards ensuring that young children in Class 1-4 develop foundational literacy and numeracy. To enrich their classroom approaches, teachers attended two training programs by Doorstep and Khelghar.

Program Highlights:

- At the Child-Parent Learning Day at the centres, children shared their learnings and parents explored the classroom activity corners alongside them
- Children had a lunch box party where children enjoyed sharing their lunch exchanged stories with each other
- Educational visits were held where the children visited a sugarcane processing unit, a hardware and electrical shop, soap making factory, market and a plant nursery
- Celebrations on Nagpanchami, Rashabandhan, Independence Day, Ganpathi, Dusshera were conducted.
- Ten students participated enthusiastically in the Shivaji Maharaj Powada performance

Stories of hope:

- Students wrote the orally narrated story and drew beautiful pictures demonstrating comprehension skills.
- Varsha (Grade 3): Once isolated and using abusive language, Varsha improved through regular attendance. With guidance and encouragement, she made friends and now exhibits respectful behavior and interest in studies.
- Rahul Chandan Bhagat: Starting with limited reading and math skills, Rahul progressed steadily through literacy groups. Today, he reads fluently, solves addition and subtraction confidently, and proudly helps his peers.



Rain measurement



Powada

250 children were supported to improve their literacy and numeracy skills

Library

BSSK libraries are more than places to read—they are safe, nonjudgmental spaces where children learn to voice their thoughts, develop self-awareness and gain confidence.

The facilitators, too, were learners in this journey. They learnt how to craft puppets, understood wordless books and developing reading fluency—each step teaching them how to listen better, reach deeper, and open wider doors for young minds. Children wrestled with questions of war and peace, reflected on equality and discrimination, and explored tribal life, identity, environment, migration, belonging, disability and inclusion.

Program Highlights:

- 12 outreach programs in each centre, reaching over 735 students
- Visits to the Post Office and Cantonment Office, helping children connect stories to real-world contexts
- Summer Camp on Watercolours, where children painted life into stories, Tribal art workshops enriching cultural expression. Stitching sessions turning fabric into creative bookmarks and book covers
- Book Week celebrated with puppet-making workshops, Katha Kala performances, and art-based storytelling

Stories of Change

- Mangala (Grade 7): Despite household responsibilities, she has read 297 books and borrowed 154. The library is her sanctuary, nurturing imagination and self-expression
- Sangram (Grade 6): Once quiet and withdrawn, he discovered a love for picture books and drawing. Inspired by the film Anandi, he now participates actively, has become confident, talkative, and is eager to help

173 children were part of this exciting journey this year – Stories don't just entertain, they teach, inspire and transform



Katha Kala



Outreach



Higher Education

BSSK believes education is the foundation of independence—especially for underprivileged students who face multiple challenges in their journey. We support a selected group of students through graduation—providing funding, mentorship, and resources so they step into adulthood with confidence and independence

Program Highlights

- Life Skills Workshops on anger management, positive attitude, emotional regulation, responsibility, decision-making, and communication
- Sessions on personality development, communication, digital literacy (social media, AI, digital citizenship), and job readiness—including resume writing, job search, employability, and interviewing skills.
- Company visits to Kalyani Maxion Wheels, Endress+Hauser, Gadre Marine Export and Shatrunjay Institute to explore opportunities in AI and robotics
- Insurance Training where 50 students from Pune and Ch. Sambhaji Nagar completed a 3-day program to become certified advisors

Stories of Transformation

- Prathmesh: Through BSSK's English Speaking Course, gained confidence and communication skills, securing placements at Q Spiders and Kiran Academy, Pune
- Komal: Bright and motivated, Komal faced personal challenges when her decision to enter a live-in relationship created conflict at home. With sensitive counselling, she reflected on her choices, prioritized her studies, and returned to her mother's home
- Sakshi: After losing both parents, Sakshi and her brother struggled to survive on limited income. With BSSK's support, she completed her Diploma in Pharmacy and is now pursuing a B.Pharmacy degree. Her brother, working as a junior accountant, continues to support her, while BSSK provides educational and family assistance to ease their burden.

This year, **61 students graduated, 15 employed full-time and 52 part-time**—marking a significant step toward independence and dignity.



Child Nutrition Program

The first five years of life are critical for child development, in particular the first three when the brain forms billions of connections. To support this, BSSK runs the Child Nutrition Program, guiding mothers from the community on nutrition, health, and positive parenting to ensure age appropriate growth.

Stories of Change

- One mother, determined to learn despite initial challenges, became a regular participant. She now prepares nutritious meals, fosters healthier relationships, and has reduced incidence of illness among her children
- In Sangli, several mothers began working after joining the program, applying lessons on responsibility and empowerment to improve family and community life
- Jaitun, a 25 year old mother, despite being six months pregnant, attended sessions regularly, and even adjusted her hospital visits to participate. Jaitun shares that the program has given her valuable knowledge on child health and nutrition. Her journey reflects how CNP empowers mothers and strengthens families

This year, **82 mothers** benefited from the program.



Challenges



The transition to India's new government adoption portal has brought several challenges, including technical glitches, slower case processing, and limited digital literacy among stakeholders—necessitating continuous followups with government agencies. These issues have delayed adoption procedures, created uncertainty for families and agencies, and slowed child rehabilitation.

At the community level, it is often challenging to gain families' support for children's participation in programs such as basic literacy classes, library activities. Many families are still discovering how these initiatives can strengthen their children's future and bring positive changes to their own lives.

Looking Forward

We are exploring ways on building awareness in communities, working together and encouraging them to become active partners in their children's growth. BSSK has a rich legacy to carry forward and we step into the coming year with hope that clarity will emerge on the path ahead. Guided by perseverance, compassion and community support, we remain committed to shaping brighter futures for children and families.

