



ENLIGHTENED INDIA FOUNDATION

Annual Report

2023-2024

Women-Led Community Learning, Skills & Leadership



*Registered Trust | Founded on 15 February 2021
Operational Region: Himachal Pradesh*

Message from the President

The year 2023–24 represented a period of consolidation, maturity, and reflection for Enlightened India Foundation. What began as a grassroots initiative rooted in community participation has now evolved into a women-led, decentralised model capable of sustaining learning spaces, leadership development, and inclusive access with minimal external intervention.

Throughout the year, trained women youth leaders independently managed daily operations across community centres in Rakkar, Mohli, and Sidhpur. They organised educational activities, sports programmes, digital literacy sessions, and cultural events while maintaining detailed participation records and engaging with local institutions. The Foundation's role increasingly shifted toward facilitation, material support, and oversight—an intentional transition that reaffirmed our belief in community ownership as the cornerstone of sustainable development.

The expansion of learning spaces to serve migrant tribal communities, continued high participation of girls, and the successful integration of sports, digital learning, and cultural engagement reflect the adaptability of our model. Partnerships with Panchayat institutions further strengthened trust, accountability, and local legitimacy, ensuring that programmes remained accessible and community driven.

Equally important were the learnings that emerged through challenges. Navigating increased participation, limited resources, and the need for strong governance reinforced the importance of ethical leadership, clear values, and shared responsibility. These experiences have informed the Foundation's evolving approach—one that prioritises people, systems, and long-term impact over scale alone.

As we move forward, Enlightened India Foundation remains committed to strengthening women-led leadership, expanding evidence-informed programming, and exploring scalable pathways that preserve the integrity of community-rooted work. The progress of this year stands as a testament to what is possible when trust, opportunity, and local leadership converge.

Smita Choudhary

President

Enlightened India Foundation

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About Enlightened India Foundation

Enlightened India Foundation is a grassroots nonprofit organisation registered as a public trust in 2021. The Foundation works with rural and tribal communities to improve access to education, life skills, and leadership development through women-led, community-rooted and low-cost scalable models.

Operating primarily in Himachal Pradesh during its initial years, the organisation focuses on building local capacity by training adolescent girls and young women as educators, mentors, and facilitators. This women-led approach strengthens community ownership while creating real leadership pathways for rural youth.

Programmes are designed to be practical, inclusive, and rooted in the realities of village life—implemented through Panchayat spaces, community learning centres, and locally supported learning environments. The Foundation prioritises shared resources and peer-led learning to ensure access even in low-infrastructure contexts.

Rather than delivering services as an external provider, Enlightened India Foundation prioritises decentralised leadership and community participation—enabling villages to sustain and expand learning initiatives independently over time. The organisation combines on-ground learning with documentation, surveys, and local insights to strengthen programme quality and inform future scaling.

Vision

Rural communities where girls and young people lead learning, resilience, and social change.

Mission

To strengthen rural India through women-led, community-rooted education and life skills initiatives that are practical, affordable, scalable, and informed by evidence from the ground.

Founded: 15 February 2021

Legal Status: Registered Public Trust

Primary Focus Areas: Women Empowerment, Education, Digital Literacy

Operational Regions (2023–24): Kangra District, Himachal Pradesh

Approach: Women-led, community-driven, low-cost education models

NGO Darpan Unique ID: UP/2022/0314311

Year Three: Women-Led Community Learning Spaces and Inclusive Access

During 2023–24, Enlightened India Foundation sustained regular operations across Rakkar and Mohli villages while expanding its footprint to Sidhpur village. Daily access to sports, academic support, digital literacy, and indoor learning spaces was maintained through community centres managed entirely by trained women youth leaders.

The Mohli centre functioned as a primary learning hub where children accessed indoor games, books, study spaces, and computer training. Rakkar community centre continued to offer daily sports and group activities, while the newly established Sidhpur centre served children from migrant families belonging to tribal communities from Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand.

These centres provided consistent after-school engagement for children who otherwise had limited access to safe learning environments. Flexible use of community spaces allowed programmes to respond to seasonal participation, local needs, and age-specific learning requirements. Participation steadily increased across all centres, with overall reach crossing 300 children during the year. Female participation remained consistently above 70%, reflecting strong acceptance of women-led programming within local communities.



Children participating in regular activities across women-led community centres in multiple villages.

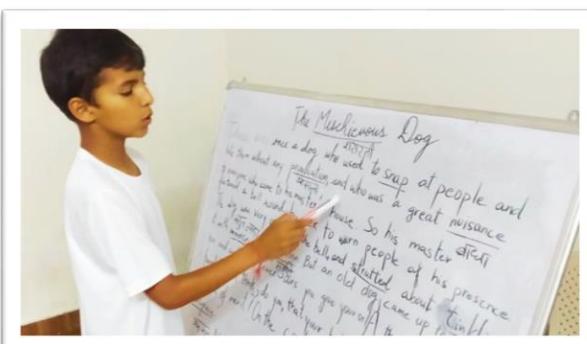
Expanding Access Through Decentralised Community Learning Spaces

Community learning spaces remained the backbone of programme delivery during 2023–24. Centres in Rakkar and Mohli provided daily access to sports equipment, academic support, indoor games, and study areas. Children frequently used the Mohli centre during evenings for reading, homework, peer learning, and informal group discussions.

The establishment of a new centre in Sidhpur village significantly expanded access for children from migrant tribal families. These children demonstrated high engagement across digital literacy, sports, and group learning activities, highlighting the importance of inclusive and welcoming learning environments. Participation from Sidhpur also enabled meaningful interaction between migrant and local children, supporting social integration and confidence-building.

Flexible use of Panchayat halls allowed activities to scale during special programmes such as English sessions, cultural activities, and sports events. These decentralised spaces enabled the Foundation to accommodate larger groups without dependence on fixed infrastructure.

Community ownership of spaces also strengthened trust and local support.



Academic, sports, and English learning activities conducted across community centres and Panchayat spaces.

Advancing Women-Led Grassroots Leadership

Women youth leaders fully transitioned into independent facilitators during 2023–24, taking complete ownership of programme delivery across centres and community spaces. They managed daily schedules, conducted academic, digital, and sports sessions, maintained participation records, and coordinated activities at community centres and Panchayat halls.

New activity leaders were introduced based on interest areas such as dance, cultural activities, and sports, creating opportunities for younger girls and boys to step into leadership roles. Female youth leaders also trained girls in boxing fundamentals, physical fitness, and self-confidence, actively challenging restrictive gender norms within conservative rural settings.

Youth leaders demonstrated strong organisational ownership by independently planning events, managing logistics, coordinating with Panchayat representatives, and maintaining detailed activity documentation. They facilitated certificate distribution, academic material support, and community events in partnership with local institutions.

Several youth leaders balanced higher education alongside community responsibilities and received academic recognition and scholarships at their respective colleges. This year reinforced that sustained mentorship, and trust can enable young rural women to lead complex community programmes with confidence and accountability.



Women youth leaders facilitating academic sessions at Rakkar Panchayat Hall.

Education, Digital Literacy & Life Skills

Foundational digital literacy expanded significantly during the year, crossing a cumulative total of 200+ children trained since inception. New learners were continuously onboarded across centres, using shared digital resources to ensure equitable access despite limited infrastructure. Youth leaders facilitated hands-on sessions covering basic computer use, typing, digital navigation, and introductory coding concepts for children with none or limited prior exposure.

Academic support followed a needs-based approach, focusing on English communication, foundational learning gaps, and confidence-building rather than rote tuition. Sessions were adapted to individual learning levels, helping children strengthen basics required to cope better with formal schooling. Increased participation led to higher demand for learning materials, which were periodically distributed to support continued engagement—primarily benefiting girls.

The centres also emerged as inclusive youth spaces beyond school-going children. College students, including girls from HPURC, accessed sports facilities at the Mohli centre, reflecting the openness of the learning environment. Overall, digital and academic interventions reinforced the Foundation's emphasis on practical learning, accessibility, and confidence development across age groups.



Children engaged in science, art, computer learning, and youth-led educational sessions.

Sports, Physical Development & Cultural Engagement

Regular sports activities continued across centres, with girls showing strong interest in badminton and volleyball, while boys primarily engaged in cricket and football. These sessions promoted physical fitness, teamwork, and regular engagement, especially for children with limited access to structured sports opportunities.

Boxing fundamentals were introduced under trained activity leaders, with participation from 15–20 boys across villages. Three boys went on to represent their schools in inter-school boxing competitions, marking a first for these communities and demonstrating the potential of exposure to non-traditional sports. Boxing equipment was also donated to Government School, Sidhbari, enabling wider access and continuity at the school level.

Community events such as Republic Day celebrations were organised in partnership with Rakkar Panchayat, involving skits, dance, speeches, and prize distribution by Panchayat representatives. These events strengthened community participation, visibility of youth leadership, and local ownership of programme activities.



A women youth leader conducting boxing fundamentals and self-defense session for young girls.

Research, Surveys & Community Insights

During 2023–24, Enlightened India Foundation conducted a community-led health and wellbeing survey across selected rural areas of Kangra district, Himachal Pradesh. The survey was designed to generate practical, evidence-based insights on child nutrition, household substance exposure, and substance use among adolescents and youth, and to inform future programme design.

The assessment covered children aged 3–17 years in Mohli and Rakkar villages through BMI measurements and household-level mapping of tobacco and alcohol exposure. A separate component examined substance use patterns among 106 senior school and college students from two government schools and two colleges. Findings showed that while most children had normal nutritional indicators, a significant proportion of households reported tobacco and alcohol use, creating early exposure risks. Substance use prevalence was notably higher among older adolescents and college-going males, highlighting the need for preventive education.

The survey was conducted by trained women and youth leaders using a respectful, non-stigmatizing approach. Immediate counselling and awareness discussions were held with families, and findings were shared with local administration. The survey now serves as a baseline to guide targeted health, nutrition, and preventive education interventions.



Youth leaders conduct household and adolescent surveys in Rakkar and Mohli villages.

Financial Overview (FY 2023–24)

The financial year 2023–24 focused on sustaining and optimising programme delivery through existing community-led structures. The Foundation continued to operate without external grants or institutional funding and relied entirely on founder member contributions to support ongoing activities across multiple villages.

Financial priorities during the year centred on maintaining community learning spaces, supporting youth-led programme implementation, and responding to increased participation following the expansion to Sidhpur village. While spending on academic materials, sports equipment, and activity resources increased in response to growing demand, overall operational costs declined due to reduced rental expenses and decentralised programme management.

Sources of Funds

Enlightened India Foundation continued to operate without external grants or institutional funding during 2023–24. All programme activities were sustained through founder member contributions and efficient utilisation of internal resources.

The organisation prioritised direct programme delivery, youth leader support, and community access while maintaining strict cost control. Decentralised operations and community-managed centres helped reduce overheads and ensured maximum impact per rupee spent.

Source of Income	Amount (₹)
Opening Balance (Carryover from FY 2022–23)	7,000
Founder Member Contributions	1,20,000
Total Available Funds	1,27,000

Expenditure Details

Expenditure during FY 2023–24 focused on sustaining multiple community learning spaces, supporting youth leaders, and meeting increased programme participation.

Expenditure Head	Amount (₹)
Mohli Centre Rental	18,000
Youth Leader Stipends	60,000
Sports Equipment	10,000
Academic Support Materials	18,000
Speaker (Cultural Activities)	4,500
Boxing Gear	6,500
Total Expenditure	1,17,000

Explanation of Key Expense Heads

- **Centre Rental:** Cost of maintaining a community learning space in Mohli village for daily educational and activity-based programmes.
- **Youth Leader Stipends:** Modest financial support provided to trained youth leaders for managing daily activities and community centres.
- **Sports Equipment:** Purchase and maintenance of sports materials to enable regular physical activity across villages.
- **Academic Support Materials:** Provision of notebooks, stationery, and learning resources to support children's educational needs.
- **Speaker (Cultural Activities):** Equipment purchased to facilitate cultural events, group sessions, and community programmes.
- **Boxing Gear:** Protective and training equipment used for boxing and self-defence activities for girls and boys.

Financial Position & Carry Forward

At the end of the financial year:

- Total Available Funds: ₹1,27,000
- Total Expenditure: ₹1,17,000
- Closing Balance: ₹10,000

The closing balance of ₹10,000 was carried forward to FY 2024–25 to support programme continuity and emerging needs.

Commitment to Transparency

The Foundation maintains statutory financial records and undertakes annual independent audits. Audited statements are available separately. Expenditure decisions were reviewed and approved by governing members and aligned strictly with programme priorities.

Founding members did not draw personal remuneration. Financial disclosures reflect the Foundation's continued commitment to transparency, fiscal discipline, and responsible resource utilisation.

Outcomes, Learning & Way Forward



Introducing boxing as a constructive pathway for adolescent boys—building discipline, confidence, and healthier routines following our community substance-use insights.

Key Outcomes Achieved

During the 2023–24 period, Enlightened India Foundation consolidated its transition into a fully community-led operational model. With youth leaders independently managing centres, activities, and events, the organisation focused on strengthening programme quality, expanding inclusive access, and deepening local ownership across multiple villages. Key outcomes achieved during the year include:

- Total unique children reached: 300+
- Active villages: Rakkar, Mohli, Sidhpur
- Women youth leaders & junior activity leaders: 8
- Female participation: 70%+
- Daily footfall across centres: 45–50 children
- Digital literacy beneficiaries (cumulative): 200+
- Sports & cultural events organised: Multiple
- Community partnerships: Village Panchayats & community spaces

These outcomes reflected a year of stabilisation and strengthening. Consistent daily participation expanded access through multiple community spaces, and sustained leadership by trained women

youth leaders demonstrated that decentralised, community-owned learning ecosystems can deliver continuity and impact even with minimal external facilitation. The year reaffirmed the Foundation's approach: building durable change through local leadership, trust-based partnerships, and adaptive community systems.

Programme Delivery Metrics (2023–24)

During 2023–24, Enlightened India Foundation sustained daily programme delivery through youth-led community centres and Panchayat spaces. Delivery metrics for the year include:

- **Community learning sessions delivered:** 650+ (academic support, reading, indoor games, life skills sessions across centres and Panchayat spaces)
- **Foundational digital literacy sessions conducted:** 300+ (structured digital exposure and coding basics delivered using shared resources and continued learning exposure)
- **Sports & physical development sessions conducted:** 400+ (badminton, volleyball, football/cricket, fitness-based activities across Rakkar, Mohli and Sidhpur)
- **Community events / competitions / public celebrations organised:** 10+ (e.g., Republic Day function, dance/cultural activities, art competitions, sports competitions, certificate & prize distributions in partnership with Panchayats)
- **Household/community survey coverage:** 200+ participants (children BMI assessment + household, adolescents and college youth substance use survey conducted across villages by trained youth leaders)

Challenges Encountered

As programmes expanded across multiple villages, several operational challenges became more visible during the year. One key challenge was the increasing educational and organisational burden placed on youth leaders. While they demonstrated strong leadership, many were simultaneously balancing higher education, examinations, and family responsibilities alongside programme delivery.

Limited financial resources posed another constraint. Rising child participation increased demand for learning materials, sports equipment, and daily operational support, stretching available funds. The absence of a regular professional overhead—such as dedicated administrative or programme management support—meant that coordination, documentation, and troubleshooting relied heavily on voluntary capacity.

The year also highlighted the need to continuously train and onboard new youth leaders. As participation grew, the initial cohort required support through refresher training and mentorship, while new leaders needed structured induction similar to the Foundation's first-year training model.

Finally, while existing programmes remained effective, further financial resources were required to deepen impact—improving digital infrastructure, expanding sports diversity, and strengthening academic interventions. These challenges reinforced the importance of sustainable funding, structured leadership development, and institutional support systems to complement community-led implementation.

Key Learnings

The year demonstrated that trained youth leaders are fully capable of independently implementing education, sports, and literacy programmes when given trust and responsibility. Community ownership proved to be the strongest driver of sustainability and continuity across villages.

Decentralised models allowed programmes to adapt quickly to participation levels, infrastructure constraints, and evolving community needs. Financial and material facilitation, rather than direct management, emerged as an effective organisational role. The experience also highlighted the importance of simple systems for reporting, documentation, and accountability to support youth-led operations at scale.

Looking Ahead

The learnings from 2023–24 reaffirmed the strength of women-led, community-driven programme delivery while also clarifying the need for greater structural support. In the coming year, the Foundation will prioritise consolidating existing centres, strengthening youth leader mentorship, and improving programme quality rather than rapid expansion.

Focus will be placed on formalising documentation, research, and impact tracking to support evidence-informed planning and future partnerships. Continued emphasis will be placed on digital literacy, sports access, and life skills education, with particular attention to sustaining high female participation.

The Foundation also aims to invest in training additional youth leaders, ensuring continuity as existing leaders progress into higher education. Moving forward, the organisation will seek strategic partnerships and funding support to enhance programme depth while preserving community ownership and decentralised implementation models.

Testimonials & Community Voices

Community voices that shaped our journey

Indu Sharma | Village Head, Rakkar, Dharamshala

“As the Sarpanch of Rakkar Village, I have spent four years watching Enlightened India Foundation turn our Panchayat halls into classrooms, boxing rings, and event stages — without outside intervention or fanfare. They arrived with a single laptop and built a troop of adolescent leaders who ran everything: coding sessions after school, boxing for boys and self-defence for girls, community surveys, educational activities, and camps. I have personally handed out 217 certificates to children for various activities facilitated by the NGO. They taught our youth to lead. The NGO did not build us — they simply handed the hammer to children who had never held one. That is real leadership, and it is ours now.”

Anamika | Cultural Activity Leader

“I joined Enlightened India Foundation as a cultural activity leader and began conducting regular dance sessions at the Mohli centre. Over time, I learned how to plan activities, manage children’s participation, and take responsibility as a youth facilitator. I coordinated the dance, skit, and cultural presentations for our Independence Day function at Rakkar Panchayat, which became a proud moment for me. Alongside this, I supported the Mohli youth leader in day-to-day centre activities and assisted in digital learning sessions whenever needed. The Foundation helped me grow in confidence, leadership, and discipline, and I feel proud to contribute to community learning through culture.”

Santosh | Boys Boxing Activity Leader

“Through Enlightened India Foundation, I got the opportunity to learn boxing fundamentals and develop discipline and confidence through sports. I later represented my school in inter-school boxing competitions, which was a major milestone for me and my village. I then became a boxing activity leader and trained 15 young boys from different villages in basic boxing techniques, fitness, and self-control. I also supported boxing fundamentals sessions for boys at HP University Regional Centre (HPURC). This programme showed how sports can shape youth positively, build strong habits, and create new opportunities for rural children.”

Enlightened India Foundation

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