



ENLIGHTENED INDIA FOUNDATION

Annual Report

2024-2025

Transition, Consolidation & Strategic Reset



Registered Trust | Founded on 15 February 2021

Operational Region: Himachal Pradesh

www.enlightenedindia.org

Message from the President

The year 2024–25 was a year of transition for Enlightened India Foundation. While community-led operations continued across our learning spaces in Kangra district, the year also revealed critical organisational realities: the need for stronger institutional capacity, consistent supervision, stable funding, and a deeper leadership pipeline to sustain multi-village programmes over time.

Our youth leaders continued to uphold daily activities in Rakkar, Mohli and Sidhpur, ensuring children retained access to learning spaces, sports equipment, and digital literacy support. We also received encouragement through key external engagements, including visits by volunteers, community events, and the interaction of our youth leaders with public officials.

At the same time, 2024–25 highlighted the vulnerabilities of grassroots work when resources remain limited and when key leaders become unavailable due to academic and livelihood responsibilities. With youth leaders entering their final year of college, sustained field operations became increasingly difficult.

In June 2025, after four years of continuous community engagement, the Foundation took the difficult but necessary decision to close its routine village operations and shift toward a strategic reset: strengthening governance, documentation, and research capacity; building institutional readiness for partnerships; and developing scalable learning resources that can reach communities beyond physical centres.

This report captures that transition honestly. It reflects not only what we accomplished in the year, but what we learned—and how we are preparing to take the next step with greater structure, accountability and scale.

I extend my sincere appreciation to our youth leaders, Panchayat partners, community members, and children who continued to believe in the spirit of collective learning.

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 (2024–25): Kangra District, Himachal Pradesh

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

NGO Darpan Unique ID: UP/2022/031431

Year Four: Transition and Continuity

During 2024–25, we remained active across its community-led learning spaces in Kangra district, Himachal Pradesh. Activities continued through Rakkar and Mohli centres, with the Sidhpur learning space continuing to serve children from migrant tribal communities. Children continued to access sports equipment, indoor learning spaces, reading materials, and foundational digital literacy activities led by trained youth leaders.

The year also included special events and external engagement, including cultural activities at Mohli centre, boxing-based sports development, and community recognition through Panchayat support. A visiting social worker from Spain also visited multiple centres, interacting with children and documenting the youth-led model.

As the year progressed, programme continuity became difficult due to reduced founder presence, increasing academic load of youth leaders, and resource constraints. In June 2025, the Foundation formally closed routine on-ground operations and initiated a transition toward organisational restructuring, documentation strengthening, and development of scalable learning models.



Snapshots from our community learning spaces: children engaged in reading, art, science activities, and foundational digital literacy across Sidhpur, Mohli, and Rakkar.

Sustaining Community Learning During Transition

Throughout 2024–25, community learning spaces continued to operate across Rakkar, Mohli, and Sidhpur villages. These centres provided children with access to academic assistance, digital learning tools, indoor games, sports equipment, and shared study spaces.

The Mohli centre remained a key hub, used by children for evening study, reading, indoor games, and group learning. Rakkar community centre continued to facilitate daily sports and group activities, while the Sidhpur centre served children from migrant tribal families, maintaining inclusive access.

Youth leaders conducted need-based academic support sessions, supported children with learning gaps, and continued foundational digital literacy exposure for new participants. Sports-based engagement remained a major draw for children, helping sustain participation and protect the community-led model despite emerging constraints.

Flexible use of Panchayat halls and community spaces enabled activities to continue during special programmes, cultural events, and sports sessions. These decentralised spaces ensured continuity despite limited organisational oversight.



Sustaining learning during transition: girls and children continued to engage in study support, English learning, and digital literacy sessions across Sidhpur, Mohli, and Rakkar.

Women Youth Leaders as Anchors of Continuity

Women youth leaders continued to serve as the core operational strength of Enlightened India Foundation during 2024–25. They conducted regular activities, maintained participation records, managed local logistics, and coordinated short events. Their continued dedication despite academic pressures reflected the strength of the leadership pipeline developed over the past years.

Youth leaders also engaged with public institutions, including a visit and interaction with the Superintendent of Police, Kangra. Such engagements reinforced confidence among youth leaders and strengthened the visibility of women-led community action in rural settings. A donation of boxing equipment was made to a local government school to support wider access to sports training.

The year reaffirmed that leadership development is not limited to programme delivery—it shapes aspiration, public confidence, institutional comfort, and long-term empowerment. Several youth leaders actively pursued career pathways such as aviation, civil services and higher education, demonstrating how community programmes can shift life trajectories.



Women youth leaders as anchors of continuity: From leading learning sessions to representing the Foundation through institutional engagement with district officials and local schools.

Sports and Cultural Engagement

Regular sports activities continued across centres during 2024–25, with children engaging in badminton, volleyball, cricket, and football as part of daily physical development routines. These activities were not only recreational but also structured to build discipline, teamwork, and confidence among participating children. Sports competitions organised at community spaces such as the Rakkar Panchayat further strengthened participation and encouraged healthy peer interaction.

Boxing fundamentals training remained active during the year, with youth leaders mentoring both boys and girls in basic techniques, self-defence skills, and fitness routines. Girls' participation in boxing sessions continued to reflect the Foundation's commitment to challenging gender norms and enabling safe, empowering spaces for rural girls.

Cultural engagement was also promoted through special events and exposure visits. An Independence Day programme included a memorable visit by classical Rajasthani folk musicians to the Mohli centre, offering children an enriching cultural experience beyond their immediate environment. Additionally, a social worker from Spain visited multiple centres and interacted with youth leaders and children, further validating the work and strengthening morale through international exchange.



Building confidence and joy through sports and culture — boxing and games in Rakkar, a cultural visit in Mohli, and international volunteer interaction with children and youth leaders.

Community Collaboration

Village Panchayats remained central to Enlightened India Foundation's ability to sustain community-rooted programmes in 2024–25. Our work has always been grounded in the belief that long-term development is strongest when local institutions are not treated as external stakeholders, but as active partners. Since the Foundation's earliest phase, the Panchayats of Rakkar and Mohli have consistently supported our activities by providing community space, legitimacy, and leadership presence.

Panchayat halls and community grounds offered more than infrastructure—they enabled learning and engagement to take place in safe, visible, and socially accepted environments. This visibility strengthened participation, ensured community trust, and created a shared sense of ownership over children's learning and development. It also allowed our programmes to continue even when operational challenges emerged, reinforcing the value of decentralised community support systems.

Throughout the year, Panchayat representatives played an active role during key activities, including educational camps, sports events, cultural programmes, and certificate distribution. Prize distribution and recognition by Panchayat heads served as a powerful form of public encouragement for children, especially girls, and reinforced the importance of youth participation in structured learning spaces. The presence of Panchayat leadership also strengthened accountability and ensured community confidence in women-led programming.

This sustained collaboration reflects a model of grassroots partnership built on trust, transparency, and shared responsibility. The Foundation remains committed to deepening institutional cooperation with Panchayats as a cornerstone of community-led education and youth development.



Local leadership recognising and encouraging children through prize and certificate distribution at Enlightened India Foundation community programmes.

Financial Overview (FY 2024–25)

The financial year 2024–25 focused on sustaining core activities with reduced expenditure. The organisation continued to operate without external grants, relying on founder contributions and careful resource allocation.

Spending prioritised youth leader stipends, essential learning materials, sports activities, and maintenance of community centres. Overall costs were lower compared to previous years due to consolidation and reduced expansion.

Sources of Funds

During the financial year 2024–25, Enlightened India Foundation was supported through internal contributions from the founding members and training Revenue, generated through mathematics faculty training services. No government grants or institutional funding was received during this period.

Source of Income	Amount (₹)
Opening Balance (Carryover from FY 2023–24)	10,000
Founder Member Contributions	1,20,000
Total Income	1,30,000

Expenditure Details

Expenditure during FY 2024–25 focused on creating functional learning environments, compensating teaching staff, and enabling programme activities for children and youth leaders.

Expenditure Head	Amount (₹)
Mohli Centre Rental	18,000
Youth Leader Stipends	60,000
Sports Equipment	6,000
Academic Support Materials	8,000
Travel & Miscellaneous Expenses	4,000
Total Expenditure	96,000

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:** Includes notebooks, stationery, printed learning resources, and basic educational supplies for children.
- **Travel & Miscellaneous Expenses:** Covers local travel for programme coordination, community outreach, and incidental operational costs.

Financial Position & Carry Forward

At the end of the financial year:

- Total Income: ₹1,30,000
- Total Expenditure: ₹96,000
- Closing Balance: ₹34,000

The closing balance of ₹34,000 was carried forward to the subsequent financial year (2025–26) to support programme continuity and early expansion activities. The Foundation maintains statutory financial records and undertakes annual independent audits. Audited statements are available separately. Expenditure decisions were aligned with programme priorities and approved by the governing members. No personal remuneration was drawn by founding members beyond approved programme-related expenses.

Commitment to Transparency

Enlightened India Foundation is committed to maintaining transparency, fiscal discipline, and responsible utilisation of resources. Financial disclosures are an integral part of the organisation's accountability to communities, partners, and stakeholders.

Outcomes, Learnings & Way Forward



Our women youth leaders earning academic recognition — reflecting how community leadership strengthens confidence and ambition.

Highlights and Special Activities

Key highlights during the year included:

- Cultural engagement activities, including a special Independence Day visit featuring Rajasthani classical musicians at Mohli centre.
- International exposure, with a Spanish social worker visiting and interacting with children and youth leaders across multiple centres.
- Youth leadership achievements, as leaders received academic and co-curricular recognition at their colleges, including scholarships and awards.
- Sports development initiatives, including continuation of boxing fundamentals and donation of boxing equipment to a local government school for wider access.

Key Outcomes Achieved

During 2024–25, Enlightened India Foundation prioritised programme continuity and centre stability while preparing for strategic transition. Key outcomes include:

- Active learning spaces continued in Rakkar, Mohli and Sidhpur
- Regular community learning and sports engagement sustained through youth leaders
- Donation of sports material to a government school for programme diffusion
- International social worker's visit documented community-led impact
- Youth leaders achieved academic/career milestones, reflecting long-term leadership outcomes

Challenges Encountered

The year revealed key organisational challenges that informed the closure decision:

- Reduced founder presence created a supervision vacuum across multi-village operations
- Youth leaders' academic obligations increased significantly in final year of college
- Funding constraints limited ability to retain staff or expand leadership pipeline
- Competing organisations running parallel activities reduced continuity and participation
- Absence of professional program overhead restricted long-term sustainability

Key Learning

This year reinforced that community ownership is powerful—but long-term continuity requires institutional scaffolding. The Foundation learnt that leadership pipelines must be continuously replenished, documentation systems must be strengthened early, and partnership readiness is essential for sustained growth.

Closure Decision

In June 2025, the Foundation formally closed routine rural operations to protect the integrity of its model and avoid diluted delivery. The closure was not an end, but a strategic pause—allowing the organisation to rebuild structure, secure partnerships, and re-enter field work with stronger capacity.

Looking Ahead

The experiences of 2024–25 have informed the Foundation's next phase. Future priorities include strengthening documentation, developing structured digital learning modules, and consolidating evidence-based programme design.

The organisation will focus on scalable, low-cost models that can function independently of continuous field presence while preserving community ownership. Renewed emphasis will be placed on partnerships, research, and digital dissemination of learning resources.

Enlightened India Foundation remains committed to nurturing women-led, community-rooted education systems that prioritise dignity, access, and long-term impact.

Testimonials & Community Voices

Community voices that shaped our journey

Neus | Visiting Social Worker, Spain

“During my visit to Himachal Pradesh, I had the privilege of visiting Enlightened India Foundation’s community learning centres in Rakkar and Sidhpur villages. What stood out immediately was that the programmes were not only attended by children, but genuinely designed, scheduled, and facilitated by local youth leaders aged 14 to 19.

A 19-year-old centre coordinator walked me through their entire work process with a level of maturity and ownership that is rare to see. I spent over three hours engaging with more than forty children and observing learning sessions firsthand. Enlightened India Foundation has built something exceptional: a youth-owned ecosystem that promotes education, life skills, and community leadership without compromising local agency.

I returned to Spain carrying not just photographs, but genuine hope for what grassroots, community-led development can achieve.”

Anchal | Youth Leader & Co-ordinator

“I joined Enlightened India Foundation as a youth leader in 2022, and from late 2022 onward I was responsible for coordinating the Mohli centre until June 2025. Over this period, I managed daily activity schedules, supported academic and digital literacy sessions, maintained participation records, and ensured that children had regular access to learning and sports resources.

My role expanded beyond one centre. I also supported programmes in Rakkar, worked closely with our youth leaders across villages, and coordinated with Panchayat representatives to organise events and certificate distributions. I was also part of the planning and execution of the Foundation’s community surveys in 2023–24.

This experience taught me leadership, responsibility, and confidence. EIF gave me the opportunity to grow from a village student into someone who could guide others and manage a learning space independently.”

Enlightened India Foundation

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