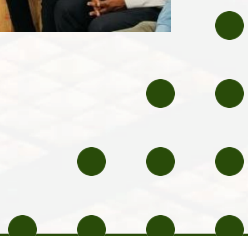




ANNUAL REPORT

2025-26

Institute of Social Research and Development



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From the Chief Functionary's Desk



Dear Friends, Partners, Supporters, and Well-Wishers, It gives me immense pleasure to present the Annual Report of the Institute of Social Research and Development (ISRD) for the year 2025–26. Over the past year, ISRD continued its commitment towards building an inclusive and equitable society where vulnerable communities can access their rights, opportunities, and dignity with confidence and security.

Guided by our vision of community-led and sustainable development, ISRD worked extensively with informal sector workers, women, children, youth, tribal communities, and survivors of exploitation across urban and rural areas of Madhya Pradesh. Through our interventions in labour rights, nutrition, education, child protection, skill development, and rehabilitation support, we sought to strengthen the resilience and capacities of marginalized communities facing social and economic exclusion.

During the year, thousands of individuals benefitted through our various programmes implemented in collaboration with organizations such as Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives (APPI), Jiv Daya Foundation (JDF), Trust Bridge, FVTRS, Hand in Hand Foundation, and several government departments and civil society partners. Informal workers were linked with social protection schemes and labour entitlements, vulnerable children received nutritional and educational support, school dropout children were reintegrated into formal education systems, and survivors of bonded labour were provided rescue, rehabilitation, and legal assistance.

Our work during the year also focused on strengthening community participation, awareness generation, leadership development, and institutional convergence to ensure sustainable impact at the grassroots level.

I express my heartfelt gratitude to all our donors, partners, government stakeholders, volunteers, and dedicated team members for their continuous trust and support. Most importantly, I thank the communities we work with for allowing us to be part of their journey towards empowerment and social justice.

Francis P. Anthony
Chief Functionary
ISRD, Bhopal

Executive Summary

The year 2025–26 represented another significant phase of growth, collaboration, and community-driven transformation for the Institute of Social Research and Development (ISRD). Guided by its mission to empower marginalized and vulnerable communities, ISRD continued its integrated development interventions across diverse urban, rural, and tribal communities in Bhopal and Raisen districts of Madhya Pradesh.



During the reporting year, ISRD focused on addressing multidimensional challenges faced by informal workers, vulnerable children, unemployed youth, women, and socially excluded populations through rights-based, participatory, and sustainable interventions.

The organization's major thematic interventions included

1. Empowerment of Informal Sector Workers

ISRD facilitated informal workers' access to various government welfare schemes including e-Shram registration, food security schemes, BOCW registration, social security benefits, and other labour entitlements. Alongside scheme facilitation, the organization conducted awareness sessions on labour laws, workplace safety, legal rights, gender equity, and prevention of workplace harassment to strengthen workers' awareness and protection mechanisms. To promote collective empowerment and long-term economic resilience, workers were further mobilized into labour collectives and cooperative structures such as the Umang Street Vendor Cooperative Society. These platforms enabled workers—particularly women—to strengthen collective savings, access institutional support systems, improve bargaining power, enhance livelihood opportunities, and participate more actively in community-level decision-making processes. organized informal workers into labour collectives, facilitated awareness on labour rights and entitlements, and supported access to government welfare schemes including e-Shram registration, food security schemes, BOCW registration, and social security benefits.

2. Bridge Education for Out-of-School Children

The organization continued its efforts to identify out-of-school and dropout children, providing bridge education, counselling, and school re-enrolment support to help them reconnect with formal education and continue their learning journey.

3. Pre-School Nutrition and Early Childhood Development

ISRDR established child nutrition and learning Centres in villages to support tribal children with daily nutrition, preschool education, and early learning activities, while also creating awareness among parents about child health and care.

4. Bonded Labour Identification and Rehabilitation

ISRDR worked closely with communities, government departments, and legal institutions to identify cases of bonded labour and support rescue and rehabilitation processes. The organization assisted government authorities during rescue operations and helped survivors access legal support, rehabilitation schemes, and government entitlements. strengthened community vigilance and institutional coordination to identify cases of bonded labour, facilitate rescue operations, support legal rehabilitation processes, and ensure access to entitlements for survivors.

“This annual report reflects the organization’s continued commitment toward social justice, empowerment, and inclusive development. It also highlights the resilience and aspirations of the communities with whom ISRDR works and the collective efforts undertaken to build a more equitable society.”

About Organization

Introduction to ISRD:

The Institute of Social Research and Development (ISRD) is a non-profit development organization based in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, dedicated to promoting inclusive, sustainable, and community-led development. Since its establishment in 1997, ISRD has been working across diverse thematic areas including labour rights and social protection, health and nutrition, education, youth skill development, child protection, environmental awareness, livelihood promotion, women empowerment, and rural development. Through grassroots interventions, awareness generation, capacity building, institutional collaboration, and community participation, the organization works to improve access to essential services, sustainable livelihoods, education, health, social security, and development opportunities for vulnerable and underserved communities.

The organization adopts a participatory and rights-based approach to development through community mobilization, advocacy, capacity building, research, education, and institutional partnerships. ISRD believes that sustainable social transformation can only be achieved when communities are empowered to access their rights, strengthen their collective voice, and actively participate in decision-making processes.

Over the years, ISRD has worked extensively with informal sector workers, women, children, tribal communities, migrant labourers, youth, and other socially and economically marginalized groups residing in both rural and urban areas of Madhya Pradesh. The organization has implemented various programmes focusing on labour rights, bonded labour rehabilitation, early childhood nutrition, bridge education for school dropout children, women's livelihood promotion, youth employability, community health, and social welfare linkages.

ISRD continuously collaborates with government departments, local self-governance institutions, civil society organizations, educational institutions, legal service authorities, and donor agencies to strengthen community-based support systems and improve access to government schemes and entitlements. The organization also promotes community leadership, awareness on constitutional rights, and institutional accountability through regular training programmes, workshops, campaigns, and grassroots advocacy initiatives.

With a strong presence at the community level, ISRD emphasizes sustainable development through empowerment, inclusion, and participatory governance. The organization remains committed to creating an equitable society where vulnerable communities can live with dignity, access equal opportunities, and actively contribute towards social and economic development.

Vision:

To build an inclusive and equitable society where every individual lives with dignity, equality, social security, and equal access to opportunities for sustainable development.

Mission:

To empower marginalized communities through grassroots interventions, awareness generation, advocacy, skill development, institutional convergence, and community-led action, enabling them to access their rights, entitlements, and opportunities.

Our Legal Identity:

Particulars	Details
Registered Under	M.P. Societies Registration Act, 1973
Registration Date	6 June 1997
FCRA Registration Number	063160144
12AA & 80G Certification	Available
PAN Number	AAAAI1090H
FCRA Bank Account	State Bank of India
Non-FCRA Bank Account	ICICI Bank, Bhopal
Registered under NGO Darpan, NITI Aayog	MP/2010/0031426

Key Programs and Achievements

1. Strengthening the Informal Workforce

Project Title:

Empowering Informal Sector Workers through Rights and Entitlement Programmes in Bhopal

Thematic Area:

Labour Rights | Social Protection | Livelihood Security | Community Empowerment

Project Goal:

To strengthen the socio-economic security, social inclusion, and collective empowerment of informal sector workers through awareness generation, social protection linkages, leadership development, and community-based institutional support.

Project Vision:

To create empowered and organised worker communities where informal sector labourers are aware of their rights, connected with social protection systems, institutionally recognised, and able to access dignified livelihood opportunities with confidence and collective strength.

Project Objectives:

- ✚ To organise informal sector workers into labour collectives and community-based platforms.
- ✚ To improve awareness regarding labour rights, workplace dignity, legal entitlements, and social security schemes.
- ✚ To facilitate workers' access to government welfare schemes and social protection mechanisms.
- ✚ To strengthen leadership and collective participation among worker communities, especially women workers.
- ✚ To promote institutional convergence between workers, government departments, and welfare boards.

- ✚ To strengthen worker-led institutions, cooperative structures, and community-based support systems for long-term sustainability.

Project Location:

The project is being implemented in **16 wards across 22 slums of Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.**

Key Interventions and Achievements during 2025–26:

The “**Empowering Informal Sector Workers through Rights and Entitlement Programmes in Bhopal**” project is one of the flagship initiatives of the **Institute of Social Research and Development (ISRD)**, implemented with the support of **Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives (APPI)**. The programme focuses on strengthening the socio-economic condition of informal sector workers by improving awareness regarding labour rights, social protection schemes, legal entitlements, and collective participation among vulnerable worker communities in Bhopal.



The project primarily works with **construction workers, domestic workers, and street vendors** residing in urban slums and low-income communities across Bhopal. Informal sector workers often face challenges such as insecure livelihoods, workplace exploitation, lack of social security coverage, limited awareness about welfare schemes, and restricted access to institutional support



systems. Through **community mobilisation, collectivisation, awareness generation, leadership development, and institutional linkages**, the programme aims to improve workers' access to welfare schemes, strengthen community leadership, and promote dignified livelihood opportunities.

During the reporting year **2025–26**, the programme continued to strengthen the organisation and empowerment of informal sector workers across project communities. More than **200 labour collectives** involving construction workers, domestic workers, and street vendors were formed

and strengthened during the year. Through these collective platforms, nearly **6,000 informal sector workers** were mobilised and engaged, creating stronger community participation, collective leadership, and mutual support systems among worker communities.

To improve awareness regarding labour rights and social security entitlements, the programme organised around **100 awareness campaigns and community meetings** across project areas. These sessions focused on labour rights, workplace dignity, legal awareness, prevention of workplace harassment, social security schemes, occupational safety, and access to government welfare programmes.

The programme also facilitated more than **5,500 applications** for various social protection and welfare schemes, enabling nearly **3,700 workers and their family members** to access benefits related to health insurance, pensions, food security schemes, labour welfare registrations, identity documentation, and other government entitlements. Workers were supported through **Workers Facilitation Centres (WFCs)**, field-level counselling, documentation assistance, and institutional coordination with concerned departments.



To strengthen grassroots leadership and collective advocacy, **three leadership development trainings** were organised for worker leaders from different labour collectives. The trainings focused on leadership skills, communication, grievance redressal mechanisms, collective negotiation, legal awareness, and community mobilisation strategies to strengthen worker-led initiatives and participation.

The programme further provided support in more than **250 legal mediation and worker grievance cases** related to wage disputes, workplace exploitation, harassment, labour rights violations, and social security grievances. Workers were assisted through counselling, mediation support, institutional referrals, and coordination with relevant authorities and welfare institutions.

During the year, the programme also continued strengthening worker-led institutional platforms such as the **Umang Street Vendors' Cooperative Society** to promote collective participation, livelihood security, savings practices, institutional engagement, and long-term community empowerment among street vendors and informal workers.

Through a **rights-based and community-driven approach**, the programme contributed towards strengthening collective organisation, improving access to social protection systems, and promoting dignity, inclusion, and sustainable livelihoods for informal sector workers in Bhopal during **2025–26**.

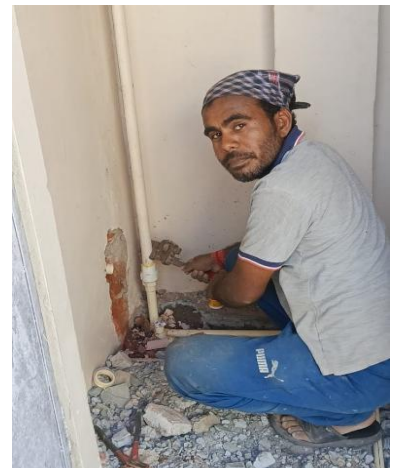
Impact of the Programme:

The programme has contributed significantly toward strengthening awareness, collective participation, and access to social protection among informal sector workers in Bhopal. Workers are increasingly participating in labour collectives, accessing welfare schemes, engaging with institutions, and seeking support for workplace-related grievances.

The strengthening of worker groups and cooperative platforms has also helped improve community participation, collective confidence, and livelihood security among construction workers, domestic workers, and street vendors. Through continuous community engagement and institutional coordination, the programme is gradually contributing toward building a more organised, aware, and empowered informal workforce.

Testimonial: Deepak Verma's Journey Towards Social Security

Deepak Verma, a 37-year-old mason helper from Naya Basera, Bhopal, had been working as a daily wage labourer for nearly 15 years. Despite years of hard work in the construction sector, he remained outside the social security system and was unaware of government welfare schemes available for unorganized workers. He did not possess a Labour Card or e-Shram registration, making him vulnerable during periods of unemployment, illness, and emergencies.



During a field survey conducted under the APPI-supported programme, the ISRD team identified Deepak and counselled him about the importance of labour registration and social protection schemes. The team supported him in completing documentation, updating his bank details, and processing his registration through the e-Shram portal.

After continuous follow-up and facilitation by ISRD, Deepak successfully received his Labour Card and became eligible for government welfare benefits, including accident insurance coverage of ₹4

lakh. More importantly, the intervention increased his confidence and awareness regarding his rights and entitlements.

Inspired by his own experience, Deepak now motivates other workers in his community to register for labour welfare schemes. His story reflects how timely guidance and community-based support can help informal workers access dignity, protection, and social security.

Glimpses of the Project:



2. From Malnutrition to Milestones

Project Title:

India Rural Upliftment Initiative – Pre-School Nutrition and Education Initiative and RAHAT Support

Thematic Area:

Child Health | Nutrition | Early Childhood Education | Tribal Welfare

Project Goal:

To improve nutritional status and early childhood learning outcomes among children aged 6 months to 5 years.

Project Vision:

To create healthy and nurturing environments where every child has access to nutrition, care, and quality early learning opportunities.

Project Location:

- ✚ The project covers four villages of Raisen district: Khairuwa Tola, Ghatla, Chopra, and Rampurtola.

Key Interventions and Achievements during 2025–26:

About the Programme:

The **Pre-School Nutrition and Education Programme** continued during the year **2025–26** as a focused child development initiative implemented by **Institute of Social Research and Development (ISRD)** in partnership with **Jiv Daya Foundation (JDF)** in four tribal villages of **Raisen district, Madhya Pradesh — Khairuwa Tola, Ghatla, Chopra, and Rampurtola.**

The programme focused on:

- ✚ Reducing child malnutrition
- ✚ Strengthening early childhood education
- ✚ Improving health and hygiene awareness
- ✚ Supporting vulnerable tribal families through nutrition and ration support

Key Project Interventions:

1. Daily Nutrition Support

Around **100 children** aged between **6 months to 5 years** received regular nutrition support through village learning centres.

Nutrition Support Included:

- ✚ Milk distribution
- ✚ Biscuits and supplementary nutrition
- ✚ Regular nutritious meals
- ✚ Monitoring of dietary intake

Impact:

- ✚ Improved nutritional intake among children
- ✚ Better attendance at learning centres
- ✚ Increased awareness among parents regarding child nutrition

2. Preschool Education Activities

Village-based learning centres operated **six days a week** to provide activity-based preschool education for nearly **100 children**.

Learning Activities Conducted:

- ✚ Alphabets and numbers
- ✚ Rhymes and storytelling
- ✚ Songs and group games
- ✚ Drawing and colour identification
- ✚ Cognitive and foundational learning exercises

Outcomes:

- ✚ Improved school readiness
- ✚ Enhanced cognitive development
- ✚ Better communication and participation among children

3. Mothers' Meetings and Awareness Sessions

Regular community meetings and counselling sessions were conducted with mothers and caregivers.

Major Topics Covered:

- ✚ Child nutrition
- ✚ Breastfeeding practices
- ✚ Hygiene and sanitation
- ✚ Early childhood care
- ✚ Health and immunization awareness

Community-Level Achievements:

- ✚ Increased parental participation
- ✚ Improved childcare practices
- ✚ Greater awareness regarding nutrition and hygiene

4. Health and Growth Monitoring

Regular monitoring of children's growth and nutritional status was conducted throughout the year.

Monitoring Included:

- ✚ Weight tracking
- ✚ Height measurement
- ✚ Identification of undernutrition cases
- ✚ Follow-up support for vulnerable children

Key Results:

- ✚ Early identification of health risks
- ✚ Improved health monitoring practices
- ✚ Better community awareness regarding child health

5. Dry Ration Distribution

To strengthen household food security, dry ration kits were distributed to vulnerable tribal families.

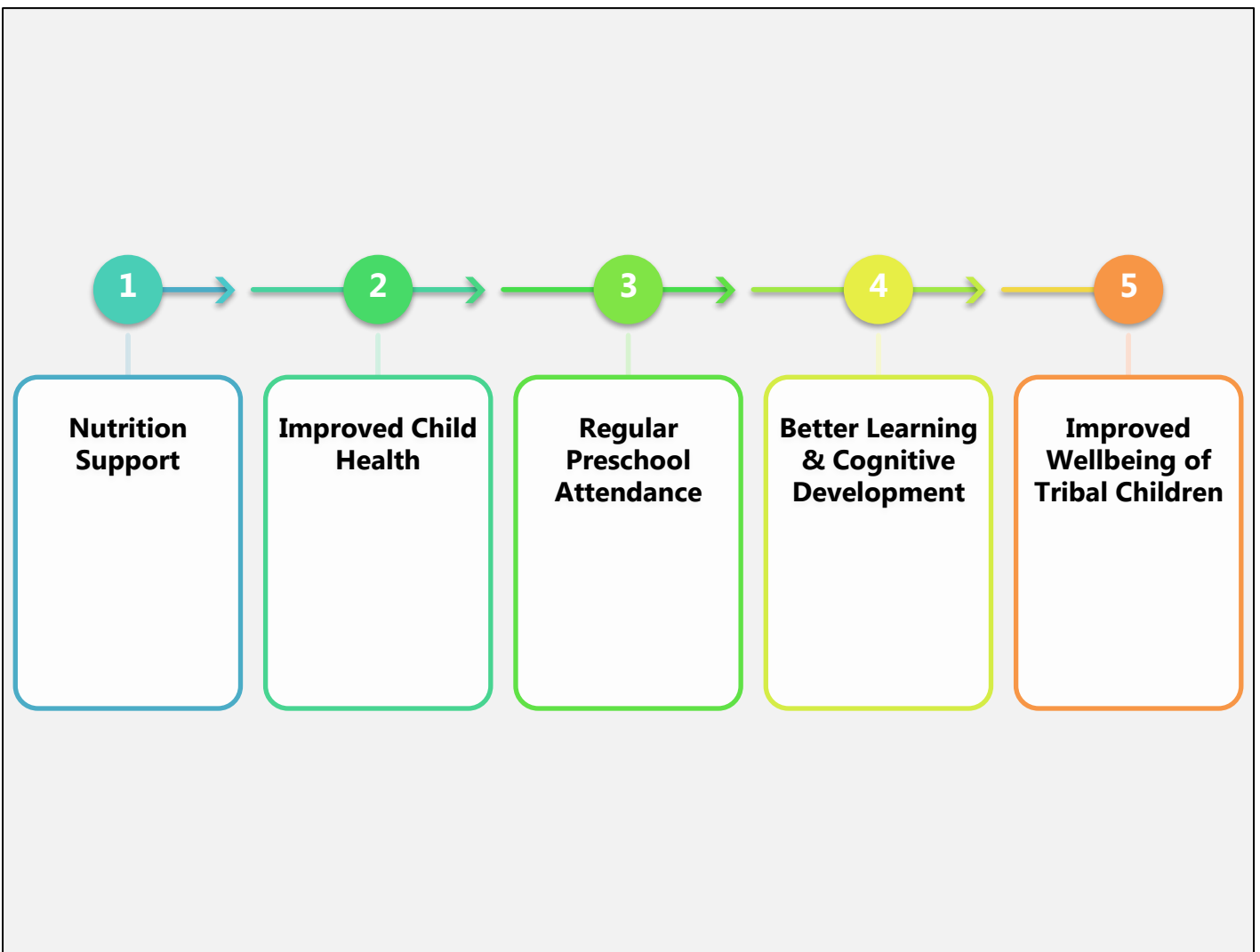
Support Provided:

- ✚ Essential food materials
- ✚ Household nutrition support
- ✚ Emergency assistance for vulnerable families

Programme Reach:

- ✚ Nearly 150 families supported
- ✚ Reduced food insecurity among marginalized households

Programme Achievement Flow:



Community Participation:

The programme was implemented with active support from:

- ✚ Village volunteers
- ✚ Caregivers and parents
- ✚ Community stakeholders
- ✚ Local support groups

Project Impact:

- ✚ Visible improvement was observed in children's health and nutritional status.
- ✚ Children demonstrated improved participation and learning behaviour.
- ✚ Mothers showed increased awareness regarding child nutrition and hygiene.
- ✚ Families experienced improved food security and community participation.

Testimonial: Rohit's Journey Towards Better Health and Learning

Rohit, aged 3 years and 3 months, son of Kamla and Pappu, is a child from a vulnerable tribal family enrolled in the Pre-School Nutrition and Education Programme implemented by ISRD with support from Jiv Daya Foundation (JDF). At the beginning of the programme, Rohit was underweight and less active compared to other children. He also showed limited interest in learning and participation in classroom activities.



Through regular attendance at the village learning centre, Rohit received daily nutrition support including milk, biscuits, and supplementary nutritious food. He also participated in preschool learning activities such as rhymes, storytelling, games, drawing, and basic educational sessions.

Over time, noticeable improvements were observed in Rohit's health and overall development. He gradually gained weight, became healthier and more energetic, and started participating actively in group activities and classroom sessions. His communication skills, confidence, and interest in learning also improved significantly.

Rohit's parents expressed happiness after seeing positive changes in their child's behaviour, health, and learning abilities. This case highlights the importance of proper nutrition, preschool education, and regular community-based support in ensuring the holistic development of children from underserved communities.

Glimpses of the Project:



3. Breaking Chains, Rebuilding Lives

Project Title:

Bonded Labour Identification, Rescue and Rehabilitation

Thematic Area:

Labour Rights | Human Trafficking | Legal Aid | Social Justice

Program Goal:

To eliminate bonded labour practices by strengthening identification, rescue, rehabilitation, and legal support mechanisms.

Program Vision:

To build a society free from labour exploitation where every individual has the right to work with dignity, freedom, and security.

Project Objectives:

- ✚ To identify and report cases of bonded labour.
- ✚ To support rescue and rehabilitation operations.
- ✚ To strengthen access to legal aid and government compensation.
- ✚ To build awareness regarding bonded labour laws.
- ✚ To strengthen vigilance and institutional response systems.

Project Location:

The project is being implemented in Raisen and Bhopal districts of Madhya Pradesh.

Key Interventions and Achievements during 2025–26:

About Project:

The **Bonded Labour Rehabilitation Project**, implemented by **ISRD** with support from **Trust Bridge**, continued during 2025–26 with the objective of addressing bonded labour, forced labour, and exploitative working conditions among vulnerable communities. The project focused on the **identification, rescue, rehabilitation, and reintegration** of bonded labourers through coordinated efforts with government departments, legal institutions, and civil society organizations.

Project Focus Areas:



Major Interventions:

1. Rescue and Protection of Bonded Labourers

During the reporting year, the project actively facilitated rescue operations in collaboration with:

- ✚ District Administration
- ✚ Labour Department
- ✚ Police Department
- ✚ Legal Institutions
- ✚ Local Stakeholders

Key Achievement:

Intervention	Achievement
Individuals rescued from bonded and forced labour	92

The rescued individuals were identified from exploitative and unsafe working environments and provided immediate protection and support services.

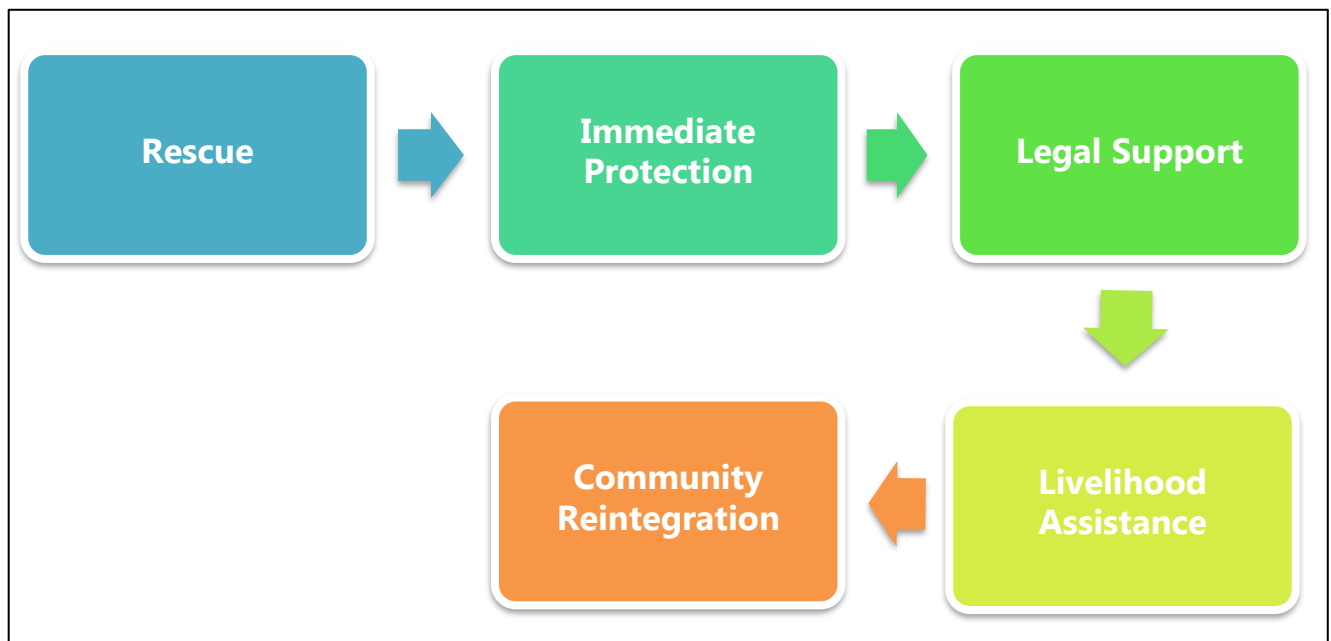
2. Rehabilitation and Reintegration Support

Following rescue interventions, the programme ensured rehabilitation support for survivors and their families through multiple services.

Support Provided to Survivors:

- ✚ Legal assistance and documentation support
- ✚ Counselling and emotional support
- ✚ Linkages with government welfare schemes
- ✚ Livelihood support and rehabilitation assistance
- ✚ Educational support for children
- ✚ Social reintegration within communities

Rehabilitation Approach:



Special emphasis was placed on reducing the risk of **re-trafficking**, unsafe migration, and repeated exploitation.

3. Community Awareness and Prevention Activities

To strengthen prevention mechanisms, the organization conducted awareness programmes and community campaigns in vulnerable areas.

Awareness Topics Covered:

- ✚ Bonded labour and forced labour
- ✚ Child labour
- ✚ Debt bondage
- ✚ Unsafe migration
- ✚ Illiteracy and exploitation
- ✚ Labour rights and legal protections

These activities helped communities better understand:

- ✚ Workers' rights
- ✚ Available legal protections
- ✚ Government support mechanisms
- ✚ Safe migration practices

4. Capacity Building and Stakeholder Engagement

The project organized sensitization programmes and capacity-building workshops with key stakeholders to strengthen institutional response systems.

Departments and Institutions Involved:

Stakeholders	Focus Areas
District Legal Services Authority (DLSA)	Legal protection and victim support
Labour Department	Rescue and rehabilitation procedures
Police Department	Coordination during rescue operations
DWCD, CWC & JJB	Child protection and rehabilitation
Vigilance Committees & PLVs	Community monitoring and awareness

Training Focus Areas:

The trainings focused on:

- ✚ Legal provisions related to bonded and child labour
- ✚ Rescue and rehabilitation procedures
- ✚ Institutional responsibilities
- ✚ Victim protection mechanisms
- ✚ Inter-departmental coordination
- ✚ Prevention strategies for labour exploitation

Overall Impact:

Through a **rights-based and collaborative approach**, the project contributed towards:

- ✚ Strengthening protection systems for vulnerable labourers
- ✚ Improving access to justice and rehabilitation support
- ✚ Enhancing institutional coordination
- ✚ Promoting awareness regarding labour rights
- ✚ Supporting the long-term rehabilitation and reintegration of survivors

Testimonial: A Journey from Bondage to Freedom

(Name and location changed to protect the identity and safety of the survivor and family.)

"Ramesh" (name changed), a 25-year-old man from a tribal village in Raisen district, had been working under bonded labour conditions on a landlord's farm for nearly eight years. His father had earlier taken a small loan for household needs, and after his father's death, the burden of repaying the debt fell upon him. Despite working for 16–18 hours daily, he received very low wages and was not allowed to leave the workplace or work elsewhere independently.

The survivor shared that his family lived in constant fear and his children were unable to access basic services such as Anganwadi facilities. Whenever he tried to leave, he was threatened with increased debt and loss of access to his family's residence. Over the years, the debt amount continued to rise, making it impossible for him to become free from bondage.

After learning about public grievance support systems, he secretly sent an application for help through his wife. Following intervention by the district administration and local authorities,

Ramesh along with 17 other individuals was rescued and released from bonded labour conditions on 09 December 2025.

The case highlights the importance of timely intervention, legal protection, and rehabilitation support in restoring freedom, dignity, and hope among vulnerable labourers trapped in exploitative conditions.

Glimpses of the Project:



4. Back to School, Forward in Life

Project Title:

Bridge Gap Education Programme

Thematic Area:

Education | Child Rights | School Reintegration | Urban Poor Empowerment

Program Goal:

To reduce school dropout rates and ensure educational continuity for vulnerable children.

Program Vision:

To ensure that every child has equal access to education, learning opportunities, and a safe environment for growth and development.

Project Objectives:

- ✚ To identify and support out-of-school children.
- ✚ To provide bridge education and basic learning support.
- ✚ To facilitate school re-enrolment.
- ✚ To engage parents in promoting children's education.
- ✚ To reduce the risk of child labour and educational exclusion.

Project Location:

The project is being implemented in the **Rahul Nagar slum area of Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.**

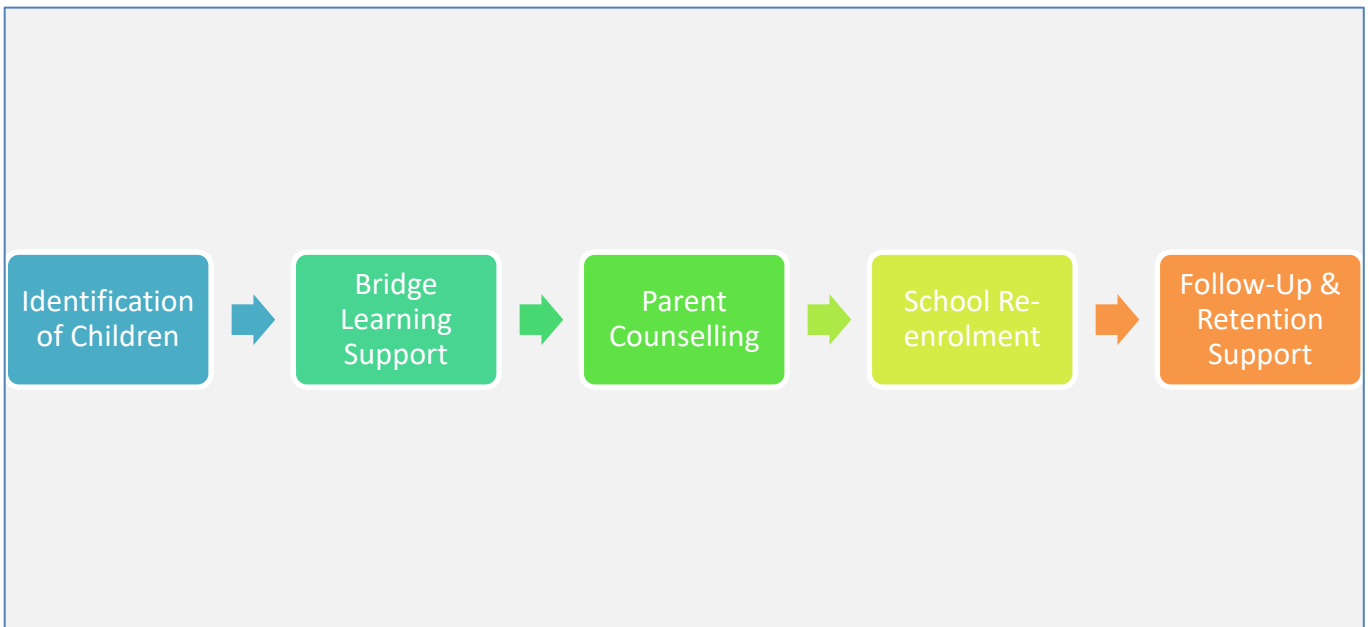
Key Interventions and Achievements during 2025–26:

About Project:

The **Bridge Gap Education Programme**, implemented by **ISRD** with the support of **Hand in Hand Foundation**, continued during **2025–26** in the **Rahul Nagar slum community of Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh**. The programme focused on identifying **school dropout and out-of-school children** and supporting their reintegration into the formal education system through **bridge education, counselling, and continuous academic support**.

The programme also worked towards strengthening **basic literacy and numeracy skills** among children through regular bridge learning sessions and activity-based education. Continuous **home visits, parental counselling, and follow-up with schools** helped improve children’s attendance, learning confidence, and retention in formal education. The initiative further contributed towards reducing the risk of **child labour** and promoting awareness regarding the importance of education within the community.

Programme Approach:



Key Project Interventions:

1. Child Identification and Surveys

Door-to-door surveys and community mapping were conducted to identify school dropout and out-of-school children within the Rahul Nagar slum community.

Activities Conducted:

- ✚ Household visits
- ✚ Community-level child mapping
- ✚ Identification of vulnerable children
- ✚ Parent interaction and counselling

Outcome:

- ✚ 30 children identified for educational support

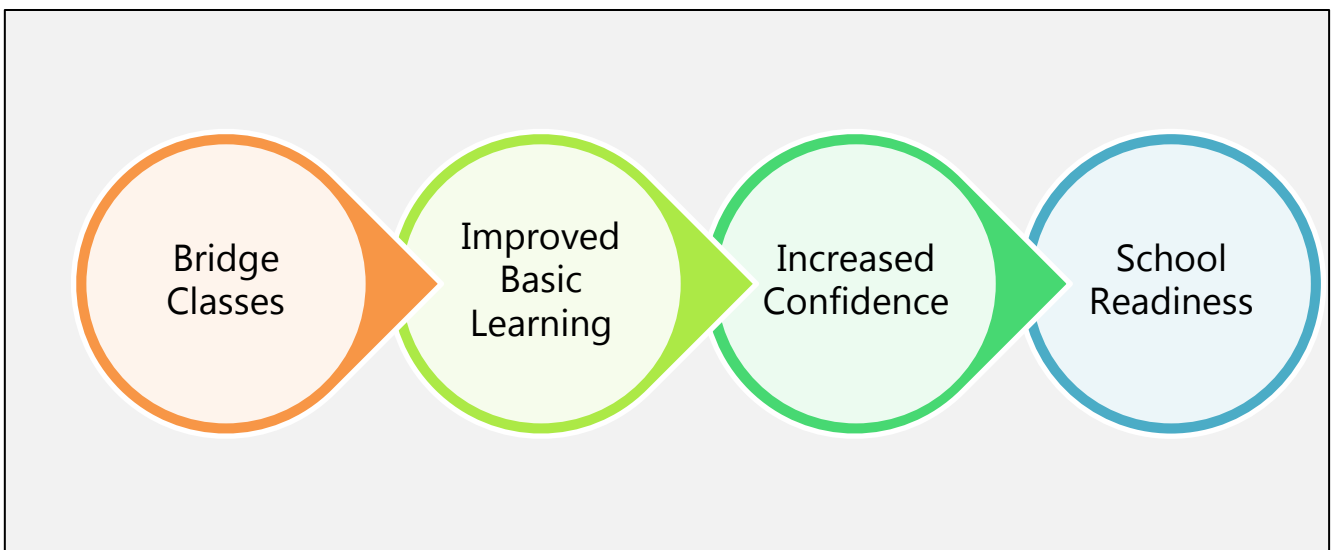
2. Bridge Learning Centres

Non-formal bridge learning sessions were organized to strengthen foundational learning among children.

Learning Support Included:

- ✚ Basic literacy and numeracy
- ✚ Reading and writing practice
- ✚ Life skills and behavioural learning
- ✚ Interactive classroom activities

Learning Environment:



Achievement:

- ✚ More than 200 learning sessions conducted
- ✚ 30 children regularly attended bridge classes

3. Parent Counselling and Community Engagement

Regular meetings and counselling sessions were conducted with parents to strengthen family support towards children's education.

Major Discussion Areas:

- ✚ Importance of regular schooling
- ✚ Risks of school dropout and child labour
- ✚ Child rights and education
- ✚ Role of parents in academic support

Impact:

- ✚ Increased parental involvement in education
- ✚ Improved awareness regarding child rights and schooling

4. School Re-enrolment Support

The programme facilitated school admissions and educational support for identified children.

Support Provided:

- ✚ School admission facilitation
- ✚ Documentation assistance
- ✚ Coordination with schools
- ✚ Follow-up with parents and teachers

Key Achievement:

Activity	Number
Children Identified	30
Children Attending Bridge Classes	30
Children Re-enrolled in Schools	30
Learning Sessions Conducted	200+

5. Post-Enrolment Follow-Up:

Continuous mentoring and follow-up support were provided to ensure regular attendance and school retention among children.

Follow-Up Activities:

- ✚ Home visits
- ✚ Academic mentoring
- ✚ Parent counselling
- ✚ School coordination

Result:

- ✚ Improved regularity and participation in schools
- ✚ Reduced risk of school dropout

Project Impact:

The programme contributed significantly towards improving educational access and learning continuity among vulnerable children.

Major Outcomes:

- ✚ Several children successfully re-entered formal schooling systems
- ✚ Learning confidence and participation among children improved
- ✚ Parents demonstrated stronger commitment toward children's education
- ✚ The risk of child labour and social vulnerability reduced
- ✚ Community awareness regarding child rights and education increased

Overall Impact:

Through bridge education, counselling, community mobilization, and continuous follow-up, the programme created a supportive environment for vulnerable children to continue their education journey with confidence and dignity. The intervention played an important role in strengthening access to education and reducing educational exclusion among children from marginalized urban communities during 2025–26.

Testimonial: Avni's Journey Towards Better Learning

Avni Kawde, a student of Class 3 and daughter of Ashwini Kawde, is one of the children supported under the Bridge Gap Education Programme implemented by ISRD with the support of Hand in Hand Foundation in the Rahul Nagar slum community of Bhopal.

Before joining the programme, Avni faced difficulties in regular learning and classroom participation. Due to limited academic support and an irregular learning environment, she lacked confidence in reading, writing, and interacting during educational activities. Her mother was concerned about her studies and overall interest in education.



Through the Bridge Gap Education Programme, Avni started attending regular bridge learning sessions conducted at the community learning centre. She actively participated in reading exercises, writing practice, storytelling sessions, games, and activity-based learning programmes designed to strengthen basic literacy and numeracy skills. The project team continuously guided and motivated her through regular mentoring and individual attention.

Over time, noticeable improvements were observed in Avni's learning abilities and confidence. She became more regular in her studies, started participating actively in classroom activities, and showed greater interest in reading and writing. Her communication skills and confidence also improved significantly, and she began interacting more comfortably with teachers and other children.

Regular counselling and interaction with her mother also helped create a supportive environment for Avni's education at home. Her mother, Ashwini Kawde, expressed happiness after seeing positive changes in her daughter's learning behaviour and participation in school-related activities.

Avni's story reflects the positive impact of bridge education, continuous mentoring, and community-based learning support in helping vulnerable children continue their education journey with confidence and hope for a brighter future.

Glimpses of the Project:



Our Partner

Partner Name	Logo
Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives (APPI)	 The logo for Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives (APPI) features a blue square on the left containing a white stylized human figure with arms raised and three white stars below it. To the right of the square, the text "Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives" is written in a black, sans-serif font.
Trust Bridge	 The logo for Trust Bridge consists of a complex, symmetrical geometric pattern of yellow lines and circles, resembling a traditional Indian mandala or a stylized bridge structure, set against a solid dark red square background.
Jiv Daya Foundation (JDF)	 The logo for Jiv Daya Foundation (JDF) features the word "JIV" in a large, stylized, serif font at the top. Below it, the words "DAYA" and "FOUNDATION" are written in a smaller, serif font. At the bottom, "Dallas Texas" is written in a small, sans-serif font. A small graphic of a hand holding a heart is visible on the right side of the logo.
Hand in Hand Foundation	 The logo for Hand in Hand Foundation features the words "HAND" and "HAND" stacked vertically in a large, bold, black, sans-serif font. To the left of the text, there is a stylized graphic of two hands clasped together in a grey color.

Way Forward



As ISRD moves forward, the organization envisions strengthening its role as a community-driven institution working towards the empowerment, protection, and inclusion of vulnerable populations. The experiences and learnings from 2025–26 have further reinforced our commitment to building sustainable, rights-based, and people-centered development models that respond to the evolving needs of marginalized communities.

In the coming years, ISRD aims to deepen its interventions in the areas of labour rights, child development, nutrition, education, women’s empowerment, and rehabilitation support through stronger community participation and institutional collaboration. The organization will continue to focus on strengthening informal workers’ collectives, promoting access to social protection schemes, and enhancing awareness regarding legal rights and entitlements among underserved populations.

Special attention will also be given to improving early childhood care and education, reducing school dropout among vulnerable children, and creating safer and more enabling environments for children and youth from marginalized communities. ISRD seeks to further expand its work in bridge education, preschool nutrition, and community-based learning initiatives.

The organization also remains committed to strengthening efforts against bonded labour, child vulnerability, unsafe migration, and social exploitation through coordinated action with government systems, legal institutions, civil society partners, and community stakeholders. In addition, ISRD aims to promote sustainable livelihood opportunities, youth engagement, and community leadership to enhance resilience and self-reliance among vulnerable families.

As the organization continues to grow, greater emphasis will be placed on innovation, accountability, institutional strengthening, and expanding outreach in underserved rural and urban communities. With the continued support and partnership of donors, government departments, community leaders, volunteers, and well-wishers, ISRD remains committed to building an inclusive society where every individual can live with dignity, equality, security, and hope.

-Moncy Thomas

Director, **ISR**

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