

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25

Gayatri Nagar 5th lane
Rayagada, Odisha, India

Every story shared is a life touched. This year, your support made all the difference.

TOGETHER FOR CHANGE



From the Desk of the CEO

This year 2024–2025 has been a significant milestone for Outreach India, marked by progress, resilience, and community-driven change. Guided by our mission to build self-reliant and sustainable communities, we continued to work closely with people at the grassroots, helping them access resources, develop leadership, and create lasting improvements in their lives.

This year, communities achieved remarkable outcomes through collective effort and strong facilitation by our Human Development Facilitators (HDFs). Over 100 families secured safe housing, while community-led road projects improved access to schools, markets, and health centres for thousands. Women and girls took courageous steps to break taboos around menstrual health, leading to greater confidence and dignity. Revolving agricultural loans managed by community-based organizations strengthened livelihoods and food security. Meanwhile, initiatives on sanitation, Aadhaar facilitation, and micro forests reinforced our commitment to inclusive and sustainable development.

These accomplishments reflect more than numbers—they represent empowerment, participation, and hope. Communities are no longer waiting for change; they are creating it. Their ownership and perseverance remain the true foundation of sustainable progress.

As we look ahead to 2025–2026, Outreach India will continue to expand skill development, promote menstrual and mental health awareness, strengthen infrastructure, and deepen community-led initiatives. Together, we will keep moving toward our shared vision—**communities that are self-reliant, empowered, and sustainable.**



Dr. Rashmirekha Mallick
Chief Executive Office
Outreach India

Major Highlights for 2024–2025

Menstrual Health and Hygiene

In our project communities, women and girls face many challenges around menstrual health and hygiene. Most come from very poor households and cannot afford sanitary pads, relying instead on old cloth without proper knowledge of cleanliness. Traditional restrictions during menstruations, h as being barred from using the tube well, entering kitchens or worship rooms, or attending social gatherings, further deepened their sense of isolation.



When our staff first initiated conversations on this issue, many women and girls felt ashamed to speak. But through patient dialogue, our Human Development Facilitators (HDFs) highlighted the health risks of poor menstrual practices and the need to break harmful taboos. Gradually, curiosity replaced silence, and women began showing interest in learning more.

This year, we conducted menstrual health awareness programs in four communities, reaching 120 adolescent girls and young women.

Key Achievements:

- Girls now access affordable sanitary pads through local health workers.
- They confidently use the tube well during menstruation without stigma.
- They are included in family and community activities during their periods.
- Awareness has grown, and girls are becoming advocates for positive change in their communities.

This initiative has not only improved hygiene and health practices but also strengthened the dignity, confidence, and social participation of women and girls in our communities.

Safe Housing for vulnerable families

Access to safe and secure housing is a critical need in our project communities, where most families live below the poverty line and depend on daily wage labour. In places like Lelibadi, fragile houses built from straw, bamboo, mud, and wood left families highly vulnerable to rain, storms, and natural disasters, often forcing them to take shelter in unsafe conditions.

Through the facilitation of our Human Development Facilitators (HDFs), families were guided to approach Panchayat and Block offices and successfully access government housing support. In Lelibadi alone, 41 families were approved for housing assistance, and several have already moved into



their new homes. Altogether, in 2024–25, 109 households across four communities benefited, improving the lives of 599 individuals. Families who once lived in unsafe, temporary shelters are now experiencing safety, dignity, and stability in their new homes.

Community Revolving Agriculture Loan

With support from Outreach International, Outreach India facilitated agriculture loans in Jadighati and Kumango, after community members identified insufficient income sources as one of their greatest challenges. Families shared that irregular daily wages and poor harvests left them unable to meet even basic needs like food, education, and healthcare.



To address this, Outreach India introduced community revolving funds managed by local CBOs, so that loans are not repaid to Outreach India but instead revolve within the community, supporting more families over time. In 2024, a total of 50 families benefited from this initiative.

In Jadighati, the *TARA Group* CBO managed the fund. Alongside financial literacy and loan awareness, farmers received training in sustainable agriculture, improved seeds, and market linkages. A special focus was placed on finger millet (ragi), a nutritious, drought-resistant crop that improves food security and offers better market value. Farmers now feel more confident about cultivating resilient crops that not only feed their families but also bring steady income.



In Kumango, the *Vijaya CBO* led the effort. Farmers used the fund to purchase agricultural inputs for cultivating rice, ragi, vegetables, and cotton. The improved harvests have lifted families' incomes, and because the fund revolves within the CBO, more members will benefit in the future. Villagers describe this as a “turning point,” where for the first time, they feel hopeful about building self-reliant and secure lives.

Through this initiative, communities are not only improving present livelihoods but also creating a sustainable financial system within their CBOs, ensuring that growth continues for years to come.

Community – Led Road Connectivity Project

In many rural areas, poor road connectivity isolates communities, making it difficult to access markets, schools, and healthcare. Recognizing this as a critical issue, villagers facilitated by Outreach India's HDFs, organized themselves to mobilize resource agencies and advocate for proper road infrastructure.

In **Khambesu village**, community members highlighted the challenges of muddy, impassable paths during the rainy season. With facilitation from Outreach India's Staf, they petitioned the Block Office through applications, follow-ups, and regular advocacy. Their persistence paid off when a budget of \$28,571.42 was sanctioned, and construction of a tar road began in February 2025. Villagers actively supported the process through monitoring and labour contribution. The completed road has now



improved access to schools, markets, health centers, and services for over 2,300 direct beneficiaries and 10,000 indirect beneficiaries in surrounding areas.

In **Bhujabala village**, 73 households identified road improvement as their top priority during issue analysis in January 2024. With from HDFs, community prepared applications and local governance structures, several visits to the Sarpanch Their collective advocacy the sanctioning of a 100-concrete road under the December 2024. The new eased mobility, particularly monsoons, ensuring safer, access to education, and markets.



meetings facilitation leaders engaged including and BDO. resulted in meter DRDA in road has during year-round healthcare,

These projects demonstrate how empowered communities, with Outreach India's facilitation, can mobilize resources and achieve lasting change. The new roads stand as strong examples of participatory development, reducing isolation, boosting economic activity, and improving quality of life for thousands of people.

Micro Forest

"With the facilitation of Outreach India, the Bhujabala community has embarked on a transformative journey by planting fruit-bearing trees in their agricultural fields. What began as a modest initiative has grown into a movement of hope and self-reliance. Initially, there was noticeable resistance -many community members struggled to grasp the long-term value of planting trees. Doubts, lack of awareness, and concerns about delayed returns made people hesitant to participate. However, Outreach India played a critical role in bridging this gap. Through regular community meetings, awareness sessions, one-on-one interactions, mobilization to Odisha livelihood mission and horticulture Office they patiently addressed concerns and highlighted the social, economic, and ecological benefits of fruit-bearing trees. Slowly but surely, perceptions began to shift. As understanding deepened, participation grew not just in numbers, but in spirit. Today, these Micro forest represent more than just the promise of future harvests. They symbolize a renewed connection with the land, a sense of ownership over development, and a collective investment in the well-being of future generations. The shade, the fruit, and the greenery will grow across Bhujabala are living proof of what community effort, guided by the right support, can achieve. This initiative is not only helping improve food security and income but also contributing to soil conservation, biodiversity, and climate resilience. The Micro forest of Bhujabala stands as an inspiring example of how grassroots action, when nurtured with the right knowledge and support, can lead to lasting, positive change."



Aadhar card Facilitation

Aadhar cards are the most essential form of identity proof for Indian citizens, required to access a wide range of government and financial services. However, many of the communities we work with have faced challenges in obtaining or correcting their Aadhaar cards due to barriers such as spelling mistakes in parents' names, lack of birth certificates, and lack of awareness about where and how to apply, and difficulties in producing supporting documents such as address proof. In some remote villages, families also face challenges due to the distance of Common Service Centres, poor internet connectivity. As a result, many households remained without Aadhaar cards, limiting their ability to access job cards, open bank accounts, receive welfare benefits, or even enroll their children in schools.

To address this gap, our Human Development Facilitators (HDFs) actively supported community members in 2024 by guiding them through the application and correction processes, liaising with government offices, and ensuring that no one is left behind due to lack of information or access.

During the year 2024, a total of 93 households benefited from this initiative. In all, 286 individuals successfully obtained Aadhaar cards.

With the Aadhaar cards in place, families are now able to access government entitlements and welfare schemes. Adults can open bank accounts and secure employment opportunities, while

children are able to enroll in schools without barriers. Moreover, communities have gained greater awareness and confidence in mobilizing for their rights.

Through this initiative, Outreach India continues to ensure that the most marginalized families are able to claim their basic rights and move one step closer to becoming empowered and self-reliant communities.

Sanitation and Waste management

Outreach India has been facilitating sanitation and waste management initiatives across eight Field Program Locations (FPLs). Recognizing that a clean environment is vital for health and sustainable development, our efforts focus on awareness, mobilization, and practical action.



Through awareness drives, workshops, and community meetings, residents learned about the importance of hygiene, the risks of waste accumulation, and the need for waste segregation at the household level.

During the year 2024, a total of 267 households across eight FPLs actively participated in this initiative, directly benefiting 1,255 individuals.

Communities have taken ownership by cleaning public spaces, streets, and drains, disposing waste properly, and joining clean-up drives. Hygiene and sanitation have improved, waste-related illnesses have declined, and public spaces are now cleaner and more welcoming. Most importantly, communities show stronger pride and responsibility for their environment.

Facilities and Projects Accessed by Community Members and Their Impacts (2024–2025)

Outreach India continues to strengthen community capacity to access essential services and government schemes. The following summary highlights key facilities and projects facilitated during the fiscal year 2024–2025, reflecting our ongoing commitment to building resilient and self-reliant communities.

Facility / Project	Beneficiaries (Households / Communities)	Individuals Impacted
🏠 Housing	109 households	599
🐐 Goat-Raising Project	20 households	84
🌳 Micro Forest	40 households	196

 Street Light Installation	4 communities	1,027
 Widow Pension	3 households	12
 Elderly Pension	3 households	17
 Ration Cards	70 households	289
 Aadhaar Cards	93 households	286
 Job Cards	7 households	35
 School Building Construction	2 communities	692
 Tar Road Project	39 communities	10,047
 CC Road Project	238 households	1,142
 Clean-Up Drive Project	267 households	1,255
 Small Business Loan Project	469 households	2,044
 PAN Cards	35 households	154
 Menstrual Health & Hygiene	73 households	208
 Electricity	115 households	543
 Anganwadi Building	65 households	307
 Agriculture Loan Project	30 households	156
 Logistic Project	95 households	477
 Elder Pension	3 households	17
 Birth Certificates	3 households	12
 Skill Development Project	17 households	81

Total Resources Mobilized: ₹18,520,792 from 8 Communities

These collective achievements demonstrate the power of community organization and participatory development — enabling people to access essential services, strengthen livelihoods, and move closer to a life of dignity and self-reliance.

Looking Forward to 2025-2026

In the coming year, Outreach India will continue to focus on:

- Expanding skill development programs and leadership training.
- Improving infrastructure, particularly housing, toilets, bathrooms and road access.
- Promoting menstrual health and hygiene.
- Reducing mental health stigma.
- Strengthening community-led development initiatives in new areas.

We aim to engage more communities in our participatory development program, ensuring sustainable growth and lasting impact.