



2024-2025

# ANNUAL REPORT

**DALIT VIKAS ABHIYAN SAMITI**

**Patna | Bihar | India**

**TOGETHER FOR CHANGE**

**EVERY STORY SHARED  
IS A LIFE TOUCHED.**

This year, your support didn't just uplift—it ignited transformation.

From silence to strength, every voice amplified through DVAS became a symbol of dignity, inclusion, and possibility.

When we listen, we honor. When we act, we elevate. And when we unite—change becomes unstoppable. **1**

## CHAIRPERSON'S DESK



On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of Dalit Vikas Abhiyan Samiti (DVAS), I am delighted to present this Annual Report. These three decades symbolise our collective commitment to ensuring dignity, rights, and self-reliance for marginalised communities.

Under the leadership of our Executive Director, Shri Dharmendra Kumar, this year DVAS has worked closely with women, men, the homeless, single women, nomadic families,

LGBTQAI communities, sex workers, urban poor, unorganised and domestic workers.

Through platforms such as the Gram Nyay Vahini Samiti (GNVS), Ambedkar Clubs, and the Ambedkar Prerna Study Centres, communities have been empowered with justice, education, and leadership opportunities.

Our focus has been on mental health, gender equality, child protection, the voice of unorganised workers, and inclusive education. Innovative initiatives like Health Pad ATMs have improved access to health services, while youth and women workers have been supported in entrepreneurship, education, and career building. This year, we proudly achieved milestones such as promoting child marriage-free villages, eradicating malnutrition, expanding quality education, advancing climate resilience, and strengthening livelihoods. Our outreach has touched the lives of more than 82,500 vulnerable families—an achievement made possible through the dedication of our staff, volunteers, board members, and partners.

Our mission goes beyond service; it is about empowerment—helping communities claim their rights, stand with dignity, and shape their own future. This vision continues to guide us toward inclusive progress and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

**Nawal Kishor Paswan**  
**Chairperson**

## FOREWORD



It is a matter of immense pride and satisfaction to present the Annual Report of Dalit Vikas Abhiyan Samiti (DVAS) on the occasion of our 30th anniversary. This milestone celebrates three decades of dedication to social justice, partnership, and community empowerment.

I extend heartfelt gratitude to all our donors and partners—CCFD, Mama Cash, Jiv Dayā Foundation, Aditya Birla Education Trust, Give India, Milap, KETO—as well as individual donors, community cadre youths, board members, protection committees, and partner organisations.

Their unwavering support enabled us to directly reach over 82,500 beneficiaries in 2024–25, achieving significant and impactful results.

This year, DVAS worked closely with women, men, the homeless, single women, nomadic families, LGBTQAI communities, sex workers, urban poor, and unorganised and domestic workers. Through Gram Nyay Vahini Samiti (GNVS), Ambedkar Youth Clubs, and Ambedkar Prerna Study Centres, communities were empowered with education, justice, leadership, and awareness.

Our strategic focus included mental health, gender equality, child protection, sustainable livelihoods, climate action, youth participation, the voice of unorganised workers, and inclusive education. Initiatives like Health Pad ATMs improved access to essential health services, while youth and women workers received support in education, career development, and entrepreneurship, translating aspirations into sustainable livelihoods. The formation of the Bihar Ambedkar Youth Forum and the active role of the Ambedkar Prerna Study Centre strengthened educational outreach and leadership opportunities.

Additionally, the organisation promoted academic, mental, and personality development among youth while fostering entrepreneurial skills. Collaborative efforts with the National SC/ST Hub (MSME), Government of India, Ranchi, created new avenues for livelihoods and employment generation.

Our mission goes beyond service—it is about empowerment, enabling communities to claim their rights, stand with dignity, and shape their own future. In the years ahead, we remain committed to advancing toward the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals with renewed energy and determination.

**Dharmendra Kumar**  
**Executive Director**

## About Us

Dalit Vikas Abhiyan Samiti (DVAS) was established on 18 June 1992 with a vision to build a just, equitable, and inclusive society. For more than three decades, the organization has been dedicated to the empowerment and inclusion of marginalised communities, including Dalits, Adivasis, sex workers, women, children, LGBTQ+ groups, and other socially and economically disadvantaged sections.

DVAS actively challenges social exclusion and discrimination by adopting community-driven and rights-based approaches. The organization strongly believes in enhancing participation, leadership, and decision-making power among marginalised groups, ensuring their voices shape the path toward dignity, justice, and equality.

## Vision

To establish a just and equitable society where marginalised groups recognise, claim, and exercise their rights while enjoying the freedom to live with dignity.

## Mission

To promote socio-economic capacity building, quality education, and sustainable livelihoods through skill development and leadership building, prioritizing the needs, rights, and aspirations of marginalized communities to help them integrate into mainstream society and contribute meaningfully to social development.

## GOAL

To empower marginalised and excluded groups to overcome inequalities, achieve economic independence, and ensure their active participation in decision-making processes and mainstream society



## FOCUS AREAS



**SOCIAL  
INCLUSION**



**INCLUSIVE  
EQUALITY  
EDUCATION**



**HEALTH INITIATIVE  
- MENTAL HEALTH  
AND BEHAVIOR  
CHANGE**



**LIVELIHOOD  
PROMOTION  
AND  
ENTREPRENEURSHIP**



**GENDER  
EQUALITY  
& JUSTICE**



**YOUTH  
PEOPLE'S  
INITIATIVE**



**CLIMATE  
CHANGE  
RESILIENCE**



**URBAN  
POVERTY  
AND HOMELESS**

## COLLABORATIVE GUIDANCE PARTNERS

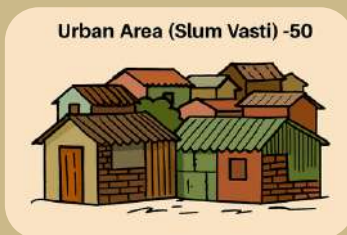
**BIHAR AMBEDKAR YOUTH FORUM  
MY CITY ALLIANCE FOR URBAN POOR  
ALLIANCE DALIT FORUM BIHAR  
UNITED SEX WORKERS OF BIHAR  
INDIA MENTAL HEALTH ALLIANCE  
WADA NA TODO ABHIYAN  
MANOBAL BIHAR  
GUIDE STAR  
JAN SAHAS  
CAF INDIA  
GIRLS COUNT**

Theory of Change	
<b>Purpose</b>	DVAS exists to create a just, equitable, and inclusive society where marginalised communities have equal opportunities, dignity, and rights.
<b>Outcomes</b>	Through education, health and mental health services, gender equality initiatives, livelihood support, and community leadership promotion, individuals and communities become self-reliant, empowered, and capable of protecting their rights while actively participating in decision-making.
<b>Impact</b>	Reduced social exclusion, strengthened community resilience, improved socio-economic empowerment, and more inclusive institutions and policies.
<b>Desired Change</b>	A society where every individual enjoys justice, dignity, and equal representation, marginalized groups lead social change, and discrimination and exclusion have no place.



*"Celebrating and honoring LGBTQ+ community members with the DVAS team"*

# OUR GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE



Our work area spans 200 villages and 100 urban slums, where 4,600 Gram Nyay Vahini Samitis (GNVS) are actively involved.

Our transformation is based on constitutional values that ensure dignity.



# KEY HIGHLIGHTS

S.No.	Achievements
1.	Interventions were expanded across six states, reaching multiple regions.
2.	1,000 youths were mobilized through the establishment of the Bihar Ambedkar Youth Forum in 8 Blocks across 10 districts of Bihar.
3.	500 Dalit women and youths received entrepreneurship training via the National SC/ST Hub (MSME), enabling self-employment.
4.	50 youths were skilled in media, enhancing their participation through YouTube and other digital platforms.
5.	200 youths were empowered with legal literacy on the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, ensuring protection and justice.
6.	100 women became self-reliant by being linked to livelihood opportunities that ensured economic independence.
7.	1,000 malnourished children were supported through connections to nutrition and education, promoting school retention.
8.	10 girls were enrolled in Kasturba Gandhi Residential Schools, ensuring access to education.
9.	50 adolescents were reintegrated into the education system, continuing up to higher studies.
10.	10 fellowships were awarded to survivors of child marriage, exploitation, and exclusion, who have now become role models.
11.	50 ambassadors—including women, LGBTQIA+ individuals, and sex workers—were honored as U-Youth Ambassadors and received the Savitribai Phule Award.
12.	State-level forums were organized by Dalit self-help organizations, leading youth dialogues and collective actions across Bihar.
13.	Mental health awareness workshops reached 82,500 students across schools.
14.	12,500 individuals—including youths and community members—received mental health counselling and support.

# CORE VALUES

1	<b>Community Leadership Development</b> Building capacities of local leaders to drive inclusive and sustainable community change.
2	<b>Women's Rights &amp; Child Protection</b> Promoting gender equality and safeguarding children from abuse, neglect, and exploitation.
3	<b>Legal Aid &amp; Equitable Access</b> Providing legal support to ensure fair treatment and inclusion for marginalized communities.
4	<b>Mental Health &amp; Gender Justice</b> Addressing mental well-being while challenging gender-based violence and discrimination.
5	<b>Livelihoods, MSME &amp; Entrepreneurship</b> Supporting small enterprises and skill-building for economic self-reliance and growth.
6	<b>LGBTQIA+ &amp; Sex Workers' Rights</b> Advocating for dignity, safety, and equal rights for marginalised gender and sexual identities.
8	<b>Urban Poor &amp; Unorganized Workers</b> Enhancing social security and rights for informal ion and leadership development development.

## Program Impact Overview

Dalit Vikas Abhiyan Samiti (DVAS), inspired by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's vision of social justice, champions an inclusive model of community development in Bihar. In 2024–25, the program reached 22,500 families, advancing social equality, gender justice, and inclusive growth. Women's empowerment remained central—supporting women to claim rights, resist caste- and gender-based violence, and participate in decision-making at household and community levels.

DVAS safeguarded marginalized groups' rights by raising awareness of protective laws and enabling communities to take action against discrimination. Grassroots initiatives challenged caste-based oppression, while cadre development workshops nurtured youth and women leaders to advocate for dignity, safety, and equality. Special initiatives under the SC/ST (PoA) Act empowered Dalit and tribal youth, and linkages with social security schemes, such as BOCW, strengthened livelihoods.

Through awareness, leadership, and systemic interventions, DVAS deepened its impact, advancing equity and building resilient community platforms for lasting change in Bihar.



## Strengthening Civil Society:

# Bihar Alliance Workshop Mobilises for Dignity, Inclusive Livelihoods, and Climate Justice

Dalit Vikas Abhiyan Samiti launched the “Strengthening Civil Society Organisations” project with support from CCFD to enhance participation of Scheduled Caste communities in development programs and policies, with a strong focus on youth empowerment. On 11th May 2024, a quarterly meeting of the Alliance – Dalit Forum Bihar was organised to orient partners on the project’s aims, objectives, activities, and expected outcomes, ensuring transparency and collective ownership. Partners engaged in meaningful discussions on youth profiling, livelihood studies, and strengthening youth platforms around critical socio-economic issues.

The alliance collectively committed to deepen interventions on five key areas: dignity and human rights, inclusive education, behaviour change communication, sustainable livelihoods, and climate change. Additionally, the meeting successfully finalised objectives and bylaws for the Bihar Ambedkar Youth Forum at the block level, envisioning it as a robust youth-led platform. This workshop marked a significant step towards systemic change, grassroots empowerment, and collaborative action across Bihar.



## Formation of Bihar Ambedkar Youth Forum :

### Advancing Youth Skills, Leadership, Justice, and Inclusive Development

Under the CCFD-supported initiative, 100 villages across 10 blocks in 6 districts of Bihar were identified to initiate the process of youth collective formation. One-day orientation programs were conducted in each block to engage Dalit youth on developmental and social issues, livelihood options, skill mapping, and contemporary challenges. These interactive sessions created opportunities for reflection, collaboration, and collective planning for future action.

Through intensive dialogue and mobilisation, 1,000 youths were selected, and at each block level, the Bihar Ambedkar Youth Forum was formed. Detailed profiling of the selected youth was carried out to assess their educational background, vocational skills, and livelihood status. This process revealed an urgent need for career counselling, English language proficiency, and market-oriented skill training.

Throughout this journey, the guiding philosophy of Dr B.R. Ambedkar's vision and constitutional values was kept at the centre, inspiring youth with ideological clarity, leadership spirit, and a sense of social responsibility.

The Bihar Ambedkar Youth Forum was thus established to strengthen youth skills, leadership development, social justice, and inclusive growth. Today, the Forum has emerged as a dynamic and vibrant collective, connecting Dalit and marginalised communities, fostering entrepreneurship, nurturing social consciousness, and promoting structured youth participation in developmental, social, and political processes. This initiative is not only activating youth in socio-political spheres but also laying the foundation of a just and inclusive Bihar.





## Transforming Marginalised Youth through Skills, Justice, Leadership”

Dalit Vikas Abhiyan Samiti, in collaboration with the Bihar Ambedkar Youth Forum, has made remarkable progress in empowering marginalised communities in Bihar. To promote gender equality and strengthen community participation among youth and women, a series of awareness campaigns on education and gender justice was conducted. In parallel, skill development workshops were organised to connect young people with vocational training and livelihood opportunities.

A significant achievement of this initiative was the re-enrollment of 20 young girls who had earlier dropped out of school due to discrimination and academic stress. Their return to education not only rekindled their aspirations but also challenged deeply rooted barriers.

Another milestone has been the establishment of 200 Bihar Ambedkar Prerna Study Centres, dedicated to the holistic development of marginalised youth. These centres provide academic support, career guidance, and exam preparation for secondary and higher secondary levels. For those who had discontinued their education, the centres have created a conducive environment to resume learning. Their successful participation in matriculation and intermediate examinations has boosted their self-confidence and offered them protection from cycles of child abuse, sexual exploitation, and child marriage.

The young women emerging from these centres are now becoming role models in their communities—inspiring peers to pursue education, overcome challenges, and claim their rights to dignity, equality, and justice.

- 20 adolescent girls re-enrolled in schools, overcoming discrimination and educational stress.
- 200 Prerna Study Centres established, providing academic support, career guidance, and exam preparation.
- Youth equipped with skills, confidence, and leadership are breaking cycles of child abuse, exploitation, and early marriage.
- Young women emerged as role models, inspiring peers to claim their rights to education, dignity, and equality.



## State-Level Workshop on Gender Justice and Climate Change

On the occasion of International Women's Day, Dalit Vikas Abhiyan Samiti, in collaboration with the Bihar Ambedkar Youth Forum and Alliance Dalit Forum Bihar, organised a state-level workshop on Gender Justice and Climate Change. The workshop became a powerful platform for marginalised women who, having overcome domestic violence and multiple forms of oppression, emerged as strong voices of resistance. Their leadership not only empowered them but also gave courage to other women to stand against violence, sexual harassment, and human rights violations.

The event highlighted the invaluable contributions of women in addressing issues of justice and climate change, while honouring outstanding women leaders whose journeys inspired the entire community. In a remarkable step toward inclusivity, members of the LGBTQ community were also recognised, strengthening their sense of belonging, dignity, and identity within society.

This collective effort reflects a deep commitment to advancing social justice, equality, and empowerment. By celebrating courage and resilience, the workshop inspired broader participation, paving the way for a society rooted in dignity, equity, and sustainable change.

## Feasibility Study on Livelihood Skills and Career Development

In pursuit of strengthening economic development and financial self-reliance of Dalit youth, DVAS, in collaboration with Bihar Ambedkar Youth Forum, initiated a feasibility study on livelihood skills and options during the reporting period. Covering 1,000 youth across 10 blocks of 6 districts, the study focused on identifying gaps in education, behaviour, skills, and attitudes that restrict career growth, while aligning preparedness with the present employment and self-employment market.

A semi-structured questionnaire, addressing social, educational, and attitudinal dimensions, was administered among the targeted youth. Alongside, focused group discussions were conducted to capture reflections, aspirations, and opinions of young people on potential livelihood options, employability skills, and barriers in accessing sustainable career pathways.

Preliminary findings reveal critical gaps in vocational training, career guidance, and employability exposure, which adversely impact social mobility and future prospects of Dalit youth. The data is under analysis, and the final report will guide strategic interventions for career development, skill enhancement, and livelihood promotion, ensuring long-term youth empowerment and economic sustainability.

## State-Level Youth Conference: Unity, Brotherhood, and Justice

Dalit Vikas Abhiyan Samiti, Alliance Dalit Forum Bihar, and Bihar Ambedkar Youth Forum jointly organised a state-level youth conference under the theme “Unity, Brotherhood, and Justice for Youth.” The event brought together 100 young participants from 10 districts of Bihar, providing a platform for them to present solutions to local issues while promoting unity, equality, and justice. An 11-member State Committee of the Bihar Ambedkar Youth Forum was formed to strengthen youth-led initiatives, and outstanding participants were honored by DVAS for their exemplary contributions. The conference also facilitated strategic planning for upcoming initiatives and enhanced youth understanding of community development, reinforcing leadership, active engagement, and the value of youth participation in building a just and inclusive society.



**100 YOUNG CHANGE-MAKERS STRENGTHENED EQUALITY, BROTHERHOOD, AND JUSTICE, ENHANCED MENTAL WELLBEING, LEADERSHIP, PERSONALITY, CAREER, AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP, PRESENTED LOCAL SOLUTIONS, AND INSPIRED STATE YOUTH POLICY.**

# State-Level Consultation on Dalit Issues in Bihar: Challenges and Way Forward

Dalit Vikas Abhiyan Samiti, in collaboration with Alliance Dalit Forum Bihar and CCFD France, organized a state-level consultation to deliberate on the challenges of Dalit communities and explore pathways for progress. The event brought together 85 participants, including representatives from Dalit voluntary organisations, district and block coordinators, Dalit youth, volunteers, and education officials.

The consultation underlined persistent issues—educational exclusion, limited livelihood opportunities, political underrepresentation, social stigma, and the psychological toll of discrimination. Despite protective laws and policies, Dalits in Bihar remain at the margins of socio-economic development.

The consultation set clear objectives: to identify ground realities, build strategies for empowerment, and foster collaboration. Through collective deliberations, participants gained deeper insights into Dalit struggles and designed strategic action plans focusing on education, livelihood, and advocacy.

Key outcomes included the establishment of collaborative networks among organisations, the recommendation of career counselling and study centres, skill development and entrepreneurship promotion, and the strengthening of block and district forums to mobilise Dalit youth. Policy advocacy for the effective implementation of rights was strongly emphasised.

This consultation reaffirmed the urgency of a multi-stakeholder approach. By prioritising education, economic empowerment, and social justice, it paved the way for building an equitable Bihar, ensuring dignity and rights for Dalit communities.



## Training Programmes on Livelihood Skills, Entrepreneurship, and Career Development

Dalit Vikas Abhiyan Samiti organised a two-day Entrepreneurship and Livelihood Development Training across 10 blocks in 8 districts, engaging 1,000 Dalit youth. Participants, categorised into academic aspirants, job seekers, and budding entrepreneurs, were introduced to strategies for self-reliance, emphasising sustainable career pathways beyond low-paying factory jobs.

Officials from the National SC/ST Hub (MSME, Government of India) provided insights on government schemes and the Udyam registration process, enabling participants to access financial support for entrepreneurship. During the training, 35 individuals were registered online under MSME, and sensitisation sessions connected participants with banks and financial institutions.

The programme empowered 1050 youth with skills, knowledge, and confidence to pursue entrepreneurship and improved livelihoods, contributing significantly to the socio-economic transformation of Dalit communities.

Future initiatives include establishing Career Counselling and Learning Centres, forming block and district-level youth forums, implementing livelihood generation programmes, and advocating for policy enforcement. Collectively, these efforts aim to strengthen self-reliance, economic empowerment, and leadership among Dalit youth.



## Scheduled Castes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act Awareness Training Programmes

Dalit Vikas Abhiyan Samiti, in collaboration with Alliance Dalit Forum Bihar, Bihar Ambedkar Yuva Forum, and CCFD, organised a two-day legal awareness training for youth leaders and community-based organisations. The programme focused on the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, the Domestic Violence Act, relevant Indian Penal Code sections, and constitutional human rights.

Participants, 200 youth, learned about filing FIRs, victim compensation, court procedures, supporting witnesses, ensuring victim safety, and leveraging social media for justice. The training enhanced legal awareness, empowered participants to safeguard Dalit rights, and strengthened community capacity to respond effectively to atrocities, promoting justice, protection, and social accountability.

**“THE TRUE ESSENCE OF LEADERSHIP LIES IN THE CURIOSITY TO LEARN, THE SENSITIVITY TO LISTEN, AND THE COURAGE TO SPEAK. WHEN YOUTH EMBRACE THESE QUALITIES, THEY BECOME POWERFUL GUARDIANS OF JUSTICE, EQUALITY, AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY.”**



## “Digital & Print Media Training for Dalit Youth Participation”

With the support of “Buland Bol” Video Volunteers, Bangalore, Dalit Vikas Abhiyan Samiti (DVAS) organised a five-day training to develop 50 Dalit youth as community reporters through print media and YouTube, ensuring active participation in media. The program equipped youth with skills in digital literacy, video production, editing, social media advocacy, and YouTube SEO, enabling them to address village-level issues and advocate for equity-based development.

Interactive sessions, workshops, and mentorship enhanced technical expertise, encouraged community engagement, and connected participants with digital career opportunities. This initiative fostered long-term self-reliance, leadership, and social justice advocacy, empowering Dalit youth to use media as a tool for community development and participatory governance.

**“DALIT YOUTH VOICES WILL RESONATE THROUGH DIGITAL AND PRINT MEDIA; WITH PEN AND CAMERA, THEY WILL WRITE A NEW STORY OF JUSTICE, EQUALITY, AND CHANGE.”**



## Meeting of Alliance Dalit Forum, Bihar, and Bihar Ambedkar Youth Forum

The joint meeting of Alliance Dalit Forum, Bihar and Bihar Ambedkar Youth Forum block coordinators focused on CSO empowerment and strategic youth development. Experiences from exposure visits were shared, and action plans were formulated to strengthen the Youth Forum, link members with entrepreneurial career pathways, and establish the Ambedkar Inspiration Study Centre. State-level youth dialogues were planned, inviting organisations addressing youth issues, while mental and intellectual development activities for 20 youth were prioritised. The meeting emphasised advocacy with the government for youth policies, enabling Dalit youth to influence decision-making, assert their rights, and actively participate in shaping socio-economic and political initiatives in Bihar.



### “Exposure Visit:

#### Empowering Dalit Youth with the Legacy of Ambedkar & Phule

Dalit Vikas Abhiyan Samiti and Alliance Dalit Forum Bihar organized a ten-day exposure visit to Pune, Maharashtra, for a seven-member team from eight blocks across six districts. The visit focused on understanding the life, philosophies, and struggles of Baba Saheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Savitribai Phule, and Jyotiba Phule, along with insights from Mahatma Buddha’s teachings. Participants visited Chaitanya Bhoomi, Phule Wada, and other historical sites, gaining a profound understanding of social equality, justice, and the fight against caste oppression.

The tour fostered intellectual, educational, and social awareness, motivating youth to embrace social responsibilities and leadership.

The visit also facilitated networking with institutions, sharing knowledge, and receiving recognition for contributions to social development. By internalising the principles of Ambedkar and Phule, participants emerged empowered, confident, and committed to advancing Dalit empowerment, education, and equality, making this tour a transformative milestone in their personal and professional journeys.

# Exposure Visit Highlights at a Glance: A Photographic Journey



# SWABHIMAN AWARD: CELEBRATING WOMEN'S COURAGE, EQUALITY, AND JUSTICE

Inspired by the vision of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Dalit Vikas Abhiyan Samiti (DVAS) continues to champion social justice, gender equality, and inclusive development in Bihar. At the heart of this mission lies women's empowerment—ensuring that women are informed of their rights, legal protections, and social security entitlements, enabling them to confront violence and discrimination, participate in decision-making, and live with dignity.

On the occasion of International Women's Day (8th March 2025), DVAS, in collaboration with Alliance Dalit Forum Bihar and Bihar Ambedkar Youth Forum, organized a state-level discourse on pressing issues: women's equality, economic independence, ending gender discrimination and stigmatization, preventing domestic violence and sexual harassment, fraternity, and justice. The dialogue highlighted the struggles and possibilities faced by women, adolescent girls, LGBTQ persons, and sex workers. Emphasis was placed on solidarity, mutual protection, and grassroots leadership as crucial pathways to women's dignity and safety.

A special highlight of the event was the Savitribai Phule Swabhiman Award, presented to women and adolescent girls who demonstrated courage, leadership, and resilience, making remarkable contributions toward equality and justice in society.

This impactful initiative reinforced the message that women's voices must be heard, their leadership strengthened, and their rights fully protected.



## SAVITRIBAI PHULE AWARD: INSPIRING ADOLESCENT GIRLS TOWARD EMPOWERMENT

Under the Dalit Vikas Abhiyan Samiti project, the Bihar Ambedkar Youth Forum has been actively working to empower adolescent girls by addressing critical issues such as child marriage, child sexual exploitation, and trafficking, while reintegrating many girls into educational activities. Inspired by Dr B.R. Ambedkar's ideologies, the forum launched initiatives to strengthen their confidence, leadership skills, and resilience, enabling them to take charge of their lives and contribute meaningfully to their communities.

Recognising their outstanding contributions and social impact, DVAS honoured these girls as Youth Ambassadors and presented them with the prestigious Savitribai Phule Award. This recognition not only boosted their self-esteem but also served as a beacon of hope for other adolescent girls in the community. The award encouraged them to pursue education, advocate for their rights, and become active agents of social change, equality, and justice.

Through this initiative, DVAS continues to inspire the next generation of young leaders, reinforcing the values of empowerment, dignity, and inclusion.



**“EMPOWERING THE SELF-RESPECT, RIGHTS, AND FREEDOM OF WOMEN, LGBTQIA, SEX WORKERS, THE DESTITUTE, AND MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES, WHILE ENSURING SUSTAINABLE INNOVATION THROUGH SOCIAL PARTICIPATION, MENTAL HEALTH, BEHAVIOR CHANGE, CLIMATE ACTION, AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP.”**

## Ambedkar Nutrition and Learning Centre

The Ambedkar Nutrition and Learning Centre, operated by Dalit Vikas Abhiyan Samiti in collaboration with Jiv Daya Foundation, was established in 10 Mahadalit Tolas of Morwa and Tajpur blocks, Samastipur. Its core mission was to eliminate malnutrition and connect children to pre-primary education. In this financial year, 1,000 children were freed from malnutrition and enrolled in learning pathways. Children with low body weight showed remarkable physical growth, reflecting the success of sustained nutritional support. During Nutrition Month, local children led awareness campaigns—an inspiring display of community leadership. The Centre provided invaluable spray milk, Parle G biscuits, oats, and fruits—symbolic and meaningful interventions for the marginalized Musahar community. This integrated model of nutrition and education not only improved health outcomes but also fostered dignity, inclusion, and early learning. The initiative stands as a replicable model for rights-based, child-centered development in deeply excluded regions.



## Education and Empowerment for Displaced Children

The Dalit Vikas Abhiyan Samiti (DVAS) has worked extensively with urban poor children displaced by homelessness in Delhi. In Khori Village, Delhi, DVAS organized an English language training program, "Voices of Hope: English Education for Displaced Children." Over 30 children participated in regular classes and creative activities such as paper crafts, film screenings, and letter-writing workshops. These sessions emphasized child-friendly grammar, vocabulary, and expressive writing, fostering confidence, creativity, and resilience.

DVAS successfully re-enrolled ten adolescents trapped in child labor due to poverty and homelessness into higher education. They were enrolled in a BA program in Political Science at Delhi University's School of Open Learning. Today, these students serve as youth ambassadors and inspire other urban poor and marginalized children to regain education.

These initiatives highlight DVAS's commitment to breaking the cycle of poverty and exclusion, creating pathways for learning, empowerment, and long-term change.

# Mental Health Awareness Workshops: Building Inclusive Communities

Dalit Vikas Abhiyan Samiti, in collaboration with MPower – Aditya Birla Education Trust and Manobal Bihar Network, conducted a transformative mental health awareness campaign across ten districts of Bihar: Patna, Gaya, Aurangabad, Nalanda, Samastipur, Vaishali, Banka, Jamui, Muzaffarpur, and West Champaran. Reaching over 82,500 individuals, this initiative engaged youth, women, LGBTQ+ persons, sex workers, unorganized laborers, students, and adolescents.

Awareness camps were held with the support of psychologists, psychiatrists, community caretakers, and social workers, focusing on symptoms of depression, stigma, and preventive care. Training workshops sensitized local communities, enabling them to recognize mental health challenges and respond effectively. Through partnerships with schools, colleges, and grassroots organizations, DVAS promoted behavioral change and emotional resilience using community-based models. The campaign emphasized dignity, inclusion, and the constitutional values of justice and equality.



# Mental Health Counselling: Pathways to Dignified Living

During the campaign, 12,500 individuals received personal counseling from trained professionals. These sessions documented the journeys of first-generation youth and women from Dalit, Muslim, Adivasi, and marginalized backgrounds, highlighting their self-confidence and transformation.



This initiative not only reduced the stigma around depression but also encouraged active participation in daily life. Youth reconnected with educational activities, and many overcame suicidal tendencies, substance addiction, and climate-induced mental distress. The campaign fostered sensitivity towards mental health and inspired individuals to pursue joyful, dignified lives. It affirmed that mental health is a right—one rooted in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the preamble of the Constitution of India.



*A psychologist providing mental health counselling to the LGBTQ+ community.*

**MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING EMPOWERS TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY, PROMOTES EQUALITY, ENSURES FREEDOM, BUILDS CONFIDENCE, AND ENABLES MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION IN A DIGNIFIED, INCLUSIVE SOCIETY.**

# Skill Empowerment for Dignified Livelihoods

Dalit Vikas Abhiyan Samiti (DVAS) is leading a bold movement to bridge the gap between education and employment, empowering over 50,000 youth, women, and marginalized communities across 20 blocks of Bihar to become self-reliant.

Through strategic partnerships with colleges and vocational institutions, DVAS launched a 30-day skills and personality development program, whose first phase equipped 12,000 youth with high-impact modules: employability skills, constitutional values, gender equality, digital literacy, financial inclusion, entrepreneurship, English communication, goal setting, and customer service.



Training by experienced industry experts fostered confidence, career clarity, and job readiness. 8,500 participants secured placements in prestigious institutions, malls, and companies, turning aspiration into achievement. This initiative built technical competence and instilled dignity, innovation, and leadership in first-generation learners. DVAS is committed to creating an inclusive ecosystem where every youth—regardless of background—can thrive, lead, and contribute meaningfully to a just and equitable society. Previously, the organisation organised and conducted a two-day District Coordinator Trainers Orientation.



## Empowerment and Social Justice Initiatives

With the support of Mama Cash, Dalit Vikas Abhiyan Samiti implemented empowerment-focused programs across Jalaun district (Uttar Pradesh) and Sagar district (Madhya Pradesh). These initiatives addressed caste-based discrimination, gender equality, and social security for marginalized Dalit communities and women.

In Jalaun, awareness campaigns highlighted adolescent girls' safety, rights, and welfare schemes through Ambedkar Fortnight, alongside drives on pensions, health, and ration entitlements. Women were connected to self-help groups, livestock rearing, and small businesses. Fifteen women accessed financial support to initiate enterprises, while schemes like PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi, maternity benefits, and old-age pensions reached women without exploitation. Under the Vishwakarma Shram Samman Yojana, training and sewing machines were provided.

In Sagar, efforts promoted education, health, and self-reliance. Community meetings—built confidence among women and youth, while collaboration with government schemes (Ladli Behna, Matru Vandana, and Poshan Abhiyan) strengthened inclusion. Documenting violence cases and ensuring access to pensions and livelihoods fostered tangible social transformation.

## Seeds of Change: Impact in One Glance

With the support of a community loan initiative, 200 women have become organic farmers and entrepreneurs, creating sustainable livelihoods, boosting family income, and gaining dignity and self-reliance. This effort, aligned with SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth, has transformed not only their economic conditions but also their confidence, children's education, healthcare, and leadership within the community—turning financial aid into a powerful force of social transformation.



# AWARDS AND RECOGNITION



*THIS CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE, AWARDED BY THE TRAILOKYA BUDDHIST MAHASANGHA, IS AN INSPIRING RECOGNITION OF OUR 30 YEARS OF CONTINUED COMMITMENT TO UNDERPRIVILEGED COMMUNITIES. WE EXPRESS OUR DEEPEST GRATITUDE FOR THIS PRESTIGIOUS RECOGNITION, WHICH EMPOWERS US TO WORK WITH EVEN GREATER DEDICATION TOWARDS BUILDING A DIGNIFIED, INCLUSIVE SOCIETY.*

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## Accreditations to the Organisation:

- Accreditation by Credibility Alliance, for adhering to the DESIRABLE NORMS prescribed for good governance of Voluntary Organisations. Certificate Registration No: CA/19/2021, Valid From 24 March 2027



# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OVERVIEW

Dalit Vikas Abhiyan Samiti (DVAS) remains committed to transparency, accountability, and responsible financial management. Despite financial challenges, we continued to prioritise the effective use of resources to sustain our programs and reach the most marginalised communities.

In the financial year 2024-2025, DVAS experienced a significant increase in revenue, with total income of ₹35,72,147. Program and activity implementation is gradually returning to normal. The total expenditure for the year was ₹34,80,148, while the balance sheet reflects total assets of ₹6,40,595.

We are deeply grateful to our donors, partners, and supporters for standing with us during these challenging times. Your unwavering support empowers us to move forward with determination and purpose.

## **THE FUTURE – UPCOMING STRATEGIC PLAN**

***“ Our dedicated efforts every day, every month, and every year bring us closer to the vision of a world where every individual is protected by strong, effective, and equitable inclusive development, education, and mental health systems, and can live a dignified, empowered life.***

***The upcoming strategy of Dalit Vikas Abhiyan Samiti includes inclusive development, gender justice and equality, economic empowerment, addressing climate change, adolescent mental health, maternal and reproductive health, sustainable livelihoods, youth career and personality development, entrepreneurship, nutrition, and scientific community empowerment. Through these priorities, we aim to strengthen communities, make them self-reliant, and provide equitable opportunities.***

***This strategic plan will guide DVAS in enhancing impact, driving systemic change, and building empowered communities through a community-based model, and will reinforce our commitment to justice, equality, and sustainable development across all sectors. “***

## Activity Photographs



A high-level symposium was organized on “The Democratic Foundation of Personality Development: Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar and Marginalized Communities.”



Jan Sahas Team - participated in the meeting organized by Gram Nyaya Vahini Committee, Benua Morwa, Samastipur



Scheduled Castes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act training

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