



indus
TOWERS

IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT

FAMILY LIKE CARE PROGRAMME FOR CHILD DEVELOPMENT

(Pan-India Implementation across SOS Children's Villages)

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER: SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGE



 **SoulAce**
Path to Sustainability

SOULACE CONSULTING PVT. LTD.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Abbreviations	01
Executive Summary	02 - 11
Introduction	02
Project Background	02
Project Details	02 - 03
Project Implementation Snapshot	04 - 05
Alignment with SDGs	05
Alignment with Government Initiatives	05
Programme Impact Framework	06
Component A: Care (Family-Like Care Support & Shelter)	06
Component B: Food & Nutrition Support	07
Component C: Education & Development Support	08
Component D: Health & Psychosocial Well-being	09
Component E: Youth Development & Leaving Care Support	10
Component F: SOS Mother & Caregiver Capacity Strengthening	10 - 11
01. Introduction	12 - 14
About Indus Towers Limited	13
About the Implementing Partner	13
Background and Need of the Programme	14
Objectives of the Programme	14
02. Research Methodology	15 - 17
Research Design	15
Study Objectives	15
Data Sources	16
Project Snapshot	16
Key Stakeholder	16
Study Tools	17
Ethical Considerations	17
03. Key Findings and Impact	18 - 41
04. OECD Framework	42 - 43
05. Recommendations	44 - 45
06. Conclusion	46

— ABBREVIATIONS

BMI	Body Mass Index
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
DM	Diabetes Mellitus
FLC	Family-Like Care
FY	Financial Year
Hb	Haemoglobin
HPV	Human Papillomavirus
ICPS	Integrated Child Protection Scheme
IIT	Indian Institute of Technology
IIM	Indian Institute of Management
IP-1	Infrastructure Provider Category-I
KII	Key Informant Interview
SOS	SOS Children Village
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
RKSK	Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

Recognising the need for sustained care and developmental support for vulnerable children, Indus Towers Limited implemented **Project Nurture**, in partnership with SOS Children's Villages of India, as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives. Indus Towers Limited commissioned SoulAce Consulting Pvt. Ltd. to conduct an independent Impact Assessment of the programme in FY 2025-26 across 22 SOS Children's Villages, covering 53 family homes and benefiting 530 children and youth. This report presents the key findings, observed impacts, and recommendations emerging from the assessment.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Project Nurture was implemented to address the developmental needs of parentless, abandoned, and vulnerable children requiring sustained care, education, and social support. The programme supported children residing in SOS Children's Villages across multiple states and union territories in India through structured, family-home-based care.

As part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives, Indus Towers Limited partnered with SOS Children's Villages of India to strengthen family-based alternative care across **22 SOS Children's Villages**, encompassing **53 family homes** and supporting **530 children and youth beneficiaries**.

The intervention was implemented through the Family Like Care (FLC) model, providing residential care alongside education support, health and nutrition services, psychosocial care, and life-skills development aimed at enabling beneficiaries' transition towards independent living.

PROJECT DETAILS



Project Name

Project Nurture



CSR Partner

Indus Towers Limited



Implementing Agency

SOS Children's Villages of India



Project Duration

FY 2022 – 2023



Assessment Year

FY 2025 – 2026



Project Geography

Across 22 SOS Children's Villages in India



Implementation Coverage

53 Family Homes



Total Beneficiaries Supported

530 Children and Youth



Implementation Model

Family Like Care (FLC)



Target Group

Parentless, abandoned, and vulnerable children and youth.



Programme Approach

Family-based residential care with education, health, nutrition, and youth development support



PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION SNAPSHOT



Strengthening family-like residential care for children through SOS family homes.



Facilitating continuous caregiving and emotional support through trained SOS Mothers within family settings.



Ensuring safe shelter, daily care, protection, and supervision of children in structured home environments.



Facilitating the provision of balanced meals and monitoring children's nutritional status.



Supporting enrolment and participation of children in formal education, along with academic mentoring and learning support.



Enabling access to higher education, vocational learning opportunities, and digital learning programmes.



Organising preventive healthcare services, including medical camps, vaccination drives, and routine health screenings.



Conducting specialised medical check-ups and awareness sessions on hygiene, nutrition, and adolescent health.



Facilitating counselling and psychosocial support to promote children's mental and emotional well-being.



Strengthening youth transition support through Youth Homes, life-skills education, career guidance, and employability readiness activities.



Enabling youth participation in vocational training and supporting pathways towards independent living.



Organising training and capacity-building programmes for SOS Mothers and caregivers to strengthen caregiving practices.

ALIGNMENT WITH SDGS



ALIGNMENT WITH GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES

The impact assessment followed a **mixed-method exploratory approach**, combining:

QUALITATIVE & TECHNICAL METHODS



Mission Vatsalya (Child Protection Services)



Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS)



POSHAN Abhiyaan (National Nutrition Mission)



Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan



Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana



Beti Bachao Beti Padhao

PROGRAMME IMPACT FRAMEWORK

Project Nurture adopts a holistic child development approach addressing interconnected dimensions of child protection, nutrition, education, health, youth transition, and caregiver strengthening. While implemented as a single integrated programme, the impact assessment analyses outcomes across these thematic domains to assess programme effectiveness comprehensively.

COMPONENT A: CARE (FAMILY-LIKE CARE SUPPORT & SHELTER)

KEY FINDINGS

(N = 530 Children & Youth; 53 SOS Mothers)



All beneficiaries reported residing in family-like residential care settings provided by SOS Children's Villages.



Beneficiaries indicated that they were placed under the care and supervision of designated SOS Mothers who provided day-to-day support and guidance.



All beneficiaries reported having access to safe and stable residential shelter within the SOS family homes.



Beneficiaries also shared that the family homes they were residing in functioned with established caregiving arrangements that ensured regular care and supervision.

KEY IMPACTS



Beneficiaries reported living in stable, family-like environments where they received continuous care, protection, and support.



Many beneficiaries shared that living in a stable caregiving environment helped them feel more emotionally secure and supported their ability to build trust and adjust socially.



Beneficiaries also indicated that the stability of the care environment enabled them to consistently participate in education, health services, and other developmental activities.

COMPONENT B: FOOD & NUTRITION SUPPORT**KEY FINDINGS**

(N = Children & Youth; SOS Mothers)



All caregivers reported that children residing in SOS family homes were provided with regular and balanced meals.



Caregivers indicated that children's dietary intake was routinely monitored within the households.



Caregivers reported noticeable improvements in children's overall health compared to earlier stages of care.



Most caregivers shared that children's health had improved significantly, while others reported moderate improvement.



Structured nutrition supervision practices were consistently followed across the supported homes.

KEY IMPACTS

Caregivers and beneficiaries reported that consistent nutrition support contributed to improvements in children's haemoglobin levels and overall physical health.



Respondents indicated that regular family dietary routines helped ensure sustained nutrition security for children.



It was also reported that improved nutritional status enabled children to participate more actively in education and daily developmental activities.

COMPONENT C: EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT**KEY FINDINGS**

Caregivers and programme records indicated that all supported children were enrolled in formal education at the time of the assessment.



Respondents reported a significant increase in educational participation compared to earlier periods when several children had limited or irregular access to schooling.



Caregivers reported that younger children, particularly those aged 13 or younger, showed noticeable improvement in reading and writing after joining the programme.



Beneficiaries were reported to be pursuing education across different levels, including secondary, higher secondary, diploma, undergraduate, and vocational courses.



It was also reported that children with special learning needs were supported through enrolment in specialised education institutions to ensure inclusive learning opportunities.

KEY IMPACTS

Respondents reported that access to structured educational support helped restore schooling for children who had previously experienced educational interruptions.



Improved foundational learning skills enabled children to progress gradually to age-appropriate academic levels.



Regular school attendance and sustained academic engagement were reported to have strengthened children's long-term retention in education.



Continued educational support enabled several beneficiaries to transition towards higher education, internships, skill training, and employment-oriented pathways.

COMPONENT D: HEALTH & PSYCHOSOCIAL WELL-BEING**KEY FINDINGS**

Caregivers and programme records indicated that beneficiaries received periodic medical check-ups and preventive healthcare services.



Caregivers reported that children underwent routine monitoring of haemoglobin levels and Body Mass Index (BMI) as part of regular health supervision.



It was reported that adolescent beneficiaries were supported in receiving HPV vaccination as part of preventive healthcare measures.



Caregivers reported that the incidence of seasonal illnesses among children had decreased, and no hospitalisations had been reported in recent years.



Caregivers also reported improvements in children's emotional security and confidence over time.

KEY IMPACTS

Respondents indicated that preventive healthcare practices had become a regular, institutionalised part of care in the supported homes.



Improvements in haemoglobin levels and overall immunity were reported to have contributed to better health outcomes among children.



Caregivers and programme staff shared that sustained psychosocial support helped strengthen children's emotional stability and resilience.

COMPONENT E: YOUTH DEVELOPMENT & LEAVING CARE SUPPORT

KEY FINDINGS



A large majority of youth beneficiaries (95%) reported having clear future goals, while 3.3% reported partial clarity and 1.7% indicated that they were still exploring their career direction.



100.0% of eligible youth were engaged in higher education, vocational training, internship, or employment pathways

KEY IMPACTS



Enhanced career readiness among youth beneficiaries



Increased transition towards higher education and employment pathways



Improved confidence and preparedness for independent living

**COMPONENT F:
SOS MOTHER & CAREGIVER CAPACITY STRENGTHENING****Pre-Intervention Scenario**

- Caregivers managing family homes required structured guidance to address children's health, education, and psychosocial needs
- Variations in caregiving practices existed before structured training and programme support

KEY FINDINGS

(N = 53 SOS Mothers)



100.0% of SOS Mothers reported participation in caregiver capacity-building programmes



Caregivers reported improved ability to monitor children's daily routines, educational participation, and emotional well-being.



Respondents also indicated that caregivers were actively engaged in preventive health practices, education follow-up, and behavioural supervision across the supported homes.

KEY IMPACTS



100.0% of supported homes demonstrated strengthened caregiving practices



Enhanced caregiver capacity ensured continuity of holistic child development support



Standardised caregiving practices strengthened the stability of family-based care environments

Interaction with the Trainer, SOS
Children's Village, Guwahati



01. INTRODUCTION



ABOUT INDUS TOWERS LIMITED

Indus Towers Limited is one of India's leading telecommunications infrastructure providers, registered as an Infrastructure Provider Category-I (IP-I) under the Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications, Government of India. In alignment with Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013 and the Companies (CSR Policy) Rules, 2014, the company implements Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives focused on inclusive and sustainable community development across its operational geographies.

Under its CSR framework, Indus Towers Limited partnered with SOS Children's Villages of India to implement Project Nurture, which supports the holistic development and long-term well-being of vulnerable, parentless children. The programme focuses on strengthening child care systems through access to education, healthcare, psychosocial support, and family-based care environments.

During FY 2025-26, Project Nurture supported approximately 530 children aged 4-23 years across 22 SOS Children's Villages in India, along with capacity support to 53 SOS Mothers responsible for child care and development. The programme also provided support to a Short Stay Home facility that accommodates a minimum of 15 girls aged 6-12 years who require temporary care and protection during crises.

ABOUT THE IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

SOS Children's Villages of India served as the implementing partner for Project Nurture. Established in 1964, SOS Children's Villages of India is an independent non-governmental organisation with over five decades of experience in providing care and protection to parentless and vulnerable children through family-based alternative care models. The organisation operates 31 Children's Villages across 21 states and 2 Union Territories, collectively supporting over 6,800 children through its curative and preventive programmes. Each SOS Children's Village comprises family homes led by trained SOS Mothers, ensuring a nurturing environment focused on education, healthcare, psychosocial well-being, and life-skills development.

Under Project Nurture, SOS Children's Villages of India was responsible for programme implementation and the delivery of care services for 530 children, as well as strengthening caregiving systems through 53 SOS Mothers, thereby enabling holistic development and long-term rehabilitation outcomes for beneficiary children.

Project Team, SOS Children's Village, Bawana



BACKGROUND AND NEED OF THE PROGRAMME

Children growing up without parental care or adequate family support represent a recognised priority group within global and national child protection systems. International child welfare estimates indicate that millions of children worldwide live without stable parental care due to poverty, migration, family distress, abandonment, or loss of caregivers. Evidence suggests that the absence of consistent caregiving environments can disrupt access to education, healthcare, nutrition, and psychosocial well-being, affecting long-term developmental outcomes and preparedness for independent adulthood. In India, children identified as Children in Need of Care and Protection require structured support systems that ensure safety, stability, and continued developmental opportunities. Policy approaches increasingly emphasise family-based alternative care models that provide sustained supervision, emotional security, and long-term developmental support, which are essential for social integration and self-reliance. Recognising this need, **Indus Towers Limited** implemented Project Nurture in partnership with SOS Children's Villages of India, supporting the holistic development of **530 children and youth (4-23 years) across 22 SOS Children's Villages located in 21 States and 2 Union Territories of India** through family-like residential care settings. To assess the effectiveness and outcomes of the intervention, **Indus Towers Limited commissioned SoulAce Consulting Pvt. Ltd.** to undertake an independent Impact Assessment during FY 2025-26. The assessment examined programme implementation, beneficiary outcomes, and developmental changes across care, nutrition, education, health, and youth transition domains.

OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME



To provide family-like residential care, ensuring safety, protection, and stable caregiving environments for children without parental support.



To ensure access to adequate nutrition, healthcare services, and essential living support for overall physical well-being.



To facilitate continued access to formal education, higher education, and vocational learning opportunities



To promote psychosocial well-being, emotional security, and social development among children and adolescents



To strengthen life skills, employability readiness, and transition support for youth moving towards independent living



To enhance the caregiving capacity of SOS Mothers and caregivers for effective monitoring of children's health, education, and developmental needs

02. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

RESEARCH DESIGN

The study adopted a mixed-methods, cross-sectional research design to assess the impact of Project Nurture across supported SOS Children's Villages. The design combined structured quantitative surveys with qualitative data collection tools to capture both measurable outcomes and stakeholder perspectives on programme implementation. A post-intervention assessment approach was employed, in which beneficiary children, youth, and caregivers were surveyed following programme implementation to assess changes in educational outcomes, health status, life skills development, psychosocial well-being, and preparedness for independent living. Pre-intervention conditions were captured retrospectively through recall-based responses embedded within the assessment tools and stakeholder consultations.

STUDY OBJECTIVES



To assess the reach, relevance, and effectiveness of Project Nurture interventions across supported SOS Children's Villages.



To examine changes in children's education, health, behavioural development, and psychosocial well-being attributable to the programme.



To evaluate the contribution of life skills, digital learning, and career readiness interventions towards youth independence and employability.



To capture implementation experiences and perspectives of caregivers, trainers, medical staff, and programme teams.



To identify programme strengths, implementation gaps, and opportunities for strengthening the sustainability of outcomes.

DATA SOURCES

The assessment drew on multiple data sources to ensure comprehensive evidence.

Primary quantitative data was collected through structured beneficiary surveys administered to 170 respondents, including children, adolescents, youth, and SOS Mothers/caregivers across supported project locations. The respondent distribution included 30 children (up to 13 years), 60 adolescents (14–18 years), 60 youth (above 18 years), and 20 SOS Mothers/caregivers.

Qualitative primary data was gathered through Key Informant Interviews (KIs) and stakeholder consultations with SOS Village Directors, programme staff, trainers delivering life skills and education support, and medical personnel associated with Project Nurture. These interactions provided insights into programme delivery, behavioural changes among children, health improvements, and transition outcomes for youth beneficiaries.

Secondary data sources included project documents, beneficiary records, training reports, and programme implementation materials shared by SOS Children's Villages of India and Indus Towers Limited for contextual understanding.

PROJECT SNAPSHOT

Parameter	Details
Project Name	Project Nurture
CSR Organisation	Indus Towers Limited
Implementing Partner	SOS Children's Villages of India
Research Design	Mixed-methods, cross-sectional, post-intervention assessment
Sampling Technique	Purposive Sampling
Sample Size	n = 170 Breakup = 150 Direct beneficiaries & 20 SOS mothers and caretaker
Quantitative Coverage	Children, Adolescents, Youth, SOS Mothers
Qualitative Methods Used	Key Informant Interviews and Stakeholder Consultations

*While Project Nurture supports 530 beneficiaries across locations, detailed quantitative findings in Chapter 3 are based on a sample of 150 beneficiary respondents and 20 caregivers.

Below 14 (Children) = 30, Age 14–18 (Adolescents) = 60, Above 18 (Youth) = 60, and SOS Caregivers = 20.

KEY STAKEHOLDER



Children supported under SOS family-based care



Adolescents and youth beneficiaries



SOS Mothers and caregivers



SOS Village Directors and programme teams



Trainers delivering education, life skills, and digital training



Medical officers and nursing staff providing healthcare services

STUDY TOOLS

The assessment employed a combination of quantitative and qualitative data collection instruments. The primary quantitative tools consisted of structured beneficiary survey questionnaires designed separately for children, adolescents, youth, and caregivers, administered through stakeholder interactions. Qualitative tools included semi-structured interview guides for Key Informant Interviews with SOS management teams, trainers, and healthcare personnel. Field-level consultations and programme observations were also undertaken to understand service delivery mechanisms and beneficiary engagement across intervention components.

ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

The assessment was conducted in accordance with established ethical standards for social research. Participation in the study was voluntary, and informed consent was obtained from all respondents before data collection. Confidentiality of individual responses was maintained throughout the assessment process, and no personally identifiable information of children was disclosed in reporting. The assessment team ensured sensitivity when interacting with children and caregivers and adhered to child protection considerations throughout data collection and documentation.



Interaction with mother, SOS Children's Village, Bawana

Component A: Care (Family-Like Care Support & Shelter)

Demographic Profile

Age Group	Gender	Education
12- 14 Years: 20%	Male - 48%	Primary - 9.3%
14-18 Years: 40%	Female - 52%	Secondary - 35.3%
Above 18 Years: 40%		Intermediate - 26.0%
		Graduate - 22.0%
		Post-Graduate - 0.7%
		Diploma - 6.7%

The beneficiaries included in the survey represented different developmental stages. Respondents were selected primarily based on their ability to understand and respond to the survey questions. Accordingly, **40% of respondents were 18 years of age or older, 40% were adolescents aged 14-18, and 20% were children** aged between 12 to 14. This distribution ensured that the majority of respondents could meaningfully articulate their experiences and perspectives on the programme and its outcomes.

The gender distribution reflected balanced participation, comprising **52% female and 48% male beneficiaries**. In terms of educational status, a majority of beneficiaries were enrolled in **secondary (35.3%) and intermediate education (26.0%), while 22.0% were pursuing graduation**, demonstrating sustained educational progression supported under Project Nurture. The demographic profile remains the same across all components.

PRE-INTERVENTION

FINDING 1: AGE DISTRIBUTION OF BENEFICIARIES AND DURATION OF RESIDENTIAL CARE

CHART 1: DURATION OF STAY OF BENEFICIARIES IN SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES

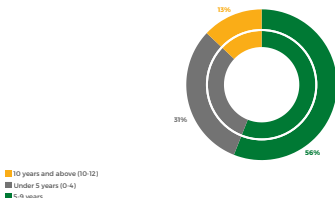


The sample of beneficiaries covered in the assessment represents different age groups within the SOS Children's Village, with **40% of respondents below 14 years (children)**, **40% between 14-18 years (adolescents)**, and **20% above 18 years**.

This composition indicates that the assessment captured perspectives across multiple developmental stages, with equal representation of children and adolescents and a smaller proportion of young adults. The distribution reflects the inclusion of beneficiaries who were able to meaningfully respond to the survey, thereby ensuring that insights were gathered from individuals with varying levels of maturity and experience within the SOS Children's Village care environment.

FINDING 2: AGE WHEN BENEFICIARIES ENTERED THE SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES

CHART 2: AGE WHEN BENEFICIARIES ENTERED THE SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES



KEY FINDINGS



The assessment findings indicate that 100% of beneficiaries reported always feeling safe, supported, and cared for within SOS Children's Villages, reflecting the effectiveness of the family-based care environment in ensuring emotional security and psychosocial well-being under Project Nurture.

KEY IMPACT

Strengthened Emotional Well-being and Life Stability



A SAFE AND NURTURING FAMILY-LIKE ENVIRONMENT

Providing a safe, nurturing, family-like environment within the SOS Children's Village has significantly contributed to beneficiaries' emotional well-being, confidence, and personal development. Interactions with caregivers, SOS mothers, programme staff, and beneficiaries indicate that the SOS care model provides a stable, supportive setting that closely replicates a family structure. This environment provides children with consistent care, emotional security, and a sense of belonging, all of which are essential to their psychological and social development.



ADDRESSING PRE-EXISTING VULNERABILITIES

Caregivers highlighted that many children entered the SOS system after experiencing disrupted family support, irregular educational exposure, and limited psychosocial stability. These circumstances often affected their confidence, emotional security, and access to opportunities. The SOS model helps address these vulnerabilities by providing structured caregiving, regular schooling, emotional support, and a stable daily routine that gradually helps children rebuild trust and confidence.



ENABLING HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT

Through sustained care, mentoring, and access to education and life-skills opportunities, beneficiaries have been able to develop aspirations, improve self-confidence, and gain clearer direction for their futures. The family-like environment, along with guidance from SOS mothers and staff, helps children grow in a supportive atmosphere that encourages both academic and personal development.



LIKELY SITUATION WITHOUT SOS SUPPORT

Several beneficiaries reflected on the likely circumstances they might have faced in the absence of SOS support. Many mentioned that they could have encountered limited access to education, early child marriage, child labour, financial hardship, or an uncertain life path. Some expressed that without the intervention, achieving their current goals and stability would have been difficult. These reflections underscore the important role played by the SOS Children's Village in protecting vulnerable children and enabling them to pursue a more secure and hopeful future.

ENHANCED NUTRITIONAL WELL-BEING



Improved Physical Health and Energy Levels

Consistent access to balanced, nutritious meals has led to noticeable improvements in beneficiaries' physical health.

Children reported higher energy levels and improved stamina, enabling them to participate more actively in daily routines, schooling, and recreational activities within the SOS Children's Village.



Strengthened Immunity and Reduced Health Risks

Regular intake of nutritious food combined with periodic health monitoring has helped reduce vulnerabilities associated with undernutrition. Caregivers and medical personnel observed improvements in indicators such as haemoglobin levels and overall immunity, leading to fewer health-related concerns and greater resilience among children.



Healthy Growth and Physical Development

Sustained dietary support and supervised nutrition practices contributed to healthier growth patterns among beneficiaries. Improvements in weight stability, physical fitness, and overall nutritional status indicate that children are experiencing more balanced physical development than at the time of admission.



Greater Engagement in Education and Developmental Activities

Improved nutritional well-being has also enabled children to engage more effectively in educational and developmental activities. With better health and increased energy, beneficiaries can concentrate on learning, participate in sports and extracurricular activities, and benefit more fully from the broader developmental support provided within the SOS Children's Village environment.

Health Stabilisation Through Structured Nutrition and Hb Monitoring

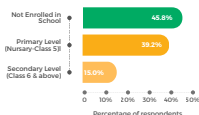
Medical stakeholders reported that some children entered SOS care with low haemoglobin (Hb) levels and reduced physical stamina, reflecting prior nutritional vulnerability. One such case involved a child identified with Hb levels below the recommended range during routine screening.

Following admission, the child was placed under structured nutritional supervision, including iron-rich dietary planning, regular monitoring by the dietician, and periodic health assessments. SOS Mothers ensured adherence to prescribed dietary intake and follow-up consultations.

Subsequent health monitoring showed stabilisation of Hb levels within normal ranges, along with visible improvements in energy levels, physical activity participation, and overall well-being.

Component B: Education & Development Support

CHART 3: SCHOOL ENROLMENT STATUS BEFORE COMING TO SOS



FINDING 1: SCHOOL ENROLMENT STATUS BEFORE COMING TO SOS (N= 150)

SCHOOL ENROLMENT STATUS BEFORE COMING TO SOS

High Proportion of Children Outside the Formal Education System

A significant proportion of beneficiaries (45.8%) were not enrolled in school before joining SOS, indicating substantial educational exclusion among children before admission. This suggests that many children came from circumstances in which access to formal education was disrupted by factors such as family instability, economic hardship, or a lack of supportive caregiving structures.

Partial Access to Early Schooling



39.2% of the beneficiaries were enrolled at the primary level (Nursery to Class 5) before entering the SOS Children's Village. While these children had some exposure to formal education, their schooling was likely **irregular or at risk of discontinuation**, reflecting the fragile educational conditions many children in disadvantaged environments face.

Limited Progression to Higher Grades



15.0% of beneficiaries had reached the secondary level (Class 6 and above) before joining SOS.

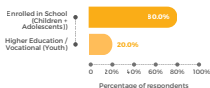
The relatively small proportion at this level indicates that **educational continuity beyond the early years was limited**, and many children were unable to progress to higher grades due to socio-economic challenges or a lack of sustained academic support.

Need for Structured Educational Support

The distribution shows that the majority of children entered the SOS system with either no schooling or limited progression in the **formal education system**. This underscores the importance of SOS educational interventions in facilitating school enrolment, bridging learning gaps, and enabling children to continue their education in a stable, supportive environment.

Finding 2: Current Educational Enrolment status (N-150)

CHART 4: CURRENT EDUCATIONAL ENROLMENT STATUS



Current Educational Status of Beneficiaries High School Enrolment among Children and Adolescents



80.0%

A large majority of beneficiaries (80%) are currently enrolled in school, indicating that the SOS Children's Village has successfully ensured access to formal education for most children and adolescents under its care.

This reflects the programme's emphasis on maintaining regular schooling and supporting beneficiaries in continuing their academic journey.

Transition to Higher Education and Vocational Pathways



20.0%

of the beneficiaries are pursuing higher education or vocational training, suggesting that a segment of youth has progressed beyond school-level education.

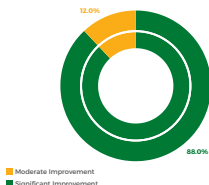
This indicates that the programme not only supports basic education but also facilitates pathways for continued learning and skill development for young adults preparing for independent careers.

Educational Continuity within the SOS Care System

The distribution demonstrates a clear progression pathway within the SOS support system, where children and adolescents remain engaged in schooling while older youth transition to higher education or vocational programmes. This reflects the programme's role in ensuring educational continuity and long-term developmental support for beneficiaries as they move toward adulthood.

Finding 3: Academic Improvement After SOS Support (n=150)

CHART 5: ACADEMIC IMPROVEMENT AFTER SOS SUPPORT

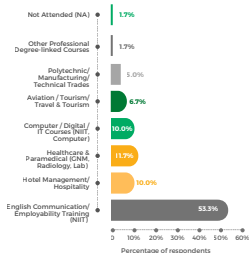


88.0%

A majority of beneficiaries demonstrated significant academic improvement, while 12% reported moderate improvement, with no respondents indicating no academic progress.

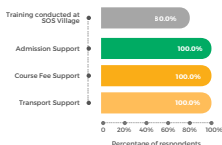
Finding 4: Vocational / Professional Courses Attended by Youth Beneficiaries (18+ Years)

CHART 6: VOCATIONAL / PROFESSIONAL COURSES ATTENDED BY YOUTH BENEFICIARIES (18+ YEARS)



Finding 5: Support Provided by SOS for Vocational Courses (Among Youth Beneficiaries Who Required Support)

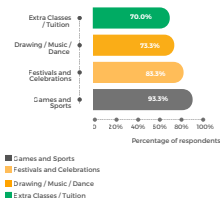
CHART 7: SUPPORT PROVIDED BY SOS FOR VOCATIONAL COURSES (YOUTH BENEFICIARIES- WHO REQUIRED SUPPORT)



Youth beneficiaries who required programme support reported receiving the assistance needed to pursue vocational courses. Admission support, course fee support, and transport assistance were provided to 100% of beneficiaries who required these services, while 80% of youth also participated in training programmes conducted within SOS villages. These support mechanisms enabled youth to continue their vocational training and skill development pathways.

Finding 6: Preferred Activities at SOS (Children Below- 14) (n = 30)

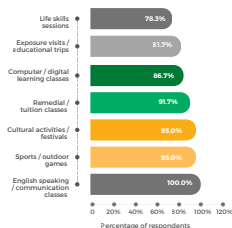
CHART 8: PREFERRED ACTIVITIES AT SOS



Among children aged 14 years and below, games and sports were the most preferred activity (93.3%), followed by festivals and celebrations (83.3%), indicating strong recreational and social engagement at SOS. Creative activities (73.3%) and extra tuition support (70%) further reflect a balanced focus on holistic development and academic support. Extra classes mainly strengthened learning in Mathematics (63.3%), Science (50%), and English (43.3%), though 30% of beneficiaries reported not attending tuition, suggesting scope for wider academic participation.

Finding 7: Participation in Activities During the Last Year (14-18 years) (n=60)

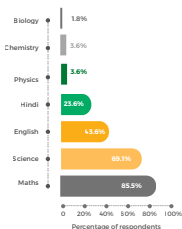
CHART 9: PARTICIPATION IN ACTIVITIES DURING THE LAST YEAR



Participation levels were consistently high, with 100% attending English communication classes. Engagement was strong in sports and cultural activities (95%), remedial support (91.7%), and digital learning (86.7%). Additionally, 81.7% participated in exposure visits and 78.3% in life skills sessions, indicating broad-based engagement across academic and developmental interventions.

Finding 9: Helpfulness of Remedial and Extra Academic Support (14-18 years)

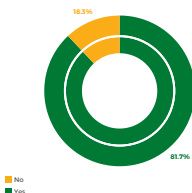
CHART 10: HELPFULNESS OF REMEDIAL AND EXTRA ACADEMIC SUPPORT



Remedial support was primarily concentrated on core academic subjects critical for school performance. Mathematics emerged as the most supported subject, attended by 85.5% of beneficiaries, followed by Science (69.1%) and English (43.6%). Support in Hindi was accessed by 23.6% of respondents, while relatively fewer students required assistance in Physics (3.6%), Chemistry (3.6%), and Biology (1.8%). Also, a large majority of respondents (85.5%) reported that remedial classes were extremely helpful in improving their understanding of the subject and academic performance, while 14.5% found the support somewhat helpful. This demonstrates the strong effectiveness of structured academic assistance in addressing learning gaps and enhancing overall educational performance among children and adolescents.

Finding 10: Participation in Exposure Visits/Educational Trips(Adolescents & Youth)

CHART 11: PARTICIPATION IN EXPOSURE VISITS/EDUCATIONAL TRIPS(ADOLESCENTS & YOUTH)



81.7%

The assessment findings indicate that beneficiaries agreed that exposure visits and educational trips organised by SOS Children's Villages supported their learning, awareness, and personal development.

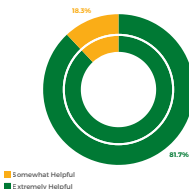
In comparison, 18.3% reported limited perceived impact. These visits contributed to enhanced practical understanding, confidence, and broader career awareness among adolescents. Among youth beneficiaries, responses indicated an even stronger impact, with 100% strongly agreeing that exposure visits and educational trips played a significant role in helping them make informed career decisions and move towards achieving their life goals.

Reported participation in exposure visits ranges from 1 to 8 visits per year, with many children attending 2-5 visits.

Key Impact

Impact 1: Contribution of Sports and Cultural Activities to Overall Development (Children Below 14 Years)

CHART 12: CONTRIBUTION OF SPORTS AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES TO OVERALL DEVELOPMENT



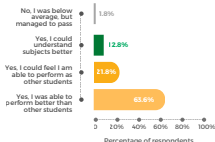
The findings indicate that sports and cultural activities have made a highly positive contribution to the overall development of children below 14 years of age. A large majority (81.7%) of respondents perceived these activities as extremely helpful, while the remaining 18.3% considered them somewhat helpful. Notably, none of the respondents reported that the activities were unhelpful, demonstrating their universal relevance and value.

The high proportion of children reporting these activities as extremely helpful suggests that participation in sports and cultural programmes has played an important role in fostering physical fitness, self-confidence, teamwork, communication skills, discipline, and social interaction. Cultural activities may have further provided opportunities for creative expression, talent development, and enhanced self-esteem.

Overall, the findings highlight that sports and cultural interventions are not merely recreational but serve as significant contributors to the holistic development of children, supporting their physical, emotional, social, and personal growth. This strong positive perception underscores the importance of continuing such activities as an integral component of child development programmes.

Impact 2: Improvement in School Performance After Remedial Classes (14-18 years)

CHART 13: IMPROVEMENT IN ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE THROUGH REMEDIAL SUPPORT



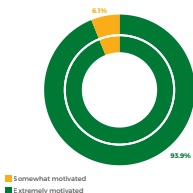
The findings indicate a strong positive impact of SOS Children's Villages' remedial and tuition support on beneficiaries' academic performance. A majority of respondents (63.6%) reported performing better than their peers after attending remedial classes, while 21.8% felt academically at par with other students. Additionally, 12.8% stated that remedial support helped them better understand subjects. Only 1.8% reported remaining below average but still passed examinations. Overall, the results demonstrate that remedial education support has significantly strengthened learning outcomes, improved academic confidence, and enabled beneficiaries to achieve improved school performance.



Impact 3: Motivation After Exposure to Excel in Education and Life Goals

The findings indicate that exposure visits significantly strengthened beneficiary motivation: 93.9% reported being extremely motivated to excel in education and achieve life goals, while 6.1% reported moderate motivation. This demonstrates the strong role of experiential learning opportunities in enhancing beneficiaries' aspirations, confidence, and future-oriented thinking.

CHART 14: MOTIVATION AFTER EXPOSURE TO EXCEL IN EDUCATION AND LIFE GOALS



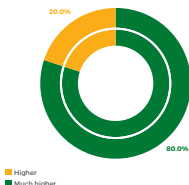
Impact 4: Education Continuity Restored

Stakeholders, including SOS Mothers and educators, highlighted that children who previously experienced disrupted or no schooling were successfully mainstreamed into formal education through continuous academic guidance, remedial support, and structured learning environments provided at SOS. Trainers and programme staff observed that sustained academic mentoring and admission support enabled adolescents to progress into higher secondary education, professional courses, and higher education streams, ensuring long-term educational retention. Vocational trainers and youth beneficiaries reported that exposure visits, skill development sessions, and vocational training enhanced employability skills, practical knowledge, and preparedness for professional careers and livelihood opportunities.

Impact 5: Change in Children's Confidence About Their Future

SOS Mothers and caretakers reported a significant increase in children's confidence regarding their future. 80.0% observed that children's confidence has increased significantly, while 20.0% noted a noticeable increase. Caregivers shared that children now demonstrate clearer aspirations, improved self-belief, and greater motivation to pursue education and career goals, reflecting the positive influence of sustained care and developmental support within SOS family homes.

CHAR 15: CHANGE IN CHILDREN'S CONFIDENCE ABOUT THEIR FUTURE



Impact 6: Academic Progress

SOS mothers reported substantial academic progress among children, with 85.0% observing significant improvement in performance over the years. Additionally, 10.0% noted some improvement, while only 5.0% reported no noticeable change. These findings indicate consistent academic growth, supported by structured educational guidance and remedial support within SOS family homes.

"I came to SOS when I was young, and everything about my future felt uncertain. Here, I continued my schooling with support from my SOS Mother and teachers. I attended English communication classes, computer sessions, and life skills programmes that helped me build confidence.

When I decided to pursue a BBA in Aviation and Tourism Management, SOS guided me through the admission process and supported me with course-related needs. Exposure visits and communication training helped me understand professional environments.

Today, I have clarity about my career path. I want to build an aviation career. Without SOS support, I do not think I would have been able to continue my education this far."

Saloni

- BBA in Aviation & Tourism Management



**SOS Children's
Village, Varanasi**

Component D: Health & Psycho-social Well-being

Pre-Intervention Scenario

Prior to integration into SOS Children's Villages, beneficiaries entering care were reported by caregivers and programme staff to experience irregular access to healthcare services, inadequate nutrition monitoring, and limited psychosocial support systems. Medical stakeholders indicated that several children entered care with vulnerabilities such as low haemoglobin levels, recurrent illness, emotional distress, and adjustment challenges arising from loss of parental care and unstable living environments- Doctors and SOS stakeholders.

Key Findings

Finding 1: Access to Regular Health Check-ups at SOS

CHART 16: ACCESS TO REGULAR HEALTH CHECK-UPS AT SOS



■ Somewhat motivated
■ Extremely motivated

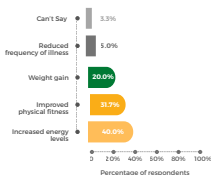


100.0%

beneficiaries reported receiving regular health check-ups and health monitoring within SOS Children's Villages, indicating universal access to healthcare services under the programme and ensuring continuous monitoring of children's health and well-being.

Finding 2: Areas of Improvement Observed in the Last Year

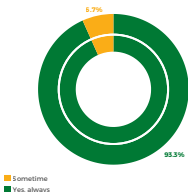
CHART 17: AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT OBSERVED IN THE LAST YEAR



Post-intervention findings indicate perceived improvements in overall physical well-being among beneficiaries: 40.0% reported increased energy levels and 31.7% noted better physical fitness. Additionally, 20.0% observed healthy weight improvement, while 5.0% reported reduced illness frequency, reflecting positive health outcomes supported by regular nutrition and healthcare services at SOS Children's Villages. Only 3.3% were unable to assess changes, indicating broad recognition of improved health status among beneficiaries.

Finding 4: Confidence in Expressing Thoughts in Class or Life Skill Sessions

CHART 18: CONFIDENCE IN EXPRESSING THOUGHTS IN CLASS OR LIFE SKILL SESSIONS



The findings indicate a strong positive outcome in communication confidence among beneficiaries.

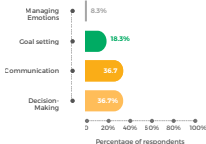


93.3%

A substantial reported always feeling confident expressing their thoughts in class or during life skills sessions, while only 6.7% reported feeling confident sometimes. No respondents indicated a lack of confidence.

Finding 5: Impact of Life Skills Sessions on Personal Development

CHART 19: IMPACT OF LIFE SKILLS SESSIONS ON PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT



Beneficiaries reported a perceived improvement in their Life skills.



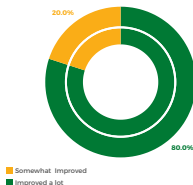
36.7%

reporting improvements in decision-making skills and an equal 36.7% highlighting enhanced communication abilities.

Additionally, 18.3% experienced better goal-setting capacity, while 8.3% reported improved emotional management, indicating strengthened behavioural and psychosocial competencies among beneficiaries.

Finding 6: Improvement in Children's Social Behaviour with Peers and Adults

CHART 20: IMPROVEMENT IN CHILDREN'S SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR WITH PEERS AND ADULTS



SOS caretakers reported that children have shown noticeable improvements in their social interactions over time.



80.0%

reported that children's behaviour with peers and adults has improved significantly, while 20.0% observed moderate improvement.

Caregivers highlighted improved cooperation, respectful communication, and stronger peer bonding, indicating improved social adjustment within the family-based care environment.

Assessment findings indicate institutionalisation of preventive healthcare and psychosocial care practices across supported SOS family homes.



100% beneficiaries reported receiving regular health check-ups and routine medical monitoring.



Caregivers confirmed continuous supervision of nutrition, hygiene, and daily health practices within family homes.



Beneficiaries across age groups reported feeling safe, supported, and emotionally secure within the SOS care environment.



Medical stakeholders reported actively monitoring children with lower haemoglobin levels through dietary guidance and follow-up care.



Improved participation in education and daily activities was observed alongside better physical stamina and emotional confidence.



Caregivers reported a reduction in seasonal illness and no major hospitalisation cases during the assessment period.*



Interaction with the Project team,
SOS Children's Village, Begusarai

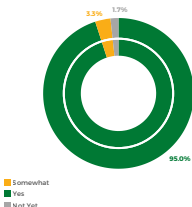
Component E: Youth Development & Leaving Care Support

Key Findings

This section presents the principal findings of the impact assessment of Project Nurture, implemented across supported SOS Children's Villages, based on a structured assessment conducted with 120 beneficiaries (**Youth & Adolescents**), complemented by caregiver consultations.

Finding 1: Clarity of Future Goals

CHART 21: CLARITY OF FUTURE GOALS



95.0%

The findings indicate strong positive outcomes, with of respondents affirming "Yes", demonstrating the substantial impact of the intervention. A small proportion (3.3%) reported partial progress ("Somewhat"), while only 1.7% indicated that the outcome has not yet been achieved.

Overall, the results reflect near-universal positive movement toward the intended objective.

"Before coming to SOS, I did not know how my life would shape up. Here, I was able to continue my education regularly. I received academic support and remedial classes, and I participated in communication and life skills sessions.

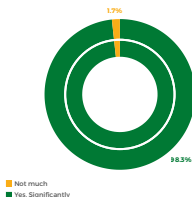
These sessions helped me gain confidence and think clearly about my goals. I now aspire to become a doctor. I believe that without SOS, my education might have stopped early.

SOS did not just give me schooling; it gave me direction and the belief that I can achieve something meaningful in life."

– Priya Singh – Aspiring Medical Professional

Finding 2: Role of SOS in Supporting Achievement of Future Goals (age 14-18 years)

CHART 22: ROLE OF SOS IN SUPPORTING ACHIEVEMENT OF FUTURE GOALS (AGE 14-18 YEARS)



The findings reflect a strong impact of SOS in helping beneficiaries achieve their career goals, with 98.3% reporting significant support in advancing toward their aspirations. Only 1.7% indicated limited support, and none reported a lack of assistance. This demonstrates the effectiveness of the programme's structured career guidance, mentoring, and transition support mechanisms.

Finding 3: Youth Participation in Transition and Career Development Activities:

Participation in vocational training, exposure visits, and skill-building activities indicates structured transition support for youth beneficiaries. These initiatives complement formal vocational courses and strengthen practical skills, career awareness, and employment preparedness. Engagement in such activities also provides youth with opportunities to develop communication abilities, professional orientation, and confidence required for future career pathways. Overall, youth participation in these developmental activities reflects the programme's focus on facilitating a smooth transition from education to independent living and employment.

Key Impact

Impact 1: Future Aspirations (Education and Career Goals)

Participation in vocational training, exposure visits, and skill-building activities indicates structured transition support for youth beneficiaries. These initiatives complement formal vocational courses and strengthen practical skills, career awareness, and employment preparedness. Engagement in such activities also provides youth with opportunities to develop communication abilities, professional orientation, and confidence required for future career pathways. Overall, youth participation in these developmental activities reflects the programme's focus on facilitating a smooth transition from education to independent living and employment.

Children expressed diverse aspirations across fields such as Army, Police, IPS/Navy Officer, Doctor, Engineer, Lawyer/Advocate, Teacher, Software Engineer, AI, Corporate Jobs, Business, and Hotel Management.

Some also showed interest in creative and specialised careers including Actor, Artist, Sketch Artist, Footballer, Cricket Player, Tourism Guide, Cooking, and Astrology, while a few mentioned continuing education or had not yet planned their future goals.

The intervention has strengthened career readiness and independent living preparedness among youth. Structured vocational support, career counselling, and exposure-based learning have led to clearer future goals, improved employability orientation, and a more confident transition toward higher education and workforce pathways. The component demonstrates effective institutional support in bridging the gap between residential care and sustainable adult livelihoods.



Impact 2: Strengthened Education-to-Employment Transition

CHART 23: STRENGTHENED EDUCATION-TO-EMPLOYMENT TRANSITION



61.7%

A majority of youth beneficiaries are continuing higher education, while 33.3% are engaged in employment or job-oriented training.

Only 1.7% are currently seeking employment. The findings indicate structured transition pathways and strengthened career readiness among youth beneficiaries, reflecting effective preparation for independent living under Project Nurture.

Component F: SOS Mother & Caregiver Capacity Strengthening

Key Findings

Finding 1: Experience of SOS Mothers

The majority of SOS Mothers (60.0%) have 10-20 years of service experience, indicating strong caregiving continuity within the SOS family-based care system. Additionally, 35.0% have served for over 20 years, reflecting long-term institutional commitment and stable caregiving support for beneficiaries, while only 5.0% reported serving for less than 10 years. All respondents reported that children see them as a mother figure.

Finding 2: Change in Children's Emotional Well-being Since Joining SOS

CHART 24: CHANGE IN CHILDREN'S EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING SINCE JOINING SOS



■ Not Improved
■ Improved, Significantly



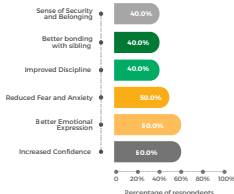
100.0%

All respondents, SOS mothers, reported that beneficiary well-being and development have improved significantly, with no instances of non-improvement recorded.

This reflects the unanimous stakeholder perception of positive outcomes resulting from sustained care, structured support systems, and holistic development interventions under the programme.

Finding 3: Positive Behavioural Changes Observed in Children

CHART 25: POSITIVE BEHAVIOURAL CHANGES OBSERVED IN CHILDREN



INCREASED CONFIDENCE AND EMOTIONAL EXPRESSION

Many SOS Mothers reported that their children have become **more confident and open in expressing their emotions** over time. About **60% of the caregivers observed that children are now more comfortable sharing their thoughts and feelings**. Mothers shared that children who were initially quiet, withdrawn, or hesitant to speak about their experiences now participate more actively in conversations at home and school.

For example, some mothers mentioned that children now openly talk about their day at school, share their worries about exams, or express happiness when they achieve something. In a few cases, children who earlier kept their emotions to themselves have started approaching their SOS mother to discuss problems or seek advice, reflecting growing emotional openness and trust.



REDUCED FEAR AND ANXIETY

Around **50% of SOS Mothers observed a reduction in their children's fear and anxiety**. When children first arrived at the family homes, some appeared nervous, unsure of their surroundings, or reluctant to interact with others. Over time, consistent care and reassurance helped them feel safer and more comfortable.

Mothers shared examples such as children who were once afraid to speak in front of others now participating in school activities, or children who hesitated to attend school becoming more enthusiastic about going to class. This gradual change indicates that children are gaining emotional stability and a sense of safety within the family environment.



IMPROVED DISCIPLINE AND DAILY HABITS

About 40% of the mothers reported improvements in children's discipline and daily routines. Through regular guidance and structured household practices, children have learned to follow routines and take responsibility for their tasks.

Mothers mentioned that children are now more regular in completing homework, maintaining personal hygiene, and participating in household chores such as arranging their study materials or helping with small tasks at home. These behavioural changes suggest that children are gradually developing self-discipline and responsibility.



STRONGER SIBLING BONDING

Another important change observed by **40% of the SOS Mothers** was the development of **stronger sibling relationships among the children**. Living together in the family homes has encouraged children to support and care for one another.

Mothers shared examples of older children helping younger ones with homework, sharing snacks or belongings, and offering comfort when someone is upset. In many households, children celebrate birthdays, festivals, and achievements together, which strengthens the sense of togetherness and family bonding.



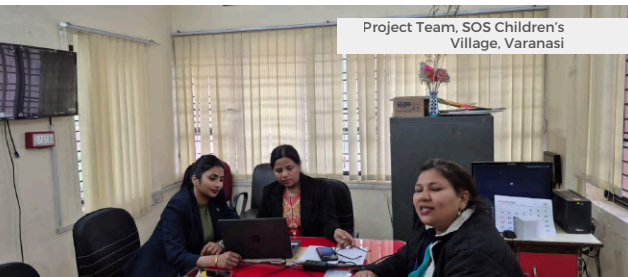
GREATER SENSE OF SECURITY AND BELONGING

About **40% of the mothers** felt that children now have a **stronger sense of security and belonging** within the SOS family environment. Many caregivers described moments where children referred to the SOS home as "our house" or expressed comfort in approaching their SOS mother for emotional support.

For instance, some children seek their SOS mother's advice when facing difficulties at school or in friendships. In contrast, others show attachment by spending time together during daily routines, such as meals or study sessions. These behaviours reflect that children feel emotionally secure and accepted within the family-based care setting.

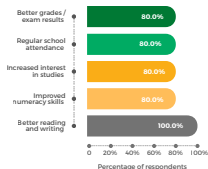
Overall, the lived experiences shared by SOS Mothers highlight how **consistent caregiving, stable relationships, and structured daily routines contribute to children's emotional development, behavioural stability, and sense of belonging within the SOS family homes.**

Project Team, SOS Children's Village, Varanasi



Finding 4: Improvements in Children's Learning Outcomes

CHART 26: IMPROVEMENTS IN CHILDREN'S LEARNING OUTCOMES



100%

Improvement in Reading and Writing Skills

All SOS Mothers reported **significant improvement in children's reading and writing abilities**. Caregivers explained that children are now more comfortable reading textbooks, writing answers in their notebooks, and completing written assignments independently.

For example, some mothers shared that children who earlier struggled to read simple passages can now read storybooks or school lessons with greater fluency. Others mentioned that children can write longer answers on exams and maintain better notebooks. A few caregivers also noted that children voluntarily practice reading aloud during study time, which has helped improve their language skills and confidence in learning.



80.0%

Better Academic Performance and Exam Results

About 80% of SOS Mothers observed improvements in their children's grades and exam results. Mothers explained that with regular study routines, academic guidance, and encouragement within the home environment, many children are performing better in school assessments.

For instance, some mothers mentioned that children who previously scored average or low marks have gradually improved their performance in subjects such as mathematics, science, or language. In some cases, children expressed pride in showing their report cards to their SOS mothers after achieving higher marks than before.



80.0%

Regular School Attendance

Around 80% of caregivers reported that children attend school more regularly. Mothers explained that the structured routine in family homes—such as fixed wake-up times, school preparation, and regular monitoring—helps ensure that children attend classes consistently.

For example, children who earlier showed reluctance to attend school or frequently missed classes are now more regular and punctual. Some mothers mentioned that children now prepare their school bags the previous evening and show enthusiasm about going to school with their friends.

**80.0%****Increased Interest and Motivation in Studies**

Many SOS Mothers (80%) also observed that children have **developed a stronger interest in learning and academic activities**. The supportive environment and regular encouragement appear to motivate children to engage more actively in their studies.

For instance, some children ask questions about their lessons, seek help from their SOS mothers or older siblings during study time, and show curiosity about new topics they learn in school. Mothers also noted that children sometimes spend extra time reading or revising lessons before exams.

**80.0%****Improved Numeracy Skills**

About **80% of the mothers reported improvements in children's numeracy skills**, particularly in their ability to understand and solve mathematical problems. Mothers explained that regular study time, homework support, and practice have helped children become more confident with numbers.

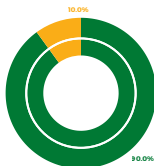
For example, caregivers mentioned that children who earlier struggled with basic arithmetic, such as addition or multiplication, are now able to complete math exercises more independently. Some children also help younger siblings with simple calculations, which further strengthens their understanding.

Overall Learning Progress

Overall, the experiences shared by SOS Mothers indicate **positive progress in children's learning outcomes**, particularly in foundational skills such as reading, writing, and numeracy. The combination of **structured study routines, consistent encouragement, and a supportive family-like environment** appears to play an important role in improving children's academic engagement and performance.

Finding 5: Openness of Children in Sharing Problems and Concerns

CHART 27: OPENNESS OF CHILDREN IN SHARING PROBLEMS AND CONCERNS WITHIN SOS FAMILY HOMES.



Often
Always

The findings indicate strong emotional trust and communication within SOS family homes:



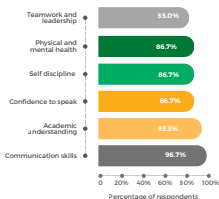
90.0%

of SOS Mothers report that children always share their problems and concerns, and 10.0% state they often do so.

This reflects a supportive and secure caregiving environment that encourages open dialogue and emotional expression among children.

Finding 6: Key Areas Improved Due to SOS Support (Age 14-18 years)

CHART 28: KEY AREAS IMPROVED DUE TO SOS SUPPORT (AGE 14-18 YEARS)



96.7%

Improvement in Communication Skills

Most caregivers reported that children have shown **significant improvement in their communication skills**. Many SOS Mothers shared that children are now more comfortable speaking with others, expressing their thoughts clearly, and participating in conversations.

For example, some caregivers mentioned that children who were earlier shy or hesitant to speak now confidently interact with visitors, teachers, and peers. In daily family discussions, children can explain their school experiences, ask questions, and share their opinions. Mothers also observed that children participate more actively in group discussions and school activities that require speaking.



93.3%

Better Academic Understanding

Caregivers also noted **great improvements in children's understanding of their school subjects**. About 93.3% of respondents felt that children can now grasp concepts more easily and complete their schoolwork more independently.

For instance, SOS Mothers reported that children can explain what they learned in class during evening study time. Some children help younger siblings understand lessons or clarify homework questions. Caregivers also noted that children ask thoughtful questions about their lessons, indicating a deeper understanding of academic topics.

**86.7%****Increased Confidence to Speak**

Around **86.7% of caregivers observed that children have become more confident in speaking up** in different situations. Over time, the supportive family environment appears to have helped children overcome hesitation and express themselves more freely.

For example, mothers shared that children who once avoided answering questions in class are now willing to raise their hands and respond. Some children participate in school assemblies, cultural events, or classroom discussions. Caregivers also noted that children feel comfortable sharing personal concerns or ideas with their SOS mother.

**86.7%****Development of Self-Discipline**

Many caregivers reported that children have **developed stronger self-discipline in their daily routines**. Through consistent guidance and a structured household, children have learned to manage their time and responsibilities more effectively.

For example, children follow regular study schedules, complete homework without repeated reminders, and take responsibility for maintaining their personal belongings. Mothers mentioned that children now wake up on time for school, organise their books, and prepare for exams more seriously.

**86.7%****Improvements in Physical and Mental Health**

Caregivers also observed **positive changes in children's physical and emotional well-being**. About 86.7% of SOS Mothers felt that children appeared healthier, more active, and emotionally stable than when they first joined the family homes.

For instance, mothers shared that children participate enthusiastically in outdoor games, sports, and recreational activities. They also appear happier, interact more comfortably with others, and show fewer signs of stress or worry. Regular meals, healthcare support, and a stable living environment were seen as contributing factors to these improvements.

**85.0%****Growth in Teamwork and Leadership Skills**

Around **85% of caregivers observed improvements in children's teamwork and leadership**. Living in a shared family setting encourages children to cooperate, support each other, and take initiative in group activities.

For example, older children often help organise study time for younger ones, guide them with homework, or assist with small household responsibilities. In school settings, some children participate in group projects, sports teams, or class activities, taking leadership roles or helping coordinate with their peers.

Overall Perspective from Caregivers

Overall, caregivers highlighted that the **stable family environment, consistent emotional support, and structured daily routines within SOS homes** have contributed to children's development across multiple areas. Through everyday interactions, guidance, and shared experiences, children appear to be gaining **confidence, discipline, social skills, and improved academic engagement**, as reflected in their behaviour at home and in school.

Key Impact

Impact 2: Impact of Life Skills and Positive Youth Development Activities

CHART 29: IMPACT OF LIFE SKILLS AND POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES



he findings indicate a strong developmental impact of life skills and youth development activities, with



90.0%

of respondents reporting improved ability to manage emotions and stress, reflecting enhanced emotional resilience

Additionally, 60.0% observed improved decision-making skills, while 40.0% noted improved communication abilities. Gains in teamwork, leadership, and self-discipline (20.0% each) further highlight the programme's contribution toward shaping responsible, confident, and socially competent youth.

Most respondents described their stay as having a very positive impact on their lives, highlighting improvements in education, confidence, career opportunities, emotional support, and overall personality development. Many expressed gratitude for receiving family-like care, encouragement, and the opportunity to pursue higher education and employment. (18*)

Beneficiaries consistently indicated that in the absence of SOS support, risks such as educational discontinuity, early marriage, child labour, and economic instability would likely have increased."(14-18 age)

Several respondents mentioned that without SOS, they might have faced a lack of education, early child marriage, labour work, financial hardship, or an uncertain life path. Some expressed uncertainty about what they would have done, while others emphasised that they would not have been able to achieve their current goals or maintain their stability. (18*)

"I enrolled in Hotel Management with support from SOS. They helped me with admission, fees, and transport. I also attended English communication and life skills sessions that helped me prepare for interviews and professional environments.

After completing my course, I secured a job in the hospitality sector. I feel more independent now. If I had not come to SOS, I may not have had the opportunity to pursue professional training or employment."

- Youth Beneficiary - Hotel Management

Overall Programme Outcome Summary

The impact assessment of Project Nurture demonstrates great, measurable improvements across the core domains of child protection, education, health, and youth transition. Based on structured responses from surveyed beneficiaries and caregivers (n=150 beneficiaries; n=20 caregivers), the programme has achieved the following key outcomes:

100% education enrolment achieved among surveyed children and adolescents, restoring educational continuity for previously out-of-school beneficiaries.

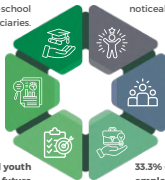
93.9% of beneficiaries reported high motivation to excel in education and life goals following exposure visits and experiential learning interventions.

95% of adolescents and youth demonstrated clarity about future goals, reflecting strengthened career orientation and structured guidance.

80% of caregivers observed significant improvement in children's confidence about their future, with the remaining reporting noticeable improvement.

61.7% of youth beneficiaries are currently continuing higher education, demonstrating sustained academic progression.

33.3% of youth beneficiaries are engaged in employment or job-oriented training, indicating strengthened education-to-employment transition pathways.



Overall, the findings reflect a comprehensive and transformative impact of the Family Like Care model, supported through integrated education, health, psychosocial care, and youth development mechanisms under Project Nurture.



Interaction with the Trainer, SOS Children's Village, Varanasi

04. OECD FRAMEWORK



Relevance



Coherence



Effectiveness



Efficiency



Impact



Sustainability

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC) framework provides a standardised lens for evaluating development interventions across six criteria: Relevance, Coherence, Effectiveness, Efficiency, Impact, and Sustainability.



RELEVANCE

The intervention directly addresses identified pre-admission vulnerabilities, including food insecurity, educational discontinuity, low health indicators, and a lack of career preparedness. Beneficiary responses (95%–100% positive across core services) confirm strong alignment with the context.



COHERENCE

The programme aligns with national child protection, education, and health frameworks without duplicating services. Strong convergence with ICPS, Mission Vatsalya, and Samagra Shiksha strengthens institutional coherence.



EFFECTIVENESS

Intended outcomes have been substantially achieved. Indicators show 85%+ academic improvement, 95% reporting very good health, 93.9% high motivation post-exposure visits, and 98.3% significant career progression support. The convergence of quantitative and stakeholder validation confirms the outcome.



EFFICIENCY

The integrated family-Like Care model enables multi-sectoral service delivery (nutrition, education, psychosocial support, vocational training) within shared infrastructure. High activity participation rates reflect optimal programme penetration. There is scope to strengthen structured outcome-tracking systems further.



IMPACT

The programme demonstrates transformative outcomes beyond immediate outputs, including education-to-employment transition, stabilised health indicators (Hb monitoring), strengthened emotional resilience, and enhanced future orientation. Case evidence confirms durable life-course influence.



Relevance



Coherence



Effectiveness



Efficiency



Impact



Sustainability



SUSTAINABILITY

Institutional continuity is supported by long-serving caregivers (60% with 10-20 years of service), structured health monitoring systems, and embedded academic support mechanisms. Long-term youth independence remains partially linked to continued mentorship during transition phases.



Relevance



Coherence



Effectiveness



Efficiency



Impact



Sustainability

05. RECOMMENDATIONS



ENHANCE LIFE SKILLS AND FUTURE READINESS PROGRAMMING

The programme has successfully contributed to confidence building and aspiration development among beneficiaries. However, future readiness requires a broader range of competencies that equip children and youth to navigate rapidly evolving social and professional environments.

▶ Introduce Age-Appropriate Life Skills Pathways

Life-skills interventions may be structured according to age groups, gradually building competencies related to communication, problem-solving, leadership, emotional intelligence, conflict resolution, and responsible decision-making.

▶ Strengthen Financial Literacy Education

Beneficiaries may be exposed to practical financial management concepts such as savings, investments, budgeting, insurance, taxation, and responsible borrowing. Early exposure can foster financial independence and responsible economic behaviour.



STRENGTHEN MENTAL HEALTH AND EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING INTERVENTIONS

The programme provides psychosocial support and has contributed positively to emotional security and confidence. Given the adverse childhood experiences many beneficiaries have faced, mental health support may be further strengthened.

▶ Institutionalise Preventive Mental Health Programmes

Regular age-appropriate sessions on emotional well-being, resilience building, stress management, and self-awareness may be integrated into routine programming.

▶ Expand Access to Professional Counselling Services

Periodic counselling support from qualified mental health professionals may be made available to children and youth requiring specialised assistance.

▶ Strengthen Trauma-Informed Care Practices

Caregivers and programme staff may receive advanced training in trauma-informed care approaches to better support children who have experienced abandonment, neglect, loss, or other adverse experiences.



ESTABLISH A KNOWLEDGE AND LEARNING EXCELLENCE FRAMEWORK

Project Nurture is implemented across multiple SOS Children's Villages, creating a valuable opportunity for institutional learning and replication of successful practices.

•▶ Document and Showcase Best Practices

Successful interventions, beneficiary success stories, innovative caregiving approaches, and effective educational models may be systematically documented and disseminated across locations.

•▶ Facilitate Cross-Learning Among SOS Villages

Regular learning exchanges, peer reviews, and knowledge-sharing workshops may be organised to promote replication of successful approaches and continuous programme improvement.

•▶ Create a Centre of Excellence for Family-Like Care

Lessons emerging from Project Nurture may be consolidated into a model framework that can guide future programme design and contribute to strengthening alternative child-care systems more broadly.

06. CONCLUSION

Project Nurture aligns with **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, and 10** through measurable improvements in nutrition security, preventive healthcare, quality education, gender-responsive care, employability readiness, and social inclusion of parentless and vulnerable children. The intervention demonstrates tangible outcomes in academic continuity, health status, psychosocial stability, life skills development, and structured youth transition pathways. The integrated family-based care model supported by SOS Mothers, trained staff, healthcare professionals, and education facilitators has established strong foundations of emotional security, structured learning environments, and career preparedness.

These systems require continued strengthening to ensure long-term sustainability and successful transition of youth into independent adulthood. Formalised convergence with government frameworks such as the **Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS)**, **Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan**, **Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK)**, **Skill India Mission**, and relevant state-level health and education schemes can further institutionalise support mechanisms, enhance access to resources, and create pathways for replication.

The assessment positions Project Nurture as a comprehensive and scalable model for long-term alternative care and youth development within structured residential settings across India.



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