

A year of achievements and accomplishments



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# Message from the CEO

## Desk

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As we rise from the pandemic, we continue our efforts to serve communities through the power of football. This could have been an especially challenging task if we didn't have supporters and team members who believed in our vision and mission. Despite the challenges the year 2022 was filled with moments of learning, reflection and celebration.



**Dr. Abhijeet Barse**

The year began with the theatrical release of the movie "Jhund " showcasing the journey of the organization and its founder. The compelling visuals presented on screen by renowned director Nagraj Manjule not only painted a vivid picture of slum life but also the hopes and dreams of young individuals struggling and finding hope through the power of football. This brought back the much needed focus and attention on sports for development of government and private sector alike.

Resuming full scale operations also meant dealing with issues such as school drop out and dealing with children and youth at risk of substance abuse and unhealthy practices. However, the Slumsoccer team was ever so ready to address these issues like they had in the past but with much more focus and determination. Like the year before we were still addressing the most urgent needs of the communities we serve, be it ration kits, cooked meals, hygiene kits, study materials, bags and transportation fees for children to go to school. The year showed that consistency and persistence matter in anything and everything we do. We brought back more than 1500 students to schools and ensured that they remained in schools.

Later in the year we were also conferred the "Football for Good" award for the innovative DeafKidz Goal! Project for providing a learning and engagement platform to deaf children during COVID19 pandemic. We also won the Amazing Indian Award in the slum category given by Times Now. The unwavering support of the funders, supporters, and mainly the staff, project managers, coaches and leaders, kept us motivated and going where we have set out to. I strongly hope that we will continue to scale and support more programs across India in the year to come.

# Message from the Founder

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**Prof. Vijay Barse**

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2022 was filled with great challenges and achievements as well. The year marked a new journey of the organization as “Jhund”, the most awaited movie, released in March 2022. The movie has helped us increase our credibility with the communities, spread our work across India and also helped other organizations working with similar projects and missions immensely. I am happy that football tournaments, the foundation of the organization, resumed with a bang. This year, the Zopadpatti Football Tournament expanded in every zone of Nagpur and each zonal championship not only attracted teams, but also great numbers of supporters and communities. The final tournament was held on a big stage, with 16 different teams supported by 16 different local sponsors.

I am delighted that the concept of changing lives through football is being accepted widely and getting local recognition as well.

I would also like to thank all the sponsors, supporters, and individual donors for putting their foot forward for the improvement of the lives of the underprivileged children in India. We will continue our work with more focus and enthusiasm to have a greater impact on the lives of the underprivileged section of India. We plan to reach out to 50,000 children and young people in 2023, I hope that the Slum Soccer supporters continue to have our back and the people who are a part of the Slum Soccer team keep working like this to achieve Our vision. We will continue to work zealously to help the community grow, and develop. We will never stop no matter what comes in our way.

## Board Members

Prof. Virsen Barse - Founder & Secretary

Ashutosh Sharma - President

Suzannah Fernandez - Vice President

### Members

Mr. Mohan Dadhi

Mr. Vipin Bawar

Ms. Kalpana Jadhav

Mrs. Kanta Pillay

Mrs. Ranjana Barse

Mr. Warren Swaries

Ms. Stuti Gaekwad

Dr. Kirtish Balpande

Mr. Ernest Gaekwad

### Operation team

Dr. Abhijeet Barse

Mr. Sajid Jamal

Mr. Pankaj Mahajan

Ms. Mahima Barse

Mr. Devang Chhaya

# About Slum Soccer

Slum Soccer is a FIFA awarded organization that uses the power of football to bring about a change in the lives of unprivileged children and youth. Slum Soccer is registered as a Non-Governmental Public Charitable Trust Organization governed by the Public Trust Act of the state of Maharashtra in 2001 under a board of directors.

The organization functions with the ultimate aim of reaching out to the Indian slum youth and children using football as a tool for social improvement and empowerment. Slum Soccer exists to foster sustainable development to provide long-term solutions to combat homelessness and to improve the living standards of people within underprivileged areas. Its approach is to build self-sufficient communities by connecting with individuals and by teaching life skills through football. Slum Soccer attempts to give its participating players hope and a purpose. The Slum Soccer centers act as safe places which are free from discrimination, providing positive role models and in providing a place to develop and enjoy for oneself. Slum Soccer's ideology is that "sport and football inherently offer a transferable set of skills for social development: through team building, acceptance and discipline". Social issues that are common in Indian slums are taken as central themes and the sessions are evolved around building necessary life skills relating to these themes. Football acts as the messenger for the same. Specific game topics include conservation of resources, nutrition, HIV/AIDS, hygiene and child rights.





To use football as tool to improve the living standards of the marginalized population of India and give them a second chance in their life.



Building self sufficient communities by connecting with individuals and by teaching life and football skills through football and a platform to showcase talent.

**Team Work**

**Respect**



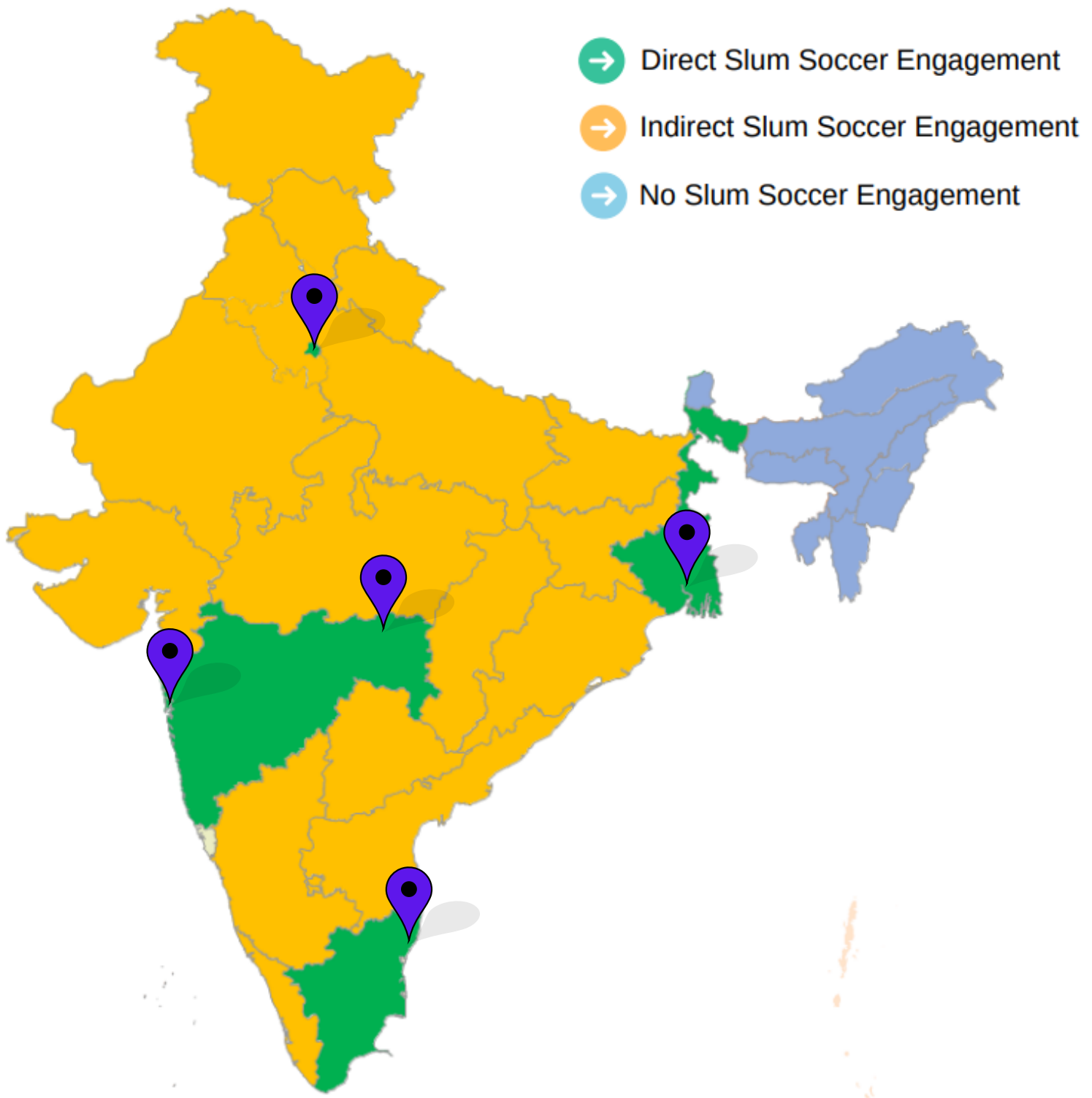
**VALUES**

**Reflection**

**Inclusion**

## Our Presence

Slum Soccer works with 24 states throughout the country either directly or indirectly. A national championship is organized every year where participants from all these states actively participate.





# Edukick - Learning with a kick


Edukick is an initiative by Slum Soccer that focuses on promoting primary education for the children belonging to the underprivileged section of the society who rarely get a chance for schooling. It is also focused on enhancing the learning outcomes of children whose academic performance is very poor.

In addition to the results seen in participants, the project impacts the lives of other stakeholders like teachers and coaches at the schools. The use of sports to teach life skills is nothing new: however, sports being used to increase educational outcomes has just started being considered a pedagogical tool to bring forth better academic results. Soccer based games to teach Mathematical topics such as Number System, Tables, Even & Odd Numbers, BODMAS, Profit & Loss are designed.

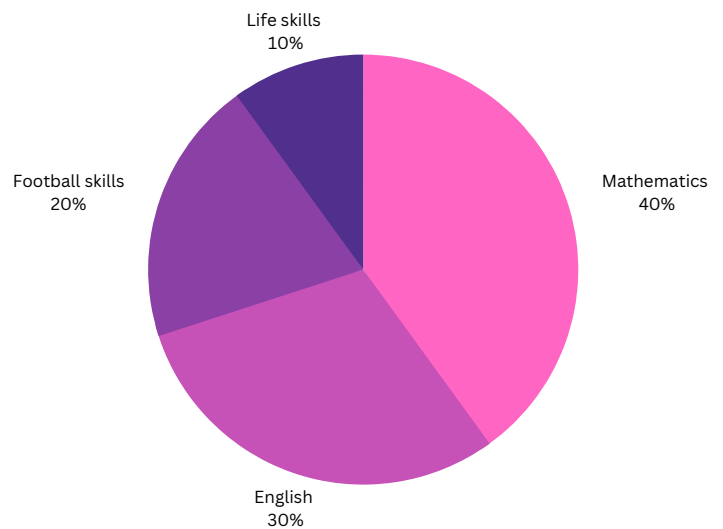
In the year 2022, Edukick has played a vital role not just in improving educational outcome but also ensuring children reaching and remaining in school. Serving the urgent needs of the students, we distributed educational material, bags, and school fees thus ensuring 1500 students who were drop outs are schools.



# Objectives

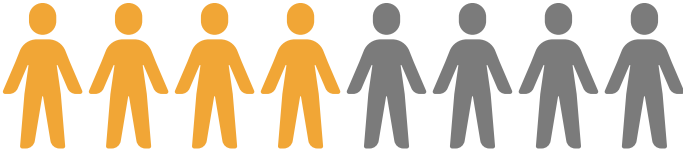
- 
 Combining sports and education in a single program and thereby creating a unique environment for learning and development.
- 
 Improving life skills and facilitating personal development.
- 
 Reducing dropout rates in schools through increased engagement in learning.
- 
 Improving educational outcomes and increased engagement in learning through football.

# Project Activities



Mathematics	BODMAS, Addition, Subtraction, Shapes, Perimeter, Angle, Cubes, Square, Ascending & Descending, Even & Odd
Football	Passing, Dribbling, Controlling, Shooting, Finishing, Juggling, Heading and receiving
Language	English
Life skills	Communication, Problem Solving, Confidence, Gender Equality, Health & wellness & Hygiene

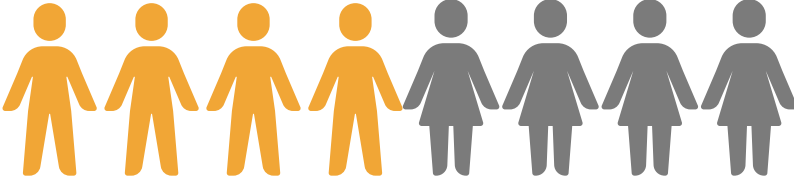
# Project Statistics



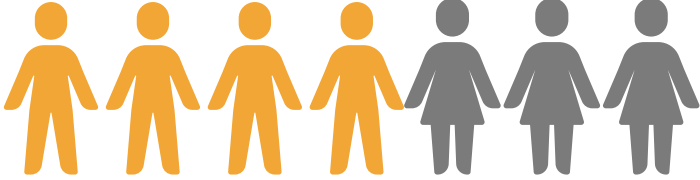
**Total participants -  
1400**



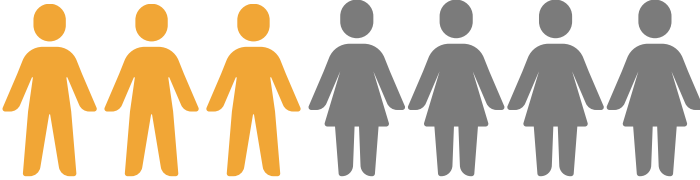
**Nagpur- 1000**



**Delhi- 200**



**Pune- 200**



**Through the program we worked with  
21 school across 3 locations**

## Voices from the field



"I don't think I would have returned to school when it resumed after the pandemic. It was slum soccer's sessions (Edukick Program) and Anas bhaiyya (coach) that encouraged me to study and stay in school. The program stimulated the passion for learning and aspiration in me. I didn't like mathematics particularly, multiplication and BODMOS, angles, parameters, but football sessions strengthened my basics which helped me perform better in the subject".  
Ankit Hadge, 5th Class.



"Since joining the Slum Soccer's program I have seen my daughters passion and dedication towards learning increasing. She started sharing and asking questions if she needed help. I was delighted to see this change. Because of the program, I was able to establish a good and friendly relationship with my daughter which mean she would be able sharing andything and everything with me" Sarika's father Ganesh Chavhan.



# Gallery



# Shakti Girls-Beyond Boundaries

In Hindi language, the word "Shakti" means "power" and, as the word implies, the project seeks to empower girls to fulfill their potential by providing a range of opportunities for development. The key element of the program is the selection and development of girls who can take up leadership roles within their own communities. This ultimately helps in disseminating the good results and thereby promoting the program through the beneficiaries of the project.

The Shakti Girls-Beyond Boundaries project has been designed to address SDGs 3- Health and wellbeing, 5-Gender Equality & 6-Clean Water and Sanitation It aims to help young girls to overcome the barriers they experienced towards equal participation in society. One cannot deny the misery and adverse situations the girl child had to face due to cultural beliefs and practices that are predominantly found in most Indian regions.

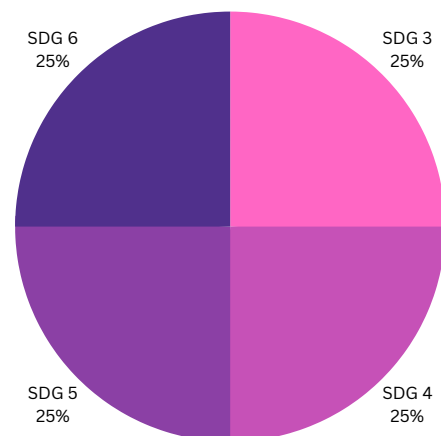
The Shakti Girls-Beyond Boundaries project envisages offering young girls between the ages of 12 and 18 years a well proportioned mix of constructive outdoor physical activities and meaningful learning pathways coupled with providing safe spaces for the participants to play, and improve their skills and knowledge to help them become empowered, optimistic, and confident to influence change. The project aims to create youth leaders from the group who will ensure engagement and empowerment of the group in their own community.



# Objectives

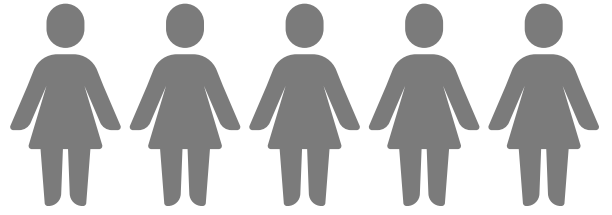
- 
 Provide opportunities to adolescent girls from slum communities to participate in physical activities & sports in safe community spaces
- 
 Inculcate in girls life skills such as interpersonal communication, team work, resilience etc. and boost their self-confidence.
- 
 Acquaint participants with basic functions of digital devices & impart basic computer literacy skills
- 
 To identify girls with potential and train them as grassroot football coaches to conduct community sports sessions

# Project Activities



SDG 3-Health & wellbeing	Health and Fitness, Health and Hygiene, cleanliness, Menstrual Health Management and Mental health
SDG 4-Quality Education	Access to education, access to life skills sessions, knowledge about menstrual health and best practices
SDG 5- Gender Equality	Opportunity to play, Gender roles, discrimination against gender, Education, & Women's rights
SDG 6- Sanitation and Hygiene	Clean water, hand-washing steps, cleanliness, water conservation and drinking safe water etc.

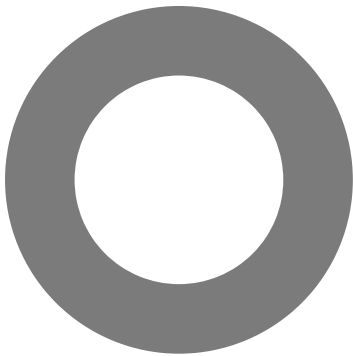
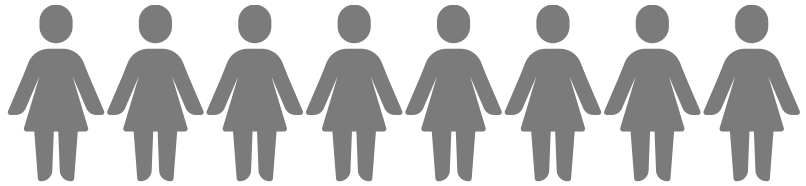
# Project Statistics



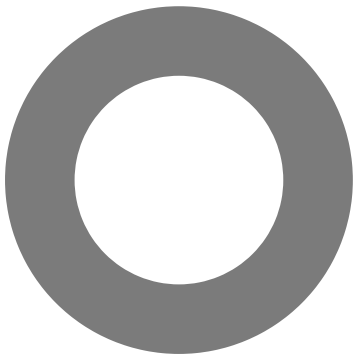
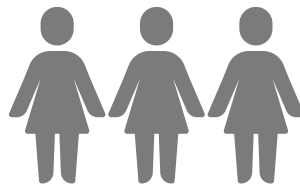
**Total participants -  
1500**



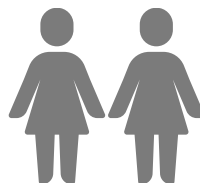
**Nagpur- 1200**



**Kolkata- 100**



**Wardha- 200**





## Voices from the field



The slum soccer coach came and started delivering football sessions in my village. We didn't just play football but also made friends and learned about communication, problem solving, gender equality and more importantly menstrual hygiene. I always wanted to play football but my parents didn't allow me. But I would like to thank my coach Nilesh who helped me convince my parents. I will continue to play football for the rest of my life." Swarna Warthi, 13 years old



I feel proud of my daughter. Everyday she goes to play and bring home a question or topic to talk about during dinner. These topics are something that we don't normally talk about like Menstruation, gender equality, mental health etc. She is not only learning in the football sessions, but also teaching us at home. I feel that I am still in my school. Sports is important for everyone and all should allow their children to play" Sakshi Meshram -Mother of Nidhi Meshram.



# Case Study

## Rajeshwari Patil: Koradi's Pride

This is the story of Rajeshwari Patil, a 16-year-old hailing from the Koradi slums of Nagpur, who earned a spot in the first ever girls academy football team of Sudeva Delhi FC, a renowned football club in India's capital New Delhi.

A passionate and dedicated footballer, Rajeshwari plays as an attack-minded forward and follows the same go-getter philosophy in her life outside the pitch as well. "In the game I learned to be a good attacker and being an attacker I learned to replicate those attacking moves in my life too", says Rajeshwari.

Rajeshwari's tryst with football had begun in 2016, when she joined the Shakti Girls programme run by Slum Soccer. In the beginning, like many other girls, she was circumspect about playing football; a hesitancy imbibed from growing up in a society steeped in patriarchal, misogynistic, and conservative mores that seeks to place fetters on young girls. But soon enough, she fell in love with the sport and began dreaming of life as a footballer. Seeing her enthusiasm, we took it upon ourselves to convince her mother to allow her to continue playing. Her mother had finally relented but still posed restrictions like not allowing her to play with boys, to return home before it starts to get dark, only allowing her to play in the school not in the community etc. Rajeshwari, in her inimitable style, never let these restrictions stand in her way.

"When we kicked off the program in her school", says her coach Bhupesh Dahake, "she was shy and wouldn't talk with anyone. She would just listen to me and play with her teammates. I continued to encourage her. And she has not only built her confidence to speak but also to dream big".

Within a short span of time, Rajeshwari became a source of motivation for her teammates as she transformed herself into a confident footballer and a leader, through sheer determination and hard work. She represented her school (Smita Patil School, Koradi), in the inter-school division tournament in 2017 and reached the semi-finals. The loss was a bitter pill to swallow but the tournament had helped her gain something invaluable: experience and the knowledge of the game. The next year, in 2018, when Rajeshwari and her team returned to the pitch for the inter-school division tournament, there was no stopping them. They won the tournament and went on to play the divisional tournament. Rajeshwari was awarded the best player of the tournament which paved the way for her to be selected for the School Division State Championship in 2018.

Rajeshwari had blazed her way to these achievements at an incredible pace but life as a female athlete is never easy. Gender inequality is a deeply ingrained and a pervasive issue in our society. Women are often compelled to adhere to certain 'standards of appropriateness', which results in them having to abandon their career in sports even when they have been successful.



“Girls in India face many difficulties, cultural barriers including restriction to education and pursuing sports,” Rajeshwari explains. “As a result most girls are not given the opportunity to pursue sports.” She was shy but courageous and confronted the problems. On many occasions her mother tried to stop her from playing due to family and societal fear but she fought to not have to give up the sport. “During the practice she played with focus and if any player got the ball from her she would fight hard to retrieve it. I started to see a lot of changes in her quickly, while for others such development takes place in 2-3 years. I could see resilience, persistence and consistency in her as a player and an individual too,” says her Slum Soccer coach.

The dream of being a footballer didn't let Rajeshwari sleep. “I often stayed awake and would visualize myself playing with friends and scoring goals and help my team wins the matches and tournaments” says Rajeshwari with a smile on her face.

Unfortunately, there would be yet another challenge she would have to surmount before she could realize this dream: the COVID-19 pandemic.

Rajeshwari belongs to a single parent family, living in a single room house. Her father died of a heart attack when she was only 10 years old. Her mother works as a daily laborer in construction sites earning merely 300 rupees a day. This meager income would support their family but when the COVID-19 pandemic hit, their lives were toppled. It was during one of Slum Soccer's visits to check in on participants, that we came to know about Rajeshwari's perilous condition. In the absence of regular work, Rajeshwari and her mother didn't have adequate food. Moreover, given their inability to afford a phone and internet connection, there was little hope of Rajeshwari being able to continue her education. In these circumstances, Slum Soccer provided her with food ration kits and recourses to help her resume her studies.



Slowly, she returned to playing football and continued improving through constant training, until finally opportunity came knocking on her door. In 2021, we partnered with HCL Foundation to expand the Shakti Girls programme in Nagpur and support girls in chasing their dreams. That same year, she was selected for the winter camp held in Bangalore by the HCL Foundation. She impressed everyone with her brilliant performances which led her to get a call for the Sudeva Delhi FC trials in Delhi in December 2021.

“I participated in the trial and played like it was my last day playing. I came with hopefulness. I knew I would make it to the team” Rajeshwari. Her belief and zeal proved to be undeniable. At the end of the trial, Rajeshwari was selected!

When news of her selection reached her mother, she was worried at first because she had faced persistent challenges to allow Rajeshwari to play. When we visited Rajeshwari, her mother was sitting on a chair and waiting for someone to talk to. She shared all her concerns and fears. Eventually, what made her agree was her daughter’s dream to play. “I have never played any sports, nor firsthand experienced it,” said her mother, “but seeing my daughters enthusiasm and dedication, it has gradually become my passion too.”

Rajeshwari is well set to create the future she used to dream of. She wants to represent India and inspire girls to dream and support them in their journey. We hope to do whatever we can to help her in this mission!

# Gallery



# DeafKidz Goal!

DeafKidz Goal! the project is an innovative initiative by Slum Soccer in partnership with Dealkidz International ([www.dealkidzinternational.org](http://www.dealkidzinternational.org)) with the support of Comic Relief, aiming to provide deaf children with a state space to play, team and replicate the learning among their friends, parents, and communities. Under the program, deaf youth were trained and enabled by Slum Soccer to deliver football skills and football-games based life skills lessons to the deaf students and youngsters in their communication method of choice viz. Indian Sign Language (ISL). Through this methodology, Slumsoccer has not only ensured wholehearted participation of deaf children in sports but also taught them the importance of education, safety, health and hygiene, safe spaces, protection of their rights, safeguarding, basic life skills etc.

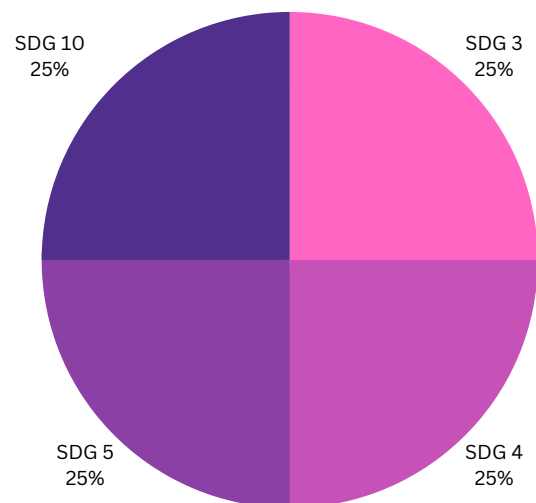
Slum Soccer also organized football tournaments where deaf participants played with as well as against their hearing counterparts. This served to boost the self-confidence of the deaf players and encourage their integration in the mainstream. Simultaneously, the hearing players got sensitized on deaf awareness and developed a healthy camaraderie with their deaf counterparts. The project has clearly illustrated the transformation in lives deaf adults who are provided with access to training as coaches, and deaf children are able to get coached in sign language taking into account cultural sensibilities in training delivery.



# Objectives

- 
 Train a cohort of deaf people to become coaches who will deliver life skills programs to marginalized deaf children through football
- 
 Foster the integration of deaf and hearing children to reduce the stigma/taboo relating to deafness.
- 
 Increase Deaf awareness amongst hearing children and community at a large scale
- 
 Navigating opportunities to play with hearing children by conducting football tournaments.

# Project Activities



SDG 3-Health & wellbeing	Health and Fitness, Health and Hygiene, cleanliness, Menstrual Health Management and Mental health
SDG 4-Quality Education	Access to education, access to life skills sessions, Child Rights, safety and protection
SDG 5- Gender Equality	Opportunity to play, Gender roles, discrimination against gender, Education, & Women's rights
SDG 10- Reducing Inequalities	Inclusion, diversity, integration


# Project Statistics



## Nagpur



**Total participants 90**



**36 parents**



**15 Youth leaders**



**5 Teachers**



**5 Coaches**



**Through the program we worked with 4 schools in Nagpur**



## Voices from the field



"My name is Amit Soni, I am a youth leader in DeafKidz Goal! program. I feel responsible today. I am teaching deaf children football and life skills, how to be safe and protected at home and community. After attending the youth leadership training program, I feel different in terms of thoughts and actions. Today, if I want to do something I don't think about anything and anyone, I just do it for me and others around me."



"Today Akshay is more active than ever before. He is planning and aspiring to do more. Apart from playing he is also coaching other deaf children. His leadership skill have improved dramatically and I am happy that he will be able to lead his life with courage and dignity. I was only able to talk do basic sign, but since I attended the Deaf awareness training by Slum Soccer, who is the force behind the change in Akshay, I am able to speak to him and solve my and his problems."



# Case Study

## Deaf youth's quest for leadership

This is the story of our protagonist, Vijaydas Dasariya, a 20 year old, who was one of the beneficiaries of the YLTP and has since been applying his learning from the program to inspire, encourage and motivate deaf children in his community to play football and strengthen their mental and physical wellbeing to face the emerging new normal post-COVID19.

Vijaydas hails from Kelwad, a remote town 50 km from Nagpur city. Both his parents have not attended school beyond 7th Standard. His father, who is the only earning member in the family, is a daily wage worker earning about 4 USD on days he gets work. This isn't enough to provide 2 square meals to his wife and 3 grown up children (Vijaydas has 2 elder brothers, both deaf too). It was unfortunate for Vijaydas's parents, a hearing couple, to have all their three children born deaf that too in a place where people are totally ignorant about parenting and nurturing deaf children. Moreover, no one in the village had any idea of Indian Sign Language (ISL). Born in such circumstances, it was almost certain that the 3 children would have been forced into child labor (instead of receiving education) so that their earnings would help the family to eke out a survival. But then every dark cloud has a silver lining. The fact that their children were deaf, forced Vijaydas's parents to send them away to a Government-run Deaf School. This proved to be a boon because it is here that the three brothers learnt sign language and got an education. More importantly, they learnt to communicate well amongst themselves and developed close bonds as siblings.





Vijaydas joined as participant of the DeafKidz Goal! program on coming to know about Slum Soccer's community football sessions for deaf CYP in October 2020 after the relaxation of lockdown restrictions. Vijaydas used to travel over 10 km by public transport to attend the DeafKidz Goal! football sessions at Savner. Many times, on not getting public transport, he would bicycle his way down in scorching sun or pelting rain. Noticing his active participation as well as his dedication and determination to learn and progress, Slum Soccer coaches selected him to undergo the YLTP held in Slum Soccer Academy at Bokhara, Nagpur in August, 2021.

Vijaydas was amongst 19 deaf youth who underwent the leadership training course specially designed for them and delivered in sign language. During the training not only did he impress everyone with his enthusiastic participation in all activities and his eagerness to understand various leadership concepts that were taught, but he also encouraged and supported his colleagues to participate whole heartedly and benefit from the training. He was invariably the first to seek clarifications and answer questions; he would willingly assist the coach or faculty in handling props and equipments; he would volunteer to lead in group activities. By the end of the training it was clearly evident from the zeal and confidence demonstrated by Vijaydas that we were witnessing the emergence of a youth leader who was ready and determined to lead and guide deaf children in his community at the end of the training. What we did not anticipate was the speed at which he would apply his skills in his personal life and among the deaf CYP of his community.

On returning home, he first exhorted his brothers to join DeafKidzGoal! Sessions. He convinced them the benefits from attending the session far outweighed the time and effort of arduous to and fro travel. He then went on to rope in other deaf children from his community to participate in the football events and activities.

The delight and pride of Shyam Raghuvanshi, Slum Soccer's deaf coach in charge of Savner community sessions knows no bounds as he narrates (he signs, actually) the reason behind it, "When we started Savner sessions, there were times I had to go to the participants' homes and call them for the sessions. At times I had to wait for as much as 30 minutes for them. On couple of occasions I had to even return without delivering the session. Ever since Vijaydas has returned from YLTP there is a sea change in him. On advice of Slum Soccer team I asked the participants to volunteer to assist me with the session. Vijaydas came forward and others agreed. There couldn't have been a better choice than Vijaydas. Within a month I started to see changes in the participants. I wondered what had happened to them and how they had become more responsible? On enquiring from them I came to know that Vijaydas rounds them up and keeps reminding them well before the scheduled time to reach the venue punctually. He is the one who brings the kit bag and does all the preparation for the sessions. He also shares my load of maintaining communication with parents for keeping them informed of various activities and developments. "

When we approached Vijaydas to know his perspective for the story he was a bit overwhelmed at the attention and importance. He told us that he wanted to pursue sports but his parents did not permit it partially because of their financial constrains and partially because they thought he was incapable due to his disability. Vijaydas has tears of happiness in his eyes when he tells us, "But for DeafKidzGoal I would have wasted my youth. Attending DKG sessions helped me immensely to recover from the trauma of isolation and uncertainty and engage in meaningful pursuits for improving my physical and emotional well-being. It gave me a new hope and a reason to look forward to the future. YLTP boosted my confidence and developed my self-worth. I realized that I have it in me to inspire and motivate many who, like my earlier avatar, had lost hope and lacked confidence to do something productive in life. Above all, I am thrilled that after being equipped with knowledge and skills of leadership, I have got a new identity. The word 'LEADER' is emblazoned on my jersey. With my new role as a leader in DKG sessions my sign name has changed to 'LEADER' and all my friends and colleagues refer to me by that sign name. The best part is that even my parents have started signing 'LEADER' when they want to draw my attention."

When asked his plans for the future, he replied with gravitas belying his young age, "I want to prove to the society to vest faith in our abilities and give us opportunities to learn and prove ourselves worthy. I would also like to continue encouraging more deaf children to adopt an active life, help them break the barrier of disability and bring new perspective in their parents mind." That is when we realized that we have created a worthy ambassador and a role model for the deaf who will inspire them to lead an active, healthy and meaningful life for shaping a better tomorrow for themselves. We wish him Godspeed in his life journey.

# Gallery



# Model City Delhi

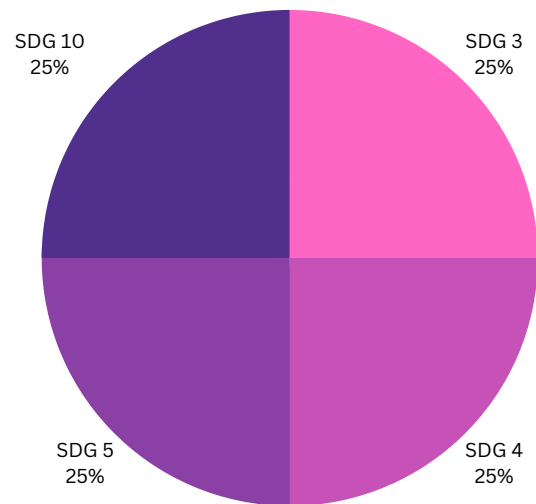
Delhi, despite being the national capital of India, has over 1.8 million people living in 22 slum areas with little access to basic amenities such as clean water, sanitation, roads, schools and other infrastructure. Women and girls, especially from marginalized and disadvantaged communities face further inequalities and violence due to discriminatory gender norms and roles. According to the scoping study conducted in 2019 by Pro Sport Development, backed by our grassroots research, Seemapuri, located in North East Delhi, has a number of social maladies and civic issues that are impairing the healthy growth and development of the younger generation. Salient amongst them are youth's addiction to tobacco, alcohol and other forms of substance abuse and also poor hygiene and sanitation. On average, 28.48% of the Focus Group Discussion mentioned in the scoping study revolved around the topic of substance abuse. Children growing up in unhygienic surroundings are at a higher risk of death and disease and are more likely to be chronically malnourished. Tragically, these effects are often passed on to offspring, trapping families in poverty and malnutrition for generations. It transpires that these two issues are in many ways the root causes of various other serious problems in the community such as sexual harassment, crime, violence, child marriage and lack of mobility, which directly impact women and girls. Even when viewed at a macro-level, the scoping study has starkly brought out the fact that North East Delhi, of which Seemapuri is a prominent part, scored highest in terms of depravity (a whopping 25% higher than its closest competitor) on the basis of identified factors.



# Objectives

- 
 Improving gender equality +health and hygiene practices and awareness using the potential of football among communities
- 
 Community members adopt and practice better health-seeking behaviors.
- 
 Improved access to public sanitation services for the community.
- 
 Enhance capacities of community-based implementing partners for better project management (planning, & implementation)

# Project Activities

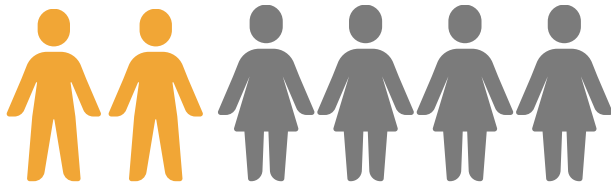


SDG 3-Health & wellbeing	Health and Fitness, Health and Hygiene, cleanliness, Menstrual Health Management and Mental health
SDG 4-Quality Education	Access to life skills sessions, Child Rights, safety and protection
SDG 5- Gender Equality	Opportunity to play, Gender roles, discrimination against gender, Education, & Women's rights
SDG 17- Partnership for the goals	Collaboration, partnership with government and local organization


# Project Statistics



## Delhi



**Total participants  
700**



**300 parents**



**30 Youth  
leaders**



**1 Community**



**12 Coaches**



## Voices from the field



"When Slum Soccer came to us, I felt like I could play football. I joined the team. I saw some astonishing changes taking place in the community. From girls coming out and playing football, to youth giving up addiction and playing football. We played football everyday and it wasn't just about playing but more than that. We learned about life skills, bad effects of drugs abuse, importance of education, and health and hygiene. Today, I feel safe to be in the community". Sidhdharth Joshi, a participant, MCD program



"It's a new experience for me as I'm very passionate about sports but I didn't know about Sports for Development. The concept of development through sports amazed me and I enjoy working with kids, helping them develop and grow with the help of sports which has power to change the world". Ashray Shukla, Project Coordinator in Seemparui community sports for good program.



## Case Study

# “Education is the only key to empowerment in my life” – Parveen

This is the story of Parveen, a 16 year old who was born and brought up in the urban slums of Seemapuri in Delhi. Her father, being a daily wage labourer, used to toil hard to put 2 square meals on the table for Parveen and her two elder siblings Abdul (23 y.o brother) and Nasreen (19 y.o sister). Things turned worse when her father was diagnosed with cancer. After prolonged illness her father died in 2008 . The burden of the family fell on her uneducated mother who started working as a maid to make ends meet and continue the education of the three children. When Parveen was 11 years old, her mother fell ill and died the following year leaving the three children orphans. Their education came to a halt.

When it came to the relatives giving shelter to the orphaned children, gender discrimination came into play. While Parveen’s brother was given shelter by his father’s family who were comparatively well-to-do, Parveen and her elder sister were dropped off at her maternal grandmother’s house, a widow living in poverty. Parveen and her elder sister could not continue their studies and took up menial jobs to support themselves and their poor, old and infirm grandmother. At the age when she needed to be looked after and was meant to attend school in her formative years, Parveen had no option but to become a child labour.



Due to not having parental guidance and care, Parveen and her sister had to face innumerable problems, being a girl child in a patriarchal, conservative and misogynist society, not having access to education, facing the danger of violence and abuse were just some of them. As a result, Parveen preferred remaining at home after work. This resulted in her becoming a recluse and consequently, her mental health deteriorated. On many occasions, she faced abuse both from within the relatives as well as at work place. What was most hurtful was that she and her sister had to face the baseless and frivolous character assassination of their parents by the community members.



In 2020, Slum Soccer along with its partner Laureus launched Model City Delhi, an innovative project for development of children and youth in the peri-urban slum area of Seemapuri, Delhi. The objective of this project is to create a network of leaders who would contribute to inculcating a positive mindset toward physical education in the low-income community. The modus-operandi of the project is to build resilient communities by developing empowered and aware youth leaders to promote the development and progress of children from underprivileged sections. Slum Soccer's youth leader (Sonam) identified Parveen as a potential participant and met her grandmother several times, but her grandmother refused every time more so as football was being used as an instructional instrument. However, after much persuasion by Sonam and assurance by Parveen that she would manage to participate in the project without it adversely affecting her job, Parveen's grandmother relented and Parveen joined this project of MCD in July 2021.

Parveen soon realised that she was not just taught to play football but also empowered with basic life skills and awareness about various issues such as health and hygiene, nutrition, addiction which are necessary to lead a good life. More importantly, she found a safe place where she could express herself amongst her peers and emulate the positive attributes of Slum Soccer coaches who she had started treating as her role models. She soon regained her joie de vivre. She could identify the various solutions to her problems and the pathways to a better life. Sonam, her Slum Soccer coach inspired her to take up vocational training and got her admitted to an institute to learn tailoring so that she could earn well and lead a dignified life.

Parveen says "Thanks to MCD, Slum Soccer and Laureus, I have found the direction to a brighter future. I have learnt a lot and received meaningful education from my coaches without even going to school. Today I feel safe and empowered. Attending the sessions made me realize the importance of education and how it shapes the future. I am planning to resume my formal schooling shortly with the help of my Slum Soccer coaches.

# Gallery



# Community Impact

"Community impact program" has been designed to address SDG 3 'Health and Wellbeing' - SDG 5 'Gender Equality' - SDG 6 - Clean water and Sanitation and SDG 10- Reducing Inequalities among children and youth from underprivileged communities rendered highly vulnerable in post-Lockdown environment in from 3 different cities such as Nagpur, Wardha and Yavatmal. The exclusively designed curriculum catering to the urgent needs of the beneficiaries consists of a total 64 football based sessions on various topics such as physical and mental health, gender equality, menstrual health management, and sanitation and hygiene spread over an 12 months period. Additionally, the project also offers several fair play football tournaments and workshops on physical and mental health, gender equality, menstrual health management and sanitation and hygiene.

The project aims to provide the desired solutions by drawing upon conclusive research that suggests that sports, learning pursuits and connecting with outdoors contribute significantly to improvement in physical fitness and feel-good factor and result in reduction of stress, anxiety, and feelings of depression. The project also aims to select 10 youth participants from 4 cities with potential and willingness to engage and educate children from the communities and become role models after undergoing 2 youth leadership training programs during the project implementation.



# Objectives

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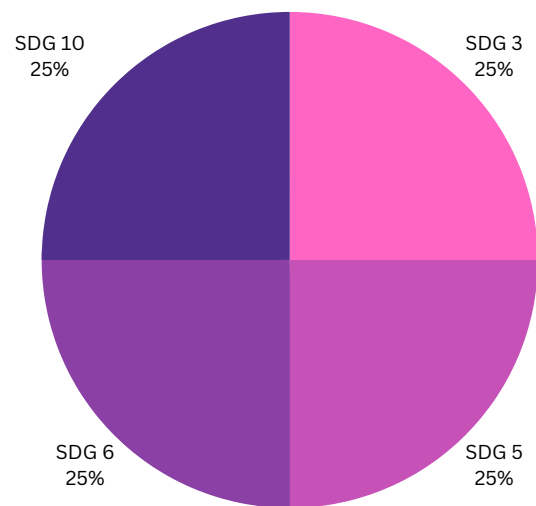
To improve the physical and mental well being of girls and boys through football activities and workshops.
- 

To increase awareness of girls about menstrual health management and inculcate best practices to be adopted during this period
- 

To increase awareness of girls & boys about sanitation and hygiene and equip them with best practices and hygiene behaviours
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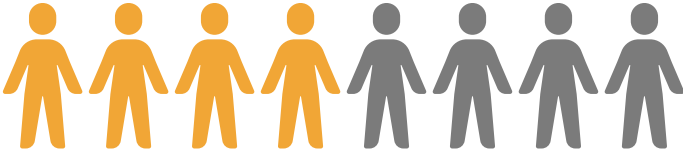
To promote gender equality and equal rights through Fair Play football tournaments

# Project Activities



SDG 3-Health & wellbeing	Health and Fitness, Health and Hygiene, cleanliness, Menstrual Health Management and Mental health
SDG 5-Gender Equality	Opportunity to play, Gender roles, discrimination against gender, Education, & Women's rights
SDG 6- Clean Water & sanitation	Clean water, Sanitation
SDG 10- Reducing Inequalities	Inclusion, Diversity, Communal Harmony.

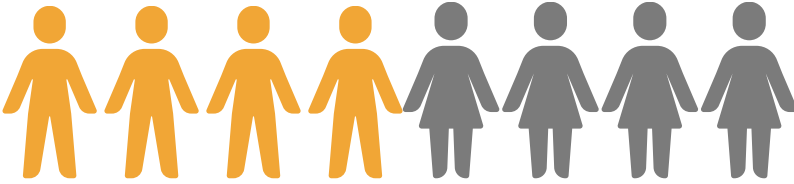
# Project Statistics



**Total participants -  
1500**



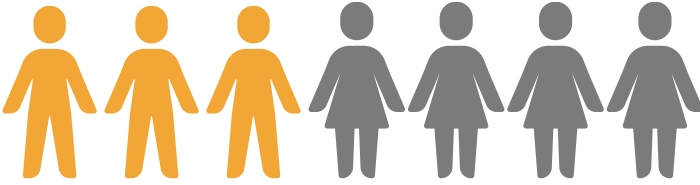
**Nagpur- 1050**



**Wardha- 250**



**Yavatmal-200**



**Through the program we worked with  
15 communities across 3 locations.**



## Voices from the field



"I used to play but unstructured sports. I didn't have any idea of being healthy or have to wash hands with soap and that too for 20 seconds using 7 steps. I am so happy that I not only got structured sports but also learned more than just about hygiene. I play football with girls understood their perspective and problems they face and helped them feel the same part of the community. I played 4 football tournaments this year" Santosh Baske, a participant.



"Slum Soccer Community Impact program has made a positive impact on the lives of children and youth in my community. They are not only playing well but also behaving appropriately. Earlier the ground was used for gambling, and smoking, leaving unsafe for children and girls to play but today I am happy to share that it is used for productive activities like football training and tournaments. Thanks to Slum soccer and coaches" Village head,



# Gallery



# Pitch for Progress

“Pitch for Progress” schools based program aims to provide a development pathways for children from 10 schools age between 11 and 15 years from Nagpur by identifying, training and nurturing the latent and emerging sports talent and enable their transition into better sportspersons capable of participating at higher competitive levels to their full potential.

The project has been envisaged for 12 months duration. In the short term, the project provided access to participants aged between 11 and 15 years from schools of Nagpur to participate in grassroots sports (Football, Volleyball, Kabaddi, Athletics) activities in schools. In the mid-term we have identified a group of players who demonstrated the potential and promise participants and provided them structured football coaching by professional and qualified coaches to improve their football skills, techniques, and tactics. We are preparing the selected team for higher competition by organizing tournaments for them and facilitate their participation in competitive tournaments held at local, regional and national levels. In the long term the players would become role models for the youth by encouraging them to take up the task of promotion of sports, create a culture of sports and development of their respective communities thereby creating a sustainable ecosystem.



# Objectives

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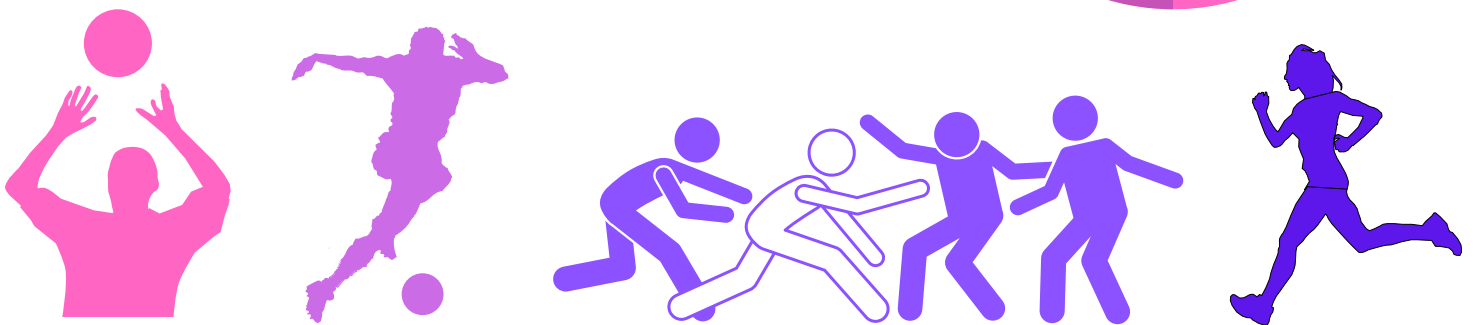
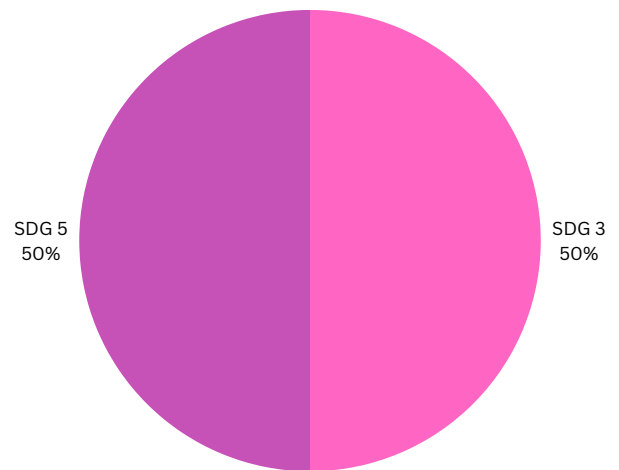
To identify, train, and nurture grassroots sports talent emerging from the project participants.
- 

To develop & nurture a cohort of next generation sportsmen through professional coaching and regimented training
- 

To provide competitive exposure to the team and a platform to showcase their talent in various tournaments and levels.
- 

Mentor the participants & impart basic life skills to them through involvement of HCL volunteers to broaden their learning horizon,

# Project Activities



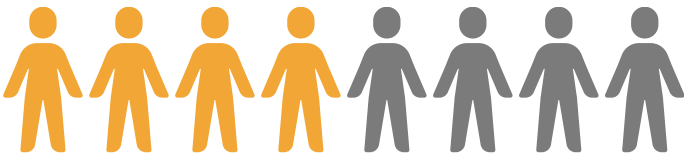
SDG 3-Health & wellbeing

Health and Fitness, Health and Hygiene, and Nutrition

SDG 5-Gender Equality

Opportunity to play, Gender roles, discrimination against gender, Education, sports for all

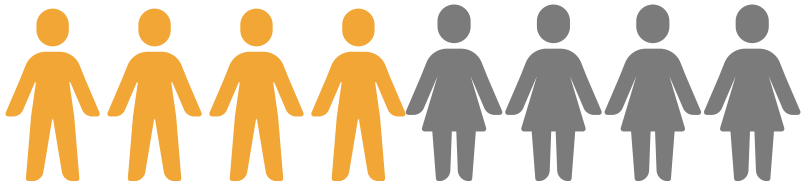
# Project Statistics



**Total participants -  
1500**



**Nagpur- 1500**



**Through the program we worked with  
22 schools across Nagpur.**

## Voices from the field



"The Pitch for progress program gave me an opportunity to lead in various games and I was able to give all my team members an equal and fair chance to participate in the game. This helped me understand how treating everyone equally contributes to the progress of the game."



"I feel so happy everyday, when I see these children out on the field and playing sports. Today, many children want to pursue sports and become athletes. Education was everything in my school, we never participated in any DSO competition, this was our first time. The Pitch for progress program has helped the school, make sports important and routine of everyday " a teacher of one of the interventional schools.



## Case Study

One of the major barriers to play and pursue sports is lack of opportunities and safe spaces for girls. Many girls whether it is rural or urban communities, kill their desires and stay home. Sanjana Khare, 14 years old, from Madhyamik School, is one of the girls who wished to play football but her circumstances didn't allow her to pursue her dream. Traditionally girls are supposed to be at home and look after household chores. Consequently, she had never been introduced to any sports but household chores unfailingly.



Despite coming from an economically backward family, with very limited resources, she has shown tremendous growth and why not she has been one of the most disciplined students - who comes before time for practice, and starts practicing when everybody waits for the coaches to come. When asked what she wants to be, "I want to be the captain of my team" she exclaimed.

With her desires, and dedication, she became the captain of the U-14 teams that participated in the schools division tournaments for the first time. We witness the true meaning of leadership and leader leading from the front. She scored 2 goals in the first match and help team win the match. She encouraged the team to strive for good, performed to the level best. Sanjana, tried hard in the second match to score but couldn't do so and her team lost the match. But what they won was each other trust and got the inspiration and something to look forward to - Next years tournament!

The football sessions in her school have not only helped her build confidence and communication, but has also given her a pathway to pursue her dream of representing her school and becoming a National player. "I want to win the school division tournament this year and make my school and family proud of myself and my team". "HCL Uday- Pitch for Progress" program has made her realize and pursue her dream.

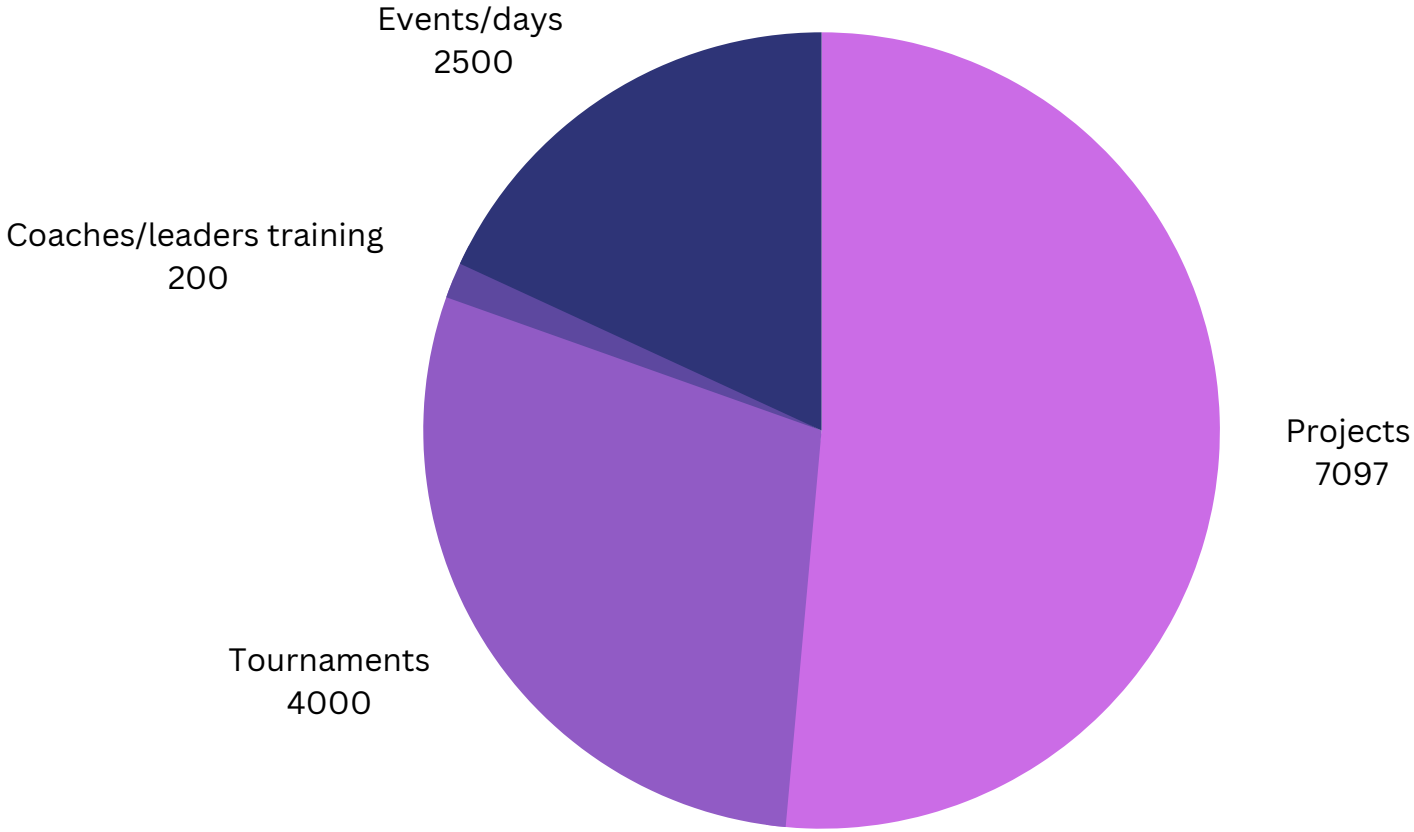
# Gallery





# Outreach

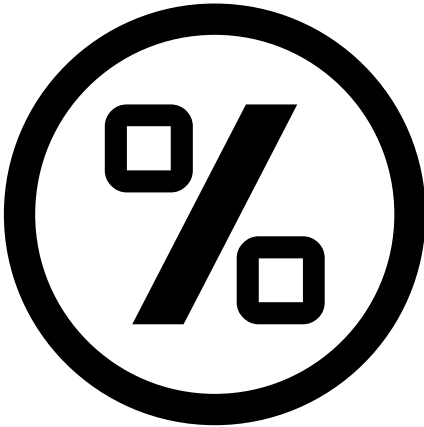
## Slum Soccer in 2022



**13797**



**47%**



**53%**

# Awards and Accomplishments



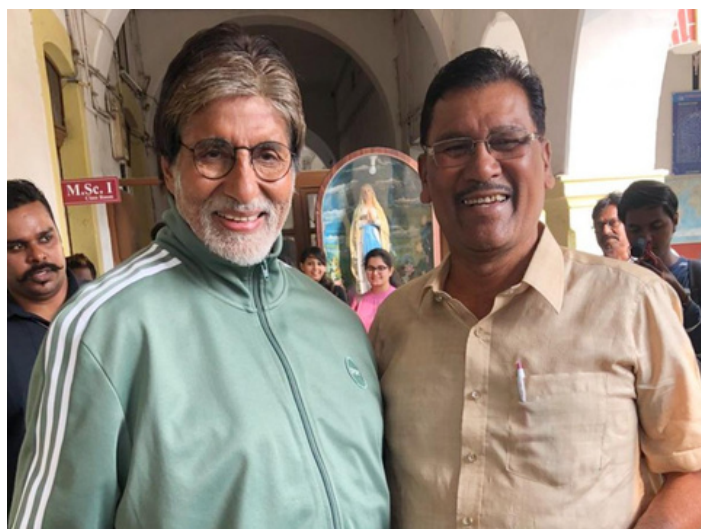
## WFS "Football for good" 2022

Slum Soccer won the prestigious WFS "Football for Good" Award 2022 for its innovative and inclusive DeafKidzGoal! project being implemented in Nagpur.



## Amazing Indian Award 2022

Slum Soccer, Founder, Prof. Vijay Barse was honoured with 'The Times Now Amazing Indians Award 2022' in 'Slum Care' category.



## Jhund in theater

"Jhund" a Bollywood movie starring Amitabh Bachchan, based on the life of our founder Prof. Vijay Barse and how he used football to bring about a change in the lives of children and youth, was released in theater in March 2022.



## Social Impact award

Our DeafKidz Goal! program, an innovative initiative to empower deaf children and young people using football as a tool, was shortlisted for the social Impact award 2022 by SPJIMR

# Events and Days

**January**

**Inter-village Football Tournament**

**17-19 February**

**Youth Leadership Training**

**February**

**Health Check up camps**

**March**

**Shakti Girls Tournament & IWD**

**March-April**

**State Inclusion Cup**

**March**

**Jhund movie release**

**May**

**Shakti girls tournament**

**May**

**Menstrual Hygiene Day**

**May**

**District Level sports competition**

**June -August**

**Nagpur Slum Soccer League**

**August**

**Global Day of play**

**August**

**National Sports Day**

# Events and Days

**September**

**International peace day**

**September**

**International day of girl child day**

**October**

**Inter-community Football Tournament**

**October**

**Andre Villas Bose visit to Delhi**

**November**

**National Children's Day**

**December**

**Digital Literacy Day**

**December**

**Human rights Day**



# Partners and affiliations



## Way Forward

Slum Soccer has always worked with the aim of reaching out to the Indian homeless using football as a tool for social improvement and empowerment. Slum Soccer began based on the simple philosophy 'Football for All'. Most organizations working with the sport as a change agent emphasize development through sport as their focus. Slum Soccer too has ensured that community development is the key and the same could be achieved through this wonderful game of Football. Also, it cannot be denied that the game of football is enriched and Slum Soccer richly contributes to the popularity of the game while we take the same to the doorsteps of youngsters who are deprived of opportunities to play the game. Over the years Slum Soccer has functioned focusing on its original objective of reaching out to and developing football in the grassroots. Simple sessions started in the community have brought in a great leap towards the growth of the organization which has brought in full-fledged football coaching camps.

life skills sessions coupled with social themes, endless opportunities in football for the underprivileged, educational and healthcare workshops and societal development programs that have brought in a positive influence to the lives of nearly 14,000 men, women, and children in over 24 states all around the country. While there is a sense of satisfaction at what we have achieved so far, we feel that our work has just begun and we have a long way to go. In addition to the large community of stakeholders that Slum Soccer has been associated with like participants, teachers, parents, school authorities, local leaders, etc.

Slum Soccer believes that it will achieve greater heights with the support of all its partner organizations, civic bodies, individuals and the community by large. We wish to acknowledge all like minded friends and well-wishers who have paved the way to progress towards achieving greater milestones during this year. We are marching confidently towards the field for a 'New Kick Off' with a mission to "change lives through football".