



**ACORN-SOSVA ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24**

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Desk

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# From The Director's Desk

Dear Friends,

It is with a sense of pride and accomplishment that we share the strides made by ACORN and SOSVA in enriching the lives of the underserved in the Dharavi community. Our journey through the year has been marked by significant milestones. We completed the British Council project, which culminated in the release of their collected works, "Waste Works..The Art Of Survival In Dharavi".It documents a long term project about waste, work and survival in the city of Mumbai. It paved the way for us to embark on other ventures, such as the EdelGive SOSVA Dharavi School Music Project.

Our work in the education sector, particularly with six schools in Dharavi, has been another testament to our adaptive capabilities. The growth of our Dharavi Rocks band members from students into trainers, some returning to their alma maters to teach, has been nothing short of inspiring. Through their dedication, a new cohort of students is now ready to carry the mantle of the Dharavi Rocks band.

Our engagement with education for adolescent girls, focusing on essential life skills as well as such as hygiene and nutrition, has also served as a learning experience for our staff. Tackling the sensitive topic of menstrual health, despite initial reservations, has led to one of our most successful campaigns, breaking the silence and spreading awareness across schools in Mumbai.

We are grateful to all our partners whose unwavering support has been instrumental in our endeavours, with a special mention to St. Xavier's Technical College, Mahim, for providing a nurturing space for the children of the Basti to learn and grow. The introduction of Python coding classes and access to a computer lab has opened new horizons for our students,.

The Food for Plastic project stands as a beacon of our collective efforts, with over 80 women actively participating and contributing to a sustainable future. This initiative not only addresses environmental concerns but also empowers the women of our community.

As we look ahead, we are filled with optimism and a renewed commitment to drive positive change. Together, we will continue to build on these foundations, fostering a community that thrives on education, empowerment, and sustainability.

Warm regards,  
Adv Vinod Shetty  
Honoray .Director and Founder  
ACORN Foundation, Mumbai

## INTRODUCTION

## ABOUT US

Acorn Foundation (India) is a registered non-profit public trust founded by Advocate Vinod Shetty. Beginning in 2008, The foundations flagship program 'Dharavi Project' has been working for the welfare of waste collectors, waste recyclers and their families who live in Compound Tera in Dharavi.

Beginning in 2023, ACORN Foundation has partnered with SOSVA (Society for Service to Voluntary Agencies) as their supporting partners.

The Society for Service to Voluntary Agencies (SOSVA) is a non-profit organization that is registered as a charitable trust with 80G and FCRA registration. SOSVA was founded in 1984 by the late Mr. V Srinivasan (retd I.A.S) with the aim to support the non-profit sector through training, technical support, volunteer promotion, and projects in education, health, and livelihood. SOSVA's Voluntary Action (VOLACT) project promotes volunteerism and partners with civil society organizations, government, and corporates in public health and education.

Together, SOSVA + ACORN have launched a number of initiatives and built multiple local partnerships with corporates, brands and volunteers for our cause in Dharavi. Our work includes- Education, Music, Training, *Empowerment of waste-recyclers, and other community support*

**In this report, we share with you the triumphs of our initiative, the achievements of our community members and the learnings from our work across the sectors.**



# Introduction



ACORN Foundation is affiliated with ACORN International which was founded in 2004 serves to support local community-based organisations (CBO's) across the developing world. Currently CBO's with ACORN international work directly and with affiliates in over 15 countries including India. Their goal is to trigger change from the grassroots level by empowering the community through a democratic approach.

ACORN Foundation India is a community-based organisation, affiliated with ACORN International, and focuses on empowering the ragpickers /recyclers community within Dharavi.

# About Us : ACORN Foundation



An aerial photograph of the Dharavi slum in Mumbai, India. The slum is divided into several distinct colored zones: a large pink area at the top, a yellow area in the middle-left, a purple area in the middle-right, and a red area at the bottom-left. The surrounding urban landscape is visible, including roads and other buildings.

## INTRODUCTION

## WHERE WE WORK

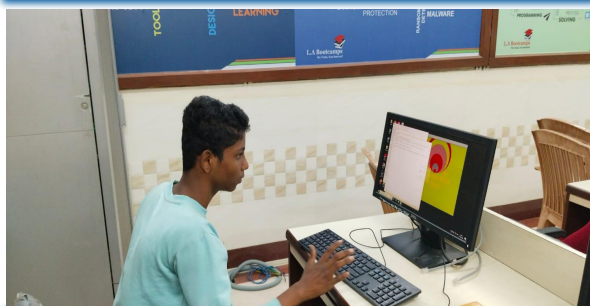
Dharavi is one of Asia's largest informal settlements and home to 1 million people. It is spread over approximately 2.5 square kms or 600 acres of land in the heart of Mumbai, located between Mahim, Matunga, Sion and Bandra Kurla Complex. Due to its proximity to some of the most expensive real estate in India, like the Bandra Kurla Complex, its potential real estate value is immense.

Sector 13 better known as Compound Tera, is an area bordered by the Mahim Railway tracks on one side and the upcoming Metro tunnel on the other. It is known as the recycling district of Mumbai where daily thousands of tonnes of waste is recycled 12x7 in every nook and corner. ACORN fights for the rights of the hardworking people sorting waste, they work long hours in hazardous conditions. Their primary goal being to educate their children with the frugal means and resources they have. It is here that ACORN Foundation has found its cause with the working people of Mumbai.

Together, with the Dharavi community members, we work to bring recognition, safety and opportunities to the most vulnerable families in the district. ACORN Foundation is a catalyst for change, transforming the lives of Dharavi Residents and proving that positive social impact is achievable even in the most challenging environments.



**The Adolescent Girls Health and Hygiene Initiative** has reached out to 500 plus girls between the ages of 12-16 years in Dharavi, bringing about a significant improvement in their knowledge regarding menstruation



**Education-** in the year 2023-24, we have conducted over 150 English tutorial classes, 50 Mental Maths Tutorials, 45 Emotional well being through creative arts classes. The children have learnt Yoga, Guitar, Mandala art, Origami. The highlight has been the Python Coding classes for students of middle school.

## The Year at a Glance



**Dharavi Rocks** the extraordinary music band that defies conventions comprising of underprivileged children from Dharavi, performed at over 15 events in the year 2023-24. The band members are training students from Dharavi schools under the School Music Project



To empower the students of Dharavi with a form of expression, a livelihood path, and an engaging fun outlet through musical training, we started **"The Dharavi School Music Project** in 5 schools in Dharavi.



**Our Food4Plastic** initiative empowering women waste collectors has grown to a collective benefitting 86 women., and they have collected, segregated and recycled 270 tons of Plastic waste.

# OUR KEY AREAS OF WORK WITH RECYCLERS AND MIGRANT WORKERS

ACORN's presence in Dharavi has been since 2008. Currently we are working with 1000 Acorn members who are waste recyclers and migrant workers.

## ❑ Recycling

One of the major programs of the organization focuses on the recycling district, known as Tera Compound. Through our involvement in the recycling industry, we work with the waste collectors, waste segregators and small recyclers. ACORN has been conducting waste management campaigns in Mumbai since 2008.

## ❑ OUTREACH

We also run ACORN clubs in private schools such as American School Bombay, Oberoi International School, Dhirubhai Ambani School and large corporate offices such as Bloomberg. Through our linkages we ensure a steady supply of recyclables to this sector.

## ❑ ADVOCACY

We recognise the waste collector as a green collared worker whose contribution to the environment needs to be recognised.. WE advocate for Policy On Housing, Education, Health, and Women's rights and labour protection laws, occupational hazards, and pollution in the recycling workshops. The work of the waste collectors and recyclers is being highlighted as critical stakeholders in the circular economy of the waste industry

# Our Approach

## ❑ Service Based

Ensuring access of migrant workers and their families to Urban Poor Schemes of the State and Central Governments, by helping them with their documentation. We ran community kitchens during the COVID-19 pandemic. We distribute food, dry rations, and bread to migrant workers, and women waste pickers and their children.

-Before the onset of monsoons, we support the repair of houses, and distribution of Tarpaulin sheets and Cement sheets and distribution of raincoats and waterproof footwear.

## ❑ Rights Based

We work to ensure that the fruits of the Constitution reach the poorest of the poor. Creating decent housing for the informal migrant workers. Imparting health, education to their children, like Menstrual Hygiene awareness classes to adolescent girls and ensuring hygienic sanitation facilities. Our aim is to improve the quality of life of migrant workers through civic and social interventions in the community.

## ❑ Community Focus

With our focus to work with the grassroot community members, we have empowered adolescent girls, upgraded skills, improved job opportunities for youth, provided nutrition and food to informal workers, promoted financial inclusiveness for mothers and senior members of the community and helped sustain income linkages for waste recyclers in the circular economy of the waste industry.



# ADVOCACY



1



2



3

**GIRLS LEARNING AND LEADERSHIP PROGRAM**  
गर्ल्स लर्निंग एंड लीडरशिप प्रोग्राम

The Journey of Reader to Writer  
**'Own account stories'**

पाठक से लेखक तक का सफर  
**'खुद की कहानी'**

Visit Us at:  
India Social Forum,  
Room No.-5,  
3 December,  
Morning -9.30-11.00

More Info  
+91 95996 79654

World Social Forum, Kathmandu, Nepal  
15th - 19th Feb, 2024

**Speakers**

- Mr. Wade Rathke, United States
- Ms. Judy Duncan, Canada
- Ms. Emma Saunders, Scotland
- Mr. Dharmendra Kumar, India
- Adv. Vinod Shetty, India
- Dr. Muhammad Mukhtar Alam, India
- Mr. Abul Hossain, Bangladesh

**JOIN**

Activity 1 Platform Economy : Emerging Issues and Way Forward  
Date : 16th Feb, 2024 | Time : 11:30 to 13:00

Activity 2 Informal Workers : Ensuring Social Security for All  
Date : 17th Feb, 2024 | Time : 11:30 to 13:00

Activity 3 Housing Rights for All : Homelessness for None  
Date : 17th Feb, 2024 | Time : 15:45 to 17:35

+91 9304218610 Kathmandu, Nepal @gigwaindia@gmail.com | hawkersjac@gmail.com

## PEOPLE'S ADVOCACY- EMPOWERING THE MARGINALIZED

1. Conference on Empowering Women's Leadership in Working People's Coalition. A few of the topics discussed were-Relationship between women's movement and labour movement, issues and challenges of women workers, concept of feminist leadership: what it means.
2. The People's 20 Assembly held in New Delhi, Aug'23 issued a call to G20 leaders to address several urgent demands. This event brought together representatives from Global Civil Society to collectively voice their demands.
3. Meeting to discuss Housing Policy in Maharashtra. The meeting was attended by Mr. Gurbir, P.K. Das and Adv. Vinod Shetty. We gave our suggestions on the issues faced by lower income housing residents . Meeting was attended by reps from E & Y consultants to the Govt on housing. We have been asked to submit our points in writing, for discussion before the next meeting.
4. India Social Forum- Dec'23
5. World Social Forum- Feb'24- With sustainability, dignity, co- existence, equality, and equity becoming the much needed elements in today's world of neo-liberalism, climate catastrophe, armed conflict and globalization, the World Social Forum with the motto "Another world is possible" held its conference in Nepal from 15th-19th February. Hony. Director of ACORN Foundation, Mr. Vinod Shetty was one of the speakers at the Forum.



# OUR PROJECTS

# FOOD4PLASTIC

- ❖ As part of our mission is to empower women, ACORN + SOSVA has set up the infrastructure and resources to drive the project. In order to incentivize the waste collectors of Dharavi, we provide dry ration worth Rs.5 to every kg of plastic collected by the members numbering 87, of the women's collective. The project has provided them with a stable source of income, as well as nutritious food that contributes to their good health and well-being.. The project has also supported the development of innovative products made from recycled plastic, such as musical instruments, furniture, and art pieces<sup>1</sup>



## Collection and segregation of plastic waste

- ❖ Our women's collective members collect, segregate and recycle plastic waste on a daily basis. The documentation of the waste collection activities is done at the point of sale. Our trained staff maintains daily records of individual members' collection of plastic.
- ❖ Dry ration kits are distributed to the members of the waste collective, as per their collection credit.
- ❖ In the year 2023-24, our women waste collectors collected and segregated 270 plus tonnes of plastic waste.



# ACORN + SOSVA -Initiatives to Empower the Green Warrior's of Dharavi



- ❖ Dry ration kits are distributed to the members of the waste collective, as per their collection credit. SOSVA staff maintain records of the daily collection of plastic waste.

The Dry Ration consists of daily dietary requirements and hygiene products.

We have distributed over 1500 loaves of bread to the women waste pickers in 12 months.

Tarpaulin sheets ,cement sheets and raincoats have been provided under the Roof Repair Project at the onset of Monsoons.

All Women waste pickers have been provided with Individual ID cards.



# The Recycling Project



**Environmental impact:** The recycling project has collected and recycled over hundreds of tons of dry waste since 2008. This has prevented the plastic from ending up in landfills, oceans, or incinerators, where it would cause pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, and health hazards. The project has also promoted the concept of Plastic Neutrality which leads to offsetting the plastic footprint by supporting the campaign for plastic waste reduction and reusing and recycling.

## Collection Linkages.

Every month ACORN waste collectors collect paper and plastic waste from schools, offices in Mumbai. This ensures a steady supply of dry waste to the members of the ACORN Community. In exchange of the recyclables collected from the institutions we conduct educational workshops to inculcate best recycling practises.

**Dry waste collection 2023-24 : 3088kgs**



# ACORN + SOSVA Initiatives to Empower the Green Warrior's of Dharavi

ACORN + SOSVA conducts monthly sessions for the women's collective to motivate them and address their concerns.

These group meetings comprise of women waste collectors, homemakers, small unit workers, all from different backgrounds and occupations .The meeting is organised by our community staff at the Dharavi Community centre.The topics range from health and education to sanitation and safety. The women share their experiences, challenges and aspirations, and also learn from each other's perspectives and solutions. The meeting is a platform for them to voice their opinions, raise their concerns and look at possible solutions. The women have expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to network and support each other in their endeavors.

These sessions are conducted by our staff and volunteers.



**Health and Wellness session** conducted by Dr. Shreya Agrawal(PH.D. IIT), research scientist,certified nature cure expert and a seasoned speaker on healthy lifestyle,body mind balancing and sustainability.



**Creating awareness and pride** for their work.

## TESTIMONIES



Rajamma ,80 years lives alone in a shanty in Dharavi. She fend for herself at her advanced age by collecting and segregating plastic waste. Abandoned by her family,Rajamma must depend on waste collection for her livelihood.

ACORN + SOSVA has given her a sense of belonging in the community of waste collectors. We celebrate Rajamma's struggle against adversity.



Anjali, 20 years, has been working as a waste collector from a very young age. Anjali has managed to study till the 10th standard, but had to take up waste collection from the streets due to her vulnerable family situation.The work of waste collection gives her flexibility of time during the day, so as to fulfill her family obligations and earn a living. Anjali takes care of her disabled mother and 3 siblings and is a sole bread earner of the family..

# EDUCATION INITIATIVES



WATER BOT TLE

1	2	3	4
WA	TER	BOT	TLE
1n	2n	3n	4n
WA WA	TER TER	BOT BOT	TLE TLE
1e+	2e+	3e+	4e+
WA WA WA	TER TER TER	BOT BOT BOT	TLE TLE TLE
1e+a	2e+a	3e+a	4e+a
waterbottle	waterbottle	waterbottle	waterbottle





The children of Dharavi face many challenges, including access to education and proper nutrition.

The ACORN Community centre serves as an alternative school and library for the children in the community where various classroom activities are conducted for underserved children. The classes focus on emotional well-being through the medium of creative arts, Yoga, Dance, Music, Origami and Mandala art, English and mathematics.

ACORN conducts an evening class at The Xaviers Technical Institute, Mahim on weekdays where the children are taught various subjects through innovative ways. The English classes are taught through the medium of Sudoku so as to make the classes more interesting. ACORN + SOSVA has also provided a nutritious meal to the children after every class, it has also distributed raincoats during the monsoon season. These classroom activities are conducted by expert Volunteers and Educators.



## EDUCATION INITIATIVES



### ARTSCAPES

Artsapes is an organization specializing in conducting expressive arts workshops for the emotional well-being of children.

Artscape class held for the children of Dharavi-Children give form and colour to their emotions like anger, sadness, jealousy, calmness and happiness- Teaching children to identify and channelise their emotions through creative art. These classes are conducted twice a month on tuesdays

### PYTHON CODING CLASSES

Our daily evening classes in St. Xavier Technical College, Mahim, has ensured that the children from the Dharavi community who would otherwise have no access, receive training in computer skills.

Topics like Coding for multiple circles and colours, Coding to convert Indian Rupees in to Euro, Coding for division in python, Coding for random numbers have been covered. These are thrice a week classes.

### PARTICIPATORY ART

Mandala Art and Warli Art classes  
Art becomes a healing balm for stressed young minds. Through drawing, painting, and other creative activities, kids express their emotions, fears, and joys. Art becomes their voice when words fall short. Our students have been taught Mandala Art and Warli art by skilled volunteers and they have been able to inculcate the art very well. These are once a week classes.

## EDUCATION INITIATIVES



### DANCE CLASS

Beginning of Jan'24, weekly dance classes are being conducted for the children at the ACORN community centre by "The Victory Arts Foundation" teaching them hip-hop and bollywood style dance. The children are enjoying themselves and also learning a skill.



### THE YOUNG TECH ENTREPRENEURS PROGRAM

35 students from marginalised communities of Dharavi schools got the opportunity to attend a week long boot camp introducing them to the world of Robotics and Artificial Intelligence.

- them access to online digital education, They learnt design, building, operating and assembling of Robots
- State of the Art Technology and its use in daily life.
- They were also given a certification by IIT Delhi, one of India's premier Engineering Institute

### Impact :

We held over 100 English and 50 Mental Maths tutorials approximately;

- 200 creative workshops reaching out to over 30 -40 children per session. 80-85% of whom are regular attendees of our sessions. These included daily tutorials in English and Mathematics and weekly training in music, art, dance and coding classes.
- Through the ACORN + SOSVA scholarship fund, we are educating five promising young girls. The fund looks after their school fees, uniforms and textbooks.

**Change :** Overall students from our community centre have been able to perform better at school and have showed improved confidence and communication skills. The creative workshops allow kids to be just that-kids. They come create, read and play The creative art becomes an outlet for suppressed emotions. They are also better able to express their emotions and participate in group activities.

## EDUCATION INITIATIVES



## VOLUNTEERING IN ACTION

On an ongoing basis ACORN has had volunteers visiting from American School of Bombay, SOSVA and Transworld. With the American School we have 2 ongoing programs;

**The ASB High School Club Activity**-Every week 10-15 children from our community engage with students from ASB .These children of Dharavi are mostly slum dwellers. and live in illegal housing units with few utilities and social exclusion. With our collaborative programmes with American School , Bombay, they get an opportunity to experience various sports and creative activities such as basketball, football, art and craft, solve the maze etc.

**The ASB Middle School CSR Activity** at the Dharavi Community centre- The middle school students of ASB have visited our Dharavi Community centre in batches. In their visits the students have been introduced to the junk band , Dharavi Rocks which is a testimony of ACORN's commitment to recycling and waste management over the years, These activities have helped break down the communication hesitations between children from different economic strata.

Here's what some of the ASB students had to say about their visit –

*“I learned about the large effect even one small plastic bottle can have. I promise to be more mindful of the plastic waste I create and to discourage my family from using plastic bottles.”*

*“My highlight from today's visit to the Acorn Foundation was the drumming activity. I wish to go back and do more of it, and to learn about creating music from waste.”*

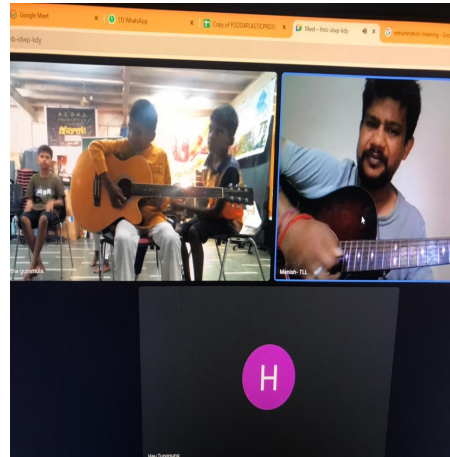
# EDUCATION INITIATIVES



Final year research students from Erasmus School of Economics, Netherlands visit the garment dying unit in Compund Tera for their research work.



Mandala Art Volunteer



Guitar Class by Transworld Volunteer

# VOLUNTEERING IN ACTION

- **Roof Repair Initiative.** ACORN is hosting an initiative with the American School, where students visit the community to assess the requirements and cost of repairing the roof of the homes in the community. Then developing innovative solutions and raising the resource funds to repair the roofs before the monsoons.
- **Transworld and SOSVA.** Every few weeks, volunteers from the two organization conduct educational, creative and art workshops for the children at the community center. These sessions are particularly focused on enabling children to aid in their literacy journey and equip them with the tools to maintain their emotional well-being.
- **Student Volunteers-** Over the years ACORN has encouraged and worked with many research students linked to waste management. This year too we had students doing their post research internship with the community.



## EDUCATION INITIATIVE



Our education initiative remains incomplete without mentioning about the contribution made by Ms. Diana Dhote, Trustee, ACORN and President, SOSVA.

After completing an illustrious career in the financial sector , post retirement she has immersed herself in carrying forward her mothers rich legacy in education and made many causes in this field. She's also a certified personal counsellor holding a post grad diploma in psychology.

Post retirement,

Ms. Dhote actively supports our evening classes in St. Xaviers Technical College, Mahim. She uses innovative and creative ways to engage the children in her classes. She has been instrumental in spreading our network of good and bought many donors to support our cause of education and they are providing for scholarship to the students.

# THE EDELGIVE SOSVA DHARAVI MUSIC EDUCATION PROJECT



**The Project** was started with the intent of empowering the students of Dharavi with a form of expression, a livelihood path, and an engaging fun outlet through musical training. By bringing the creative arts training otherwise inaccessible to them, to instill in the students a positive mindset and improved confidence in their learning abilities.

The project is operational in 6 schools in Dharavi. The School classroom sessions are conducted by the Dharavi Rocks band members. Each school has 3 classes per month in 2 batches. Batch 1-Girls and Batch 2-Boys.

The Project aims to give equal opportunity to the girls and boys with each school having a batch of 20 boys and 20 girls for the classes.



**Impact** : Students showing passion, skill and potential will get an opportunity to train and perform with the Dharavi Rocks. These students who will be part of the DR band performances will be mentored and trained in alternate career paths like being musician's, rappers, DJ's, sound engineers and event organisers.

## Music Education

The students of the schools in Dharavi are learning Music/Percussion instruments in a structured traditional way with a set syllabus. Breaking the barrier of girls learning music in the community especially a percussion instrument which is considered a male domain we are creating equal opportunities and fostering personal growth. Over the past six months girls who have never been exposed to any form of musical instruments are keenly acquiring a new skill that will eventually lead to better personality development.





## Music Education



The Dharavi School Music project is gaining momentum. We now have a count of 6 partner schools in Dharavi who are part of the Project. As of March 2024, around 200 students are learning drumming skills under the patronage of the Dharavi Rocks band members.

The hope is that music will be a positive influence in their lives when they strive to pursue their dreams as they grow up to become adults.

We are organising periodic musical sessions for these children to expose them to the different nuances and genres of Music. A musical evening was organised for the students of all 6 schools on 29th Feb'24.

# Adolescent Girls Health & Hygiene Initiative

SOSVA, in collaboration with ACORN Foundation India launched the Adolescent Girl's Menstrual Health and Hygiene Project in Dharavi. The Project looks to equip adolescent girls living in this informal urban settlement with the information, social support and material requirements to take care of their menstrual healthcare needs.

The ultimate objective being to develop a model of sustainable menstrual healthcare support .

The target beneficiaries are young girls aged 10-16 years in schools in Dharavi, Mumbai.

The first stage of the project undertaken for 12 months, April 2023– March 2024 has been to cover five schools in Dharavi, Mumbai, reaching out to approximately 500 girls in the 10-16 years age group.



## Health Initiatives

A total of 12 sessions were conducted in 5 schools in Dharavi, Mumbai. These are adolescent girls aged 10-16 years from schools in Dharavi, Mumbai. We have held MHH awareness sessions with *620 girls in 5 schools in DHARAVI.*

These MHH sessions were conducted by trained doctors, volunteers and MHH experts.. Each session is attended and supervised by a member of our staff.

The sessions are kept interactive by having ice breaker activities like clapping together and listing down favourite things and relation of mind and body and overall well being.

Information on good nutrition and effective exercises along with correct disposal methods are emphasised, and half an hour is kept for a question and answer session to clarify doubts and to understand the need for a follow up session. Each session is concluded by giving the girls a sanitary napkin and a healthy snack.

These session provided an opportunity to educate young adolescent girls about menstruation, promoting hygienic menstrual practices and empowering them to take proper care of their bodies during this time. Ultimately, despite the challenges, the sessions present a significant opportunity to improve menstrual health and hygiene management (MHH) and exploring aspects of sustainable menstrual hygiene practises.



The menstrual health and hygiene awareness sessions had a positive impact on adolescent girls, leading to an improvement in their knowledge and awareness. The girls demonstrated a better grasp of menstruation, including its causes, the significance of hygiene, the importance of proper nutrition, and the correct methods of disposal. It's worth mentioning that a significant number of schools in Dharavi, specifically, three out of five, had not previously included menstrual health education classes or sessions in their curriculum

# DHARAVI ROCKS

Dharavi Rocks is a unique music band that consists of underprivileged children from Dharavi, Mumbai, considered one of the largest slums in the world.

The Dharavi Rocks band is an outcome of the Dharavi Project, it's a band which was started as an educational project for the children of the ragpickers and waste collectors with the aim to use music as a medium for education and empowerment and to spread the message of reuse, recycling and waste management.

The band members have no formal training in music, but they have learned to create musical instruments from the waste collected such as blue drums, paint cans, sticks, bottles, metal caps and so on. Dharavi Rocks has performed in over **220 shows** locally and internationally.

Under the supervision of their trainer Vinesh Nair, the band members are part of the EdelGive SOSVA Dharavi School Music Project and are training approximately 200 students under the School Music Program in Dharavi, where we ensure that young girls and boys 11-14 years are exposed to music as an art form.

The Band featured in a music video "Hum Ho Rahe Kamyab" made by The Times Better India, showcasing the spirit of unstoppable India.

# MUSIC IS OUR VOICE



LGBTQ Pride Celebration



American Consulate & the Kelsey Rae Band



Earth Day



Noida Authority Kachra Mahautsav



# LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

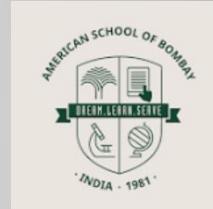
Supporting our recycling, education, health and music initiatives

# Empowerment of Waste Recyclers

Our initiative to empower and support the waste collectors, recyclers and their families would not be possible without the support of our partners and we would like to thank-

**Oberoi International School**  
**Dhirubhai Ambani School**  
**American School, Bombay**  
**Bloomberg**

-for practising recycling and participating in our waste collection drives, which is an important source of income for our community members.



**Bloomberg**

# Education & Health



We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank the invaluable support and commitment of our partners. Their help and generosity has made it possible to make significant advance in our education and health initiatives.

- We would like to thank **EdelGive Foundation** for their collaboration for the Dharavi School Music Project which is teaching Music to 200 students in Dharavi.
- Next we would like to thank **Matrix Entertainment** for providing the seed funding for our “Adolescent Girls Health and Hygiene Project.



# Our Team



**Rima Basu**  
Program Manager



**Laxmi Kamble**  
Community Lead Manager



**Leena KK**  
Accounts Manager

# Our Volunteers

Ms. Bhanu Arora - Mental Mathematics

Mr. Subramaniam- English Educator

Ms. Komal Sharma- Mandala Art

Ms. Garima Shah- Warli Art

Ms. Naina Patil- Yoga

Mr. Manish Singh Tanwar- Guitar



# The Year Ahead

Acorn and SOSVA are poised for a transformative year ahead, building on its innovative 'Food for Plastic' initiative that empowers women waste collectors with sustenance in exchange for recycling efforts. The foundation's commitment to recycling dry waste is set to scale new heights, further bolstering the environmental stewardship of communities.

Meanwhile, the EdelGive SOSVA School Music Project with the Dharavi Rocks band members at its helm continues to resonate as a beacon of hope, using music education to uplift and inspire, integrating music, and art and culture into a harmonious learning experience .

The foundation's focus on adolescent girls' menstrual health and hygiene promises to break barriers and foster a future where every girl has the knowledge and resources to manage her health with confidence and dignity.

Over the decades, there have been several failed attempts to redevelop Dharavi, a process which experts say has always been politically fraught for several reasons. Residents and authorities point to the slum's myriad problems, including extreme crowdedness and poor sanitation. That could change with this newest plan, led by billionaire and infrastructure tycoon Gautam Adani, founder of the Adani Group. But his vision of a new Dharavi has been met with mixed reactions, from hopeful residents ready for change to skeptics who have heard empty rhetoric for years.

Having identified the challenges, on the field, ACORN Mumbai is engaged in helping the residents of Dharavi with their documentation work. From the month of May, we have gone on ground with “The Dharavi Housing Survey Project”.

Together, these programs weave a tapestry of empowerment, education, and environmental consciousness that will define the year ahead.



## SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE

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