



सेवावर्धिनी



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Sevavardhini- A Trusted Partner!

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Foreword

An Offering of Words

Greetings!

It gives us immense joy to present the fifth issue of **Seva Varta**. This edition is dedicated to the spirit of service, social responsibility, and collective action. Through every article, we hope to inspire individuals and organizations working tirelessly for social change.

The words '**Service (Seva)**' and '**Charity (Daan)**' have different meanings, yet both are simple ways through which each one of us can contribute to society. Service does not always require great resources or extraordinary efforts. Even small acts performed with sincerity and compassion can make a meaningful difference.

One such inspiring initiative featured in this issue is Sevavardhini's 'Ek Muthi Anaj Abhiyan'. Through active community participation, this campaign is supporting old-age homes, orphanages, residential schools, and other institutions that struggle to meet their daily food requirements. What began as a simple idea has now become a successful model of public participation across Pune and Pimpri-Chinchwad. More importantly, it is helping build a sustainable system of food security for those who need it most.

This issue also brings inspiring stories of individuals whose personal commitment gradually grew into impactful social institutions. One such story is that of **Anuradhatai Bhosale**, originally from Ahmednagar district. Through her dedication, thousands of children from brick kilns and other vulnerable communities in Kolhapur have received the opportunity to study instead of spending their childhood in labour. Her life reminds us that determination and compassion can transform countless lives.

Another inspiring journey is that of **Dr. Sanjivani Kelkar**, who chose to leave behind the comforts of urban life to work among drought-affected communities in Sangola, Solapur district. Through years of dedicated service, she has empowered rural families and demonstrated how committed social work can bring lasting change even in the most challenging circumstances.

Livelihood generation is another important aspect of rural development. Dairy farming has emerged as one of the most reliable sources of sustainable income for rural families. Today, India is the world's largest milk producer, contributing nearly 23 percent of global milk production, while Maharashtra ranks among the leading milk-producing states. Scientific dairy practices and the cooperative movement have enabled thousands of farmers and labourers to build stable livelihoods. This issue highlights how dairy farming continues to strengthen the rural economy.

We have also featured the remarkable work of **India House**, an organization dedicated to nurturing leadership among India's youth. As our nation possesses one of the world's youngest populations, developing capable, socially responsible leaders is essential for building a stronger future. The work of institutions like India House reminds us that investing in youth is an investment in the nation itself.

When we choose to look at society with a positive perspective, we discover countless examples of individuals and organizations working selflessly every day. These stories inspire us, strengthen our resolve, and remind us that meaningful change is always possible through collective effort.

We hope this issue of **Seva Varta** encourages every reader to continue contributing to society in their own unique way. May the spirit of service, compassion, and dedication continue to guide us all.

With warm regards,

- **Somdatta Patwardhan**
Executive Secretary, Sevavardhini

2 - Social Organizations and Their Impact

2.1 - Navchetana Sarvangeen Vikas Kendra From Struggle to Social Transformation



Marathwada has long faced challenges such as drought, migration, and farmer distress. Despite these hardships, several organizations have worked tirelessly to improve the lives of rural communities. One such organization is **Navchetana Sarvangeen Vikas Kendra**, established in 2008. A non-religious, non-political, and non-profit organization, Navchetana has been working to improve the lives of women, children, farmers, and marginalized communities across all eight districts of Marathwada.

The journey of Navchetana began with the determination of its founder, **Mrs. Manisha Ghule**. Having personally experienced child marriage and domestic violence, she decided to dedicate her life to helping others facing similar hardships. What started as an individual effort has today grown into a movement that reaches thousands of families across the region.

Women are at the centre of Navchetana's work. The organization believes that empowering women strengthens not only families but also entire communities. Its programmes focus on livelihood generation, health, education, leadership, and decision-making.

To create sustainable sources of income, Navchetana provides skill development training in tailoring, dairy farming, and beauty services. So far, **7,360 women** have received vocational training, and **5,640 women** have become self-employed. Along with livelihood support, the organization regularly conducts health camps and menstrual hygiene awareness programmes. Legal guidance, educational support, and employment opportunities are also provided to widowed, deserted, and single women, helping them become confident and self-reliant.

Seasonal migration has been one of the biggest challenges for families in Marathwada. To reduce this dependency, Navchetana promoted local livelihood opportunities through **Self-Help Groups (SHGs)**. More than **55,000 women** have been connected through these groups, where they receive financial literacy and savings training. As a result, over **7,000 women and their families** have been able to reduce distress migration and build sustainable livelihoods within their own villages.

The organization has also promoted dairy farming as a reliable source of income. Dairy units have been established in **30 villages**, where more than **3,000 women** are now earning a regular income while continuing to live with their families.

Agriculture and water conservation are equally important areas of Navchetana's work. To reduce farmers' dependence on chemical fertilizers and pesticides, the organization promotes organic farming, soil testing, and improved farming practices. Today, **785 farmers across 30 villages** are adopting these methods, resulting in lower cultivation costs and improved agricultural sustainability.

Recognizing the importance of water conservation, Navchetana has implemented watershed development activities in **100 villages** with the active participation of **5,335 community members**. Cement nala bunds, soak pits, and Vanrai Bandharas have helped improve groundwater recharge and strengthen local water resources.

Environmental conservation is another major focus area. Through a large-scale plantation programme, the organization has planted over **4 lakh trees**. More than **5,000 women and families across 50 villages** are taking responsibility for protecting and nurturing these trees, creating an agro-forestry model that benefits both the environment and rural livelihoods.



The education of children from migrant families has also been a priority. Navchetana started **Vasti Shala (Hostel Model)** school in remote and underserved areas, enabling **270 children** to join the formal education system. For children whose parents migrate for sugarcane cutting or brick kiln work, the organization operates a residential facility where more than **300 students** receive free accommodation, nutritious meals, and quality education throughout the year.

Over the years, Navchetana Sarvangeen Vikas Kendra has created a meaningful impact across Marathwada through its work in women's empowerment, sustainable livelihoods, agriculture, water conservation, environmental protection, and child education. What began with one woman's determination has today become a strong community movement, bringing dignity, opportunity, and hope to thousands of families.

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Social Organizations and Their Impact

2.2 - India House

Building Leaders for a Stronger India

India is one of the youngest nations in the world. With a growing economy, rapid technological progress, and increasing global recognition, the country has immense opportunities ahead. At the same time, challenges such as good governance, effective public service delivery, institutional development, and sustainable growth require capable and committed leadership. Many young people aspire to contribute to nation-building, but they often lack the right platform and guidance. **India House** was established to bridge this gap.

The idea behind India House was born from an interesting moment during a Cricket World Cup match. While watching players represent the nation with dedication and determination, a group of young people asked themselves a simple question: Why should this spirit of serving the nation be limited to sports? They envisioned a platform where individuals from different backgrounds could come together with a shared commitment to building a better India. This vision led to the establishment of India House.

The organisation is led by **Mr. Kumar Shubham**, CEO and Co-Founder of India House and an alumnus of IIT Delhi. Drawing on his experience in technology, governance, and social development, he and his team work to identify, mentor, and connect young leaders who are committed to public service. India House describes itself as a "**Think-and-Do Tank**" - an organisation that transforms ideas into action while preparing the next generation of leaders for India.

India House draws inspiration from the historic **India House** established in London in 1905 by the revolutionary **Pandit Shyamji Krishna Varma**. That institution played an important role in nurturing leadership, intellectual discussions, and public service during India's freedom movement. Carrying forward the same spirit, the present-day India House is building leadership suited to the needs of modern India.



The organisation focuses on three key areas: identifying promising young leaders, developing their leadership abilities, and building a strong network of individuals committed to nation-building. It also supports innovative ideas, policy research, and institutional development that contribute to better governance and public systems.

One of its flagship initiatives is the **Policy Pioneers Program**, a four-month hybrid leadership programme that introduces participants to public policy, governance, and institutional development. Students, professionals, researchers, and entrepreneurs work together to understand real policy challenges while learning from senior policymakers, UN advisors, professors, and subject experts. The programme covers areas such as technology, healthcare, education, sustainability, trade, governance, and public systems. It is offered free of cost and encourages participants to become informed and active citizens.

The programme is designed in three stages-**Start Thinking in Policy (7 days)**, **Start Acting in Policy (14 days)**, and **Start Writing in Policy (30 days)** - helping participants gradually develop practical knowledge and leadership skills.

Another important initiative is **Policy Mandala**, India House's weekly newsletter that presents complex policy issues in simple and engaging language. The publication has created a growing community of readers interested in governance, public policy, and national development.

In just **18 months**, India House has built a vibrant network of young leaders and changemakers across the country. More than **5,000 youth** have participated in its Policy Challenges, while the **Policy Pioneers Program** has received over **3,100 applications**. Through its Campus Leadership Programmes, the organisation has engaged more than **2,500 students** from leading educational institutions. **Bharat Mandala** has connected over **1,600 changemakers**, and **Policy Mandala** has built a community of more than **3,500 subscribers** interested in governance and development.



India House believes that nation-building begins with capable and compassionate leadership. By nurturing young leaders, strengthening institutions, and encouraging active citizenship, the organisation is contributing to a stronger and more future-ready India.

Whether you are a student, professional, entrepreneur, researcher, policymaker, or social changemaker, India House offers an opportunity to learn, collaborate, and contribute to India's development.

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"A few wholehearted, sincere, and energetic men and women can do more in a year than a mob in a century."

- Swami Vivekananda

3 - Livelihood resources

3.1 Dairy Farming - The Sustainable Highway to Rural Livelihood



In India, dairy farming is recognized as a sustainable pathway to rural livelihood. The country has witnessed a massive **White Revolution (Dhaval Kranti)**, which has greatly increased employment opportunities in rural areas. Today, India is the world's largest milk producer, contributing **23% of global milk production**. Maharashtra ranks sixth in the country in milk production. During **2021–22**, the state's milk production was **40.507 million litres per day**.

Asia's first modern dairy was established in Mumbai in **1952**. Later, in **1958**, an independent Department of Dairy Development was established.

In rural areas, many businesses are carried out as allied activities to agriculture. Among them, dairy farming has become a highly profitable self-employment opportunity for farmers and rural labourers. With proper investment, adequate space for cattle, and good management of fodder and water, dairy farming can provide excellent returns. There is a strong demand for both cow's milk and buffalo's milk across the country. Along with milk, dairy farming also produces valuable organic products such as cow dung, vermicompost, and biogas (gobar gas), which are useful for farming as well as household needs.

The organized, technology-driven, and cooperative dairy movement in India truly began in **1970**. The credit for this transformation goes to **Dr. Verghese Kurien**, the architect of the White Revolution. He introduced the cooperative dairy model in Anand, Gujarat, which later became world-famous through the **AMUL** brand.

To recognize the importance of the dairy sector, **World Milk Day** is celebrated every year on **1st June**. Around the same time, crossbreeding programmes for cows were introduced across the country. Through these programmes, high-yielding cows became available to dairy farmers. This helped create a reliable source of income, reduced the exploitation of farmers by local moneylenders, and ensured a steady flow of cash into the rural economy.

The Core Significance of Dairy Farming

Dairy farming has always been one of the most important allied activities to agriculture. When managed using modern methods, it becomes a sustainable and economically profitable business.

Approximately **8 million** small and marginal farming families in India depend on dairy farming for their livelihood. Women play a major role in this sector, making up nearly **70% to 80%** of the workforce.

Milk is also an important source of nutrition. On average, a person requires **300 ml of milk every day**. One litre of cow's milk provides around **600 calories**, while one litre of buffalo's milk provides nearly **1,000 calories**.

Current Status in Maharashtra

By the end of **July 2023**, Maharashtra recorded a daily milk collection of **13.419 million litres**. Out of this, the cooperative sector collected **3.835 million litres**, while the private sector collected **9.584 million litres**.

In Maharashtra, the production of cow's milk is higher than that of buffalo's milk. However, the fat and Solid-Not-Fat (SNF) content differs between the two. Cow's milk contains **3.5% fat** and **8.5% SNF**, while buffalo's milk contains **6.0% fat** and **9.0% SNF**.

Impact of the White Revolution

After the White Revolution began in 1970, India's milk production increased nearly ten times, reaching **210 million tonnes annually**. During the same period, the per capita availability of milk also increased significantly from **107 grams** to **427 grams**.

Roadmap to Starting a Dairy Business

Traditionally, dairy farming was considered only a supporting activity to agriculture. However, by adopting modern, scientific, and commercial practices, it can become a highly profitable and sustainable business.

With India's growing population, increasing milk production has become essential. Earlier, India's milk production consisted of about **45% cow's milk** and **52% buffalo's milk**. Today, cows contribute a larger share of milk production. Since cow's milk contains less fat than buffalo's milk, its market price is generally lower. However, milk is considered a **complete food** because it contains water, carbohydrates, minerals, and essential vitamins.

Strategic Selection of Breed and Livestock

Selecting the right cattle is one of the most important steps in establishing a profitable dairy farm. Farmers should choose healthy and high-yielding animals based on their breed, lineage, and overall health. Good dairy animals should adapt well to the local climate and ideally calve once every year.

It is advisable to purchase cows or buffaloes during their **second or third lactation**, preferably when they are **three to four years old**.

The recommended cow breeds are **Jersey, Holstein-Friesian, Deoni, Gir, Sahiwal, and Tharparkar**. The recommended buffalo breeds are **Murrah, Nili-Ravi, Pandharpuri, Jafrabadi, and Mehsana**. A dairy business becomes highly profitable when a cow produces around **3,600 litres** of milk during one lactation cycle and a buffalo produces around **2,500 litres** during one lactation cycle.



Scales of Operation and Investment

The scale of a dairy farm depends on the farmer's investment capacity and available resources. A large-scale dairy farm generally requires an investment of around **₹20 lakhs** and includes **more than 30 milch animals**, with an expected daily milk production of **250 to 300 litres**. A medium-scale dairy farm requires an investment of **₹7-10 lakhs** and usually has **15 to 18 animals**, with milk production depending on the number of animals. A small-scale dairy farm can be started with an investment of **₹1-1.5 lakhs** and **5 to 10 animals**, with milk production varying accordingly.

High-quality, high-yielding cattle can be purchased from livestock fairs or through the Government of India's official portal: <https://epashuhaat.gov.in/>.

Infrastructure and Location Essentials

To establish a successful dairy farm, proper infrastructure is essential. Ideally, a farmer should have **one hectare of irrigated land**, a reliable source of clean drinking water, electricity, proper road connectivity, and a well-designed cattle shed. The farm should preferably be located **10 to 20 kilometres from a city** and close to a veterinary clinic so that veterinary services are easily available whenever required.



Cow Shed (Gotha) - Ideal Shed Design and Cattle Management

A cattle shed should be scientifically designed to provide a healthy and comfortable environment for the animals. If the shed accommodates **16 or more animals**, a **tail-to-tail** layout should be adopted with a **two-metre-wide central passage**. The shed should face **north-south** to ensure proper ventilation and adequate sunlight throughout the day.

Proper sanitation is equally important. Drainage channels should be constructed to collect manure and urine efficiently. Clean and elevated water tanks should be provided to ensure a continuous supply of safe drinking water for the animals.

Adequate feeding space through properly designed mangers or feeding troughs is essential. Cattle should receive a daily ration of dry and green fodder equal to **3% of their body weight**. Milch animals require a balanced diet that is rich in protein, minerals, and other nutrients to improve milk production and enhance fat and SNF content. For organic milk production, clean and hygienic fodder along with quality feed concentrates should be used. Jaggery and mineral salt licks can also be provided in the cattle shed to support better milk production.

Health and Routine

Maintaining a regular routine is very important in dairy farming. Milking should be carried out at fixed times every day.

Cattle are highly susceptible to infectious diseases, especially during the monsoon season. Common diseases include worm infestation, Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD), mouth ulcers, mastitis, and hoof rot.

To reduce these risks, timely vaccination, regular health check-ups, and livestock insurance are essential. Professional veterinary care should always be available, especially during calving, to ensure the health and safety of both the animal and the calf.

Milk Marketing and Value Addition

Milk is a highly perishable product, so proper handling immediately after milking is very important. It should be stored in chilled containers to maintain its quality.

Today, many villages have Women's Self-Help Groups (SHGs), producer groups, and Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs). These organisations can establish village-level milk collection centres. During milk collection, the fat and Solid-Not-Fat (SNF) content should be tested using a lactometer to ensure fair pricing. The standard quality parameters are **3.5% fat** and **8.5% SNF** for cow's milk, and **6.0% fat** and **9.5% SNF** for buffalo's milk.

Before establishing a milk collection centre, a household survey should be conducted in the village to estimate the daily quantity of milk available. Based on this assessment, milk collection centres or small chilling plants can be established, reducing transportation costs and preventing spoilage.

To increase profits, farmers should strengthen both the supply chain and the value chain. Surplus milk can be converted into value-added products such as **curd, buttermilk, butter, ghee, paneer, and mawa**. Premium varieties such as **organic, A1, and A2 milk** can also be marketed directly. If a cluster collects more than **10,000 litres of milk per day**, establishing a dedicated chilling plant becomes a practical and profitable option.

Apart from milk, cow dung and cow urine also provide additional sources of income. Farmers can earn extra income by producing farmyard manure, vermicompost, biogas, dung cakes, and organic compost.

Expected Income

On average, one healthy dairy cow can generate an annual income of **₹1 lakh to ₹1.5 lakhs** through the sale of milk, calves, and organic manure.

Challenges and Opportunities

Dairy farming was once considered only a supporting occupation to agriculture. Today, it has become a major rural industry. Although the sector faced significant challenges during events such as demonetisation and the COVID-19 pandemic, it has shown remarkable resilience.

Milk is often called the farmer's "**ATM**" (**All Time Money**) because it provides a regular daily income that helps meet household expenses even when seasonal crops fail.

The Key to Success

The relationship between land and livestock is deeply connected. **Mother Earth (Bhumata)** provides fodder for the animals, while **Gomata** enriches the soil through cow dung and urine. Both support each other, and neither can thrive without the other.

The White Revolution led by **Dr. Verghese Kurien** established dairy farming as one of the strongest pillars of the rural economy. Today, with increasing consumer demand, supportive government schemes, and modern technologies, dairy farming has become a progressive and profitable livelihood opportunity, especially for rural youth.

With proper planning, careful breed selection, scientific management, and value addition, dairy farming can become a successful and sustainable business.

- Nitin Ponshe

Former State Agriculture Consultant, MSRLM,
and a senior agricultural expert with 40 years of
experience in the fields of agriculture,
livelihoods, and the environment.

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How to Start a Dairy Farming Business - MarathiUdyojak.com

Guidelines on investment, operational scale, number of animals, milk production, and dairy business planning. Information on livestock procurement through the Government portal: <https://epashuhaat.gov.in/>.

Milk Business: Dairy as an Allied Sector - Krishi Jagran Marathi

Based on the article by **Dr. Zhine Pravin Lahanu, Dr. Gajendra K. Londhe, and Prof. Sachin N. Wayachal**, covering the growth of dairy farming, the White Revolution, and the contribution of Dr. Verghese Kurien.

Dairy Farming is the Highway to Progress - Agrowon

Article by **Dr. Bhaskar Gaikwad**, originally published on **7 April 2023**.

4 - Important for Social Organizations

4.1 Annual General Meeting (AGM): Planning, Conduct, and Accountability

Once an organization is officially registered, it has several important responsibilities. Among them, one of the most important legal requirements is conducting the **Annual General Meeting (AGM)**. An AGM is not just a legal formality or a statutory requirement. It is an important platform for ensuring transparent, accountable, and effective governance. It provides an opportunity to present the organization's objectives, activities, achievements, and future plans before all its members.



The following guidelines will help organizations plan and conduct an effective AGM.

Pre-Meeting Preparation

Good preparation is the foundation of a successful AGM. Proper planning helps the meeting run smoothly and avoids confusion. The Executive Committee or the Board of Trustees should begin planning at least **two months** before the proposed date of the meeting.

The **date, time, and venue** should be decided well in advance. It is advisable to schedule the AGM on a Sunday or a public holiday so that more members can attend.

The organization should also obtain a written confirmation from its Auditor regarding the completion of the audit and the financial statements before the meeting.

If there are any important topics to be discussed apart from the mandatory agenda, they should be identified in advance. The person responsible for presenting each topic should be decided, and sufficient time should be allotted for every presentation.

The membership register should be reviewed and updated by the Secretary and the Office Head. Separate and accurate lists should be prepared for different categories of members, such as Life Members, Honorary Members, Triennial Members, and Annual Members.

The organization should also verify and update members' postal addresses, mobile numbers, and email IDs. If any member has shifted abroad or if a Life Member has passed away, the records should be updated accordingly.

As per the law, every member must receive the AGM notice at least **14 days** before the meeting. However, it is better to send the notice at least **three weeks in advance** through **Under Certificate of Posting (UCP)** or **Speed Post**, so that the organization has proof of dispatch. For local members, the notice may also be delivered by hand after obtaining their signature as acknowledgment.

The AGM notice should clearly mention the required **quorum** for the meeting. It should also state that if the required quorum is not present at the scheduled time, the meeting will be adjourned for **30 minutes**. After that, the meeting will resume at the same venue, and the legal requirement for quorum will not apply to the adjourned meeting.

Conducting the AGM

The AGM reflects the democratic values of the organization. Therefore, it should be conducted in a systematic, disciplined, and respectful manner.

The Secretary should invite the President or Chairperson to preside over the meeting. The Secretary should then welcome all the members and read out the official AGM notice.

The minutes of the previous AGM should be presented and read before the members. Any corrections or suggestions made by the members should be recorded. If possible, a typed copy of the previous minutes should be sent along with the AGM notice. If that is not possible, copies should be distributed to the members before the meeting begins.

The organization's **Annual Report**, highlighting its activities, programmes, and achievements during the year, should then be presented. To make the presentation more effective and engaging, it can be supported with a **PowerPoint Presentation (PPT)**. Printed copies of the report may also be distributed to the members.

The audited financial statements for the financial year ending **31st March** should be presented for approval. These should include the **Balance Sheet, Income and Expenditure Account**, and all supporting schedules. The Treasurer should present these statements and patiently answer any questions raised by the members.

One of the important agenda items of the AGM is the appointment or reappointment of the **Statutory Auditor** for the next financial year and the approval of the Auditor's remuneration.

If the term of the Executive Committee has ended and elections are due, the election process should be included as an important agenda item.

The agenda should also include a provision for "**Any Other Matter with the Permission of the Chair**", allowing members to discuss urgent matters that may arise during the meeting.

Passing Resolutions

After discussing each agenda item, formal resolutions should be passed. The names of the **Proposer (Suchak)** and the **Secunder (Anumodak)** should be properly recorded, and their signatures should be obtained immediately after the resolution is passed.

Every member attending the meeting should sign the **Attendance Register**. This is also a good opportunity to collect updated information regarding members' phone numbers, residential addresses, and email IDs, if there have been any recent changes.

One member of the Executive Committee should be assigned the responsibility of recording all the important discussions, suggestions, and decisions made during the meeting.

Post-Meeting Responsibilities

The work of the AGM does not end with the conclusion of the meeting. Several important follow-up activities should be completed without delay.

The **minutes of the meeting** should be prepared within **eight days** of the AGM. These minutes should be presented in the next Executive Committee meeting for review and correction, if required.

Within **two to three days** after the AGM, the organization should contact the members who attended the meeting through a phone call or a message to thank them for their participation. Expressing gratitude helps strengthen members' connection with the organization.

Members who were unable to attend the AGM should also be contacted through a phone call or email. They should be informed that the meeting was conducted successfully, and a brief summary of the important decisions and discussions should be shared with them. This helps keep all members informed and connected with the organization.

Conclusion

An Annual General Meeting is much more than a legal requirement. It is an important opportunity to strengthen communication between the organization and its members. It builds trust, promotes transparency, and provides a strong foundation for the future growth of the institution. When an AGM is carefully planned and conducted with openness, discipline, and active participation, it enhances the credibility, accountability, and goodwill of the organization while strengthening members' confidence in its leadership.

- Shriram Patwardhan
(Executive Committee Member, Sevavardhini)

5 - Seva-Vrati

5.1 - In the Soil of Sangola, Sowing the Seeds of Humanity: The Inspiring Journey of Dr. Sanjeevani Kelkar

There are very few people who leave behind the comfort of city life and dedicate themselves to serving people in rural areas. Dr. Sanjeevani Kelkar is one such person. She chose to work among the poor and underprivileged people of Sangola taluka in Solapur district and devoted her life to improving their lives. Through her dedication, compassion, and hard work, she transformed the lives of thousands of women, children, and families. Fondly known as '**Sanjutai**', she has become a respected and trusted figure in the region.

Dr. Sanjeevani Kelkar was not originally from Sangola. She was born and brought up in Pune in a well-educated family. Both her parents were doctors, and from an early age she grew up in an environment of service and compassion. She completed her schooling and higher education in Pune and later earned her medical degree from a reputed medical college. At a time when higher education for women was still uncommon, becoming a doctor was a remarkable achievement.

As she was completing her medical education, she received a marriage proposal from **Dr. Satish Kelkar** of Sangola through family acquaintances. Although she knew that Dr. Satish intended to settle in his native village instead of living in a city, she willingly accepted the proposal. Many people were surprised that a young woman who had spent her entire life in Pune would choose to live in a rural area. She became the first woman doctor in the Sangola region. Soon, many patients started visiting her clinic not only for treatment but also to meet the educated doctor who had come to serve their community.

Dr. Sanjeevani Kelkar also received strong support from her husband's family. The values of her family and the encouragement of her husband gave her the confidence to begin a meaningful journey of social transformation in Sangola.

At that time, Sangola was a drought-prone and backward region. The people faced severe water scarcity, poverty, debt, poor health services, addiction among men, and limited educational opportunities. Women were particularly affected because of the traditional social system, which left them dependent and without opportunities.

As Dr. Sanjeevani Kelkar treated women at her clinic, many of them began sharing their personal struggles with her. They spoke about domestic violence, poor health, financial dependence, and emotional suffering. She soon realized that medical treatment alone could not solve these problems. What was needed was a broader social movement that addressed the root causes of these issues.

With this vision, she established **Mata Balak Utkarsh Pratishthan**. The organization focused on empowering rural women and strengthening families to build a self-reliant society. Its work was based on five important areas-education, health, social justice, economic independence, and environmental conservation.

The organization first built confidence among women through counselling centres. During school vacations, value education programmes were conducted for children and adolescents. Innovative kindergartens were also started to strengthen early childhood education in rural areas.



Local women were trained as kindergarten teachers, creating employment opportunities while improving education for young children.

As the activities of the organization expanded, financial resources became necessary. Dr. Sanjeevani Kelkar saw an opportunity during the annual Sangola fair. She suggested that women should run a food stall. Initially, many women felt embarrassed to stand in public and sell food. To overcome this hesitation, she encouraged those who were uncomfortable to prepare the food behind the scenes while others managed the sales. Most importantly, Dr. Sanjeevani Kelkar herself stood at the stall and sold Vada-Pav. Seeing a respected lady doctor doing this gave the women confidence, and their hesitation disappeared. The food stall became very popular because of its quality, and it generated valuable income for the organization's activities.

To support women facing domestic violence, the organization established a grievance redressal committee. Through women's counselling centres, many women received legal guidance, emotional support, and rehabilitation assistance.

Dr. Sanjeevani Kelkar believed that true empowerment comes when women become financially independent. With this belief, she promoted a large movement of **Self-Help Groups (SHGs)** in the region. Today, hundreds of SHGs are active, providing women with access to credit and financial support. The organization also started a skill development centre where women received vocational training in fashion designing, beauty care, and other income-generating skills. These programmes enabled many women to become self-reliant while also providing a platform to showcase their talents.

As a doctor, she understood that rural women often neglected their own health. To address this, she organized haemoglobin testing camps and health awareness programmes in villages. Young girls from the villages were trained as **Health Messengers** and provided with first-aid kits to serve their communities. These efforts contributed to reducing maternal deaths during childbirth.

Water scarcity was another major challenge in Sangola. Women often had to walk long distances to fetch drinking water. With support from various organizations, Dr. Sanjeevani Kelkar led several water conservation projects across the taluka. Drinking water tanks, cement and stone bunds, percolation tanks, and the repair of dried wells helped improve water availability and made several villages free from dependence on water tankers.

To improve educational opportunities for rural children and prevent school dropouts, she established a school. Many well-wishers donated land for this initiative. The school promotes the values of dignity of labour, democracy, equality, and environmental awareness. It provides modern educational facilities including an English language laboratory, computer room, science laboratory, music education, sports, and carpentry training. Today, the school provides quality education from kindergarten to higher secondary level and benefits thousands of students.

The remarkable work carried out under the leadership of Dr. Sanjeevani Kelkar has received recognition at both national and international levels. However, despite receiving many prestigious awards, she always credits the success to the workers and members of her organization rather than taking personal recognition.

One of the greatest achievements of her work is the transformation of rural women. Women who were once hesitant to step outside their homes are now confidently leading Self-Help Groups, managing enterprises, and even serving as village heads. This remarkable change reflects the impact of Dr. Sanjeevani Kelkar's dedication and years of selfless service.

Through her lifelong commitment to humanity, Dr. Sanjeevani Kelkar has become a source of hope for thousands of families. Her work continues to inspire people and demonstrates how compassion, determination, and community participation can bring lasting social transformation.

(The above details have been taken from the book 'kartya karvitya' published by the Baya Karve Centre for Women's Studies, Maharashi Karve Stree Shikshan Sanstha Pune.)

Sevavrati

5.2 - The Hands That Provide Food, Clothing, Shelter and Dignity: The Inspiring Journey of Social Reformer Anuradha Bhosale

Some people dedicate their entire lives to bringing hope where there is only hardship. Social activist **Anuradha Bhosale** is one such person. By helping children trapped in poverty and child labour find education and dignity, she has transformed the lives of thousands. Her journey is one of determination, sacrifice, and an unwavering commitment to social justice.

Anuradha Bhosale was born in **Bhokar village near Shirampur in Ahmednagar district**. Her father was a primary school teacher, while her mother was not formally educated. She belonged to a large family with **twelve siblings** and was the eleventh child. Supporting such a large family and educating all the children was a great challenge for her parents. Growing up in poverty, she learned the value of hard work from an early age.



Her childhood was filled with struggles. She attended school during the day and worked at her teachers' homes in the evenings. Even under difficult circumstances, she remained determined to continue her education. During school vacations, she worked as a farm labourer and used her earnings to pay her examination fees.

Later, she moved to **Shrirampur** for higher education. Life became even more difficult. She worked as a cleaning maid in an institution in return for two meals a day. Despite these hardships, she never gave up on her dream of completing her education.

After finishing school, Anuradha wanted to study social work. Without money or support, she travelled to **Mumbai**. During her first few days in the city, she had no place to stay and spent several nights at the railway station. Eventually, she secured admission to a reputed institution and completed her degree in social work while overcoming many personal and financial challenges.

After completing her education, she worked in different cities. However, earning a livelihood was never her only goal. She wanted to work for people who were suffering the most and to address the root causes of social injustice. She dedicated herself to ensuring that the poorest and most marginalized sections of society received justice and opportunities.

Around the same time, she got married and started working with a development organization. Under the guidance of the organization's founder, she gained valuable experience in social work. Her concern for underprivileged communities and the guidance of her mentor helped shape her vision and strengthen her commitment to social service.

Unfortunately, her personal life became extremely difficult. Her in-laws strongly opposed her social work. Although she fulfilled all her household responsibilities, she faced humiliation and physical abuse. She also received no support from her husband and had to raise her two young children on her own.

Finally, for the sake of her self-respect and the future of her children, she made the difficult decision to leave her husband's home with nothing except the clothes she was wearing.

Life became even more challenging after that. She had to care for her two young children while also facing a long legal battle. During this difficult period, her mentor encouraged her to continue her work in **Kolhapur** and stood by her throughout her struggles.

Moving to Kolhapur gave a new direction to her work. She closely understood the problems faced by poor and marginalized communities. The education and welfare of underprivileged children became her primary mission.

She began her work by starting a school for the children of brick kiln workers. Since these workers migrate from place to place, their children often lose access to education and are forced into child labour. To prevent this, she started schools directly at the brick kilns so that children could continue their education.

She established an organization called **Avani**. The organization believes that every person deserves the basic necessities of life-food, clothing, shelter, and dignity. With this vision, Avani has continued its work for many years.

The **Brick Kiln Project** has become one of Avani's most successful initiatives. Daycare centres are operated for younger children, while older children are admitted to nearby government schools. Every year, detailed surveys are conducted to identify children who have missed schooling. They are given educational support and later re-enrolled in their native schools so that they do not lose an academic year. This work has been made possible with the support of many donors and dedicated colleagues.

Anuradha Bhosale also spent countless days rescuing child labourers and child beggars from the streets. She often forgot her own hunger and comfort while working to save children from exploitation. Today, she works with government authorities to conduct rescue operations at garages, hotels, construction sites, and other workplaces where children are employed.

Whenever she meets a child engaged in labour, she first speaks to them with kindness and patience. If the child expresses a desire to study, she works tirelessly to ensure that the child is released from labour and given the opportunity to continue education.

Along with this work, she started schools and study centres in the settlements of waste-picker communities, nomadic tribes, and other marginalized groups.



She also established **Avani Balgruha**, a residential home for orphaned and destitute girls. Despite many challenges, the home now provides education, care, and opportunities for self-reliance to many girls. Anuradha Bhosale treats every girl with motherly affection. She has even taken responsibility for conducting the marriages of many girls and helping them begin independent and secure lives.

As her work expanded, she founded another organization called **Ekati** to support widowed, abandoned, and vulnerable women. Through this organization, she organized protest marches demanding pensions for widowed women and helped thousands receive justice. She also formed Self-Help Groups for women waste-pickers and provided them with training in waste segregation and self-employment.

In recognition of her outstanding contribution to society, Anuradha Bhosale has received many national and international awards. Her work has also been featured on several national television channels.

A woman who experienced poverty, hardship, and struggle throughout her own life has given thousands of children and women an opportunity to live with dignity. Through her dedication, courage, and compassion, Anuradha Bhosale has brought hope to countless lives.

Her life reminds us that determination, humanity, and selfless service have the power to transform society. Her journey continues to inspire people to overcome challenges, stand for justice, and work for the welfare of those who need support the most.

(The above details have been taken from the book 'kartya karvitya' published by the Baya Karve Centre for Women's Studies, Maharashi Karve Stree Shikshan Sanstha Pune.)

6 - Seva News

6.1 Sevavardhini - A Platform of Opportunities, Resources and Collaboration for Voluntary Organizations

Humanity in Every Small Contribution, A Ray of Hope in Every Grain

Ek Muthi Anaj Abhiyan – A Community Movement Towards Food Security

Access to safe and nutritious food is a basic human right. However, many old age homes, orphanages, residential schools, and other residential institutions continue to struggle to meet their daily food requirements because of limited financial resources. To address this need, **Sevavardhini** launched the **Ek Muthi Anaj Abhiyan (One Fistful of Grain Campaign)**, a community-driven initiative that encourages citizens to contribute towards food security through public participation.

The main objective of the campaign is to provide monthly food grain support to financially vulnerable institutions. Through a well-planned system of grain collection and transparent distribution, the campaign connects people who are willing to contribute with institutions that need support. More than just a grain collection drive, it has become a community movement that promotes the values of sharing, compassion, social responsibility, and collective action.

Sevavardhini started this campaign in **Pimpri-Chinchwad in 2021**. Based on the simple idea of "**A fistful of grain from every household**," the initiative received an encouraging response from citizens. As participation increased, the campaign expanded to Kothrud and several other residential societies across Pune. Today, it has become a successful model of community participation across the Pune and Pimpri-Chinchwad region.

Nature of the Campaign

Under this campaign, citizens are encouraged to donate at least **one kilogram of food grains every month**. Essential food items such as wheat, rice, pulses, sugar, and cooking oil are collected and distributed to institutions in need. The collection process is organized through housing societies, residential colonies, and local communities, ensuring a regular supply of nutritious food to beneficiary institutions.

The campaign has achieved significant results. More than **160 housing societies** have joined the initiative, with active participation from over **33,500 families**. Together, they have contributed **3,51,270 kilograms of food grains**. A dedicated team of **830 volunteers** manages the collection and distribution process, providing regular food support to more than **100 old age homes, orphanages, residential schools, and other needy institutions**.

Since 2021, more than **3,20,270 kilograms** of food grains have been collected from over **90 housing societies** in the Pimpri-Chinchwad area. Since 2024, more than **45 housing societies** in Kothrud have contributed **23,000 kilograms** of food grains. In addition, since 2025, residents of various **Rohan Builders** housing societies have donated **8,000 kilograms** of food grains. Together, these efforts are helping to build a sustainable food security system for vulnerable communities.



Objectives of the Campaign

The campaign goes beyond distributing food grains. Its broader objective is to ensure regular food support for underprivileged institutions, encourage citizens to participate in food donation, strengthen food security for vulnerable communities, and promote a culture of compassion and social responsibility.

The campaign also supports the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. It contributes to **SDG 2 – Zero Hunger** by promoting access to safe and nutritious food and improving food security. It also supports **SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals** by bringing together citizens, volunteers, organizations, and community groups to work towards a common social purpose.

Food security is not the responsibility of the government alone. It is a shared responsibility of society. A small contribution from every household can make a meaningful difference in the lives of children, elderly people, and institutions that depend on community support. Through collective participation, the Ek Muthi Anaj Abhiyan is creating a strong network of care and cooperation.

Looking ahead, Sevavardhini plans to expand the campaign by involving more housing societies, volunteers, and social organizations. The goal is to extend food grain support to a larger number of institutions, strengthen the food security network, and move closer to the vision of ensuring that **no one sleeps hungry**.

Started with the simple thought of "**A fistful of grain from every home can support thousands of lives**," the Ek Muthi Anaj Abhiyan has grown into an inspiring example of compassion, community participation, and collective social responsibility.



Ek Mutthi Anaj Abhiyan (May–June 2026)

Sr. No.	Month	Organization Name	Grain Collected (Kg)
1.	May 2026	Adivasi Samikaran Anath Seva Parivar, Vasanwadi, Beed	1737 kg
2.	May 2026	Vishwa Hindu Kendra - Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram, Chikhalgaon, Dapoli, Ratnagiri	439.3 kg
3.	June 2026	Rasaidevi Primary Ashram School, Varvand, Daund	439.3 kg



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