PROGRESS

WITH

PURPOSE

















MICR@LAND FOUNDATION

A CSR initiative of Microland



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Bridging Gaps. Building Futures.

Microland Foundation is driven by a clear purpose: to create lasting social impact by taking action to bridge critical gaps across four key areas of progress – Employability, Education, Environment, and Health.

This, along with the core principles outlined alongside, guides our work — with clearly defined impact goals shaped by the specific needs of the communities and regions we engage with.

Rather than operating in isolation, our initiatives are designed to be intentionally interconnected, enabling deeper, more holistic outcomes. We adopt program models that encourage innovation, allowing us to pilot new ideas and assess their relevance and effectiveness within local contexts.

Our strategy is rooted in identifying sustainable, community-specific solutions that address both immediate challenges and hold the potential to be scaled and replicated for broader, long-term impact.



OUR VISION

We aim to work with vulnerable communities to partner and support sustainable transformations towards a better quality of life.

OUR MISSION

To drive social change through a collaborative approach that establishes proof of concept, fosters community ownership, and promotes sustainable growth. We are committed to uplifting lives by addressing the critical challenges faced by the communities we serve. Our initiatives are thoughtfully designed to create lasting, meaningful impact.

OUR APPROACH TO SUSTAINABLE IMPACT

By embedding these core principles, we ensure every initiative is designed to be sustainable, scalable, and deeply rooted within the communities it serves.



Rooted in Community Needs

Designing projects that are tailored to local contexts, fostering self-reliance and lasting resilience.



Enabling Collective Action

Driving synergy among stakeholders to maximize reach and effectiveness.



Empowering Local Partners

Building the capacity of local NGOs, CBOs and civic organizations to drive long-term, meaningful change.



Measuring Real Impact

Assessing success through tangible, transformative outcomes for individuals and communities.



Harnessing the Power of Technology

Designing and implementing the right digital solutions to address community challenges effectively.

From the Heart of Microland Foundation

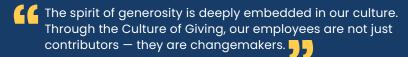
A Year of Strengthening Communities and Scaling Impact

At Microland Foundation, we believe that true change arises from within, rooted in local realities, building resilience for tomorrow. This year, we've taken bold strides to further this belief by nurturing community-led models that drive **digital inclusion and social empowerment.**

This report unfolds a story of **collaboration**, **courage**, **and change**. One shaped by the unified efforts of Microlanders, our Foundation, and our partners.

Giving back at Microland is not an act of charity, but an expression of solidarity – standing with communities, walking with them, and building pathways to dream, dare, and deliver.

As we mark 35 years of Microland, one thing endures: **the Microlander spirit** – a spirit of service, purpose, and giving – alive across teams and time zones.



- **Pradeep Kar** Founder, Chairman & Managing Director, Microland

Under our **Culture of Giving (COG)** initiative — an umbrella for our work across **Individual Social Responsibility (ISR)**, **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)**, **Environmental**, **Social**, **and Governance (ESG)**, **and Diversity**, **Equity & Inclusion (DEI)** — employees don't just support causes, they roll up their sleeves and get involved, creating impact where it's needed most.



Leading with Purpose: Guiding Thoughts from Our CSR Committee

True CSR begins when we trust communities to lead their own change.





Srinivasan T. R.Chief People Officer
BENGALURU, INDIA

When

people grow,

communities

thrive — and

of our CSR mission.

that's the heart







Alok Arun ShrivastwaVice President & Chief Al Officer
BENGALURU, INDIA





Real impact is not measured in numbers alone, but in the lives uplifted, the voices empowered, and the dignity restored. We thank our Board members and CSR Committee for their strategic direction and unwavering belief in purpose-driven change.

We also extend our deep appreciation to our partners for their steadfast support in making every project more impactful.

- Kalpana Kar Managing Trustee, Microland Foundation

From Al-powered chatbots to rural digital training programs, Microlanders are using technology as a tool for transformation, bridging the gap between grassroots reality and digital potential. Their commitment has helped us build stronger foundations in data, technology, and accountability — strengthening the collective ability to learn fast and adapt faster.

Our deep engagement in the **Nilgiris**, through *Seyalum*Neelagiriyum, has created space for community voices to shape their own development journeys. As we look ahead, our path is guided by a simple belief: **when communities lead, transformation follows**. We are excited to continue co-creating solutions that uplift lives, honor dignity, and open doors to opportunity.

To our partners, our teams, and the communities who welcome us – thank you for believing in this journey. Together, we are not just imagining a better future – we're building it, one empowered life at a time.

- Team Microland Foundation

Purpose is the most powerful brand we build — and CSR is how we live it.



Meenu BaglaChief Marketing Officer
BENGALURU, INDIA

CSR is governance with empathy — where technology empowers compassion through conscience.

Satish Sukumar Senior Vice President and Global Head – Platforms BENGALURU, INDIA





Rajesh Kharidehal Chief Financial Officer BENGALURU, INDIA

Key Focus Areas



Digipreneurs are bridging last-mile digital access — transforming rural service delivery, driving inclusion, and earning livelihoods



With 21st-century skills and hands-on learning, students are gaining the tools to innovate, adapt, lead, and solve problems

Employability

A Life of Dignity for All

Building pathways to meaningful employment through skill development, digital literacy, and vocational training. Programs focus on enhancing employability, facilitating entrepreneurship, and ensuring individuals – especially from underserved communities and persons with disabilities – can achieve financial independence.



Education

Building Future-Ready Skills



Promoting inclusive, tech-enabled, and sports-infused learning environments to equip students with essential 21st-century skills.

Our programs span digital education, STEAM learning, and sports education —encouraging creativity, resilience, teamwork, critical thinking, and readiness for future opportunities.



Children are connecting with nature, exploring local biodiversity, and developing a sense of care for a sustainable future



Tribal health challenges are being addressed through community-led solutions that improve awareness, access, and outcomes

Environment

Creating Sustainable Solutions for Community-Led Impact

Driving environmental sustainability through conservation, climate action, and waste management initiatives. Community-driven efforts emphasize ecological restoration, sustainable livelihoods, the adoption of green technologies, and nurturing students as environmental stewards.

Health

Enabling Access to Quality Healthcare



Strengthening healthcare accessibility by supporting preventive care, telemedicine, and community health initiatives. Efforts aim to eradicate anemia, encourage timely healthcare-seeking behavior, enhance palliative care services, and bridge healthcare gaps through innovative solutions.

Seyalum Neelagiriyum: The Movement Tackling 'Wicked Problems' with Collective Action



Curated by Microland Foundation in partnership with key stakeholders, Seyalum Neelagiriyum (meaning Collective Action for the Nilgiris) is a first-ofits-kind, community-driven platform focused on solving the interconnected, complex challenges - called wicked problems - facing the Nilgiris. These issues, deeply rooted in societal, economic, and environmental factors, require collaborative, systemic solutions driven by diverse perspectives.

Kalpana Kar, Managing Trustee of Microland Foundation, sharing her vision and speaking about the leadership driving collaborative efforts for the Nilgiris community

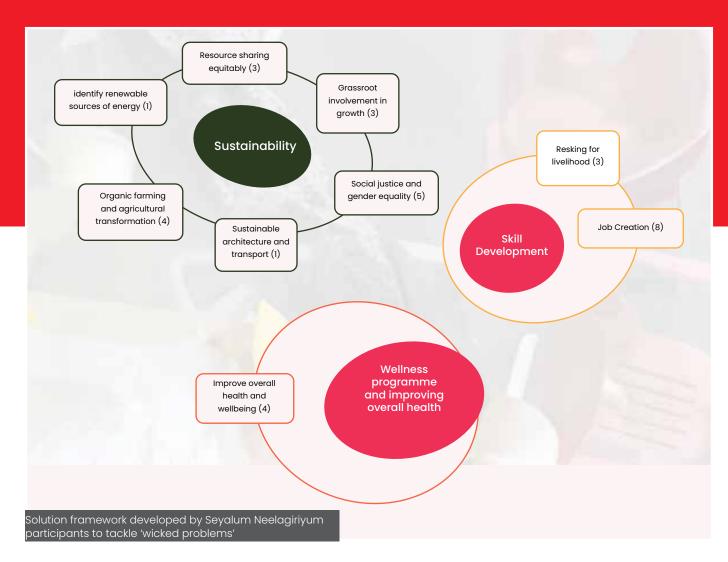
Seyalum Neelagiriyum (SN) brings together local communities, businesses, civil society, and experts to tackle the region's most pressing concerns. Phase 1 (SN1) emphasized the power of collective input from Gudalur, Coonoor, and Kotagiri, with diverse voices from civil society, youth, community leaders, businesses, and other stakeholders shaping a comprehensive understanding of the challenges. These voices, each representing unique facets of the region, have provided deeper insights into local realities, needs, and aspirations, which will guide sustainable solutions.



The team driving the Seyalum Neelagiriyum initiative (Phase 1)



A participant envisioning a sustainable future for the Nilgiris





Key Highlights of SN 1

A listening exercise that captured the lived experiences of the community

Identification of root causes and emerging growth opportunities

A report offering a comprehensive understanding of the Nilgiris landscape, forming the basis for actionable solutions

At its core, the movement is about empowering local communities with the skills and resources to **tackle** 'wicked problems' through sustainable, scalable solutions enabled by collaborative workshops and dialogues that foster critical thinking and collective action.

As Seyalum Neelagiriyum enters Phase 2, the focus shifts to co-creating impactful, sustainable solutions. This includes **building the capacity of individuals and organizations to collaborate effectively,** with a strong emphasis on impact orientation, sustainability, and enduring systemic and behavioral change. Aligned with this vision, Microland Foundation reiterates its commitment to community-driven change and to building a better tomorrow for the Nilgiris and beyond.



EMPLOYABILIT A Life of Dignity for All

Sector

At Microland Foundation, we believe that a thriving economy begins with equal access to opportunity. Yet, barriers like limited digital access and skill shortages continue to hold back many marginalized communities.

To address this, we've focused on equipping underserved individuals with essential digital tools and hands-on experiential training, enabling them to pursue meaningful employment and long-term career growth.

Beyond individual empowerment, we are fostering a new wave of grassroots digital



entrepreneurs - community-based changemakers who not only build sustainable livelihoods for themselves but also act as catalysts to drive digital inclusion and enable progress within their own communities.

Our key initiatives intersect with four important **UN Sustainable Development Goals**



Aligned with SDG Target 1.4, programs like the Digipreneur Fellowship enable equitable access to digital tools, public entitlements, and earning opportunities at the grassroots - empowering marginalized youth, women, and tribal communities.



Our vocational learning initiatives specifically support persons with disabilities by providing accessible and inclusive skill-building opportunities that enhance their employability.



Microland Foundation advances inclusive economic growth by fostering micro-entrepreneurship, strengthening livelihoods, and enhancing youth employability. Through skill training – from digital literacy to vocational healthcare - and disability-inclusive pathways, it enables job readiness and long-term participation in a more equitable and resilient economy.



Our programs actively promote women's empowerment and gender-inclusive participation across all initiatives, ensuring equitable access to resources, training, and economic opportunities.



KEY IMPACT ACROSS PROJECTS





80% JOB PLACEMENT rate for visually impaired trainees



Digipreneur Fellowship

₹100+ crore

worth of schemes unlocked for communities by Cohorts 1 & 2

Digipreneur Fellowship

90% Digipreneurs

Common Service Centre (CSC)-certified





Digipreneur Fellowship

Income growth for digital entrepreneurs: from

₹6,000 to ₹25,000/month

with top earners reaching ₹80,000/month





Digipreneur Fellowship





Partner

Technology Informatics
Design Endeavour (TIDE)



In regions like Tumkur, where 80% of the population lives below the poverty line, the lack of accessible digital services often forces residents to travel long distances – resulting in both time and financial burdens. The flagship Digipreneur Fellowship initiative is designed to bridge this gap by enabling doorstep delivery of digital services and government schemes.

Fellows serve as grassroots catalysts, translating policy into practice and ensuring timely, equitable access for underserved communities. The Fellowship follows an inclusive, differentiated approach – supporting each Fellow based on their individual strengths, context, and pace of growth. Tools and processes like the Learning Management System (LMS), mentorship, Reward & Recognition (R&R), and ongoing performance tracking create an ecosystem where every Fellow, whether a fast-tracker or a slow bloomer, can thrive.

The goal extends beyond service delivery to transformation – of individuals, and the communities they serve.



A beneficiary at a Digipreneur's kiosk







Objectives

The fellowship aims to establish a sustainable community-embedded digital model by leveraging the strengths of government bodies, tech platforms, and local change agents. The Digipreneur program is our way of empowering ambitious young minds to keep pace with India's fast-moving digital transformation — while ensuring that vulnerable communities aren't left behind, but are active participants in this journey.



Aid in unlocking welfare schemes and services at the last mile



Transition grassroots youth into local changemakers and digital entrepreneurs



Nurture collaborative partnerships, both local and national, for impact and scale



Maximize each Fellow's potential through structured support and recognition

Fueling Growth, Driving Impact

Rewards & Recognition is a key milestone in the fellowship journey, designed to cultivate confident, self-driven digital entrepreneurs. It aligns with the program goals by setting structured targets, encouraging peer learning, and recognizing both effort and outcomes.

The Focus Areas Include

- Fostering an entrepreneurial mindset
- Driving tech adoption and timely data submission and reporting
- Maximizing impact through targeted service delivery to marginalized groups
- Promoting geo-cluster-based learning and collaboration
- Bridging performance gaps through tailored support
- Integrating DigiSahayaks effectively into kiosk operations



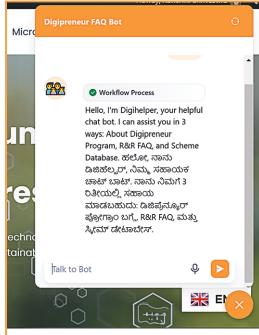
What It Delivered

- 95% increase in overall cohort income (from ₹15.36 lakh to ₹29.9 lakh)
- Average fellow income more than quadrupled (from ₹6K to ₹25K/month)
- 125% rise in community outreach (from 2,800 to 6,300 people)
- Improved frequency and quality of data submissions
- 215% increase in schemes covered

Deploying Technology to Drive Measurable Change

Microland Foundation harnesses the power of digital tools and platforms to expand the reach and impact of livelihood programs, enabling marginalized communities to participate meaningfully in the digital economy. Through the Digipreneur program, we integrate the right technology platforms with process-driven monitoring to ensure deeper, measurable outcomes.





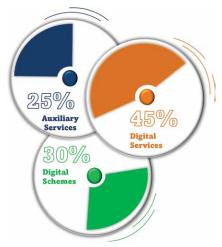
Al-integrated chatbot

for instant support on schemes, digital training, and business operations.

Learning Management System (LMS)

developed internally for personalized training, progress tracking, and achieving a 100% course completion rate.

Grafana-based
dashboards for real-time
monitoring of Fellow and
kiosk performance.



Digiprenuer	Cluster	Services ♥	Schemes	Auxiliary Services	Total ↓ 🗑	D2D Visitt ♥	SHG M€ 🗑	Grama Sabha
Chidananda S	Madadakere	102212	127169	95711	325092	1839	44	
Sowmya C D	Gubbi	86817	140231	27786	254834	647	36	
Sharath DP	Madadakere	21605	20005	199168	240778	0	0	
Ranjitha	Gubbi	52816	20300	91243	164359	119	1	
Ajay Kumar K	Madadakere	11220	19060	95972	126252	5	0	
Deepashree R N	Sira	47810	54850	15371	118031	66	13	
Bhagyamma N	CN Halli	21230	55570	13711	90511	436	6	mmmi

Field data management tools to capture daily sales, outreach activities, and community impact stories.



Impact 2024-25





60+ Digital kiosks set up



₹100+ crore worth of benefits, spanning 150+ government schemes, unlocked

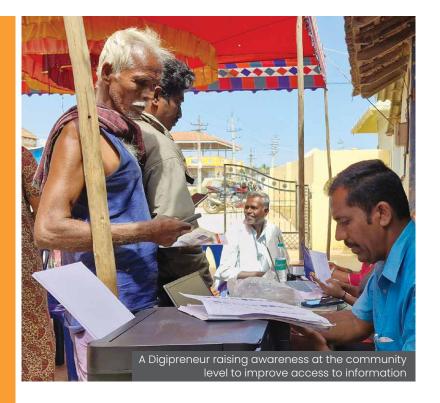






Key Milestones

- Each fellow received 292 hours of training on schemes and services, 30 hours of soft skills training, and access to 26 courses via LMS
- Structured mentorship program introduced; 100% of fellows cleared CSC exams
- Number of government schemes and services accessible to communities increased from ~78 to ~200
- Implementation of reward and recognition programs to enhance individual and cluster-level performance
- English coaching to support fellows in clearing CSC exams (available only in English and Hindi)
- Formation of an alumni chapter, enabling continued collaboration, mentorship, and peer learning



Adopted

Awareness camps

Door-to-door visits

Gram Sabha meetings

SHG meetings

Government liaison

Beyond Numbers: Community Confidence & Program Success



A confidence-building and leadership session to empower Fellows to lead with purpose

Strong community trust in Digipreneurs as reliable service

Digipreneurs as reliable service providers

Enhanced soft skills, including networking with government officers and community engagement

Rising community interest with a tenfold increase in applications

Building Partner Capacity for Sustainable Growth

Upskilling partners with tech tools, dashboards, and structured training systems to ensure long-term sustainability.

Community Embeddedness for Deeper, Lasting Transformation

Program design shaped by grassroots feedback and localized trust-building efforts.



Interactive program review held to strengthen the initiative





Microland Foundation's rounded approach of bringing in appropriate technology, coupled with the focus on digital literacy, soft skills, and understanding of social challenges, has immensely benefited the communities. The project is done in a collaborative spirit and is truly endearing to TIDE. 🤚 🥊

- Gautam Lahiri, Executive Director, TIDE



The Next Chapter

Geographic Expansion

The fellowship will scale to new regions, including tribal belts like the Nilgiris, with local fellows mentoring and enabling replication.

Scheme Access and Integration

Focus on improving access to government schemes through community-led tracking, stronger department links, and better grievance systems.

Strengthened LMS-Based Training

LMS modules will include enhanced leadership,

Microland Foundation's commitment to digital empowerment through its CSR initiatives has had a truly impactful effect on the communities. Their focused interventions - from building foundational digital literacy to advanced entrepreneurial skills have ignited a spirit of innovation in underserved

- Ravichandran K, Consultant, TIDE

communities.

entrepreneurship, and digital service delivery, with rewards tied to progress and future roles.

Technology Enhancements

An Al-powered chatbot will offer real-time assistance in local languages for scheme queries - making support instant and scalable.

Network of Fellows

A formal alumni network will foster peer learning, mentorship, and access to upskilling and earning opportunities, also sustaining long-term impact.

The Digipreneur Fellowship is more than just a digital empowerment initiative – it is a transformative model for bridging the digital divide, fostering social entrepreneurship, and enabling inclusive growth in India's rural communities.

- Varadarajan Rajagopalan, Founder, VIVA

Training and Resource Center for Visually Impaired (TARVI)







TARVI is a pioneering initiative in the Nilgiris, serving as the first dedicated resource center for individuals with visual disabilities in the region. The project is designed to empower visually impaired individuals through digital skill development programs and livelihood opportunities. TARVI's key offering is comprehensive computer training using Non-Visual Desktop Access (NVDA) that enables beneficiaries to operate computers independently. By bridging the digital divide, the initiative fosters self-development, economic independence, and inclusivity ensuring people with visual disabilities have the necessary tools and support to lead independent and fulfilling lives.



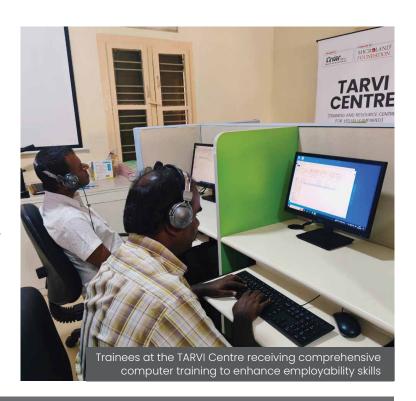
enabling mobility and independence for visually

TARVI students along with team Microland Foundation and team Kinder Trust



Microland Foundation's Role and Contributions

Microland Foundation has been instrumental in expanding TARVI's reach and impact. Recognizing accessibility challenges, Microland Foundation donated an e-vehicle to ensure visually impaired trainees can consistently attend training sessions. Trainees receive a formal certificate upon completing the program, validating their skills and enhancing their employment prospects. With 80% of trainees already placed, the initiative continues to empower individuals with the tools and confidence to navigate the digital world and secure sustainable job opportunities.



Microland Foundation's focus on digital literacy, soft skills, and vocational training has opened up real opportunities for persons with disabilities, including those who are visually impaired. What stands out is their genuine commitment to inclusion — making sure the programs are accessible, impactful, and truly empowering. It's been a pleasure working together to build confidence and skills in communities that are so often overlooked.

- Diana Bharucha, Trustee, Kinder Trust



Impact 2024-25

80% placement rate

enabled through training in digital literacy, soft skills, English language, and interview presentation techniques

Vocational Training for Healthcare





Partner

Association of People with Disability (APD)



The Vocational Training for Healthcare Program is a strategic initiative aimed at bridging the gap between livelihoods and healthcare. Addressing the critical shortage of trained caregivers, particularly in rural and underserved areas, the Certificate Course in Caregiving (CCCG) focuses on equipping individuals with essential caregiving skills. Through a partnership with the Association of People with Disability (APD), a Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI)-recognized NGO, this initiative is aligned with national mandates such as the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act of 2016. The program plays a vital role in strengthening the support ecosystem for persons with disabilities (PWDs) and palliative care patients, ensuring better healthcare outcomes and sustainable livelihood opportunities.







Microland Foundation's Role and Contributions



With the objective of preparing a cadre of trained caregivers to support PWDs, individuals with chronic illnesses, and the geriatric population at home, in the community, and in institutions, Microland Foundation has been pivotal in supporting the Vocational Training for Healthcare Program through financial aid and strategic backing.



A rural visit aimed at deepening understanding and strengthening grassroots engagement



A trainee gaining hands-on experience through an internship in disability care

Funding & Infrastructure

Enabled the training of 30 candidates via APD's RCI-affiliated CCCG course, ensuring quality education and hands-on experience.

Skill Development

Supplemented caregiving training with English and computer literacy to enhance career prospects.

Internships & Placement

Facilitated real-world training. The program is on track to achieve a 95% placement rate.

Impact 2024-25

There are **30 active trainees**, comprising PWDs, economically disadvantaged individuals, and unemployed youth, with an **expected placement rate of 95%**, with ~10 trainees being placed in Microland Foundation projects.

By addressing the twin challenges of healthcare and employability, this initiative is set to make a lasting impact on both individual livelihoods and community health outcomes.

We're privileged to collaborate with Microland Foundation. Their unwavering support has enabled us to train young individuals from the most underserved areas of Karnataka in caregiving - equipping them to meet the growing healthcare needs of rural communities. The Foundation's commitment to social impact is truly commendable.

- Dr. N S Senthil Kumar, CEO, The Association of People with Disability (APD), Bangalore

Stories of Empowerment and Strength

A Digipreneur Who Sparked Change for His Community

In Baladevarahatti, a remote village in Karnataka's Tumkur district, **Chanappa's** journey mirrors the resilience of his Kadu Golla community – one of the region's most marginalized groups. With low literacy rates and limited access to government welfare, the Kadu Gollas have long struggled for recognition.

Born into a farming family surviving on meager ragi yields, Chanappa saw education as his escape from poverty. After earning an ITI certification, he moved to Bangalore, working as a CNC operator for ₹8,000 a month. Financial strain forced

him back home, but he pushed on – earning a Bachelor's and

Master's in Political Science while juggling small jobs. His attempt at government exams ended in disappointment, missing qualification by just two marks.

His breakthrough came with the Microland Foundation
Digipreneur Fellowship Program, which trained him in
social security schemes. The opportunity changed
his trajectory – raising his income to a minimum of
₹20,000 per month and enabling him to invest ₹5 lakh
in a service center, securing his family's future while
providing essential services to locals.

But Chanappa's mission went beyond personal success.
The Kadu Gollas, despite being classified as Scheduled
Tribes (ST), were largely unaware of their entitlements. While

other subgroups accessed government

benefits, the Kadu Gollas

remained sidelined. Determined to change this, Chanappa led a grassroots effort – filing **over 300 applications** for community members and lobbying with key officials to secure rightful access to welfare programs.

Today, Chanappa stands as a changemaker. His fight has not only uplifted his own life but has set the stage for an entire community's empowerment.



Digipreneur Chanappa receiving the "Outstanding Learner" award

Digipreneur Chanappa and his wife, DigiSahayak Nirmala, are working together to drive digital inclusion in their community





🧲 A bend in the road is not the end of the road... unless you fail to make the turn. 🛮



- Helen Keller

A Visually Impaired Trailblazer Turned First-Gen Digital Professional

Soniya, a young woman from Ooty in Tamil Nadu, was born with visual impairment. Raised by a single mother who worked on a tea estate, Soniya's early life was shaped by financial hardship and limited access to opportunities. Her father had abandoned the family early on, and her mother, Selvi, became the sole breadwinner, supporting the household through manual labour.

Despite the odds, Soniya completed her Bachelor's degree in History from the Government Arts College, Ooty, in 2023. Alongside her education, she acquired skills in tailoring, knitting, and embroidery - skills that, while valuable, offered limited income potential.

It was after enrolling in the TARVI
program that Soniya's trajectory began
to shift. She had no prior exposure
to computers, but through structured
training, including the use of screen reader
software, she gained functional digital
literacy. This training played a critical role
in bridging the gap between her education and
employability.



Soniya, a first-generation digital professional, breaking barriers and inspiring others to dream bigger every day



Soniya at her graduation ceremony, marking a key milestone in her career path

Soon after, Soniya secured a position at JFA Furniture Company in Chennai. Her performance earned her weekly achievement awards - a first professional recognition of her capabilities. With growing confidence, she transitioned to a more stable opportunity as a Telemarketing Officer at HDB Financial Services, achieving financial independence and professional success.

Her journey is a testament to the power of technology, resilience, and the right support. Today, she stands as an inspiration to others.



Building Future-Ready Skills

At Microland Foundation, we believe that
Education is the foundation for lifelong success.
Our initiatives for 2024-25 were designed to bridge
learning gaps and equip students - especially those from
marginalized backgrounds - with future-ready skills, thus
creating opportunities for holistic growth.



Our Education initiatives support and reflect key UN Sustainable Development Goals



Quality, equitable education: The Learning Lab and Kreedashala programs foster curiosity, discipline, and goal-setting – in classrooms and on the field.

Holistic growth: By blending technology, mentorship, and hands-on learning, we build confidence and future-readiness.

Skills for employment and entrepreneurship:

STEAM Smart Project and Kreedashala build digital fluency, communication, teamwork, and leadership for diverse career paths.

Global citizenship and sustainability:

Interdisciplinary modules grow problem-solving, collaboration, and civic sense, along with essential digital and language skills.



By equipping students with education, digital skills, and livelihood readiness, our programs aim to break the cycle of poverty and create pathways to long-term economic empowerment for underserved communities.



We promote physical health and mental well-being through sports and active lifestyle, with a special focus on girls and marginalized children, helping build resilience and holistic development.



We empower the girl child by promoting equal access to education and sports, fostering leadership, confidence, and breaking barriers for inclusive growth.



Through sports and collaborative learning, we encourage inclusivity and social cohesion, promoting teamwork, respect, and peaceful coexistence among youth from diverse backgrounds.



KEY IMPACT ACROSS PROJECTS



STEAM Lab established

in partnership with government schools

Dedicated educators assigned and trained

to lead digital and STEAM-based learning

Learning Lab launched,

equipping underprivileged students with digital and language skills



500+ ITI students gaining

real-world experience in STEAM

5,500+ students & educators impacted

through tech-enabled learning initiatives

Students shortlisted for the

Tamil Nadu Robotics League,

showcasing innovation in STEM

First place winners

in the Veetukoru Vingyani Science Competition



Kalpana Kar, Managing Trustee of Microland Foundation, interacting with students in the Learning Lab program, where they develop English fluency and digital literacy skills



STEAM Smart Program





Partner Learning Links Foundation



India's education system is evolving to emphasize future-ready skills in STEAM. While the National Education Policy 2020 champions experiential learning, interdisciplinary approaches, and innovation-driven education, many schools struggle with hands-on, learner-centered approaches.

The STEAM Smart Program, a flagship initiative of Microland Foundation, bridges this gap by equipping students with digital tools, interactive learning spaces, and real-world problem-solving experiences – shaping a new generation of innovators, thinkers, and problem-solvers, where students, regardless of their background, have access to world-class STEAM education.



students working with a 3D printer as part of a hands-on robotics session





Students presenting a prototype, an example of design thinking that addresses real-world challenges

Objectives

Spark early interest in STEAM through hands-on learning and digital tools

Build 21st-century skills – creativity, problem-solving, leadership, and decision-making – to prepare students for future careers

Involve communities, especially parents and schools, to raise awareness of STEAM careers

Set up STEAM studios with digital tools and kits for interactive learning

Scale impact via a hub-and-spoke model for easy replication across schools

Key Milestones

- Pilot STEAM Smart Program launched in Rayakottai, in February 2023
- 30+ student-developed prototypes, including IoT-based LPG leak detectors and RFIDenabled smart washroom access systems
- STEAM program scaled in Gudalur through the establishment of 1 hub and 4 spoke schools, engaging 696 students through a Tinkering Lab
- Space exploration robot prototype built for Tamil Nadu Robotics League, showcasing advanced engineering skills
- Design Thinking orientation delivered to 400+ ITI students across 8 trades, encouraging innovation and entrepreneurship
- STEAM Clubs launched across schools



Raja Gopalan S, Non-Executive Director at Microland, addressing and inspiring young minds at the STEAM Studio

Impact 2024-25



A moment from the STEAM Lab, where students code, create, and collaborate

Student Innovation in Action

- 2,000+ students engaged in hands-on STEAM learning, with Al-based projects like an Emotion Detection System and a Smart Attendance System. Increased participation in STEAM across Grades 6 to 9.
- Improved technical and problem-solving skills through coding, robotics, 3D printing, and prototyping.
- Boosted confidence and teamwork through collaborative projects and presentations.
- Development of an innovation mindset through real-world problem-solving with emerging technologies and STEAM concepts.
- Acquisition of future-ready skills through early exposure to Al, robotics, machine learning, and DIY tech kits.

Teacher Capacity Building

Through structured frameworks and interactive training modules, teachers were introduced to progressive, student-centric pedagogies designed to inspire and scale STEAM learning.

- Enhanced teaching methodologies
- 472+ classroom sessions incorporating inquiry-based learning, coding, and design thinking

Community Digital Empowerment

1,000+ members were trained in digital and financial literacy.



Advancing the Education Ecosystem

Scalable experiential learning models introduced, fostering interdisciplinary problem-solving and real-world application of STEAM concepts.

The STEAM Studio is excellent. Students enthusiastically conduct research on various projects.

The Studio is well-equipped to develop future scientists and their innovations.

- Sivaraman, District Educational Officer, Hosur

During his visit to the STEAM Studio at Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Rayakottai, Mr. Sivaraman was struck by how students brought science and technology to life through hands-on projects. He commended the program for igniting visible enthusiasm, curiosity, and a practical understanding of concepts among learners.

Further endorsement came from Ms. Manjula, BRTE, who visited the Gudalur STEAM Studio and highlighted how project-based learning fosters creativity, collaboration, and a tangible enthusiasm for innovation among students. The program also drew appreciation from Mr. Nandhakumar, CEO of The Nilgiris, and MLA Mr. Pon Jeyaseelan, who engaged in discussions on its transformative potential and the vital role of STEAM in future-ready education.



The students created their projects
exceptionally well and presented them in a way
that other students could easily understand.
The STEAM Studio instructors played a key role
in guiding them and ensuring their outstanding
performance. Their creations are useful and
essential for the current situation.

- Radha R, Math Teacher

Measuring Impact to Drive Growth

The program measures success through key metrics, including student performance in STEAM subjects, teacher feedback on training effectiveness, an Innovation & Creativity Index to track handson participation and problem-solving abilities, and community engagement metrics to assess awareness and involvement in STEAM activities.

Building STEAM Learning Ecosystems for the Future

Weekly sessions on digital and financial literacy have helped build awareness and engagement.
Local volunteers and teachers are regularly trained, while project showcases actively involve families. Students are encouraged to solve real-world problems rooted in their own surroundings, making the program deeply relevant and culturally resonant.



A student presenting a prototype designed to solve a real-world problem rooted in her community

STEAM Smart Program students displaying certificates and awards received at a state-level science competition

By equipping schools with STEAM studios, digital tools, and trained educators, the initiative's hub-and-spoke model ensures a self-sustaining ecosystem, allowing best practices to be replicated across schools and geographies.

Next Chapter

- Expanding the program to more schools in Tamil Nadu and beyond
- Strengthening industry partnerships to provide real-world exposure to students
- Enhancing teacher training modules for deeper integration of STEAM methodologies
- Introducing advanced digital tools to further innovation in classroom learning

Learning Lab







Learning Lab is a vibrant and dynamic in-school initiative designed to improve English fluency and digital literacy among underserved students in the Nilgiris. Run in partnership with MMS Gandhipuram School, the program transforms unused spaces into creative, tech-enabled learning hubs featuring our key modules: Digital Skilling, Reading Support (via Google Read Along, Karadi Path), Tuition Support, and Creative Exploration. A summer camp in 2025 will expand these offerings to include music, storytelling, and interdisciplinary arts.



A student reads aloud, developing English fluency and confidence through storytelling

Learning Lab

Discover. Create. Learn



Reading



Technology





Mentorship



Launched in collaboration with MMS Gandhipuram School, the project has transformed an abandoned space into a fully-equipped education hub where students engage in:

Digital Skilling

Basic computer literacy and coding using interactive tools.

Reading & Tuition Support

Al-based platforms like Google Read Along and Karadi Path to improve fluency and comprehension.

Creative Exploration

Expanding beyond Art and DIY, music, storytelling, and interdisciplinary creative modules will be introduced with the 2025 summer camp.

Impact Highlights (2024–25)

- 135+ students benefited; 200+ community members engaged
- Marked improvements in fluency, comprehension, and digital confidence
- Parental sessions introduced on financial and digital literacy
- Official recognition by education officers
- Community ownership with local tutors and active school committees
- Progress tracked via assessments, feedback, and attendance logs

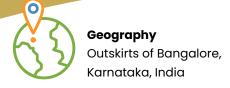


The Learning Lab at Gandhipuram is a vibrant space where students explore, learn, and create. Curated by the Microland Foundation, it nurtures 21st-century skills through its Digital, Reading, Learning, and Creativity Corners. Students eagerly look forward to their sessions -designing projects, showcasing them to parents and teachers, and constantly seeking new ideas to learn and grow. The Lab has truly brought the essence of learning to life.

- Shasikala, English Teacher, Municipal Middle School, Gandhipuram



Kreedashala





Partner

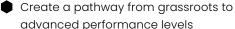
Reaching Hand, **Bangalore Youth Football** League (BYFL)



Kreedashala is a structured sports program supporting the physical and emotional well-being of foster home students through competitive coaching and inclusive participation. Starting with 60 students, the initiative now engages 187, including a steadily expanding girls' football team.

Objectives

- Support emotional well-being through team play
- Promote regular physical activity and fitness
- Provide access to competitive sports platforms
- Improve academic engagement through sports-led motivation





Junior Microlanders participate in a game of football with students from Kreedashala during the ML 35 event







Key Achievements

- Exposure at Padukone-Dravid
 Centre; 6 students selected for coaching
- Wins at inter-school football tournaments
- Registration in Karnataka
 Football Association
- 90% of students complete homework/classwork as a program requirement
- PUMA recognized a student for advanced training

As a counselor working closely with foster home students, I've seen remarkable improvements in their mental well-being through sports activities facilitated by the Microland Foundation. Since their participation, incidents of self-harm, bullying, and depression have significantly declined. The number of counseling sessions needed to address trauma has dropped from five to just two, or even one, per student.

- Counselor, Lighthouse International Academy



Sports as Transformation

100+ young athletes trained,

with national and district-level participation

22 students

registered in professional football leagues (U-13 & U-15)

PUMA-sponsored

training secured for promising young footballer, Moses

Stories of TransformationThe Power of Opportunity

The Making of a Young Goalkeeper: Pranay's Story of Grit and Growth

4

Standing in front of a goalpost, waiting for the ball to come charging, used to fill Pranay with hesitation and fear. As a Grade 7 student, stepping into the role of goalkeeper was a daunting challenge. But with practice, perseverance, and the unwavering support of his **Kreedashala** mentors, fear slowly turned into confidence. Today, he stands strong, ready to defend his team with skill and courage.

But Pranay has tackled challenges far beyond the field. Training has not only improved his reflexes but also his patience and composure. Once prone to anger issues, he has

Pranay - the goalkeeper, team player, and young leader

learned to channel his emotions constructively. Daily practice has not only improved his performance but also enhanced the overall team's capabilities, strengthening their synergy and teamwork. Playing with friends has been a source of pure joy, and with each match, his bond with the team grows stronger.

Academically, he has shown remarkable improvement in both focus and performance, with the discipline he applies on the field directly contributing to his success in the classroom.

As he gears up for the upcoming tournament, the excitement in his voice is undeniable.

The support he's received from the Kreedashala program has helped him grow into not only a skilled player but also a valuable teammate and emerging young leader, ready to tackle challenges both in sports and in life.





Sports teaches you character, it teaches you to play by the rules, it teaches you to know what it feels like to win and lose — it teaches you about life.

- Billie Jean King, Tennis legend and champion of gender equality and social justice

From Curious to Confident: A Rayakottai Student's STEAM Story

In Rayakottai, Tamil Nadu, 14-year-old Anbuselvi struggled with academics and often felt left behind. But everything changed in 2023, when the **STEAM Smart Program**, led by Learning Links Foundation (LLF) and supported by Microland Foundation, was introduced at her school.

66

Her first hands-on project, a hydraulic lift, sparked curiosity. But it was coding that truly lit her up. Starting with Pictoblox and progressing to Python, she discovered joy in solving problems. "The first time my code didn't work, I felt stuck. But after

multiple tries, I finally got it! That moment gave me so much confidence."

Her standout moment was building an Al-based Emotion Detector System to help people express unspoken feelings. Despite sensor issues and countless coding errors, she persisted - debugging until it worked.

The transformation was striking. Once quiet in class, Anbuselvi now confidently presents her projects to judges, even helping classmates grasp Python basics. At home, she fixed a wiring issue using STEAM skills. Her parents now see her not just as a student, but as an innovator.

She dreams of building tech for the elderly in her village, and urges other girls to give STEAM a chance. As Sandeep Parthiban, Senior Program Manager, LLF, highlights her growth, "Once they start learning, they'll see how exciting it is—and when they build something on their own, the feeling is incredible."



Anbuselvi displaying her certificate of excellence for developing an Al-based emotion detector system as part of the STEAM Smart Program



Sector

ENVIRONMENT

Creating Sustainable Solutions for Community-Led Impact

From transforming a legacy dumpsite into a thriving zero-landfill system, to nurturing a new generation of eco-stewards, Microland Foundation's work in the Environment sector blends technology, tradition, and grassroots action. Whether it is waste turned to wealth or classrooms turned into living labs, each



effort echoes a larger vision: to build resilient, self-sustaining ecosystems where people and nature thrive together.

Our Environment initiatives intersect with several UN Sustainable Development Goals



Build resilient infrastructure and ensure equitable access

We remain committed to developing and supporting quality, reliable, sustainable, and resilient infrastructure, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all.



Reduce the environmental impact of cities, with attention to air quality and waste management

Through community-driven waste solutions and zero-landfill efforts, our initiatives advance cleaner, more resilient living environments in urban and semi-urban areas.



Water conservation modules in Nature Quest and awareness drives help communities adopt more responsible water use practices.

RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

Reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling, and reuse

Circular practices in waste management are advocated – encouraging segregation, recycling, and sustainability awareness among citizens and local leaders.



Improve education, awareness, and capacity on climate change mitigation and adaptation

Eco-leadership programs and citizen science tools empower communities to take climate-positive action, blending traditional conservation with modern solutions for local stewardship and resilience.



Our initiatives support the preservation of native biodiversity and promotion of sustainable living practices that nurture local ecosystems.



KEY IMPACT ACROSS PROJECTS





7,998metric tons of food waste converted into 1,200 tons of Grade A compost, 638 metric tons of CO₂e saved







empowered through Nature Quest







Students in a field session learning how to transform trash to treasure



and citizen science tech tools introduced



Nature Quest





Partner YouCAN (Youth Conservation Action Network)



The Nilgiris, one of India's richest biodiversity zones, has lost over 80% of its native vegetation to plantations and unregulated development, causing severe ecological strain. Nature Quest responds with a holistic, community-driven approach, working to restore native ecosystems while helping local communities build sustainable livelihoods.

The program has established a **Nature Living Lab**, an off-grid, hilltop initiative, which integrates ecological conservation with community empowerment. The space facilitates experiential learning, citizen science, and ecoentrepreneurship. **Eco Clubs** and interactive workshops across **13 institutions** have sparked eco-literacy and action. **Over 600 students** have participated in hands-on activities and competitions. Winners of these competitions – including Trash to Treasure, Water Wisdom, and Nature Journaling – were rewarded with a visit to Nature Quest, where cross-learning deepened through student storytelling, assemblies, and peer-led presentations.



Exposure day: students visit Nature Quest to learn about nature and ways to contribute





The ripple effect is visible. Families are adopting greener habits, and pride in traditional ecological knowledge is growing through stories, shared experiences, and ongoing engagement. Seven new programs, from eco-photography to maker spaces, have been co-developed with Microland Foundation, strengthening the bridge between schools and communities.

We were drawn to partner with Microland Foundation for their deep enthusiasm in the living lab concept - a space to explore new ideas, iterate, embrace failures, and discover patterns in what truly works, all to benefit the Nilgiris and its people. Their openness and wholehearted involvement resonated deeply with us. It was both encouraging and inspiring, and we look forward to continuing this purpose-driven partnership.

- Rachita Sinha & K. Ramnath Chandrasekhar, Founders, YouCAN

Green Intelligence: Powered by Tech & People

Technology plays a key role. From citizen science apps to digital storytelling, students document biodiversity, test sustainable ideas, and connect with wider networks. Partner capabilities have also grown through focused training in eco-literacy, social media, photography, and impactful communication, led by YouCAN founders with ties to National Geographic and global ecology forums.

Impact Assessment & Strategy

Monitoring happens via shared calendars, fortnightly reviews, and ongoing field engagement, ensuring accountability and adaptive strategy. With its modular design and growing interest from NGOs and schools, Nature Quest continues to expand its reach and effectiveness.







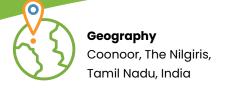




TOMORROW MICROLANI FOUNDATI ENVIRONMENT | EDUCAT EMPLOYMENT | HEALTH Art and film sessions are part of the program to build awareness and foster environmental stewardship among children

By empowering children and the local community with knowledge, tools, and native resources, the initiative has sown the seeds for a self-sustaining, resilient ecosystem rooted in tradition and responsive to today's climate and livelihood challenges.

Solid Waste Management - Clean Coonoor







A decade ago, Coonoor Municipality faced significant waste management issues, compounded by its hilly terrain and the absence of nearby recycling facilities. The Solid Waste Management Rules (2016) prohibited landfills and incineration, forcing the town to rely on its 12.35-acre Ottupattarai dumpsite - an unsustainable solution.

In 2019, a Micro Composting Centre (MCC) was set up to process wet waste but struggled with slaughterhouse and fibrous waste. Dry waste management too was inadequate, with only a small fraction reaching recyclers. Spontaneous fires and leachate contamination posed environmental hazards, leading to legal scrutiny. The National Green Tribunal mandated the clearing of the dumpsite and the establishment of a Resource Recovery Centre (RRC).

In this complex, seemingly intractable scenario, Microland Foundation stepped in, supporting the municipality in setting up the RRC and launching essential waste management initiatives, thus laying the foundation for a center of excellence in sustainable practices.



Kalpana Kar, Managing Trustee of Microland Foundation, at the 10-year anniversary of Clean Coonoor, outlining progress and future plans for sustainability in the Nilgiris





Objectives

The program aims to create a circular economy, focusing on:



Promoting recycling and reuse to reduce landfill waste



Raising community awareness on waste segregation and recycling



Ensuring responsible waste disposal to prevent environmental harm



Encouraging sustainable consumption and reducing waste generation

The Clean Revolution, By the Numbers

What began as small clean-up drives has evolved into a robust operation managing 4.5 metric tons of dry and 8.5 metric tons of wet waste daily. In four years, the initiative has transformed Coonoor's waste ecosystem through education and community participation. Notable advancements include the introduction of high-temperature burners and 13 new recyclable streams, including e-waste.



7,459 Dry Waste Handled in Tons



2,765
Recyclables
Recovered in
Tons



4,694
On-Site Safe
Disposal iN
Tons



8,025 Wet Waste Handled in



Compost Produced in

Furthermore, infrastructural upgrades, including additional compost sieves, have doubled productivity, enabling 2 tons of finished compost per day and closing the supply-demand gap by 30%. Leachate pumps, roofing extensions, and rainwater harvesting have reduced leachate runoff by 90%, protecting the environment.





From Smart Sorting to Zero Waste and the Road Ahead

The project uses semi-automatic sorters for better waste segregation and plans to integrate IoT-enabled systems for enhanced monitoring. Capacity-building efforts include training on composting and hazardous waste handling. Future plans include expansion to other blocks in the Nilgiris, exploring rural-urban integration for zero waste management, introducing a biogas plant by 2025, and doubling compost sales with CSR support and ₹2 crore in funding.



Discussion with the District Collector, Tmt. Lakshmi Bhavya Tanneeru on scaling efforts through a Public-Private Partnership

Stories of Sustainability – Inspiring Action, Fostering Growth

From Learner to Leader: A Student's Green Awakening

Dhanush, a bright and curious student at CMS Foster Home, once viewed the environment as just another textbook chapter. That changed when he participated in a series of nature-oriented programs organized by Microland Foundation and YouCAN. A film on saving the Sholas, the ancient forests teeming with countless flora and fauna, left a lasting impression. Inspired, Santosh drew a sketch depicting how he would protect the forest, which earned him a spot in the Nature Quest experiential learning trial.





During the program, he learned how to reduce waste to zero, conserve water, identify different birds and insects, and understand the delicate balance of ecosystems. The hands-on experience ignited a passion in him that textbooks never could.

Back at CMS Foster Home,
Dhanush took action. He
became a leader of the eco
club, championing zero-waste
initiatives and encouraging
his peers to care for the world
around them.

Inspired by Dhanush, students at the foster home have stopped discarding waste irresponsibly, setting an example for their peers





Sustainability is no longer about doing less harm. It's about doing more good.



– Jochen Zeitz, global leader in sustainable business, conservation, and philanthropy

The Scrap King of Ketti: From Waste Collector to Recycling Leader



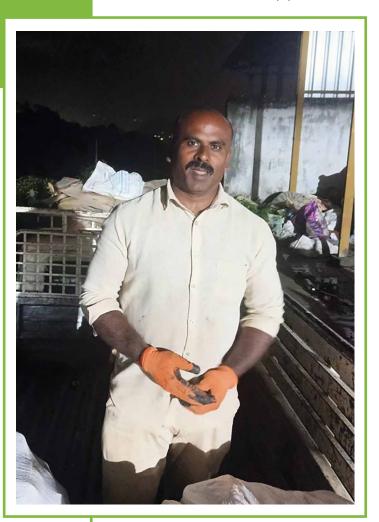
Maha Raja, or Annachi as he's fondly known, used to drive around the Nilgiris in a battered pickup, collecting scrap metal, bottles, tyres - anything with resale value. On one of these rounds, he came across the Ottupattarai Waste Management Centre.

What began with collecting glass bottles and plastics turned into something much more. With curiosity, perseverance, and a sharp eye, Annachi began

understanding the science behind municipal waste management.

Today, he plays a vital role in the system. He has helped recycle nearly 600 metric tons of waste, accounting for 75% of all recyclables handled at the centre. Low-value plastics have even been shipped as far as Pune. Thanks to his efforts, Clean Coonoor now segregates 19 recyclable streams, up from just 6.

From a local scrap dealer to a cornerstone of waste recovery, Maha Raja has become, quite fittingly, the Maharaj of end-stage waste management.



Maha Raja, the Raja of Scrap, knew that scrap wasn't just waste - it was gold. He created a significant impact through collection and sale.



HEALTH

Enabling Access to Quality Healthcare

In the rugged heart of the Nilgiris, where healthcare often feels out of reach, Microland Foundation is reshaping what's possible.

Through deeply rooted, community-driven interventions - ranging from last mile diagnostics and anemia reversal to palliative care and hospital infrastructure upgrades - Microland Foundation is bringing dignity, access, and agency to the most underserved. Each project reflects a commitment to equitable, sustainable healthcare, not as a privilege, but as a right.



Our Health initiatives for 2024-25 intersect with three important **UN Sustainable Development Goals**



Through Project Thrive, we address hidden hunger in underserved communities by improving access to balanced nutrition, early diagnostics, and awareness around iron-deficiency anemia - especially among women and adolescents.



Promote social, economic, and political inclusion for all

Efforts to upgrade healthcare infrastructure and provide mobile diagnostics help reduce inequalities in access, especially in remote areas, empowering vulnerable communities with quality services. Training community health champions and expanding palliative care ensure inclusive, dignified healthcare for all, supporting holistic well-being of underserved populations.

GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Reduce premature mortality from NCDs and promote health

Project Thrive helps reverse anemia trends through nutrition and diagnostics, promoting better nutrition in underserved communities.

Universal Health Coverage

From the renovation of the female inpatient ward at Lawley Hospital to installing critical care infrastructure like the Oxygen PSA plant at Sagayamatha Hospital, equitable access to essential health services for marginalized populations is ensured.

These initiatives also contribute to the national goal of universal health coverage, aligning with Ayushman Bharat and Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, ensuring affordable, equitable healthcare for all.



KEY IMPACT ACROSS PROJECTS



744 individuals screened through door-to-door visits and camps

Through the Point of Care project in partnership with ASHWINI, remote communities received access to diagnostics, reducing reliance on traditional healers and enabling timely intervention.

55% of anemic individuals restored to normal hemoglobin levels

Project Thrive's targeted nutrition and health efforts have delivered measurable improvements in individual well-being, especially among women and expectant mothers.



226 patients received dignified palliative care at home

From cancer to COPD, the Palliative Care project, in partnership with KMF, reached those often forgotten, restoring mental well-being and easing end-of-life journeys.

Hospital rating increased from

2.5 to 4.5 after OPD & IPD upgrades

At Lawley Hospital, the female ward transformation directly enhanced care standards, safety, and patient dignity.

123 lives supported within 2 months through critical care upgrades

The O2PSA plant and vacuum suction unit at Sagayamatha Hospital have improved emergency responsiveness in a remote, climate-vulnerable region.

22 community enablers trained, with an 87.3% increase in knowledge through structured capacity building

By equipping local champions under Project Thrive, Microland Foundation is building resilient, self-aware communities with long-term health ownership.



Project Thrive







In the remote tribal hamlets of the Nilgiris, rugged terrain, limited infrastructure, and deep-rooted mistrust of medical institutions continue to hinder timely healthcare. With low awareness of preventive care and high rates of anemia, communities often delay treatment. Project Thrive bridges these gaps by **improving access to healthcare and strengthening health literacy**, with a focused effort on **combating anemia**.

A key component of the program is its **nutrition-focused approach** - promoting iron-rich, easy-to-make recipes using locally available ingredients like legumes, leafy greens, turmeric, and cumin. These recipes are both culturally relevant and practical for daily use in tribal households.

Through hands-on workshops and nutritional education, the initiative empowers communities to prepare these meals confidently. The result: better dietary habits, iron intake, and a measurable improvement in long-term community health.



A community volunteer conducting routine monitoring for non-communicable diseases







Team Astitva training and guiding the journey from baseline to better health

Community Health Project Overview

- Serving 220 individuals across 75 households from Kurumba and Irula tribes in Chinna Kurumbadi, Periya Kurumbadi, Pudukadu, and Kozhikarai
- Most beneficiaries belong to tribal communities and rely on daily wages, with monthly incomes between ₹6,000 and ₹9,000
- Beneficiaries include children, adolescent girls, women, and men, supported by 4 health ambassadors and 20 community enablers
- Focused on building local capacity through grassroots health leadership

Key Milestones

- Awareness sessions on anemia and nutrition
- Community screenings and health camps
- Nutri Kit distribution and exposure visits
- Positive Deviance sessions for behavior change
- Community access facilitated to select government welfare

Microland Foundation has been a valuable partner to Project Thrive, offering guidance and expertise throughout our journey. Their clear communication and quick responsiveness to community needs helped us act effectively and on time. Their involvement has added value on the ground, showing their strong commitment to community well-being.

- Nikhil Hari, Project Manager, Astitva

IMPACT 2024-25

Anemia Prevalence

69.4% reduction in iron deficiency anemia; 50 of 72 individuals returned to normal levels.

Hemoglobin Levels

1.81 g/dL average increase achieved - 90.5% of target met.

Medication Adherence

94% of participants adhered to prescribed medication.

Capacity Building

87.3% scored ≥50% in assessments; 80% attended workshops regularly.

Positive Deviance

70% of households adopted key health-positive practices.

Comprehensive Health Intervention Program

Nutrition Support

- Nutri Kit Distribution
- Every Ten Days

Healthcare Access

- Monthly Medical Camps
- KMF Hospital Partnership

Supplement Distribution

- Daily Iron Supplements
- Daily Vitamin C Supplements





Health Screening & Treatment

- Baseline Screening
- Mid-line Screening
- End-line Screening

Community Health Ambassadors

- Health Monitoring
- Nutritional Practices
- First Aid

Capacity Building

- Workshops
- Practical Training
- Field Visits



Health ambassadors tracking community health data to support data-driven decision-making



Next Chapter

With a replicable, cost-effective design, Project Thrive is ready to expand to a new geography in 2025–26. Enablers will continue to receive refresher training and conduct exposure visits, while more families will gain access to health schemes and documentation support.

Project Thrive has sparked a visible shift toward institutional healthcare. With trained enablers, community trust, and sustained awareness, the project is building a foundation for long-term health and wellbeing.

Palliative Care Program





Partner Kotagiri Medical Fellowship Hospital



In rural regions like Kotagiri, palliative care remains scarce, despite rising needs among elderly populations with chronic illnesses such as cancer, heart disease, and diabetes. While studies in Puducherry reveal that 6 in 1000 people require palliative care, especially women and lower-income groups, healthcare access is often urban-centric and fragmented. The KMF Palliative Care program addresses this gap with a community-led approach, ensuring compassionate, culturally sensitive care that prioritizes dignity and comfort for patients while supporting families.

The program offers timely medical interventions, psychological support, and access to government schemes, while training caregivers and health workers in empathetic, context-aware care. Over time, it has grown from a small initiative in Kotagiri into a 20 km network reaching Burliyar and beyond, leveraging telemedicine, home visits, and trained volunteers to deliver consistent, home-based support in even the



A palliative caregiver trained to prioritize patient dignity and comfort





【 🜈 The Kotagiri Medical Fellowship Hospital would like to thank Microland Foundation for their support and constant encouragement to help families who undergo untold suffering.

- Dr. Miriam, Kotagiri Medical Fellowship Hospital

Key Impact & Milestones

- The patient base doubled from 100 to 223, with 65 individuals benefiting from government schemes like Ayushman Bharat
- Assistive devices were provided to 127 patients; home modifications improved accessibility for 15 individuals
- 200 Dignity Kits reached those in need, made possible by ₹3.5 lakh in donations from Microlanders and Microland's matching contribution
- Four training sessions for caregivers and advanced sessions for KMF staff strengthened care capacity
- A visit by Pallium India fostered knowledge-sharing on community palliative care models

மைக்ரோலேண்ட் அறக்கட்டளை மற்றும் KMF ஆகியவை உலக ஊனமுற்றோர் தினத்தை முன்னிட்டு நோயால் பாதிக்கப்பட்ட நோயாளிகளுக்கு கண்ணியமான தொகுப்பை (kit) விடியோகிப்பதன் மூலம் சமூகத்தில் ஆரோக்கியத்தைக் கொண்டாடுகின்றன



கோவை, டிச.05: நீண்டகால நோயால் பாதிக்கப்பட்ட நோயாளிகளின் பரா மரிப்பை உறுதி செய்வ தற்கான ஒரு குறிப்பிடத் எ திர் கொள்ளும் வேண்ட் ஒரு பொருந்தக் தக்க படியாக, மைக் பராமரிப்பாளர்கள் கூடிய மானியத்தைச் ரோலேண்ட் அறக் மற்றும் நோயாளிகளின் சேர்ப்பதன் மூலம் இந்த கட்டளை, கோத்தகிரி பொறுமையைப் காரணத்தை மேலும் மெடிக்கல் பெல் லோஷிப் (கேஎம்எஃப்) மருத்துவ மனையுடன் இணைந்து, நோயாளிகள் மற்றும் பராமரிப்பானர் ளுக்காக டிசம்பர் 3, 2024 உலக ஊன முற்றோர் தினம் அன்று ஒரு நாள் நோயாளிகளை பராமரிப்பவர்களை பாராட்டும்விதமானாக

கொண்டாடியது மற்றும் குறிப்பிடத்தக்க தைரியம் மற்றும் விடாழுயற்சியுடன் கடினமான காலங்களை பாராட்டும் விதமாக ஆதரித்தது. இந்த அமைந்தது மைக்ரோ லேண்ட் அறக்கட்டனை ரோலாண்டின் கொடுக் நோயால் பாடுக்கப்பட்ட நோயாளிகளுக்கு கண்ணியமான தொகுப்புகளை (kit) கட்டமைப்பின் குறிப் விநியோகித்தது. மைக்ரோலேண்டின் 35வது ஆண்டு விழாவில் இந்தக் தொகுப்புக்கான

உயர்ந்து, சமூகத்திற்குத் இரும்பக் கொடுக்கும் வாய்ப்பைத் கொடுத்தது. மேலும் மைக்ரோ முன்முயற்சி மைக் கும் கலாச்சாரத்தின் ஒரு பகுதியாகும், இது மைக்ரோலேண்டின் பிடத்தக்க பகுதியாகும், இது ஊழியர்களை சமூகத்தில் மாற்றத்தை

ஏற்படுத்தவும், பின்தங்கி

சந்தர்ப்பத்திற்கு

226 patients (103 male, 123 female) received support for conditions like cancer, stroke, COPD, and geriatric issues. Increased visits by KMF teams and volunteers have improved mental well-being, reshaped community attitudes toward illness, and empowered caregivers to lead change.

Technology, combined with telemedicine for remote diagnosis, has enhanced outreach. A Training of Trainers (ToT) program will build a network of skilled community caregivers, backed by an outreach booklet to create awareness about palliative care.

Next Chapter

The program is set to scale across neighboring blocks, deepen partnerships, and refine caregiver training. With a strong foundation digital innovation, the Palliative Care initiative is redefining healthcare for underserved communities.

Female Inpatient Ward Upgradation - Lawley Hospital





Partner

Kinder Trust and Implementation Team



Lawley Government Hospital, a century-old healthcare anchor in the Nilgiris, has long served the local community. But its female inpatient ward had become unsafe, plagued by structural instability, poor sanitation, and electrical hazards, threatening the very patients it aimed to heal. In response to appeals from the Health Secretary and District Collectorate, Microland Foundation stepped in to support the ward's renovation. This continues the Foundation's commitment to the hospital, following its OPD refurbishment and dialysis unit donations.

The renovation aligns with four of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, and aims to create a stateof-the-art ward offering dignified, accessible care for women. Short-term goals include structural upgrades, eco-friendly materials, and documenting processes for replication. Longterm, the project seeks to establish a self-sustaining, scalable hospital model with preventive care and local partnerships.

Patients utilizing the upgraded facility at Lawley Hospital

What began with the dialysis unit and the renovation of the outpatient department has now evolved into a





Key Milestones

- Notable enhancements include improved ventilation and lighting, roof tile repairs, upgraded windows and electrical systems, replacement of cots, and creation of dedicated spaces for caregivers.
- The facility now also features upgraded toilets, access to hot water, and modernized amenities - addressing critical gaps across two female wards and the nursing station – building on prior contributions like the OPD and dialysis unit to create long-term impact.

Impact

The renovation builds on earlier Microland Foundation contributions, including dialysis services for 500+ patients annually. Hospital standards have improved visibly - its rating increased from 2.5 to 4.5. Focused upgrades to two female wards and the nursing station have already addressed critical gaps in safety and sanitation, paving the way for long-term improvements in care.



குன்னூர், ஏப்.2-குன்னூரில் கு.70 லட்சத் தில் அரசு ஆஸ்பத்திரி சீரமைக்கப்பட்டு உள்

சுமைப்பு பணி

குன்னூரில் தூற்றாண்டு பழமை வாய்ந்த அரசு லாலி ஆஸ்பத்திரி உள்ளது. இங்கு அவசர சிலச்சை உள்ளிட்ட பேறு சிலச்சை உள்ளிட்ட பேறு சிலச்சை உள்ளிட்ட வசதிகள் உள்ளவ. இந்த ஆஸ் பத்திரியில் குன்னூர் மற்றும் கற்றப்பற இராமங்களில்

அரசு ஆஸ்பத்திரி கடத்த சில ஆண்டுகளாக சிதிலமடைத்து மோச மான நிலை யில் மைக்கப்பட்டு மேம்படுத்தப் மோசமான நலையை காணப்பட்டது. இதை தொடர்ந்து மகுத்துவம் மற் றும்மக்கள் நல்வாழ்வுத்துறை, குன்னூரில் உள்ள தனியார் அறக்கட்டளை, தன்னார்வ லர்கள் குழுவினர் சார்பில் ரூ.70 லட்சம் மதிப்பில் ஆஸ் **பத்திரியில் சீரமைப்பு பணி** மேற்கொள்ளப்பட்டது.

கலெக்டர் ஆய்வு

பட்ட அரசு ஆஸ்பத்திரியை நீலவிரி மாவட்ட சுலெக்டர் லட்சுமி பவ்யா நேற்று ரிப்பன் வெட்டி திறத்து வைத்தார். பின்னர் அவர் பேசும் போது,அரசு அனைத்தையும்

செய்து கொடுக்கும் என்ற எதிர்பார்ப்புஇல்லாமல்,தன் னார்வலர்கள் சிறப்பாக பணி களை மேற்கொண்டு உள்ள னர். அரசு மற்றும் தனியார்



New upgraded female inpatient ward at Lawley Hospital

The nights used to be challenging - not only for the patients but for us as well. Slippery tiles and water pooling in the toilets made maintaining cleanliness a constant struggle. It was difficult to witness patients endure such conditions, especially at their most vulnerable.

Now, with every tile laid and every wall painted, there is renewed hope. The transformation of this ward feels like a garden blossoming after a harsh winter. It's more than just renovation; it represents a commitment to providing better care and a better environment for our patients.

- Meenakshi, QPMS Worker at Coonoor Government Hospital

Extending the Circle of Care

With the completion of the female ward, our focus now extends beyond infrastructure to strengthening the people behind the care. Plans are underway to organize a workshop on mental wellness and self-care for nurses, attendants, and staff, empowering them to deliver the best patient care. Increased outpatient utilization and full occupancy of the dialysis unit reflect how improved infrastructure is already making an impact. Together, we are committed to ensuring that the hospital continues to serve the Nilgiris community for generations to come.

Sagayamatha Hospital – O2PSA Plant and Vacuum Suction







From managing obstetric complications to pediatric emergencies, medical oxygen is a life-saving necessity. Yet, in remote regions like the Nilgiris, its availability is unreliable, hindered by cost, distance from suppliers, and failing infrastructure. Vacuum suction systems, crucial during surgeries, face similar challenges.

Recognizing these gaps, Sagayamatha Hospital and the Microland Foundation partnered to make quality critical care a constant.

The initiative involved installing and commissioning an on-site Oxygen Pressure Swing Adsorption (O2PSA) plant and vacuum suction unit at Sagayamatha Hospital, ensuring steady access to medical-grade oxygen and sterile suction - vital for surgeries and emergency care. Alongside this, hospital staff were trained to manage and maintain the systems.

Originally a response to an acute need, the project has evolved into a broader effort to build sustainable, compliant infrastructure, with regular monitoring and capacity building. This ongoing support keeps systems reliable and resilient.



Patient benefiting from the PSA plant





Key Milestones

- Oxygen PSA plant and vacuum suction unit installed, with six-plus-one backup cylinders for uninterrupted supply
- Within two months, 123 patients supported
 projected to reach over 438 annually
- Community trust strengthened and hospital staff empowered through improved emergency response
- Reduced travel and logistical strain on families seeking critical care
- Before the O2PSA plant was installed, we were constantly worried about oxygen shortages, especially during power outages. My father needed continuous oxygen support, and the frequent trips to refill cylinders in Coimbatore added to our stress. But now, with the new system, we feel at ease. The oxygen supply is uninterrupted, and the staff is more confident in handling critical cases. This project has not only saved lives but also given us hope and peace of mind.
 - Mrithy, caregiver in the MICU



The PSA plant has made our work so much easier. We no longer have to worry about running out of oxygen during emergencies. It's a gamechanger for our hospital and the community we serve.

- Nurse Remya

Capturing Meaningful Insights

Field visits, feedback loops, utilization certificates, and impact reports ensure accountability and responsiveness.

Towards a Stronger Healthcare System

Next steps include expanding ICU vacuum ports, continuing staff training, and establishing a formal feedback mechanism. With its emphasis on sustainability, local ownership, and replicability, the project stands as a scalable model for healthcare transformation.

Point-of-Care Testing





Partner

ASHWINI (Association for Health Welfare in the Nilgiris)



ASHWINI – Point of Care is a pioneering initiative by the Microland Foundation in collaboration with ASHA workers, health volunteers, health animators, area offices, medical researchers and practitioners, aimed at bridging critical healthcare gaps for tribal communities in Gudalur. With over 193 villages located more than 15 km from the nearest hospital, the project brings timely access and diagnostic care to the doorstep – especially for life-threatening fevers and non-communicable diseases (NCDs) like hypertension, cardiac conditions, and diabetes.

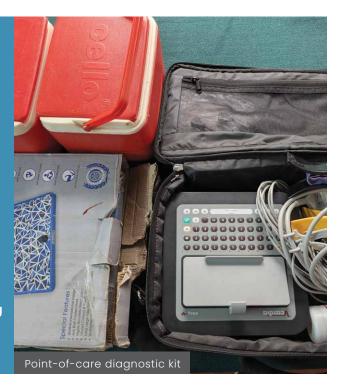




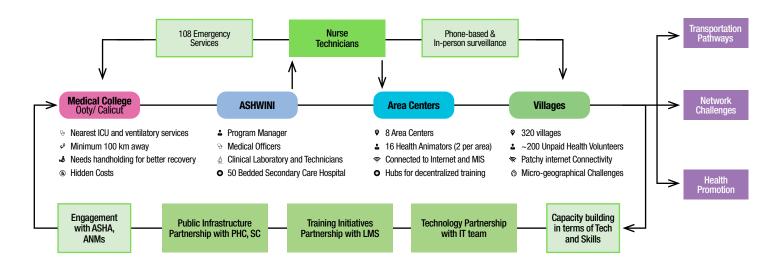


Key Milestones & Impact

- Mobile diagnostic kits and home-based screenings rolled out
- 5,000+ individuals reached in Year 1; diagnostics conducted for 2,800+
- 2 nurse technicians and 25 health volunteers trained in point-of-care testing
- Disease clustering and seasonality mapping initiated
- Referrals and treatment streamlined for critical cases
- Community reliance on traditional healers has dropped, with earlier reporting of symptoms and rising openness to mental health and preventive care



Bridging the Gap: A Systemic Approach to Tribal Healthcare



By deploying mobile health units, equipping local Nurse Technicians (NTs), and embedding community surveillance systems, the program is reshaping preventive and curative care in remote hamlets. Eight Area Centers now support teleconsultations, and growing community trust has led to greater acceptance of allopathic care.

The project uses the **Avni App** for real-time data and **Bahmini** for digital records and disease mapping.

We are working towards a tech-integrated future that simplifies healthcare delivery and bridges last-mile access for the adivasi communities. Microland Foundation's visionary support is helping us reimagine our data informed decision making in community health for greater impact.

- Dr. Ajith, Community Health Lead

Stories of Healing – The Quiet Power of Compassion

From Pain to Possibility: How Care Helped a Bedridden Elder Walk Again

66

N, a woman in her 60s, lay bedridden at home - her third-degree leg burn had worsened into a non-healing, pus-filled ulcer. During a screening visit, the **Point of Care** team found her frail, unable to eat, with the ulcer covered in debris and pus, and refusing hospital care — despite repeated encouragement from Health Animators.



A powerful visual reminder that healing begins with care and reaches its fullest with timely intervention

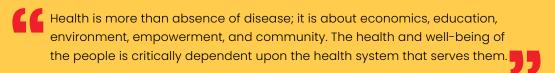
After consulting with doctors and the Health Animators, the Nurse Technicians stepped in. They convinced her family to act, and a 108 ambulance was arranged.

At the ASHWINI hospital, she received nutritional rehabilitation and underwent successful skin graft surgery. As the infection cleared and toxic symptoms subsided, so did her despair. In time, her leg healed, and she was able to walk again.

Her recovery is a twin testament to what's possible when healthcare reaches the doorstep, and when people refuse to give up on people.

Names withheld to protect the patients' privacy.





– Joycelyn Elders, Pediatrician and Public Health Administrator

Breaking the Silence: How a Health Camp Changed a Tribal Girl's Life

66

For nearly four years, a young girl from the Kurumba tribe endured excruciating abdominal pain in silence. At 14, her school life and daily routine were slowly unraveling. Her family, unfamiliar with formal healthcare, turned to traditional remedies and sporadic doctor visits—none of which helped.



Everything changed during a **Project Thrive health camp**, where a timely scan revealed a rare condition: an imperforate hymen causing internal menstruation. A simple hymenectomy was performed, and recovery followed.

Today, she is healthy, active, and attending school like any other child her age. Her mother now shares her hard-earned wisdom with others: "Don't wait. If something feels wrong, get it checked."

This story of healing underlines the importance of early diagnosis, women's health awareness, and communitydriven healthcare access.

A picture of how a timely diagnosis restored a girl's health, education, and future

Culture of Giving

At Microland, the essence of our Foundation lies in one principle: real impact begins from within. Our Culture of Giving (COG) is not just an initiative; it is an integral part of our identity, an embodiment of our commitment to making the world a better place, through acts of solidarity, innovation, and service.



Kalpana Kar, Managing Trustee of Microland Foundation, and Alok AS, Chief Al Officer at Microland, witnessing the genius of Gudalur Government School students at the STEAM Fair



patients receiving dignity kits

This year, Microlanders demonstrated that giving goes beyond charitable acts. It is a catalyst for transformation, as our employees infused their time, skills, and passion into causes that matter. From the groundbreaking fundraiser for Dignity Kits, which raised ₹3.5 lakhs – matched by Microland to magnify its impact – to volunteering at community events, the spirit of giving transcended the ordinary. Through initiatives like Dan Utsav, we created opportunities for employees to connect with their communities, fostering a sense of shared responsibility.

Microlanders and panelists at COG Week, where inspiring stories of ISR-driven impact were shared





(ISR), Environm Equity & Inclus

Children expressing their imagination

through art at the Canvas of Hope event

But our impact goes beyond the tangible. Through technology, we have empowered communities with digital tools: an Al-powered chatbot, multilingual LMS systems, and data-driven solutions, each a stepping stone in bridging the digital divide. Where Microlanders are not just volunteers but change-makers, weaving technology into the fabric of social empowerment.

As we celebrate 35 years of Microland's legacy, the Foundation's role in shaping our future remains clear. Through COG, we are advancing the goals of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), Individual Social Responsibility (ISR), Environmental Social Governance (ESG), and Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI). By aligning these values with our daily actions, we create a more inclusive, sustainable, and empathetic workplace.

In the Nilgiris, we've watched our efforts take root, not as outsiders, but alongside communities. Through our Seyalum Neelagiriyum initiative, we've not just supported, but actively co-created solutions with the people, ensuring their voices lead the charge for change.

This journey reflects a collective commitment to driving purpose-led initiatives, fueled by collaboration, and a relentless belief that transformation is not just possible – it is happening.



The toy donation drive, where Microlanders and their families responded generously



Rajesh Kharidehal, CFO, and Vedavalli S., Company Secretary at Microland, attend the WASH Initiative inauguration at Lighthouse International Academy, implemented by Reaching Hand and supported by Microland Foundation



Pradeep Kar, Founder, Chairman and Managing Director of Microland, with representatives from Digipreneur, STEAM Smart, and Kreedashala at the Microland Foundation booth during ML35, celebrating a journey shaped by Microlanders and beneficiaries



Microlanders participate in Dan Utsav with APD, empowering people with disabilities



Microlanders with students, celebrating innovation, STEAM exposure, and hands-on learning



Microlanders who are helping to bridge tech gaps at ASHWINI by bringing digital infrastructure and tools to the last mile







THE WAY FORWARD 2025–2026

Our strategy moving forward remains grounded in sustainable, community-embedded, and tech-driven solutions. We will continue to enhance livelihoods, build digital capacity, and scale successful models across diverse geographies – ensuring lasting impact and inclusivity.

A central focus will be the **expansion of our livelihood initiatives**, particularly the **Digipreneur Fellowship** program, which empowers individuals with digital and entrepreneurial skills. As we enter new regions, we will co-create solutions with local communities, forging **strategic partnerships** with NGOs and government agencies to ensure relevance and **long-term sustainability**.





Technology will be integral to support growth and scalability – enabling data-driven insights, impact evaluation, and adaptive strategies. This will help us replicate what works, improve what doesn't, and ensure high-impact delivery across regions.

Equally important is our commitment to **strengthening community relationships** and co-designing solutions based on their evolving needs. By fostering local ownership, we ensure our initiatives become lasting, integral parts of community life.

We will deepen our focus on **digital skilling**, equipping individuals to thrive in an evolving economy. Our **STEAM Smart Project** will continue to nurture creativity, critical thinking, and innovation among youth – preparing them for future workforce challenges.

In healthcare, we aim to enhance community well-being through **telemedicine**, **mobile health technologies**, and partnerships that improve access, particularly for the elderly and chronically ill. Our **sports initiatives** will promote physical health, mental resilience, and community bonding.

Working closely with local bodies, we will support efforts to improve civic services and public health infrastructure. Each step will be underpinned by technology - from digital platforms for service delivery to mobile tools that expand access to education and healthcare.

Strong, transparent partnerships with governments, NGOs, and stakeholders will be key to scaling impact.

Lastly, rooted in **innovation and community empowerment**, we remain steadfast in building **resilient**, **self-sustaining communities** – ready for the future.



In Appreciation of Our Valued Partners

Our work is made possible by the passion, commitment, and wisdom of many. We are deeply thankful to our partners, collaborators, and community members for their enduring trust, insight, and collaboration.































































We invite changemakers, organizations, and individuals who share our vision to join us. Together, we can deepen the impact and shape the future. Reach out to us at **contactus@microlandfoundation.org** to learn more about how you can get involved.



contactus@microlandfoundation.org www.microland.com