



»» E- NEWSLETTER ««

Plustrust

SEPTEMBER 2022 - AUGUST 2023



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ABOUT US

»»» VISION

A world where all people, especially those from resource-poor communities, have the opportunity to create an impact for themselves and others.

»»» MISSION

To build an ecosystem to inspire and nurture women as changemakers and entrepreneurs.

»»» METHODOLOGY

Towards achieving its stated mission, Plustrust has institutionalised a multi-dimensional approach, whereby it offers micro-incubation support through Fellowship opportunities for Rural Women Changemakers who wish to implement ideas that could make a difference in their respective communities across key themes like Inclusive Education, Community Health, Skills and Livelihoods, along with relevant training and mentorship interventions. Integrated into this methodology is the pursuit of empowerment and sustainability by helping these change agents evolve into self reliant regional hubs.

CORE VALUES

- **Compassion**
- **Equality**
- **Courage**
- **Dialogue**
- **Freedom to innovate and experiment**



PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

We are happy to report that the last twelve months have seen significant progress both qualitative and quantitative, with appreciable developments in the design as well as spread of our programs. With addition of Jharkhand our footprint now spans 7 states, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand.

Further, our efforts at mentoring and upskilling our cohort of fellows has helped us create self reliant hubs in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

Our Anchor network has grown, to a total of 19 with 7 new additions.

With the help of this expanding anchor network, we conducted nine Workshops to reach 241 potential women changemakers.

We offered 60 fellowships from September 2022 to August 2023 comprising 26 Rural women Edupreneur Fellowship, 13 Return to Roots Fellowships and 21 Community Health Entrepreneur Fellowships (compared to 52 fellowships offered from September 2021 to August 2022).

Through our work, we improved the quality of education for 2500 children, offered better healthcare for more than 1000 rural households and ensured a minimum of 20% increase in income for all 60 fellows.



Graduation Ceremony - First batch of CHE

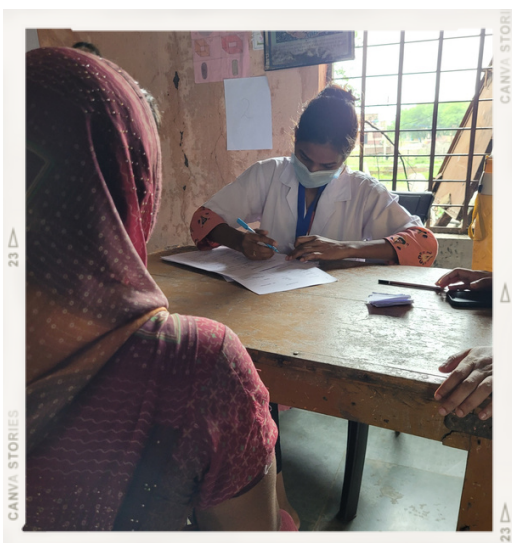
NEW INITIATIVES

JANSEHAT - THE COMPREHENSIVE CHE MODEL

Plustrust partnered with Spotsense and Stepone to develop the comprehensive CHE model by integrating rapid testing for communicable and seasonal diseases and teleconsultation support. With the basic CHE program piloted last year, each CHE was able to do 7 basic tests. Thanks to JanSehat Program, they are trained to do 16 tests including height, weight, SpO2, Temperature, Hemoglobin count, Blood sugar, Blood Pressure, Malaria, Dengue, Thyroid, Typhoid, HIV, Syphilis, Blood Group and Urine. Spotsense has brought to us their low cost portable rapid testing devices and trained the team and CHEs of the second batch.



Amrita Sukrity (Spotsense Founder) getting BP checkup at JanSehat healthcamp in Banswara.



CHE taking patient history in the health camp

With the support and guidance of renowned doctors from the Stepone network, CHEs are now recording comprehensive patient information and arranging teleconsultations. We completed over a 100 teleconsultations within the first month and see this collaboration as a new pathway to offer the comprehensive medical support for patients in remote locations.

STREEVIKAS FELLOWSHIPS

Fair Trade Forum India (FTFI) invited Plustrust to design and manage the inaugural cohort of the StreeVikas Fellowships for emerging women leaders in the craft sector. Through this initiative, FTFI seeks to build and deepen the leadership pipeline for the fair-trade craft sector using a long-term multi-dimensional approach. For Plustrust it is a unique opportunity to embed our approach to build rural women changemakers in a significant network.



StreeVikas orientation workshop in Delhi.

DIGISHALA

Plustrust invited People's Awareness Network Society (PANS), to take up a pilot project "DigiShala" for training in digital marketing, tailored for us. Launched in June 2023, Digishala has offered training on creating visuals for products and services, using social media platforms to share awareness about their work, improve storytelling skills to reach out to more audience and to use all the tools available for better outreach and marketing.

Initially 18 women participated in this program and 16 completed the course. They are now actively promoting their work on social media and getting more impressions on their work.

This is in response to the interest evinced by Fellows and Alumni in digital marketing .

ORIENTATION WORKSHOPS

With the agenda of discovering and encouraging rural women change makers in resource poor geographies we conducted a total of **9 workshops** from Sep 22 to Aug 23 (compared to 6 Workshop Last year between Sep 21 to Aug 22). **241 women** participated from Bihar, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Jharkhand.

Location	Anchor	No of Participants	No of fellowships
Uttar Pradesh	Shailesh, Simmi & Afaq	25	15
Jharkhand	Ajay	23	4
Uttarakhand	Tanya & Prashant	28	10*
Maharashtra	Shaila	19	7
Madhya Pradesh	Disha, Amita	44	4
	Nageshwar, Balmukund, Radheshyam		15*
	Anand, Birajo	15	8
	Deepak	12	5
Rajasthan	Priyanshi	45	5
Bihar	Meera / Poonam	30	12
Total		241	60
*25 Fellows selected in August and the fellowship to start in October			

ad with mapchart.net



FELLOWSHIPS

We have offered fellowships to 60 women and girls from rural locations mainly in Central India. State wise we now have 17 fellows from Madhya Pradesh, 12 from Bihar, 15 from Uttar Pradesh, 5 from Rajasthan, 7 from Maharashtra and 4 from Jharkhand.

MADHYA PRADESH

In Madhya Pradesh 8 RWE fellows are working with communities living around Sarhi gate of the famous Kanha national park. Some of them work with the Baiga community to provide children first a hand experience of school education.

In another exciting initiative, five young women have set to become drivers of jeeps taking visitors on forest safari. They are learning to drive LMVs will soon get their driving license and begin driving vehicles in association with local resorts. This will surely shake up some stereotypes about women drivers!

These fellows are being mentored by Plustrust anchors Deepak, Anand Tandiya and Birajo Sonwani under the overall guidance of the Nagda Hub.



Traditional Baiga style mural at Kanha National Park

In addition we have our CHE fellowships in Madhya Pradesh, with 4 additions this year under JanSehat Program. They have learnt the basic tests and are now learning about rapid testing devices and teleconsultation.

RWE Fellows



**Janki
Armo**



**Sukumari
Yadav**



**Geeta
Yadav**



**Pavanwati
Markam**



**Dhaneshvari
Markam**



**Akanksha
Yadav**



**Amrothin
Tekam**



**Manoj Lata
Pandre**

RTR Fellows

(Training to be Safari Drivers)



**Maya
Kusum**



**Golawati
Wadariya**



**Pratima
Yadav**



**Chameli
Dhurwe**



**Devanshi
Parwar**

CHE Fellows



**Riya
Halder**



Monika



Sangeeta



Sheetal

UTTAR PRADESH

This year we offered 8 RTR and 7 RWE fellowships in Uttar Pradesh.

RTR fellows are trying out new ideas and working on skill development for women from the local community. Besides sewing, they are experimenting with organic fertilizer and pesticides, seed preservation and weaving upcycled rugs from old clothes.

RWE Fellows are working with the children from the local community to increase their participation in school. Importantly, they work to create awareness among the parents about their child's education.

These fellows are mentored by Plustrust anchors Afaqulla, Simmi Moziz and Shailesh Singh



RTR Fellows



**Ayesha
Khatoon**



**Bharti
Gaur**



**Mamta
Verma**



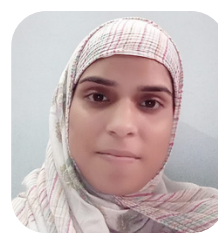
**Shaheen
Bano**



Sangeeta



Bitten Kumari



Shabeena Bano

RWE Fellows



**Ulfat
Siddiqi**



**Tarannum
Bano**



**Jyoti
Gautam**



**Shaziya
Parveen**



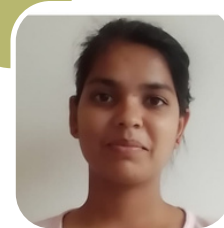
**Shubhi
Singh**



**Seema
Kumari**



**Poonam
Kumari**



Mansi

BIHAR

12 CHE fellowships are given this year from different blocks of Muzaffarpur district (Bandra, Marwan, Mushari, Aurai) and Patna. These fellows are trained to use basic testing devices and are now undergoing training about the diseases and medical modules. Once they are ready they will begin door to door testing and online consultation for the community. They will then be introduced to the rapid testing devices.

CHE Fellows



**Babita
Kumari**



**Rekha
Kumari**



**Rupa Kumari
(Pirapur)**



**Shalini
Singh**



**Mithu
Kumari**



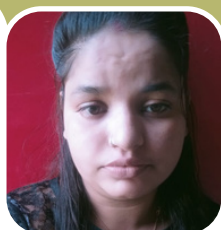
Kajal



**Sonali
Kumari**



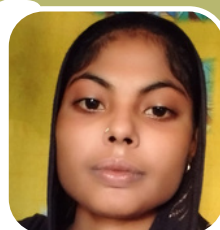
**Gunja
Kumari**



Mridula



Tannu Kumari



**Shabnam
Khatun**



**Rupa Kumari
(Harpur)**

MAHARASHTRA

This year we have 7 RWE fellows in Maharashtra being mentored by our anchor Shaila Yadav. Majusha and Ashwini work with the local communities in Satara, encouraging the parents to send children to school and teaching the students in a fun way so that they can enjoy learning. Swati and Shrutika provide skill building education to the local women. Vaishnavi, Kalyani and Mayuri are creating awareness about preservation of indigenous trees, collecting seeds and even started a conservation center within community.



RAJASTHAN

This year we have 5 additional CHEs under the JanSehat program. They are working in rural areas of Udaipur and Banswara, providing door to door testing and teleconsultation facilities to the local community.

CHE Fellows



Vinita Rao



Neetu Rao



Payal



**Karishma
Singh**



Vinita Rao

JHARKHAND

As we continue our journey to reach new geographies, we have now made an entry in Jharkhand. Our workshop in august 2023, with 23 women has brought in 1 RTR and 3 RWE Fellowships.



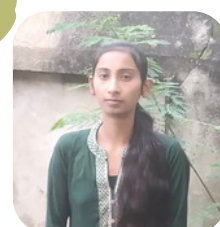
**Sufi
Rani**



Momina Bibi



**Jafrin
Praween**



Tripti Kumari

ANCHOR DEVELOPMENT

Anchor development is crucial for our growth and is an immersive process. We have been able to find and induct several new anchors in this year, giving us hope and ambitions for the future.

Radheshyam Chauhan

Radheshyam is a post-graduate in social work and organizes local communities to improve in livelihoods and incomes. He has formed and empowered 40+ Self help women groups in more than 11 villages in the Nagda region. He has worked at Kripa Welfare Trust as a Program Manager for the last 11 years. . He is eager to try the individual oriented fellowship model to encourage women with aspirations in the community. He is now mentoring 6 Plustrust fellows in the Nagda region



Balmukund Panwar

Balmukund hails from Devli, a small village in Ujjain district and has been a guest teacher in a govt school for around 10 years. He himself belongs to a humble background and has struggled to gain quality education. He got in touch with Mera Gaon Meri Duniya and expressed his wish of bringing a larger impact in the area of education. He supports 3 new fellows who wish to innovate around the idea of equity in education in the Nagda region of Madhya Pradesh.



Deepak Yadav

Deepak owns and runs a homestay near Sarahi gate of Kanha Tiger Reserve in Mandla District of MP. Being from the local area, he is keen to develop sustainable livelihoods for local youth. Since there is a rush of tourists during the Safari period, he sees many opportunities to support women of his region to earn a dignified living through skill building. He is now working with a group of 5 women who are learning to drive. He envisions them riding Safari jeeps someday in the forest accompanying tourists



Birajo Sonmani



Birajo belongs to a small village in the buffer zone of Kanha Tiger Reserve. She has been a grassroots field worker and educator at Aide et Action. She is concerned that the children of the Baiga community do not have access to quality education. She started her work as a Plustrust fellow and runs a learning center in her village teaching around 40 children regularly. Her sincerity, dedication, skills and the will to bring about a larger change are truly inspiring. She now anchors 3 more fellows to improve the quality of education in the area.

Shailesh Singh

Shailesh belongs to Risia block in Bahraich, Uttar Pradesh. She worked with Tata Trust on the Women's Literacy Program. When the Women's Literacy Program ended, Shailesh founded SARJU FOUNDATION, where she worked on social issues such as education, child labor, menstrual health, child marriage prevention and livelihoods. She established a sewing center, which later became a training center. She is currently mentoring 5 Plustrust fellows.



Shaila Yadav

She was a Plustrust RWE fellow in 2018, from Maharashtra, with the help of the fellowship she started one education center in her village for education of Nomadic Tribes. . After her graduation she formed an organization Samaveshak to continue her work with clarity . Currently there are sports and education centers in 5 villages. She is also mentoring 8 Plustrust Fellows



Ajay Kumar

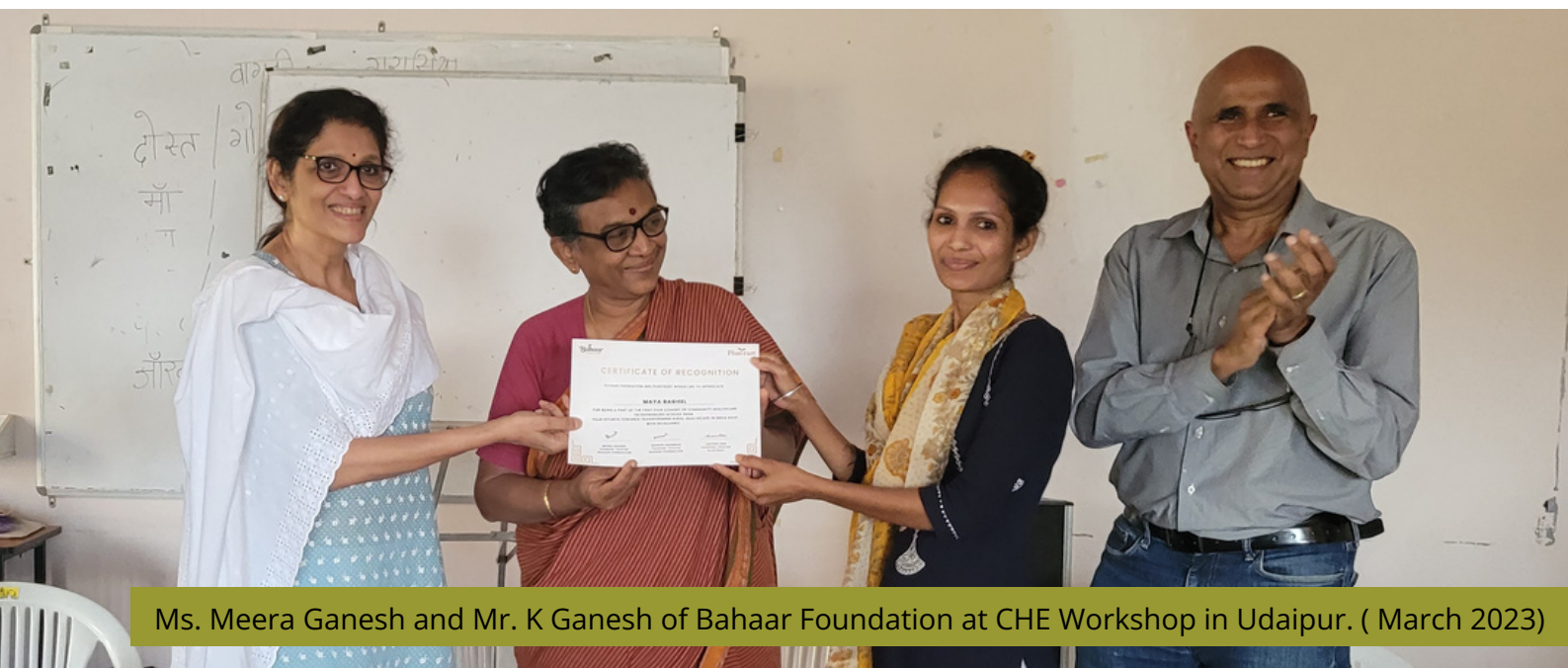
Ajay has developed several projects and initiatives on environmental sustainability in Jharkhand like decentralized solar home lighting system, solar mobile irrigation pumps and improved chulha. He worked on these initiatives as a part of a SBI-Youth For India Fellow with Aga Khan Rural Support Program (India) in rural Bihar



HUBS

We moved closer towards functional autonomy for hubs with our on ground partner MGMD taking full responsibility for offering RWE and R2R fellowships around Nagda and Sarhi (MP), M P. Currently the cost is met by Plustrust and in due course we expect that the hub will become self reliant.

The Udaipur hub continues to cover all the other states. We now have a full time Hub coordinator in each location and their work is supervised by Managers



Ms. Meera Ganesh and Mr. K Ganesh of Bahaar Foundation at CHE Workshop in Udaipur. (March 2023)

ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

Our alumni continue to inspire us with their dedication and grit. Of the 45 women who began their fellowships between September 2021 and August 2022, we are proud to share that 23 have continued their work in their community and 2 have taken up jobs aligned to their interest and purpose. In response to the interest shown by alumni, we have initiated the Digishala program.



Ashwin Patil from Bangalore and Ruby Calcuttawala made the effort to travel to Sarhi and worked with the Mandla Alumni, helping them deepen their awareness about teaching methods. This in turn was an opportunity for them to explore ways to improve their incomes.



We continue to look to our alumni to build our own team and our network and take this moment to celebrate our journey together beyond the fellowship period.

UPDATES

SoCC for Transformative Learning

The Social Capital Credit (SoCCs) model has been transformative, increasing parental involvement from 3% to 96.95% in Sparsh education centers. Parents completed five community initiatives, enhancing education quality. They were also trained to support home-based learning. Academic improvements are evident, with 65.19% of students now reading in Hindi (from 17%), while math proficiency grew significantly. Over 500 children and 10 youth benefited, and 10 schools received vital resources. The community supported eight schools in painting projects. SoCCs have truly empowered the community and improved education outcomes. The project is led by Nagesh Panchal and Vasudha Kapoor.



		Before (%)	After (%)
Parents Engagement		3	96.95
Hindi		17	65
English		1.25	12.22
MATHS	Subtraction	8	75.93
	Multiplication		59.26
	Division		35.93

Maker Spaces in Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV)

Plustrust was awarded a grant by Rise Up and The Emerging Markets Foundation (“EMpower”) to set up “Maker spaces” in government residential schools (KGBVs) for disadvantaged girls in July 2022. The project was spearheaded by Ashwani Tiwari. The establishment of four Maker Labs within KGBVs has had a profound impact on the learning experiences of 400 girls. They have become vibrant hubs of hands-on learning, fostering skills in areas such as electrical engineering, electronics, digital literacy, robotics, computing, and coding. Through the 180-hour Maker Mindset course, these young learners gained technical knowledge and developed crucial problem-solving and leadership skills. Their achievements have been remarkable, with 30 of the girls successfully creating functional prototypes, demonstrating their innovative prowess.



Teacher Leadership Program

We continue our association with Parashuram Public School and have offered scholarships to 21 students, with mentoring from our Nagda team when required.

Samvaad- A Micro-funding Platform

During the reporting period, we successfully completed another round of Samvaad. This round involved the participation of five Changemakers from Plustrust's fellowship network. To support these Changemakers, three Curators provided guidance and coaching over a span of two weeks. As a result, four Donors selected three of these Changemakers for further dialogue, committing to a total of INR 1.95 Lakhs in support for four Changemakers.

Currently, we are actively exploring opportunities for collaboration with other fundraising platforms that share our enthusiasm for assisting grassroots NGOs in their early stages of development.

ORGANIZATION DEVELOPMENT

With the growing complexity in our work, we sought ways to strengthen internal systems and processes and build our team. We were fortunate to find two opportunities in the past few months to help us.

We signed up for the Pravah's Saanstha Cohort (March to September 23) and this helped us build our shared vision and improve goal setting, role clarity, feedback, reporting and review systems for greater impact.

<https://www.pravahindia.org/youth-engaging-organizations>



A glimpse of Saanstha mentor meet in Udaipur with our mentor Ms. Kanika from Commutiny.

Technical Development

Tech4Good Community through their FOSSFwd program offered us an opportunity to assess our priorities and requirements in data management. We have been working closely with them to develop information flows and reporting systems for effective programme design implementation and learning.

<https://tech4goodcommunity.com/fossfwd/about>



We expect to derive the full benefits of these initiatives over the next few months.



PLUSTRUST TEAM UPDATES



Moin Khan

Joined as a part time Social media manager in January 2023, he is now full time IT and Social media manager for Plustrust. He is an Electrical engineer and an experiential travel enthusiast graduated from GITS Udaipur.

Before joining Plustrust Moin worked as travel consultant and worked with Mahindra & Mahindra to build a platform to book adventure activities in India.

Born in Bihar, Meera had struggled to get her education. That time she realized that there is a gender gap in the society at every stage and women find themselves inferior. She inspired to change that and joined Jyoti Mahila Samakhya, After training she worked as team leader in Vaishali, Kishanganj, Arariya and Supol. She was a Plustrust RWE fellow in 2016 since then she is advocating gender related issues, Currently she is Plustrust anchor and CHE coordinator in Bihar



Meera Kumari



Amita Chauhan

Amita belongs to Koyal, a small village in Ujjain (M.P.). She studied till 12 and got married. She wanted to pursue nursing but could not do it. In 2022 she was selected for the pilot Batch of CHE. Since then she never turned back. Currently she is working as a CHE coordinator for Plustrust.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

With deep gratitude we acknowledge the support and encouragement we have received from many quarters. In particular we express our heartfelt “thankyou” to these individuals who have made a special effort for us

Ms. Meena Ganesh, Mr. K Ganesh and Ms. Mahita Nagaraj of Bahaar Foundation

Meghamala Sengupta, Puja Mahato, Kanika Sinha from SAANSTHAA and Pravah

Ashwin Patil and Ruby Calcuttawala for taking the deep interest they have shown in our work

Nandini Ravikrishnan, Santosh Lourdraj, Guruprakash Sekar and team at Tech4good Community

Amrita Sukrity, Ashwin A and Dr Vidhi at Spotsense

Raghavendra Prasad T S and Dr Sanjeev Bajaj from StepOne

Jitendra Pratap Singh and Pinky Jain PANS INDIA

Rukmini Datta , Consultant Mumbai

Team members

We want to express our heartfelt gratitude to our departing team members Madhur Murti and Shalini Joshi for their dedicated contributions and wish them success in their future endeavors.

Our Donors

Ravi ventaktesan, Kamakshi Rao, Ramaswami M, Vidya Murali , Lakshmi radhaKrishnan, Nimesh Suamti and all our individual donors. Although we mention them here at the end of our Newsletter, they are our biggest strength. Without their unstinting support, Plustrust would not have been able to reach out to so many vulnerable communities across the country. Our grateful thanks to our donors for their trust and continued support of our work.

Please contribute to our Micro-incubation Hubs For Rural Women Changemakers, please click on the given link :

<https://r.give.do/SYCW7yiA>

All donations will be eligible for 80 G exemption (Tax benefit) and FCRA permission.

