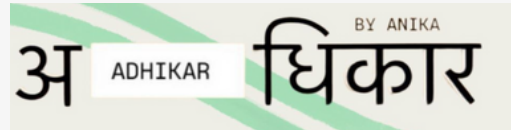


GSL PROJECT REPORT



STUDENTS FOR GRASSROOT EDUCATION

Visit us on:
Instagram: @_.adhikar
Website: adhikar.site

1. Introduction: What and why?

- SDG 4 – Quality Education
- SDG 5 – Gender Equality
- SDG 3 – Good Health & Well-being
- SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities
- SDG 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

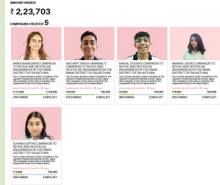
Adhikar began when our founder, Anika, then the youngest intern at the Ministry of Women and Child Development, witnessed firsthand the harsh realities faced by abused women and children in India's villages. She saw girls reluctant to attend school due to the crumbling state of government-run schools and Anganwadis—the only centers for early education and women's health in rural India. What started as grassroots fieldwork has grown into a nationwide, student-led movement. Adhikar now transforms neglected Anganwadis into hubs of education, safety, and empowerment—restoring childhoods, equipping young mothers, and modeling dignity-driven governance. Beyond infrastructure, the initiative uplifts sex workers, migrant women, and children, breaking cycles of poverty and silencing with a single belief: education and healthcare are not privileges—they are rights.

2. Team and Partners

Adhikar is led by 6 students (Anika (founder), Amaira, Aadyant, Suhani (outreach heads), Nitya and Raahil (art heads)) who manage a team of 12 student volunteers and have partnered with development experts and grassroots leaders across 5 Indian states.



- Ministry of Women and Child Development (India)
- Aajeevika Bureau
- Kat-Katha NGO
- Sprouts International School, Jaipur – Dr. Lavina Jaswani, Advisor
- Jayshree Periwal International School - Art Department
- Apareemita Humanitarian Association



3. Challenges Faced & Learning Outcomes

1. Navigating Bureaucracy & Approvals

- Challenge: Took 3+ months to get Anganwadi adoption order approved.
- Learning: Gained skills in policy navigation, drafting formal letters, and following up professionally with government officials.

2. Labour & Corruption Hurdles

- Challenge: Unethical labour practices, inflated quotes, and poor construction work.
- Learning: Built negotiation skills, learned to assess quality, and understood the importance of ethical hiring and accountability.

3. Infrastructure Gaps (Water, Electricity, Safety)

- Challenge: 4/10 Anganwadis lacked basic water connections.
- Learning: Mastered problem-solving through local-level advocacy, resource coordination, and pressure-group tactics with village leadership.

4. Age-Related Restrictions & Red-Light Area Access

- Challenge: Denied permission to work in brothels due to our age.
- Learning: Learned to build strategic partnerships with NGOs like Kat-Katha to gain trust and legitimacy.

5. Legal Content Development

- Challenge: No ready-made guidebooks are available for sex workers and their children, lack of clarity regarding whether the information included is sufficient.
- Learning: Understood the research process, built outreach capacity, and collaborated with experts like Supreme Court lawyer Mr. Anuj Aggarwal.

6. Fundraising Constraints

- Challenge: Limited budget despite ₹5.12 lakh (\$6,125) CSR and ₹2.12 lakh (\$2,535) crowdfunding.
- Learning: Developed marketing, crowdfunding, and financial planning skills. Discovered the importance of community storytelling and visual documentation.

8. Community Trust-Building

- Challenge: Social resistance from families to girls' education and Anganwadi reform.
- Learning: Gained community mobilization experience, used local languages for impact, and learned the importance of cultural sensitivity.

2. Progress across our 3 initiatives

Rights-Based Education for Sex Workers and Their Children

In collaboration with: Kat-Katha (GB Road, Delhi) and a Supreme Court lawyer in Delhi, India

- Distributing 2127 legal awareness and education booklets in Hindi, English, (including audio books, and visual books to ensure accessibility of legal education for impaired women and children).
- Conducting gender sensitization and English workshops for 35–40 children of sex workers bi-monthly
- Visiting 4 brothels across Delhi to conduct legal awareness workshops for 600 sex workers under the guidance of Supreme Court lawyer, Mr. Anuj Aggarwal
- Upcoming: Expanding to Sonagachi (Kolkata), Kamathipura (Mumbai), Budhwar Peth (Pune)

Empowering Abused Migrant Women

In collaboration with: Aajeevika Bureau

- Our team led field research and legal education drives across 6 villages in Rajasthan's single female migration belt
- Drafted 5 case studies suggesting training recommendations of law enforcement counsellors under Aajeevika bureau's family empowerment program, enhancing justice for abused women in 105 migration sources.
- Recovered wages for 10 women by facilitating the organisation of rallies of 200+ women across 8 villages, enabling them to support the education of their children



Adhikar's work with migrant women

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

- Nominated for the International Children's Peace Prize 2025
- Nominated for the Global Student Prize 2025
- Awarded by the Rochester Institute of Technology
- The state government issued an order, legally granting us 10 anganwadis across 10 villages.
- Recognised by the International Inner wheel India's president, MS. Sunita Kaushik
- Finalist, Harvard Sustainability Impact Challenge
- Media coverage by dainik bhaskar, city bhaskar, up18 news and borok times.

Anganwadi Revamp: Rebuilding Childhoods

Goal: Make education and healthcare accessible and dignified for women and children through restructured rural centers.

Our work in 10 anganwadis:

- Renovate crumbling Anganwadis with new furniture, waterproof roofs, build toilets and storage spaces and gardens, paint BaLa and murals, ensure electricity and water supply, provide digital devices to avoid the use of paper notebooks
- Installing computers to train rural teachers remotely in nutrition and healthcare
- Created 10 skill-building hubs in the 10 anganwadis for training women across 10 villages as vet nurses, enabling them to utilize their skills for their farming and rearing business.
- Equipped women with technology skills, teaching them to use smartphones; 20+ started their phone repair businesses, supporting education for 45 children in Rajasthan, India
- 10 Anganwadis rebuilding, impacting over 1,500 children and women. Each center supports 12,000 villagers and 10 whole villages in the long term.



Anganwadi in Akodiya before Adhikar's work



waterproofing of roof



Students revamping the anganwadi



BEFORE & AFTER BATHROOM



Electricity connections, storage space building and toilet re-installations



BEFORE & AFTER GLIMPSE INSIDE

TESTIMONIALS

- "Earlier, the roof would leak, and we had no water or electricity. Now, parents send their children even during monsoon; women feel so secure to seek healthcare support." — Krishna Verma, Akodiya Anganwadi Worker
- "The murals, the lights, the colors—they make learning feel magical." — Rani, Age 7, Rajasthan