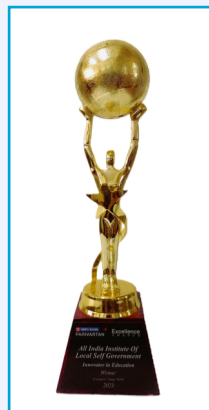


## AILSG's International Centre of Equi-T & Inclusion for Transformation (ICEQUI-T)

For ICEQUI-T's educational innovation of Shikshan Ranjan Kendra, AILSG was felicitated with the prestigious HDFC CSR Excellence Award- as the Winner in the "Innovator in Education"- Large NGOs category. On behalf of AILSG, the innovator Prof. Dr. Mukesh Kanaskar, Director- AILSG's CSR Centre, received the award at the hands of the Chairperson of the HDFC Bank Mr. Atanu Chakraborty at the awards ceremony recently held in Mumbai. The awarded innovation of AILSG of Shikshan Ranjan Kendra (Learning with Fun Center) has benefited thousands of under-privileged children across diverse settings of urban slums, remote rural & tribal areas including for the most marginalised & hard to reach children from Nomadic Tribes, Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups [PVTGs] such as Katkaris.

This is the fourth esteemed recognition for AILSG- ICEQUI-T's innovations. The first 3 have been the global recognitions of a) 'Risk AWARD 2015' by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) with the Munich Re Foundation and the Global risk Forum Davos, b) 'Stars in Global Health 2017' by the Grand Challenges Canada for its innovation with the Denotified & Nomadic Tribes & c) 'Stars in Global Health and Rights 2019' by the Grand Challenges Canada for its innovation of audio-tactile tools for the visually challenged women & girls.



## Salient Achievements

Lives improved during the year 2023-24: Through the grassroots field actions of AILSG's ICEQUI-T & its sub-centers, AILSG has enabled improvement in the lives 0.87 million under-privileged populations with special focus on women & children from rural, tribal, nomadic tribes & urban slum areas.

### Social Innovations to address diverse development issues on ground:

The following innovations developed by Ms. Shweta Gupta [Senior Executive Director, AILSG's ICEQUI-T and CSR Centre] and Prof. Dr. Mukesh Kanaskar, Deputy Director General, AILSG were launched during the year.

#### Digital Literacy Innovation

While on one hand the digi-technological domain is witnessing great strides, the digital divide is also increasing. AILSG has launched this innovation to improve for the under-privileged populations the access to and benefits from the digital technology. The innovation was launched at the hands of the Director General, AILSG Dr. Jairaj Phatak in remote nomadic-tribes' field action area of AILSG in Beed district of Maharashtra.





## Environment Life SEF Innovation

Dr. Jairaj Phatak, AILSG's Director General launched AILSG's CSR Centre's Innovation of 'Environment Life SEF' [Environment Life Skills Education with Fun] at an event on 12th June 2023 organized to mark the 'World Environment Day'. Mr. Pravin Darade, I.A.S., Principal Secretary- Environment & Climate Change, Govt. of Maharashtra was the Chief Guest for the program and Ms. Rema Mohan, Chief Executive Officer, National Stock Exchange Foundation was the Guest of Honour.

The AILSG's CSR Centre's innovation of 'Environment Life SEF' holds crucial significance with respect to Govt. of India's key priorities of 'Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment)' and National Education Policy 2020 and it synergises with United Nations' SDGs 2030 specifically SDG-13 on Climate Action, SDG 4- Quality Education, SDG 2- Zero Hunger.



## **AILLSG'S Own Pioneering Initiatives and Contributions to Sustainable Development Goals through ICEQUI-T & its Sub-centers**

### **AILLSG's Projects and Programs**

- Anchored at ICEQUI-T, focusing on global innovations for SDGs with disadvantaged populations.
- Emphasizes the importance of impact creation with the disadvantaged.
- Works with a wide range of SDGs, but focuses on some due to space considerations.
- Projects with AILLSG's holistic development model, like TARFAH for tribal and rural development, encompass many development interventions.

### **AILLSG's Gratitude to Support Agencies**

- Acknowledges resources for life improvement.
- Innovations are not one-time activities.
- Manifested into grassroots actions benefiting disadvantaged populations.

AILLSG's projects and programs towards attainment of these SDGs are anchored around its innovative model- TARFAH [“Transformative Actions for Rural Development, Food Security, Agriculture & Health”] Its recent and ongoing projects based on this innovation include:

- One project supported by IDBI Bank CSR in Aurangabad district of Bihar
- One project supported by Idemitsu Lube India CSR in Aurangabad district of Bihar
- Five projects supported by TATA Rallis CSR in tribal areas of Raigad district of Maharashtra, Palghar district of Maharashtra, Narmada district of Gujarat, and non-tribal areas in Karim Nagar and Warangal districts of Telangana
- One project supported TATA Industries CSR in Raigad district of Maharashtra
- One project supported by HDFC CSR through which a Kaushalya Vikas Kendra is established in Mumbai for honing skills of slum dweller youth of Mumbai

### **The TARFAH Model**

- TARFAH, an indigenous musical instrument, aligns interventions with tribal and rural groups' cultural preferences.
- The TARFAH model focuses on food security and livelihood issues holistically, gender-sensitively, and combines long-term sustainability with short-term goals.
- The program focuses on improving agriculture for landholder families and providing livestock interventions for landless families to address short-term food security issues in impoverished tribal communities.
- Market analysis expands income sources through participatory interventions like floriculture and vegetable cultivation, utilizing community inputs and agricultural sciences' technological assistance.
- The "Mano-Swasthya Ranjan Kendras" initiative, funded by MUFG CSR, aims to provide long-term mental health support to 10,000 underprivileged kids, half of whom are women.





### SDG 3: Good Health & Well Being

The interventions related to this SDG are in-built constituent of all the projects. A significant feature of ICEQUI-T's work is a keen focus on Mental Health. E.g. MUFG CSR supported project dedicated to enabling sustainable mental health support to 10,000 marginalized youth, minimum 50% of which were women.



The precarious nutritional status, especially of disadvantaged children and women is a cause of concern. AILSG addresses this by furthering its MAMTA (Movement against Malnutrition for Transformative Actions) movement to many more. This involves enabling plantation of nutritious kitchen gardens by location-customized vegetables & herbs. This was further augmented by developing AILSG's innovation of herbal gardens, with 3 sub-types of it.

### SDG 4: Quality Education

While this theme is covered as an in-built constituent of all the projects, certain recent projects had this as a dedicated focus, which include one project each supported by the:

- One project supported by German organisations- Terra Tech, Aktion Deutschland Hilft, Heisein Ministry- Germany- with nomadic tribes in Beed district of Maharashtra
- MUFG Bank CSR at 140 slum locations in Mumbai, Chennai, Delhi and Bengaluru
- National Stock Exchange Foundation in 51 villages in Nandurbar district of Maharashtra



- HDFC Bank CSR at 40 tribal locations in Palghar district of Maharashtra
- Kotak Mahindra Bank CSR in 4 Schools of Ratnagiri district in Maharashtra, 2 schools of Sehore district in Madhya Pradesh and 4 schools in Davangere district of Karnataka
- EagleBurgmann CSR in 1 slum location in Pune
- Kalpataru Foundation, USA in 1 slum location in Pune

AIILSG-ICEQUI-T's 'Children Resource Centers', also known as 'Shikshan Ranjan Kendras', offer quality education to underprivileged children in urban, rural, tribal, and denotified areas, despite COVID-19 disruptions.

#### AIILSG-ICEQUI-T's 'Children Resource Centers' Innovation

- Enables quality teaching-learning and enriched learning environment for underprivileged children in urban slums, rural & tribal areas, and hard-to-reach Denotified & Nomadic Tribes' children.
- Emphasizes 'Girls' education, ensuring minimum 50% children participating are girls.
- Over 50% Education Mentors (Shikshan-Mitras) are educated local women.
- Model proved resilient, adaptable, and effective even during COVID-19 pandemic disruptions.
- Provides equal opportunity for learning, play, and safety to children.
- Anchors education in local context, culturally and academically relevant.
- Innovation of 'BHASHA-SETU', bilingual teaching learning material, to overcome language barrier for tribal children.

## SDG 5: Gender Equality

The AIILSG's field action foster gender equality through the following fundamental tenets:

- Creating provisions for women-anchored livelihoods activities.
- Special focus on women-headed families.
- As decision makers in the grassroots community institutions, it is mandatory to have participation of minimum 50% women in hamlet-level committees and 50% girls in Baal Panchayats.
- In skills-training, financial-literacy, digital-literacy: minimum 50% of participants are women- overcomes gender-stereotyping.
- Promoting women friendly appropriate technologies: e.g. modified sickle, water fetcher, etc.
- Inculcating pro-gender-equality mind-set in all right from young age. Thus emphasis on girls as equal decision makers in Bal Panchayats goes a long way in enabling this.
- Women from the Indigenous tribes are at the forefront of the community development interventions including on hitherto neglected aspect of women's mental health related to their reproductive health & gender based violence. The innovation of enabling Mental Health will be initiated with more than 5000 disadvantaged women, including those from highly marginalised, stigmatised & discriminated indigenous 'Siddi' tribes who are of African descent.







## SDG 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation

AILSG's ICEQUI-T innovations enable disadvantaged populations to self-assess, plan, and seek stakeholder participation in community improvement through simple visual tools, even for illiterates.





## SDG 13: Climate Action



MUFG Bank CSR supported project is implementing the Environment Life Skills Education with Fun [Environment Life SEF] innovation to establish 39 community-based centers in India over 2 years. Year 1 saw 7 centers in Mumbai, Pune, Chennai, Delhi, and a tribal-cum-rural location for Siddi tribes in Haliyal, Uttar Kannada District. The initiative targets underprivileged populations, including urban slums, Scheduled Tribes, and Siddi Tribes. Focus is on engaging children and youth, especially girls and women, in promoting environment enrichment, education, and life skills for an eco-friendly lifestyle.

AIILSG's ICEQUI-T focuses on promoting renewable energy through awareness campaigns and field actions. It emphasizes instilling a climate action 'culture' from childhood and supports the use of solar devices like lamps and frugal innovations like homemade solar cookers made by tribal/rural children using waste material.



ICEQUI-T is taking action on plastic waste, with a focus on circular economy. With support from Idemitsu Lube India CSR, AIILSG is working on sustainable plastic waste management in 11 villages in Maharashtra.



AIILSG also worked with the team of the Forest Department of Government of Maharashtra in the Karnala Bird Sanctuary on plastic waste related awareness generation among the visitors to the sanctuary, especially on the days of high tourist footfalls. AIILSG also handed the customized IEC kit on plastic waste management to the Karnala Bird Sanctuary





## MY [Mentoring Youth for] Actions for SDGs

AIILSG is focused on advancing the SDGs through grassroots actions and developing SDG Advocates. One important initiative is mentoring youth for SDG-related actions. The seminar series was created following recommendations from AIILSG President Ranjit Chavan and Director General Dr. Jairaj Phatak to continue the MY Actions for SDGs program. The series aims to educate social Change Makers by learning from experienced professionals and their impactful projects. By providing guidance from experts in various fields, the series has already benefitted over 390 youth from 7 countries. Experts from organizations like Essar CSR, Tata Industries CSR, and Terre des hommes have contributed to this initiative.



## Conscious promotion of Sports among Under-privileged

AIILSG promotes sports and arts among underprivileged populations for physical and mental well-being, focusing on gender equality by giving equal emphasis to sports for girls.

AIILSG's children have achieved recognition in various sports at national, state, and district levels, such as rope jumping, yoga, athletics, and kabbadi. They also won 3rd prize in a poster competition on the environment and a student was awarded as the international topper in a coloring competition. AIILSG also encourages participation in marathons for greater professional sports exposure.



## Concern for differently abled

High sensitivity and special focus for actions for empowerment of differently abled is another crucial aspect of AIILSG's work. It supports the needy candidates with necessary resources and equipments along with facilitation support for their growth.