Recognition

• 2022: Global Center on Adaptation (GCA)’s Local Adaptation Champions Awards 2022 at COP27
• 2022: NITI Aayog’s Women Transforming India Award
• 2019: Schwab Foundation’s Outstanding Social Entrepreneur of the Year (WEF) 2019
• 2018: Social Entrepreneur of the Year India Award, awarded by the Schwab Foundation and BSR India
• 2017 – Winner of the 2017 Equator Prize declared by the UNDP from 806 nominations from 120 countries for its women led climate resilient agro-ecological farming model
• 2016 – Winner of the 2016 UNFCCC Momentum for Change Lighthouse Activity Awards, for its ground-breaking project that empowers grassroots women to emerge as clean energy entrepreneurs and climate change leaders

• Advanced Level Gold Certification of NGO Transparency by GuideStar India valid until 2023

Partnerships


Key Milestones

1998: SSP established partnership with Government after 1993 Latur earthquake

1998-2001: 100,000+ women organized in SHG networks and Sakhi Federations

2012-15: Launched rural women as clean energy entrepreneurs with USAID support

2015: Launched WCRF program, partnered with State Government of Maharashtra

2016 Present: Scaling partnerships in WCRF with donor organizations

2018: Initiated Women-led WASH Practices program supported by UNICEF

2020 Present: Scaling up WCRF model focusing on low-carbon farming and Digital Upliftment of Women Entrepreneurs, Scaling up of access to innovations and affordable energy-efficient solutions for rural populations

Disaster Response, Recovery and Resilience: SSP was created in 1998 after an earthquake devastated Maharashtra, India, in 1993. It helped women in the area horrendous farmers and entrepreneurs, making them financially independent and overcoming the hardship after the disaster. Since then, SSP has helped women in other areas as across seven states in India to expand that focus to locally sustainable agricultural practices, sanitation, nutrition awareness, and clean energy. SSP is also a member of the Business Commission, a global coalition that empowers grassroots women leaders around the world.

The extensive impact of the COVID-19 pandemic also provided new opportunities for making valuable rural communities. This has been demonstrated by women leading on issues such as education, healthcare, and housing, bridging the gap to last mile connectivity and preparing alternative strategies for economic systems. The resilience of these women is a source of learning for the entire system; it is not only essential in households to be recognized for their contributions, but also called for their active participation in decision-making in households, ensuring their inclusion in the economic conversation.

The comprehensive impact of the COVID-19 pandemic also provided new opportunities for reaching vulnerable rural communities. This has been demonstrated by women leaders, mentors who led the response – generating awareness, caring for the needy, bridging gaps to last mile connectivity and preparing alternative strategies for economic systems. The resilience of these women is a source of learning for the entire system; it is not only essential in households to be recognized for their contributions, but also called for their active participation in decision-making in households, ensuring their inclusion in the economic conversation.

The comprehensive impact of the COVID-19 pandemic also provided new opportunities for reaching vulnerable rural communities. This has been demonstrated by women leaders, mentors who led the response – generating awareness, caring for the needy, bridging gaps to last mile connectivity and preparing alternative strategies for economic systems. The resilience of these women is a source of learning for the entire system; it is not only essential in households to be recognized for their contributions, but also called for their active participation in decision-making in households, ensuring their inclusion in the economic conversation.

The comprehensive impact of the COVID-19 pandemic also provided new opportunities for reaching vulnerable rural communities. This has been demonstrated by women leaders, mentors who led the response – generating awareness, caring for the needy, bridging gaps to last mile connectivity and preparing alternative strategies for economic systems. The resilience of these women is a source of learning for the entire system; it is not only essential in households to be recognized for their contributions, but also called for their active participation in decision-making in households, ensuring their inclusion in the economic conversation.

The comprehensive impact of the COVID-19 pandemic also provided new opportunities for reaching vulnerable rural communities. This has been demonstrated by women leaders, mentors who led the response – generating awareness, caring for the needy, bridging gaps to last mile connectivity and preparing alternative strategies for economic systems. The resilience of these women is a source of learning for the entire system; it is not only essential in households to be recognized for their contributions, but also called for their active participation in decision-making in households, ensuring their inclusion in the economic conversation.
Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP), which stands for Self-Education for Empowerment, was formally registered in 1998. For the last 24 years, SSP has facilitated sustainable community development by building capacities in women’s leadership in low-income climate threatened communities across India. SSP widely advocates for changing public policy frameworks to promote women’s empowerment, and students and community leaders work closely with the government at various levels to transform disaster management.

Our Approach
SSP is bringing vulnerable and marginalized women to the center of leadership in addressing disasters and climate risks across India. Our approach at SSP is bringing vulnerable and marginalized women to the center of leadership in addressing disasters and climate risks across India.

Women-led Climate Resilient Farming (WCRF): SSP’s WCRF transforms marginalized women farmers’ climate risk into resilient livelihoods with better food sovereignty and well-being, positioning them as women farmers—in decision makers. Women use their innate wisdom and skills, and are trained to decide on climate-sensitive sustainable agricultural activities, and engagement with diverse stakeholders. Through this initiative, women lead skill trainings in farming practices, move from cash crops to food crops, chemical to bio-organic inputs, conserving soil and water. Besides agricultural advisory, women pursue farm-allied businesses. 75,000 adopted farmers, 60,000 acres of land.

Women’s Entrepreneurship in Clean Energy: SSP is developing the entrepreneurial mindset of rural women by providing education and marketing of clean energy solutions such as biogas stoves, solar projects, vegetable (a) oil, soaps, water conservation techniques, organic sap inputs, solar powered mills (charkha, etc.), through grassroots awareness programs in the community while earning micro incomes at the same time. The Partnership on Women’s Entrepreneurship in Clean Energy (POWER India) funded by USAID has created 100+ women entrepreneurs in Maharashtra and Bihar. This group has scaled up to move villages and built advanced enterprises in women in Maharashtra and Bihar with more clean energy products and services.

Our Impact
Through its entrepreneurship development program, has mentored women to local community owned and market-headed FPOs. SSP also builds the credit worthiness of women so that they can have initial start-up capital. SSP has supported thousands of women to start businesses and grow by creating Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs). The women led FPOs are created with more than 4,672 shareholders, who are taking lead in agriculture (currently promoting vegetables, pulses, gmo resistant and dairy businesses).

6 Focus Areas
• Climate Resilient Farming
• Access to Finance, Market and Digital Upskilling
• Women’s Initiative to Learn and Lead (WILL)
• Partnership Ecosystem
• Mentorship, incubation and acceleration

6 million people in low income and underserved communities

SSP has empowered 300,000 women on entrepreneurship, farmers and community leaders

30 climate impacted districts in India

75,000 women entrepreneurs, farmers and community leaders

80,000 field offices and umbrella network of Self Help Groups and 45,000 FPOs

100+ women entrepreneurs in Maharashtra and Bihar. This group has scaled up to move villages and built advanced enterprises in women in Maharashtra and Bihar with more clean energy products and services.

Mentorship, incubation and acceleration
Access to Finance, Market and Digital Upskilling
Women’s Initiative to Learn and Lead (WILL)
Collaboration with the Government & Private Sector
Partnership Ecosystem
6 million people in low income and underserved communities

Leadership: SSP’s WCRF transforms marginalized women farmers’ climate risk into resilient livelihoods with better food sovereignty and well-being, positioning them as women farmers—in decision makers. Women use their innate wisdom and skills, and are trained to decide on climate-sensitive sustainable agricultural activities, and engagement with diverse stakeholders. Through this initiative, women lead skill trainings in farming practices, move from cash crops to food crops, chemical to bio-organic inputs, conserving soil and water. Besides agricultural advisory, women pursue farm-allied businesses. 75,000 adopted farmers, 60,000 acres of land.

Clean Energy: SSP is developing the entrepreneurial mindset of rural women by providing education and marketing of clean energy solutions such as biogas stoves, solar projects, vegetable (a) oil, soaps, water conservation techniques, organic sap inputs, solar powered mills (charkha, etc.), through grassroots awareness programs in the community while earning micro incomes at the same time. The Partnership on Women’s Entrepreneurship in Clean Energy (POWER India) funded by USAID has created 100+ women entrepreneurs in Maharashtra and Bihar. This group has scaled up to move villages and built advanced enterprises in women in Maharashtra and Bihar with more clean energy products and services.

Women’s Entrepreneurship in Clean Energy: SSP is developing the entrepreneurial mindset of rural women by providing education and marketing of clean energy solutions such as biogas stoves, solar projects, vegetable (a) oil, soaps, water conservation techniques, organic sap inputs, solar powered mills (charkha, etc.), through grassroots awareness programs in the community while earning micro incomes at the same time. The Partnership on Women’s Entrepreneurship in Clean Energy (POWER India) funded by USAID has created 100+ women entrepreneurs in Maharashtra and Bihar. This group has scaled up to move villages and built advanced enterprises in women in Maharashtra and Bihar with more clean energy products and services.

Women’s Entrepreneurship in Clean Energy: SSP is developing the entrepreneurial mindset of rural women by providing education and marketing of clean energy solutions such as biogas stoves, solar projects, vegetable (a) oil, soaps, water conservation techniques, organic sap inputs, solar powered mills (charkha, etc.), through grassroots awareness programs in the community while earning micro incomes at the same time. The Partnership on Women’s Entrepreneurship in Clean Energy (POWER India) funded by USAID has created 100+ women entrepreneurs in Maharashtra and Bihar. This group has scaled up to move villages and built advanced enterprises in women in Maharashtra and Bihar with more clean energy products and services.