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Impact Assessment Report FY 2023-24

Community Development - Construction of Community Hall

Implemented by
Coromandel



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Setting the Scene

About this Report

This impact assessment report, presented by Chrysalis Services, is an independent evaluation of the Community Hall Development Project implemented in Kunchanama colony (GVMC, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh). The assessment adopts a mixed-methods approach, combining quantitative insights from structured surveys with qualitative input from community members, ward-level representatives, and other key stakeholders. This approach enables a comprehensive understanding of the project's effectiveness in addressing gaps in access to shared civic infrastructure and its alignment with the intended outcomes of participatory and inclusive community development.

The report aims to assess the extent to which the community hall has enhanced access to a safe, structured, and inclusive space for social, cultural, and institutional engagement within the community. It examines how the availability of this shared infrastructure has contributed to improved community participation, facilitation of awareness programmes, and strengthened local governance interactions. Additionally, the report evaluates key dimensions, including utilisation patterns, inclusivity of access across community groups, the effectiveness of management and governance mechanisms, and the facility's sustainability. Through this assessment, the report identifies key strengths, challenges, and opportunities to further strengthen the community hall's role as a catalyst for collective action and social cohesion.

About Coromandel International Limited and its CSR Interventions

Coromandel International Limited is one of India's leading agri-solutions providers and a part of the Murugappa Group, a well-established business group with a strong legacy of trust and performance. Headquartered in India, the company plays a critical role in supporting the agricultural sector through a wide range of products and services, including fertilisers, crop protection solutions, bio-products, and retail services for farmers. With a strong distribution network and farmer-centric approach, Coromandel is committed to enhancing farm productivity and rural prosperity. Aligned with its core philosophy of sustainable growth and inclusive development, Coromandel International Limited actively undertakes Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives that focus on improving the quality of life in rural and underserved communities. The company's CSR efforts primarily focus on key thematic areas, including health and nutrition, education, sustainable agriculture, water conservation, and community development. Through these initiatives, Coromandel aims to address critical grassroots challenges while contributing to long-term socio-economic development.

A significant aspect of the company's CSR approach is its emphasis on community participation and capacity building. By working closely with local stakeholders, frontline workers, and implementing partners, Coromandel ensures that its interventions are need-based, scalable, and sustainable. Its programs often integrate awareness generation, behaviour change communication, and access to essential services, thereby creating meaningful and measurable impact at the community level.



Executive Summary





Name of the Project:

Community Development –
Construction of Community Hall



Project Assessment Year:

2023-24



Sampling:

24 Surveys

1KII (Ward Members)

1 KII (Maintenance Staff)

1 FGD (SHGs & Youth Groups)

Direct Observation



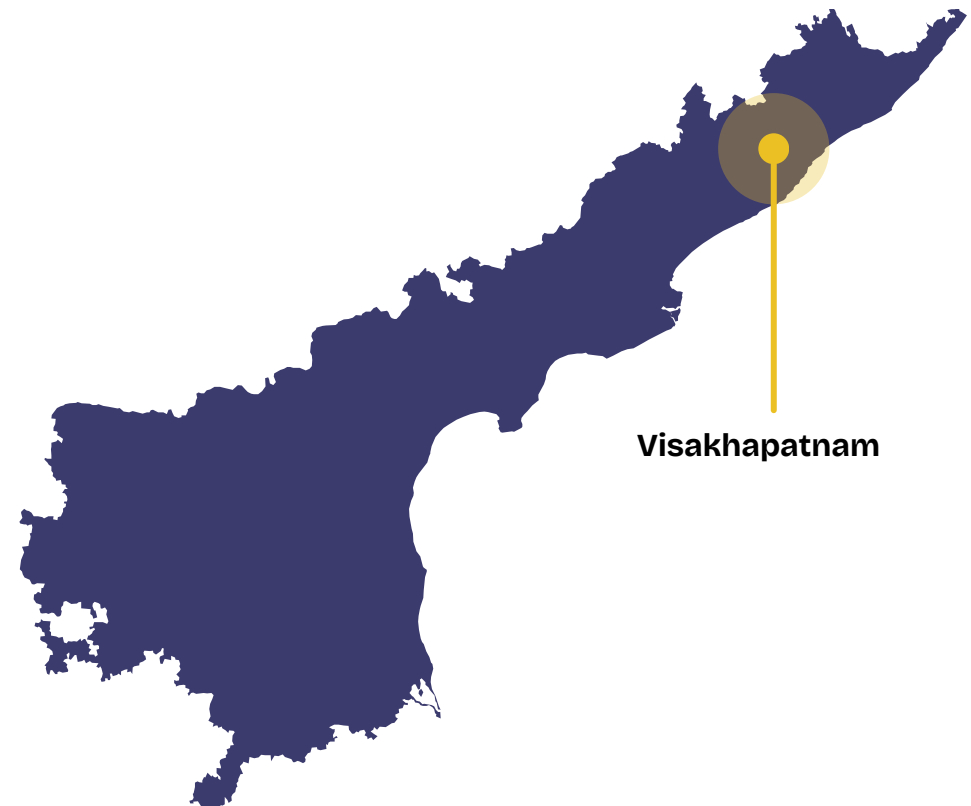
Alignment with National Programmes :

- Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban)
- AMRUT
- Smart Cities Mission
- National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM)



Project Location

Kunchanama Colony, GVMC, Visakhapatnam



Visakhapatnam

SDG Goals



Performance Snapshot :



Universal Community Awareness and Knowledge: 100% of community members are fully aware of the hall's purpose and usage process, and 100% know how to book and use the facility, demonstrating exceptional project visibility and accessibility.

100%

Perfect Accessibility and Utilisation: 100% of respondents rate the hall as "Easily Accessible," with 100% of households having used the facility and 100% visiting monthly or more frequently, indicating sustained and universal community adoption.



Excellent Facility Management and Maintenance: 100% consensus that the booking system and facility are "Well maintained," with 87.5% operating under formal Ward/Panchayat management, ensuring institutional oversight and transparency.



Significant Improvement in Social Gatherings: 83.3% of respondents report that social gatherings and activities have become "Better" compared to the pre-construction period, with 58.3% observing "Significant improvement," reflecting enhanced community social dynamics.



Strong Community Agreement on Interaction Benefits: 62.5% "Strongly agree" that the community hall has improved community interaction and participation, with an additional 33.3% agreeing, demonstrating widespread recognition of social cohesion benefits.



Diverse and Consistent Activity Utilisation: Medical and health camps are utilised by 91.7%, community meetings by 83.3%, skill training by 75%, awareness programs by 45.8%, and festivals/celebrations by 41.7%, showing the hall serves multiple community needs effectively.



High Perceived Usefulness and Community Satisfaction: 87.5% of respondents rate the hall as "Highly useful," with 70.8% rating it "Very useful," indicating strong overall satisfaction and continued perception of its value to the community.

What Worked Well :

The construction of the community hall has significantly enhanced the availability of a dedicated, accessible space for community gatherings, addressing a long-standing gap in shared infrastructure.

The facility serves as a multi-functional space, accommodating social events, community meetings, cultural activities, and local programmes, thereby increasing its overall utility and relevance to diverse user groups.

The hall's centrally accessible location has improved participation and inclusivity, enabling residents from surrounding areas to engage more actively in community activities.

The provision of basic infrastructure and functional design has ensured ease of use, allowing the hall to be readily utilised without additional modifications or resources.

The project has helped strengthen social cohesion by creating a common platform for interaction, collective decision-making, and community engagement.

Positive community perception and acceptance of the facility indicate a strong alignment between the intervention and local needs, reflecting effective planning and implementation.



Project Dashboard



Project Activities



Hall Construction and Infrastructure Development: Construction of a functional community hall with essential amenities including electricity, water/sanitation, and ventilation, designed to accommodate community gatherings while meeting safety standards, replacing inadequate venues with formal, weather-protected infrastructure.



Multi-Purpose Facility Operations: Operationalisation of the hall to host diverse activities, including health camps, community meetings, skill training programmes, and awareness sessions, functioning as a centralised platform for both government service delivery and community-initiated activities.



Self-Help Group and Youth Programming: Provision of dedicated space for Self-Help Group meetings and youth engagement activities, with specific programming designed to advance women's empowerment through health awareness sessions and confidence-building initiatives.



Community Mobilisation and Awareness Generation: Extensive mobilisation to ensure universal awareness of the hall's purpose and usage procedures through organic community networks and peer-to-peer communication, resulting in rapid facility adoption and integration into community life.



Governance Structure and Management Systems: Establishment of a formal management committee with institutional oversight, transparent booking systems, fee collection mechanisms, and accountability frameworks ensuring sustainable and participatory facility operations.

Need and background



The need for the community hall emerges from gaps in local-level infrastructure for social interaction, participatory governance, and community service delivery. Evidence from government policies and international development frameworks highlights the importance of accessible public spaces in strengthening community cohesion and inclusive development.



Research demonstrates that slum development committees provide residents with organisational formality in otherwise informal spaces, serving as a medium for making individual and collective claims on the state. Community-based mobilisations are driven not merely by patron-client networks but also by identity-based movements and engagement with formal governance initiatives. A community hall provides the essential infrastructure for residents to organise, advocate for development needs, elect representatives, and participate meaningfully in local governance. This structured space transforms informal settlements into communities with an organised voice and agency in decision-making processes affecting their lives.



Top-down infrastructure projects without community involvement frequently fail to address local needs and produce poor outcomes. Research on informal settlement upgrading reveals that projects with higher levels of community participation and decision-making power produce significantly more sustainable and resilient outcomes, leaving a positive legacy in both social and physical infrastructure. In contrast, top-down approaches with limited community input result in less sustainable outcomes and diminished community ownership. A community hall enables residents to engage meaningfully in planning and implementing development initiatives, ensuring sustainability and local ownership.



International policy frameworks prioritise social cohesion and inclusive public spaces as essential for sustainable development. The UN Commission for Social Development emphasises scaling up investments in inclusive economic and social policies and fostering governance grounded in equity, transparency, and participation. UN Women programmes empower communities economically and facilitate access to decision-making to promote social cohesion, recognising that community leaders shape community values. Social Cohesion Initiatives are successful public space practices that facilitate interactions among individuals and communities to build collective action, with municipalities supporting peaceful community encounters. A community hall directly aligns with SDG 16 and international commitments to inclusive, peaceful societies.

Chrysalis Methodology



The study adopted a **mixed-method approach** to assess infrastructure interventions across Community to assess the development and usage of the hall.

Both **primary and secondary data** were used to ensure triangulation. Primary data included surveys, interviews, focus group discussions, and observations, while secondary data comprised project documents and implementation records. The approach emphasised **multi-stakeholder perspectives**, covering students, community members, teachers, healthcare staff, and government representatives. Field visits enabled validation of infrastructure improvements and their usage.

RESEARCH



- Review of project-related documents, including infrastructure usage records and the roles of different stakeholders involved in facility management.
- Secondary research on community infrastructure models, participatory development approaches, and utilisation of shared public spaces in semi-urban settlements.
- Contextual understanding of the community ecosystem, including social dynamics, governance structures, and access to civic infrastructure within the intervention area.

DEVELOPMENT



- Development of structured quantitative survey tools for community members to assess utilisation patterns, participation levels, and accessibility of the community hall.
- Design of qualitative tools, including Key Informant Interview (KII) guides for ward representatives and maintenance staff to understand governance mechanisms and operational effectiveness.
- Preparation of Focus Group Discussion (FGD) guides for Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and youth groups to capture perspectives on inclusivity, social cohesion, and community engagement.
- Design of observation checklists to assess infrastructure condition, usage patterns, accessibility, and facility management systems.
- Alignment of assessment indicators with project objectives, including frequency of usage, diversity of activities, inclusivity of participation, community ownership, and sustainability of the infrastructure.

ACTION (DATA COLLECTION)



- Structured household surveys conducted within Hanuman Sanjeevani Colony to capture community-level utilisation and access to the facility.
- Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) conducted with ward members and maintenance staff to understand governance, management systems, and operational challenges.
- Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) conducted with Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and youth groups to assess participation, inclusivity, and community engagement.
- Field observations carried out to assess infrastructure usage, maintenance practices, accessibility, and ongoing community interactions within the facility.

DATA ANALYSIS



- Compilation, cleaning, and validation of quantitative and qualitative data collected during the assessment.
- Analysis of quantitative data using descriptive statistics to assess utilisation patterns, participation levels, and accessibility of the community hall.
- Analysis of qualitative insights to understand community perceptions related to inclusivity, governance, and social cohesion.
- Triangulation of findings across primary data, stakeholder inputs, and observational insights to ensure consistency and reliability.

DATA VISUALISATION & COMMUNICATION



- Preparation of summary tables and charts to present key findings related to usage, participation, and inclusivity.
- Development of qualitative narratives to highlight community experiences, governance practices, and social outcomes enabled by the infrastructure.

REPORTING



- Preparation of the draft Impact Assessment Report outlining methodology, key findings, and analysis across utilisation, inclusivity, governance, and sustainability dimensions.
- Integration of stakeholder feedback and validation of findings.
- Finalisation of the report with key insights, learnings, and recommendations to strengthen utilisation, governance mechanisms, and long-term sustainability of the community hall.

Sampling Approach

The assessment used a cluster-based sampling approach for quantitative data collection, ensuring representation across different sections of Kunchanama Colony and capturing variations in community hall utilisation and participation.

Qualitative data were collected through purposive sampling, including Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) with ward representatives and maintenance staff, Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and youth groups, along with field observations. This approach enabled a comprehensive understanding of usage patterns, governance, and community engagement.

Stakeholder / Cohort	Tool of Study	Sample Size
Community Members (Primary Beneficiaries)	Survey	24
Ward Members / Elected Representatives	Key Informant Interview	1 KIIs
Self-Help Groups (SHGs) (if applicable)	Focus Group Discussion	1 FGD (8–10 participants)
Infrastructure Maintenance Staff	Key Informant Interview	1 KII

Ethical Considerations

The study adhered to established ethical standards to ensure the **dignity, safety, and rights of all participants**, particularly children and vulnerable community members accessing public services.

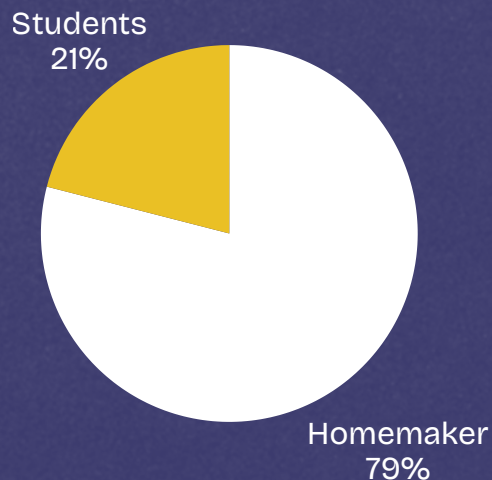
- **Informed Consent:** Participants were briefed on the purpose and nature of the assessment before data collection. Consent was obtained from all respondents, and for students, interactions were conducted in the presence of school authorities. Data collection aligned with the principles of the **Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023**, ensuring responsible and purpose-specific use of information.
- **Confidentiality & Privacy:** All responses were anonymised and used only for assessment purposes. Any photographs or case narratives included in the report were documented with prior consent and used solely to illustrate infrastructure improvements and user experiences.
- **Voluntary Participation:** Participation was entirely voluntary, and respondents were free to decline or withdraw at any stage without any consequence.
- **Respectful Engagement:** Interactions were conducted respectfully and non-intrusively across schools and PHCs, ensuring minimal disruption to academic and healthcare activities while prioritising participant comfort and well-being.

Who has it reached

All respondents were community members (100%), and a vast majority (79%) were homemakers, reflecting the primary users of community spaces. A significant proportion (21%) were students, indicating youth engagement with community facilities. The respondent group exhibited strong community roots, with 83% having lived in the community for more than 10 years and 17% for 5–10 years. This demonstrates that the findings capture long-term, established community perspectives on the hall's impact and functionality. Additionally, 87.5% of respondents were active members of community groups or Self-Help Groups (SHGs), indicating high social capital and community engagement levels, which strengthens the reliability and relevance of their assessments regarding community infrastructure and social cohesion outcomes.

Age and Demographics

• Occupation



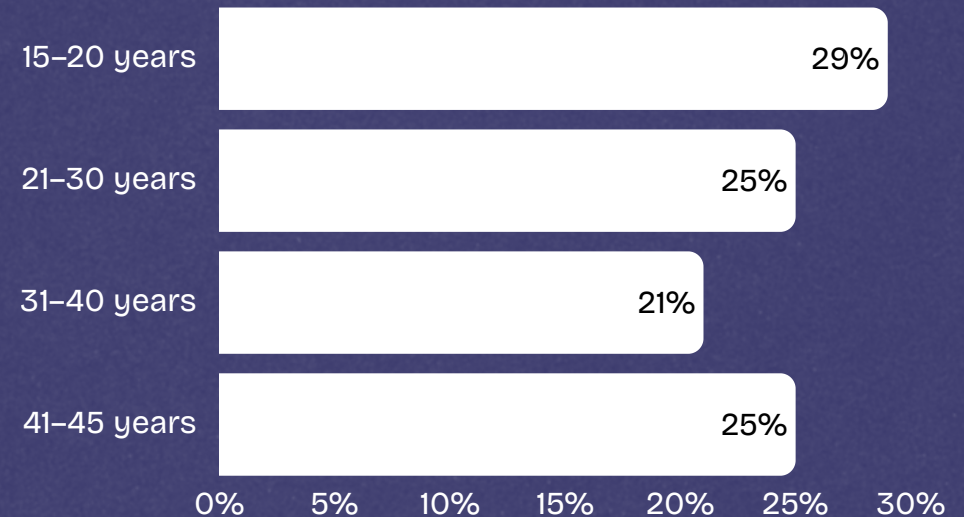
Graph 1: Occupational Distribution of Respondents

• Involvement of community group/SHG



Graph 2- Assessment of Community Involvement

• Age Distribution



Graph 3 : Self-Help Group (SHG) Involvement in Community Hall

Study Findings

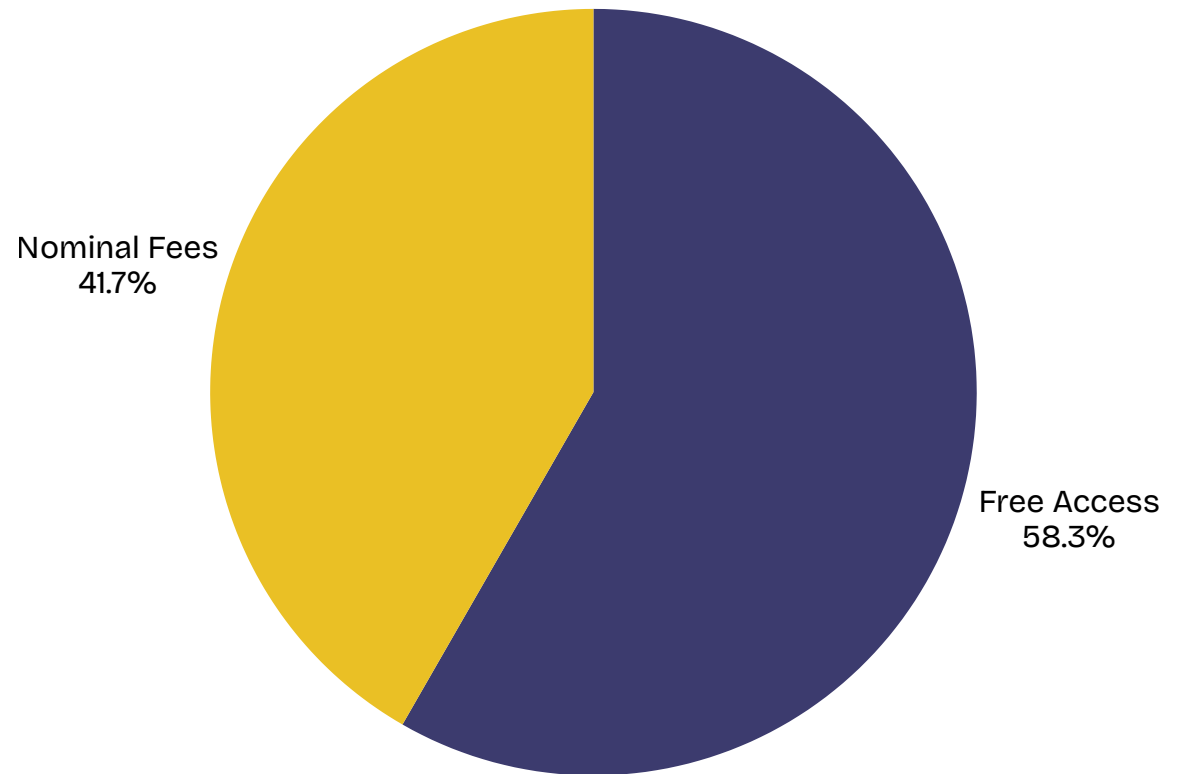


1. Social Impact of Localised Community Infrastructure

The establishment of the community hall has emerged as a significant driver of social cohesion and local organisation, providing an accessible, affordable shared space for residents of all age groups. Replacing the old, ageing structure with a modern facility has created a central hub for important social functions, including weddings, family gatherings, cultural events, and community celebrations. Before the construction of the hall, 91.7% of residents relied on private homes, and 37.5% used open spaces for such occasions, often leading to inconvenience, overcrowding, and limited participation.

In addition to social gatherings, the hall supports important administrative and developmental activities, such as Self-Help Group (SHG) meetings for women, thereby strengthening community participation and local decision-making. Its low-cost maintenance model ensures that even low-income households can easily access and utilise the facility for their needs. As a result, the community hall has become a “living” community asset that promotes cultural continuity, improves convenience, and enhances the overall quality of life by offering a dignified and practical alternative to hosting events in confined private spaces.

Fee and Maintenance for using the hall

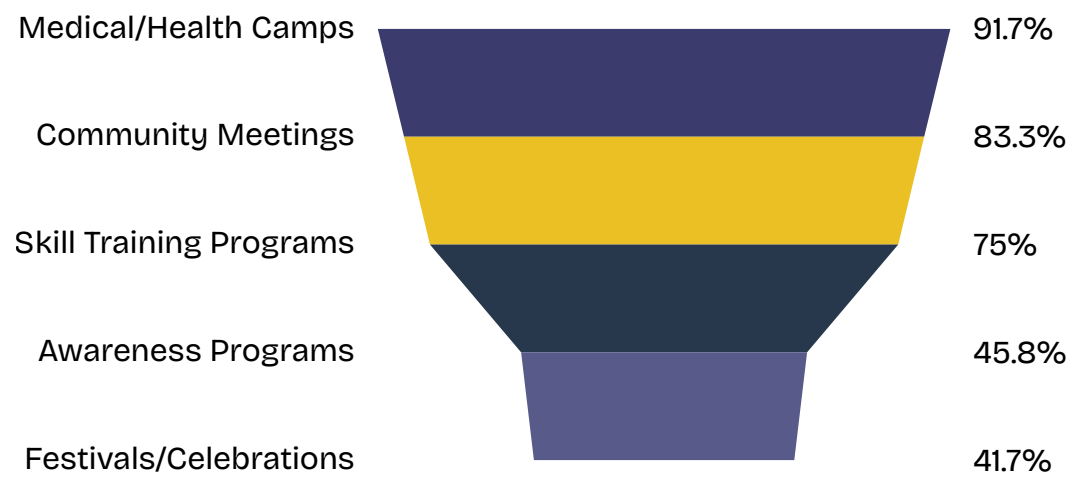


Graph 4: Fee Structure and Maintenance Costs for Using the Hall

2. Multi-Purpose Utility and Diversified Service Delivery

The community hall serves as a central infrastructure hub, supporting a wide array of civic, medical, and social activities with exceptional versatility. Medical and health camps are utilised by most users, underscoring the facility's critical role in preventive healthcare and community wellness. Community meetings enable essential administrative and governance functions. Skill training programs directly support livelihood development and economic empowerment, particularly for women. The hall also hosts awareness programs and cultural celebrations, serving as a platform for both tangible development outcomes and intangible cultural preservation. This new facility has successfully replaced older, inadequate venues, fundamentally transforming the community's capacity to organise and deliver essential services.

Purposes of the hall being used?



Graph 6 - Purposes for Which the Community Hall is Utilized



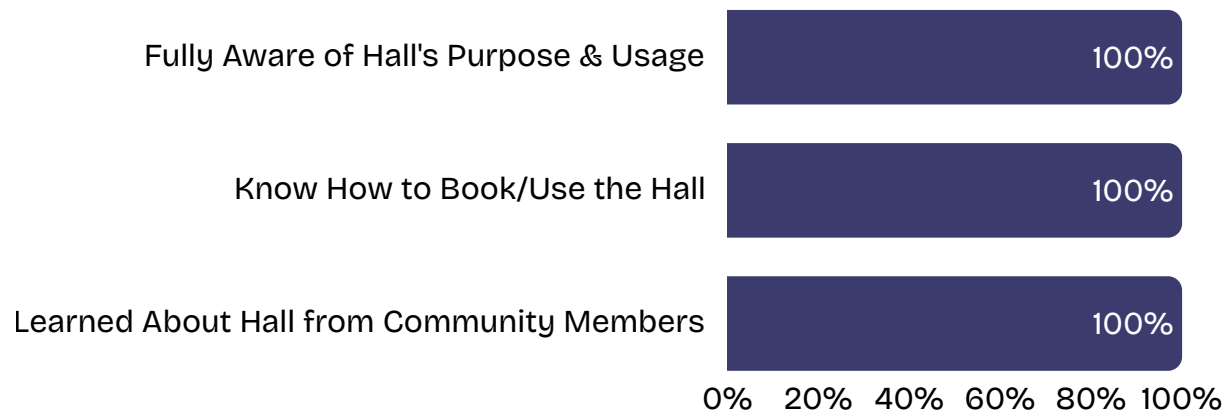
Image 1 - Women attending a beauty course

3. Universal Community Awareness and Organic Adoption

The community hall has achieved exceptional visibility and adoption through strong community-driven communication channels. All respondents are fully aware of the hall's purpose and usage process, and they learned about the facility through community members rather than official announcements, reflecting strong word-of-mouth communication and deep community trust. Residents clearly understand how to book and use the hall, showing that operational procedures have been effectively shared through informal local networks.

This universal awareness, along with 100% household utilisation and monthly or more frequent visits, highlights the remarkable integration of the hall into everyday community life. The organic adoption pattern suggests that the hall has become a natural part of the community's social fabric, validated and promoted by the residents themselves. This indicates genuine community ownership, strong acceptance, and sustained engagement with the infrastructure over time.

Community Awareness and Information Channels



Graph 7 - Analysing the awariness among the community



Image 2 - Women training and participating in courses

4. Enhanced Social Cohesion and Community Interaction

The community hall has catalysed measurable improvements in social cohesion and interaction patterns within the village. Respondents reported that social gatherings and activities have become “Better” than during the pre-construction period, with a majority highlighting significant improvements in the overall quality of community events. The availability of a dedicated and organised space has made social functions more convenient, inclusive, and better managed for all residents.

When asked about community interaction and participation, the vast majority of respondents “Strongly Agree” or “Agree” that the hall has improved these outcomes, reflecting universal positive consensus. The facility has directly enabled greater participation in events and strengthened community bonding among residents. Beyond its physical utility, the hall functions as a social catalyst by building trust, encouraging regular interaction, and creating meaningful spaces for people from different groups to come together, thereby improving the quality and frequency of community engagement.

Social gatherings and activities changed.

83.3%
Better

16.7%
Equal

Graph 8 - Changes in Social Gatherings and Activities

Improved community interaction and participation

62.5%
Strongly Agree

37.5%
Agree

Graph 9 - Community Hall Impact on Interaction



Image 3 - Skill development course conducted

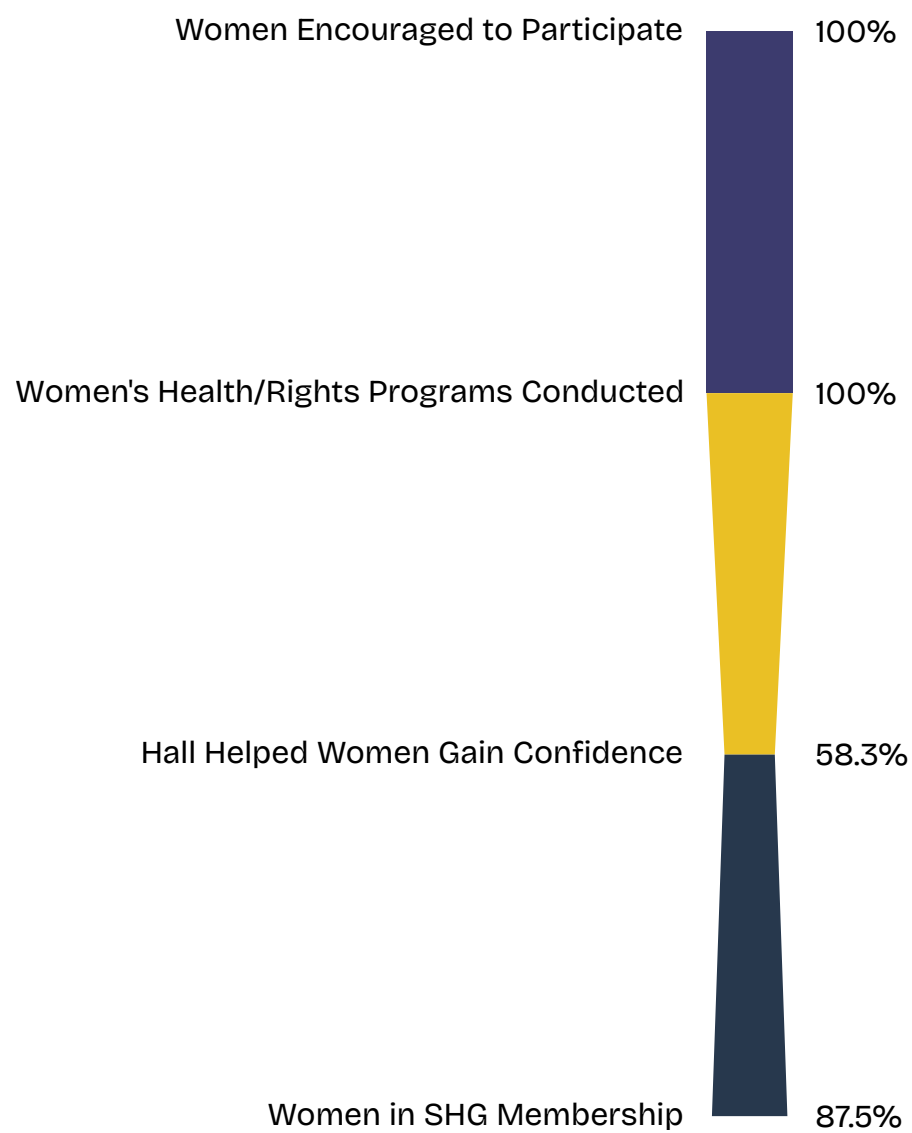
5. Women's Empowerment and Confidence Building Through Inclusive Infrastructure

The community hall has emerged as a powerful platform for women's empowerment and confidence-building. All respondents confirm that women are actively encouraged to participate in hall activities, and all awareness programs on women's health and rights have been conducted at the facility, establishing it as a dedicated space for women-centric development. Notably, a significant majority of women report that the hall has helped them gain confidence, while a substantial additional portion remains "Neutral," suggesting ongoing transformative potential. The facility's role in hosting vocational training programs creates direct pathways for women to develop skills and pursue economic independence. These outcomes are particularly significant given the high rate of Self-Help Group (SHG) membership, leveraging the hall as a meeting space for collective economic action and peer support. The data demonstrate that the hall functions as both practical infrastructure and a symbolic space, validating women's participation in community life, though formal representation in decision-making remains a gap requiring strategic intervention.



Image 4- SHG Group members involved in a discussion

Women's Participation and Empowerment Indicators



Graph 10 - Women's Empowerment and Participation Outcomes



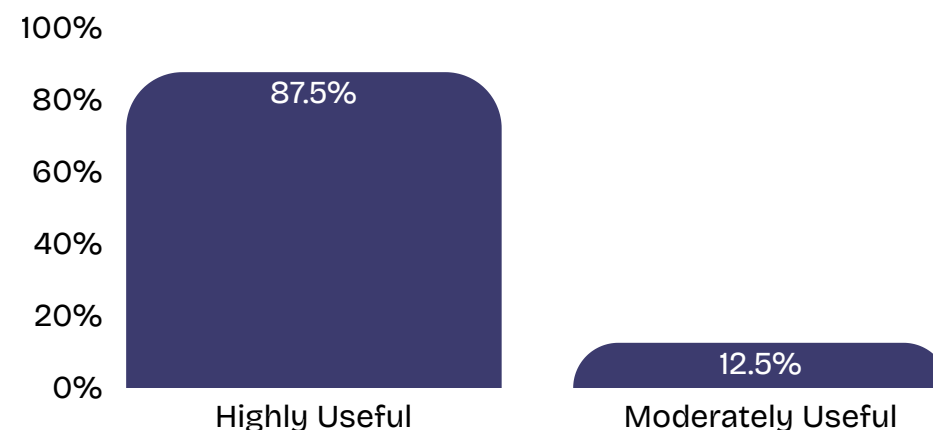
Image 5 - Women participating in a FGD

6. Capacity Building and Transition from Service Recipient to Skilled Entrepreneur

The community hall serves as critical infrastructure in enabling the transition from vocational training participation to economic self-sufficiency and entrepreneurship. Skill training programs conducted within the facility create a structured pathway for participants to build technical competencies and improve their livelihood opportunities. Its low-cost accessibility model ensures that even economically disadvantaged trainees can participate fully, removing financial barriers to skill acquisition and encouraging wider inclusion. The hall also supports Self-Help Group (SHG) meetings, which provide the social capital, peer learning, and collective support systems necessary for trainees to move toward independent income generation and small business ownership. Survey findings reveal that a majority of respondents observed increased participation in events, indicating that skill development activities within the hall are creating momentum for both economic activity and stronger community engagement.

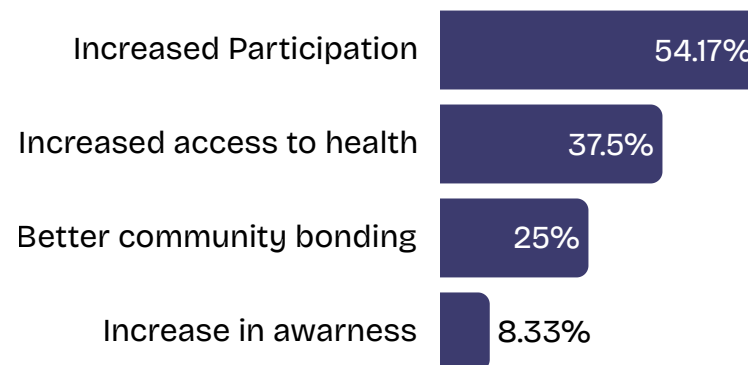
The facility's low-cost accessibility model ensures that even economically disadvantaged trainees can participate fully, removing financial barriers to skill acquisition. However, while a majority of women report confidence gains from hall activities, translating this confidence into formal administrative and entrepreneurial leadership roles remains an emerging challenge that requires targeted mentorship, institutional support mechanisms, and basic facilities to overcome operational hurdles.

Overall Utility Assessment and Current Usage



Graph 11 - Community Satisfaction with Hall Functionality

Key Impact and Improvement Priorities



Graph 12 - Impact Observed

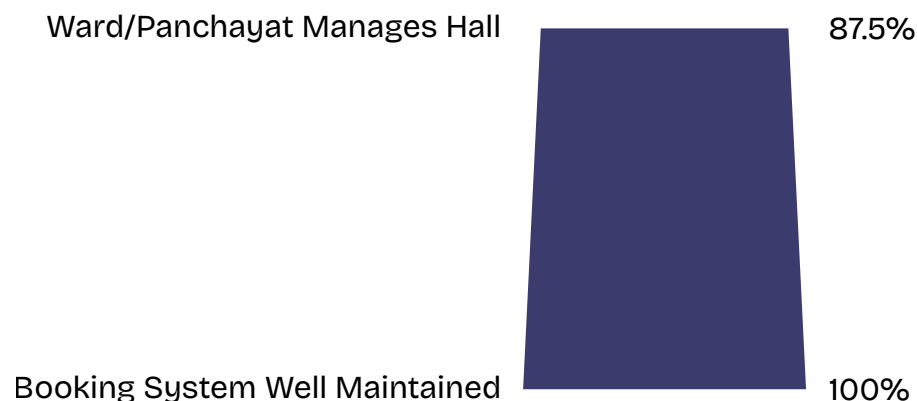
7. Community Ownership and Participatory Governance Model

Beyond physical infrastructure, the community hall has fostered a strong sense of collective ownership and stewardship among residents. The overwhelming majority of community members are aware of the hall's existence and purpose, and most learned about it through peer-to-peer communication rather than official campaigns. This organic adoption reflects deep community trust and validates the hall as a locally owned resource rather than an externally introduced facility. The high frequency of use and universal household adoption further indicate that residents view the hall as an essential part of community life.

However, governance data reveals an important gap in formal participation. While Ward and Panchayat leadership manage most of the formal aspects of the hall (87.5%), actual community members have limited involvement in decision-making. This creates a paradox in which strong community use coexists with weak formal governance participation, highlighting the need for stronger participatory management structures.

Strengthening resident committees, introducing rotating leadership roles, and formalising community input mechanisms can help deepen ownership while ensuring sustainable and locally driven management of the facility. Although institutional management remains strong, 0% women's involvement in decision-making reflects the urgent need for more inclusive governance structures that amplify women's voices and promote broader community participation in hall management.

Key Operational structure and Governance Indicators



Graph 13: Management Structure and Maintenance Performance



Image 6 - Coromandel community hall inauguration

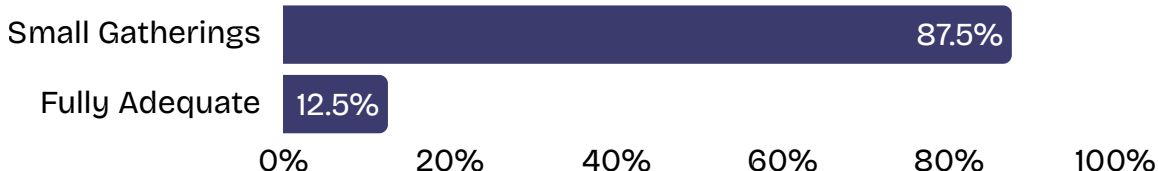
8. Sustainability and Long-Term Impact Potential

The community hall demonstrates strong indicators of long-term sustainability and potential for scaled impact. Its high utilisation rate, with 100% monthly or more frequent use and universal household adoption, shows that the facility is well integrated into daily community life and that usage patterns are stable. The affordability model, in which people access the hall free of charge and pay only nominal fees for functions and gatherings, supports both economic sustainability and inclusiveness by ensuring that vulnerable households face no barriers. Its multi-purpose functionality, supporting health, education, livelihoods, and cultural activities, further strengthens its role as a central and efficient community asset.

However, long-term sustainability requires focused attention in key areas. Infrastructure maintenance remains important, as water and sanitation issues affect 54.2% of respondents, and cleanliness concerns affect 25%. Programming continuity is another priority, with respondents requesting regular programs and activities, not just occasional use of the hall. In addition, formalising community participation in management decisions will improve accountability and ensure the hall remains responsive to local needs. Addressing these areas strategically can help the community hall evolve from a successful grassroots initiative into a resilient, community-owned institutional asset capable of delivering long-term social and economic benefits.

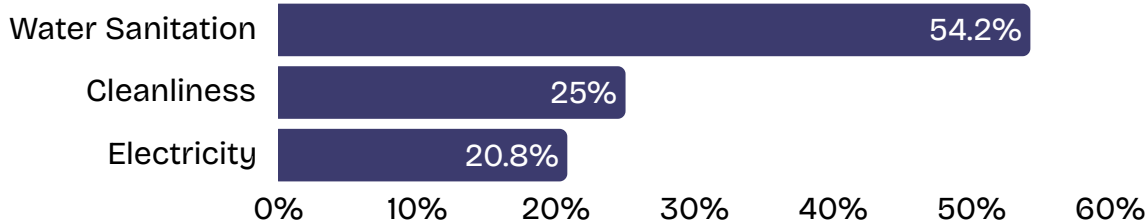
Infrastructure Capacity and Maintenance Sustainability

Hall Capacity Adequate for Current Use



Graph 14: Infrastructure Capacity for Current Demands

Maintenance Concerns Identified



Graph 15 : Identified Infrastructure Maintenance Issues

Community Willingness for Improvements



Graph 15: Community Support for Facility Improvements

Macro Case Studies

Empowerment Under One Roof: Beyond a Building



“Before this community hall, we had no place to learn. Now, it isn't just a building; it's where we are gaining the skills to support our families. We aren't waiting for others to fix things anymore; we've formed our own committee to take charge of our future.”

The community hall in this region serves as a critical intersection between public infrastructure and grassroots social mobilisation. While the physical site currently faces significant maintenance challenges, specifically unusable sanitation facilities and a deteriorating "old hall" structure, its functional value as a hub for vocational upskilling remains high. Currently, the facility hosts beautician courses, providing women with a dedicated space for economic advancement that was previously unavailable. The impact of these programs has already moved beyond basic training, with participants now actively lobbying for advanced curriculum modules, such as bridal makeup, to increase their marketability.

More significantly, the hall has sparked a shift in local governance dynamics. Observing a lack of progress by traditional male-led committees on structural renovations, local women proactively established their own committee. This group has moved beyond domestic roles to engage in direct civic advocacy. By leveraging their collective voice to demand better sanitation and a new facility, these women have transformed a dilapidated public space into a platform for leadership, proving that even modest infrastructure can act as a powerful engine for female-led community development.

Image 6: Women practicing beautician vocational skills.

"Initially, we want to do jobs in other shops to gain experience and perfect our skills, but after that, our goal is to open our own separate shops"



This sentiment reflects the collective ambition of the women at the centre, who see their current training as a stepping stone toward financial independence. Another student emphasised the importance of mastery, noting that "if we learn perfectly, we can open our own business, showing a clear transition from learner to future entrepreneur. Beyond hosting essential government health initiatives like Pulse Polio drops and monthly diabetes screenings, the facility has become a centre for economic mobility through its active beautician vocational courses. While the current village leadership committee is composed entirely of men, the presence of this training centre has sparked a critical dialogue regarding gender-inclusive governance. The women, empowered by their new skills and collective presence at the centre, have expressed a unified desire to nominate female representatives for roles such as Secretary or Treasurer in the next election cycle. Ultimately, the project demonstrates how physical infrastructure, when paired with vocational training, can evolve from a simple classroom into a catalyst for both local entrepreneurship and systemic social change.

Image 7: Community members engaging in group activities.

Alignment with OECD- DAC



Alignment with OECD Evaluation Framework



Relevance

The project addresses a critical gap in access to shared community infrastructure, where the absence of formal space limited opportunities for organised engagement and service delivery. Prior to establishment, community members relied on inadequate alternatives, such as private homes that constrained gathering sizes and compromised privacy, or open spaces offering no weather protection. The new facility responds directly to local needs in health service delivery, skill development, governance, and social cohesion. The intervention aligns with multiple development priorities simultaneously: serving as infrastructure for preventive healthcare, enabling vocational training, and functioning as a governance platform. This multi-sectoral relevance ensures the facility addresses interconnected development challenges rather than isolated sectoral needs.



Effectiveness

The project demonstrates effectiveness through rapid community adoption and measurable development outcomes. The facility has catalysed fundamental shifts in how the community organises itself and accesses services. Virtually every household has engaged with the facility, with most utilising it monthly or more frequently. Health service delivery has expanded through dedicated medical camps. Educational opportunities have increased through stable vocational training. Women's participation has expanded dramatically with universal encouragement and comprehensive programming. Community members report meaningful behavioural changes, including increased health-seeking behaviours and adoption of healthy practices. The hall has functioned as a catalyst for social transformation, shifting community members from passive service recipients to active agents in their own development.



Efficiency

Efficiency is reflected in the multifunctional infrastructure design, where a single facility strategically supports diverse community needs, including health services, educational training, governance meetings, and social celebrations. Rather than requiring separate, dedicated spaces, the community benefits from a single versatile asset that accommodates all purposes. The shared usage model optimises resource utilisation and eliminates logistical complexities. The low-cost maintenance model ensures accessibility for all income segments, removing financial barriers to participation. The centralised facility enables government health workers and development providers to efficiently reach entire communities through a single, organised platform rather than scattered individual interactions, reducing coordination costs while strengthening institutional coherence.



Coherence

The intervention aligns with broader development priorities and serves as a coherence mechanism that bridges traditionally separate sectors. The hall complements local governance by providing a platform for ward-level engagement and participatory decision-making. It coherently supports health system objectives through primary healthcare delivery and disease prevention. It simultaneously advances education and economic development through skill training programmes. It enables social protection through Self-Help Group activities. Different development actors—health workers, educators, community leaders, and local governance structures—utilise the same facility, creating natural coordination points and reducing service fragmentation while strengthening overall system effectiveness.



Impact

The project contributes to improved social cohesion, increased participation in community processes, and enhanced access to information and services. The shared space has fundamentally altered community capacity for collective action. Improved social cohesion is evident in strengthened relationships and an enhanced sense of belonging. Increased participation reflects democratised access to decision-making, particularly for women and youth. Enhanced access to services represents concrete development impact—health information through awareness programmes, employment opportunities through skill training, and administrative information through governance forums. The centralisation of information sources and service delivery points has reduced barriers for populations previously lacking convenient connections to essential information and services.



Sustainability

Sustainability is supported through continued high utilisation, established maintenance systems, and active community stakeholder involvement in facility management. The widespread engagement suggests community recognition of the facility's importance and commitment to its preservation. Maintenance systems are operating, indicating the community understands ongoing care requirements. Formal governance structures with designated management responsibility and transparent booking systems demonstrate institutionalised processes for long-term operation. The multi-purpose design ensures long-term relevance and adaptability to evolving needs. Active stakeholder involvement in facility management creates the social and institutional infrastructure necessary for sustainability, with community ownership being more reliable than external support in ensuring long-term functionality.

Alignment with National Programmes and Policies

National Programme / Policy	Objective	Relevant Focus Area	Programme Alignment (Community Hall Project)
Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban)	Improve sanitation and community-level infrastructure	Community engagement, public infrastructure	The community hall provides a platform for awareness programmes on sanitation and community well-being.
Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT)	Improve urban infrastructure and basic services	Urban infrastructure, community assets	The project contributes to strengthening local infrastructure through the development of a shared community asset.
Smart Cities Mission	Promote sustainable and inclusive urban development	Citizen participation, inclusive planning	The hall enables participatory engagement and acts as a platform for community interaction and feedback.
National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM)	Support the urban poor through self-help groups and capacity building	SHGs, community mobilisation	The facility supports SHG meetings, skill-building activities, and community-based initiatives.

Alignment with Sustainable Development Goals

SDG Goal	Relevant Sub-Targets	Project Alignment
	11.3 Enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanisation 11.7 Provide access to safe and inclusive public spaces	The project creates a shared and accessible community space, enabling structured participation and inclusive engagement.
	10.2 Promote social, economic and political inclusion	The facility enables participation across diverse groups, including women, youth, and marginalised residents.
	5.5 Ensure women's participation in decision-making	The community hall supports SHG meetings and women's collective engagement.
	4.7 Promote lifelong learning and awareness	The facility is used for awareness programmes, workshops, and community learning initiatives.
	17.17 Encourage effective partnerships	The project facilitates collaboration between community members, local governance representatives, and implementing agencies.

Recommendations



Promote Women's Leadership and Participation:

There is a need to actively encourage women to take on leadership roles in community-level decision-making processes. Targeted efforts, such as leadership workshops and representation in local committees, can strengthen women's voice and agency within the community.

Increase Women-Centric Programmes and Activities:

Expanding the number and frequency of programmes focused on women can enhance their participation in community spaces. Initiatives such as self-help group (SHG) meetings, awareness sessions, and livelihood-oriented workshops can foster greater engagement.

Strengthen Livelihood and Financial Empowerment Opportunities:

Skill-based training programmes tailored for women, such as vocational training, micro-enterprise development, and financial literacy, should be conducted within the community hall to support income generation and long-term financial stability.

Utilise Community Space for Youth Skill Development:

The community hall can serve as a hub for capacity building among younger populations. Programmes focusing on language proficiency, digital literacy, and technical skills can equip youth with competencies relevant to education and employment.

Improve Sanitation Facilities for Women:

Upgrading and maintaining adequate sanitation infrastructure within the community hall is essential to ensure comfort, safety, and sustained usage by women. Clean, accessible, and gender-sensitive facilities will enable longer and more frequent participation.



Image 8 - Women engaging in active conversation regarding hall development

Conclusion



The Community Hall Development Project in Hanuman Sanjeevani Colony demonstrates the critical role that accessible and inclusive infrastructure plays in strengthening community-level engagement and social cohesion. The intervention has successfully addressed a key infrastructural gap by providing a functional, multi-purpose space that supports a wide range of social, cultural, and institutional activities.

Findings from the assessment indicate that the facility is actively utilised and widely accepted by the community. The hall has emerged as a central platform for collective interaction, enabling improved participation in community processes, facilitating access to programmes, and supporting local governance mechanisms. Its affordability and multi-functional design have ensured that it remains accessible to diverse socio-economic groups.

Importantly, the project has strengthened social capital within the community. The space has enabled the formation and functioning of self-help groups, supported skill development initiatives, and provided a platform for collective voice and action. The emergence of women-led initiatives and aspirations for leadership reflects a deeper social impact beyond physical infrastructure.



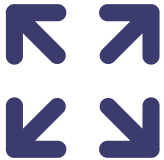
Image 9 - Women sharing a light moment inbetween courses

Way forward



Institutionalising Inclusive Governance:

Efforts should be made to ensure the formal representation of women and youth in the management and decision-making committees associated with the community hall. This will strengthen inclusivity and ensure that diverse community needs are reflected in governance processes.



Expanding Programme-Based Utilisation:

The hall should be systematically leveraged for regular programmes, including skill development, awareness campaigns, and livelihood initiatives. Structured scheduling and partnerships with government departments and NGOs can enhance utilisation and impact.



Strengthening Livelihood Linkages:

Vocational training initiatives should be linked with market opportunities, financial services, and entrepreneurship support to enable sustained income generation, particularly for women and youth.



Enhancing Youth Engagement and Skill Development:

The facility can be positioned as a local hub for youth development by introducing programmes focused on digital literacy, language skills, and technical training aligned with employability needs.



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Image 2: Women training and participating in courses.

Image 3: Skill development course conducted.

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Image 5: Women participating in a FGD.

Image 6: Women practicing beautician vocational skills.

Image 7: Community members engaging in group activities.

Image 8: Women engaging in active conversation regarding hall development.

Image 9: Women sharing a light moment between courses.

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