



GMR Varalakshmi Foundation

GMR Varalakshmi Foundation is the social responsibility arm of GMR Group which is a Bangalore headquartered global Infrastructure major, with interests in Airports, Energy, Highways and Urban Infrastructure. Founded in 1978, the Group has established itself as a front-runner and pioneer in the core Infrastructure areas of India.

Social Responsibility is not peripheral for the GMR Group. It is one of the core values of the Group and is integral and central to the GMR Culture. Since inception, the Group has been engaged in philanthropic activities. As the Group grew and emerged as a leading infrastructure company, it formed a separate institution called GMR Varalakshmi Foundation (GMRVF) with the mandate to serve the communities neighbouring the Group's businesses. The vision of the Foundation is to make sustainable impact on the human development of under-served communities through initiatives in Education, Health and Livelihoods. GMRVF is a Section-25 Company managed by an independent Board chaired by the Group Chairman, GMR Group. It has its own professional staff drawn from top institutions. An overview of the activities of the Foundation is given below.



Education

The Foundation believes that quality education must be accessible to all. In an effort towards this, it both sets up and runs educational institutions, and also partners with government schools and Anganwadis towards quality improvement. GMRVF currently runs an Engineering College, Degree College, Community College and several schools. In all these institutions, financial support is provided to ensure that meritorious students do not fail to access education due to lack of resources.

GMRVF partners over 200 government schools reaching out to more than 28,000 children, and covers about 3000 pre-school age children through its initiatives.

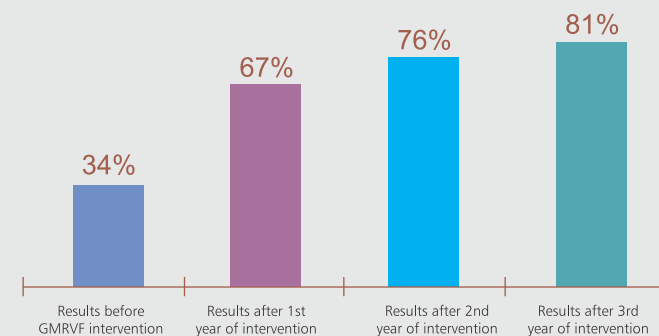


GMRVF is also supporting community work around GMR's two upcoming power projects in Nepal.

Education Ladder to Success!

When GMRVF started working with the Government schools around the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport at Shamshabad, it was found that the SSC pass percentage in Mamidipally High School was less than 35%. Many interventions have been taken up by the Foundation to improve this, including starting an After School Learning Center to provide tuition support to the students with weak learning skills. Transport facility is also provided for girls who come from nearby villages to reach their homes safely in the evenings after attending tuition classes. All the students of this After School Learning Center are provided with snacks every day for 3 months before the exams. In the first year of GMRVF's intervention, the pass percentage increased to 67%. The teachers of the school are highly motivated with this and started taking initiatives on their own to achieve better results. These, coupled with continuous support from GMRVF, have resulted in continuous improvement in the SSC results and in the third year of intervention, the school achieved a pass percentage of 81%.

Progress of Pass Percentage in Mamidipally High School



Health, Hygiene and Sanitation

Recognizing that health is integral to a good quality of life, the Foundation works to improve quality of and access to healthcare, health awareness, and sanitation in its communities. GMRVF has set up GMRV CARE Hospital, a 135 bed secondary care institution in Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh to provide affordable quality health care to the communities in this backward area.

The Foundation runs 25 health clinics and 4 ambulances to make health and emergency services accessible to the communities which are deprived of such facilities. It also runs several Mobile Medical Units with a special focus on reaching out to senior citizens. Foundation pays equal attention to preventive health care and as part of that, organizes several awareness programs on health, nutrition and sanitation related issues. Its health efforts for the general community touch over 50,000 people every year. It also manages several community and public toilets in its target areas.

Making Health Care Accessible

In Holi Bajoli, Himachal, access to health care is not easy. The nearest health care facility is in Chamba which is far away. To address this issue, Foundation has partnered with the Government and renovated the Ayurvedic Hospital, Holi. Foundation is also supporting an Ayurvedic Pharmacist here. To make health care more accessible, the Pharmacist frequently visits surrounding villages and gives health assistance to the villagers.



Empowerment and Livelihoods

To enhance livelihood opportunities for dropout youth, the Foundation runs 8 vocational training centers which provide skill training to about 4000 youth every year. For its vocational training programs, GMRVF strategically partners leading industries for technical expertise, equipment support and placement assistance. Partners currently include Voltas, Schneider and Ashok Leyland. Such partnerships ensure that the curriculum is current and industry-relevant. The trained youth are settled either in wage employment or self-employment, through facilitation of the Foundation. Till date about 21,000 youth have been trained by GMRVF in different trades.

The Foundation also works with about 200 Self Help Groups. It supports the SHGs in training for making different types of products, and also for marketing them. This helps the members of the groups to enhance their incomes. As a part of the marketing support, shops have been set up at Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Hyderabad and Indra Gandhi International Airport, Delhi.

Parking Her Career!

Bhavitha from Gollapally, Shamshabad had passed Intermediate but her parents were unwilling to send her for further studies as they saw no purpose. An announcement in her village by GMRVF for a free data entry course was a God-sent opportunity. After she finished her course, GMRVF arranged interviews with Tenaga Parking for cashiers at the airport parking. She was selected. More than a year into her job, she is now earning Rs. 7000+ . She says that her parents never thought that she could be such a support for their family.



EMPOWER – 'Enabling Marketing of Products of Women Entrepreneurs'

Women from communities around the Shamshabad Airport have been trained to make products from jute, hand-made paper, banana fiber, etc. After the training, GMRVF encouraged them to make different products by providing them infrastructure and raw material required for the unit. With this initiative, GMRVF is able to increase the income of each member by Rs. 3000/- per month.

Social Responsibility is a core value of the GMR Group. While the Foundation has its responsibility of enhancing the quality of life of identified communities, each of the 8000 plus employees of GMR Group is also encouraged and provided with opportunities to participate in various community development activities. They volunteer time, skills and money for community causes.

The initiatives of GMRVF in the areas of Education, Health and Livelihoods are reaching out to lakhs of under-privileged people across the country. For the GMR Group, they are not just stakeholders but partners in inclusive growth.