

A Decade of **Change**, A Lifetime of **Impact**

Nand Ghar – Transforming Anganwadis

Impact Report 2026





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List of Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Full Form
AAF	Anil Agarwal Foundation
ABHA	Ayushman Bharat Health Account
AD	Added Dimension
ANM	Auxiliary Nurse Midwife
ASHA	Accredited Social Health Activist
AWC	Anganwadi Centre
AWW	Anganwadi Worker
BaLA	Building as Learning Aid
BMGF	Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
CDPO	Child Development Project Officer
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
ECCE	Early Childhood Care and Education
FIFO	First in First out
FLN	Foundational Literacy and Numeracy
FSSAI	Food Safety and Standards Authority of India
FSSC	Food Safety System Certification
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HBNC	Home Based Newborn Care
HBYC	Home-Based Care for Young Child
HCM	Hot Cooked Meal
ICDS	Integrated Child Development Services
ICMR-NIN	Indian Council of Medical Research- National Institute of Nutrition
IFA	Iron and Folic Acid
IIFA	International Indian Film Academy
ISO	International Organization for Standardization

Abbreviation	Full Form
IYCF	Infant and Young Child Feeding
JSSK	Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram
JSY	Janani Suraksha Yojana
MAM	Moderate Acute Malnutrition
MCHN	Maternal, Child Health and Nutrition
NDDB	National Dairy Development Board
NFHS	National Family Health Survey
NFSA	National Food Security Act
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NRC	Nutrition Rehabilitation Centre
PAM	Parent–Anganwadi Worker Meeting
PMVVY	Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana
PMSMA	Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritv Abhiyan
RLDC	Rajasthan Skill and Livelihoods Development Corporation
SAM	Severe Acute Malnutrition
SBCC	Social and Behaviour Change Communication
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SHG	Self Help Group
SROI	Social Return on Investment
THR	Take-Home Ration
TLM	Teaching and Learning Materials
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
VDHM	Vedanta Delhi Half Marathon
VHND	Village Health and Nutrition Day
WCD	Women and Child Development

Executive Summary



A decade of impact: advancing early childhood care and women's empowerment across India

Ten years ago, Nand Ghar began with a simple conviction: **no child should go to bed hungry, and every woman should have the means to build a better future**. Today, 10,000 Nand Ghars across 17 states reflect how that conviction has scaled into a nationally recognised model serving India's youngest citizens and the women who nurture them.

Nand Ghar operates through the Anganwadi platform, India's cornerstone institution for improving the overall well-being of children under six years of age, pregnant women, and lactating mothers. The initiative upgrades Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) and strengthens community-centred service delivery in partnership with the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD). Aligned with Mission Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0, Nand Ghar has reached over 4 lakh children (0 to 6 years) and 3 lakh women.

Nand Ghar is designed to strengthen routine Anganwadi service delivery. The model focuses on

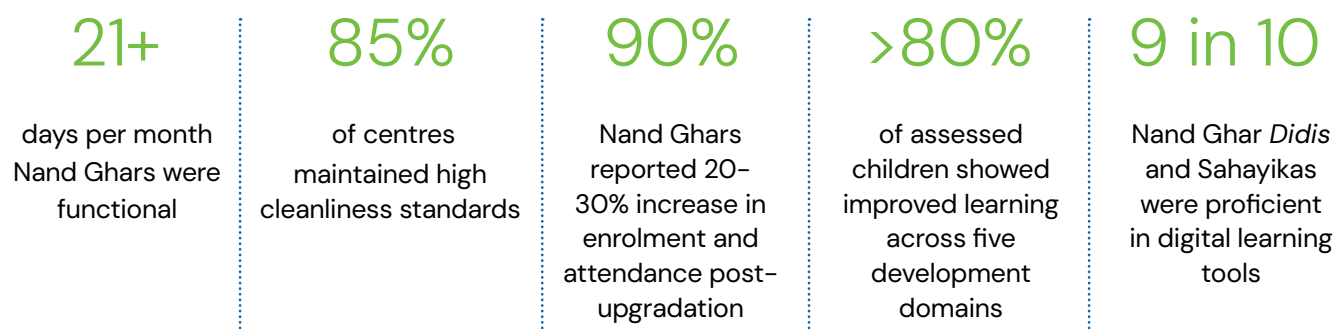
centre readiness by creating safe and functional spaces. It then supports improved practice across four linked areas – nutrition, early childhood care and education (ECCE), health, and women's empowerment. This includes:

- Targeted nutrition supplementation aligned with state norms and dietary guidance
- Play-based preschool routines supported by regional-language digital content and activity kits
- Coordination for immunisation, maternal and child health services, referrals, and follow-up with frontline health staff
- Skilling and livelihood support for women and adolescent girls, linked to schemes, mentoring, and market pathways

With a long-term ambition to impact **8 crore children and 2 crore women across 14 lakh anganwadis**, the model is driven by technology, data-informed decisions, and community stewardship.

Proof of impact

Rigorous evaluation indicates sustained improvements in centre functioning, utilisation, and child development outcomes. Independent concurrent monitoring across 392 Nand Ghars in four states (December 2024–November 2025) found that:



These findings echo a comprehensive 2022 external evaluation across five states engaging 2,000+ respondents. The evaluation reported Social Return on Investment (SROI) ratios of 6.01 for education and 5.43 for health, signalling strong social value per rupee invested.



Innovation spotlight: Project Balvardhan



Launched in April 2025, Project Balvardhan is a district-led model to accelerate improvements in child nutrition. The pilot reaches more than 95,000 children and women across 800+ Anganwadis in six blocks of Dholpur, Rajasthan. It combines evidence-based interventions with technology and system-level enablers to address malnutrition and strengthen early childhood development outcomes.

Success in Dholpur will provide the blueprint for replication across Rajasthan's 25,000 targeted Nand Ghars, demonstrating how intensive, district-focused implementation can be scaled to accelerate progress on India's most stubborn nutrition challenges.

The power of collaboration

Nand Ghar's scale reflects the strength of multi-stakeholder collaboration. At the national level, alignment with overarching frameworks creates policy coherence. State governments guide local adaptation and supervisory support. District and block administrations enable implementation, while panchayats and local leaders drive community ownership.

Implementation partners manage daily operations, technical partners strengthen thematic delivery and corporate and philanthropic contributors extend reach through co-funding and targeted interventions. This ecosystem forms an effective public-private-civil society partnership that mobilises knowledge, expertise, technology, and finance toward shared goals.

Looking ahead

The next phase will focus on depth alongside scale. Priorities include improving nutrition support through expanded supplements and fortified options; improving early learning through stronger pedagogy and mentoring; and reinforcing health integration through clearer referral and follow-up pathways. Women's livelihood linkages, including market access, will be deepened, and proven innovations such as Project Balvardhan will be expanded to additional districts.

Nand Ghar demonstrates what becomes possible when infrastructure upgrades are paired with capacity building, service delivery is strengthened through data and accountability, and communities are enabled as local stewards. The first 10,000 centres show that scale can hold when embedded in public systems. The next phase will aim to sustain service excellence while expanding to new geographies through structured partnerships and measurable outcomes.

A movement, not just a milestone

Recognition from government leadership, including visits by Hon'ble Prime Minister, presentations to the Hon'ble Minister of Women and Child Development, and endorsements from state Chief Ministers, underscores Nand Ghar's positioning as a model for national replication. Awards spanning CSR excellence, innovation, health impact, and SDG integration validate the quality and rigor of implementation.

The 10,000 milestone is not a culmination, it is a foundation. Vedanta, in partnership with state governments, is committed to expanding the model to 25,000 Nand Ghars, prioritising tribal belts, aspirational districts, and underserved geographies while maintaining quality standards.



Reflections from the journey to 10,000

The road to 10,000 Nand Ghars has been one of learning as much as achievement. From the first prototype in Sonipat to the national expansion across 17 states, each phase has distilled practical lessons into how scale, convergence, and community participation can translate policy vision into everyday outcomes.

Five operating lessons have emerged from this journey, each shaping how Nand Ghar operates at scale.

Scale holds when models are embedded, not duplicated

Building 10,000 Nand Ghars was not merely about numbers; it was about institutionalising a replicable model within the existing government system. This was enabled by standardising design, digital infrastructure, and operational protocols. It aided seamless adoption across diverse states, without creating parallel delivery structures.



Convergence across departments multiplies outcomes

Nutrition, Early Childhood Education and Care (ECCE), health access, and women's livelihood advance together when departments plan together. By aligning with national frameworks such as Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0, National Health Mission, National Education Policy 2020, and National Rural Livelihood Mission, Nand Ghar has demonstrated that inter-departmental coordination converts schemes into tangible services at the grassroots. Shared goals and joint planning consistently delivered stronger, more holistic outcomes.



Community ownership sustains long-term success

The real measure of success lies in the community's choice to use, protect, and promote a Nand Ghar. When *panchayats* facilitate utilities, frontline workers invest time in nurturing children, *mothers participate actively*, and volunteers contribute their efforts, this stewardship ensures Nand Ghar functions as a lived, everyday institution rather than a one-time CSR intervention.

Frontline capacity maintains service quality

Nand Ghar *Didis*, helpers (Sahayikas), ASHAs (Accredited Social Health Activists), and ANMs (Auxiliary Nurse Midwives) are central to sustained impact. Structured mentoring in ECCE routines, growth monitoring, and Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC), has helped maintain service quality despite staff transfers and seasonal shocks. Their commitment reinforces that investment in capacity building and motivation of frontline workers yields the most lasting dividends.



Technology strengthens accountability and responsiveness

Technology has been a critical enabler of transparency and course correction. From Smart TVs supporting early learning to digital growth monitoring tools, real-time data has enabled faster decision making and more reliable service delivery. Innovations such as fortified nutrient supplements and Project Balvardhan further establish how data-driven planning and disciplined follow-up can improve outcomes at scale.



From the
Leadership Desk

Message from the Desk of Chairman



“

Our purpose with Nand Ghar is clear: to make public services dependable at the last mile, one centre at a time.

”

Shri Anil Agarwal

Chairman, Vedanta Limited

Dear all,

I envisioned an India where children never go to bed hungry, they can speak in English confidently and where mothers have the power to change their lives. This dream started with a thought and with immense pride and heartfelt gratitude I unveil the 10,000 Nand Ghar Milestone Report. The Nand Ghar initiative stands at the very heart of our mission to uplift communities, especially women and children; by strengthening the foundations of nutrition, health, education, and economic empowerment. At Vedanta, CSR is beyond a mandate; it is our identity. We continue to walk this path with purpose, compassion and shared ownership, creating healthy and empowered communities.

Reaching 10,000 Nand Ghars is not merely a number; it reflects the trust we've built, the lives we've touched, and the values we live by. It is a practical step towards building stronger and resilient systems for mothers and children of our nation. A Nand Ghar that opens on time, is vibrant and clean, equipped with the right tools, and led by a dedicated Nand Ghar 'Didi' who knows every child by name, that is the essence of a dependable public service. When these fundamentals

hold strong, trust follows. And trust is the bedrock of social transformation and equitable development.

Through Nand Ghar, we have reimagined the anganwadis in rural and peri-urban areas. The focus is simple i.e., a safe space, timely nourishment, early learning that is age-appropriate, and livelihood support. We have learned alongside governments, gram panchayats, partners, and communities that the most durable gains come from routine work done well. Field feedback keeps us grounded, with children eager to learn, local leaders and *Bhamashahs* (local leaders) stepping up, and Anganwadi Workers empowered and confident; together, these are small, yet effective signals that we are moving in the right direction.

I extend my deepest appreciation and gratitude to the Government of India, the State Women and Child Development Departments, local bodies, our implementation partners, and every individual who has contributed to this collective journey of community living. Ten thousand is not the finish line; it is a firm base for the road ahead. As we look toward 25,000 Nand Ghars, we do so with renewed energy, in step with the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision for *Viksit Bharat* 2047. This is our Nand Ghar Movement, and together, we will keep the momentum going, for millions of lives we are yet to touch.

Message from the Director



“

A ghar is more than just four walls, it is a place where dreams are nurtured, a space where everyone belongs

”

Priya Agarwal Hebbar

Chairperson, Hindustan Zinc Limited &
Non-Executive Director, Vedanta Limited

For me, Nand Ghar has always been that kind of home! A safe, vibrant space where children learn and grow, where women discover their strength, and where entire communities find hope.

Nand Ghar was born from a simple, deeply personal belief that no child should ever go to bed hungry and that every mother should have the means to build a better future. And today, this vision has grown into a powerful movement, thanks to the support of our government partners, the dedication of our *Didis*, the trust of communities, the tireless efforts of everyone who shares this dream, and thousands of children who call Nand Ghar home.

Reaching 10,000 Nand Ghars is not just a milestone; it's a moment of gratitude and hope. Each centre represents a promise kept. A promise of learning, nutrition, health, and dignity. Together, we have shown what's possible when the public and private sectors, along with local communities, come together with one shared purpose.

As we look ahead, our vision is clear, to reach 25,000 Nand Ghars across India and strengthen the backbone of early childhood care. By bringing innovation, technology, and training into every anganwadi, we aim to ensure that every child, wherever they are born, has the chance to dream, learn, and thrive.

Because the true measure of progress is not in the number of centres we build. It is in the confidence of a child who says, "I can dream bigger" and in the determination of a woman who says, "I can lead the way".

This spirit of possibility is the heartbeat of Nand Ghar. And it's what will continue to guide us as we build homes of hope across India.

From the CEO's Desk



“

Reaching 10,000 Nand Ghars is not the culmination of a journey, but a powerful reminder of how much more remains to be done

”

Shashi Arora

Chief Executive Officer – Nand Ghar

Every Nand Ghar tells a story, of a nourished child taking confident steps into learning, of a mother who dares to dream beyond her circumstances, and of a community discovering its own strength. These are not isolated stories; together, they form the living heartbeat of a nation determined to grow from within.

Reaching 10,000 Nand Ghars is not the culmination of a journey, but a powerful reminder of how much more remains to be done. Each Nand Ghar therefore stands as a beacon of possibility. A child receives the right start in life, a mother gains confidence in nurturing her family, and a village begins to grow in health, trust, and opportunity. When women lead, entire communities rise and when every child thrives, the nation flourishes. This milestone is a collective triumph of communities, governments, and partners who came together in pursuit of a shared purpose.

I extend my deepest gratitude to our Nand Ghar *Didis* and helpers, ASHAs, *panchayat* and local leaders, volunteers, and field teams, whose dedication ensures that every plan transforms into dependable services families can rely on. They are the living spirit of Nand Ghar, the ones who open their doors each morning with quiet determination and immense pride.

As we step into the next chapter, our focus will remain on depth, sustainability, and community ownership. We are witnessing a remarkable shift, from participation to stewardship as local leaders, families, and panchayats take the lead in sustaining Nand Ghars with dignity and care.

In the coming phase, we will continue to strengthen health and nutrition initiatives, make early learning more engaging and impactful, enhance the capacities of frontline workers, and connect rural women to markets and livelihoods that unlock lasting prosperity. Through initiatives like Project Balvardhan, we are demonstrating that innovation, convergence, and behavioral change can together transform the future of maternal and child wellbeing.

Beyond the morning sessions, our vision is to make every Nand Ghar a hub of women's empowerment and community resilience where partnerships thrive, technology empowers, and every child grows with hope. Together, we are not just building centres of service, we are building the foundations of hope, dignity, and opportunity for every woman and every child across India.

Nand Ghar: Nurturing children and empowering women



India is among the world's fastest-growing major economies, with Gross Domestic Product (GDP) expanding by 6.5% in FY 2024–25¹. Realising the promise of this growth depends on strengthening human capital early, particularly among children, and for the women who care for them. Sustainable progress is measured not only by economic indicators but by whether development improves lives across communities.

The first 1,000 days after a child's conception form the most critical window in human development. During this period, a child's brain forms up to one million neural connections every second, laying the foundation for lifelong well-being. These early experiences determine a child's ability to learn, build resilience against disease, and achieve their full potential. Global evidence, including UNICEF research, indicates that children who receive optimal nutrition and care during this period are ten times more likely to survive life-threatening illnesses. As adults, those children earn approximately 21% more², with benefits that extend to subsequent generations. Early childhood development is among the highest-return investments a nation can make.

India has made measurable progress on this front. Between NFHS-4 (2015–16) and NFHS-5 (2019–21), stunting among children under five declined from 38.4% to 35.5%. These gains reflect sustained policy commitment and expanding coverage of essential services. Building on this momentum, the opportunity now lies in ensuring that quality early childhood services reach every family.

For nearly five decades, Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme have formed the backbone of India's response to this priority. Overseen by the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD), ICDS has now been revised and subsumed under Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 (Mission POSHAN 2.0). Today, it operates through approximately 14 lakh AWCs, making it one of the world's largest community-based service-delivery networks. From the smallest hamlet to dense urban

settlements, AWCs provide supplementary nutrition, pre-school non-formal education, nutrition and health education, immunisation, health check-up and referral services³, close to home.

Recent policy initiatives have deepened this focus and enabled innovation. Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 reinforce integrated focus on nutrition and service delivery, while *Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi* sharpens attention on early childhood care and education within the anganwadi system. Complementary campaigns such as *Swasth Nari*, *Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan* underline the link between women's health, nutrition, and household wellbeing. Alongside the National Education Policy 2020, which emphasises play-based pedagogy and age-appropriate curricula, these frameworks recognise nutrition, health, early learning, and maternal wellbeing as interconnected pillars that must advance together.

As emphasised by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi, investing in the pre-primary level is essential to nurture children into good, ethical, thoughtful, and empathetic human beings who will lead India towards the vision of a *Viksit Bharat* by 2047.



This is the context in which Nand Ghar has taken root. Ten years ago, Vedanta partnered with the government to modernise AWCs into Nand Ghars. Within the existing public framework, Nand Ghars upgrade infrastructure and provide integrated services spanning nutrition, health, ECCE, and women's empowerment. From the first few centres to a network that now spans 10,000 Nand Ghars across 17 states, the model demonstrates how private commitment can reinforce and accelerate public systems at scale. This milestone reflects a decade of collaborative effort to improve outcomes for India's children and women, and to strengthen the foundations for future generations.

Journey to 10,000 Nand Ghars





Reimagining the Anganwadi: the Nand Ghar approach

Every Nand Ghar begins with the physical space. Existing AWCs are upgraded to create safer, well-lit, and better-organised environments. The model uses two formats suited to local conditions – brownfield renovations and greenfield units⁴. All upgrades follow a standard layout that refreshes interiors and exteriors with child-friendly design.

The layout optimises available space, allowing services to run smoothly throughout the day. Learning is built into the environment itself. Walls are transformed into teaching tools through the Building as Learning Aid (BaLA) approach, with age-appropriate visuals featuring alphabets, numbers, shapes and colours that invite children to observe, learn and ask questions. Simple,

age-appropriate value-based messages are also included to nurture empathy, respect and positive behaviour.

Nand Ghars function as digital pre-school classrooms, with smart TVs preloaded with content in regional languages. Digital content is paired with Teaching and Learning Materials (TLM) and activity kits to support a play-based routine. Child-friendly furniture, kitchens with safe storage, outdoor play spaces and *Poshan Vatikas* (kitchen gardens), turn basic service points into well-equipped centres. This upgraded space provides the platform for delivering nutrition services, ECCE, health interventions, and women's empowerment activities through a single, integrated model.



Before



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गाँव - करेड़ा I
जिला - भीलवाड़ा

 **vedanta**
transforming for good

नंदघर
NAND GHAR

 **HINDUSTAN ZINC**
PRIDE IN PERFORMANCE

 Department of Women
and Child Development
Government of Rajasthan



After

A continuum of care across life stages⁵

Nand Ghar supports families across life stages – from the first 1,000 days through early childhood, adolescence, and motherhood. This approach closes service gaps and strengthens long-term outcomes for mothers and children. Women's empowerment is integral to this pathway. When women have stronger health, skills, and income opportunities, families are better able to sustain nutrition, care practices, and early learning at home, reinforcing outcomes for children.

Essential services are organised around four pillars, aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Nutrition (SDG 2), Health (SDG 3), ECCE (SDG 4), and Women's Empowerment (SDG 5).

Nutrition



India contributes a third of the global burden of undernutrition⁶. Nand Ghar addresses this challenge by providing targeted nutrition supplements for children. These include millet-based options aligned with government guidelines and Recommended Dietary Allowances. The supplements complement anganwadi-provided supplementary nutrition and adhere to state norms, ensuring no child is left behind. Growth monitoring and nutrition counselling are embedded into routine service delivery, supported by follow-ups and coordination through existing public-health touchpoints.



Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE)



Enrolment in rural pre-primary institutes has risen, with 3-year-olds' enrolment increasing from 68% (2018) to 77% (2024).⁷ At Nand Ghar, pre-school learning follows a play-based routine enriched with regional-language digital content and hands-on activity kits. The space is designed as a learning aid through wall art (BaLA), reinforcing key pre-school concepts. School-readiness tracking and periodic mentoring for Nand Ghar *Didis* support consistent, age-appropriate delivery.



Health



Nand Ghar offers a platform for mobile health services and periodic health camps delivered by partner agencies, extending care to underserved communities. The model integrates with local health systems to facilitate immunisation, maternal and child health check-ups, screening, referrals, and follow-ups, supported by ASHAs and ANMs.



Women empowerment



Women's economic agency shapes household decisions on nutrition, healthcare utilisation, and children's learning. Nand Ghar provides women and adolescent girls access to skilling opportunities, informed by feasibility assessments, alongside mentoring for enterprise development. Linkages to schemes and entitlements helps access government services that boost livelihoods and household wellbeing.



From implementation to sustainability

Execution follows a phased approach for long-term sustainability. For the first six to twelve months, implementation partners provide operational support to establish standard operating routines and mentor Anganwadi Workers (also known as Nand Ghar *Didis*). During this period, they assist service delivery and monitor progress through routine field visits and data validation. Partners use the Nand Ghar mobile application to capture enrolment, attendance, infrastructure checks, and service delivery indicators, enabling timely action.

Programme and field teams regularly engage government functionaries to advocate for stronger coordination, help address service delivery gaps and improve convergence. Over time, responsibilities for upkeep and service continuity

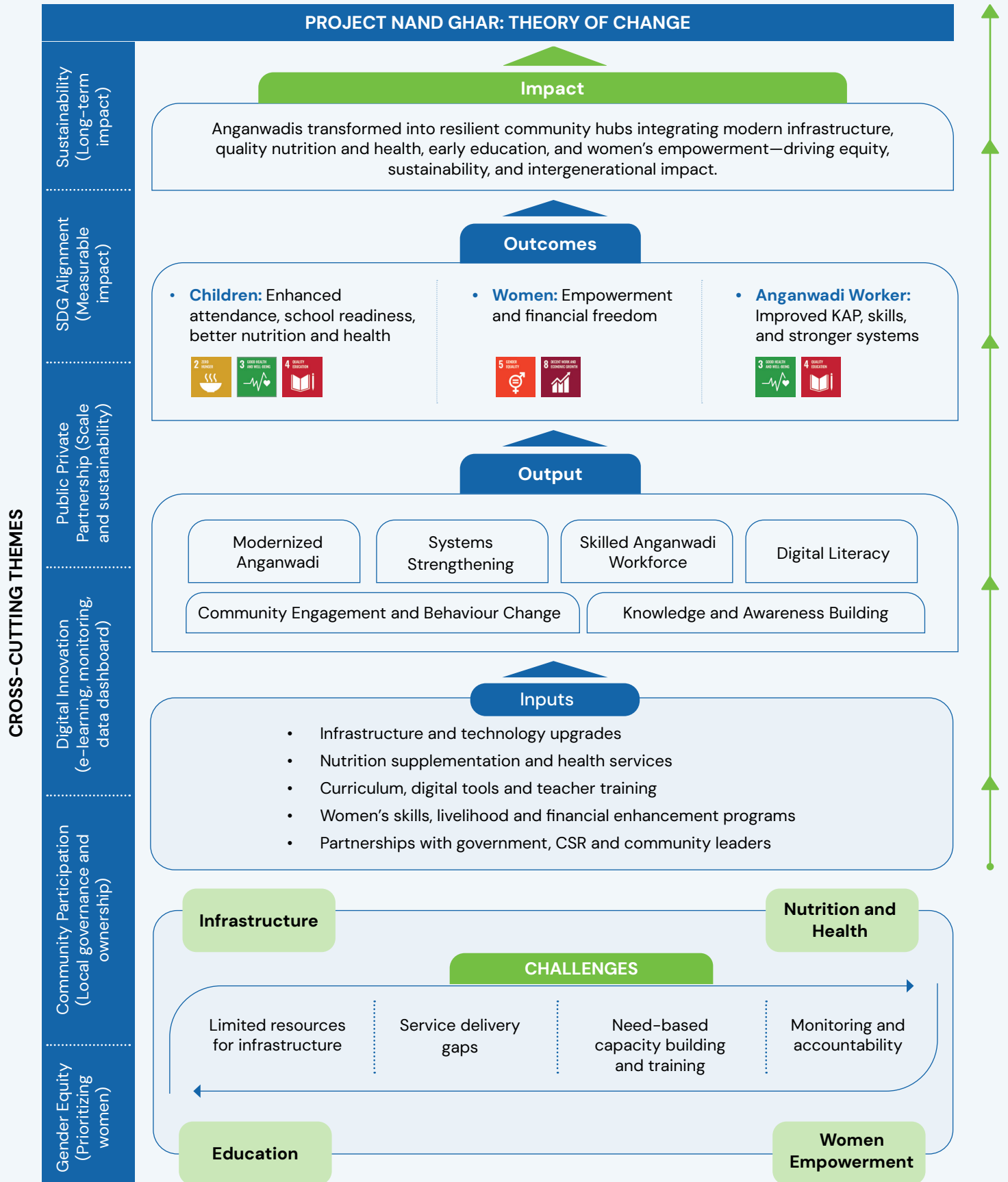
transition to the government and local leaders, such as the *sarpanch*. Formal handover ceremonies reinforce community ownership and support continuity across operational Nand Ghars.

Third-party monitoring teams provide supportive supervision and use field insights to guide decisions. They validate data, identify implementation bottlenecks and recommend course corrections, helping to maintain quality across geographies.

This community-centred, comprehensive approach modernises service delivery while strengthening the anganwadi system. Collaboration with government departments, implementing agencies and community leaders ensures continuity, while alignment of people, place and processes builds trust.

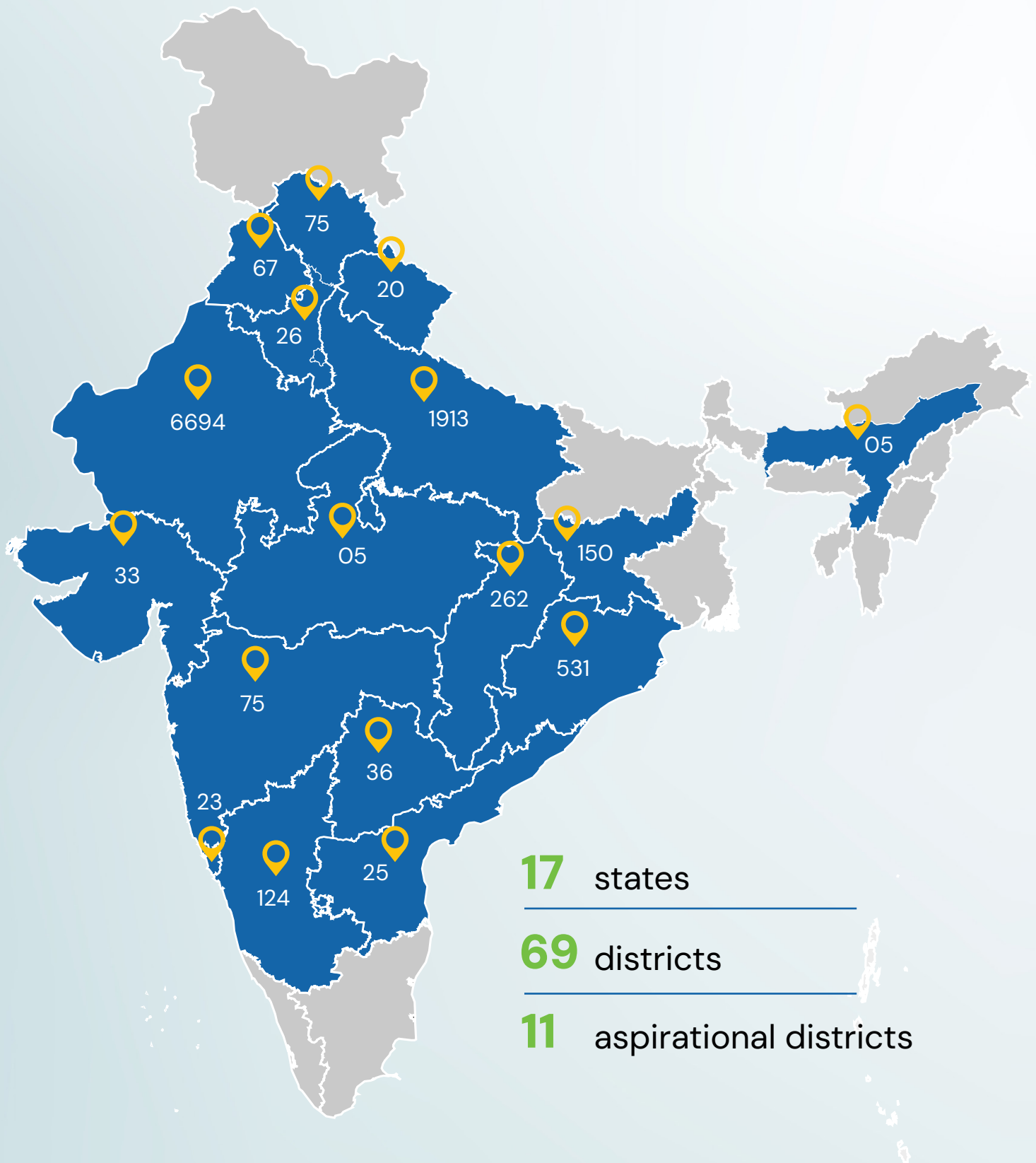
Nand Ghar's Theory of Change

Sustainable impact at scale depends on clear cause-and-effect pathways. The programme's Theory of Change outlines how Nand Ghar's investments translate into measurable gains across infrastructure, nutrition, ECCE, health access, and women's empowerment.





The Nand Ghar Footprint



Impact at scale



10,000+

Nand Ghars
operational across
17 states



4

Lakh+ Children
aged 0-6 reached



3

Lakh+ Women
Empowered



80

Lakh + Lives
touched





Nutrition

Building strong foundations



Nutrition shapes how children grow, learn, and participate in India's future. A well-nourished child is among India's strongest investments in a more productive, resilient and inclusive *Viksit Bharat 2047*. Yet child undernutrition persists, closely linked to maternal health and nutrition, underscoring the need for sustained, locally grounded action.

Under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013, and Mission Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0, every pregnant woman and lactating mother (to six months postpartum) and every child (six months to six years) is entitled to supplementary nutrition, with additional norms for malnourished children.

Within this national framework, Nand Ghar strengthens outcomes by improving dietary quality through simple, local context-appropriate nutritional supplements, ensuring regularity of meals, and reinforcing consistent growth monitoring. The approach is practical and people-first – focused on what families can accept, frontline workers can deliver, and public systems can sustain – **ensuring no child goes to bed hungry.**

*Subject to the filling of sanctioned state positions, with the general norm being one Anganwadi Worker (AWW) and one Anganwadi Helper (AWH) per Nand Ghar.

By the numbers

4 Lakh+

Hot Cooked Meals

served daily through Nand Ghars

80 lakh+

Nutritional Supplements

distributed to strengthen diets
of children

20,000+

Nand Ghar *Didis* and
Sahayikas

oriented on everyday nutrition services
for women and children*

How Nand Ghars strengthen nutrition services

Nand Ghar's nutrition pillar is a system-strengthening model embedded within the anganwadi ecosystem. Services are organised to reinforce government delivery while improving dietary quality, service continuity, and utilisation through four linked components.



Distributing nutrition supplements to children

Improving children's diets with culturally accepted products that integrate seamlessly into daily routines

What this includes:

- Distributing multi-millet Nutri Bars as ready-to-eat snacks for children aged 3 to 6 years, with simple caregiver guidance on portion sizes
- Providing child-friendly millet shakes enriched with plant-based protein, vitamins and minerals, alongside counselling sessions
- Introducing *Shishu Sanjeevani*, a fortified *halwa*-based supplement for children aged 3 to 6 years
- Integrating these supplements into existing HCM and THR schedules, while maintaining food safety and quality standards
- Tracking reach and adherence through systematic records



Encouraging dietary diversity and nutrition counselling

Strengthening the nutritional profile of children's and mother's diets through practices that families can accept, afford and replicate at home

What this includes:

- Maintaining *Poshan Vatikas* at or near Nand Ghars, tended with community support
- Incorporating vegetables grown in *Poshan Vatikas* into HCM and THR meals
- Conducting culturally appropriate, cost-effective recipe demonstrations that encourage families to adopt improved diets for young children and mothers
- Mentoring Nand Ghar Didis to counsel pregnant and lactating women, and mothers of young children, on adopting appropriate Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices
- Aligning MCHN Day/VHND as a single platform to bring together counselling, antenatal and postnatal care, child growth checks, immunisation, and guidance on using THR
- Convening community events such as Annaprashan Diwas and World Breastfeeding Week to reinforce breastfeeding and timely complementary feeding
- Creating peer support environments that enable mothers to share experiences, receive encouragement, and sustain nutrition and caregiving practices over time





Mentoring Nand Ghar Didis to strengthen child growth monitoring

Supporting Nand Ghar Didis to detect nutritional risks early and ensuring timely intervention for malnourished children

What this includes:

- Facilitating regular weight and height monitoring as per established protocols
- Monitoring the availability and functionality of anthropometric equipment (weighing scales, infantometers, stadiometers)
- Facilitating Positive Deviance Hearth sessions that enable community-based management of malnutrition
- Following up with the most at-risk children through household visits and joint monitoring with frontline workers (ASHAs, AWWs, ANMs)



Reinforcing food security, service quality and consistent delivery

Ensuring timely, age-appropriate nutrition through quality-assured service delivery and functional kitchens to sustain reliable implementation

What this includes:

- Facilitating provision of HCM for children aged 3–6 years and THR for children aged 0–3 years, pregnant and lactating women and adolescent girls (in aspirational districts)
- Advocating for quality standards and scheduled serving times
- Supervising kitchens with safe cooking and serving areas, clean storage facilities, and reliable access to safe water and sanitation



Project Balvardhan: Addressing intergenerational malnutrition in Dholpur district, Rajasthan

Routine nutrition services form the backbone of the Nand Ghar model. In high-burden districts, targeted innovation accelerates progress when convergence, data use and frontline capability improve together.

Dholpur is designated as an Aspirational and UTKARSH district and reflects baseline nutrition indicators that require focused action. Acute malnutrition is approximately 6%, and nearly 36% of children are classified as underweight. These indicators signal risk across the full cycle, from maternal nutrition to infant feeding and early childhood growth.

Launched in April 2025 as a district-led pilot under the Nand Ghar initiative, Project Balvardhan focuses on reducing child malnutrition in Dholpur. It is implemented in partnership with the district administration, JSI R&T India Foundation, and Rocket Learning. The project targets more than 80,000 children (0–6 years) and 15,000 pregnant and lactating women. Through a saturation approach, more than 800 anganwadis are being upgraded into Nand Ghars, enabling families to access integrated nutrition, health and early childhood education services.



Impact at scale

800+

Anganwadis
in Dholpur planned for
upgrade

95,000+

Children and
women targeted

6

Blocks covered
across Dholpur
district

The approach

Project Balvardhan employs a systems-strengthening approach embedded within government structures. The strategy rests on the following interconnected measures:

- **Strengthen institutional convergence** across Women and Child Development, Health and Education Departments at state, district and block levels
- **Develop data systems** using digital tools for Nand Ghar assessments, including monitoring of infrastructure and service delivery, as well as systematic anthropometric assessments using the growth monitoring tool
- **Improve service quality and frontline capacity** through mentoring and standardized guidelines adopted by the states and districts
- **Drive behaviour changes** through Maternal, Child Health and Nutrition (MCHN) Days, community meetings, home visits and awareness campaigns to improve access and timely utilization of anganwadi services and adoption of IYCF practices
- **Streamline logistics** to ensure equipment functionality, systematic records, and closed referral loops



Envisioned outcomes

Project Balvardhan is designed to deliver measurable outcomes across nutrition status, service quality, and system performance:



Reduction in child malnutrition and anaemia prevalence



Higher utilisation of services and improved caregiver practices, including IYCF



Stronger Nand Ghar Didi capacity and adherence to standard protocols



Better convergence and accountability through data-led decision-making



Increased community engagement and behaviour change



The road ahead

The project's saturation approach across six blocks creates the conditions for district-wide systems change. As implementation deepens over the coming months, the focus will shift to tracking nutrition outcomes, validating referral pathways, and documenting lessons for adaptation. The aim is to generate rigorous evidence on how coordinated, district-level application of the Nand Ghar model can contribute to measurable

improvements in child and maternal nutrition indicators.

Success in Dholpur will provide a replicable blueprint for expansion across Rajasthan's 25,000 targeted Nand Ghars and inform implementation strategies in other aspirational districts nationwide.

“

We are proud to partner with the Anil Agarwal Foundation to launch Project Balvardhan in Dholpur. This initiative uses technology and community engagement to fight malnutrition and empower Anganwadi workers. Together we are building a model for lasting change.

Shreenidhi B.T., District Collector, Dholpur, Rajasthan



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Distribution of nutrition supplements

To reinforce routine services and respond to varied nutritional needs, Nand Ghar has introduced a portfolio of culturally accepted, quality-assured nutrition supplements that strengthen dietary quality for children. **80 lakh+ millet-based nutrition supplements** have been distributed across **10 states and Union Territories**, aligned with the national **Shree Ann initiative** to promote millets for better nutrition.

Millets are widely grown, climate-resilient, and nutrient-dense. Nand Ghar set out to bring them back onto children's plates in formats they enjoy. The portfolio began in 2023 with a multi-millet Nutri Bar during **the International Year of Millets**, expanded in 2024 with a child-friendly millet shake.

In 2025, *Shishu Sanjeevani*, a fortified halwa-based supplement was developed in partnership with National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) Foundation for Nutrition. Together, these products helped children meet daily nutrient needs while keeping delivery practical for frontline workers.

80 lakh+

Millet-based nutrition
supplements (bars, shakes, halwa)
distributed

10

States and Union Territories
(Rajasthan, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand,
Maharashtra, Daman & Diu, Uttar Pradesh,
Goa, Punjab, Karnataka)



Millet bars

The millet bar was piloted in Varanasi district of Uttar Pradesh across three blocks – Sewapuri, Arajilina and Kashi Vidyapeeth, in 2023. It was distributed through Nand Ghars with support from Nand Ghar *Didis*, who led simple, community-based messaging. Each child aged 3–6 years received six bars weekly over a six-month pilot phase. The millet bar was produced under ISO 9001:2015 and FSSC 22000 V5.1 food safety standards, ensuring quality and safety.

- Ready-to-eat bar served in the morning with a simple caregiver brief on daily dosage
- Supports regular attendance and anchors growth monitoring routines
- Shelf-stable and locally sourced, with minimal additional frontline workload
- Fits schedules with no extra visits and aligns with local habits
- Aligned with the Indian Council of Medical Research – National Institute of Nutrition (ICMR–NIN)



48,000+

children reached across 1,364 Nand Ghars in three blocks of Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh



2× attendance

of children at intervention Nand Ghars during the pilot⁸



1.6 kg

Median weight gain from 13.6 kg to 15.1 kg



1.38 points

decrease in Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) from 4.26% to 2.88% (Apr to Dec '23)



0.73 points

decrease in Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) from 1.30% to 0.57% (Apr to Dec '23)



Millet shakes

In 2024 Nand Ghar introduced child-friendly millet shakes, keeping the same core approach of on-site distribution, caregiver counselling and close tracking. Beyond an additional nutrition boost, millets offer nutrient-dense, climate-resilient options that families already recognise and use at home.

- Dairy-free with a blend of ragi, bajra, foxtail, and kodo millets
- FSSAI-certified and patented product in India
- 23 essential vitamins and minerals, plant-based protein, low calories
- Six-month shelf life



27,000+

children aged 3 to 6 years reached



6 States

Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Goa, Punjab, and Karnataka



1 lakh+

Millet Shakes distributed



Shishu Sanjeevani fortified supplement

To further strengthen diet quality, in March 2025, Nand Ghar launched *Shishu Sanjeevani* with the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) Foundation for Nutrition. The ready-to-eat halwa-based supplement is designed for children aged 3 to 6 years, aligned with local preferences, needs and acceptance.

- Each 40-gram serving provides about 200 kilocalories and roughly one-sixth of a child's daily nutrient needs
- Prepared with Bengal gram, ghee, milk solids, soy and sesame, and enriched with essential vitamins and minerals
- Fortified per Indian Council of Medical Research – National Institute of Nutrition (ICMR-NIN) guidance

Shishu Sanjeevani has reached over one lakh children across seven states. High acceptability has been reported through centre feedback, making it a well-liked halwa-based addition to the daily hot-cooked menu.



1 lakh+

children aged 3 to 6 years reached



7 States

Rajasthan, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Daman & Diu, and Uttar Pradesh



Stories from the field

In the quiet corners of rural communities, small changes often yield the most profound results. For Kiran, Rahul, and Arjun, the introduction of millet nutri-bars has provided a significant nutritional boost.

Kiran, just three years old, comes from a family where both parents are illiterate, and her father works as a daily wage laborer. As the youngest of four, her mother struggles to provide even two meals a day. Since the introduction of nutri-bars provided by Nand Ghar, rich in essential nutrients, her mother has noticed a remarkable shift. Kiran is now lively, eagerly participating in playtime activities that once left her drained.

Five-year-old Rahul faced a different challenge. With both parents working as daily wage laborers, Rahul's attendance at the Nand Ghar was irregular, limiting his access to hot meals and regular growth monitoring. The Nutri-Bar programme became an incentive for consistent attendance. Now, Rahul not only enjoys a nutritious supplement but also benefits from regular health check-ups and social interaction, fostering his overall development.

For six-year-old Arjun, the battle was against dietary habits. Despite his family's awareness of healthy eating, Arjun was reluctant to try protein-rich foods. The programme's playful approach turned his initial hesitation into curiosity. Today, Arjun eagerly munches on millet bars, his energy levels soaring, and his parents beam at the visible improvement in his health and enthusiasm.

Through these stories, the impact of Nand Ghar's nutritional endeavours is clear: nourishing not just bodies, but also potential, one child at a time.



Nand Ghar as a community hub for annual *Poshan Maah* Celebrations

Nand Ghar has observed *Rashtriya Poshan Maah* every year since 2018. The campaign reflects a national call for Jan Andolan, promoting dietary diversity, exclusive breastfeeding, timely complementary feeding, growth monitoring, and convergent action to tackle anaemia in women and children. The aim is public participation that turns nutrition guidance into a sustainable, everyday family practice.

Across locations, Nand Ghars plan with communities, government teams and work closely

with frontline workers. Activities are designed to be practical, low cost, and easy to implement in the long run. Caregivers interact within groups, learn how to read growth charts, and discuss how to use THR well at home. Recipe corners feature local produce and millets, including those sourced from *Poshan Vatikas*. Growth checks are linked to village health sessions, so referrals move without delay. Food safety habits are refreshed through First in First out (FIFO), portioning guides, and quick job aids. Digital tools such as the Poshan Tracker support record keeping and follow up.

Initiatives that have run across years:

- **Poshan Varta** sessions and caregiver counselling with clear, repeatable feeding messages
- Community chaupals and mother's meetings that encourage families to try affordable recipes with local ingredients and millets
- Doordarshan features that carry expert discussions, and live recipe demonstrations to households, widening reach beyond the immediate catchment
- Webinars and short knowledge notes that share practical insights with practitioners and partners

Poshan se Pragati

2025, the theme *Poshan se Pragati* guided outreach. A special World Food Day telecast titled "*Poshan Chaupal – Nand Ghar ke saath*" aired on Doordarshan Rajasthan. It showcased creative THR ideas from frontline workers, along with a panel discussion on reimagining early childhood nutrition and learning in the state's long-term vision. The telecast highlighted the importance of collaboration between government departments, community workers, and local institutions in sustaining results.

"Poshan se Pragati"

the renewed Poshan Chaupal programme during the 8th Rashtriya Poshan Maah (2025)



From awareness to action

In 2025, focused trainings equipped nearly 200 field supervisors from implementing agencies to mentor and monitor. Centres report better adherence to protocols, fewer errors, and safer fortified meals when handwashing, cooking hygiene, airtight storage, and FIFO are reinforced through on-the-job support.

Stories from the field

At Barpetola Nand Ghar in Kabirdham district of Chattisgarh, Anganwadi Worker Shashi Pandey has transformed her center into a model of cleanliness, order, and child-friendly learning. During the 8th Rashtriya Poshan Maah, she led a vibrant Bal Yatra, where children spread messages on proper nutrition and regular attendance. A special Panchayat Baithak brought women and children together to discuss water access, boundary walls, and the value of a Nutri Garden. Shashi's thoughtful touches, like labeling each child's school bag, instill ownership and readiness for school. Her dedication reflects how one committed worker can spark community engagement, drive behavioral change, and elevate early childhood education.





Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE)



Nurturing young minds

The early years set the rhythm for how children think, speak, and relate to the world. In many villages and remote settlements, pre-primary education is limited or unaffordable. Nand Ghar bridges this gap with structured, play-based early learning in local languages and cultural contexts – functioning as aspirational playschools for the next generation.

ECCE at Nand Ghars is aligned with national frameworks: daily schedules follow Navchetna (birth to three) and Aadharshila (three to six), developed under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) for the Foundational Stage. In line with the Poshan Bhi Padhai Bhi initiative, Nand Ghars integrate early learning with nutrition and care – using songs, stories, games, BaLA cues and digital content – so children experience joyful, age-appropriate learning and enter primary school with confidence.

By the numbers

2.5 Lakh+
children aged

3 to 6 years participate in daily Nand Ghar pre-school activities

6,000+
Nand Ghar

Didis trained and refreshed on ECCE routines

>80%
of assessed children

demonstrated school readiness across five domains

How Nand Ghars build foundational learning

ECCE delivery at Nand Ghars rests on designed learning spaces, trained Nand Ghar *Didis*, and engaged families. It adds value to existing AWCs through infrastructure upgrades, SMART TVs, and age-appropriate learning supplies that create vibrant early learning environments. The approach is anchored in six interlinked components.



Learner-centred environments

Bright spaces where the environment enables learning

What this includes:

- Standardised Building as Learning Aid (BaLA) layouts that turn walls into teaching tools, strengthening foundational literacy and numeracy alongside concepts like shapes, colours and body parts
- Secular prayers and value-based messages on the walls, promoting kindness, sharing and respect
- Child-height corners for reading, writing, art and free play
- Expressions Board for weekly recap and display of children's work
- Added Dimension (AD) boards that add interactive, theme-based learning elements that spark curiosity and embed concepts visually



Blending technology and tools

Interactive resources that deepen functional literacy, numeracy and socio-emotional learning

What this includes:

- Smart TVs with age-appropriate content in regional languages (such as Hindi, Marathi and Konkani) that guide daily classroom routines in an interactive manner
- An extensive 40-week digital curriculum, aligned to state norms
- Nand Ghar *Didis* create low-cost, locally sourced teaching learning materials (TLM) like puppets, number cards, and story props to make classroom activities hands-on
- Promoting the use of diverse resources such as storybooks, flashcards and workbooks to support holistic learning





Structured experiential early learning

A planned, play-based sequence that builds early language and number sense

What this includes:

- Warm welcome, morning prayer and settling activities that build a sense of belonging
- Dedicated time for oral language, literacy and foundational numeracy, including number sense and pattern recognition
- Movement and fine-motor work to support balance, grip, and coordination



School readiness assessments and feedback

Mentor-monitor approach that guides timely action in the classroom

What this includes:

- Short, activity-based exercises to track each child's progress in a stress-free, supportive environment
- Progress checks across key domains of early childhood development: thinking and problem-solving, movement and coordination, early literacy, early numeracy and social-emotional skills



Professional capacity building of Nand Ghar Didis

Pragmatic, context-specific upskilling and mentoring for Nand Ghar Didis and helpers (Sahayikas)

What this includes:

- Partner-led training of Nand Ghar *Didis*, including refresher sessions
- Observation-based feedback and practical demonstrations showcasing the use of simple ECCE content, aids and pedagogy
- Capacity building of Sahayikas on centre organization, daily operations, meal-time support, and maintaining a safe, child-friendly environment





Empowering families for early learning outcomes

Caregiver engagement that turns homes into everyday learning spaces

What this includes:

- Monthly parent–educator engagement sessions to share progress
- Home–learning guidance through WhatsApp groups that share simple activities and short audio or video content
- Community meetings and regular home visits to stabilise attendance and encourage regular participation



“

Children from Nand Ghar come to Class 1 with confidence. They hold pencils correctly, recognize shapes, colors, and their surroundings, and show early awareness of language and numbers. During Activity Based Learning they smoothly progress from one task to another. For me it feels like they already know the classroom. The first week goes smoothly

Sunita (primary school teacher), Vaghiwali Thane, Maharashtra



”

“

Children transitioning from Nand Ghar to school display remarkable discipline, confidence, and curiosity. They greet teachers warmly, sit attentively, and participate with enthusiasm. Their good manners and eagerness to learn reflect the strong foundation and values nurtured at Nand Ghar.

Mamta Chauhan (primary school teacher), Korba, Chhattisgarh



”

Building India's early learning workforce

A *Nand Ghar Didi* is often a child's first teacher. When she is skilled, supported, and equipped with simple tools, preschool learning is continual and joyful. Nand Ghar invests in strengthening this workforce through periodic capacity building. It is aligned with national and state policies and informed by global guidance on play, responsive caregiving, inclusion, and formative assessment. The objective is to enable Nand Ghar *Didis* run vibrant learning hubs that strengthen foundational literacy and numeracy (FLN), socio-emotional development, and school readiness for young learners.

Who it serves

Nand Ghar Didis and *Sahayikas* as classroom leads

Supervisors and Child Development Project Officers (CDPO) for supportive supervision and mentorship

Families as partners in early learning at home

Impact at scale

6,000

Nand Ghar *Didis* trained

10 states

Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Goa, Karnataka reached through partner led training programmes



The approach

Nand Ghar *Didis* are capacitated through a clear, hands-on programme designed for everyday implementation within anganwadi settings. Training is rooted in state-aligned early childhood education content, ensuring consistency with government curricula while embracing modern pedagogy.

The programme begins with a focused orientation covering roles, child safety, and BaLA room setup, so that the physical environment actively supports learning. Trainers then model a simple, structured daily routine – welcome prayers, theme-based concept time, small-group activities, movement, and reflection. *Didis* practice these through short mock sessions.

In classroom practicums, they learn to create low-cost, locally sourced teaching-learning materials, integrate early literacy, numeracy, and social-emotional skills into play, and display children's work to encourage confidence and creativity. Each participant completes the programme with easy-to-use planning aids and weekly parent engagement prompts, enabling continuity between learning at the centre and at home.

What excitement and confidence look like in practice

A structured daily routine, combined with familiar tools and consistent pedagogy, boosts curiosity amongst young learners. Children arrive eager, settle quickly, and understand what comes next. They raise their hands, lead songs, and support peers, contributing to a lively yet focused classroom environment.

As children transition to Class 1, teachers report stronger recognition of foundational concepts, quicker engagement with tasks, better adjustment to classroom norms, and longer attention spans. Regular practice at Nand Ghars builds curiosity, confidence and readiness to learn. These outcomes ease the transition into formal schooling.

Stories from the field

In Parihto Ka Sawat Nand Ghar, Chittorgarh, AWW Nirmala Purohit introduces a lively, game-based way to build early numeracy. Working with minimal materials, she forms two teams and spreads number cards on the mat. At her call, one child from each team searches for the right card and races back.

Children practice number recognition while learning to take turns and cheer for their peers. "They help one another and wait for their turn," she says. Movement keeps energy high, and confidence grows with each round. What begins as a quick game becomes a routine that strengthens teamwork, focus, and early numeracy in a resource-light classroom.

In focus: Honouring the grassroots champions

The ***Nand Ghar Didi Samman Samaroh***, held in Udaipur, Rajasthan, recognised **50 Nand Ghar Didis** for their work across early learning, nutrition, and community engagement. The event brought together over **300 Didis alongside senior state and district officials**, underscoring the shared role of government, communities, and partners in enabling high-quality Anganwadi services.

The Udaipur *Samaroh* is part of a broader district-level effort to recognise the range of roles Nand Ghar *Didis* play as caregivers, educators, nutrition champions, counsellors, and local leaders. Across recent events, they are being acknowledged for service as well as their care, and local advocacy efforts to support children, mothers, and families every day. Over time, such platforms aim to make frontline practice more visible and more valued within the wider Anganwadi ecosystem.





Healthcare

Preventive care at the last mile



Health is the first mile of equity. In many rural and peri-urban areas, access to quality healthcare remains distant or costly, often resulting in delayed treatment of preventable conditions. Nand Ghars help close this gap by bringing routine services and trusted health information closer to families through a familiar community space.

By hosting MCHN Days/VHNDs, Nand Ghar creates an effective platform that enables frontline workers provide primary care. These sessions deliver health check-ups and immunisations, combined with practical counselling on nutrition, hygiene, IYCF practices, and the safe use of take-home rations for mothers and children.

Past partnerships have further strengthened outreach through mobile services, awareness drives, health camps, and telemedicine sessions led by qualified health professionals. Together, these efforts supported better access to primary health care within the catchment areas served.

By the numbers

90 lakh+

beneficiaries reached through Nand Ghar mobile/on-site healthcare services

17 states

accessing regular primary and/or referral specialist care

How Nand Ghars deliver dignified healthcare services

Nand Ghars strengthen healthcare delivery by reducing delays and preventing complications through prompt referrals. Outreach brings screening and first-line support closer to families, while linkages with public facilities enable continuity of care.



Healthcare initiatives such as Clinic on Wheels and Mobile Health Van

Bringing health awareness, point-of-care tests, basic treatment and referral care closer to communities

What this includes:

- Haemoglobin testing and monitoring of vitals such as blood pressure and heart rate
- Diagnosis of common ailments such as anaemia, hypertension, joint pains, gastritis etc.
- Prescribing medicines for treatment of common conditions
- Menstrual hygiene awareness programmes at Nand Ghars
- Orienting Nand Ghar *Didis* on government initiatives like e-Sanjeevani (telemedicine)
- Deworming tablets and Iron and Folic Acid (IFA) supplementation to reduce anaemia prevalence in women and children
- Specialised health camps such as eye checkups, orthopaedic camps, dental check-ups, and gynaecology camps in partnership with local hospitals
- Referrals for diagnostic and curative services at secondary health facilities to prevent complications



Strengthening public health services

Supporting healthcare access, affordability and availability through Nand Ghars

What this includes:

- Hosting regular MCHN Days/VHNDs that bring together antenatal and postnatal care, child and maternal immunisation⁹, menstrual health information and basic reproductive health services
- Leading behaviour change communication on community health and hygiene
- Supporting predictive assessment and management of malnourished children at community level, with referrals to Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres (NRCs) for medically complicated cases, aligned to Government of India's *Kuposhan Mukh Bharat* and *Suposhit Gram Panchayat Abhiyan* guidelines
- Strengthening linkages with public health facilities including *Ayushman Arogya Mandirs* for screening and management of communicable (malaria, dengue, etc.) and non-communicable diseases (diabetes, hypertension etc.) among women and children
- Facilitating counselling and encouraging uptake of government schemes and programmes such as *Anemia Mukh Bharat*, *Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritv Abhiyan* (PMSMA), Home Based Newborn Care (HBNC) and Home-Based Care for Young Child (HBYC)



Stories from the field

In Hirima Mundapada village in Jharsuguda district of Odisha, five-year-old Chintu had begun losing weight and energy. His mother, Kuntala Munda, brought him to the local Nand Ghar for assessment. The *Didis* measured his height and weight, identified undernutrition and explained the results to the family. With their support, Chintu was admitted to the nearest Nutrition Rehabilitation Centre for two weeks of medical care.

On discharge, the focus shifted to the home. Guided by the Nand Ghar team, the family set up a small nutrition garden with seasonal vegetables and a few fruit saplings to improve diet diversity. They now attend regular nutrition sessions at the center, and the *Didis* visit monthly to track Chintu's growth, check feeding practices, and troubleshoot challenges.

Chintu is eating better and has returned to play. The sequence of early identification, timely referral, and continued follow-up shows how basic services, when linked well, can close health gaps for children in a rural settlement like Hirima Mundapada in Jharsuguda.



Mobile clinics extending last-mile coverage

Clinic on Wheels

When care is distant, women bear the highest cost in time, safety, and out-of-pocket spending. In response, Nand Ghar, in partnership with DocOnline, introduced the 'Clinic on Wheels' model to demonstrate how technology-enabled primary care could reach rural communities through mobile and telemedicine-based services.

Mobile clinics brought a doctor, point-of-care diagnostics and essential medicines to Nand Ghar catchment areas, with a strong focus on women and children. Nand Ghar *Didis* were trained on e-Sanjeevani, the Government of India's telemedicine platform, through awareness programmes in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Karnataka, enabling communities to use care beyond the project period.

Teleconsultations with real-time reporting enabled early interventions and timely referrals. Paediatric cases were followed up alongside routine hygiene and nutrition advice. Over time, the model showcased the transformative potential of mobile and digital health in driving public health gains by making primary care more accessible and trusted in rural settings.

The Clinic on Wheels initiative reached more than **12 lakh residents** in **600+ villages** with **2 lakh+ consultations** delivered and **42,000+ mothers supported** through antenatal and postnatal care and deworming tablets for their children.

Mobile health vans

As a complementary model of outreach-based care, Nand Ghar partnered with Wockhardt Foundation and Dhanush Healthcare to run mobile health vans. The initiative brought basic check-ups, consultations, preventive screenings and medicines to clusters of Nand Ghars on planned routes.

On-board diagnostics such as haemoglobin, blood pressure, blood sugar and pregnancy tests enabled early detection and treatment of common conditions. Anaemia, for example, was addressed through counselling, iron and folic acid supplementation and follow-ups. Referrals and back-referrals were coordinated with public health facilities, and line-listing kept follow-up on track.

ASHAs and Nand Ghar *Didis* supported outreach so families knew when services would arrive and what they could access. The mobile vans have shown that, steady access to primary care, aligned with local routines is trusted by the community.

Stories from the field

"We used to start queuing at 7:00 a.m. at the OPD of big hospitals," says Meena Devi, 35, from Sewapuri block, Varanasi. Now seven months pregnant, she visited her local Nand Ghar during a health day where a doctor diagnosed severe anaemia and started iron-folic acid. "The doctors are kind. They give regular medicines and simple advice on what to eat, precautions to take, and how to exercise."

Meena now comes to Nand Ghar periodically for medicines and counsel. The 12–15 km trips to the hospital are no longer her routine. The hours she once spent on buses and in queues now go to rest and preparing for the baby. Care is closer, costs are lower, and the worry she carried feels lighter.



Women Empowerment

Opening pathways to self-reliance



India's growth story is increasingly powered by the resilience and enterprise of women. National missions keep this priority central, notably Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana (National Rural Livelihoods Mission) and Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana. As of January 2025, about 90 lakh Self Help Groups connect roughly 10 crore women across India¹⁰.

Nand Ghar leverages the anganwadi infrastructure as a trusted local platform for skilling, strengthening SHGs, and building enterprise and employment linkages, that translate skill into income and security. The approach recognises the women's agency has a multiplier effect – when women earn, families stabilise, and children learn.

By the numbers

3 Lakh+

women empowered through skilling initiatives

Up to ₹ 10,000 per month

potential incremental income per trained woman

How Nand Ghars enable women's economic agency

Nand Ghar's women empowerment pillar goes beyond skilling. It connects women to market-relevant trades, jobs or enterprises, and government schemes that reduce barriers to participation. Three interlinked components anchor this approach.



Market-research based skilling opportunities

Trade-based training chosen through local market research

What this includes:

- Trade selection based on village profiles and market scans, training in home textiles, handmade paper products, nutritional snacks, thread work, and industrial garment stitching
- Partner-led training modules and practical assessments with certificates
- Batches of about 30 women on rolling schedules of 6–8 months



Enrolment to employment

Provide support from enrolment through training, certification, job placement and enterprise setup

What this includes:

- Mobilisation and screening at the Nand Ghar
- Structured sessions with attendance tracking and mentoring
- Employer connects, placement support and exposure visits
- Support trade-wise business plans based on local market scans
- Bookkeeping refreshers, credit linkages through government schemes and policies
- Soft-skills training on communication, workplace behaviour and basic digital skills





Linkages to government schemes and services

Build awareness and promote messages that turn into everyday family habits

What this includes:

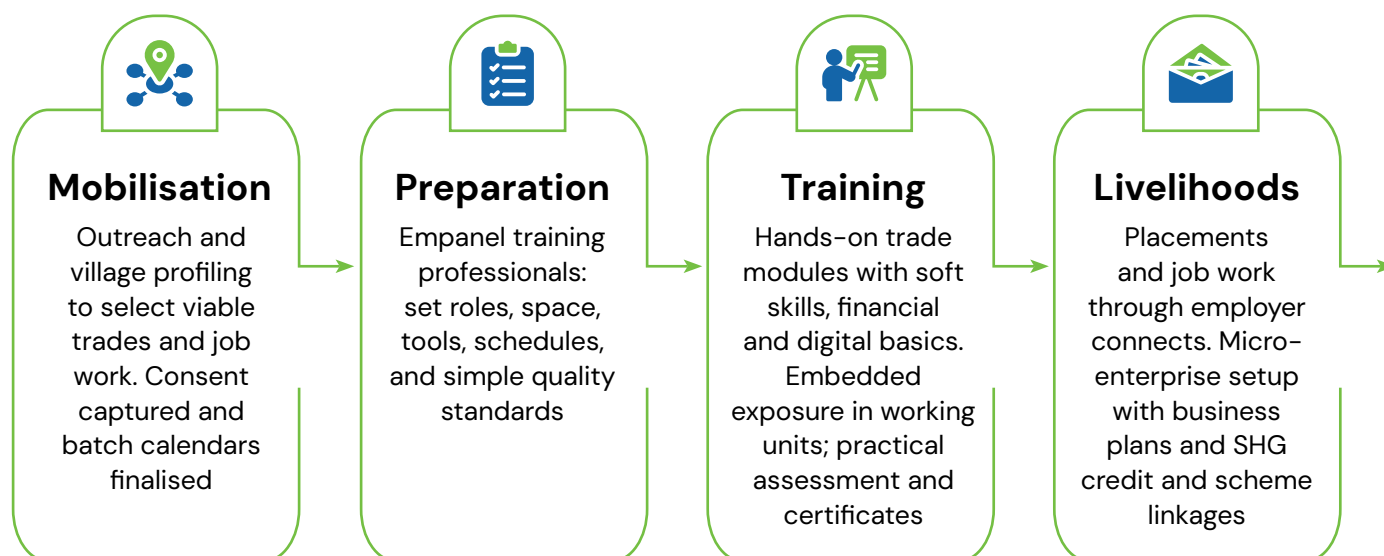
- Documentation drives and follow-through conducted at Nand Ghars for scheme linkage support such as Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMVVY) and state-specific schemes
- Social security enrolments such as e-Shram, Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA), and Labor Cards



Nand Ghar opens doors to opportunities by equipping women in rural communities with skills that translate into livelihood. Beyond training, the model creates pathways for enterprise development close to home, reducing barriers related to mobility, safety, and care responsibilities. Through partnerships with government programmes and networks of local Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and civil society groups, each Nand Ghar becomes a catalyst for economic progress.

This approach goes beyond proximity. By embedding skilling, mentoring, and livelihood linkages within a trusted community institution, Nand Ghars make women's empowerment feasible and sustainable.

Nand Ghar Skilling and Livelihood Process Flow



Stories from the field

Nand Ghar introduced leaf plate making as a local trade. Sarojini Majhi, 27, learned quickly, now stitches about 200 plates a day and earns around ₹2,000 a month. The work uses local leaves, simple tools, and time slots that fit her household schedule. Other SHG members followed her example. They formed small groups, shared presses and stitching tools, and set clear targets for output and quality. Nand Ghar provided space for practice and learning. What started as a trial became a habit across the village. Women speak of buying school supplies on time, keeping a small buffer for health needs, and planning the next season's stock. A modest skill is now a shared enterprise, and a quiet step toward security



“

Being members of SHGs, we feel self-reliant and can support our families when it matters.

SHG member, Gathila Khera 1, Bhilwara, Rajasthan



”



Evidence from field-findings



Nand Ghars strengthen last-mile service delivery by upgrading anganwadi infrastructure and creating reliable, community-based service touchpoints. They ensure consistent frontline delivery through mentoring, monitoring, and feedback loops. Across the four thematic pillars, the model is designed to improve delivery conditions and service quality for women, children, and communities.

To sustain performance at scale, Nand Ghar integrates third-party monitoring and structured beneficiary feedback to track service quality, identify implementation gaps early, and trigger timely course correction. This creates a continuous feedback loop between field realities and programme decisions, shaping priorities for capacity building, operations and maintenance, partner support, and infrastructure refinements. Alignment with real-time needs strengthens engagement with government and community stakeholders and supports sustained impact.

The highlights below draw on concurrent third-party monitoring (2025) and earlier independent evaluation findings (2022).

Findings from concurrent monitoring: 2025

Since December 2024, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP (“Deloitte”) has conducted independent monthly monitoring across a sample of Nand Ghars in districts of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Chhattisgarh. Between December 2024 and November 2025, the exercise covered **392 Nand Ghars**, drawn from a universe of nearly 10,000 centres across India. The number of centres visited exceeded the minimum sample required to achieve reliable estimates at a **95% confidence level**.

The team conducted monthly on-site visits using structured checklists, survey forms, key informant interviews, and focus group discussions. The assessment covered physical infrastructure, ICDS services facilitated through Nand Ghars across the four thematic pillars, home visits, and on-site training and support to implementing partners.

The process also captured perspectives from the field through interactions with Nand Ghar *Didis*, children, caregivers including mothers and grandmothers, women's groups, volunteers, *gram saathins*, schoolteachers, *Panchayati Raj* Institution representatives, government officials, and implementation partner staff. These inputs were consolidated into monthly concurrent monitoring reports with practical recommendations for programme improvement.

What the ongoing monitoring cycle¹¹ indicates:

Operating discipline and service consistency



21+ days open per month

providing a safe, child-friendly Spacing for mothers and children

85% Nand Ghars clean and hygienic

with frontline staff actively promoting hygiene practices among children

Equitable service uptake



20–30% spike in enrolment and attendance

reported by 90% Nand Ghars post-upgradation compared to previous years

Gender-balanced enrolment

approximately 50:50 girls and boys reflect inclusive participation and community trust



Food security ensured



98% Nand Ghars support access to supplementary nutrition

Nand Ghars facilitated access to government-led delivery of HCM (96%) and THR (99%), with key focus on hygienic meal preparation and consumption

Monthly VHNDs for maternal and childcare

all Nand Ghars facilitated antenatal and postnatal care, immunization, and growth monitoring, enabling early risk identification and timely interventions including targeted nutritional support for malnourished children and/or anaemic women and children

Hot cooked meals and THR served regularly

morning snacks, hot cooked meals (including milk in Rajasthan), and THR enabled access to food, improved meal frequency and offered better diet quality

Poshan Vatikas boost diet diversity

Poshan Vatikas (kitchen gardens) set up at Nand Ghars or in the communities further enhance dietary diversity and nutrition awareness

Enhanced learning environment



100% BaLA inspired spaces

delivering engaging, play-based education to early learners

70% Nand Ghars equipped with smart LED TVs

incorporating technology supported with child-friendly infrastructure to deliver interactive digital content to early learners

85% Nand Ghar *Didis* spent 2+ hours a day on early learning

helping the centres function as vibrant spaces for pre-school learning

FLN gains across monitored Nand Ghars

FLN improvements with children demonstrating increased cognitive development, better social confidence, and improved readiness and smoother transition to formal schooling

School Readiness survey highlights among children (n=41)



Children from select districts of Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan demonstrated preparedness for primary school across five key domains:

Cognitive: 98% identify shapes, colours and sizes

depicting strong conceptual clarity

Early Language: 91% recall stories

children could identify animals and follow instructions

Early Numeracy: 84% identify and count numbers

depicting strong foundation and lesser fear for numeracy skills

Motor Skills: 99% demonstrate coordination

for both fine and overall motor skills

Social-emotional: 92% engaged

few were initially shy but responsive demonstrating confidence

Empowered frontline workforce



100% Nand Ghar *Didis* empowered to use Poshan Tracker application

supporting accurate data and timely follow-ups for six core anganwadi services

9 in 10 Nand Ghar *Didis*/helpers proficient in digital learning tools

frontline workforce can operate smart LED TVs and facilitate digital learning sessions through easy navigation across modules/content in vernacular languages

Parent meetings link home and centre care

Nand Ghar *Didis* held monthly Parent–Anganwadi Worker Meetings (PAM) and those in Chhattisgarh conducted Suposhan Chaupals to guide parents on home learning, nutrition, and school readiness, linking centre-based services with care in the home

Improved teaching and counselling skills

structured training programmes with joint support of partners and regular government sessions enhanced their digital literacy, pedagogical skills, counselling capabilities

Boosted work effectiveness and wellbeing

Nand Ghar *Didis* overall exhibit high confidence, work effectiveness and mental wellbeing



Community engagement



99% Nand Ghars host regular community events

strengthening local ownership and participation

9 in 10 mothers availed THR

indicating strong uptake and trust

100% mothers satisfied with counselling services

demonstrating trust in frontline workforce

Moderate awareness of risks of malnutrition and anaemia

majority mothers reported moderate to high understanding of risks of malnutrition and anaemia, suggesting need for higher focus on these aspects

High awareness of diet diversity and breastfeeding practices

most mothers scored high (4–5 on a scale of 1–5) in awareness of:

- Including green leafy vegetables, dairy, and fruits in diets
- Exclusive breastfeeding and complementary feeding practices, with actual practice varying among household levels across states

The independent monitoring cycle provides a field-verified view of delivery quality and utilisation. Insights from the field shape day-to-day adjustments, inform training for frontline teams, and guide decisions on infrastructure, partnerships, and programme focus. In this way, the process strengthens delivery across different settings, turning feedback into a driver of quality and improvement.

Findings from an independent impact evaluation: 2022

These findings are substantiated by earlier independent assessment. In 2022, an independent five-state detailed evaluation by Mott MacDonald assessed 100 Nand Ghars to understand centre quality, service delivery, and beneficiary outcomes within the anganwadi ecosystem. The study used multistage sampling and engaged more than 2,000 respondents across Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, and Odisha. Findings point to measurable gains in centre readiness, learning environments, hygiene features, digital enablement, and parent engagement. These results reflect joint efforts by State Departments of Women and Child Development, frontline workers, partners, and the Nand Ghar team.

Key achievements include:

100% permanent structures; outdoor activity spaces supporting play-based learning	100% handwashing stations	100% delivery of HCM and THR, including during the COVID-19 period	>85% mothers engaged through monthly counselling/nutrition sessions
202 SAM/MAM cases out of 8,596 children, indicating early identification of acute malnutrition (around 98% non-SAM/MAM)	93% of centres reported enrolment growth after becoming Nand Ghars; 56% reported growth above 15%	94% shared monthly progress with parents to support learning at home	

Social Return on Investment of the Nand Ghar programme

Findings from an independent evaluation (Mott MacDonald, 2022)

The Social Return on Investment (SROI) analysis¹² found strong economic and social value for every rupee invested across pillars. The model applied financial proxies, stakeholder inputs, and standard adjustments for deadweight, attribution, displacement, and drop-off to estimate net social benefits. The ratios below suggest the greatest value creation in education and health, with room to lift nutrition and women's enterprise outcomes through targeted investments and partnerships.

			
Education	Health	Nutrition	Women Empowerment
6.01	5.43	2.29	1.49

Taken together, monthly third-party monitoring and independent evaluation provide a robust, field-verified, evidence base on model performance. Findings consistently point to stronger service quality and uptake where infrastructure upgrades are reinforced through frontline capacity building, structured community engagement, and disciplined monitoring. Across geographies, Nand Ghars demonstrates improved operational regularity, school readiness, nutrition service facilitation, and community trust, creating enabling conditions for sustained outcomes as scale continues to expand.

How
partnerships
made the 10,000-
milestone
possible



Partnership at Nand Ghar begins with a clear idea – strengthen the public system and make care, learning, and support accessible through one familiar doorstep. Government provides the mandate, policy framework, and reach. Nand Ghar works alongside the Ministry of Women and Child Development, providing design, infrastructure, and programme management support, to help translate policy intent into quality services at the last mile.

The expansion to 10,000 centres reflects how collaboration has deepened over time. At the national level, policy frameworks and *Jan Andolan* create a shared focus, aligning citizens with government-led priorities. This alignment has enabled government's flagship Mission *Saksham Anganwadi* and *Poshan 2.0* programme to translate into stronger on ground delivery, with Nand Ghar complementing the system through upgraded infrastructure, structured operations, and frontline support.

The State departments provide the space to contextualise and adapt the model, offering guidance and course correction as implementation progresses. Regular engagement between Nand Ghar teams and state officials keeps the design responsive to local realities. District and block administrations support supervision, while panchayats and local leaders at village level play a vital role of ownership, supporting the centres, upkeep community participation, and sustained engagement

Clear roles across the partnership ecosystem have been central to achieving scale with consistency. Implementation partners support day-to-day centre operations, including community outreach and coordination with frontline staff and health functionaries. Technical partners strengthen thematic delivery by supporting caregiver engagement and behaviour change. Programme management partners support planning, risk management, reviews and data driven decision making. Engineering and construction partners ensure that every centre meets quality standards – safe, well-ventilated, and child-friendly spaces that function seamlessly from kitchen to classroom. Corporate and philanthropic contributors extend both reach and quality. Through co-funding, classroom assets, technology enablement, and targeted nutrition or learning interventions, these partners complement government entitlements.

The model's scalability lies in this shared platform approach: public systems provide continuity and legitimacy, partners contribute specialised capabilities, data enables accountability, and each stakeholder focuses on its distinctive advantage.

This collaborative ethos reflects the spirit of SDG 17, which recognises multi-stakeholder partnerships as essential to mobilising knowledge, expertise, technology and finance, and to strengthen delivery through effective public, private and civil society collaboration. As Nand Ghar moves beyond the 10,000-centre milestone, the next imperative is deeper convergence and ensuring that quality, experience and outcomes remain consistent across districts, blocks and villages as scale grows.



Partnerships and strategic alliances to date

Government and public system partners

Partner	Role in brief
Ministry of Women and Child Development, GoI	Policy collaboration and programme convergence
Government of Rajasthan, WCD	Statewide expansion for 25,000 Nand Ghars
District Administration, Varanasi	Modernisation of anganwadis across the district
DSWO, Jharsuguda, Odisha	Modernisation of anganwadis
DSWO, Raygada, Odisha	Modernisation of anganwadis
DSWO, Kalahandi, Odisha	Modernisation of anganwadis
WCD Department, Sakti, Chhattisgarh	Modernisation of 100 anganwadis
Zilla Parishad, Gadchiroli, Maharashtra	Modernisation of 100 anganwadis
Zilla Parishad, Thane, Maharashtra	Modernisation of 25 anganwadis
District Administration (ICDS), Vizag, Andhra Pradesh	Modernisation of anganwadis in Vizag
District Administration (ICDS), Hyderabad, Telangana	Modernisation of anganwadis in Hyderabad

Health

Partner	Role in brief
DocOnline	Healthcare teleconsultations and referrals
Dhanush Healthcare	Telemedicine enablement at Nand Ghars
Wockhardt Foundation	Mobile Health Van intervention at Nand Ghars

Implementing partners

Partner	Role in brief
John Snow Inc. (JSI) R&T India Foundation	Implementation partner for Project Balvardhan
Arpan Seva Sansthan	Rajasthan
Jatan Sansthan	Rajasthan
Mamta Health Institute for Mother and Child	Uttar Pradesh, Delhi/ Haryana
Humana People to People India (HPPI)	Pan India
AIF (American India Foundation)	Odisha, Jharkhand & Karnataka
Janmitram	Jharkhand
PCI	UP
CREATE	UP
HLFPPT	UP
Shrushti Seva Samiti	Rajasthan

Early childhood care and education

Partner	Role in brief
Rocket Learning	Implementation partner for Project Balvardhan
Square Panda India	Foundational learning and AWW training support
TiTLi (Together in Transforming Learning in India)	Early years pedagogy and classroom practice training for Nand Ghar Didis
Schoolnet India	Interactive digital learning modules and Adding Dimension Board
Sesame Workshop India	Play-based content and training for Nand Ghar Didis

Nutrition

Partner	Role in brief
National Dairy Development Board (NDDDB), Foundation for Nutrition	Development of Shishu Sanjeevani
Akshaya Patra Foundation	Support for meals in Jaipur
MTR Foods	Ready-to-eat fortified food
TrooGood	Millet-based nutrition supplements
Millet Bowl	Millet Chikkis

Programme management (technical)

Partner	Role in brief
Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP ("Deloitte")	Programme management, monitoring, convergence support, invoice verification and strategic advisory
Grant Thornton	Programme management, monitoring, convergence support, invoice verification and strategic advisory
KPMG	Programme management, monitoring, convergence support, invoice verification and strategic advisory

Communication

Partner	Role in brief
Kaizen	Digital and PR
MSL	Digital and PR
McCann	Creative Campaign

Infrastructure and construction quality

Partner	Role in brief
Tata Consulting Engineers	Design and construction quality support for safe, child-friendly centres

Cross-pillar enabling support/ Corporate and philanthropic partners

Partner	Role in brief
Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation	Co-funding and technical reinforcement in Uttar Pradesh
SOPAN Group	Funded furniture, ECCE kits, and play equipment
Kashvi Foundation	Funded learning kits and classroom materials
Adsun	Funded upgradation of Nand Ghars
S. Mark	Funded furniture, ECCE kits, and play equipment
UPES	Student Volunteering
IIMHR	Student Volunteering
NMIMS	Student Volunteering
All Group	Global Volunteering
District Administration (ICDS), Vizag, Andhra Pradesh	Modernisation of anganwadis in Vizag

Women's empowerment

Partner	Role in brief
RSLDC	Women's skilling and certification pathways
Quess	Employment-linked training and placement
ISAP	Skill training and market linkage program
MSME	Skill training and market linkage program
AISECT	Skill training and market linkage program
IGS	EDP training, Skill training & placement

Jan Andolan: The Power of Collective Action



Nand Ghar belongs to the village. Community leadership shows up in shared effort, local decisions, and long-term responsibility. What began as modernising anganwadis now operates as Jan Andolan, where community leadership, public systems, and partners come together to deliver nutrition, early learning, health, and livelihoods through one trusted local platform.

Across villages, local governance makes this collective action tangible. The 73rd Constitutional Amendment anchors Panchayati Raj roles in health, sanitation, and child welfare, while POSHAN Abhiyaan 2.0 and Gram Panchayat Development Plans bring nutrition, health, and preschool education into village priorities.

Community leaders sit with frontline teams on VHNDs, listen to community's problems for necessary convergent actions, offer supportive supervision, and enable prompt referrals. Where gaps appear, panchayats and local donors fix basics such as water storage and access, toilet repairs, safe and consistent power supply, and child-friendly learning corners.

Catalysts for change



Komal leads the way

In Nagepur, five-year-old Komal does not wait to be persuaded. Most mornings she tugs at her mother's hand and sets the pace to the Nand Ghar.

Her mother, Seema Devi, holds a BSc in Biology and a B.Ed. In a family of seven siblings, education is the baseline. "If anything separates one person from another, it is education," she says. She has toured private schools that admit under-six children. Some are good, many are costly. "What our Nand Ghar offers is better than most, and within reach."

Inside, Komal's day is vibrant and energetic. She runs to the swing, watches stories on the television, eats her hot meals, and joins games with the other children. Once she slipped on the slide. Sunita Devi, the Anganwadi worker everyone calls Didi, reached her first. "I am okay!" Komal says, already eyeing the next turn on the swings.

Ask what she likes most and her face answers first, then the words arrive – the swing, the food, the friends, the songs. "I go even when Ma is busy," she says. "Everyone is my friend."

For Seema, the Nand Ghar is more than a safe place; it is a starting line where attendance becomes habit, and curiosity takes root as a mother who values learning watches her daughter claim it for herself.



A Name of Her Own

In small villages in rural India, names often blur into roles. Women are known as someone's mother or grandmother. Zarina Rehman chose to stand in her own name and lift others with her.

She began when she was the only educated woman in her village. Getting an Anganwadi started meant persuading people, hunting for a small plot, and regularly opening the door each morning. Supplies came through Bhamashah donations and whatever she could gather. Toys, slate pencils, school bags, all patched together so children would not turn away.

Then the Anganwadi became a Nand Ghar, and the work changed pace. The room lit up with a TV and play materials and the walls became colourful and vibrant. Families who once saved for private playschools saw the same quality inside the Nand Ghar without fees. Children came for songs and stories and stayed for the hot meal. Mothers lingered to ask and to learn.

Respect followed the work. The sarpanch handed Zarina the keys with full regard. Villagers began to call her "Zarina Madam". Women who were once only Raju's mother or Irfan's grandmother stood in their own names. Zarina and her team understood mothers because they were mothers. They checked on health, encouraged nutritious food, and kept an eye on the safety of every child who crossed the threshold.

Leadership settled in small decisions. If there was a task linked to children, women, or elders, it reached Zarina and it got done. The Nand Ghar no longer waited for charity to buy chalk or toys. It ran on shared possession.

Zarina calls the Nand Ghar her home. She says she will serve for as many years as her energy allows. At night she still thinks about the next day's lessons and the children who will arrive. When asked how she wishes to be introduced, she smiles and answers with the same calm certainty that opened the first door. Her name is Zarina Rehman.





Sarpanch leading the way

In Kachiya, Pindra block, the Nand Ghar sits beside the primary school. A clean lively Nand Ghar with one gap – child-appropriate toilets. The school had facilities, but they weren't suitable for children under six, so many left the play area to relieve themselves in nearby fields. The Anganwadi Worker and Helper raised the issue with the Cluster Coordinator. Together they approached the Sarpanch with a simple proposal for a child-sized toilet within the Nand Ghar premises. Gram Panchayat funds were approved, and a small unit was installed with a low door, tap, and bucket.

Usage patterns shifted quickly – children began using the toilet independently and washing hands before returning to class. Parents reported greater comfort in sending younger children, and the center's routines ran without interruption. A modest facility, designed for age and access, improved hygiene and learning time while signaling that the space is built for children.



The spirit of Bhamasha: building the foundations of learning

In Barmer district, Rajasthan, when public systems stretch thin, neighbors keep the door to learning open. In Manoniyo Ki Dhani, a hamlet in Barmer, Bharmal Ram offers a quarter acre along the village road in a planned growth corridor so a Nand Ghar can stand where children can reach it without crossing long stretches of sand. A Nand Ghar could stand where children could see it and choose it. The gift was simple and large at the same time.

Pragani Ki Dhani, a neighboring hamlet in the same district, followed with land and something just as vital: water. Until the centre has its own source, Madhura Ji's household tank will serve children and workers each day. "Early childhood education matters most," he says. "Here, children rarely step out. My motive is to give them a chance to grow."

In this desert district, land and water are more than assets; they are guarantees that a classroom will rise on time and a caregiver will open the gate each morning. Early learning will not be a luxury for the few. It will be accessible, draw from a shared tank, and belong to the community that chose to build it.

Celebrations at Nand Ghar

Nand Ghars have become spaces where community moments are shared and celebrated. Employee volunteers often choose to celebrate their birthdays and festivals at Nand Ghar. They are welcomed by children with songs, cheerful applause, and curious questions. A cake is shared, and books, crayons, and fruit are exchanged as stories begin to unfold. What starts as one person's special day becomes a collective moment of connection and joy extending to teachers, parents, and the entire community.

Volunteers also join community celebrations through simple, uplifting activities. On Independence Day, they participate in flag-hoisting, patriotic songs, and tricolour drawings that brighten learning corners. On International Yoga Day, they join children and *Didis* in easy, playful yoga routines, stretching, breathing, and laughing together. These shared moments strengthen the bond between visitors and the community and build a sense of common purpose.

Volunteers who strengthen Nand Ghar

Nand Ghar welcomes volunteers who want to support frontline teams. They bring time, skills, and fresh perspectives, while safeguarding practices ensure that children and caregivers remain the highest priority. In recent years, national volunteer groups have joined hands with international visitors, creating richer interactions and making every classroom feel more connected and vibrant.

Volunteer support may include reading with small groups, setting up learning corners and creating teaching-learning materials. Some volunteers share practical inputs with *Didis*, such as activity ideas aligned with age-appropriate learning objectives and state curricula, where relevant.

International visitors and global volunteers have participated in these engagements. Children are exposed to new stories, sounds, and rhythms. *Didis* adopt techniques to sustain attention, vary activities, and use the classroom space more effectively. Confidence grows on both sides, and the Nand Ghar gains practical ideas that can be used long after the visit ends. Influencers and development storytellers also visit centres, using their platforms to highlight early childhood learning and maternal and child nutrition in relatable, real-world ways.



Students and employee volunteers often observe a full day at the centre and share practical suggestions that translate into small design or process improvements. Students from institutions such as the Indian Institute of Public Health–Delhi, IIHMR University, and NMIMS have engaged with Nand Ghars across India, strengthening the link between research and last-mile delivery.



Featured highlight: Jenna and the e-rickshaw

Jenna, a volunteer from the United Kingdom, spent a day with children and noticed how hard it was for those from Ramnagariya in Jaipur (Rajasthan) to reach the Nand Ghar. She went home, raised funds, and returned with an e-rickshaw so the last mile would not decide attendance. One volunteer, one practical fix, and more children in class.



Flagship campaigns

Flagship campaigns turn core services into clear, locally resonant calls to action. They take the Nand Ghar model beyond the centre through credible voices and multi-channel outreach. By building awareness on nutrition and early childhood care, they mobilise citizens and widen public participation in women and child well-being.

#Nutrition Month “Poshan Se Pragati” (2025)

An annual, month-long campaign across 15 states engaged 3.5 lakh+ families with awareness sessions, recipe demonstrations using local foods, and community trainings on maternal and child nutrition. Focus areas:

- Direct nutrition support (nutri-bars, fortified supplements)
- Sensitisation and community awareness (training, counselling, growth monitoring)
- Technology and partnerships (progress tracking, innovation in food solutions)



#RunForZeroHunger (2025)

Launched in 2022, Vedanta’s “Run for Zero Hunger”, has become a visible demonstration of collective action, where every kilometre run translates into a meal for a child. The 2025 edition, covered widely in The Times of India and other national dailies, pledged over 50 lakhs Poshan Packs, symbolising how fitness, awareness, and philanthropy can unite citizens in the fight against child malnutrition.



#Khaana Khaaya Kya? featuring Manoj Bajpayee (2024)

In 2024, Nand Ghar launched its national nutrition awareness campaign “Khaana Khaaya Kya?”, featuring acclaimed actor Manoj Bajpayee as the first-ever brand ambassador. The campaign’s message – ensuring that no child sleeps hungry – resonated deeply with audiences and aligned with India’s nutrition goals under Poshan 2.0.



#ForABetterKal (2021)

A national social-impact campaign spotlighting health, education, nutrition, women's empowerment, and hygiene through tribute films to frontline workers and assets aimed at bridging the rural-urban gap.

IIFA collaboration: Global visibility for Nand Ghar

In a powerful global signal, the International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) inaugurated its festivities by ringing the Nasdaq bell at Times Square and announced its support for the Nand Ghar project, underscoring how Indian cinema and international platforms can stand behind India's early childhood care and nutrition agenda.



Creators who amplify the movement

Content creators and regional influencers visit Nand Ghars, spend time with children, *Didis*, and rural communities, and share what they see in simple, local language. Their reels and posts show everyday moments, learning routines, healthy practices, and community participation, making the model easy to understand and trust. Creators across education, health, and nutrition help carry these messages across states, extending reach beyond the centre to homes and community networks.

Visits are coordinated with local teams, with consent and safeguards in mind. Over time, these creators become informal ambassadors, amplifying the work of *Didis*, reinforcing early learning and nutrition messages, and encouraging wider community participation.

Resilience in crisis: Nand Ghar during COVID-19

During COVID-19, operations pivoted to home-based and remote delivery multiple states to maintain continuity for children under six, pregnant women, and lactating mothers. Nutrition remained the priority through door-to-door THR and HCM replacement kits, with masks and sanitisers provided and risk screenings conducted via calls and targeted visits. Early learning shifted to the home using short, age-appropriate activities shared on WhatsApp and co-developed with partners. SHGs produced more than 50,000 masks, sustaining household incomes while strengthening local protection. Health access continued through telemedicine partners and reinforced referral pathways to primary care and nutrition services. The approach proved resilient, anchored by lightweight digital tools, clearly defined frontline roles, and active community participation, enabling rapid adaptation without interruption to core services.

In the spotlight

Nand Ghar's progress has been recognised across state and national platforms, reinforcing trust among government agencies, corporate partners, and rural communities alike. Together, the honours underscore a trusted model delivered with accountability, quality and care.

Government endorsements and leadership visits

10,000 Nand Ghars – Presentation of the Nand Ghar model to Smt. Annapurna Devi, Hon'ble Minister of Women and Child Development (New Delhi, 2025)



To mark the milestone of 10,000 Nand Ghars across India, Ms. Priya Agarwal Hebbar, Chairperson, Hindustan Zinc Limited and Non-Executive Director, Vedanta, along with Mr. Shashi Arora, CEO, Nand Ghar, presented the Nand Ghar model to Smt. Annapurna Devi, Hon'ble Minister of Women and Child Development, Government of India, highlighting the programme's nationwide footprint and its impact on children, women, and communities. The meeting was attended by Smt. Savitri Thakur, Minister of State, Shri Anil Malik, IAS, Secretary, WCD, and Smt. Radhika Jha, IAS, Joint Secretary, WCD, and concluded with a shared commitment to strengthen collaboration between the Ministry and Nand Ghar by Vedanta to support the initiative's continued scale-up.



Sh. Devendra Fadnavis, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Maharashtra graces the MoU signing for 100 Nand Ghars in Gadchiroli (Maharashtra, 2025)



In a significant step toward strengthening early childhood development in tribal regions, an MoU was signed to establish 100 modernised Nand Ghars in Gadchiroli district, Maharashtra. The initiative was formalised in the presence of Sh. Devendra Fadnavis, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra and is aligned with his vision to upgrade anganwadis into state-of-the-art community centres. The government's support underscores its commitment to holistic rural development, focusing on education, nutrition, healthcare, and women's empowerment.



Smt. Diya Kumari, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Rajasthan— Visit to Nand Ghar (Jaipur, 2025)



Smt. Diya Kumari, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister visited the Nand Ghar located in Vidyadhar Nagar, Jaipur, where she explored the centre's integrated services for early childhood development, nutrition, and healthcare. Engaging with Nand Ghar staff and local women, she appreciated the model's inclusive design and community impact. She also acknowledged Vedanta's commitment through its MoU to establish 25,000 Nand Ghars across Rajasthan, highlighting the initiative's expansive footprint across 15 states and its alignment with national priorities.



Sh. Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister – Visit to model Nand Ghar (Varanasi, 2023)



During the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra exhibition in Varanasi, Hon'ble Prime Minister visited the model Nand Ghar, where he observed the early learning, nutrition, and health services being provided. He gained a comprehensive understanding of the transformative impact these community hubs have had across India. The Prime Minister also engaged in a heartfelt interaction with the children of Nand Ghar, who welcomed him with a patriotic song and chants of "Bharat Mata ki Jai" and "Vande Mataram."



Smt. Anandiben Patel, Governor, Uttar Pradesh – Launch of Millet Bar Nutrition Initiative (Varanasi, 2023)



As part of the International Year of Millets, Smt. Anandiben Patel, Hon'ble Governor of Uttar Pradesh inaugurated a pioneering nutrition initiative at the Nand Ghar in Kashi Vidyapith, Varanasi. The launch marked the beginning of a pilot programme to distribute multi-millet nutri-bars to nearly 50,000 children daily across 1,400 AWCs, including Nand Ghars in Sewapuri, Arajiline, and Kashi Vidyapith blocks. The Governor commended the initiative's alignment with national efforts to combat malnutrition and promote millet-based diets, highlighting its potential to improve child health and well-being. The event also saw participation from senior officials and representatives of Vedanta, reinforcing the collaborative spirit behind this impactful CSR intervention.



Awards and recognitions

- Multi-year acknowledgments across education, nutrition, health and women's economic agency
- Endorsements from union leadership and state governments, with field-level adoption
- Awards span innovation in CSR, governance, communication, SDG integration, and health outcomes

Year	Award / Honor	Awarding Body / Institution	Category / Theme
2023–24	Mahatma Award for Social Good and Impact	Mahatma Awards, India	Holistic social impact
2023–24	Recognition for CSR Excellence	PKF Sridhar & Santhanam LLP	Governance & transparency
2022–23	CSR Excellence Award	District Administration, Faridabad & Haryana State CSR Trust	CSR collaboration
2022–23	Award for Child Welfare and Women Empowerment	The CSR Journal Excellence Awards 2023	Child welfare & women empowerment
2022–23	Innovative Development Sector Project	SABERA Awards 2023	Innovation in Development
2022–23	Bronze Award at IPRCCA 2023	Public Relations Council of India	Strategic communication
2021–22	Best CSR Project Award	CSRBOX India CSR Leadership Summit	Integrated rural development
2019–20	Health Impact Awards – Gold	IHW Council	Health & nutrition
2019–20	Best CSR Practices Award	ET Now	Best practices
2018–19	Best Innovation in CSR	UBS Forums CSR Summit & Awards	Innovation
2018–19	Best CSR Practices Award	ET Now	CSR practices
2017–18	Ek Kaam Desh Ke Naam Award	National CSR Forum	Public mobilization
2017–18	Excellence in CSR Award	ACEF (Asian Consumer Engagement Forum)	CSR excellence
2017–18	Asia Best CSR Practices Award	CMO Asia	Asia-level CSR Leadership
2017–18	Best Practices Award (SDG Category)	Global Compact Network India	SDG integration
2017–18	CSR Project of the Year Award	India CSR Leadership Summit	Project of the Year
2017–18	The Economic Times CSR Compendium	The Economic Times & Goodera	National CSR recognition
2017–18	Best CSR Practices (Making of Developed India Awards)	National CSR Network	Best practices
2016–17	Award of Appreciation for Nand Ghar	Asia Pacific Institute of Management	CSR appreciation

Taken jointly, these acknowledgements recognize the model's contributions to early learning quality, nutrition delivery, and women's agency. They also reflect consistent governance attention through third-party juried forums and independent bodies.

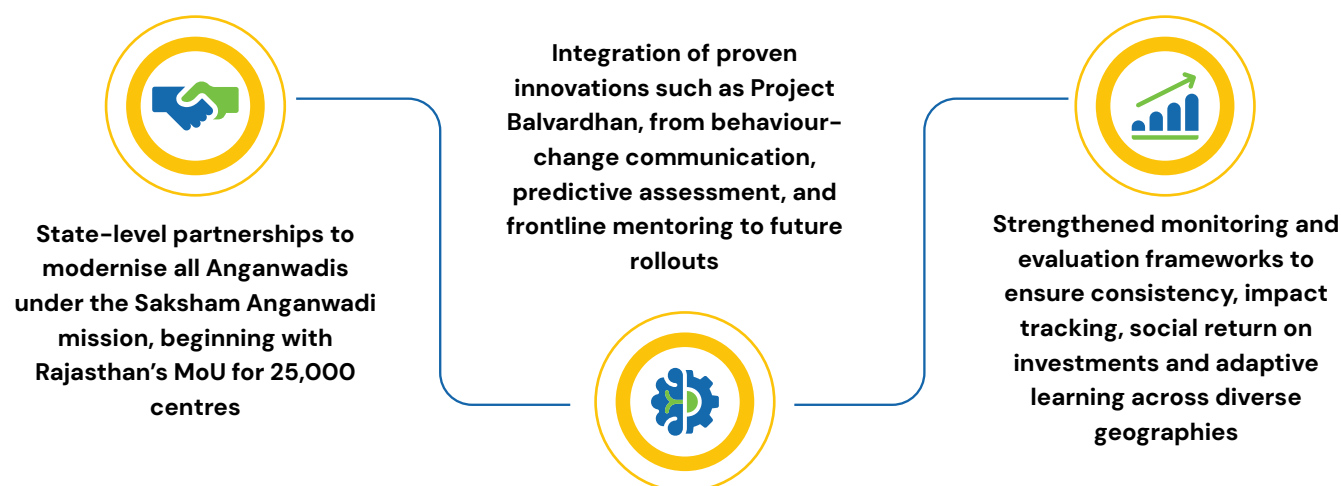


Looking ahead:
Next milestone
to 25,000



Crossing the 10,000 mark is a launchpad. Vedanta, through the Anil Agarwal Foundation, in partnership with state governments, will expand the model to 25,000 Nand Ghars with depth, quality, and service integrity as non-negotiables. The next phase of growth will prioritise new states, tribal belts, and aspirational districts, while safeguarding the standards that have made the model trusted and effective.

The roadmap envisions



The journey from 10,000 to 25,000 Nand Ghars represents a transition from infrastructure creation to service excellence. It also reflects transition from corporate social responsibility to a national social transformation movement.

Momentum with purpose

As change unfolds, the commitment is to go deeper, working alongside government and partners, to serve families better and at scale. The first 10,000 centres demonstrated that scale holds when it is embedded in public systems and supported by community ownership. The next 15,000 will ensure the same discipline is applied with greater depth, consistency and responsiveness to local contexts.

Backing people first

Sustaining momentum requires investing in people before everything else. Frontline workers will receive regular mentoring and access to usable data without added burden. Mothers' groups, youth volunteers, and panchayats will shape micro plans and keep small but critical budgets moving for essentials such as water, lighting, and repairs.

Menus will continue to reflect local taste thoughtfully integrating millet-based and fortified options, where appropriate. Health and nutrition days with ASHAs and ANMs will remain predictable and well-coordinated, supported by referral systems that are easy to track.

Learning, sharing, and stewarding quality

As the model expands, learning will be shared openly. Tools, publications, and playbooks will document what works, helping states and partners adapt faster and with confidence. Philanthropy, academia, and industry will continue to add rigor, innovation and pace.

Nand Ghar's role in this phase is to steward the model, protect quality, enable adaptation without dilution, and support delivery with humility as the platform grows across geographies and systems.

Reaching 10,000 Nand Ghars shows what aligned public systems and human care can achieve. The path ahead is about strengthening these foundations. It involves keeping services of care, learning and nutrition close to people until no child sleeps hungry and every woman has voice, choice, and opportunity.



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