

Activity Report

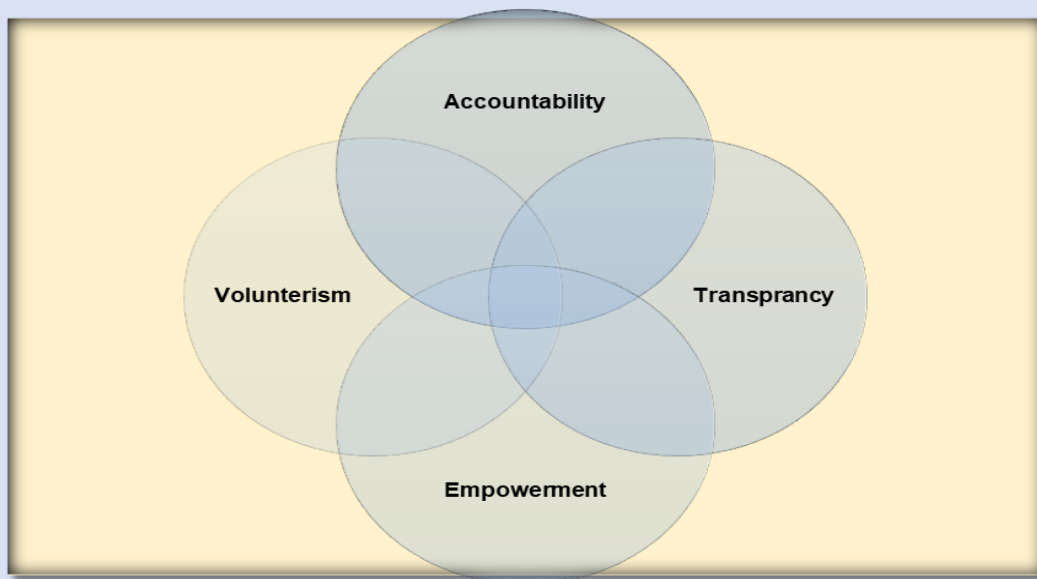
FY 2022–23



Executive Summary

Proaction Foundation (PAF) is dynamic grassroots, not-for-profit organization registered under Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013. Established in 2018, the organization has its registered office in Delhi and a field office in Pune, Maharashtra. PAF is committed to eradicating poverty, preventing all forms of violence against women and children, and promoting access to education through a wide range of interventions. The *Women and Child Care Project* was formally inaugurated on 8 April 2022 with an emphasis on women's and children's welfare. The project's initiatives and goals were meticulously aligned with the outlined plan.

Proaction Foundation embraces a multisectoral approach that put disadvantaged people at the centre of its action, with a special focus on women and children.



Vision

Proaction Foundation vision is to create an enabling environment filled with opportunities, PAF focuses on enhancing the quality of life for all, especially for the most vulnerable groups. We empower individuals to build a more sustainable and better future.

Mission

Proaction Foundation works in proximity to the communities, helping to achieve the eradication of poverty, and the reduction of inequalities and exclusion. We help children, youth and adults to develop life skills, abilities and capabilities, building resilience in order to sustain development

Women and Child Care Project, Thane (Mumbai)

Programme Summary

During the year, two Day Care Centres (DCCs) were successfully established to provide a safe and nurturing environment for children to learn and explore. The centres catered to children aged 3 to 16 years from various school grades and operated six days a week, from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM. A total of 48 children were enrolled, with 43 attending regularly across two daily sessions. The first session operates from 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM, and the second session from 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM. Both centres function five days a week, from Monday to Friday. The DCCs primarily serve children of women artisans working at the income generation centre in Thane. The centres are supported by two full-time teachers and one part-time English teacher, who conducts classes twice a week for a total of four hours. Teachers assist children with their daily homework, clarify academic doubts, and support overall learning.

The DCCs provide a safe and nurturing environment where children can learn and grow. Nutritious snacks are provided daily to support their cognitive and physical development. A nutrition chart has been developed and is regularly followed, with revisions made in June to align with children's dietary needs.

Between April and June, essential resources such as books, furniture, cupboards, and a water purifier were procured to ensure smooth operations. In October, two e-learning systems equipped with educational software were installed. In December- March, practice test books were distributed to students in Grades 8 to 10 for exam preparation, and scholarship exam materials were provided to Grade 5 students.

Monitoring and Evaluation

A baseline survey conducted in June received responses from 37 parents. Findings indicated that 72% of parents observed that their children were becoming more conscious about education, while 79% reported awareness of their children's well-being.

An end-line survey conducted in December, with responses from 43 parents, showed significant improvement. Approximately 84% of parents reported increased attention towards education, and 90% noted improved well-being of their children. This reflects an overall increase of 12% in educational engagement and 11% in well-being during the first year of implementation.

Activities implemented

Women Artisan Support and Livelihood Initiatives

Women artisans involved in producing a wide range of goods receive support through multiple initiatives. The project offers comprehensive welfare assistance, including skill development training, access to healthcare services, insurance coverage, emergency aid, and exposure visits

to enhance their knowledge and experience. In June, training modules focusing on holistic development were finalized. Training sessions were conducted on *First Aid* (July), *Emergency and Support Mechanisms* (September), and *Health and Nutrition* (December).

Health Insurance for artisans and family

Health insurance coverage was renewed for 39 artisans and their 104 family members for the year 2022–2023. A total premium of INR 2,90,959 was paid, providing a cumulative insurance cover of INR 39,00,000, with each family receiving coverage of INR 1,00,000.

In July, financial assistance for education was provided to 30 children, including 14 DCC beneficiaries and 16 students pursuing higher education. A total of INR 1,32,000 was disbursed directly to parents' bank accounts, with individual support ranging from INR 3,000 to INR 5,000 based on educational level.

Organization of health check-ups for women

Recognizing that health often remains a low priority among vulnerable communities, the project places strong emphasis on improving access to healthcare services. Monthly health check-ups were initiated for children enrolled at the DCC and women artisans working at the income generation centre in Thane. An MBBS doctor was engaged on a consultancy basis from May onwards to conduct regular health camps. Attendance at the camps was as follows: 31 artisans in May, 39 in June, 43 in July, and 49 in September. No camp was conducted in August due to the unavailability of the doctor and increased production activities. Subsequently, 44 artisans attended in October, 45 in November, and 41 in December.

Common health concerns reported by women included neck pain, leg swelling due to heavy physical work, and urinary and reproductive tract infections. One case of high blood pressure was also identified. Additionally, some women reported minor ailments such as cold, cough, and seasonal flu, while others expressed concerns related to weight gain and acidity.

The doctor provided appropriate medical advice and counselling to all participants. Women were encouraged to maintain a balanced diet, adopt healthier eating habits, and engage in regular physical activities such as exercise, stretching, and yoga to improve overall well-being.

Set-up up a mechanism to respond to sudden emergencies affecting the targeted women and their families

In 2022, PAF received two requests for emergency support:

1. An artisan sought assistance to rebuild her house, as it had developed significant structural cracks and waterlogging issues, posing a safety risk to her family.
2. The son of an artisan received a 12-month internship opportunity in the United States in the hospitality industry and requested financial support.

All required documents were collected, and due diligence was completed in accordance with Proaction Foundation's guidelines.

Set-up of the Day Care Centre (DCC) & Review

The Day Care Centre (DCC) was established in April and has enrolled a total of 48 children aged between 4 and 16 years, with 43 children currently attending on a regular basis. All enrolled children are school-going.

The DCC functions as a drop-in centre for the children of artisans, providing a safe and supportive environment for learning and development. Children engage in academic support activities, play, language classes, and extracurricular sessions such as art and craft workshops.

The DCC is well-equipped with essential infrastructure, including desks, cupboards, fans, pinboards, blackboards, a first-aid kit, and a water purifier. Educational resources such as dictionaries, grammar books, a globe, and informative books on scientists and animals are available to enhance learning. Indoor games, including chess, carrom, and other toys, are also provided for recreational purposes.

In October, e-learning devices and educational software were introduced at the centre. These tools are now used daily by children to access audio-visual learning materials, including demonstration classes and science experiment modules, which help in better understanding complex concepts.

An excursion for all DCC children was organised in the last week of November, providing them with exposure and recreational learning opportunities.

Provision of nutritional support to children attending the centre

Nutritional support was initiated on 11th April for 48 children. From August onwards, 43 children continued to receive support following the withdrawal of 5 children from the DCC. A weekly nutrition chart was developed and periodically revised based on children's preferences. Nutritious snacks were provided five days a week, including eggs, milk, fruits, sprouts, pulses, peanut and rajgira laddus, and other dry snacks. The supplementation plays a critical role in improving dietary balance, particularly by increasing protein intake among children whose regular diets are largely carbohydrate-based.

Both children and their mothers have expressed satisfaction with the nutritional support provided. Special snacks such as idli, dhokla, and sandwiches were also distributed during festive occasions.

Organization of health check-ups for children

A qualified MBBS doctor was appointed in the last week of April, and monthly health check-ups were initiated from May onwards. The first health check-up camp was conducted in May, benefiting 19 children. This was followed by 24 children in June and 20 children in July. No health check-up was conducted in August. From September to December, check-ups resumed.

regularly, with 19 children examined in September, 38 in November, and 35 in December. Overall, most children were found to be in good health, although mild malnourishment was observed in a few cases. The doctor provided guidance on improving hygiene and sanitation practices.

Children's height and weight are monitored on a monthly basis to track their growth and development. For this purpose, a stadiometer and weighing scale were procured and are being regularly used. Based on continuous monitoring and interventions, children have shown positive progress, with noticeable improvements in both height and weight

Organization of exposure visits/ recreation trips for DCC children

In November, 39 DCC children, accompanied by 5 staff members, participated in a two-day exposure visit to Nature Trails Resort, Durshet, Khopoli (approximately 90 km from Thane). The overnight trip began at 9:00 AM, with the group reaching the venue by noon. Meals and refreshments, including snacks, lunch, high tea, and dinner, were provided throughout the visit. Children actively participated in a range of activities such as rappelling, ziplining, Burma bridge, archery, net climbing, treasure hunts, and pool volleyball. These activities were designed to build confidence, teamwork, concentration, and self-esteem. In the evening, children enjoyed a bonfire and participated in group activities like Antakshari. Accommodation was arranged in dormitories, with teachers supervising the children.

The visit provided many children with their first overnight experience away from home, making it a memorable and enriching learning opportunity. The group returned the following morning after breakfast.

Co-curricular Activities and Celebrations

The DCCs actively celebrated various festivals and special occasions to promote cultural awareness and engagement. Activities included:

- Independence Day: Fancy dress competition featuring freedom fighters, along with monologue performances.
- Guru Purnima: Expression of gratitude towards teachers and mothers.
- Rakhi Purnima: Handmade rakhi-making activities followed by celebrations.
- Ganesh Chaturthi: Clay idol-making of Lord Ganesha.
- Navratri: Dandiya and Bhondla celebrations involving children and their mothers.
- Diwali: Pre-Diwali activities such as making greeting cards and painting diyas.

Exposure Visits and Skill Development

In December, an art and craft teacher was appointed to conduct workshops twice a month. Two workshops were held during the year, focusing on drawing, painting, and clay sculpting. These activities aim to enhance motor skills, creativity, and critical thinking.

Additionally, a career counselling session was conducted for parents and children to highlight the importance of career planning. Plans are in place to conduct aptitude assessments for students in Grades 8 to 10, followed by individualized counselling sessions and need-based follow-ups.

Audit

An audit by our donor, Brembo, was conducted in the first week of November at both the Pune office and the Thane centre.

Total direct Beneficiaries during the year – 172 (90 F & 82 M)

Children	64
Young adults	26
Adults	82

Activity Photos









