

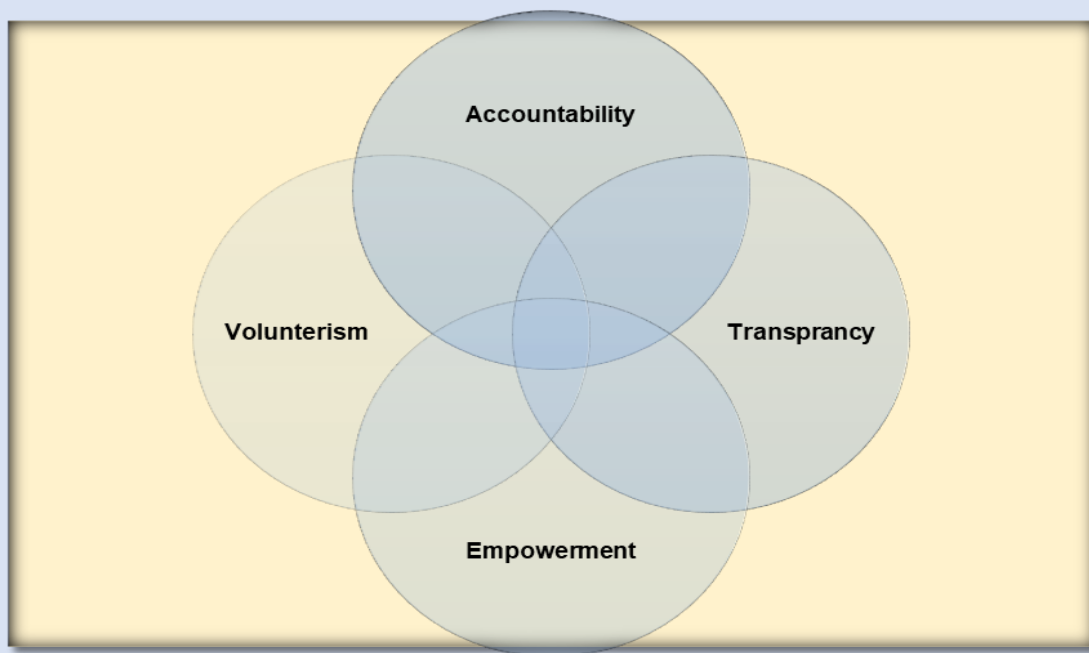
Activity Report

FY 2023–24



Executive Summary

Proaction Foundation (PAF) is a grassroots entity established in 2018 in India. It functions as a non-profit, adhering to Section 8 of the Companies Act 2013. The registered office of PAF is located in Delhi, with a regional office in Pune, Maharashtra. The values that have guided Proaction Foundation as an organization have helped us make informed decisions in the most challenging situations and navigate the process of upliftment and community cohesion. Reflecting on the journey this year, we extend our profound gratitude and invaluable efforts of the Proaction team and the stakeholders. As we continue to grow and receive increasing support from changemakers, we aim to improve our thrust on interventions and innovation. We are exploring the feasibility of foraying into other chapters to solicit support for our holistic development programme in Thane slums on areas such as education, empowering mothers, promoting healthy families, and fostering sustainable communities, ultimately contributing to the development of a progressive nation.



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

Programme Summary

During this year, activities and initiatives continued with renewed zeal and enthusiasm among the staff members at the centre. Positive feedback from the children and women further strengthened our commitment to act as a catalyst for sustainable change.

In 2023, a total of 62 children were enrolled and attended the Day Care Centres (DCCs). The centres provided a safe, secure, and nurturing environment for children to learn, explore, and grow. Operating five days a week from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM, the DCCs were supported by two full-time teachers, one part-time English teacher, and one part-time art and craft teacher.

Children were provided with daily nutritious snacks to support their well-being. The centres facilitated a range of activities, including monthly health check-ups, art and craft workshops, interactive e-learning sessions, and English language support. Teachers played an active role in assisting with school homework, clarifying concepts, and strengthening children's overall learning outcomes through a holistic approach. The project also supported 81 women artisans (including 21 trainees) through various welfare initiatives such as capacity building, life skills training, monthly health check-ups, health insurance, and emergency assistance. In April, health insurance for 39 artisans and 107 dependent family members (including 36 DCC children) was successfully renewed for the 2023–2024 period.

Key activities during the year included an exposure visit for 35 artisans in the first week of February, providing them with an opportunity for relaxation and engagement in a natural setting. A dental camp was conducted on 23 January, benefiting 36 children and 51 artisans, with 33 artisans completing the recommended follow-up treatment. Emergency support was extended to 7 artisans through the contingency support programme. Career counselling sessions were conducted for 14 students from Grades 8, 9, and 10 to guide them in their future aspirations. Additionally, 21 selected children participated in weekend karate classes aimed at improving discipline and physical fitness. A full-day Entrepreneur Development Training (EDT) programme was organized to mark Women's Day. Furthermore, 8 life skills sessions were conducted for artisans between September and December to strengthen their personal and professional capacities. DCC children also participated in summer camps during school vacations to remain engaged in constructive activities. In December, a two-day exposure visit was organized for 35 children, followed by another exposure visit for 50 artisans in the second week, both of which provided valuable learning and recreational experiences.

Activities implemented

Training sessions and awareness sessions among targeted women: Training and Capacity Building Initiatives

A one-day Entrepreneur Development Programme (EDP) was organized on 8 March, on the occasion of Women's Day, with the participation of 68 women. The programme commenced

with the distribution of training materials (notepads and pens) to all participants. It was structured into three sessions, including stress management, a poster-making competition, and a video screening on a young woman entrepreneur, followed by interactive brainstorming and discussion. From September to December, a series of eight life skills training sessions were conducted to enhance the personal and professional well-being of artisans. A total of 57 participants (54 artisans and 3 staff members) benefited from these sessions.

Overall, 81 artisans (including 21 trainees and 4 staff members) benefited from the training and awareness programmes conducted during 2023

Health Insurance for artisans and family

The project provided a group health insurance policy to artisans for the period 2023–2024. Each beneficiary family was covered for an amount of INR 1,00,000, including the artisan, spouse, and children. The policy (No. P/171120/01/2024/000814) was renewed and activated on 29 April 2023. A total premium of INR 2,90,959 was paid, covering 39 artisans and their families under the group policy. In total, 146 individuals were insured, including 107 dependents. Among these dependents, 36 children are also registered at the DCC; therefore, the unique number of dependents covered under this activity is 71.

The total insurance coverage amounted to INR 39,00,000. During the reporting period, 3 artisans availed benefits through insurance claims.

Organization of health check-ups for women

In 2023, monthly health check-ups were conducted for artisans by a qualified MBBS doctor to promote regular health monitoring and early identification of medical concerns. Recognizing that health is often overlooked among artisans, the project prioritized workplace health by institutionalizing regular check-ups. These interventions enabled early detection of potential health issues and encouraged timely medical attention.

As a result, many artisans adopted healthier lifestyle practices, including regular morning walks, yoga and meditation, increased water intake, periodic breaks during work hours, and reduced consumption of fast and junk food. Overall, 65 artisans benefited from monthly health check-ups and the specialized dental camp during the year

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

During 2023, the project received 11 requests for emergency support, of which 7 artisans were provided financial assistance amounting to INR 1,29,085. Individual support ranged from INR 4,124 to INR 61,000, based on the nature and urgency of the cases.

The assistance addressed diverse needs, including support for an international internship (flight expenses), medical emergencies such as injuries, surgery, and illness, and support for a child requiring prolonged treatment with additional nutritional supplements.

Several artisans were unable to work temporarily due to health conditions, and the project provided support to cover medical expenses and basic needs during recovery. Special attention was also given to vulnerable cases, including elderly artisans and those without alternative support systems. All supported beneficiaries were not eligible for health insurance claims, primarily due to non-hospitalization or treatment at non-network hospitals, which falls outside policy coverage criteria.

The intervention ensured timely assistance, helping artisans manage critical situations and reducing financial distress during emergencies.

Art & crafts workshop for DCC children

In 2023, art and craft workshops were conducted regularly, with the frequency increased from 2 to 4 workshops per month. Two workshops were organized for children attending the morning shift and two for those in the evening shift, each lasting 2 to 2.5 hours. All materials required for the workshops were procured and provided by the project. No workshops were conducted in May due to summer vacations, as many children had returned to their native places. In the remaining months, workshops were conducted consistently, with active participation from children, contributing to the development of their creativity and artistic skills.

Overall, 54 children benefited from these workshops during the year.

Career Counselling (8th to 10th Standards DCC Children)

In 2023, a total of 14 children from Grades 8 to 10 (11 girls and 3 boys) participated in career counselling sessions. The process included an introductory session, a written assessment, and the preparation of individual reports for each child.

The findings were discussed in detail with each child in the presence of their parents, providing clarity on career goals, strengths, and areas for improvement. Hard copies of the reports were shared, along with guidance on implementing the recommendations for future planning. The intervention proved effective in helping children make informed decisions about their academic and career pathways.

Karate Classes

Karate classes were initiated during the year, with 21 selected children participating regularly after obtaining parental consent. The sessions were conducted twice a week—on Saturdays and Sundays—for two hours each. Saturday sessions were held in the evening, while Sunday sessions took place in the morning. Of the 21 participants, 16 were boys and 5 were girls. The initiative aimed to enhance the children's physical, mental, and emotional well-being while promoting discipline, confidence, and self-defence skills.

Summer Vacation Activities

To keep children engaged during school vacations, PAF organized a series of summer activities for DCC students in 2023. The activities included a visit to the Nehru Planetarium, outdoor games, a chess workshop, a fire brigade station visit, and a special movie show, promoting physical activity, social interaction, and experiential learning. The visit offered children an exciting opportunity to explore the universe beyond their classroom lessons.

Day Care Centre (DCC)

In 2023, 62 children aged 2 to 15 years were enrolled and regularly attended the two DCCs. Younger children attended the morning session from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm before going to school, while older children attended the afternoon session from 1:30 pm to 6:00 pm after school. The DCCs provided a safe and nurturing environment with educational materials, including dictionaries, grammar books, informative books on scientists and animals, and indoor games such as chess and carom.

Children received daily nutritional support, education assistance, monthly health check-ups, and health insurance coverage. Enrichment activities included art and craft classes, career counselling for older children, and weekend karate classes for selected children.

Through these interventions, children benefited holistically, enhancing their learning, well-being, and personal development.

Financial Aid for Continuing Education

In 2023, the project provided financial support for continuing education to 63 children, including 33 DCC children and 30 children outside the DCC.

School fee receipts and annual results from the previous academic year were collected as part of the verification process. The selection criteria prioritized a maximum of two children per artisan family. Remaining funds were then allocated to support a third child registered at the DCC; three such children received support. Of the beneficiaries, 24 were boys and 39 were girls. The total financial aid disbursed in 2023 amounted to INR 3,22,450.

This initiative ensured that children from artisan families could continue their education without financial constraints.

Nutritional support to children attending the centre

During 2023, all 62 children enrolled at the DCCs received regular nutritional support. Snacks were provided five days a week, following a well-planned dietary chart. The menu included milk, fruits, sprouts, legumes, peanut laddus, raj girah, and dry snacks, ensuring a balanced and protein-rich diet. Healthy snacks were offered approximately 20 days each month, contributing to the children's physical growth and overall well-being.

A register was maintained to track daily attendance, snack distribution, and the intake of nutritional supplements by each child. This consistent nutritional support was well-received

by children and appreciated by their families, enhancing satisfaction and healthy development.

Organization of health check-ups for children

In 2023, a specialized MBBS doctor conducted monthly health check-ups for all DCC children. Overall, the children were found to be in good health. During the check-ups, mild malnutrition was observed in a few children. The doctor provided guidance on improving hygiene, sanitation, and small dietary modifications to support better overall well-being.

To closely monitor growth, DCC teachers recorded each child's height and weight monthly. This practice ensured timely tracking of development and enabled prompt interventions when needed, contributing to the children's sustained health and well-being.

Organization of exposure visits/ recreation trips for women and children

In 2023, three exposure visits were conducted for artisans and DCC children to promote learning, relaxation, and personal growth. A two-day visit for 35 artisans and 4 staff was organized to Vishwa Kranti Agri Tourism Centre (Parner) and Jay Malhar Krushi Paryatan Kendra (Morachi Chincholi). Artisans had the opportunity to meet Anna Hajare Ji, who encouraged empowerment of individuals from underprivileged backgrounds.

In the first week of December, 35 DCC children visited Saguna Baug, an eco-friendly farm near Matheran. They learned about innovative farming methods, rural employment, and participated in fun farm activities. In mid-December, a two-day outing for 50 artisans focused on organic living, nature walks, bird watching, and traditional games, providing a break from city life.

These visits offered children and artisans relaxation, reflection, and new perspectives, enhancing well-being and personal development.

Total direct Beneficiaries during the year – 214 (128 F & 46 M)	
Children	76
Young adults	31
Adults	107

Activity Photos





