

A young girl with dark hair tied in pigtails with red bows, wearing a blue and white checkered school shirt and a purple skirt. She is smiling and holding the strap of a black and blue backpack. She stands in front of a weathered blue door with some papers attached to it. The background is a reddish-brown wall.

Education and skill development

Bridging the digital divide – Gurugram

The COVID-19 pandemic has deepened pre-existing disparities, particularly in accessing education. PwCIF sponsored the online education of 60 underprivileged students in Gurugram by providing them with tablets to bridge the deep digital divide amplified by the pandemic. This has not only helped in their continued learning and retention within the education system but also built their digital skills for the future.



Student beneficiaries of the remote learning programme facilitated jointly by PwCIF and the Lotus Petal Foundation

Empowering girl children – Project Nanhi Kali, Darjeeling

PwCIF is supporting underprivileged girl children in Darjeeling by ensuring their access to quality education through interactive digital learning tools like tablets and promoting concept-based learning.

These are students studying in classes 1–5 and most of them are first-generation learners in their families. The project aims to curb the high dropout rate prevalent amongst schoolgirls in the country.



Empowering 500 underprivileged girl children in Darjeeling by ensuring access to quality education through interactive digital learning tools like tablets and promoting concept-based learning

Special education for children with disabilities – Kolkata

PwCIF is committed to ensuring that no child is left behind in accessing quality education. To that end, we are providing differently abled children with special education and therapeutics, and livelihood skills training for their mothers in slums in Metiabruz, Kolkata. This intervention will also facilitate scholarships for the children, community sensitisation and mainstreaming of children with disabilities in government schools and other institutions.



Livelihood training and special education sessions for mothers in Kolkata's Metiabruz slum area

Bolstering education and teacher livelihood support in nomadic tribes – Maharashtra

Nomadic tribes are one of the most vulnerable groups in the country and lack access to basic healthcare, livelihood opportunities and education. PwCIF is supporting makeshift schools for nomadic communities in Latur, Solapur, Osmanabad, Pune and Kalyan in Maharashtra to encourage doorstep education and reduce the barriers that children from these communities face. We also supported the livelihoods of schoolteachers from such communities during the pandemic to ensure their well-being and the children's continued access to education.



Support to makeshift schools in Osmanabad

Enhancing critical knowledge of girls – Hyderabad

PwCIF is supporting a project in Hyderabad to create a learning atmosphere that encourages young women to think critically, speak in English confidently, be reflective and creative, and find ways to apply the classroom knowledge to real-life situations and challenges. The intervention is empowering over 500 girls across five low-cost private schools by providing them with critical knowledge about health, safety and self-awareness, and building their communications skills for negotiation and self-advocacy.



Her Voice Disha and Parichay Camp for girls from a government school in Telangana

#SkillsinAction – CSR initiatives for enhancing youth skills and improving employability

Skill building is a powerful tool to empower individuals and enhance their employability. While technical skills pave the way for economic gains, critical soft skills help in boosting self-confidence. The World Youth Skills Day 2021 is an opportunity to reflect upon how skills training can positively impact the well-being and economic status of the youth. PwCIF is collaborating with several NGOs to make a difference in the lives of the youth across India.

A few of PwCIF's CSR initiatives towards skills development for the youth are presented below:

Skilling differently abled youth and empowering the underserved

PwCIF is supporting a centre that provides skills training in basic information technology, English communication, tailoring, retail, healthcare, hospitality, beauty and wellness, and paper craft. The project is positively impacting the lives of differently abled youth from the economically weaker and marginalised sections of society. The trained youth are also provided with employment support post the completion of their skills training.

Improving the employability of the youth – Howrah district

PwCIF, in collaboration with its partner NGO, is supporting a skill development institution in West Bengal. The intervention aims to improve the employability and provide job opportunities for the youth through job-oriented skills development. The institute provides technical training in various fields, including electrical works, industrial sewing machine operations (ISMO) and refrigeration and air conditioning (RAC). The skills-training sessions are imparted through technical courses for a six-month period.

The initiative focuses not only on enhancing the technical skills of the underprivileged youth in a vocation of their choice but also helps them in improving their soft skills. Post the completion of the training, the NGO partner helps the beneficiaries in securing placements through job fairs. While some students are employed as technicians in leading multinational companies, a few others have also started their independent ventures.

More than 150 beneficiaries have been trained since 2017, and the average placement record is approximately 60%. At present, 53 students are enrolled in different courses and digital mediums are being used to impart training due to the current restrictions.



Technical training session for underprivileged youth

Building quality infrastructure to facilitate learning outcomes for the youth

Good infrastructure facilitates better instruction, improves student outcomes and reduces dropout rates amongst the youth. PwCIF collaborated with its NGO partner on a development programme that has set up a library and resource centre for 523 young and adult beneficiaries. The READ Library is an engaging place for both kids and adults. The beneficiaries visiting the library are mainly children and young adults from the community who are aged between 12–25 years and studying in schools or colleges. They are enthusiastic about learning new concepts and participating in the activities and sessions planned by the centre staff involving videos, presentations on specific topics, reading newspapers and books, and speaking and reading English.



Library and resource centre for children and young adult beneficiaries



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