



**General Insurance Corporation of India**  
(Government of India Company)  
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# **IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

## **GIC CSR PROJECTS**

### **2024-2025**

**Impact Assessment by:**  
**Environmental Technical Services Pvt. Ltd.**

## FOREWORD

This study has been carried out by M/s Environmental Technical Services Private Limited, New Delhi, based on inputs received from General Insurance Corporation of India. M/s Environmental Technical Services Private Limited would like to take this opportunity to extend their thanks to the General Insurance Corporation of India management and officers who co-operated in supplying the data and information required, thus maximizing the effectiveness of the study. The study identified the possibilities for improvement along with Impact Assessment on CSR Projects for execution of a successful sustainability project. The above study, results, conclusion and recommendations were based on the information made available to Environmental Technical Services Private Limited at the time of study. Environmental Technical Services Private Limited exercised all reasonable skill, care and diligence in carrying out the study. However, this report should not be deemed as any undertaking, warranty or certificate and cannot be challenged in any court of law of the country.

Place : New Delhi

Date: 26.03.2025



Managing Director

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## 1. LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

GIC Re	General Insurance Corporation of India
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
ETS	Environmental Technical Services
GOI	The Government of India
CPSEs	Central Public Sector Enterprises
DPE	Department of Public Enterprises
UCSRA	Unspent Corporate Social Responsibility Account
KSB	Kendriya Sainik Board
TIL	Tumor-Infiltrating Lymphocyte
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
CABI	Cricket Association for the Blind in India

## 2. INTRODUCTION

The **General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re)** is the national reinsurer of India and one of the leading global reinsurance companies. Established in **1972** under the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Act, GIC Re was originally set up to control and regulate the general insurance business in India. However, after the insurance sector was liberalized in 2000, GIC Re was designated as **India's sole reinsurance company** and now provides reinsurance support to both domestic and international insurers.

### Role and Significance:

GIC Re plays a crucial role in strengthening India's insurance ecosystem by providing financial backing to insurers, enabling risk-sharing, and ensuring financial stability in case of catastrophic events. It partners with both public and private insurance companies, helping them manage large-scale risks efficiently.

### Vision

"To be a leading global reinsurance and risk solutions provider."

GIC Re aims to be a preferred and globally recognized reinsurer by offering innovative risk management solutions, expanding its global reach, and maintaining financial strength and stability.

### Mission

#### a) To Strengthen the Reinsurance Industry:

- Support the Indian insurance market by providing sustainable and efficient reinsurance solutions.
- Enhance risk management capabilities for insurers and policyholders.

#### b) To Expand Global Presence:

- Grow internationally and build strategic partnerships with global insurance and reinsurance companies.
- Establish a competitive footprint in emerging and developed markets.

#### c) To Foster Financial Strength & Stability:

- Maintain a strong capital base to ensure financial security.
- Achieve profitable growth through prudent underwriting and risk assessment.

#### d) To Promote Innovation and Technology:

- Leverage technology and data analytics to enhance risk assessment and decision-making.
- Develop innovative products and solutions to cater to emerging risks in the global insurance sector.

#### e) To Uphold Corporate Governance and Sustainability:

- Follow ethical business practices, transparency, and regulatory compliance.
- Contribute to sustainable development through social responsibility and environmental risk management initiatives.

### OVERVIEW

On 29th August 2013, The Companies Act 2013 replaced the Companies Act of 1956. The New Act has introduced far-reaching changes that affect company formation, administration, and governance, and incorporates an additional section i.e. Section 135 – clause on Corporate Social Responsibility obligations (“CSR”) for companies listed in India. The clause covers the essential prerequisites pertaining to the execution, fund allotment and reporting for successful project implementation.

India became the first country to legislate the need to undertake CSR activities and mandatorily report CSR initiatives under the new Companies Act 2013. This is the beginning of a new era for CSR in India.

### WHAT IS CSR?

Corporate Social responsibility (CSR) is continuing commitment by businesses to integrate social and environmental concerns in their business operations. Changes in the global environment increasingly challenge business around the world to look beyond financial performance, and to integrate social and environmental concerns into their strategic management.

Prior to Companies Act 2013, CSR in India has traditionally been seen as a philanthropic activity. And in keeping with the Indian tradition, it was believed that every company has a moral responsibility to play an active role in discharging the social obligations, subject to the financial health of the company.

**Carrie Underwood** define CSR as

*“Successful people have a social responsibility to make the world a better place and not just take from it.”*

**German-born Klaus Schwab, the Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum defines**

*“Corporate social responsibility is measured in terms of businesses improving conditions for their employees, shareholders, communities, and environment. But moral responsibility goes further, reflecting the need for corporations to address fundamental ethical issues such as inclusion, dignity, and equality.”*

CSR is about business actions that deliver some social good beyond the financial benefits and that is required by law. This increases long-term benefits for the company and trust of its shareholders. It imparts high ethical standards in conducting the business and creates positive public relations. CSR

Strategies positively impact the environment and all its stakeholders like consumers, employees, investors, communities.

Corporate social responsibility is not a one time, ad hoc and stand-alone philanthropic activity. It is a continuous activity and should be closely integrated and aligned to the strategies and business goals of the organization. Social goals of the company should be integrated to the business goals of the company.

### **CSR Mandate for Companies under the Purview**

CSR is applicable on the companies having;

- ❖ Net worth of INR 500 crore or more; or
- ❖ Turnover of INR 1000 crore or more; or
- ❖ Net Profit of INR 5 crore or more during any financial year

If any company during any of the financial year fulfils, any of above conditions then it should

- ❖ Constitute a CSR committee/board which shall consist of minimum three directors, out of which one shall be an independent director.
- ❖ The committee shall formulate and recommend CSR Policy which indicates company's activity as specified in Schedule VII and also amount recommended for the same.
- ❖ At least 2% of the average net profit of the immediately preceding three financial years of the company shall be used for spending in accordance with the CSR Policy.
- ❖ According to the approach “Comply or Explain”, board should explain the reason for not spending such amount if it fails to do so.

- ❖ The company shall give preference to its local area from where it operates for CSR activities.

Corporate Social Responsibility and Sustainability involves the commitment of a company to all its stakeholders that it conducts a transparent and ethical business in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable manner.

Stakeholders include employees, investors, shareholders, customers, business partners, clients, civil society groups, Government and non-government organizations, local communities, environment and society at large.

## DPE GUIDELINES

The Department of Public Enterprises being the nodal department for all Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs), formulates policy pertaining to the role of CPSEs in the economy. It lays down policy guidelines for performance improvement and evaluation, autonomy and financial delegation, personnel management and other related areas in respect of CPSEs.

The DPE also acts as the interface between the various Parliamentary and Government organization and the CPSEs as a whole. In the last few years, the pioneering initiatives of the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) in promoting awareness of the concept and philosophy of Corporate Social Responsibility in the public sector enterprises in India through issue of guidelines on the subject, and regular interface with the management of CPSEs to ensure adherence to the guidelines in letter and spirit, has resulted in widespread understanding and acceptability of CSR in the country.

The first guidelines on CSR issued by DPE in April 2010 made it mandatory for public sector enterprises to set aside a fixed percentage of their profits for CSR activities. Subsequently, DPE explored a new dimension of CSR as a form of responsible business to be adopted voluntarily by the companies.

After extensive consultations with all key stakeholders, DPE issued revised guidelines on CSR and Sustainability, effective from 1st April 2013, which incorporated the global best practices but retained focus on the domestic socio-economic requirements of our country.

As a result, DPE guidelines were very well received by the practitioners, the stakeholders and CSR experts. The thrust of DPE guidelines on CSR and Sustainability has been on inclusive growth, development of backward regions, upliftment of the marginalized under privileged and weaker sections of the society, empowerment of women, environment sustainability, promotion of green and energy efficient technologies and sustainability development in all its diverse aspects.



The CSR and Sustainability initiatives taken by CPSEs in compliance of DPE guidelines on the subject have made tangible socio-economic and environmental impact for the betterment. DPE's new CSR guidelines have a special focus on employee rights and welfare, which urge public sector companies to adhere to the reporting of sustainability practices, highlighting it enables them to gain and reinforce the trust of stakeholders through such transparency.

Indian economy has seen a rapid growth in the last two decades and has been acknowledged globally as one of the world's strongest emerging markets. India's CPSEs have played a crucial part in this development. To ensure that this growth continues, and a sustainable economy is achieved, CSR activities should be integrated in CPSE's business models. The new DPE guidelines will no doubt go a long way to aiding this cause.

### 3. CSR POLICY OF GIC Re

#### 3.1 PREAMBLE

On January 22, 2021, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs notified the amendments made to Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013 along with the Companies (Corporate Social Responsibility Policy) Amendment Rules, 2021, which substantially revamped the CSR Rules, 2014

#### 3.2 OBJECTIVES OF THE POLICY

- To lay down the policy framework for the Corporation to become a responsible corporate citizen as mandated by the legal framework and in line with the current corporate practices.
- To strive for societal welfare through promoting economic and social development that positively impacts the society at large.

#### 3.3 SCOPE OF CSR POLICY

The policy would pertain to all activities undertaken or proposed to be undertaken, by the Corporation towards fulfilling its corporate social responsibility obligations. The policy would ensure compliance with relevant legal framework, particularly section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013 and the relevant rules and schedules, made thereunder, including any amendment from time to time.

GIC Re (India) Limited is committed to contribute towards nation building and society which will be helpful in its development. It works with the communities located near its operations to implement a variety of programs that can positively impact their lives. Taking a holistic approach, our teams partner at the heart of the project and contribute in areas such as health, education, nutrition, infrastructural development, local employment and preservation of national heritage, art and culture etc.

#### 3.4 FRAMEWORK

- Management Lower-Level Committee – The Chairman-cum-Managing Director shall appoint a Committee consisting of at least 3 members. It shall be headed by General Manager of CSR Department and shall also have two Deputy General Managers.
- Management Level Committee – The Chairman-cum-Managing Director shall appoint a Committee consisting of at least 3 members, two of which shall be General Managers.

- Board level committee – The Committee shall consist of at least 3 members. It shall be headed by the Chairman-cum-Managing Director and shall also have an Independent Director.
- Board of Directors.

### 3.5 FUNCTIONS

#### Management Level Committees

The General Manager heading the Committee shall be assigned a team of officials to assist him/her. The Committee shall:

- Identify the projects for CSR activities,
- Estimate the amount of expenditure needed on each of the activities,
- Oversee the implementation of CSR and Sustainability agenda of the company within the organization and also outside, i.e. covering internal as well as external stakeholders,
- Submit reports regarding the progress in the implementation of CSR and Sustainability activities to the Board Level Committee on quarterly basis,
- Monitor the Corporate Social Responsibility Policy of the company and review it annually, and
- Implement projects which fall within its delegated authority.

#### Corporate Social Responsibility Committee of the Board or Board Level Committee

- The Board Level Committee shall oversee the entire process of implementation of CSR related activities through review meeting on the reports of Management Level Committee, which shall be submitted to it Quarterly, and
- The Committee shall review the CSR Policy annually.
- The Chief Financial Officer shall also certify to the said report in addition to the department head
- Formulate and recommend to the Board, a Corporate Social Responsibility Policy which shall indicate the activity or activities to be undertaken by the Company as specified in Schedule VII;
- Formulate and recommend to the Board, an annual action plan in pursuance of its CSR policy;
- Recommend the amount of expenditure to be incurred on the activities related to CSR; and
- Monitor the CSR policy of the company from time to time

## Board of Directors

CSR is a Board-driven process. The responsibilities of the Board of a CSR-eligible company, inter-alia, include:

- Approve the Corporate Social Responsibility Policy for the Company after taking into account the recommendations made by Corporate Social Responsibility Committee and disclose contents of such Policy in its report and also place it on the Company's website, if any, in such manner as may be prescribed.
- Shall satisfy itself regarding the utilisation of the disbursed CSR funds; and if the company fails to spend at least two per cent of the average net profits of the company, the Board shall, in its report made under clause (o) of sub-section (3) of section 134, specify the reasons for not spending the amount and transfer the unspent CSR amount as per provisions of sections 135(5) and 135(6) of the Act.
- Ensure that the activities as are included in Corporate Social Responsibility Policy of the Company are undertaken by the company and that Company spends in every financial year, at least two per cent of average net profits of the Company made during three immediately preceding financial years, in pursuance of its Corporate Social Responsibility Policy, and
- Approve the Corporate Social Responsibility Policy for the Company after taking into account the recommendations made by Corporate Social Responsibility Committee and disclose contents of such Policy in its report and also place it on the Company's website, if any, in such manner as may be prescribed.
- The Board shall make every endeavor to ensure that the Company spends, in every financial year, at least two percent of average net profits of the Company made during three immediately preceding financial years, in pursuance of its Corporate Social Responsibility Policy. However, if the Company fails to spend such amount, the Board shall in its report made under clause (o) of sub-section (3) of section 134, specify the reasons for not spending the amount, and unless the unspent amount relates to any ongoing project referred to in sub-section (4), transfer such amount to a Fund specified in Schedule VII, within a period of six months of the expiry of the financial year.
- The Board shall ensure that any amount remaining unspent under sub-section (3), pursuant to any ongoing project, fulfilling such conditions as may be prescribed, undertaken by a company in pursuance of its Corporate Social Responsibility Policy shall be transferred by the company within a period of thirty days from the end of the financial year to a special account to be opened by the company in that behalf for that

financial year in any scheduled bank to be called the Unspent Corporate Social Responsibility Account, and such amount shall be spent by the company in pursuance of its obligation towards the Corporate Social Responsibility Policy within a period of three financial years from the date of such transfer, failing which, the company shall transfer the same to a Fund specified in Schedule VII, within a period of thirty days from the date of completion of the third financial

- Unspent Funds shall be transferred by the company within a period of thirty days from the end of the financial year to a special account to be opened by the company in that behalf for that financial year in any scheduled bank to be called the Unspent Corporate Social Responsibility Account, and such amount shall be spent by the company in pursuance of its obligation towards the Corporate Social Responsibility Policy within a period of three financial years from the date of such transfer, failing which, the company shall transfer the same to a Fund specified in Schedule VII, within a period of thirty days from the date of completion of the third financial year.
- If a company is in default in complying with the provisions of sub-section (3) or subsection (4), the company shall be liable to a penalty of twice the amount required to be transferred by the company to the Fund specified in Schedule VII or the Unspent Corporate Social Responsibility Account, as the case may be, or one crore rupees, whichever is less, and every officer of the company who is in default shall be liable to a penalty of one-tenth of the amount required to be transferred by the company to such Fund specified in Schedule VII, or the Unspent Corporate Social Responsibility Account (UCSRA), as the case may be, or two lakh rupees, whichever is less. The Board shall ensure that the penalty amount is transferred as required.
- The Board shall satisfy itself that the funds disbursed to the implementing agencies have been utilized for the purposes and in the manner as approved by it and the Chief Financial Officer or the person responsible for financial management shall certify to the effect.
- In case of ongoing projects, the Board shall monitor the implementation of the project with reference to the approved timelines and year-wise allocation and shall be competent to make modifications, if any, for smooth implementation of the project within the overall permissible time period.

### 3.6 THRUST AREAS

The thrust of CSR activities is on capacity building, empowerment of communities, inclusive socio-economic growth, environment protection, promotion of green and energy efficient technologies, development of backward regions, and upliftment of the marginalized and underprivileged sections of the society.

The Corporation will support initiatives in geographies across India as approved by the CSR Committee and Board, from time to time.

### 3.7 PROJECT CLASSIFICATION

- Eradication of extreme hunger, malnutrition and poverty.
- Promoting health care.
- Promoting sanitation including contribution to Swach Bharat Kosh.
- Making available safe drinking water.
- Promotion of mid-day meal scheme.
- Promotion of education, including special education
- Promoting gender equality and empowering women.
- Setting up homes and hostels for women and orphans – setting up old age homes, day care centers and such other facilities for senior citizens.
- Livelihood enhancement projects.
- Providing infrastructure/ or patient care to government run/ or aided hospitals like TATA Memorial Centre, JJ Hospital etc.
- Promoting plantation, protection of flora & fauna, Animal welfare, conservation of natural resources.
- Watershed management.
- Reducing carbon emission.
- Contribution to the Clean Ganga Fund set up by the Central Government for rejuvenation of river Ganga.
- Measures for the benefit of armed forces veterans, war widows and their dependents.
- Contribution of funds to Government run projects like Kendriya Sainik Board (KSB), Rail Sahyog etc.
- Contributions of funds to technology incubators located within academic institutions which are approved by Central Govt.
- And any other matter as per Schedule VII of Companies Act 2013

### 3.8 DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

The delegation of Financial Authority to various levels is as below:

- CSR Management Lower-Level Committee – upto Rs. 25 Lakhs (committee of GM, CSR & 2 other DGMs)
- CSR Management Higher Level Committee – Rs. 25 Lakhs to Rs.1 crore (Committee of GM-CSR & 3 other GMs)
- Board of Directors/CSR Board Level Committee – Above Rs. 1 crore

### 3.9 EMPLOYEE VOLUNTEERING

GIC Re employees are encouraged to volunteer for various CSR projects.

### 3.10 COMPLIANCE

The policy is in compliance with the provisions under Section 135 of Companies Act, 2013. All the internal codified procedures and extant norms will be followed.

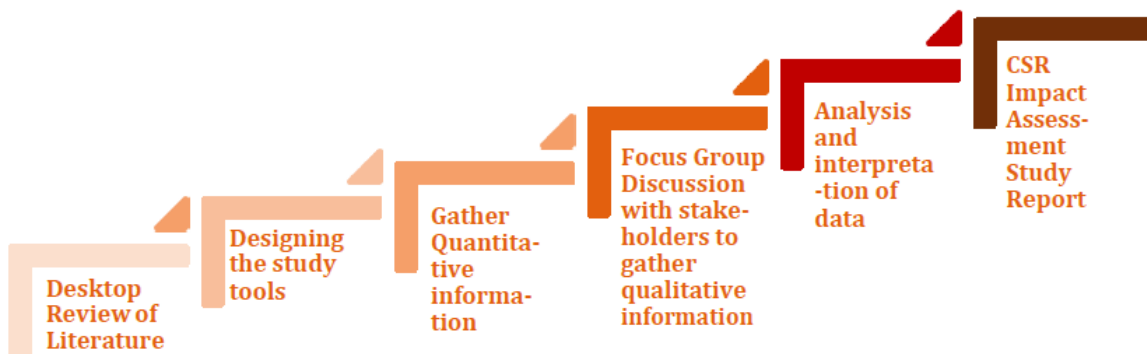
This Policy shall be effective from 1st August 2024, unless specified otherwise.

## 4. APPROACH & METHODOLOGY

### 4.1. RESEARCH STEPS

The current study aims to assess the impact and satisfaction level among the multi-stakeholders of village and sub-urban communities regarding the various CSR activities undertaken by GIC. The activities are implemented under broad project domains that mainly constitute: education, drinking water, livelihood improvement & skill development, infrastructure support along with common issues that need intervention. Exploring the efficacy of these domains has provided a coherent and clear image of the operational, processes and behavioral impact on the study area and its stakeholders by which GIC Re has identified the variations between its aims and final implementation of CSR activities. To conduct the impact study, ETS adopted the five-step approach as explained below.

**Figure 1: Research Steps**



### SAMPLE SELECTION FOR THE SURVEY

A combination of qualitative and quantitative approach was adopted to understand holistically and present them comprehensively in the report. The stratified random sampling technique was used for impact analysis to cover all the projects where the CSR funds were given.

**Primary Source:** It contains data collected for present research purpose.

For this, Impact Assessment derives much more relevant information directly from;

- ❖ Key Informant Interviews, involving various stakeholders
- ❖ Focused Group Discussions
- ❖ Structured and Unstructured Interviews
- ❖ Socio-economic Survey



**Interactive and Consultative Process with Stakeholders:** This study draws on interviews and questionnaires to determine significant change by asking specific questions relating to before and after situations. Indicators used to determine changes are in the form of socio-economic or health changes.

While most of this impact assessment relies on qualitative data from the project participants and beneficiaries, quantitative data is also used to reinforce qualitative data findings. The methodology for this assessment requires recording community views on their perceived significant impacts resulting from this project.

Unstructured Questionnaire for the community which is aimed at participants and/or beneficiaries of the various projects also form part of this impact assessment. The community questionnaires attempt to establish what the community sees as the most significant change in their lives because of the creation of these facilities as well as future impacts.

The projects were categorized as infrastructure development, sanitation, health and education.

Focused group interviews of the beneficiaries were conducted by the survey managers along with one-to-one discussion with beneficiaries and stakeholders.

The activities taken up by GIC Re are scattered across various places and therefore sample size was different in each project. It has been ensured that the minimum sample is as prescribed in each of the activities. This sample consists of beneficiaries who got benefitted directly or indirectly by the funding.

The sample selection is largely influenced by the nature of the project and availability of the respondents. In some cases, unstructured questions were asked to the beneficiaries.

## **FIELD SURVEY**

To establish the objectives and schedule for the study, a mode of scrutinization of the programme was needed that can provide with facts which can help in deriving certain conclusions. Hence, a suitable methodology is required for fulfilling the cited objectives of this study,

The main objectives of the impact analysis are:

- ❖ To gather data about proper implementation of various projects
- ❖ Analyse the impact of all the projects and the sustainability thereof
- ❖ Overall perception of the program

To gather the required data, a semi structured questionnaire was developed. The questions were posted so that information about the impact can be analysed in a structured way.

Efforts have been put to develop separate questionnaires for various projects. Multiple consultations and discussions within the team members and the members of GIC Re CSR committee were done in finalizing the questionnaire.

After much cogitation, the team at Environmental Technical Services Pvt. Ltd. finally prepared a questionnaire to be administered as schedule with a combination of open ended and close-ended questions and enough options to classify the shared facts and put it under right heads. Close ended questions seem to be the best option considering the beneficiaries may not be open and be able to explain the real situation. This also led to smooth flow of conversation and required data collection.

The survey managers obtained information from various stakeholders of each project in face-to-face situation. These managers were acting as facilitators to get needed information from beneficiaries.

Though closed ended discussion instrument was used for the data collection yet there were some on the spot clarifications for which answers were sought in case of confusing responses. Environmental Technical Services Pvt. Ltd. tried to design the questionnaire clear, detailed, and as unambiguous as possible. The languages in the instructions were kept simple and concise without being imperceptive. It was ensured that the beneficiaries must not feel that they are being patronized, but they must also feel that this survey is serious and worth the effort of them responding to it. Survey managers were instructed to avoid personal assumption and take multiple clarifications in case of any doubt.

The staffs capable of perceptual investigation alone was engaged for interview. As the study was mainly in rural areas, local language expertise was a must. Environmental Technical Services Pvt. Ltd. appointed survey managers with local/native language skills for the project.

## QUESTIONNAIRE

Before actual implementation, field-testing of the prepared questionnaire was undertaken to check the options provided for beneficiaries and management and choices available with each question posed.

## 4.2 RESEARCH DESIGN

Steps	Activates/Tasks
Project commencement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preliminary discussion with CSR team of GIC</li> <li>Understanding CSR activities carried out in core project and periphery area</li> </ul>
Desktop & literature review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review of secondary literature related to CSR activities of GIC Re such as Donation Distribution Report GIC, CSR Need Based Assessment report and Expenditure Details of CSR Activities of GIC</li> </ul>
Research design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Major tool for data was focus group discussion followed by key person's interviews.</li> </ul>
Analysis and interpretation of data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preparation of data tables and analysis</li> </ul>
Report writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CSR impact assessment report writing</li> </ul>

### Desktop Study

GIC Re CSR Policy	Implemented Projects	Implementation Agency	Allowed CSR Projects under Companies Act
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### Formulate Evaluation Process

Classification of project activity	Develop Evaluation Criteria	Customized questionnaire	Stakeholder Consultations
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### Interaction through Interviews and Site Visit

Physically verify the project in each location	Direct Beneficiary	Project Affected People	Implementing Agency
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### Evaluate Effectiveness and Impact

Qualitative and quantitative analysis	Scoring based on Evaluation criteria	Independent and cumulative evaluation	Graphical Representation
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### Report Finding and Recommendation

## DESKTOP STUDY

At the inception of evaluation, a desktop study was initiated by ETS. GIC Re CSR policy was studied to understand the focus area in terms of thematic area and geographic area. A list of projects implemented under the CSR activity were studied with special focus on the objective, what the projects intended to achieve, the geographical spread, the stakeholders targeted, and the thematic area covered. Financial aspect of the projects was also studied in terms of how much funds were deployed and under what mechanism. From the study of the projects a list of implementation agency who were involved were identified. The organizational structure of implementation agency, registration details, affiliation, manpower, experience, track record, certification were analyzed. Finally, the CSR Act was studied carefully to analyze whether the projects and implementation agencies are eligible under the act with the view that ineligible projects would be disallowed from claiming credit under the CSR spent.

## FORMULATION OF EVALUATION PROCESS

The evaluation process was customized to evaluate the eligible CSR projects as implemented by GIC. More focus was given on sociological impact of the project than financial impact of the project activities. Based on GIC Re CSR policy, ETS social expert personnel agreed upon the following 7-points evaluation criteria applicable to each of the projects.

- ❖ Training & education
- ❖ Community engagement
- ❖ Employee engagement
- ❖ Health
- ❖ Livelihood & skill development
- ❖ Sustainability
- ❖ Empowerment

It was agreed that each project would be evaluated on the above-mentioned criteria and be given points based on their ability to meet and extent of fulfilment of the criteria.

Since each category of CSR project was distinctively different from the other, for each type of projects customized questionnaire were developed.

## LIST OF CSR PROJECTS FOR IMPACT ASSESSMENT

S.No	Name of Project	Location
1	Acquisition of a Cell and Gene therapy Laboratory	Vadodara, Gujarat
2	Construction of State-of-the-Art Cultural Centre and Auditorium for Persons with Disabilities	Bangalore

## DATA DOCUMENTATION

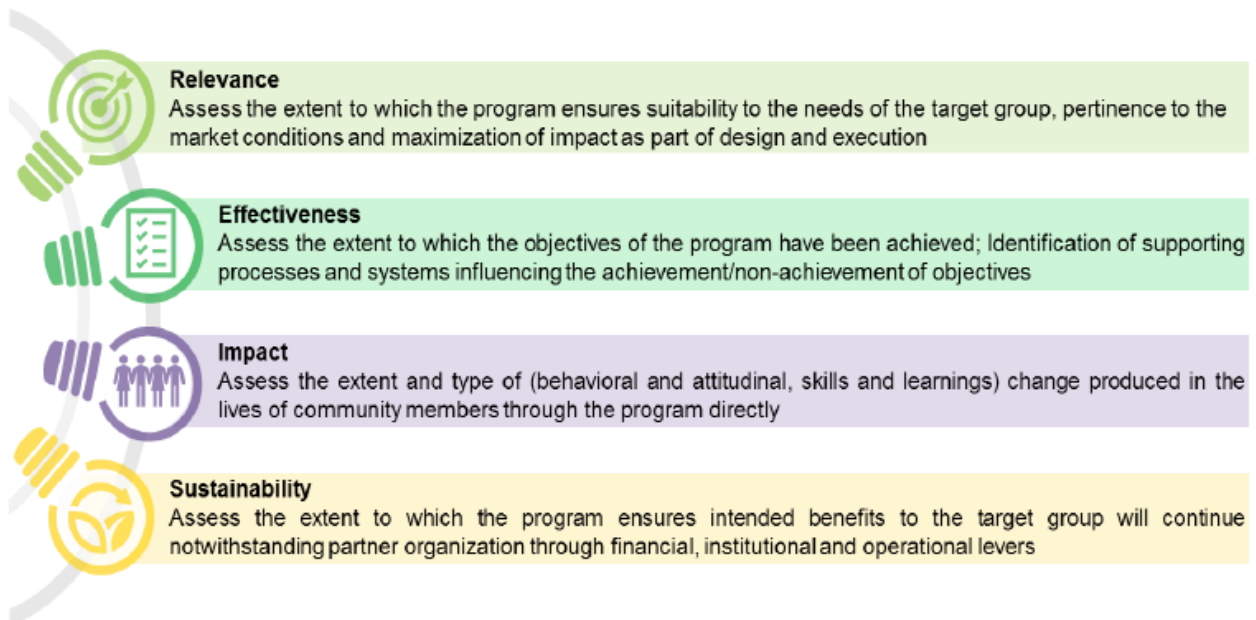
Proper recording (photographs, signature of stakeholders, audio/ video recording) and documentation of the CSR project activities data sheet, stakeholder's discussion & consultations were maintained and enclosed in the report. GIC Re has been extremely supportive in conducting consultations and facilitated ETS in conducting on ground surveys.



Secondary stakeholders have been engaged through in depth interviews and focus group discussions. Primary stakeholders i.e., community members have been included through surveys and qualitative interviews.

## EVALUATE EFFECTIVENESS AND IMPACT

The effectiveness and impact of CSR activity was evaluated on both qualitative as well as quantitative terms. In quantitative terms amount of funds spent, number of facilities covered and number of direct beneficiary were evaluated while in qualitative terms, the sustainability of the project activity, extent of employee involvement, empowerment of weaker sections, community engagement was evaluated. The qualitative evaluation of the impact depended predominantly on the professional judgment of the sociologists undertaking the evaluation.



## FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATION

The findings and recommendation summarize the study and provides direction to GIC Re to further improve and rationalize its CSR expenditure in the coming years.

# IMPACT ASSESSMENT ON CSR PROJECT

# Construction of State-of-the-Art Cultural Centre and Auditorium for Persons with Disabilities for Samarthanam Trust





## 5.1 SUMMARY

Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled is a nationally recognized, award-winning NGO founded in 1997 by Dr. Mahantesh G. Kivadasannavar and his childhood friend, the late Sugur Paramashivaiah Nagesh.

As one of India's largest NGOs, Samarthanam is dedicated to empowering persons with disabilities and underserved communities through a range of initiatives. These include quality education, accommodation, nutritious food, vocational training, and placement-based rehabilitation, ensuring their seamless integration into mainstream society.



Today, Samarthanam Trust serves as a comprehensive support system, addressing the education and livelihood needs of persons with disabilities and individuals from underprivileged backgrounds. The organization also creates direct employment opportunities for hundreds of persons with disabilities and women in distress through its Social Enterprises. Additionally, its cricketing arm, the Cricket Association for the Blind in India (CABI), promotes blind cricket and nurtures visually impaired players across the country.



## 5.2 PROJECT INTRODUCTION

GIC Re has contributed funds towards Construction of State-of-the-Art Cultural Centre and Auditorium for Persons with Disabilities for Samarthanam Trust

### State-of-the-Art Cultural Centre and Auditorium for Persons with Disabilities

Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled has established a **State-of-the-Art Cultural Centre and Auditorium** designed specifically to promote inclusivity and accessibility for persons with disabilities. This unique facility serves as a platform for individuals with disabilities to showcase their talents in performing arts, music, and cultural activities, fostering creativity and self-expression.

Equipped with **assistive technologies, barrier-free infrastructure, and accessible seating**, the auditorium ensures a seamless experience for artists and audiences alike. The centre hosts various cultural events, training programs, and performances, empowering persons with disabilities to develop their artistic skills and gain confidence.

By providing an inclusive space for artistic excellence, the **Cultural Centre and Auditorium** reflects Samarthanam's commitment to holistic empowerment, breaking societal barriers, and promoting equal opportunities in arts and culture.



## Key Objectives of the Project:

- Promote Inclusivity in Arts & Culture** - Provide a fully accessible and barrier-free platform for persons with disabilities to participate in cultural and artistic activities.
- Empower Talent & Creativity** - Encourage individuals with disabilities to explore, develop, and showcase their talents in music, dance, theatre, and performing arts.
- Enhance Accessibility & Assistive Infrastructure** - Incorporate cutting-edge assistive technologies, including wheelchair-accessible seating, sensory-friendly acoustics, sign language interpretation, and advanced audio-visual systems.
- Facilitate Skill Development & Professional Growth** - Organize training programs, workshops, and mentorship initiatives to nurture artistic skills and create career opportunities in the cultural sector.
- Promote Social Inclusion & Awareness** - Foster an inclusive society by breaking stereotypes and encouraging equal participation of persons with disabilities in mainstream cultural events.
- Create a Hub for Adaptive Arts & Innovation** - Serve as a centre of excellence for adaptive arts, research, and innovative approaches to accessibility in cultural performances.
- Encourage Community Engagement & Collaboration** - Collaborate with artists, cultural organizations, and institutions to promote diversity and amplify the voices of persons with disabilities in the arts.
- Provide a Platform for National & International Cultural Events** - Host festivals, exhibitions, and performances that bring together talent from across India and around the world, promoting global inclusivity in the arts.



### 5.3 IMPACT

The **Cultural Centre and Auditorium** has had a profound impact on the community by enabling persons with disabilities to participate in cultural activities and creative expression. The key areas of impact include:

- Broadened Cultural Participation:** More than 5,000 persons with disabilities have taken part in workshops, performances, and training programs—demonstrating that creativity knows no boundaries.
- Strengthened Social Inclusion:** By showcasing the talents of differently-abled artists, the centre has fostered societal acceptance and encouraged meaningful engagement across diverse communities.
- Employment Creation:** The initiative has directly and indirectly generated over 200 employment opportunities for persons with disabilities in roles such as event coordination, stage production, technical support, and the performing arts.
- Empowered Skill Development:** Over 3,000 individuals have received specialized training in performing arts, stagecraft, and cultural management—enhancing their capabilities and future prospects.
- National and International Recognition:** Talented artists trained at the centre have performed on prestigious platforms across India and abroad, gaining widespread recognition and appreciation.
- Boosted Confidence and Self-Esteem:** Engaging in creative expression and public performances has contributed significantly to the personal growth, confidence, and self-worth of participants.



- **Fostered Community Engagement:** The centre has built stronger bonds between persons with disabilities and the wider public by promoting shared cultural experiences and mutual respect.
- **Pioneering Use of Assistive Technology in the Arts:** The facility has become a model for accessible performance spaces, incorporating innovations such as speech-to-text systems, tactile feedback, and sign language interpretation.
- **Expanded Career Opportunities:** Training in areas like arts administration, stage production, digital content creation, and media has unlocked new professional pathways for individuals with disabilities.
- **Influence on Policy and Advocacy:** The success and visibility of the centre have inspired policymakers to advocate for more inclusive cultural policies and enhanced support for disability-friendly creative infrastructure.

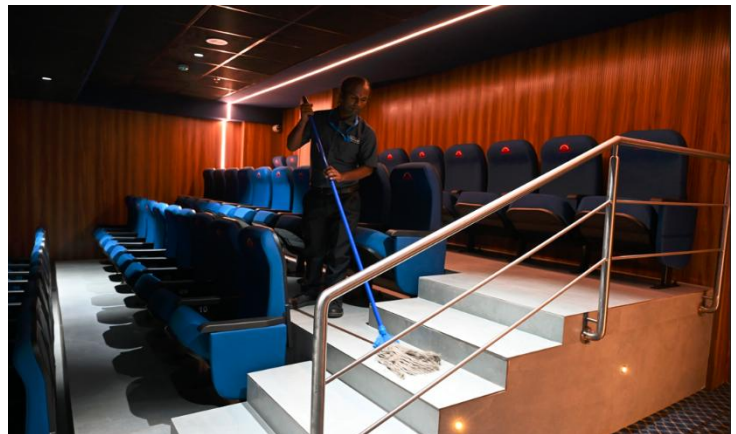


## 5.4 STATE-OF-THE-ART INFRASTRUCTURE AND TECHNOLOGY AT THE ACCESSIBLE ART RESOURCE CENTRE

The **Accessible Art Resource Centre** is a **state-of-the-art, fully air-conditioned** venue designed to host a wide range of events, including **performances, presentations, cinematic screenings, and live recordings**. Equipped with **advanced infrastructure and cutting-edge technology**, the auditorium ensures an **exceptional experience** for both performers and audiences.

### Seating and Comfort

- Features **330 plush, push-back theatre chairs**, ergonomically designed for maximum comfort.
- **Raked floor layout** guarantees unobstructed views from every seat.
- **Carpeted aisles** enhance both aesthetics and comfort, offering a premium experience.



### Advanced Audio-Visual Systems

- **TW Audio Array Loudspeaker System (Made in Germany)** powered by **high-quality Power soft amplifiers** and **Shure microphones** for **crystal-clear sound quality**.
- **Cinema-Ready Surround Sound** for an **immersive audio experience** during screenings and events.
- **Christie Laser Projection System** delivers **stunning high-definition visuals**, with provisions for an **LED wall** for enhanced display flexibility.
- **Live Recording & Streaming Capabilities**, enabling **hybrid events and remote broadcasting**, complemented by **digital signage** for dynamic communication and branding.



### Acoustics and Lighting

- **Acoustically optimized** for exceptional sound clarity and speech intelligibility throughout the auditorium.
- **Advanced LED stage lighting fixtures** on **motorized bars**, centrally controlled, supplied by **Leksa Lighting**, a leading Indian brand.



### Professional Stage Design

- **High-quality wooden stage flooring** with **concealed cabling and integrated floor boxes** for a clean and professional appearance.

### Reliable Power Backup

- **UPS System** ensures **uninterrupted audio-visual performance** during events.
- **Diesel Generator Backup** available for external clients to maintain **HVAC, lighting, and essential functionalities** during power outages.

The **Accessible Art Resource Centre** is a premier venue for world-class performances and inclusive cultural events.

## 5.5 POSITIVE IMPACT OF THE PROJECT

- **Empowerment through Artistic Expression** - The centre has enabled individuals with disabilities to discover a sense of purpose and confidence through the arts, fostering personal growth and self-expression.
- **Enhanced Mental and Emotional Well-being** - Active engagement in cultural activities has significantly contributed to improved mental health, emotional resilience, and overall self-esteem among participants.
- **Model for Inclusive Infrastructure** - As a beacon of accessibility and universal design, the facility sets a precedent for inclusive infrastructure in public cultural spaces.
- **Strengthened Community Engagement** - Community-driven events and performances have cultivated greater public awareness, empathy, and active support for the disabled community.
- **Economic Empowerment through Skill Development** - Through structured training programs, many individuals have transitioned into meaningful employment in the arts, cultural management, and creative industries.
- **Representation and Diversity in the Arts** - The project has created a vital platform for persons with disabilities to showcase their talent, promoting inclusive representation in mainstream cultural narratives.
- **Influence on Inclusive Policy Making** - The centre's success has served as a catalyst for progressive cultural policies at both local and national levels, advocating for widespread accessibility.
- **Leadership in Assistive Technology Integration** - The use of AI-driven audio descriptions, virtual reality experiences, and other smart assistive technologies has redefined accessibility standards in cultural environments.
- **Promotion of Peer Support and Mentorship** - The centre has nurtured a vibrant ecosystem of collaboration and mentorship, where individuals with disabilities support one another in their artistic and personal journeys.
- **Innovation in Adaptive Artistic Practices** - By providing a supportive environment for experimentation, the centre has fostered the evolution of adaptive art forms, pushing creative boundaries and inspiring new forms of inclusive expression.

## 5.6 SUSTAINABILITY

Samarthanam Trust has taken over the complete operation, repair, maintenance and upkeep of the facility and shall continue to do so in the future.

- **Skill-Based Livelihoods:** Training in cultural entrepreneurship helps artists earn sustainable incomes.
- **Strategic Partnerships:** Collaborations with cultural organizations and NGOs ensure continuous support and engagement.
- **Financial Sustainability:** Funding strategies include government grants, corporate sponsorships, ticketed performances, and crowdfunding initiatives.





## 5.7 KEY POINTS OF STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTATIONS

As informed by the Samarthanam Trust staff, the following key stakeholders play a crucial role in the successful implementation of the project:

- **Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled** – Project implementation and management.
- **GIC Re (Funding Partner)** – Financial support for construction and infrastructure.
- **Persons with Disabilities** – Primary beneficiaries engaged in arts and training.
- **Government & Policy Makers** – Regulatory support, policy formulation, and potential funding.
- **Cultural Institutions & NGOs** – Program collaborations, talent nurturing, and advocacy.
- **Corporate Partners** – CSR-driven sponsorships, skill development programs, and employment opportunities.
- **Educational Institutions** – Training, research partnerships, and student engagement in cultural accessibility.
- **Community & Public** – Audience participation, volunteers, and awareness-building efforts.
- **Technology Innovators** – Development of assistive tools and accessibility solutions to enhance participation in cultural activities.



## 5.8 PROGRAM EVALUATION

STRENGTHS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First-of-its-kind inclusive facility in India dedicated to performing arts for persons with disabilities.</li> <li>• Cutting-edge accessibility features ensuring full participation.</li> <li>• Strong partnerships with stakeholders enabling continued support.</li> <li>• Proven success in training and professional placement for disabled artists.</li> <li>• High social impact through inclusion and empowerment.</li> <li>• Recognition on national and international platforms, promoting inclusivity in the arts.</li> <li>• Innovation in adaptive performing arts, paving the way for future advancements.</li> <li>• Growing community engagement and volunteer participation, enhancing social awareness.</li> </ul>
WEAKNESSES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited initial outreach requiring stronger awareness campaigns.</li> <li>• Financial sustainability challenges needing diversified revenue streams.</li> <li>• Scaling the model to other regions remains a challenge due to funding constraints.</li> <li>• Dependence on external funding sources rather than self-sustaining revenue models.</li> <li>• Limited access to international collaborations and exposure.</li> </ul>
THREATS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economic uncertainties affecting funding and sponsorships.</li> <li>• Limited government support and changing policy landscapes.</li> <li>• Potential decline in public interest due to competing entertainment options.</li> <li>• Technological advancements requiring continuous updates to stay relevant.</li> <li>• Challenges in maintaining long-term stakeholder engagement.</li> <li>• Infrastructure maintenance costs posing financial burdens over time.</li> <li>• Risk of inclusivity being sidelined in mainstream cultural programs.</li> <li>• Lack of widespread advocacy limiting potential policy impact.</li> </ul>

## 5.9 CASE STORIES

### 1. Name – Namchangbuing Age - 27

Namchangbuing, a 27-year-old from Halflong, Assam, has faced life with unwavering resilience despite being visually impaired. Determined to build a future for himself, he completed his 12th grade, driven by an unshakable ambition to achieve something meaningful.



His passion for music became his guiding force. Eager to explore his love for melodies, David began learning the basics of the guitar. Despite the challenges, his dedication never faltered. Recognizing his talent and potential, he joined Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled as a trainee—a decision that would prove to be life-changing.

In just three months, David's exceptional talent and perseverance set him apart. With relentless practice and expert mentorship, he mastered the bass guitar, astonishing everyone with his rapid progress and innate musicality. His ability to blend rhythm and melody made him an integral part of Samarthanam's musical band.

David's hard work and dedication paid off as he secured a permanent place at Samarthanam Trust. His journey—from a small town in Assam to becoming a professional musician—is a powerful testament to his determination and the transformative support of the organization.

Today, David's music is more than just a showcase of his exceptional talent—it's a symbol of perseverance. His story inspires countless others, proving that with passion and the right support, no dream is out of reach.

## 2. Name - Ranganath K Age - 22

Born into a farmer's family in a remote village of Kurubarahalli, Chitradurga Taluk, 22-year-old Ranganath K has overcome financial hardships and the challenges of visual impairment to pursue his dreams. With unwavering determination, he successfully completed his Bachelor of Arts degree, but his heart was always set on music, acting, and writing.



From a young age, Ranganath was drawn to singing, inspired by the voices of Dr. Rajkumar and S. P. Balasubrahmanyam. He dreamed of becoming a playback singer, spending hours listening to songs on television, radio, and live orchestras. However, his journey was far from easy. While family and friends encouraged him to pursue a Master's degree for a stable career, Ranganath remained firm in his passion for music and acting.

Despite his enthusiasm, he faced multiple rejections in auditions for reality singing shows. Over time, he realized the importance of a strong foundation in classical music. His turning point came when his uncle discovered the Sunadha Art and Culture Program, a free training initiative in music and dance, through social media. Intrigued, Ranganath visited Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled, where he was impressed by the facilities, food, and accommodation provided for students.

Determined to refine his skills, he eagerly enrolled in the Bachelor of Performing Arts program at the Samarthanam Institute of Music and Performing Arts, affiliated with Dr. Gangubhai Hangal University, Mysore. Under expert guidance, he has significantly improved his understanding of Shruti, Tala, and Laya, enhancing his rhythm, expression, and overall performance.

Today, Ranganath stands more confident and refined as a musician. With a newfound mastery of Carnatic music, he is steadily working towards his dream of becoming a playback singer and music teacher. He expresses his deep gratitude to Samarthanam for providing him with the platform and support to chase his dreams. His journey is a powerful testament to perseverance, passion, and the life-changing impact of the right opportunities.

### 3. Name - Renuka Rajput Age - 26

Renuka Rajput, aged 26, Born with a visual impairment in Vijayapura, Karnataka, her journey has been one of resilience, passion, and unwavering determination. From a young age, she found solace in dance, a world where movement and rhythm spoke louder than sight. However, opportunities for visually impaired dancers were scarce, and she had to carve her own path.

Despite the lack of formal training in her early years, Renuka remained committed to her dream. While pursuing her BA degree, she practiced tirelessly on her own, relying on touch, sound, and memory to perfect her movements. When she finally had the chance to join a dance group, she faced new challenges—long commutes and the need for adaptive learning techniques. But she never let these obstacles deter her.



Renuka's turning point came when she became a part of Samarthanam Art and Culture program which provided her with professional training in Bharatanatyam. With structured guidance, she refined her skills and gained confidence as a performer. Through art therapy, she found a deeper connection with dance, using movement as an expressive outlet to overcome self-doubt and mental barriers. Art therapy played a crucial role in enhancing her spatial awareness, emotional well-being, and self-expression, allowing her to channel her inner strength through dance.

As her skills flourished, so did her opportunities. She mastered multiple dance forms and performed on prestigious stages, including the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), the Kannada and Cultural Department, and Mysore Utsav. Her dedication even led her to perform at the Paris Paralympics and UNESCO, making her a global inspiration.

Beyond her own achievements, Renuka embraced the role of a mentor. Through the Samarthanam art and Culture program, she received exposure to national and international platforms, where she not only grew as an artist but also as a leader. Determined to pave the way for others, she now trains aspiring dancers with disabilities, proving that art is truly inclusive and transformative.

Renuka Rajput stands as a beacon of resilience and empowerment. Her journey is a testament to the power of perseverance, the impact of the right support, and the healing force of art. She has shown the world that no dream is beyond reach when passion meets opportunity.



#### 4. Name – Sridevi Age – 29

Sridevi's love for dance began in her early years. Though she could not hear the music or express herself through words, she developed a unique ability to grasp rhythm by keenly observing others. Her sharp visual learning skills and unwavering dedication allowed her to master complex dance routines, making her an exceptional performer.

Sridevi is 29-year-old and Hailing from Yadgiri, Sridevi found a strong foundation at Samarthanam, where she completed her schooling. It was here that she was introduced to art therapy, a transformative approach that provided her with an avenue for self-expression and emotional well-being. Through dance, she discovered a profound connection with movement, allowing her to channel her emotions and communicate in a way that words never could. The structured guidance and inclusive learning environment at Samarthanam played a crucial role in helping her explore her potential.



Recognizing her passion and talent, Sridevi pursued her Pre-University Certificate (PUC) from Girijamba College, marking an important academic milestone. However, her heart remained in dance, and she was determined to follow her dreams against all odds.

While her talent was undeniable, Sridevi needed structured training and opportunities to refine her skills. Samarthanam became a turning point in her journey, offering her professional dance training, exposure to diverse classical dance forms, and access to prestigious platforms. With the Art centre support and its equipment's support, she not only perfected her technique but also gained the confidence to perform on national and international stages.

Today, Sridevi is a professional classical dancer who has recently represented India at the Paris Paralympics and UNESCO. Her performances have mesmerized audiences, reflecting not only technical brilliance but also an inspiring story of resilience. Through dance, she continues to break barriers, proving that true artistry transcends limitations.

## 5.10 GALLERY



**Focused Stage Lighting**



**Accessible Seating and Comfort for the Audiences**



**Wooden Floor and Stairs Leading**



**Accessible Restrooms**



**Accessible Restrooms**



**A View of the Accessible Art Resource Centre from Outside**





**Ramps for Accessibility**



**Entrance Gate**



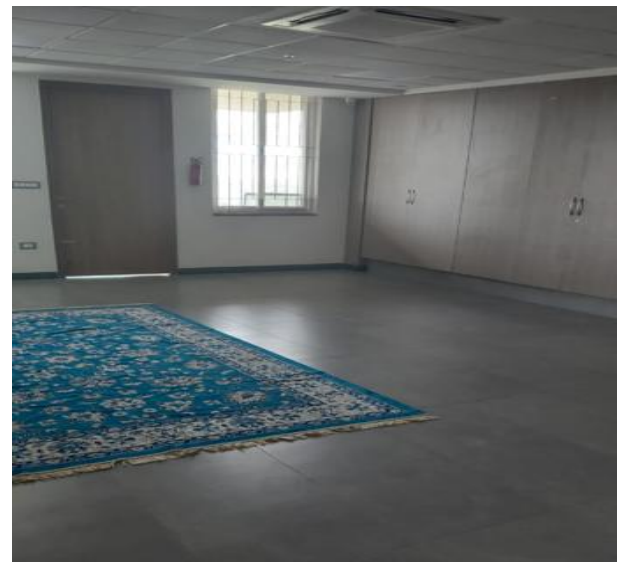
**Lift and Stairs**



**Emergency Safety Facility**



**Auditorium parking facilities for wheelchairs**



**Music training class at auditorium**



## 5.11 CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

### Conclusion:

The construction of the **State-of-the-Art Cultural Centre and Auditorium** has significantly enhanced the opportunities available for persons with disabilities in India. The centre has created a strong cultural and social impact, promoting inclusivity and accessibility in the arts. Through its innovative design and training programs, it has empowered individuals with disabilities to pursue careers in the cultural sector while also raising public awareness about their artistic potential.

Despite its success, challenges such as financial sustainability and outreach limitations remain. To ensure long-term impact and continued growth, further support and strategic improvements are essential.

### Recommendations:

- **Enhancing Financial Sustainability:**
  - ❖ Develop revenue-generating activities such as ticketed performances, cultural tourism programs, and merchandising.
  - ❖ Seek long-term corporate sponsorships and government funding to ensure sustainability.
  - ❖ Establish an endowment fund to support operational costs in the long run.
- **Expanding Outreach and Awareness:**
  - ❖ Launch nationwide awareness campaigns to attract more participants and donors.
  - ❖ Strengthen collaborations with schools, colleges, and community organizations to increase engagement.
- **Scaling and Replicating the Model:**
  - ❖ Expand the initiative to other cities and states to create more accessible cultural centres.
  - ❖ Share best practices and provide consultancy for organizations aiming to develop similar inclusive spaces.

- **Leveraging Technology for Greater Accessibility:**

- ❖ Implement AI-powered sign language interpretation and voice-to-text services to enhance inclusivity.
- ❖ Use digital platforms to provide virtual training and online performances, ensuring broader reach.

- **Policy Advocacy for Greater Inclusion:**

- ❖ Work with government agencies to integrate inclusive cultural policies at the national and state levels.
- ❖ Advocate for increased funding for accessible arts programs and assistive technologies.

# Acquisition of a “Cell and Gene Therapy Laboratory” in the Kailash Cancer Hospital & Research Centre run by Muni Seva Ashram



## 6.1 SUMMARY

Muni Seva Ashram firmly believes in its mission of serving humanity and enriching lives through the best possible means. Our journey has been marked by challenges that have shaped us into the dedicated institution we are today.

It all began in 1978 when our founder, Anuben Thakkar, was inspired by her Guru, Muni Maharaj, to embark on a mission of selfless service. With nothing but determination and faith, she established a small hut in Goraj, aiming to provide healthcare and education to the local tribal communities. She started by inviting tribal children to play at the shelter, gradually earning their trust. Over time, the small hut became a beacon of hope, as more and more locals began visiting to access essential medical care and education.



## 6.2 PROJECT INTRODUCTION

GIC Re has contributed funds towards Installation of Acquisition of a “Cell and Gene Therapy Laboratory” in the Kailash Cancer Hospital & Research Centre run by Muni Seva Ashram

### Kailash Cancer Hospital and Research Center

Cancer is a global killer. Especially, in Goraj, there was a time when patients had to travel long distances to get diagnosed or treated. And hence, 2001 Anuben and Dr. Vikram Patel decide to build a hospital dedicated to treat cancer patients with the latest advancements in treatment for this dreaded disease. Thus, Kailash Cancer Hospital was born. Unlike any other hospital, this hospital is situated in the rural area of Gujarat to serve the people of the region who are deprived of technologies and advanced facilities for the lack of knowledge and economic strength. The hospital offers, specialized and basic treatment in nearly every branch of medicine and employs the services of best doctors and specialists for diagnosing and treating cancer.

Kailash Cancer Hospital & Research Foundation has provided the finest medical care service to the people of Southeastern Gujarat. It is ranked as one of India's leading cancer hospitals, based on the number of patients diagnosed and treated annually. The hospital is designed to provide curative and preventive treatment, post therapy support service, palliative care in hospice and domiciliary facility.

Apart from cancer treatment, Kailash Cancer Hospital is the only facility in India to have a dedicated range of pediatric services. Other Services at Kailash Cancer Hospital:

- Gynecology and Obstetric
- General Surgery
- Critical Care Services
- Diabetes Treatment
- Urology

The objective was to meet the infrastructural requirements of the College based on their request. Given the strength of students coming along with them to College, the infrastructure was unmet to the requirements and hence additional laboratory were required as due to lack of these equipment's were held in a single room. Hence room convenience to them as well as to increase the attendance of students was a critical requirement.



### Key Objectives of the Project:

- **Enhance Cancer Treatment Capabilities:** Introduce advanced therapies such as CAR-T cell therapy, gene editing, and stem cell therapy to treat complex and rare cancers.
- **Research and Development:** Foster innovation in cancer research by providing a platform for scientists and clinicians to collaborate on groundbreaking therapies.
- **Affordable Access:** Ensure that advanced treatments are accessible to underserved populations, including tribal communities and low-income groups.



- **Capacity Building:** Train healthcare professionals in cutting-edge therapeutic techniques, creating a skilled workforce in India.

### 6.3 IMPACT

The establishment of the Cell and Gene Therapy Laboratory is expected to:

- **Elevated Quality of Cancer Care through Advanced Therapies:**

The integration of cutting-edge technologies such as gene editing, regenerative medicine, and immunotherapy will lead to more precise and effective treatments. These advancements are expected to reduce treatment-related side effects, enhance recovery outcomes, and personalize care based on each patient's genetic profile.



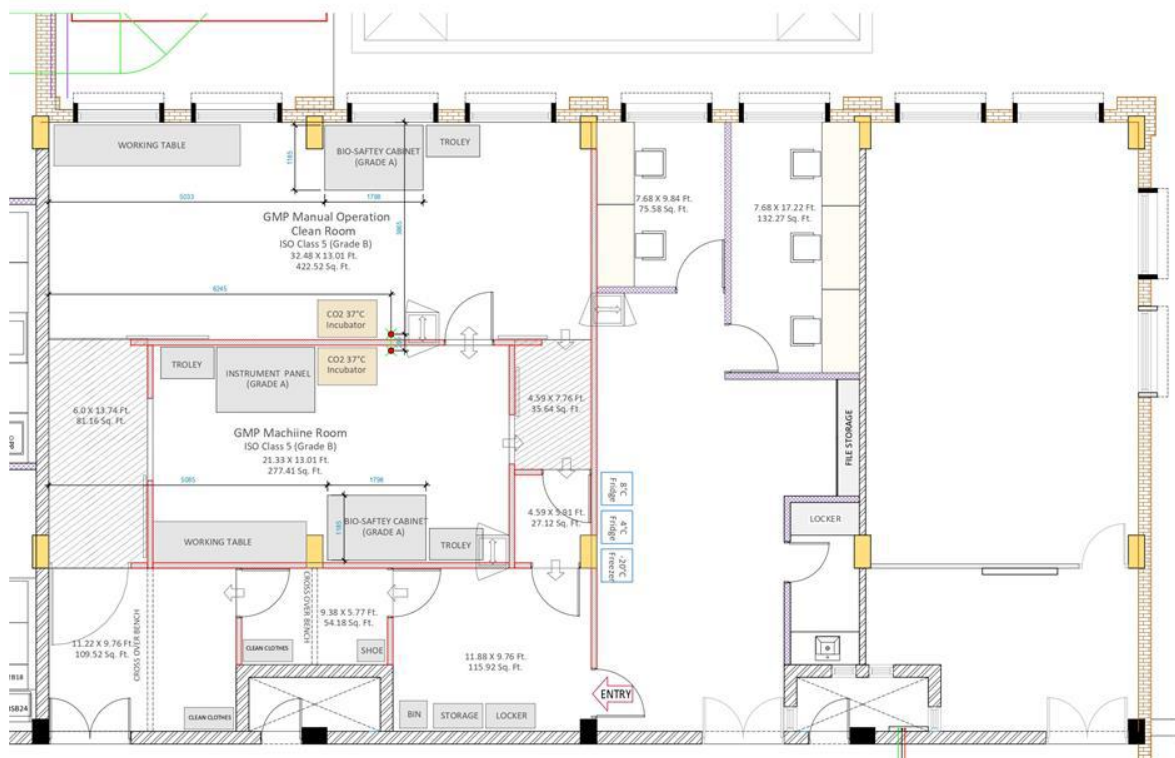
- **Access to Next-Generation Medical Solutions:**

The facility will offer patients access to revolutionary treatment options including CAR-T cell therapy, stem cell-based therapies, and genetically targeted drugs. These interventions hold promise for significantly increasing survival rates, especially for those with resistant or relapsed cancers.



- **Strengthened Collaboration Across Disciplines:** By acting as a convergence point for clinicians, biomedical researchers, molecular biologists, and geneticists, the laboratory will foster a collaborative environment. This synergy will accelerate the development of innovative, patient-specific therapeutic approaches and encourage knowledge-sharing among specialists.
- **Reinforcement of India's Leadership in Genetic Medicine:** The project positions India as a frontrunner in the global arena of cell and gene therapy. It will contribute to the nation's growing reputation in biotech innovation and attract international research collaborations, investments, and talent.

- **Enhanced Early Detection and Personalized Diagnostics:** The lab's research capabilities will improve early identification of genetic markers linked to various cancers. This will support the implementation of precision diagnostics, enabling timely and customized treatment plans that increase the likelihood of successful outcomes.
- **Focus on Pediatric and Rare Cancers:** The facility will prioritize research into cancers that affect children and those with limited treatment options. By developing novel and targeted therapies, the lab will address long-standing treatment gaps for rare oncological conditions and vulnerable patient groups.
- **Pioneering New-Age Immunotherapies:** The lab will serve as a hub for the development of next-generation immunotherapies such as tumor-infiltrating lymphocyte (TIL) therapy and advancements in CAR-T. These therapies represent a paradigm shift in cancer treatment by leveraging the body's immune system to combat tumors more effectively.
- **Strengthening of National Healthcare Infrastructure:** Establishing such an advanced facility within a rural yet resource-rich setting like Muni Seva Ashram contributes to decentralizing high-end care. It helps bridge the urban-rural divide in oncology treatment and boosts the overall resilience of India's healthcare delivery system.



**LAYOUT OF CELL AND GENE THERAPY LABORATORY**

## 6.4 INFRASTRUCTURE AND TECHNOLOGY AT THE ACCESSIBLE AT KAILASH CANCER HOSPITAL & RESEARCH CENTRE

### Technology Used

- a) **Automation Systems:** SCADA and IoT-based monitoring ensure efficient management
- b) of laboratory processes, environmental conditions, and equipment functionality.
- c) **Energy-Efficient Systems:** Advanced energy-saving technologies minimize power consumption and operational costs while ensuring sustainability.
- d) **Water Treatment and Recycling Systems:** High-capacity water purification and recycling mechanisms maintain clean water supply while reducing waste.
- e) **Security Systems:** Includes CCTV surveillance, biometric access control, and real-time monitoring to ensure safety and regulatory compliance.



### Room Facilities

- a) **Air Conditioning:** Both centralized and individual air conditioning systems maintain optimal temperature and humidity levels for laboratory operations.
- b) **Lighting Systems:** A combination of LED, CFL, and fluorescent lighting optimizes energy usage while providing adequate illumination.
- c) **Ventilation Systems:** HVAC systems and exhaust fans maintain air quality and control contamination risks.
- d) **Fire Safety Measures:** Includes automated sprinkler systems, fire alarms, and fire extinguishers to enhance emergency preparedness.





## Instruments and Equipment

- a) **CO<sub>2</sub> Incubators (02 Nos.) (Manufacturer: Thermosphere Stericycle)** – Essential for cell culture growth and stability.
- b) **Flow Cytometer (Manufacturer: Beckman Coulter)** – Enables cell analysis, crucial for immunotherapy research.
- c) **Biosafety Cabinets (02 Nos.) (Manufacturer: Hygiene Airtech India Pvt Ltd)** – Provide contamination-free workspaces for handling biohazardous materials.
- d) **Passboxes (03 Nos.) (Manufacturer: Hygiene Airtech India Pvt Ltd)** – Ensures sterile transfer of materials between cleanrooms.
- e) **Garment Cabinets (03 Nos.) (Manufacturer: Hygiene Airtech India Pvt Ltd)** – Stores and maintains sterile lab attire.
- f) **Via Freeze (Manufacturer: Cytiva)** – Facilitates controlled freezing of biological samples.
- g) **Sepax C Pro, CT 60 Kit, CT 90 Kit (Manufacturer: Cytiva)** – Automated cell processing systems for regenerative medicine applications.
- h) **Endosafe Nextgen PTS (Manufacturer: Charles River)** – Provides rapid endotoxin testing to ensure product safety.
- i) **Gas Detector and Gas Monitor (Manufacturer: Ally Bio Pvt Ltd)** – Ensures laboratory safety by detecting hazardous gases.
- j) **Refrigerators (2-8°C) (02 Nos.) (Manufacturer: Amancio Refrigeration Co)** – For storing temperature-sensitive biological samples.
- k) **Refrigerator (-20°C) (Manufacturer: Amancio Refrigeration Co)** – Preserves reagents and samples at low temperatures.
- l) **Freezer (-80°C) (Manufacturer: ThermoFisher)** – Provides ultra-low temperature storage for sensitive biomaterials.
- m) **Lentiviral Vector Kit (Manufacturer: Vector Biomed)** – Used in gene therapy research and development.



- n) **Recombinant Human Single Protein CD2 (Manufacturer: Agile Diagnostics)** – Supports cellular research applications.
- o) **Monoclonal Anti-FMC 63 Antibody (Manufacturer: Allianz Bioinnovation)** – Crucial for immunotherapy studies.
- p) **ViaThaw (Manufacturer: Cytiva)** – Designed for controlled thawing of cryopreserved materials.
- q) **Terumo Sterile Tubing Welder (Manufacturer: Kensure Healthcare Pvt Ltd)** – Supports seamless sterile tubing connections in laboratory workflows.
- r) **Tube Sealer (Manufacturer: Kensure Healthcare Pvt Ltd)** – Provides reliable sealing of lab tubing for secure sample handling.



## 6.5 POSITIVE IMPACT OF THE PROJECT

- **Breakthrough Medical Advancements:** The introduction of cutting-edge therapies such as CAR-T cells and gene editing will significantly improve the effectiveness of cancer treatments. This will lead to higher survival rates and fewer side effects compared to conventional therapies.
- **Affordable Access for All:** By offering advanced treatments at an affordable cost, the initiative ensures equitable healthcare access for underprivileged and rural populations—bridging the affordability gap for high-cost therapies.
- **Boost to Research & Innovation:** The lab will foster a robust R&D ecosystem, supporting innovation in genetic medicine and oncology. It will position India at the forefront of cell and gene therapy research on a global scale.
- **Capacity Building & Skill Development:** The facility will serve as a center for advanced training, equipping healthcare professionals, researchers, and students with expertise in biotechnology, molecular diagnostics, and regenerative medicine.
- **Job Creation & Economic Growth:** The project will generate employment across various domains—including scientific research, laboratory operations, and administration—contributing to regional and sectoral economic development.
- **Public Health Improvements:** With access to precision medicine and early detection tools, patients will experience improved quality of life and reduced cancer-related mortality—positively impacting public health outcomes.
- **Technology-Driven Care Delivery:** The lab will implement AI-assisted diagnostics, IoT-based monitoring, and precision treatment systems, enhancing clinical decision-making and treatment accuracy.
- **Strengthened Academic & Industry Linkages:** Collaborations with universities, pharmaceutical firms, and global institutions will promote knowledge-sharing, joint research, and fast-track innovation in the field.
- **Reduction in Healthcare Costs:** Early diagnosis and personalized treatment will help reduce the long-term cost of cancer care—minimizing both financial strain on families and systemic burden on healthcare infrastructure.
- **Community Engagement & Awareness:** The facility will conduct educational and outreach programs to raise awareness about genetic therapies, cancer prevention, and the importance of early screening—empowering communities with knowledge.

## 6.6 SUSTAINABILITY

Kailash Cancer Hospital & Research Centre has taken over the complete operation, repair, maintenance and upkeep of the facility and shall continue to do so in the future.

There are adequate laboratory assistants in the Departments to maintain the equipment and laboratories. The Department Head shall be responsible for maintenance and utilisation of the labs and appropriate guidelines shall be given to the users.

The stock in the labs shall be verified annually, and damaged ones are discarded.

## 6.7 KEY POINTS OF STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTATIONS

As informed by the Kailash Cancer Hospital & Research Centre run by Muni Seva Ashram staff, the following key stakeholders play a crucial role in the successful implementation of the project:

- **General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC):** Providing financial support as part of its CSR initiative to enable the establishment and expansion of the laboratory.
- **Muni Seva Ashram:** Overseeing project implementation, ensuring efficient resource utilization, and managing overall governance.
- **Kailash Cancer Hospital & Research Centre:** Responsible for integrating new therapies, conducting clinical trials, and managing day-to-day operations of the facility.
- **Patients & Community:** Direct beneficiaries of advanced cancer treatments, with improved access to innovative therapies and enhanced healthcare services.
- **Medical Researchers & Professionals:** Engaging in research, innovation, and the development of new cell and gene therapies, contributing to global medical advancements.
- **Government & Regulatory Bodies:** Providing policy support, ethical approvals, and ensuring compliance with national and international healthcare regulations to maintain the highest standards of safety and efficacy.





## 6.8 PROGRAM EVALUATION

STRENGTHS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cutting-edge research in gene and cell therapy enhances cancer treatment quality.</li> <li>• Increases accessibility of advanced therapies for cancer patients.</li> <li>• Strengthens India's position in global cancer research.</li> <li>• Encourages collaboration between medical researchers and clinicians.</li> <li>• Supports early detection and precision medicine strategies.</li> <li>• Creates employment opportunities in biotechnology and healthcare.</li> <li>• Attracts global partnerships for further research advancements.</li> <li>• Reduces overall cancer mortality rates through innovative therapies.</li> </ul>
WEAKNESSES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High initial costs for setting up and maintaining advanced lab infrastructure.</li> <li>• Requires specialized workforce, which is currently limited in India.</li> <li>• Regulatory approvals for genetic therapies can be time-consuming and complex.</li> <li>• Public awareness about gene therapy is still limited.</li> <li>• Dependence on long-term financial support for sustainability.</li> <li>• Requires continuous upgradation of equipment and training programs.</li> <li>• Ensuring patient affordability despite high costs of personalized therapies.</li> <li>• Potential logistical challenges in procurement and distribution of gene-based treatments.</li> </ul>
THREATS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rapid technological advancements may lead to obsolescence of equipment and techniques.</li> <li>• Potential ethical concerns regarding genetic modifications and personalized medicine.</li> <li>• Competition from international research institutions with higher funding.</li> <li>• Cybersecurity threats related to genetic data storage and patient confidentiality.</li> <li>• Market fluctuations affecting the cost and availability of critical research materials.</li> <li>• Potential resistance from traditional medical practitioners reluctant to adopt new technologies.</li> <li>• Stringent international compliance standards for clinical trials and therapy approvals.</li> <li>• Misinformation and skepticism among the public regarding gene therapy.</li> </ul>

## 6.9 GALLERY



**Biological Safety Cabinet**



**Cell & Gene Therapy Laboratory Entrance**



**Cleanroom**



**Facility in Cleanroom**



**Sterile Cabinet**



**Ventilation systems (HVAC, exhaust fans).**





**Flow Cytometer**



**Gas detector and gas monitor**



**Refrigerator (2-8)**



**Garment Cabinet**



**CO2 Incubator**



**Digital Droplet PCR**

## 6.10 CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

### Conclusion

The acquisition of the Cell and Gene Therapy Laboratory at Kailash Cancer Hospital & Research Centre marks a significant step toward revolutionizing cancer treatment in India. By integrating advanced research, innovative therapies, and interdisciplinary collaboration, this initiative is set to transform patient care and establish India as a key player in global genetic medicine. The facility will not only provide state-of-the-art treatment to cancer patients but also contribute to pioneering research in genetic medicine, potentially leading to groundbreaking discoveries in oncology.

### Recommendations:

- **Sustained Financial Support:** Continued investment from stakeholders, including government bodies and private institutions, to ensure long-term sustainability.
- **Talent Development & Training:** Establishing structured training programs to build a skilled workforce specialized in gene therapy and precision medicine.
- **Regulatory Streamlining:** Engaging with policymakers to expedite approvals for clinical trials and new therapies.
- **Public Awareness Campaigns:** Educating communities about the benefits and safety of gene therapy to encourage wider acceptance and early adoption.
- **Global Partnerships:** Strengthening collaborations with international research institutions and biotech firms to enhance knowledge-sharing and innovation.
- **Infrastructure Expansion:** Gradual scaling of the laboratory's capabilities to include additional research on rare diseases and broader applications of cell therapy.
- **Data Security & Ethical Compliance:** Ensuring robust cybersecurity measures and adherence to ethical standards in genetic research and patient data management.
- **Patient-Centric Approach:** Enhancing patient engagement and feedback mechanisms to ensure that therapies are developed with patient needs and experiences in mind.
- **Government Incentives & Policy Support:** Advocating for policy incentives and grants to further support genetic research and development initiatives.
- **Interdisciplinary Collaboration:** Promoting synergy between different medical and scientific disciplines to foster innovation in treatment approaches.





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