

ANNUAL REPORT 2024 MAITRI



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identity · dignity · respect

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Dear Friends, Supporters, and Well Wishers,

As we reflect upon the remarkable journey of Maitri NGO in 2023-24, it is with immense pride and gratitude that I share the progress and impact we've made in transforming lives, especially those of the widows of Vrindavan, at the MaitriGhar Ashram. It has been possible to do this only with your support. We are Grateful.

Over the years, we have seen how widows, who often find themselves abandoned and marginalized by society, are offered not just shelter but dignity, love, and support within our Ashram. This year, the Maitri Ghar Ashram has continued to grow as a sanctuary for over 350 widows, providing them with not just physical care, but emotional healing and a sense of community that they so dearly deserve.

Our mission has always been to focus on their holistic well-being with Identity, Dignity and Respect. We ensure that each widow receives access to adequate nutrition, quality healthcare, and wellness programs tailored to their individual needs. In partnership with medical professionals, our team has been tirelessly working to offer regular health check-ups, emotional support, and counseling, helping to ease their physical and mental burdens. The importance of mental peace is recognized, and a variety of activities, from spiritual practices to art therapy, have been introduced to improve their emotional wellness.

In addition to health and wellness, we have also made strides in empowering these women by providing them with opportunities for skill development, fostering a sense of purpose, and enabling them to contribute meaningfully to the community. It is heartening to witness many of these women reclaiming their lives with dignity, hope, and resilience.

None of this would have been possible without your unwavering support. To our donors, volunteers, and partners, I express my heartfelt gratitude. Together, we are building and will create a brighter, more compassionate world for these incredible women, showing them that they are not alone, and that they are valued members of our society.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to expanding our efforts and ensuring that Maitri Ghar Ashram continues to be a place of refuge, renewal, and empowerment for all those who seek solace within its walls.

Thank you for your continued support in this mission of love, care, and compassion.

Warm regards,
Lt Gen Bhopinder Singh
Founder, Maitri NGO

ANNUAL REPORT: Widows of Vrindavan Project (2023-24)

Maitri NGO – Maitri Ghar Ashram, Vrindavan & Radhakund, Mathura

Introduction

Founded by Lt. Gen. Bhopinder Singh (Retd.) and Winnie Singh, Maitri India began its journey with a mission to support Uniformed Services personnel and their families through victim-to-survivor programs addressing domestic violence and HIV/AIDS awareness. Over the years, it has evolved into a dynamic force for social change, committed to empowering some of India's most vulnerable communities.

Today, Maitri India stands as a source of inspiration, dignity, and inclusion, driven by a passionate team of social workers dedicated to fostering education, community outreach, strategic networking, and legal advocacy. Through its holistic approach, Maitri has touched countless lives, ensuring that marginalized populations are not only heard but also uplifted, empowered, and given the opportunity to thrive in a just and equitable society.

"Before the COVID-19 pandemic, Maitri was actively engaged in critical social initiatives, including domestic violence advocacy, HIV/AIDS awareness and support for migrant populations and defense personnel, and providing education to children from marginalized and low-income backgrounds. Maitri also played a crucial role in addressing workplace sexual harassment by serving on ICC committees and worked tirelessly to uphold the identity, dignity, and respect of widowed mothers in Vrindavan.

Project MaitriGram

However, due to financial constraints we were forced to gradually discontinued our work with migrant workers in Delhi and Ranchi. With a heavy heart, we also had to close MaitriGram, as the pandemic altered the region's demographics. The surrounding population repeatedly vandalized the school and empowerment center—spaces that had once been a beacon of hope for over 300 women learning entrepreneurial skills and countless children striving for education, English proficiency, and better career prospects

In 2023-24, we faced the difficult decision to temporarily discontinue Project MaitriGram due to a lack of donor support. Unfortunately, as previously mentioned, the school property, computers, and essential resources were vandalized and destroyed, making it impossible to sustain the program.

Project MaitriGram was designed to empower children, adolescents, and women from economically challenged communities in the slums of Delhi. In its last operational year (2023-2024), the program successfully enrolled 150 children in

its afterschool initiative, providing them with educational support, life skills training, and a safe space for holistic development. While we have had to pause its operations, we remain committed to reviving the program once sustainable funding is secured.

Warm regards,
The Maitri NGO Team



PROJECT JEEVAN

Restoring Identity, Dignity, and Respect

In India, thousands of elderly widowed women face abandonment, social isolation, and economic hardship. Many find themselves in pilgrimage towns like Vrindavan and Radha Kund, seeking refuge in temples and ashrams. Often rejected by their families and left with no financial security, these women are forced to beg or live in extreme poverty.

Maitri India's signature initiative, was established to restore identity, dignity, and respect to abandoned, elderly and destitute widowed mothers and elderly women. The project provides essential support, including safe shelter, nutritional meals, healthcare, and emotional well-being programs, ensuring that these women live with dignity, comfort and self-worth in their dusk years.

Impact and Outreach

In 2023-2024, Project Jeevan reached more than 450 beneficiaries, including both residential and community-based women. The program has:

- Provided safe shelter and care for elderly widows facing abandonment.
- Facilitated access to healthcare through regular medical check-ups, counseling, and treatment.
- Ensured proper nourishment, ensuring that widows receive balanced meals daily Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
- Created a sense of belonging through community engagement, Celebrations, and self-help activities.
- Empowered widows by advocating for their rights and improving their social status.

Looking Ahead

Project Jeevan remains committed to expanding its outreach and strengthening support systems for these women. With continued funding and partnerships, Maitri aims to:

- Establish additional safe spaces for abandoned widows.
- Enhance medical and psychological support for aging women.
- Advocate for policy changes to improve widow welfare at a national level.

Through **Project Jeevan**, Maitri India is rewriting the narrative of widowhood—transforming despair into dignity, and isolation into community. Maitri India remains committed to financial transparency and accountability.

Financial Overview

Maitri India remains committed to financial transparency and accountability. Detailed financial statements and reports are available on request.

MAITRI CONSOLIDATED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH,2024				
S.NO.	NAME OF THE PROJECT	ANNEXURE	INCOME	EXPENDITURE
1	INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT		19,01,481	19,87,922
2	PROJECT JEEVAN (VRINDAVAN)	A	1,22,71,882	1,18,36,711
3	PROJECT SEHYOG (NEC)	B	63,56,921	64,22,094
4	PROJECT RAAH	C	-	3,37,793
5	PROJECT MAITRI GRAM	D	-	7,61,261
6	PROJECT MAITRI APPI	E	65,96,807	71,94,271
7	PROJECT GIVE INDIA PROGRAMME	F	98,68,854	80,59,275
TOTAL			3,69,95,945	3,65,99,327

RTD. LT. GEN. BHOPINDER SINGH
(PRESIDENT)

DATE: 27.08.2024
PLACE: NEW DELHI

ASHOK JOLLY
(DIRECTOR)

AS PER OUR REPORT OF
EVEN DATE ATTACHED

FOR P R P A & Company LLP
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
F.R.NO-N500344

Priyanka Rangwala
PARTNER
M. NO.52837

Delhi

Looking Ahead

As we move forward, Maitri India remains committed to expanding its reach and deepening its impact on vulnerable communities. Our future initiatives focus on:

- Scaling Existing Projects – Strengthening Project Jeevan to support more elderly widows and restoring Project Maitrigrām by securing dedicated donors to ensure continued literacy and education opportunities for inquisitive young minds.
- Community Engagement – Building stronger collaborations with local communities, government agencies, and NGOs to create long-term, sustainable change and empower marginalized populations more effectively. With these initiatives, Maitri India envisions a future where dignity, education, and empowerment become a reality for those in need.

Conclusion

The achievements of 2024-2025 stand as a testament to Maitri India's unwavering dedication to its mission of empowerment, dignity, and social justice. Despite challenges, our resilience and commitment have enabled us to uplift the most vulnerable communities, restoring hope where it was once lost. As we look ahead, we remain driven by the belief that every life deserves respect, every child deserves education, and every individual deserves a chance to thrive. With the continued support of our partners, donors, and volunteers, we are confident that the future holds even greater possibilities for change. Together, we will build bridges of hope, create pathways to empowerment, and transform lives for generations to come.

The journey continues—with courage, compassion, and unwavering determination.

Project Jeevan

In July 2010, Maitri launched Project Jeevan (meaning "life" in Hindi) in Vrindavan, a sacred city in Uttar Pradesh, India, home to 63,005 people in 2010 and now in 2025 the estimated population of Vrindavan is around 89,000 people.

The project was born out of empathy and critical importance to address the challenges in the lives of destitute, abandoned and homeless widows, whose suffering was deeply rooted in longstanding social, cultural beliefs, and economic injustices.

Maitri first encountered this marginalized and unrecognised community in 2008, uncovering a painful reality— In many parts of India, the death of a husband brought with it a devastating cultural burden for the wife, particularly when the widow is cast out by her own son or immediate family. Widows, traditionally seen as outcasts and untouchables in W. Bengal with no acceptance in society, faced an agonizing disheartening rejection after the death of their husband. In such cases, these women, who have devoted their lives to their families, are suddenly seen as a burden. Their dignity stripped away, they are left to navigate a world that offers them no compassion or support.

The cultural perception that a widow is somehow "bad luck" or a symbol of loss leads to unimaginable hardship. Widows are pushed into the streets, abandoned in places like Vrindavan, and forced into a harsh existence, begging for survival. They often live in isolation, hidden from the community, and are left without any means to rebuild their lives.

This is a reality many of the widows in Vrindavan have had to endure—lives filled with pain, loneliness, and a desperate fight for survival.

Project Jeevan is a program dedicated to helping abandoned widows regain dignity, respect, and a sense of purpose. It is not just about providing aid but about supporting these women in rebuilding their lives.

Maitri does not see them as victims, they are recognized as individuals who deserve care, community, and a life of dignity. The project ensures live with respect, and a sense of belonging.

Objective of the Project

Maitri provides the mothers with the respect, care and dignity they should have received in their own homes. The organization ensures their basic needs which are food, healthcare, and clothing as well as ensuring emotional and

psychological counselling and support to help them heal from past traumas. Beyond immediate assistance, Maitri works to address the deeper systemic issues that contribute to their marginalization. Advocating for policy changes, raising awareness, and fostering community involvement.

Impact 2023-24

- 2,22,687 nutritious meals served with fruits and milk
- Distribution of Clothing : 1,970 saris, 1760 woolen blankets & jackets, 1350 shawls, and 2,500 sweaters, 2,500 socks, 2,500 gloves.
- Medical: 48 cataract surgeries, 165 dental treatments, and 53 specialized long-term hospital treatments
- 365 widows underwent full medical screenings in-house twice a year
- Vitamins and prescribed medications given daily, with specialized treatments for serious conditions such as heart , Blood Pressure and Diabetes.

Conclusion

Through Project Jeevan, Maitri continues its unwavering commitment to ensuring that the widows are not just seen, but are cared for, valued, and empowered to live with dignity.

The project provides a safe and comfortable home for destitute widows, where they can live for free and receive essential support like food, clothing, and healthcare. So far, it has helped improve the lives of over 350 widows.

By ensuring they have proper identification like Aadhar Card, Voter cards, Zero Bank Accounts etc, the project helps them secure citizenship rights, giving them a sense of identity, confidence and independence.

Additionally, widows are encouraged to take part in activities that help them connect with others, reducing feelings of loneliness and depression. This improves their overall well-being and self-worth while fostering a sense of community and support among them.



Improved Quality of life
health, nutrition & overall well-being

As a result of clean and spacious Home that welcomes destitute widows to live free of cost inclusive of all the other benefits like meals, clothing and healthcare, the project has successfully uplifted and transformed lives of more than 350. Having all documentations and identification at places, helps them achieve citizenship rights. It also promotes a sense of identity and self- independency.



Joyful participation & mental well-being

With access to activities, the widows are able to form stronger bonds with those around them and experience lower feelings of isolation, loneliness and depression; their overall sense of wellbeing, self-worth and belonging will improve. This helps in promoting stronger social bonds, participation and solidarity among widow mothers.



Commitment to self care & wellness

Most of the widow mothers have lived in difficult and challenging circumstances making them vulnerable to lifestyle diseases like diabetes, BP etc. Maitri's timely intervention helps their health condition from deteriorating. Health is a priority service provided by Maitri.



Stronger social bonds & Connections

Festival celebration and all National days celebrations ensure their integration into the communities and build bonds amongst them. Excursions to new places widens their horizon and helps in their mental and emotional health.



With Heartfelt Gratitude
Thank you for an amazing Year!
You have made a difference!

Thank you for an incredible year! Your generosity, kindness, and unwavering support have transformed lives and brought hope where it was needed most.

At Maitri India, we are deeply grateful to our donors, sponsors, and partners who have stood by us, empowering vulnerable communities and ensuring dignity, care, and a brighter future for those in need. Your compassion has been a lifeline for countless individuals.

A special heartfelt thank you to our dedicated volunteers, and staff—your tireless efforts and commitment have made every milestone possible. Because of you, we not only met but exceeded our goals, bringing lasting change to the lives we touch.

As we reflect on this journey, we invite you to share your thoughts and feedback so we can continue improving and expanding our impact. Together, we are building a world of compassion, dignity, and hope—one life at a time.

With gratitude and hope for another year of meaningful change.
Maitri India



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