

19th Annual PoleStar Awards

Celebrating Excellence in Social Impact

Instituted to honour excellence in the workings of social impact enterprises that have made it their life's mission to bring positive change in the lives of the underprivileged and marginalised communities.

The Foundation has always believed in recognition that is truly deserved. And the winners have earned the honour through their sustained efforts against great odds in making a difference.

BEST SOCIAL IMPACT AWARD – EDUCATION



Snehalaya

Snehalaya has won the PoleStar Award for Best Social Impact in Education

Snehalaya is a voluntary organisation started in 1989 in Ahmednagar, Maharashtra, to impart education to a handful of children of sex workers and provide palliative care for people affected by AIDS. They serve over 25,000 beneficiaries each year, run 16 key projects across education, healthcare, rehabilitation and awareness.

The organisation believes that everyone, no matter what their background or social standing, has the right to education. Through targeted programmes and campaigns, Snehalaya highlights the importance of education in healthcare, to help raise people out of poverty, to reduce levels in child trafficking and prostitution, and to help destigmatize class, disability and gender divides.

SNEHALAYA'S INITIATIVES IN EDUCATION

Snehalaya



1. English Medium School
2. Slum Drop-in Centres
3. IT Centre
4. Agricultural Training Centre

1. English Medium School

The school was set up in 2010 to provide education to deprived children, children with special needs and children in slums, red light areas and rural areas. Many of these students have been excluded from other schools or have faced bullying due to their backgrounds or social standing. Children who live at the orphanage at Snehalaya's rehabilitation centre also attend.

2. Slum Drop-in Centres (Balbhavans)



Balbhavans are unique models of social change for children living in the slums. Activities such as playgroup education, tuitions for older children, health check-up camps, creating awareness about communal harmony, good health, hygiene, consequences of addictions and against child marriages are conducted. Snehalaya runs eight Balbhavans in Ahmednagar and one at Pune.



3. IT Centre

Since 2009, the IT Centre has provided computer education to children from red light districts, slums and rural areas, as well as students living in various institutions. Both students from the Balbahavan slum schools and Snehalaya's English Medium School benefit from training programmes provided by the IT Centre. All of their teachers and outreach workers receive vocational training, career development and behavioural management training.



4. Agricultural Training Centre



Backed by the Government of India, the aim is to create a new generation of agri-entrepreneurs and agriculture technology assistants with the functional knowledge and skills to apply agricultural technology in rural farming communities.

Covering a largely rural district, many of Snehalaya's beneficiaries come from farming communities and have been forced to seek the organisation's support due to the impact of drought or economic migration. The center delivers employability-orientated training for farming technicians through a 45-day residential Agriculture Technology Assistant (ATA) course. Students will learn how to apply the rapidly emerging technological developments that are helping to increase productivity in agricultural and related fields. Located adjacent to Snehalaya's bio-farm, class-based learning is complemented with practical sessions in the field. Applications are open to those who have completed 12th or 10th standard with relevant experience.

For more information do visit www.snehalaya.org

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