

THE SWEDISH ORGANISATION  
FOR INDIVIDUAL RELIEF

ANNUAL REPORT /  
ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT 2018-19



**SOIR-IM**

### Cover Picture

**Balesh (26)** a member of Jyoti Self-Help Group that was formed by SOIR-IM and its partner DISHA to empower women from marginalized communities through building their leadership skill, income generation skill and increasing their awareness on government schemes. **Balesh** was able to utilize the group's loan of Rs 5,000 to purchase a tailoring machine for herself.

*Photo Alina Karki*

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## *Towards an inclusive future*

This has been a very happening year with many exciting internal processes to reflect and plan our work in the coming five years. In the present context, the world is facing extreme challenges in the field of climate change, growing social and economic inequalities, conflict, gender disparities and shrinking civic space. We are also facing similar challenges in our own country. In order to respond to some of these challenges, SOIR-IM redefined its interventions, strategies and focus. SOIR-IM is committed to continue its work with the most marginalised community, particularly women and youth, differently abled, Tibetan refugees through strong Civil society.

SOIR-IM will focus on economic and social inclusion of the women and youth at margin and linking them to the government schemes to overcome some of their difficult situation in our new strategic plan 2019-2023. I am happy to present the Annual Report of SOIR-IM for the year 2018. The report documents SOIR-IM's work to promote women economic empowerment, gender equality and inclusive education. It highlights some of the organisation's contributions during the year and provides summary of the financial statements.

During the year, we continued our journey through the thematic areas we worked on. SOIR-IM through its partners involved in supporting women to overcome some of their

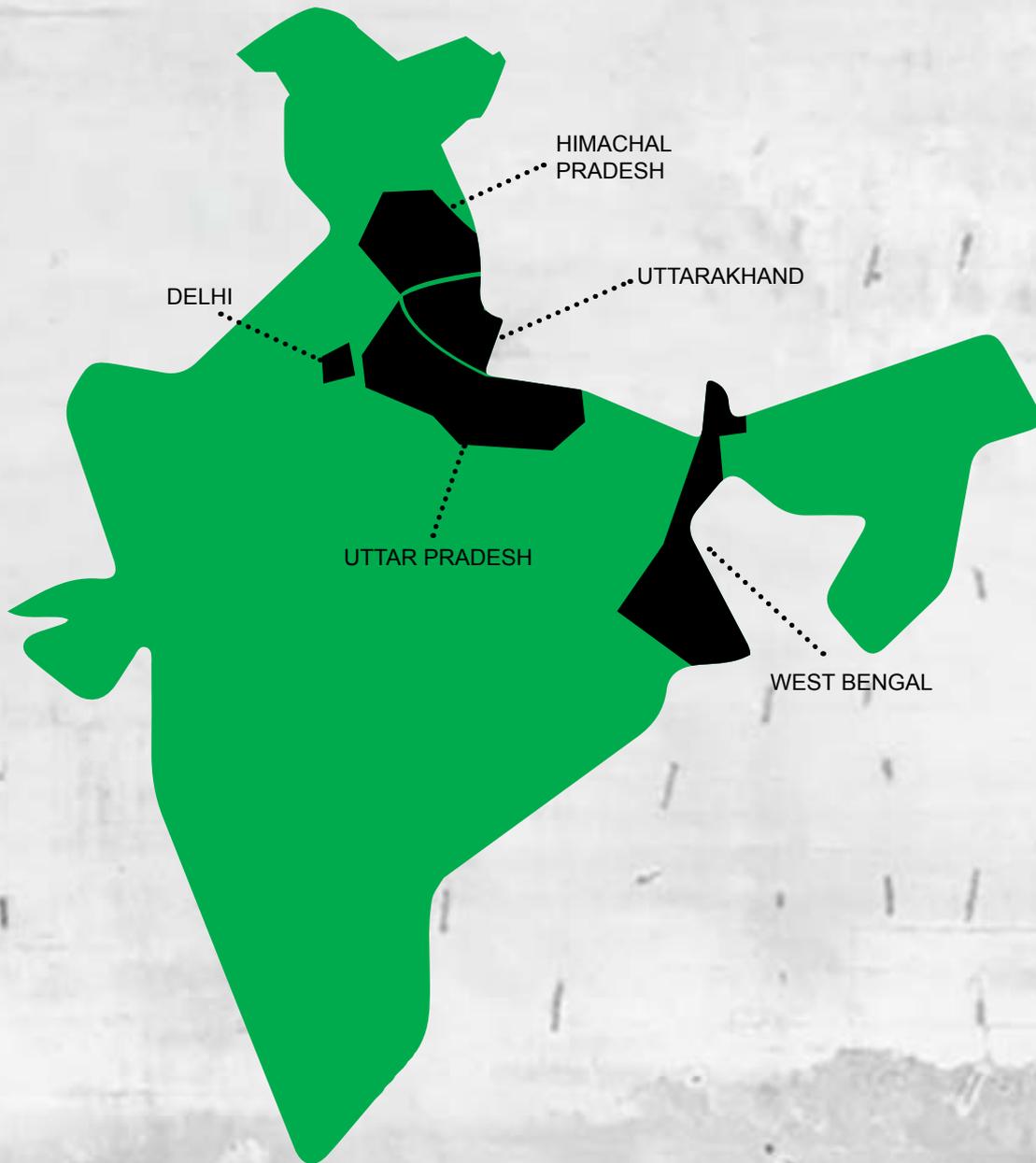
economic challenges through enhancement of income and capacities, mobilising them through women self-help groups, women's farmer groups, cooperatives and producer's groups. In addition to income and capacity enhancements, we have also enabled people to access many government schemes and other entitlements.

Our support for inclusion of differently abled children in education collaborating with government schools for building model of inclusive education has been very encouraging. This experience helped our project partner KIRAN to publish a toolkit on model of inclusive education to support teachers, educators, school leaders and parents for creating a conducive environment and opportunities for inclusive education. This toolkit is seen as a great contribution for children with disability.

Strengthening civil society from within has been one of the highlight of SOIR-IM's activities in this year. A number of events such as network meetings, training of facilitators, training on participatory planning, sessions on climate change and environment sustainability, mainstreaming conflict sensitivity etc. organised to strengthen CSOs.

I take this opportunity to place on record my thanks and appreciation to the partners who are with us in our development journey. I would also like to express gratitude to the members of Board for their valuable inputs and guidance. Our heartfelt gratitude to the supports and resource providers for their trust and support for realising our dream of an equal and just world. At the end I would like to thank my team for their hard work and commitment.

**Gitanjali Jena, Director**



**SOIR-IM COLLABORATES WITH EIGHT PARTNERS IN INDIA**

SOIR-IM was established in the 1970s with an aim to work for the underprivileged people in India, in the areas of education, health and livelihood. We promote economic empowerment of marginalised groups, with focus to facilitate household income security.

SOIR-IM supports small-scale income generating projects as well as savings and credit mechanisms for individuals, groups and organizations. Through capacity development, individuals can generate and take control over their own income so that their status is elevated and the whole household can benefit. Income generating projects should be sustainable for the individuals as well as for the environment.

We promote access to good-quality basic education for marginalised girls and boys. SOIR-IM's support aims at improving access to education for all girls and boys based on their own preconditions. We focus on children who – do not have access to education because of poverty, disability, ethnicity and/or gender inequality. Through the experience of our partners, they and SOIR-IM gain important knowledge that is used to raise public awareness.

SOIR-IM has three characteristics that shall guide our work and pervade the organization.

## **COMPASSION**

We show interest, knowledge, respect and openness when meeting people. All human beings should be treated equally, regardless of gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, age and disability. We give marginalized and discriminated groups priority in our work. Our work is made possible thanks to the compassion and commitment of people who support our work.

## **EMPOWERMENT**

Our aim is to support women, men, girls and boys so that they can empower themselves. We strive to support sustainable solutions and it is our ambition that our partner organizations become independent.

## **PRESENCE**

Good results are dependent on proximity to partners and participants in our programmes and a good knowledge about the local context. SOIR-IM interacts closely with our partner organizations.

# Objective and focus

SOIR-IM's objective is for people living in poverty and exclusion in India to have the ability to assert their economic, social and cultural rights, and thereby live a dignified life. We believe that every individual has an inherent power to change their situation and we therefore work to empower people and strengthen their capacity to act.

## FOCUS AREAS

The focus areas for SOIR-IM's work in 2018 were: education, economic empowerment and capacitating civil society. These areas had defined objectives that guided our work during this past strategy period:

### *Economic empowerment*

For people living in vulnerable situations, above all, women, to be able to increase their incomes and improve their living conditions.

### *Education*

Girls and boys living in vulnerable situations should have access to good teaching at primary and intermediate level on equal terms, to enable them to achieve their full potential.

### *Civil society*

To promote the development of a strong, democratic civil society to strengthen individuals living in vulnerable situations so that they can participate in and have an influence on their community.

## SUSTAINABLE CHANGE

SOIR-IM brings sustainable change on three levels:

*Individual level* – we strengthen individuals and create opportunities for them.

*Organisational level* – we help and make it easier for people to unite and set up organisations in order to find common solutions.

*Institutional level* – we work to change formal and informal rules that shape people's behaviour and attitudes.

## OUR APPROACH

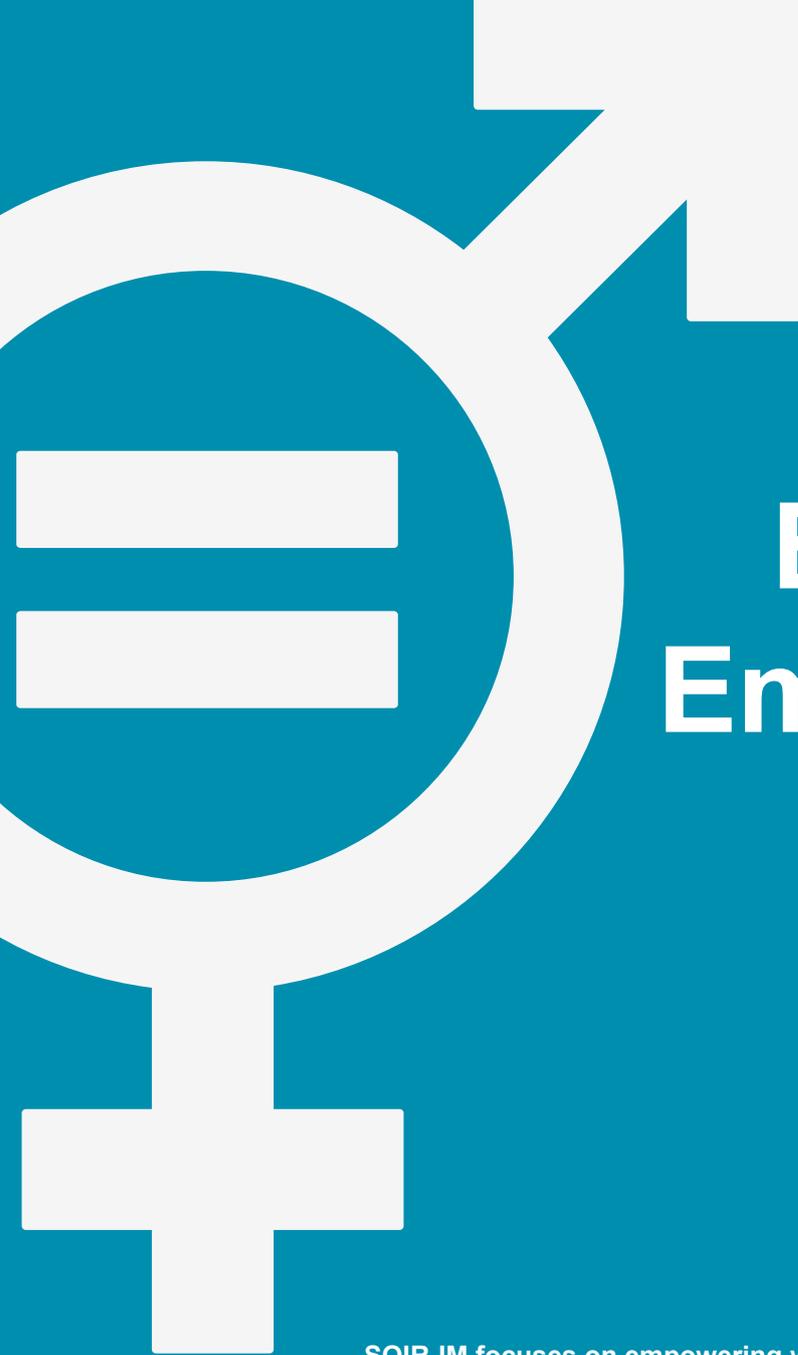
**A change project conducted in 2018 resulted in a new strategy and new working methods for 2019–2023. For one thing, greater emphasis will be placed on social change, and women and young people will be the focus of our efforts.**

### Image

File photo of a student receiving an award at School Student Parliament organised by SOIR-IM partner Kiran Society in Varanasi district, located in the eastern state of Uttar Pradesh.



Photo Alina Karki



# Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women and Girls

SOIR-IM focuses on empowering women from marginalised groups, especially women artisans with disabilities. Our partners work with communities spread across rural areas of India. By re-organising in Self-Help (SHGs) and farmer groups, the women are able to access market and credit facilities along with common property resources and government programs to leverage their entitlements.



834

women and men have increased their income through Income Generation programs and government schemes



27

Producer Groups & organisations working with artisan groups received inputs on business skills & product diversification



1326

women have access to savings and credits



117

SHGs and women farmers groups formed and active on economic and social issues

SOIR-IM's projects empower women to take lead role in Panchayats, Mahila Mangal Dal (MMD) and other community-based groups to address the issues relating to discriminatory practices against women and other marginalised groups of the society. Our fair trade partners work with various producer groups (many of them are led by women) and network organisations across India.

Producers groups are strengthened through training and skill building on business and marketing skills, pricing, product development, quality management, fair trade principles among other necessary skill development. Network organisations of artisans and craftsperson are supported through organisational capacity building, market access and sharing of best practices around fair trade.

SHGs mainly carry out alternate farming and allied practices like spice cultivation, dairy and beekeeping which are contributing to the family's incomes.

## HOMEMAKER TURNS ENTERPREUNER

When Sarita Devi managed to knit a sweater and two caps on the seventh day of a skill training workshop, she realized how a simple knitting machine and skills upgrading could support a dignified income for her family.

The 33-year-old was one among other women SHG member to be selected for a Knitting Training Programme organized by SOIR-IM and its partner The Himalaya Trust (THT) in Bageshwar district of Uttarakhand state.

Having become a skilled trainer, her dream to start her own entrepreneurship was turned to reality when her passion and financial crisis was witnessed by district official who gifted her a knitting machine.

*"I am glad that I learnt about a new business and received skill training for it. I am no more dependent on others for my survival. I can earn and take care of my children"*  
*Sarita Devi*





**3 schools**

developed as  
model for inclusive  
education



**719**

new children  
(including drop-  
outs) enrolled in  
schools



**163**

teachers now  
using inclusive  
education  
methods



**97**

Children with Different  
Ability received aids,  
appliances and  
supportive devices

One of the strongholds for SOIR-IM is providing quality and inclusive education to the Children with Different Ability (CwDA). SOIR-IM partners with Kiran Society in Varanasi district of Uttar Pradesh and Mountain Children's Foundation (MCF) in Dehradun district of Uttarakhand to ensure access to the same.

With our partner Kiran Society, we are promoting inclusive education by helping children with disabilities and marginalised girls join mainstream schools in the States of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Our intervention is also aimed at helping parents of children with disabilities understand the education and rehabilitation needs of their children. To make inclusive education a reality, we are working with schools, educational authorities, health care and administrative representatives.

SOIR-IM partnered with Mountain Children's Foundation (MCF) to work towards raising awareness of community members on the importance of education and ensuring children's Right to Education. The project has been empowering and engaging community members and stakeholders such as School management committee to ensure effective implementation of the rights and government schemes related to education.

SOIR-IM's work in education also extends to Tibetan communities through Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) in Dharamshala, Himanchal Pradesh that focuses on improving career prospects through guidance and career counselling.

*“I was worried about the future of my daughter. But after the rehabilitation support my daughter can walk, go to school and do all her work independently” – Ujala’s mother*

## RESTORING CHILDHOOD

Ujala was born with Cerebral Palsy - a condition marked by impaired muscle coordination and other disabilities, typically caused by damage to the brain. The 12-year-old's condition required special educators and facilities for her to live a normal life but having been born in a village of Uttar Pradesh, her parents were unable to provide for her treatment.

SOIR-IM's partner Kiran Society reaches out to the Children with Disabilities in Uttar Pradesh, and this is when Ujala's living conditions were noticed and taken up for action. Soon after diagnosis, the special educators sent Ujala to reach medical camps where she was examined and provided with professional rehabilitation support. She was soon operated for right ankle foot Orthosis which helped her in better walking. Now, Ujala studies at a public school close to her village and loves to play with her friends.





# Ensure Inclusive And Equitable Quality Education And Promote Lifelong Learning

Bringing all children between age 6-14 within the fold of education became a national priority with the enforcement of right to education (RTE) Act in 2009. In order to achieve this national goal, SOIR-IM is working on children's right to quality education and warranting quality learning environment by improving teaching and learning processes



# Strengthen Partnership for Sustainable Development

SOIR-IM emphasizes on capacity building of local partners to play their role more effectively and reach the people in need more efficiently. We contribute to partners' organizational and capacity development, based on their priorities. SOIR-IM networks with other civil society organizations to advocate for change and raise awareness about our areas of work.



SOIR-IM works to build capacity of civil societies through networking, collaboration, building development models, and developing organizational capacity. This is done to help them advocate for the rights of marginalized communities as well as ensure sustainability of their organization. We always strive towards strengthening civil society through our work in both economic empowerment and education.

In 2018, SOIR-IM provided intensive capacity building support to three partners. As a follow-up of the organizational capacity assessment in 2017, Kiran Society relooked and changed its organizational structure to become sustainable and adapt to new opportunities for fundraising to diversify the sources.

Capacity building program of our partner Social and Resource Development Fund (SARD) continued and resulted in improved leadership and management capacity of targeted staffs. Additionally, our partners conducted exchange visits to the models of development that has helped them to share their learnings, best practices and adopt effective strategies.

Two partners meetings were organised in the last financial year in which learning experiences were shared on the strategies, challenges and changing roles in civil society in current context. Eight participants from partner NGOs and SOIR-IM attended the international training workshop on participatory rural appraisal (PRA) organised by Praxis Institute of Participatory Practices.

**4 Exchange visits happened where partners learnt about setting up of livelihood activities and cooperatives, strategies for inclusive education and model of quality education.**

**Partners were trained on effective facilitation skills, conflict sensitivity, environment sustainability and context and baseline analysis.**

## EXAMPLES OF RESULTS

### **Kiran's toolkit on model of inclusive education**

was published in the year 2018. The toolkit aims to support teachers, educators, school leaders and parents for creating a conducive environment and opportunities for inclusive education.

### **Manual for Self-Help Groups (SHGs)**

published by SOIR-IM in collaboration with partner organisations who are working in the field of women livelihood and empowerment. Manual provides a systematic and holistic approach to create model of SHGs

### **The Himalaya Trust (THT)**

helped communities in sanctioning work equivalent to Rs. 19,00,000 for 214 families of eight villages and job cards for 42 women under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA).

### **Appropriate Technology India (ATI)**

leveraged benefits of different government schemes like health, MGNREGA, education, pension etc. to 1732 rights holders and especially women

### **Mount Valley Development Association (MVDA)**

intervention has led to 10% increase of women participation in local self-government (Panchayat) meetings

### **Mountain Children's Foundation (MCF)**

was successful in leveraging government resources for the improvement of water sanitation and hygiene (WaSH) infrastructure and appointment of new teachers in low resourced government schools

### **New Strategic plan 2019-2023**

SOIR-IM developed a new plan with major focus of the period on economic inclusion, social inclusion and strengthening civil society to reach the excluded marginalized women and youth population through economic empowerment. SOIR –IM will continue to work on the issues of gender, environmental sustainability and conflict sensitivity

## OUR PARTNERS

- Kiran Society, Uttar Pradesh
- Appropriate Technology India, Uttarakhand
- Mount Valley Development Association, Uttarakhand
- Social and Resource Development Fund, Himachal Pradesh
- Maximising Employment to Serve the Handicapped, Delhi
- The Himalaya Trust, Uttarakhand
- Mountain Children's Foundation, Uttarakhand
- Sarba Shanti Ayog, West Bengal

## OUR CONTRIBUTORS



**SHAIENDRA**  
Program Officer



**SHARON**  
Program Officer



**SHISHIR**  
Finance Officer



**TASHI**  
Former Finance Officer

# ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT 2018-19

## GUPTA SAWHNEY & ASSOCIATES

Chartered Accountants

Swedish Organisation for Individual Relief (SOIR-IM)  
16-A, Mussoorie Road, Po-Rajpur, Uttarakhand, Dehradun-248009

Income & Expenditure Account for the year ending 31ST MARCH 2019

EXPENDITURE	Annx No	FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2019		FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2018	
		Rs.	P.	Rs.	P.
<b>ASSISTANCE AID WORK:</b>					
SPONSOR SHIP PROJECTS					
EDUCATION		1,26,04,469.87		1,54,23,790.00	
HEALTH		2,00,880.00		3,01,320.00	
CIVIL SOCIETY		-		60,54,186.30	
FAIR TRADE		1,23,20,951.93		42,57,026.50	
ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT		99,65,456.00		84,50,361.00	
PROJECTS- SHANTI NIWAS		-	3,50,91,757.80	58,06,670.80	4,02,93,354.60
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE &amp; PROPERTY UPKEEP:</b>	<b>5</b>		1,55,81,332.07		1,39,75,648.83
<b>DEPRECIATION :</b>	<b>2</b>		4,46,637.41		3,26,781.04
<b>PROVISION FOR GRATUITY</b>			21,930.00		11,07,718.00
<b>SURPLUS/( DEFICIT ):</b> (being excess of income/expenditure over expenditure/income )			58,17,784.46		(34,52,220.70)
<b>TOTAL RS...</b>			<b>5,69,59,441.73</b>		<b>5,22,51,281.77</b>
<b>INCOME:</b>					
<b>DONATION FROM IM-SWEDEN:</b>					
Maintenance Grant Received: (including difference of exchange )			2,07,21,664.00		1,14,90,985.17
<b>Other Projects:</b>					
Refund from PartnerNGO's			7,01,407.74		-
Designated Funds Paid/Utilised DTY	<b>1</b>		3,50,91,757.80		4,02,93,354.60
<b>OTHER INCOME</b>	<b>6</b>		4,44,612.19		4,66,942.00
<b>TOTAL RS...</b>			<b>5,69,59,441.73</b>		<b>5,22,51,281.77</b>

NOTE: Annexure '1' to '6' forming integral part of the accounts.

President



Secretary



Treasurer

Chief Functionary




As per our separate report of even date.

For Gupta Sawhney & Associates  
Firm Regn.No. 015283C  
Chartered Accountants

[Varun Thakur Das Sawhney]  
Chartered Accountant

10-Convent Road, Dehra Dun  
Dated: September 25, 2019

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**Annual Report 2018-19**  
**Edited and Designed by** Isha Banerjee, Communication Officer



SCAN AND VISIT  
OUR WEBSITE

**[soir-im.org](http://soir-im.org)**

