PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

Community Library

An inclusive library, rebuilt by the village, for the village

Sponsored by Dr. Sharayu Tulpule

Executed by Deepastambha Charitable Trust, Pune
under its Gramarthan initiative

उत्खाय चित्तोपवनात् सुमेधो-माला कृता पुस्तकनिष्कुटेषु ।
काव्यद्रुमाणामधिरोपितानां फलं परां निर्वृतिमुन्नयामः ॥

Utkhāya cittopavanāt sumedho-mālā kṛtā pustakaniṣkuṭeṣu
|Kāvyadrumāṇāmadhiropitānāṃ phalaṃ parāṃ nirvṛtimunnayāmaḥ ||

"The wise extract thoughts from the garden of the mind, stringing them into garlands of poetry within books—attaining the ultimate bliss of refined expression."

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i. Confidentiality

Deepastambha Charitable Trust, Pune is submitting this document on the understanding that the contents would not be divulged to any third party without prior written consent from Deepastambha Charitable Trust, Pune.

ii. Release History

Version	Release	Date	Initials
1.1	V1.1	30th April 2025	LS, RJ
1.2	V1.2	25th June 2025	RD
1.3	VI .3	28, September 2025	SP
1.4	VI.4	&, October 2025	SP

iii. Acknowledgment

We are deeply indebted to Dr. Sharayu Tulpule for her generous support in making this project a reality. Her decision to fund the library in Mangalapur, Satara has brought lasting value to the community.

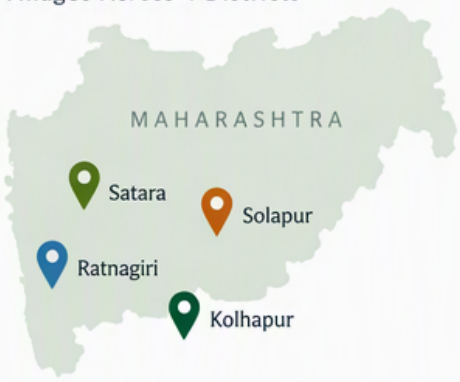
We are immensely thankful to the residents, Sarpanches and Gram Panchayats of Mangalapur, Kameri, Masle Choudhari, Khadaki, Ambadas and Nave Danwad for their trust, their time and the library rooms they provided. Our thanks also go to the external experts who guided book selection and library management.

Lastly, we extend our sincere gratitude to our mentors and the Deepastambha Charitable Trust, Pune team, whose guidance and suggestions helped us navigate each step of this journey.

At A Glance View

VILLAGES AND DISTRICTS

6 Villagee Across 4 Districts



Phase 1 (2025)	Phase 2 (2026)
• Mangalapur	• Khadaki
• Kameri	• Ambadas
• Masle Choudhari	• Nave Danwad

DISTRICTS

Satara | Solapur | Ratnagiri | Kolhapur

Rural Libraries Stronger Communities

KEY IMPACT NUMBERS

2,635 Households Covered

16,831 Residents Reached

6 / 6 Libraries Handed Over

6 Gram Panchayats Engaged

WHAT EVERY LIBRARY RECEIVES

- Curated Books
- Iron Cupboard
- Ceiling Fan
- Sponsorship Board
- Accession Register with book cards, slips and pockets

COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP MODEL

Each Gram Panchayat provides the library room → Villagers trained in library management at handover → Library handed over to its Gram Panchayat for local ownership

★ Mangalapur

450 New books curated from a 1,000+ title wish-list

Collection grew from about **100** to about **550 books** in just **74 days.**

Building sustainable access to knowledge through community-owned rural libraries.

BOOKS
PEOPLE
POSSIBILITIES

2. Research Work: Why a Community Library?

A village library gives every age group free, walk-in access to knowledge that families would otherwise have to buy or travel to a city for. For a village like Mangalapur, 16 km from Satara, it closes that gap at low cost and for many years.

2.1 Why a library matters in a rural village?

Students & Exam Aspirants Rural youth preparing for MPSC, UPSC, banking & railway exams rarely have reference books or a quiet place to study at home. A library gives both.

Children: Early access to storybooks builds reading habits, language skills and confidence.

Farmers: Books on modern and organic farming help farmers make informed, sustainable choices.

Senior citizens: Books on health, culture & spirituality keep older residents active and connected.

The whole community: A shared space for learning builds awareness & collective growth.

2.2 What makes a library last

Books alone do not make a working library. Mangalapur already had a small library of about 100 books, but it closed because it depended on one person and the books did not match what readers needed. Research and expert advice pointed to five things a village library needs to keep running:

A relevant collection: Books chosen by and for the community, across age groups.

- **Safe storage**: Lockable shelving that protects books from damage and loss.
- **A circulation system**: An accession register, book cards, slips and pockets so every issue and return is recorded.
- **A comfortable space**: Seating, light and ventilation so people stay and read.
- **Local custodians**: Trained villagers who own the library, so it never depends on a single person.

2.3 Utility

With about 550 books for about 1,500 residents in 234 households, Mangalapur now has roughly one book for every three residents, or more than two books per household. The collection is available to every family in the village, free of cost.

Across all six villages, the programme puts a free, village-run library within walking distance of 16,831 people in 2,635 households.

3. First Project Details

3.1 Background

Mangalapur once had a small village library of about 100 books, but it had stopped working. It depended on a single volunteer, and when he could no longer manage it, the library closed. The books also did not meet the needs of students, farmers or senior citizens, so few people used it.

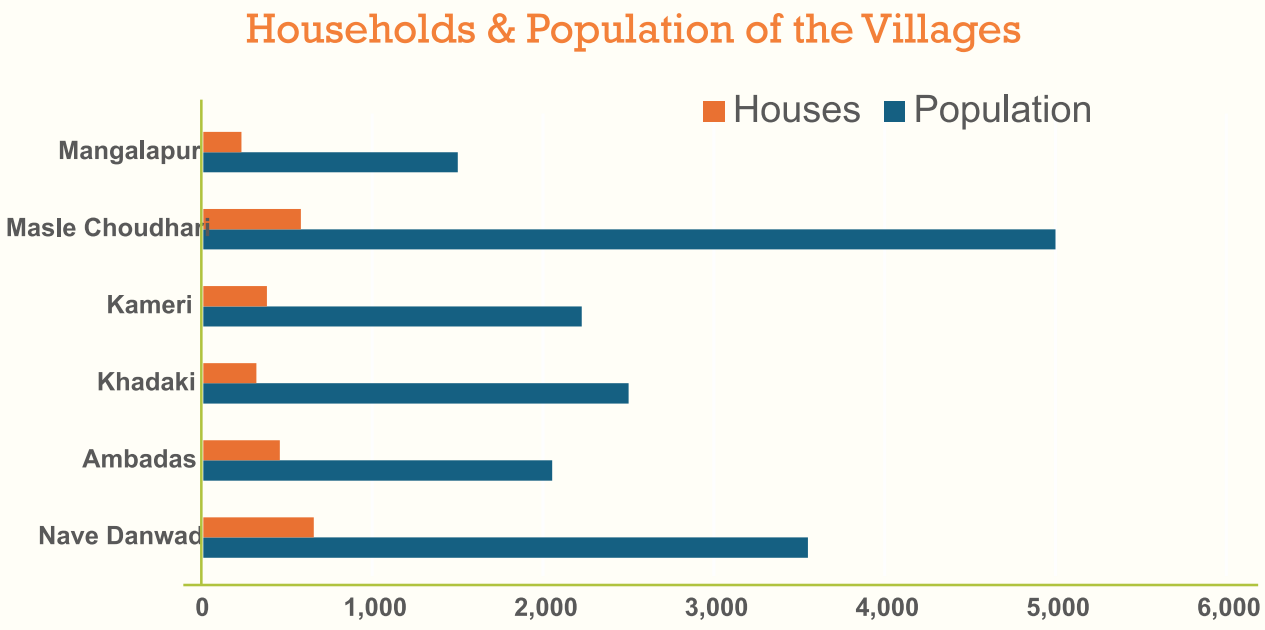
The result was a loss of access to learning resources and a decline in reading culture, especially among students. The residents of Mangalapur approached Deepastambha Charitable Trust (DCT) for help. DCT mobilised support and secured funding from Dr. Sharayu Tulpule, and the project began in May 2025.

Mangalapur was the pilot. Kameri and Masle Choudhari were approved with it on 2 May 2025 and handed over in August 2025. A second phase for Khadaki, Ambadas and Nave Danwad was approved in June 2026, and all three libraries were handed over between July and September 2026.

Every village followed the same model. The village asked for a library and the Gram Panchayat provided a room. DCT curated the books, supplied the cupboard and fan, and set up the record-keeping system. Villagers were then trained to run the library themselves.

3.2 Programme Villages

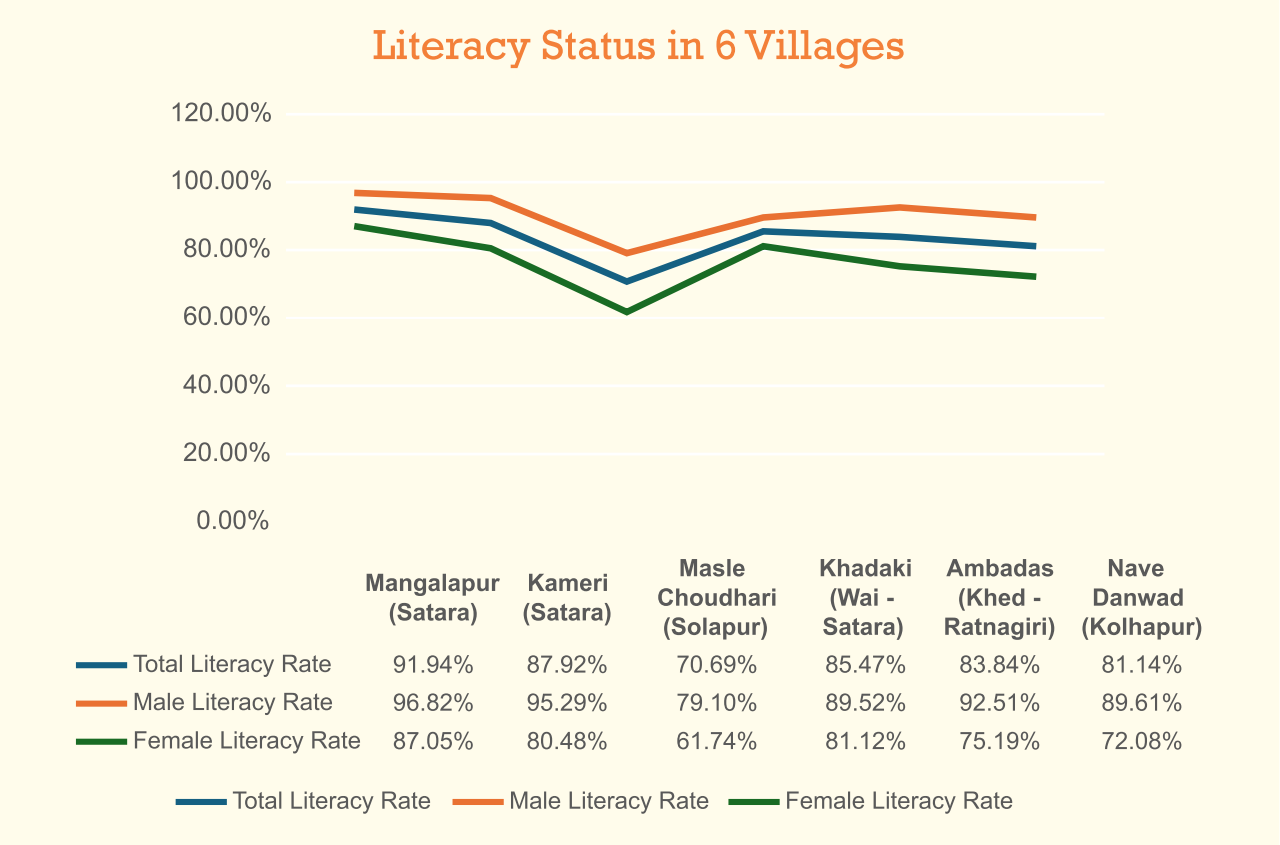
The six libraries serve 16,831 people across four districts, from Mangalapur near Satara to Nave Danwad in Kolhapur district.



	Nave Danwad	Ambadas	Khadaki	Kameri	Masle Choudhari	Mangalapur
Houses	658	458	320	383	582	234
Population	3,551	2,054	2,500	2,226	5,000	1,500

3.3 Village Profiles: Literacy and Population

Literacy is fairly high in all six villages, but the gap between total and female literacy is much wider in some. It is 4.5 percentage points in Mangalapur and 34.1 points in Nave Danwad, where female literacy is 44.86%.



	Mangalapur (Satara)	Kameri (Satara)	Masle Choudhari (Solapur)	Khadaki (Wai - Satara)	Ambadas (Khed - Ratnagiri)	Nave Danwad (Kolhapur)
Total Literacy Rate	91.94%	87.92%	70.69%	85.47%	83.84%	81.14%
Male Literacy Rate	96.82%	95.29%	79.10%	89.52%	92.51%	89.61%
Female Literacy Rate	87.05%	80.48%	61.74%	81.12%	75.19%	72.08%

3.4 Mangalapur: The Pilot Village

Location: Mangalapur, Koregaon Tehsil, Satara District, Maharashtra

Distance: 9 km from the tehsil headquarters at Koregaon and about 16 km from Satara city

Livelihood: Mainly agriculture, especially cultivation by landowners

Mangalapur's closeness to urban centres is slowly changing lifestyles and aspirations. Families increasingly see education as the way to better opportunities for the next generation, and literacy among girls is rising.

3.5 Key Challenges

- **Non-functional library:** The old library of about 100 books had closed after its only administrator could no longer run it.
- **Irrelevant collection:** Books did not match the needs of students, exam aspirants, farmers or senior citizens.
- **Weak infrastructure:** Two wooden-iron racks, tables and chairs were used for 100 books, not space for a larger collection; the room had no fan.
- **No record-keeping:** There was no register or issue-return system to track books.

3.6 Objectives of the Project

DCT undertook this project to reopen the Mangalapur library with four objectives:

1. Put a sustainable library management system in place.
2. Provide infrastructure support for the updated library.
3. Make the library inclusive by expanding the collection to meet diverse community needs.
4. Provide a study space for competitive examinations.

3.7 Need Assessment and Approach

Rather than simply donating books, DCT first set out to understand what the villagers actually needed. The approach had four stages: an initial assessment of the old library, community engagement to gather needs, implementation of books and infrastructure, and a management system to keep it running.

Two questions guided the discussions with villagers:

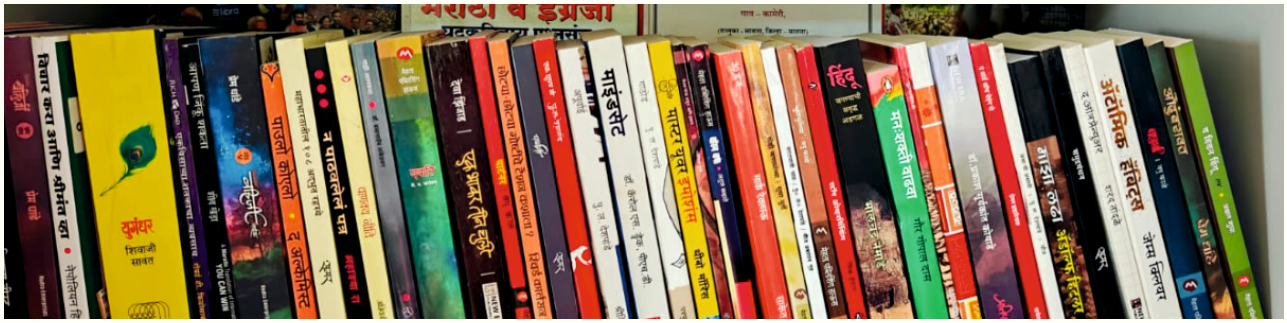
1. What types of books and subjects does the community need?
2. What facilities are needed for the library to run smoothly and regularly?

The answers, combined with subject research, shaped the collection for each group:

Community group	Need	What the library provides
Children and students	Reading habits, better learning outcomes	Age-appropriate storybooks, general reading, a study space
Competitive exam aspirants	Reference material and a quiet place to study	Guides for UPSC, MPSC, railway, banking and other government exams
Adults, especially farmers	Practical, current farming knowledge	Books on modern agriculture, organic practices and rural development
Senior citizens	Reading and reflection	Books on health, culture and spirituality
Overall community	Access to knowledge for all ages	Novels, skill development and general reading

Infrastructure planning: A library management system first, then a cupboard and a ceiling fan to make the space organised and comfortable.

Sustainability measures: Train villagers in library operations so the library runs long after handover.



Step-by-Step: How We Rebuilt the Library

Six deliberate steps, each aimed at fixing why the old library failed.

1 Collection curation

450 books picked from 1000+ community wishlist, expert reviewed.

2 Management system

Accession register, book cards, slips & bags pre-fitted for every book.

3 Infrastructure upgrade

Existing racks reused; lockable iron cabinet + ceiling fan, locally sourced.

4 Training

Panchayat, students & village elders trained to run the library.

5 Ownership Transfer

Formal handover to the panchayat & villagers as rightful owners

6 Opening

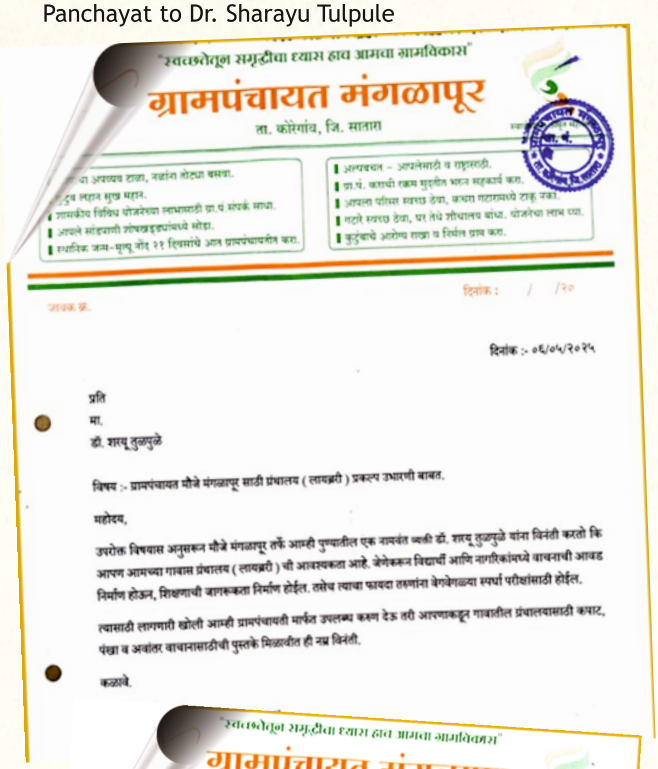
Inaugurated on 15 July 2025 open to the whole village.

Every step removed a reason the old library had failed.

3.8 Documentation Done

Every stage of the project was backed by formal letters from the Gram Panchayat and DCT, keeping the project transparent and accountable.

Document 1: Request letter from Mangalapur Gram Panchayat to Dr. Sharayu Tulpule



ग्रामपंचायत मंगळापूर

ता. कोरेगांव, जि. सातारा

दिनांक :- ०६/०५/२०२५

प्रति

मा.

डॉ. शरयू तुळपुळे

विषय :- ग्रामपंचायत मौजे मंगळापूर साठी ग्रंथालय (लायब्ररी) प्रकल्प उभारणी बाबत.

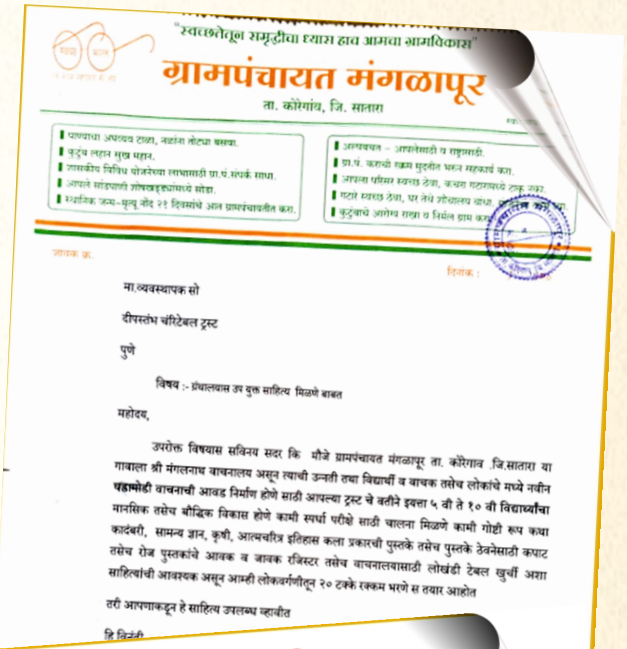
महोदय,

उपरोक्त विषयास अनुसरुन मौजे मंगळापूर तर्फे आम्ही पुण्यातील एक नामवंत व्यक्ती डॉ. शरयू तुळपुळे यांना विनंती करतो कि आपण आमच्या गावास ग्रंथालय (लायब्ररी) ची आवश्यकता आहे. जेणेकरुन विद्यार्थी आणि नागरिकांमध्ये वाचनाची आवड निर्माण होऊन, शिक्षणाची जागरूकता निर्माण होईल. तसेच त्याचा फायदा तरुणांना वेगवेगळ्या स्पर्धा परीक्षांसाठी होईल.

त्यासाठी लागणारी खोली आम्ही ग्रामपंचायती मार्फत उपलब्ध करुन देऊ तरी आपणाकडून गावातील ग्रंथालयासाठी कपाट, पंखा व अवांतर वाचानासाठीची पुस्तके मिळावीत ही नम्र विनंती.

कळावे.

Document 2: Request letter from Mangalapur Gram Panchayat to DCT for library material



ग्रामपंचायत मंगळापूर

ता. कोरेगांव, जि. सातारा

मा.व्यवस्थापक सो

दीपस्तंभ चॅरिटेबल ट्रस्ट

पुणे

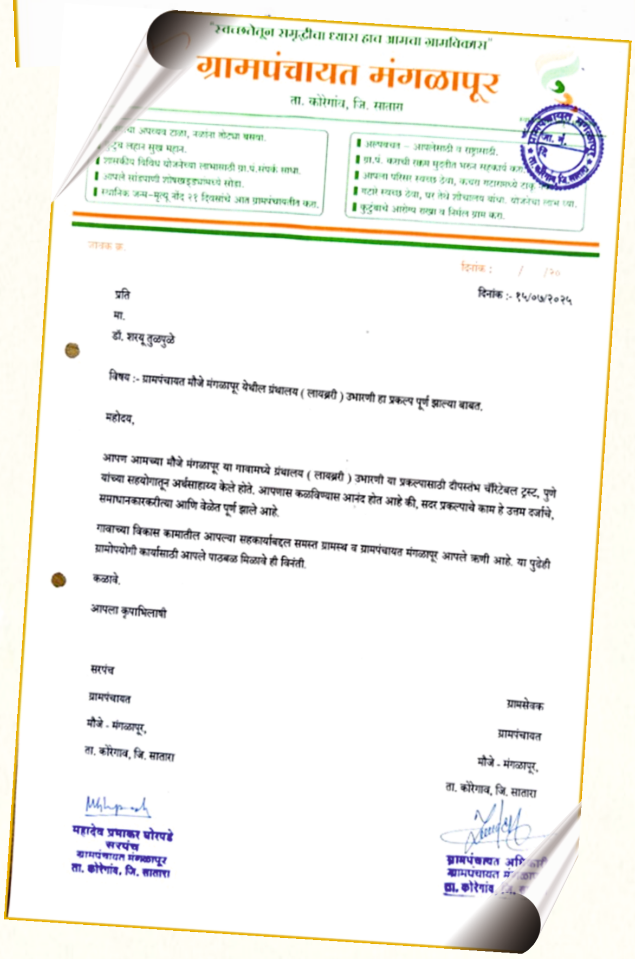
विषय :- ग्रंथालयास उप युक्त साहित्य मिळणे बाबत

महोदय,

उपरोक्त विषयास सविनय सदर कि मौजे ग्रामपंचायत मंगळापूर ता. कोरेगाव जि.सातारा या गावाला श्री मंगलनाथ वाचनालय असून त्याची उन्नती तथा विद्यार्थी व वाचक तसेच लोकांचे मध्ये नवीन पहाणीची वाचनाची आवड निर्माण होणे साठी आपल्या ट्रस्ट चे वतीने इयत्ता ५ वी ते १० वी विद्यार्थ्यांचा मानसिक तसेच बौद्धिक विकास होने कामी स्पर्धा परीक्षे साठी चालना मिळणे कामी गोष्टी रूप कथा कादंबरी, सामन्य ज्ञान, कृषी, आत्मचरित्र इतिहास कला प्रकारची पुस्तके तसेच पुस्तके ठेवनेसाठी कपाट तसेच रोज पुस्तकांचे आवक व जावक रजिस्टर तसेच वाचनालयासाठी लोखंडी टेबल खुर्ची अशा साहित्यांची आवश्यक असून आम्ही लोकवर्गणीतून २० टक्के रक्कम भरणे स तयार आहोत

तरी आपणाकडून हे साहित्य उपलब्ध व्हावीत

Document 3: Project completion letter from Mangalapur Gram Panchayat



ग्रामपंचायत मंगळापूर

ता. कोरेगांव, जि. सातारा

दिनांक :- १५/७/२०२५

प्रति

मा.

डॉ. शरयू तुळपुळे

विषय :- ग्रामपंचायत मौजे मंगळापूर येथील ग्रंथालय (लायब्ररी) उभारणी हा प्रकल्प पूर्ण झाल्या बाबत.

महोदय,

आपण आमच्या मौजे मंगळापूर या गावामध्ये ग्रंथालय (लायब्ररी) उभारणी या प्रकल्पासाठी दीपस्तंभ चॅरिटेबल ट्रस्ट, पुणे यांच्या सहयोगातून अर्थसाहाय्य केले होते. आपणास कळविण्यास आनंद होत आहे की, सदर प्रकल्पाचे काम हे उत्तम दर्जाचे, समाधानकारकरीत्या आणि वेळेत पूर्ण झाले आहे.

गावाच्या विकास कामातील आपल्या सहकार्याबद्दल समस्त ग्रामस्थ व ग्रामपंचायत मंगळापूर आपले ऋणी आहे. या पुढेही ग्रामोपयोगी कार्यासाठी आपले पाठबळ मिळावे ही विनंती.

कळावे.

आपला कृपाभिलाषी

सरपंच

ग्रामपंचायत

मौजे - मंगळापूर,

ता. कोरेगाव, जि. सातारा

महादेव प्रभाकर घोरपडे

सरपंच

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ग्रामसेवक

ग्रामपंचायत

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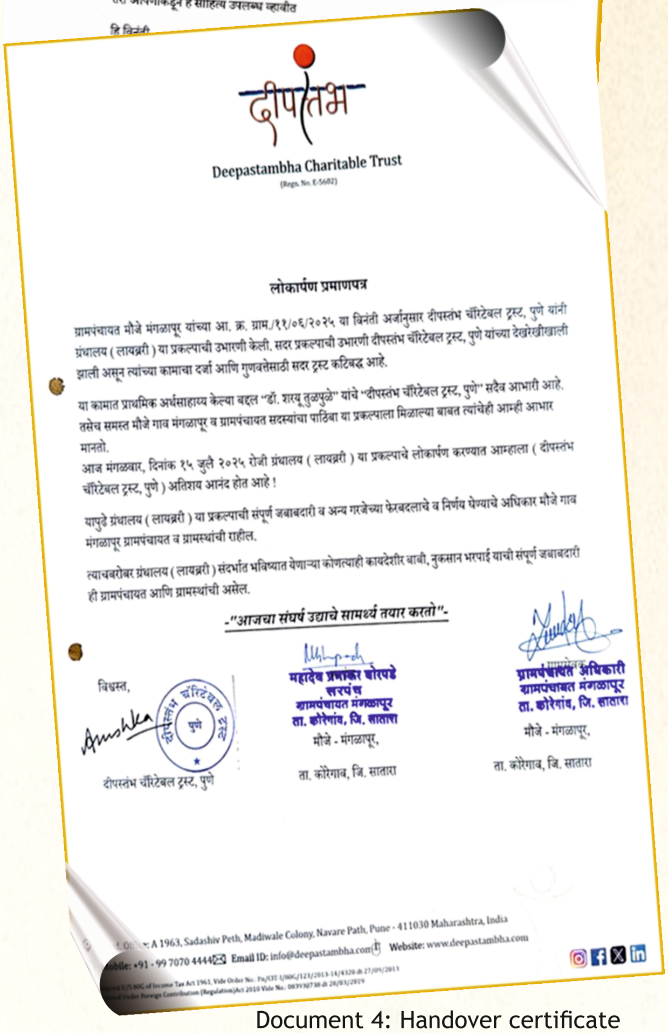
Document 4: Handover certificate from DCT to Mangalapur village



दीपस्तंभ

Deepastambha Charitable Trust

(Regn. No. E-5602)

लोकार्पण प्रमाणपत्र

ग्रामपंचायत मौजे मंगळापूर यांच्या आ. क्र. ग्राम./११/०६/२०२५ या विनंती अर्जानुसार दीपस्तंभ चॅरिटेबल ट्रस्ट, पुणे यांनी ग्रंथालय (लायब्ररी) या प्रकल्पाची उभारणी केली. सदर प्रकल्पाची उभारणी दीपस्तंभ चॅरिटेबल ट्रस्ट, पुणे यांच्या देखरेखीखाली झाली असून त्यांच्या कामाचा दर्जा आणि गुणवत्तेसाठी सदर ट्रस्ट कटिबद्ध आहे.

या कामात प्राथमिक अर्थसाहाय्य केल्या बद्दल "डॉ. शरयू तुळपुळे" यांचे "दीपस्तंभ चॅरिटेबल ट्रस्ट, पुणे" सदैव आभारी आहे. तसेच समस्त मौजे गाव मंगळापूर व ग्रामपंचायत सदस्यांचा पाठिंबा या प्रकल्पाला मिळाल्या बाबत त्यांचेही आम्ही आभार मानतो.

आज मंगळवार, दिनांक १५ जुलै २०२५ रोजी ग्रंथालय (लायब्ररी) या प्रकल्पाचे लोकार्पण करण्यात आम्हाला (दीपस्तंभ चॅरिटेबल ट्रस्ट, पुणे) अतिशय आनंद होत आहे !

यापुढे ग्रंथालय (लायब्ररी) या प्रकल्पाची संपूर्ण जबाबदारी व अन्य गरजेच्या फेरबदलाचे व निर्णय घेण्याचे अधिकार मौजे गाव मंगळापूर ग्रामपंचायत व ग्रामस्थांची राहील.

त्याचबरोबर ग्रंथालय (लायब्ररी) संदर्भात भविष्यात येणाऱ्या कोणत्याही कायदेशीर बाबी, नुकसान भरपाई याची संपूर्ण जबाबदारी ही ग्रामपंचायत आणि ग्रामस्थांची असेल.

-"आजचा संघर्ष उद्याचे सामर्थ्य तयार करतो"-

विश्वस्त,

दीपस्तंभ चॅरिटेबल ट्रस्ट, पुणे

महादेव प्रभाकर घोरपडे

सरपंच

ग्रामपंचायत मंगळापूर

ता. कोरेगांव, जि. सातारा

मौजे - मंगळापूर,

ता. कोरेगाव, जि. सातारा

ग्रामपंचायत अधिकारी

ग्रामपंचायत मंगळापूर

ता. कोरेगांव, जि. सातारा

मौजे - मंगळापूर,

ता. कोरेगाव, जि. सातारा

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Email ID: info@deepastambha.com Website: www.deepastambha.com

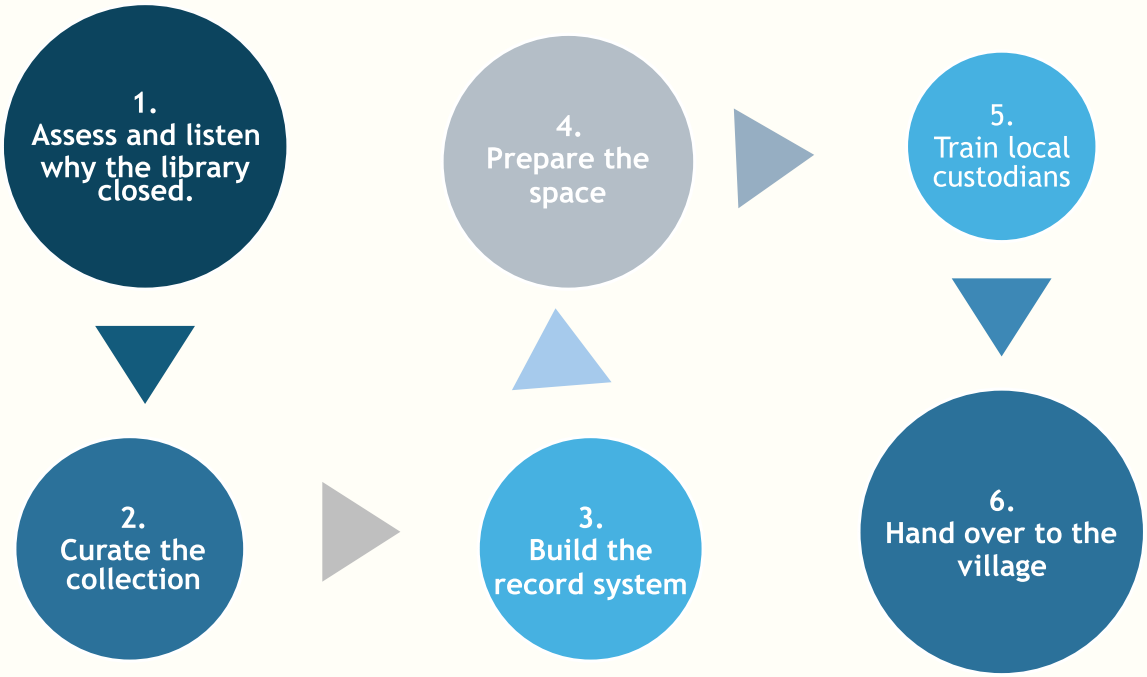
4. Project Implementation

All six libraries were set up through the same six-step process, refined in the Mangalapur pilot. Each village took between 50 and 115 days from approval to handover. Phase 2 villages moved faster on average (72 days against 100) because approvals, documentation and book selection were done together for all three.

4.1 Implementation Process

Implementation process · 6 steps

The process moved from listening to the community, to building the collection and system, to handing ownership back to the village.



4.2 Community Wish-list and Expert Curation

When DCT first met the community, residents shared a wish-list of over 1,000 books. The DCT team shortlisted titles against cost and the space available. External experts, including librarians, reviewed the list, and their recommendations shaped the final selection of 450 books.

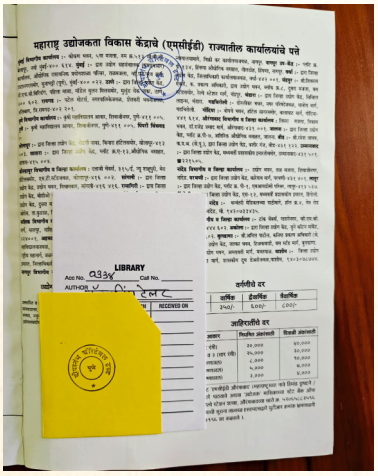
The collection covers competitive exam preparation (UPSC, MPSC, railway and other government exams), modern and organic farming, skill development, children's storybooks, novels and general reading for all ages.

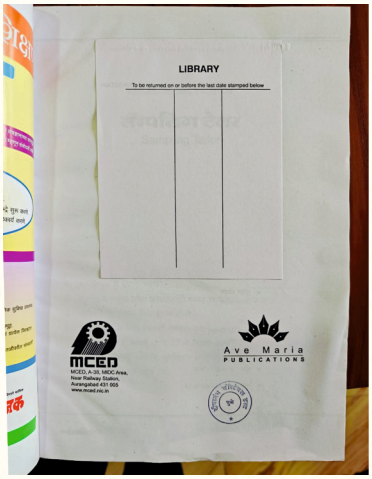
4.3 Library Management System

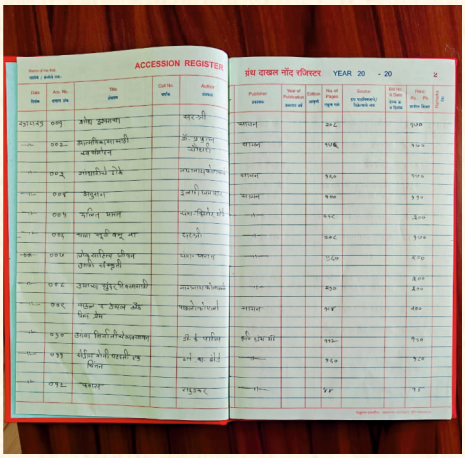
Before the books were sent, DCT volunteers learnt from experienced librarians how book circulation works: how books are issued, returned and recorded. They then set up the following tools:

- **Book slips**: Stamp, issue date, return date and book name.
- **Book cards**: Title, author, accession number and borrower details.
- **Book pockets**: Hold the book card inside each book.
- **Library Accession Register**: Every book with its unique ID, genre, publication details and author.

Each book was labelled and fitted with a book pocket by volunteers before it reached the libraries.







Infrastructure

The existing two wooden-iron racks, tables and chairs were enough for 100 books, not 550. DCT arranged an iron cupboard to store the books safely, sourced locally with villagers' help to avoid transport costs from the city. A ceiling fan was installed to make the reading room comfortable.

Training and local ownership

The Sarpanch, students and senior citizens were trained in library management. After discussions with students and the Sarpanch, senior citizens were appointed as librarians. They manage the library day to day and encourage reading among the younger generation.

BOOKS STRONGER PEOPLE BRIGHTER MANGALAPUR

Setting Up Inclusive Community Library for Mangalapur-Satara

A SHARED SPACE FOR KNOWLEDGE, OPPORTUNITY AND A STRONGER TOMORROW

1 Community Need

A STRONG DEMAND FOR A SHARED LIBRARY

Mangalapur's residents expressed a clear need for a community library with access to a wide range of books for all age groups and interests.

1,000+
REQUESTED BOOKS
from community members

A COMMUNITY THAT READS, GROWS TOGETHER.

2 Inclusive Book Selection

DIVERSE BOOKS FOR A DIVERSE COMMUNITY

Books were selected based on community requests, covering education, farming, health, children's literature, competitive exams, self-improvement and more.

450
BOOKS PROCURED

100
EXISTING BOOKS
from the community

BOOKS THAT REFLECT REAL LIVES AND REAL ASPIRATIONS.

3 Library Infrastructure

A SAFE, WELCOMING SPACE FOR ALL

A dedicated cupboard and shelving were set up to organise and protect the books, creating a clean, accessible and inviting space in the community.

A SPACE FOR CURIOSITY, CONVERSATION AND COMMUNITY.

4 Management System

SIMPLE, TRANSPARENT AND COMMUNITY-LED

A register and library card system were introduced to keep track of books and ensure easy access. Senior citizens from the community have been appointed as librarians, bringing experience, care and a strong sense of ownership.

SENIOR CITIZENS
APPOINTED AS LIBRARIANS

EXPERIENCE KEEPS KNOWLEDGE ALIVE.

5 Community Impact

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR EVERY GENERATION

The library is now accessible to children, students, farmers, adults and senior citizens — creating equal opportunities to learn, grow and connect.

Children	Students	Farmers	Adults	Senior Citizens
A BRIGHTER START	HIGHER ASPIRATIONS	PRACTICAL KNOWLEDGE	LIFELONG LEARNING	VALUED. INCLUDED. EMPOWERED.

A MORE INCLUSIVE MANGALAPUR.
A BRIGHTER SATARA.

4.4 Mangalapur Project Progression

Date	Milestone
2 May 2025	Project approval e-mail received from Dr. Sharayu Tulpule
4 May 2025	Library project discussion with Mangalapur villagers
30 May 2025	All project documents submitted to Dr. Sharayu Tulpule
26 June 2025	Assessment of the available room and its condition
1- 8 July 2025	Material procurement, quality check and inventory list preparation
4 July 2025	Site readiness: cleaning and electricity connection
13 July 2025	Library management system established
14 July 2025	Inventory list finalised and books dispatched
15 July 2025	Library room set up, sponsorship board installed, training conducted
15 July 2025	Library inaugurated and handed over to the villagers

Total duration: 74 days | On time | On budget.

4.5 Progression Across All Six Villages

Each village went through the same twelve milestones, from the sponsor's approval to the handover ceremony. The table below shows the key dates; training, sponsorship board installation and handover took place on the same day in every village.

Village	Approval	Documentation	Books registered and coded	Handover	Days from approval
Nave Danwad	2 Jun 2026	22 Jun 2026	25–30 Aug 2026	3 Sept 2026	93
Ambadas	2 Jun 2026	22 Jun 2026	1–10 Aug 2026	15 August 2026	74
Khadaki	2 Jun 2026	22 Jun 2026	10–18 July 2026	22 July 2026	50
Kameri	2 May 2025	30 July 2025	17–22 Aug 2025	25 Aug 2025	115
Masle Choudhari	2 May 2025	30 July 2025	10–18 Aug 2025	22 Aug 2025	112
Mangalapur	2 May 2025	30 May 2025	9–13 July 2025	15 July 2025	74

In every village, the library room was made available and readied (cleaning and electricity) shortly before the books arrived. The inventory list was prepared and the books dispatched one or two days before handover.

Mangalapur Library: Before & After

SAME VILLAGE. A BRIGHTER TOMORROW.

Books
People
Stronger
Communities

1. ACCESS & COLLECTION

BEFORE

- Library non-functional.
- About 100 books.
- Limited subjects not matched to readers.

AFTER

- Open and accessible to all.
- About 550 books (5.5× larger).
- Competitive exams, farming, skills, children's books, novels and general reading.

2. SPACE & STORAGE

BEFORE

- Two wooden-and-iron racks.
- No fan.

AFTER

- Two racks plus a lockable iron cupboard.
- Ceiling fan, seating and tables.

3. SYSTEMS

BEFORE

- No record-keeping.

AFTER

- Accession register, book cards, slips and pockets.

4. PEOPLE & OWNERSHIP

BEFORE

- Managed by one volunteer.
- Ownership unclear.

AFTER

- Team of trained senior-citizen librarians.
- Formally handed over to the Gram Panchayat and villagers.

5. Impact Analysis

The programme has given six villages and 16,831 residents a working library run by the village itself. In the Mangalapur pilot, a closed room with about 100 unused books became a library of about 550 books. In every village, trained local librarians and a formal handover remove the single-person dependency that closed Mangalapur's old library.

5.1 Before and After: Mangalapur

Parameter	Before the project	After the project
Library status	Non-functional	Functional and open to all
Book collection	About 100 books	About 550 books (5.5 times larger)
Subjects covered	Limited, not matched to readers	Competitive exams, farming, skill development, children's books, novels, general reading
Storage	2 wooden iron racks	2 racks plus a lockable iron cupboard
Reading comfort	No fan	Ceiling fan, seating and tables
Record keeping	None	Accession register, book cards, slips and pockets
Management	One volunteer	Team of trained senior librarians
Ownership	Unclear	Gram Panchayat and villagers, by formal handover certificate

5.2 Potential Reach

Based on the census profiles, about 12,700 literate residents across the six villages can use the libraries directly, including about 4,740 literate women and girls. The libraries also serve those who cannot yet read, through children's books and reading support from family members and librarians.

Village	Population	Literate residents (approx.)	Literate women and girls (approx.)
Masle Choudhari	5,000	3,220	1,050
Nave Danwad	3,551	2,800	795
Khadaki	2,500	2,020	855
Kameri	2,226	1,785	810
Ambadas	2,054	1,620	640
Mangalapur	1,500	1,255	590
Total	**16,831**	**about 12,700**	**about 4,740**

5.3 Benefits of the Library

1. Educational

Access to learning resources: Students of all ages get books, study material and a quiet space, supporting academic growth and curiosity.

Support for exam aspirants: Guides and reference material for MPSC, UPSC, banking and railway exams, with a place to study without disturbance. Aspirants no longer need to buy every guide or travel to Satara.

Reading culture among children and youth: Early reading builds language skills, imagination and confidence.

2. Social

Inclusion across ages and genders: The collection was chosen for children, students, farmers, women and senior citizens alike. With nearly half the village female and female literacy at 79.15%, the library reinforces the rise in girls' education.

Narrowing the gender gap in reading: In Nave Danwad, Masle Choudhari and Ambadas, female literacy trails total literacy by 17 to 34 percentage points. A free library in the village, close to home, makes it easier for girls and women to read and study.

A knowledge space for senior citizens: Books on health, spirituality, culture and current events keep older residents mentally active.

A role for elders: Senior citizens serving as librarians gain a respected role and pass on reading habits to the next generation.

3. Economic and Livelihood

Better farming decisions: Books on modern agriculture, organic farming, entrepreneurship and rural development help farmers try new methods.

Lower cost of learning: One shared book serves many readers, so families save on buying books and exam guides.

Pathways to jobs: Better-prepared aspirants have a better chance at government jobs, which strengthens household incomes over time.

4. Community ownership

Shared responsibility: Villagers volunteer, maintain the space and take pride in it.

Sustainability: Training, clear records and a formal handover mean the library does not depend on DCT or any one person.

5.4 Cost-Effectiveness and Sustainability

Community contribution: The Grampanchayat provided the library room and offered 20% of the cost through public contribution.

Local sourcing: The iron cupboard were sourced locally with villagers' help.

Built on what existed: Existing racks, tables, chairs and about 100 books were reused.

Long life: Books, a steel cupboard and a fan serve the village for many years with little running cost.

Clear accountability: The handover certificate places all future decisions and responsibility with the Gram Panchayat and villagers.

6.5 Indicators to Track

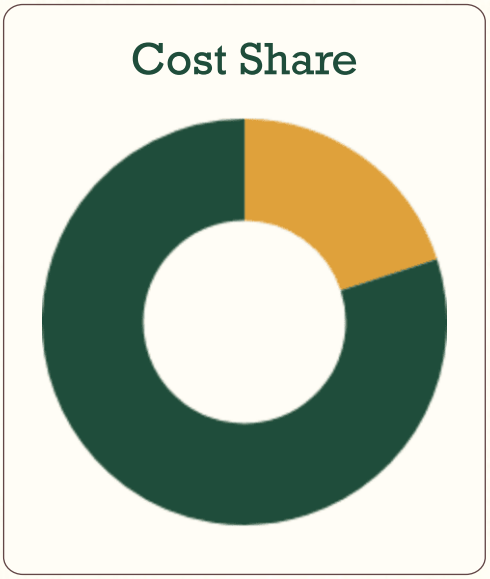
Tracking these indicators every quarter from the library's own records will show impact in numbers for future reports and sponsors.

Indicator	Baseline (before project)	Source of data
Books in the collection	About 100	Accession register
Registered members, by age group and gender	0 (library closed)	Membership register
Books issued per month	0	Book cards and issue register
Daily visitors to the reading room	0	Visitor register
Exam aspirants using the study space	0	Visitor register
Books lost or damaged	Not recorded	Accession register check
Aspirants clearing competitive exams	Not recorded	Librarian and Gram Panchayat records

5.6 Built to Last - Sustainable by Design

Tracking these indicators every quarter from the library's own records will show impact in numbers for future reports and sponsors.

- 20% community cost-share: Village has skin in the game
- Local procurement: lower transport, local repair
- Asset reuse:existing racks & space retained
- Formal handover clear roles & responsibility
- Low running costfan + cabinet + books only



Community 20% - Sponsor 80%

No external dependence for day-to-day operation.

6. Future Plans

Tracking these indicators every quarter from the library's own records will show impact in numbers for future reports and sponsors.

Project	What it involves	Expected benefit
Digital classrooms and skill development	Smart boards, projectors and e-learning content for local schools; vocational skill programmes	Better quality of education & practical skills for students
Solid waste management system	Structured waste collection & disposal	A cleaner village and environmental sustainability
Internal village roads	Upgrade and repair of internal roads	Safer, smoother connectivity, especially in the monsoon
Water ATM	A water dispensing unit providing clean drinking water at a nominal cost	Easy access to safe drinking water for all residents

7. References

External expertise

Library management: Mrs. Anuja Bangale

Inclusive book selection: Mrs. Shilpa Bele

Book vendors

Yogiraj Pustakalay, Pune

Ave Maria Publication

8. Contribution to the UN Sustainability Development Goals

The project is not a stand-alone education intervention. It touches several Sustainable Development Goals at once.

SDG 4 - Quality Education: The core of the project is fair access to learning resources for every age group.

Target 4.1 / 4.6 (literacy): Children get age-appropriate books and a regular place to read. This builds reading habits and strengthens the foundational literacy that school results depend on.

Target 4.4 (skills for employment): Collections include preparation material for UPSC, MPSC, railway, banking and other government exams, plus skill-development titles. Rural youth get resources they would otherwise have to travel to a city to find.

Target 4.a (learning environments): Each library got cupboards, a fan and an organised reading space. Students get a quiet place to study, which many rural homes cannot offer.

Lifelong learning: The libraries serve students, working adults, farmers and senior citizens alike, in line with SDG 4's call for learning opportunities for all at every stage of life.

Goals the project contributes to

4 SDG	**Quality Education** 4.1 · 4.4 · 4.6 · 4.a Books for every age, a quiet study space, and exam guides for UPSC, MPSC, railway and banking aspirants.	5 SDG	**Gender Equality** 5.5 · 5.b Free reading access inside the village reaches girls and women where female literacy lags most.
2 SDG	**Zero Hunger** 2.3 · 2.4 Books on modern and organic farming help farm families adopt better, sustainable practices.	8 SDG	**Decent Work** 8.6 Exam-preparation material and study space support rural youth seeking formal jobs.
10 SDG	**Reduced Inequalities** 10.2 Narrows the rural–urban gap in access to books and learning resources.	3 SDG	**Good Health & Well-being** 3.4 Reading space for senior citizens, and a respected role as village librarians.
16 SDG	**Strong Institutions** 16.7 · 16.10 Requested by the Gram Panchayat, books chosen by villagers, ownership handed to the Panchayat.	17 SDG	**Partnerships for the Goals** 17.17 Sponsor, NGO, library experts and Panchayats working together in six villages.

9. Glimpses

Ambdas

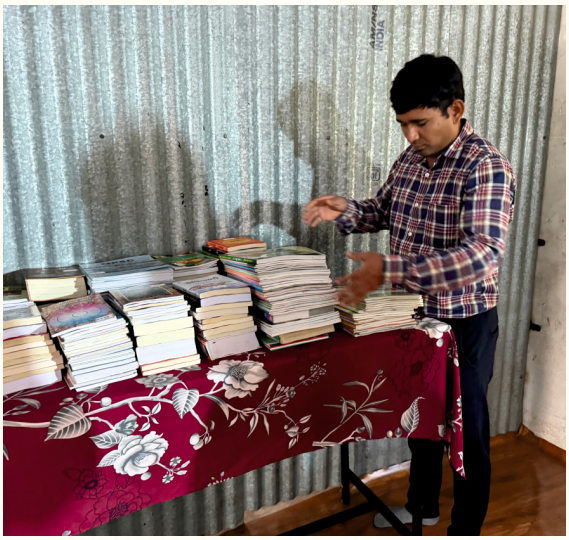
Kameri

ग्रंथालय (लायब्ररी) उभारणी - २०२५
Work Completion Date - 25th August, 2025

ग्रंथालय (लायब्ररी) उभारणी - २०२५
गावाचे नाव - कामेरी, तालुका - सातारा, जिल्हा - सातारा
Work Completion Date - 25th August, 2025

मराठी व इंग्रजी

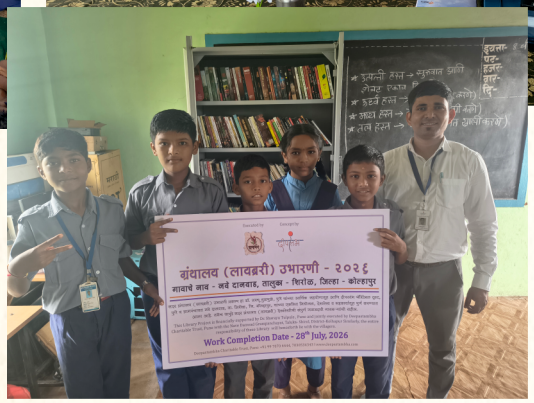
Khadaki - Satara



Manglapur

Masale Chaudhari - Mohol

Nave Dhanwad



11. Profile of Deepastambha Charitable Trust, Pune and Gramarthan

Deepastambha Charitable Trust, Pune

Est. 2008 · Pune

Registered under the Bombay Public Trusts Act 1950; holds 80G / 12A / FCRA compliance.

- 1500+ activities
- 750+ members
- 40 NGO partners
- 100+ villages
- 1000+ schools
- 55+ CSR partners

Gramarthan

Launched 2013 · DCT's village initiative

A **bottom-up, collective** approach to village development.

Builds leadership in women & youth
Links donors, firms & villages
Drives self-sufficient growth
Education, health, income, tech & more

Deepastambha Charitable Trust, Pune, is a registered charitable trust (Reg. No. E-5602) under the Bombay Public Trusts Act, 1950, and is registered under Section 80G of the Income Tax Act as well as under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), 2010. Since its founding, Deepastambha has run multiple community-focused programs spanning education, environment, health, and rural development.

Gramarthan, meaning 'true development of the village,' is Deepastambha's flagship rural development initiative. Launched in 2013, Gramarthan reflects Deepastambha's vision of sustainable rural development across ecological, cultural, and economic dimensions of village life. Its rationale is to explore and execute participatory models that build self-governance and self-sustainability within rural communities, rather than imposing external solutions.

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1.1 Gramarthan's Collective, Community-Led Approach

As part of building resilience, communities need to be empowered to make decisions about the issues that affect them. Central to Gramarthan's model is a collective approach, rather than one that works with individual farmers or households in isolation. Among other advantages, this offers communities the benefits of economies of scale — lower investment costs, lower risks, and more equitable access to resources.

Gramarthan's approach is therefore to work in partnership with the community — gaining trust, listening, and responding to local concerns — to identify locally relevant pathways to secure livelihoods, enhancing rural livelihoods through the effective participation of rural people, particularly women and youth, in managing their own social, economic, and environmental objectives, including through community-driven cooperatives and a bottom-up approach.

Gramarthan's focus areas, within this collective framework, are to:

- Encourage rural communities' participation in decision-making, and promote rural communities' empowerment and rural leadership;
- Utilize a techno-social approach by integrating satellite data, GIS mapping, and realistic datasets for precision planning, evidence-based decision-making, and sustainable rural development;
- Promote green energy initiatives, women empowerment, watershed management, and rural healthcare as key pillars of holistic village development;
- Enhance access of rural populations to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation;
- Promote the development of rural organizations, such as community-driven cooperatives, to enhance investment in essential infrastructure and services;
- Support the development, transfer, and use of safe and environmentally sound construction technologies and practices, particularly for housing, to improve living standards and create rural employment;
- Promote safe and environmentally sound waste management practices.

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