

Towards better society...



ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25

HOLY CROSS SOCIAL SERVICE SOCIETY

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FORWARD

Greetings from Holy Cross Social Service Society,

It is with great pleasure that we present the Annual Report for the year 2024-25. Over the past year, we have made significant progress in our development work within the Adhivasi communities of Parvathipuram Manyam District, located on the Andhra-Odisha border in southeastern India. This report provides a comprehensive overview of our program objectives, key achievements, and the challenges we faced.

The success of our initiatives has been greatly enhanced by the invaluable support of our development partners, whose insights and technical expertise have been instrumental in shaping the effective implementation of our activities. We sincerely thank these dedicated partners, whose contributions have enabled us to navigate complex challenges while staying focused on our mission, vision, and strategic priorities. Their ongoing commitment strengthens our accountability to both our partners and the communities we serve.

We also acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the Holy Cross team, whose efforts have made the accomplishments highlighted in this report possible. As we look ahead, we remain firmly committed to advancing our goals with renewed determination and focus on community empowerment.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement in our work. Together, we will continue striving towards meaningful change and lasting impact.



B Jyothi Kasthri Bai

Executive Secretary,

HOLY CROSS SOCIAL SERVICE SOCIETY

OVERVIEW OF HOLY CROSS SOCIAL SERVICE SOCIETY

The Holy Cross Social Service Society (HCSSS) is a secular, non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of underprivileged communities in Andhra Pradesh, India. Led by a committed team of social workers, HCSSS primarily focuses on the Indigenous Savara and Jatapu tribes, along with other economically disadvantaged groups in the border villages of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha states. The organization strives to uplift these vulnerable populations through sustainable development initiatives and empowerment programs to create lasting positive change in their quality of life.

Vision

Our vision is a society where women and girls have the autonomy to make choices, meet their needs and aspirations, and lead self-reliant, sustainable lives with dignity.

Mission

Our mission is to drive behavioral, social, and economic transformation for girls and women by promoting community-based education, health, sustainable livelihood initiatives, and addressing the impacts of climate change.

Core Objectives:

- **Community Empowerment:** To promote the social and economic development of women, children, and other marginalized groups.
- **Access to Development:** To provide essential services that allow disadvantaged communities access to opportunities for growth and development.
- **Holistic Support:** To facilitate the holistic upliftment of vulnerable individuals living in extreme poverty and unstable conditions.
- **Awareness & Mobilization:** To educate and mobilize communities, empowering them to utilize available resources and take charge of their own development.

Legal Status:

- **Societies Registration Act:** Registered under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860 (Registration No. 188/1995).
- **FCRA Registration:** Approved by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, for foreign contributions under FCRA.
- **Tax Exemption:** Recognized under Section 12A of the Indian Income Tax Act, enabling tax exemptions for donations received.

Governance and Organizational Structure:

General Body:

The General Body is the supreme decision-making authority of the Holy Cross Social Service Society, meeting annually to approve plans, budgets, and major decisions. It consists of members who reflect diverse areas of expertise relevant to the organization's mission.

Executive Board:

The Executive Board is responsible for strategic oversight and policy implementation. It meets quarterly to review progress, approve projects, and ensure alignment with organizational goals. The board is elected by the General Body.

Project Director:

The Project Director is responsible for the daily operations of Holy Cross Social Service Society, implementing policies, managing staff, and overseeing program execution. The Project Director reports to the Executive Board and is accountable for achieving strategic goals.

Staff and Volunteers:

Holy Cross Social Service Society hires staff based on project needs and engages volunteers for specific initiatives. All staff and volunteers are expected to follow organizational policies, act in the best interest of the community, and uphold the mission of the Holy Cross Social Service Society.

Contact Information

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The Holy Cross Social Service Society undertook the following activities during the year 2024-25, demonstrating our ongoing commitment to empowering communities and fostering sustainable development.

1. Out-of-School Education Program for Girls – LitClubs (Supported by LitWorld, USA)

This year, the Holy Cross Social Service Society launched 5 LitClubs, engaging 75 adolescent girls from marginalized communities. LitClubs are weekly after-school programs focused on literacy and empowerment, providing a safe and nurturing space for girls to express themselves, build self-confidence, and grow into future leaders.



Each session brings girls together with trained mentors to share stories, explore their emotions, and develop vital life skills, including reading, writing, active listening, empathy, and teamwork. The program also fosters resilience and leadership, reinforcing core values such as peace, respect, and mutual support.

Holy Cross Social Service Society is equipping girls with the knowledge, confidence, and skills they need to thrive and become positive changemakers in their communities through this initiative.

2. Out-of-School Education Program for Girls - GLOW Clubs (Supported by Global GLOW, USA)

This year, the Holy Cross Social Service Society continued the GLOW (Girls Leading Our World) Club program, designed for girls aged 11 to 14. Each club accommodates 15–20 participants and meets weekly for two hours after school. Led by trained mentors, these sessions focus on empowering girls with the skills, values, and confidence needed to navigate everyday challenges with resilience and integrity.

In 2024–2025, we successfully implemented 10 GLOW Clubs across 10 villages in Bhamini Mandal, Manyam District, Andhra Pradesh, directly engaging 150 adolescent girls. This out-of-school education initiative supports girls in developing:

- **Self-Advocacy Skills** – Enabling girls to express their needs, voice their opinions, and stand up for their rights.
- **Positive Future Outlook** – Encouraging girls to envision and pursue meaningful opportunities for their futures.
- **Educational Engagement** – Strengthening commitment to academic achievement and lifelong learning.
- **Healthy Decision-Making** – Promoting informed choices related to physical, mental, emotional, and social well-being, including menstrual hygiene education.
- **21st Century Skills** – Equipping girls with essential skills such as communication, critical thinking, collaboration, and adaptability for success in school, work, and life.



3. Affordable Housing for Savara Tribal Widows - Supported by SELAVIP Foundation, Chile.

With the generous support of the SELEIP Foundation, Holy Cross Social Service Society is implementing an affordable housing project for Savara tribal widows in Bhamini and Kotturu Mandals of Manyam District, Andhra Pradesh. This initiative aims to provide safe, secure, and dignified housing for marginalized women, particularly widows from the Savara tribal community, who often face social and economic vulnerability.



Construction of 40 houses is currently underway. Beyond shelter, this project is restoring dignity and stability for these women, empowering them to rebuild their lives with confidence, hope, and resilience.

We thank all stakeholders, partners, and supporters for their unwavering commitment and collaboration. Together, we have made significant strides in improving the lives of women, children, and marginalized groups. We look forward to continuing our partnership to create an even greater impact and foster positive change in the communities we serve. Thank you for being an essential part of our journey.

B. Jyoti Kasturi Bai

B Jyothi Kasthuri Bai

Executive Secretary,

HOLY CROSS SOCIAL SERVICE SOCIETY