

Report

June 2026

*Towards a Just, Equitable,
Humane and Sustainable Society*







Azim Premji Foundation

Report - June 2026

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01

The Foundation





Azim Premji Foundation is guided by the vision of a just, equitable, humane and sustainable society.

The Foundation was established on 18 February 2000 by Azim Premji. Since then, he has irrevocably donated a substantial portion of his wealth to create the philanthropic endowment of the Foundation. We work in India.



1a Approach and Objective

Our vision guides us to work towards equity, justice, humaneness, and sustainability, through a range of initiatives, trying to make a difference to the lives of the people of our country and contributing to developing a society that we have pledged to ourselves in our Constitution.

To fulfil these objectives, we work on two dimensions:

- For people to get the basic necessities of life – dignity, safety, health, food, basic livelihood, shelter, education, etc. This is the ‘needs’ dimension of our work.
- For people not to be subjected to injustice, discrimination, or exploitation; and for people to live in peace and harmony and act with humaneness and empathy. This is the ‘values’ dimension of our work.

One way of looking at our work is to map it to these two dimensions. For example, education is both a basic need today and shapes values; food and shelter, homes for the homeless serve the most basic and important needs, while work with youth groups on social action and harmony shapes values. Needs and values scaffold each other. When needs are addressed, it empowers the marginalised and gives them a voice, and when values are acted upon, it leads to a more dignified life for all.

Our work is informed by some basic beliefs and shaped by our learnings from both our experiences and those of others. Some key ones are:

- Individuals, communities, and societies are shaped by social-human processes and forces which are complex, continually evolving, and only partially understood.

- Societies are forever in flux. Nothing is ever 'settled,' nor is the work ever 'done.' The arc of history has to be continually worked upon to make it bend towards justice.
- Real changes need intense, deep, continuing effort at the grassroots. Strong organisations on the ground make all the difference.
- High-quality public systems are critical in key areas, such as education, health, food and social security, and infrastructure.
- Civil society institutions play a crucial role in a democratic society. They are the fifth pillar of democracy. Setting up and running vibrant institutions is very important.
- Specific needs of the most vulnerable are worth addressing in themselves; for example, homelessness or women at risk of violence. Making a difference to the needs of people, even to small groups, is a huge difference for them, and is hence worthwhile.
- Expertise, which must be as close to the ground as possible, matters. Expertise is of (at least) three types: technical, social-human, and operational. All work requires all three to different degrees. Passion and commitment provide the energy for expertise to contribute.
- Simplicity and directness are important; with the flux and change all around, simple and direct approaches have the best chance of making a difference.
- Rigour and quality of work must lead to effects that are useful and valuable to individuals, communities, and society.
- There are distinct limits to what we can do and what our work can contribute to. This must not limit the efforts to contribute maximally without getting ensnared by unreal ideas, such as 'with our smarts and money, we can change all systems and soon the world'. In other words, we need humility in ample measure, because in the vastness of this world and its long history and future, we have a lot to be humble about.
- Purposefulness and values are the core. Means matter as much, if not more, than the ends.

More detailed descriptions follow, but our work, in brief, ranges from deep on-the-ground work; both our own and that of partners, to setting up and running institutions with social objectives, including universities. We also support governments to develop and implement policies and to improve public systems.



Reach, Outreach | Effects, Impact

With everything that we do, or we help to do, we try to make some difference to the lives of some people or bring about some change that is useful for society. So, to understand whether we are making a difference or not, and how much and under what conditions, we try to study things carefully. We assess and measure the effects of our work as well as the milestones along the way. More than giving us satisfaction, such an assessment is useful for improving our work. On this matter, we have learnt a few things:

- We prefer to use the word 'effect' instead of 'impact'. Partly because impact has a very hard, almost aggressive connotation, and partly because all work has many kinds of effects, some intended and some unintended, while impact conjures imagery of mechanical systems, with great control and intentionality, which is unreal for social-human situations.
- We avoid using descriptors or measures such as 'reach' and 'outreach'. In our experience, these are all fraught with definitional errors. For example, in our school education work, we can define our work as only to be in those schools where

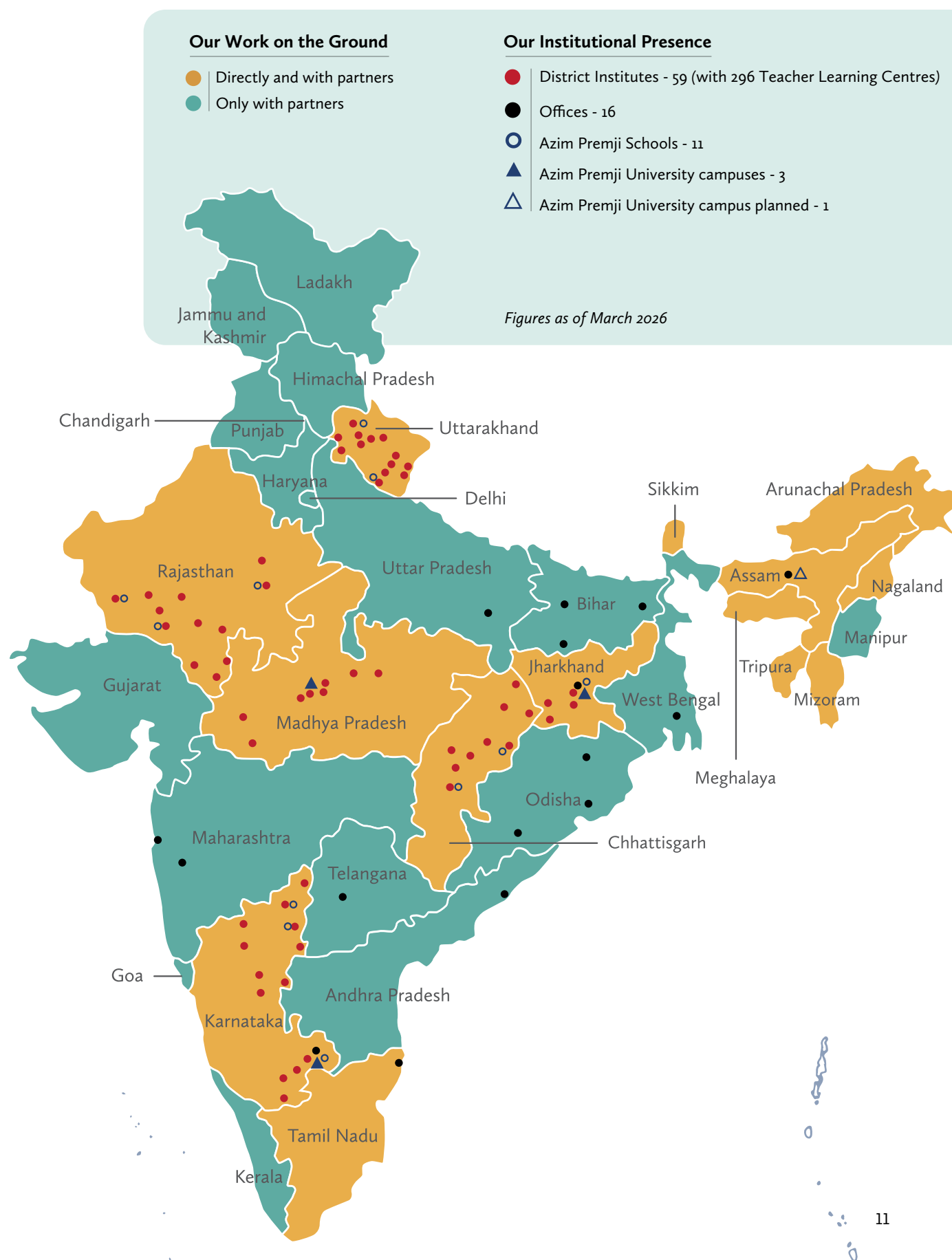
we directly work. Then, our reach will be 63 lakh students. If we could define it to be schools where teachers are trained through our systems and by master trainers trained by us, then our reach will be 3 crore students. If we look at our overall work, through our Field Institutes, our partners, and our University, we can justifiably claim an outreach of a few tens of crores of people. But such claims seem an overreach to us, so we avoid them as much as possible.

We have known, and with each passing year, our experience reinforces that what matters most in life for individuals and societies often cannot be measured. Dignity, empathy, care, courage, and resilience cannot be measured with any degree of validity or fidelity. This does not mean that there are things that cannot be measured; children learning basic language and math can be measured and must be, while remembering that it is almost impossible to measure how the same children are learning to care for each other or to be inclusive, cutting across caste, gender, and religion in their lives. So, we measure and yet never forget that what matters most cannot often be measured.



1b Foundation - Few Snapshots

Over 2,900 members and 1,640 partner organisations working across India



Our Direct Work

Education

Upper Primary School
Teachers: **1.05L**

Primary School
Teachers: **1.75L**



Teachers directly
engaged:
2.8L



Students
covered:

63L

Upper Primary School
Students: **31.4L**

Primary School
Students: **31.6L**

Anganwadi workers
directly engaged:

1L



**No. of
children** covered:

23L

Numbers indicate direct work with unique individual teachers

Health



People served by
direct community and
primary care centres:

1.1L

Creche



Number of
creches:

1,784

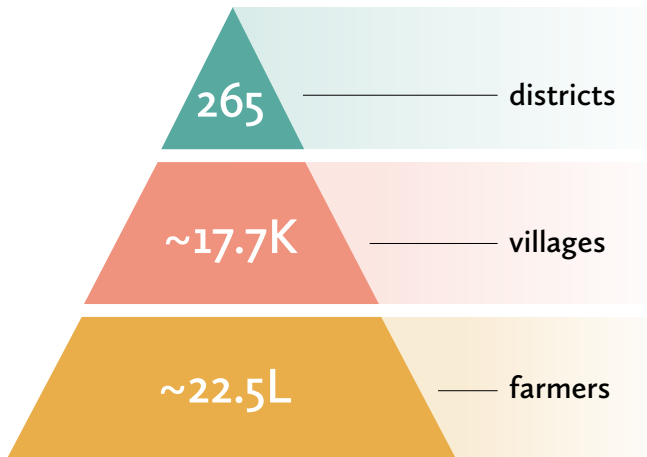
Number of
children in creches:

30,000

Work with
public health systems in:
12 Districts / **6** States

Partners in
Health:
94

Livelihoods



Scholarship



Number of girls awarded Scholarship

2024-25	2025-26
21,500	1,61,000

Each Scholarship is for INR 30,000 per annum

University

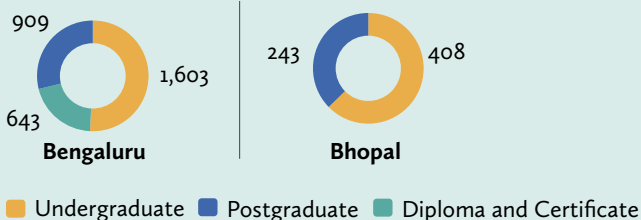
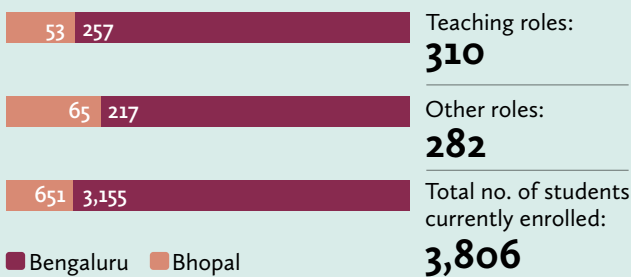


7 PG Programmes

10 Diploma/Certificate Programmes

13 UG Programmes

211 Professional Development Programmes



Campus size:

Bengaluru:
100 acres



Bhopal:
50 acres



Ranchi:
150 acres



5,314
students graduated



Over 14,700
participants in Professional
Development Programmes in FY 25-26

Grants



Disbursed in
FY 25-26:

₹ 1,664 cr

Partners funded
in FY 25-26:

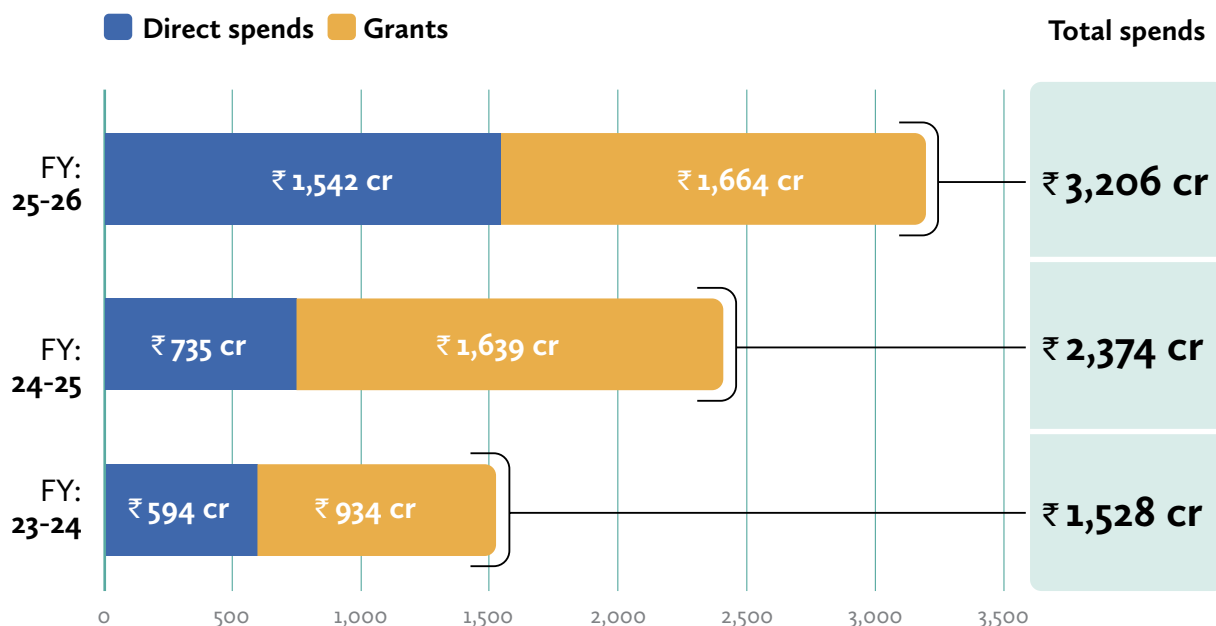
1,640

Value of grants
committed in FY 25-26:

₹ 2,163 cr

Our grants vary from ₹10 lakh to ₹5 crore. The average duration of a grant is 3 years

Summary of Total Spends



All figures as of 31 March of the Financial Year

Our spends are supported by the returns on the endowment funds. This endowment created by the irrevocable donations of Azim Premji was valued at approximately ₹3,00,000 crore on 30 June 2026

Our Organisation

Our organisation has three parts:

- **Operating units:** Which is how and where we do our work. Our three operating units are:
 - **Field Institutes:** Our institutional presence on the ground through which we do a range of our own work, from education to health, livelihoods and more; and also work with partners in these geographies.
 - **Philanthropy:** Where we provide financial grants to our partners (other NGOs) across the country to do their work.
 - **University:** Our University across multiple campuses is run with the purpose of contributing to the social sector.
- **Expertise verticals or groups:** The different areas of our work – education, health, livelihoods, and more – require relevant expertise.
 - Verticals or groups ensure the acquisition and development of such expertise and its integration in our work closest to where the work happens – in the Field Institutes, with partners, and in the University.
 - Based on our assessment of the growth of our work in any area, and the centrality of technical expertise (not only operational and social-human) for that area, we have a range of structures – education and health are verticals, livelihoods is in formation, and others, such as disability and gender issues, art and culture, are constituted as groups.
- **Enabling functions:** These are functions, such as Communications, Finance, Information Technology, Infrastructure Creation, Engineering, and People Function (Human Resources), which ‘enable’ and work with the entire organisation.
- In addition, we have an **Endowment Office** – a professional investment team – which manages our Endowment.

2a Field Institutes

What they are

The Field Institutes are the operational heart of Azim Premji Foundation. Currently, they consist of 59 District Institutes (DIs) spread across six states — Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Uttarakhand — with roughly 2,000 Foundation members working across them, living in around 300 towns within the districts where they operate. These are not project offices. They are permanent institutions embedded in local communities, with the physical presence, expertise, and relationships required to work on multiple fronts over long periods of time.

The Raigarh District Institute in Chhattisgarh offers a concrete picture of what a DI looks like. It has a 70-member team, 30 of whom are based in the district headquarters and 40 across six block headquarters — Dharamjaigarh, Lailunga, Tamnar, Pussore, Kharsia, and Gharghoda. The district campus in Raigarh town is three acres, housing a DI office, a guest house, and a demonstration school (Azim Premji School) that is entirely free — including uniforms, meals, and books. Each block headquarters has a Teacher Learning Centre with a library, a training

space for 20-30 people, and teaching and learning materials for schools and health workers.

What they do

The scope of work for a DI is wide. In Raigarh, this includes: strengthening the government schooling system through teacher capacity development and support; working with the public health system on capacity of people, programme management and process improvement at the block, PHC, and village levels; building a 100-bed specialty hospital in Dharamjaigarh where 75 percent of beds will be free and the remaining charged at government hospital rates; supporting improvement in livelihoods of small farmers and landless households in one block; running 300 creches through partners in villages, for children from seven months to three years of age, providing six-hour care and three nutritious meals, enabling mothers to work if they choose; encouraging youth to uphold the moral commitments of the Constitution through collective action and meaningful engagements in their communities; and enabling the effective delivery of the Foundation's large-scale Azim Premji Scholarship programme for girls, and financial





grants to other NGOs in the area. And all this work is growing rapidly each year.

It is with and because of this institutional network of DIs that in the last five years, the Foundation has been able to expand work beyond education into health, childcare and nutrition, livelihoods, and youth development. Most of this work is in collaboration with state governments, aimed at improving public systems. The DI team is therefore an intentional mix of people with expertise in education, health, and livelihoods, alongside those with programme management capability.

Why 'institutes' and not programmes

The Foundation began by implementing several programmes, each with multiple projects, to improve the quality of school education. By 2010, it became clear that working in such a 'project' mode was inadequate, and that it takes continuous effort over several decades for any real change to happen. This can only be achieved by establishing 'institutions' which are embedded

in the local context and can collaborate with local government structures and communities. Thus, the idea of setting up DIs in field locations came into being.

The rationale and purpose underlying this shift goes beyond operational logic. It is a view about what civil society is for and what it must do. A vibrant democracy requires civil society — but civil society doing real things in real places, not issuing reports, or advising from a distance. Projects and programmes can be wound up; institutions endure. They respond to the evolving needs of communities, not just to a predetermined scope of work. They are a potential bulwark against change unravelling, against the usual reality of hard-won gains of an intervention dissolving when the initiative moves on. The Foundation has learnt that real and effective change needs intense, deep, and continuing effort at the grassroots, and that meaningful change happens only through strong organisations on the ground.

The DIs started work in 2012, initially only in school education. The work in domains such as health, childcare, and livelihoods came later — made possible not by a new 'strategy'

but by the institutional engine that was built on the ground. The logic is direct: a deep institutional presence, once established, can take on more and be responsive to real needs and issues.

Design principles and character

Three design choices, unlike the conventional architecture of many organisations, define the Field Institutes.

The **first** is the deliberate inversion of where expertise and authority sit. In most organisations — and in most of the development sector — expertise is concentrated at the centre, whether a head office, a state capital, or a policy body, and field staff implement what the centre decides. The Foundation has consciously reversed this.

Its experts — in education, health, livelihoods, programme management — are located in the DIs, not in a central location. For example, when the Foundation needs to develop a secondary school mathematics curriculum, the team is drawn from the best mathematics educators across DIs. Expertise as close to the ground as possible matters to all work. And that expertise is best developed and most needed at the ground because that is where it deals with reality.

The **second** is a specific understanding of what kinds of expertise matter — and how distance distorts this. Policy perches, academic institutions, and any organisation that works from a distance tend to overvalue technical expertise and systematically undervalue two other kinds: operational expertise — the knowledge of how to get things done in real systems, with real



constraints, and real people; and social-human expertise — the relational knowledge that comes only from being present over time about human beings, cultures, and socio-political dynamics. Distance also generates a particular kind of intellectual error — confident diagnosis and confident prescription, neither grounded in the friction of actual reality. The ivory tower is all too real; often with well-intentioned but irrelevant analysis that is too distant from ground realities. The Foundation has learnt the hard way: that 'know-what' without 'know-how' is not enough, and that the practitioners — teachers, health workers, community members — must set the terms for what questions are worth asking and what approaches are worth trying.

The **third** is the recognition that doing things

in India's real communities, with their real constraints, histories, and social and political dynamics, is the hardest kind of work — and the most important. It is hard because it is long; the path ahead is never clear and rarely the same as before, because it never yields 'metrics' that would provide clarity and certainty, and because it demands the patience to let institutions develop their own culture, relationships, and credibility. It is important precisely because too many organisations avoid it. The Foundation also is deeply conscious of the role that vibrant civil society institutions play in a democratic society, and values the importance of trust, humility, and respect towards the people it works for and amongst.





Future

This ground-level institutional presence has made the Foundation a part of the local communities, enabling it to engage with issues and priorities in a relevant and specific manner. The 59 DIs now cover roughly 10 percent of India's population. The plan is not to expand geographic coverage much more, at least over the next 5 to 10 years, but to do more within the same districts — with the institutional engine that has been developed in the past 15 years. The depth of the institutional presence enables the breadth of work that is required.

Over the next 10 years, it is this ground-level institutional network of DIs that will expand our efforts to contribute: it is in this network of Field Institutes that we are building 55 more schools, 30 hospitals, and over 12,000 more creches.

What the Field Institutes represent, ultimately, is a deliberate choice arising from deep conviction: that the change India needs will only come from organisations willing to be present — physically, relationally, institutionally — in the places where that change has to happen.

Creches



With the strengthening of our institutional presence on the ground, we have been able to add to our work, responding to the needs of our communities. Creches are a response to the nutritional and health needs of children, with some other benefits like supporting mothers in childcare.

The first 1,000 days of a child's life, from conception to their second birthday, represent a critical window for securing optimal development. During this sensitive period, adequate nutrition and appropriate stimulation are essential for ensuring healthy growth. Recognising this, we have identified

spaces, providing them with three nutritious daily meals, including an egg every day, in addition identifying and supporting children with serious malnutrition through referrals to experts and by engaging with their caregivers. The creche provides a stimulating environment that is supportive of child development; and it also supports mothers in childcare, which potentially enables greater economic participation of women.

Where we are now

Currently (as of 31 March 2026), we operate 1,784 creches with over 30,000 children across states. We began the programme in Odisha,



creches as a key intervention to provide a safe and nurturing environment for children under the age of three. Creches create a safe, structured, and community-based space for children aged seven months to three years. Our creches are entirely free – there is no charge at all.

What we do

Our creche programme focuses on improving the nutritional status of vulnerable children in the age group of seven months to three years by ensuring access to safe

Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh and expanded subsequently to certain districts in Bihar, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. We run creches both in rural areas and cities.

While we will expand the number of creches in the states already mentioned, we will soon start creches in a few regions of Nagaland, Uttarakhand, and Uttar Pradesh along with the cities of Chennai, Delhi, and Mumbai. We run our creches in collaboration with civil society organisations; we currently have 50 such partners.

2b Philanthropy

We support grassroots civil society organisations (CSOs) across India with financial grants. The size of these organisations varies – from small to large. Thus, our grant sizes vary from a few lakh rupees to a few tens of crores; as do tenures from 1-10 years, with most being at 3-4 years.

The work of our partner organisations is across a wide range of areas, some of these have been grouped together under ‘themes.’ We are open to and continually adding new areas of work that make a real difference in the lives of vulnerable and disadvantaged people.

We have also worked with multiple partners and state governments to develop a few specific programmes; a few examples: for improvement in child nutrition in a few districts in Odisha; income improvement and reduction of dependence on synthetic chemical inputs through promoting natural farming for small and marginal farmers in Andhra Pradesh; justice for undertrials in several states; and access to welfare entitlements and basic services in settlements in Bengaluru.

Some of our ‘themes’:



Gender

Gender-based violence, issues around adolescent girls, gender, and sexual minorities.



Disability

Vulnerabilities of persons with physical or intellectual disabilities.



Urban Initiatives

Issues affecting vulnerable people in urban spaces, including homelessness, identity/age-based discrimination, violations of labour rights, inadequate access to welfare entitlements and public services, and absence of civic amenities. [see box on page 25]



Children

Working on vulnerable children’s needs and rights for survival, development, protection, and participation.



Health

Health of vulnerable communities: from community health to hospitals; from maternal-child health to mental health and palliative care



Welfare rights

Improving last-mile access to welfare services, schemes and entitlements.



Adivasi communities

Issues of Adivasi communities including forest rights.



Water

Access to clean, safe, and sufficient water for vulnerable communities.



Livelihoods

Income increases for small and marginal farmers, rural landless, and vulnerable urban communities.



Access to Justice

Assisting vulnerable populations access legal remedies available to them in the Constitution, including legal awareness, counselling and legal aid.



Constitutional Values & Youth

Fellowships and youth programmes to promote values enshrined in the Constitution.



We have teams in several states in addition to the states where we have Field Institutions – to be close to the ground where the work happens. The locations of our teams are such that we are able to focus significantly on Eastern Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Odisha, West Bengal, the eight states in the Northeast, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh; and the cities of Chennai, Delhi, Mumbai-Pune. In these geographies, we are also giving specific attention to early-stage organisations and to supporting the formation of new committed CSOs.

For example, in Odisha our teams are located in Rayagada, Bhubaneswar, and Keonjhar, and soon in Sambalpur as well. Our presence in these locations enables a wide range of work:

- Continued support across the state on all 'themes' to CSOs, particularly smaller organisations.
- Intensive work in 60-75 blocks on: nutrition and health including creches, livelihoods, and water, all of it with CSO partners.
- Currently, the health work is in 4 blocks, and we plan to expand it to 50 blocks in the next 5 years. In these blocks, we will also support 2 lakh vulnerable households for improving livelihoods.
- Today our creche initiative has 620 creches in Odisha, this will expand to 2,500 creches in the next 5 years.
- In Bhubaneswar and Cuttack, we have started intensive work on issues of informal settlements.
- We will also continue our collaboration with the state government on nutrition and education. Last year, we gave 5,000 Azim Premji Scholarships to girls in Odisha, which will expand substantially.





Urban Initiatives

Our urban population is growing rapidly driven by migration from rural India. A very large proportion are those who migrate permanently or seasonally in search of higher incomes. While they may or may not get better livelihoods in urban India, the lives of most such migrants are highly vulnerable in the cities. In their new homes, migrants rarely have the depth and strength of the social support that they left behind, their new livelihoods are usually precarious and not much better, while the civic infrastructure and public systems are grossly inadequate. As a result, the lives of those in poverty in cities is often more difficult than in the rural areas; the situation is not too different for those just out of poverty, and only marginally so for those who are often categorised as 'lower middle class'.

Till 2020, we did little work in urban areas apart from our long-standing work with the government schooling system. Our response to the COVID-19 driven humanitarian crisis revealed wrenchingly to us the precarity and vulnerabilities in cities. After the pandemic we systematically developed our work in urban areas, working with over 17 partners. Beginning with Bengaluru, today this 'urban work' is in many cities; for example, Bhubaneswar, Chennai, Delhi NCR, Guwahati, Jaipur, Mumbai-Pune, Raipur, and Varanasi.



'Urban work' has a wide range, in addition to education and health:

- **Public Services & Welfare:** Bridging the access gap to government schemes and legal entitlements.
- **Civic Infrastructure:** Securing reliable access to basic amenities such as clean drinking water, electricity, proper drainage, and systematic waste management.
- **Children:** Establishing creches to care for infants and toddlers, and creating safe, supportive spaces for older children to complement their schooling.
- **Youth Development:** Engaging adolescents and young adults through mentorship for collective social action and to enable pathways for dignified livelihoods.
- **Elderly Care:** Developing dedicated support networks for senior citizens, with a focus on those living alone without family care.
- **Workplace Safeguards:** Protecting informal workers against systemic exploitation like wage theft and enforcing occupational safety standards on site.
- **Emergency Relief:** Providing immediate aid, stable shelter solutions, and urgent emergency medical care for highly vulnerable individuals and families living directly on the streets.

2c University

Our University campuses are in Bengaluru and Bhopal; the third campus in Ranchi starts in August 2026.

The teaching and research programmes of the University are designed to contribute towards equity, justice, humaneness, and sustainability – the vision of the Foundation. We offer a range of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, as well as continuing education programmes for working professionals. We also have a range of publications and resources. Our programmes are in areas of social and human development, such as education, development, public health, livelihoods and employment creation, sustainability and climate change, technology for social change, and social sector leadership; as also in disciplines across the physical sciences, social sciences and humanities, such

as economics, biology, mathematics, physics, history, and psychology.

Our students are from across the country and reflect the socioeconomic diversity of India. Over 50 percent of our students are provided with financial assistance that includes 100 percent tuition and accommodation fee waivers. Our continuing education programmes have a diverse set of participants – from teachers and senior government officials to members of the civil society.

The University, the Field Institutes and some of our partners work in an integrated manner to provide students with the richest possible curriculum, including deep field immersion. This integrated work also enables the development of knowledge through grounded research and contributions to policy and its implementation.





Some of our teaching programmes:

Postgraduate Programmes: Education, Early Childhood Education, Development, Development Management, Applied Economics, Climate Change and Sustainability, Public Health, and others

Undergraduate Programmes: Teacher Education, Biology, Economics, Information Sciences, Environmental Sciences, Mathematics, History, Psychology, and others

Diploma Programmes for Working Professionals: Early Childhood Education, Educational Assessment, Teaching Children with Learning Disabilities, Development Leadership

Certificate Programmes for Working Professionals: Test Development, School Leadership, Research Design and Primary Data Collection, Quantitative Analysis and Data Visualisation, and others

Professional Development Programmes: English for Teachers, Textbook design and development, Pedagogy of school subjects, Financial management for civil society organisations, and others

Some of our research programmes:

- Field research on school education
- Field research on public health
- Urban sustainability
- Climate change effects on India
- Employment and livelihoods
- Welfare rights
- Functioning of public systems
- Economic growth, structural transformation and distribution
- Higher education in India

Some of our publications:

- *Learning Curve* (on education policy and practice)
- *i wonder...* (on Science for school education)
- *At Right Angles* (on Mathematics for school education)
- *Pathshala Bheetar aur Bahar* (on work being done on the ground in primary school education across the country)





03

Our Work

3a Education

School education is perhaps the most important organised social process for developing the individual and society. Our work in education aims to improve the quality of and equity in the public schooling system.

What we do

Through our Field Institutes – currently in 59 districts across six states – we work closely with state governments to strengthen public education systems at the ground level.

Human capacity: We support the development of teachers, school leaders,

We believe that a high quality, equitable public education system is key to a democratic society and realisation of our constitutional ideals.

and others in the education system because human capacity is central to improving education. Our engagements with them focus not only on subject-specific learning, but also on values of inclusion, equity, and justice. Capacity development takes place through workshops, peer learning groups, and



in-school support. On-the-ground presence enables our support to be continuous and need-based.

Structural issues: We work with state and national institutions on structural aspects like curriculum development, textbooks, examinations, teacher education, and policy formulation.

Research and publications: Our direct work on the ground informs research on practical educational challenges. We undertake and disseminate research to support improvements in classroom practice, teacher development, and education policy.

Schools: Azim Premji Schools are tightly integrated with our work with the public schooling system. They demonstrate a model of good and equitable education within contexts that are similar to the public schools we work with. The first-hand experience and learning through them – on effective pedagogical practices and school processes

“ Our work recognises that education is a deeply social-human process and therefore human beings involved in it – students, teachers, school leaders, and others – matter the most.

– informs and strengthens our broader work with the public education system. We currently run 10 schools across four states.

While our Field Institutes are present in a limited number of states, we work with school systems and government institutions across many more states to support improvements in public education. Our work with the public education system also informs the programmes we offer at our University that aims to build capacity of the education sector – this includes Master's in Education and Early Childhood Education; Diplomas in Inclusive Education, Learning Disabilities, Early Childhood Education, and Assessment; and Bachelor's in Science and Education.

Azim Premji Scholarship



The Azim Premji Scholarship supports girls in pursuing higher education by reducing the financial barriers that often stand in their way. The programme is part of our commitment to advancing equity and quality in education in India.

The Scholarship has simple eligibility criteria and an easy application process to ensure that as many girls as possible can access this support.

Any girl who has completed her schooling in a government school and secured admission to a recognised undergraduate degree or diploma programme in a bona fide institution is eligible to apply.

Selected students receive scholarship of INR 30,000 per year for the duration of their programme. For example, for a 3-year nursing programme, this amounts to INR 90,000; for a two-year technical diploma, it would be INR 60,000; and for a four-year undergraduate degree it would be

INR 1.2 lakh. This Scholarship can be used towards tuition fees or any out-of-pocket expenses incurred while pursuing their studies.

The Scholarship is being expanded across the country in phases. In 2025–26, the second year of implementation, it covered 18 states and one Union Territory: Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Puducherry, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Telangana, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, and Uttarakhand. In 2026–27, Andhra Pradesh and Delhi will be included.

So far, the Scholarship has supported **1.61 lakh** girls, and this number is expected to grow significantly in the coming years. Our intention is to award this Scholarship to **5 lakh** girls each year. Assuming an average duration of three years for a higher education programme, we expect **15 lakh** girls to be on the Scholarship in any given year.



3b Health

Health is central to the wellbeing of our people. We work to improve the health of vulnerable households across the country – from remote Adivasi communities to urban informal settlements.

What we do

Rural Health: In six states – Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Uttarakhand – our Field Institute teams support the public health system at the block level to strengthen delivery of last-mile services – ensuring primary care is resilient and accessible at the community level.

“Health is a public good, not a commercial enterprise. Affordable and high-quality healthcare must be available to all. Only an effective public-health system can make this happen, at-scale and in every corner of the country.”

“Every family has the right to good health. For this, comprehensive community-level health work – nutrition, vaccination, safe pregnancy, early screening of diseases – is the most important aspect; apart from primary and secondary care.”

Urban Health: Our cities survive on the informal labour of migrants from across the country who work as construction workers, security guards, domestic and gig workers. In Bengaluru, we offer community health and primary care services to one lakh people living in such informal settlements. This includes household-level screening and counselling; community-level centres; a network of primary centres with outpatient services, laboratories, and pharmacies; and referral support at select hospitals.





Network Hospitals: We are collaborating with public-spirited hospitals across the country to form a network of institutions committed to providing affordable quality care to vulnerable groups.

Grants: We give multi-year grants to grassroots not-for-profit organisations and public-spirited hospitals that work to improve the health of vulnerable communities. We currently have 94 active grant partners who work in areas such as maternal and childcare, mental health, non-communicable diseases, cancer, and palliative care.

Research: We do (and fund) research that addresses practical, on-the-ground public health challenges.

Fellowships: We offer young doctors the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in rural public-spirited hospitals through the **Health Equity Fellowship**.



We bring together professionals interested in matters of public health through The Health Worker.



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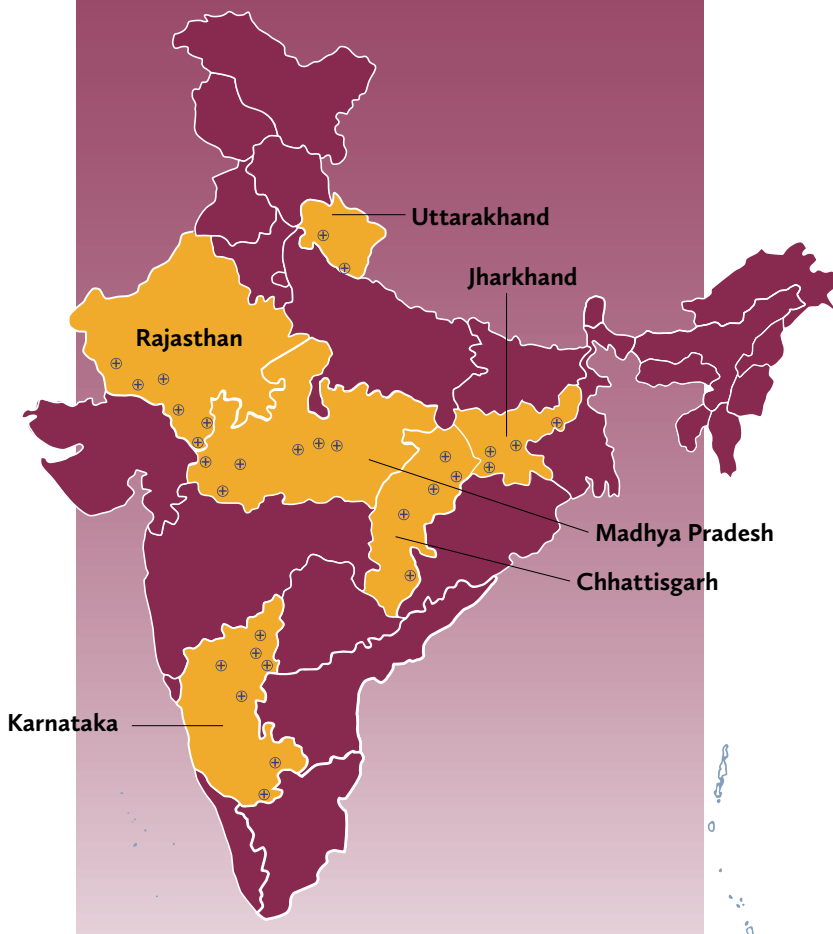
Azim Premji Hospitals



India has one of the most stratified healthcare systems in the world. The well-to-do access high-quality hospitals with world-class facilities, while the disadvantaged struggle for worse than half-decent care. Government hospitals have made significant strides, but district and sub-district hospitals continue to struggle with inadequate staff and resources.

Azim Premji Foundation is establishing a network of 30 hospitals across the country. These will be state-of-the-art hospitals offering high-quality services – and will be fully free for those from poor households.

Ranging from small 100-bed facilities in rural towns to 1,000-bed superspecialties in cities, these hospitals will also be centres for research and medical education. In total, we will commission 10,000-12,000 beds over the next 5-7 years.



30

Hospitals

12,000

bed capacity

Our initial hospitals

Ranchi: Our first hospital, to be commissioned in 2027, is phase one of what will eventually be a large medical college with a 1,300-bed hospital and a school of health sciences, offering Undergraduate, Postgraduate and Doctoral programmes in medicine, nursing, allied health, and public health.

Bengaluru: A 1,000-bed superspecialty with a focus on organ transplants – coming up in the heart of Bengaluru. This will be an institution focused on education in subspecialties, and research in areas such as transplant immunology, cell therapy, and translational research.

Dharamjaigarh: A 100-bed hospital in an Adivasi block of north Chhattisgarh. Focused on core secondary areas such as maternal and child health, general surgeries, orthopaedics, pediatrics, and gynaecology.



3c Livelihoods

We want to help make significant and sustained improvements to the household incomes of some of the most vulnerable communities in the country.

To do this, we work closely with these communities to explore ways of enabling economic development that spans sectors and is based on and aligned to local resources, strengths, and culture, while accessing external markets. This also involves improving incomes from existing livelihood options as well as creating new opportunities across levels.

Beginning in 2022, we have been directly working for improvement in livelihoods in Raigarh district of Chhattisgarh, and Simdega and Gumla districts of Jharkhand. For more than a decade, we have also been supporting partners working on livelihoods with financial grants. Today, we support over 550 NGOs across 23 states with grants for their work on various aspects and methods of livelihood improvement. Our University also has a range of programmes on livelihoods.

Through the decades of work of our partners and over the past few years our own, it is clear how deep systematic on-the-ground work

at the farm and household level can improve incomes across agroclimatic zones. We see such work as absolutely necessary to help improvements in the lives of some of the most vulnerable communities. Yet, such work is usually not enough to help families move out of poverty.

That requires production of things which can be sold in markets outside, bringing in much higher value. The starting point is finding a market niche, which can be served by products that are made by these communities. Critically, given the scale and stability requirements of such market demands, it requires collectivised community production; household-level work is insufficient. Quality production systems, logistics, marketing, and more need to be built. These are not new insights. It is just very challenging to make this happen.

We have begun an effort to make this happen in three districts of North-East Karnataka. The aim is to significantly increase incomes of over one lakh households in about 500 villages by building a strong production and business hub over a 7 to 10-year period. We are assessing for similar opportunities in the district of Barmer in Rajasthan, and in Raigarh, Gumla, and Simdega, too.

3d Other Areas

The Foundation works in diverse areas through partners – some of these areas that we call ‘themes’ are detailed in the section on Philanthropy. Our initiatives span from offering shelter to the homeless in Bengaluru to enhancing access to essential services for Adivasi communities in Andhra Pradesh and Jharkhand. We also work to strengthen civil society and its institutions in India through capacity building, enabling networks of advocacy, and supporting government initiatives. A few other specific and significant areas of our work are:

- Associated with our work in education, in the state of Karnataka, we support government schools to provide an egg (or banana) as a nutritional supplement to the mid-day meal on 4 days of the week for over 45 lakh children. Our commitment to this programme is about INR 1,500 crore over 3 years.
- We work with youth to help develop their social commitment and practise of constitutional values. Currently, we have over 4.5 lakh young people engaged with us and our partners in these programmes.
- Technology can be useful in the social sector, when used thoughtfully and carefully. We support development of human capacity for technology use and deployment in the social sector, as also the development of technology ‘apps’ for very specific needs and contexts of CSOs.
- Our work in Art and Culture takes the purpose of the Foundation to the people of India through stories. These stories are delivered through various channels and forms: radio and podcasts, art, music, and film.





Our Values

- ☒ *Contribute to social change*
- ☒ *Take ownership for significant lasting effect*
- ☒ *Act with unyielding integrity and courage*
- ☒ *Treat each person with respect*







azimpremjifoundation.org

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