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The STEP Bulletin

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From the Editor's Desk

As we step into a new year, we extend our warmest wishes to all our readers, partners, trainees, alumni, funders, and well-wishers. The beginning of 2026 offers us a moment to reflect on the journeys behind us and renew our commitment to building meaningful pathways for youth.

This edition of The STEP Bulletin captures stories of learning, collaboration, and impact—from alumni engagement and volunteer mentorship to green skilling initiatives and field-level reflections. Together with our partners and communities, we continue to work towards dignified livelihoods, inclusive growth, and a more sustainable future.

We thank you for being part of this journey and look forward to walking the next year together—with hope, purpose, and shared learning.

Wishing you a happy, healthy, and impactful New Year.

~Mona Agrawal



Connecting Leadership with Grassroots Entrepreneurs

Trustees of Aajeevika Bureau visited STEP Academy's entrepreneur trainees in the Devla area of Gogunda, interacting with trainees from commercial tailoring, motor winding, and two-wheeler mechanic trades.

They also participated in an alumni meet at the Gogunda centre with 40 trainees across multiple trades.

The visit included distribution of signboards and toolkits as post-training support, fostering stronger engagement and learning between trustees and trainees.



STEP Academy Receives District Recognition at Banswara Rozgar Mela

STEP Academy was honoured at the Banswara Rozgar Mela held in October for its outstanding work in skill training and placements in the district presented by the District Collector and District Employment Officer.

On the same occasion, six youth trained as PV Solar Electricians received appointment offer letters.

STEP Academy also set up an information stall, guiding around 150 youth on self-employment and formal skill training opportunities.





Opening Doors to Formal Employment for Urban Youth

STEP Academy, in partnership with JLL, launched its first Facility Management Executive Training batch at Sangam Vihar, Delhi, enrolling 15 urban youth, including 12 women.

The programme targets youth from economically vulnerable backgrounds and is aligned with growing demand in the facility management sector.

Trainees demonstrated strong career awareness and readiness, with expected entry-level placements, supporting stable and dignified employment outcomes.



VRIDDHI Program Assessment: Learning, Impact, and the Road Ahead

A comprehensive assessment of the VRIDDHI micro-loan program, jointly implemented by STEP and Shram Sarathi, highlights both strong impact and key learning areas. The report shows that most entrepreneurs used loans effectively to expand businesses, reporting increased income and financial security. At the same time, it identifies concentrated repayment challenges in specific geographies, underscoring the need for stronger follow-up and targeted support. The findings provide a clear roadmap for strengthening the program and shaping VRIDDHI 2.0

Alumni Voices and Funder Engagement Drive STEP Academy's Impact

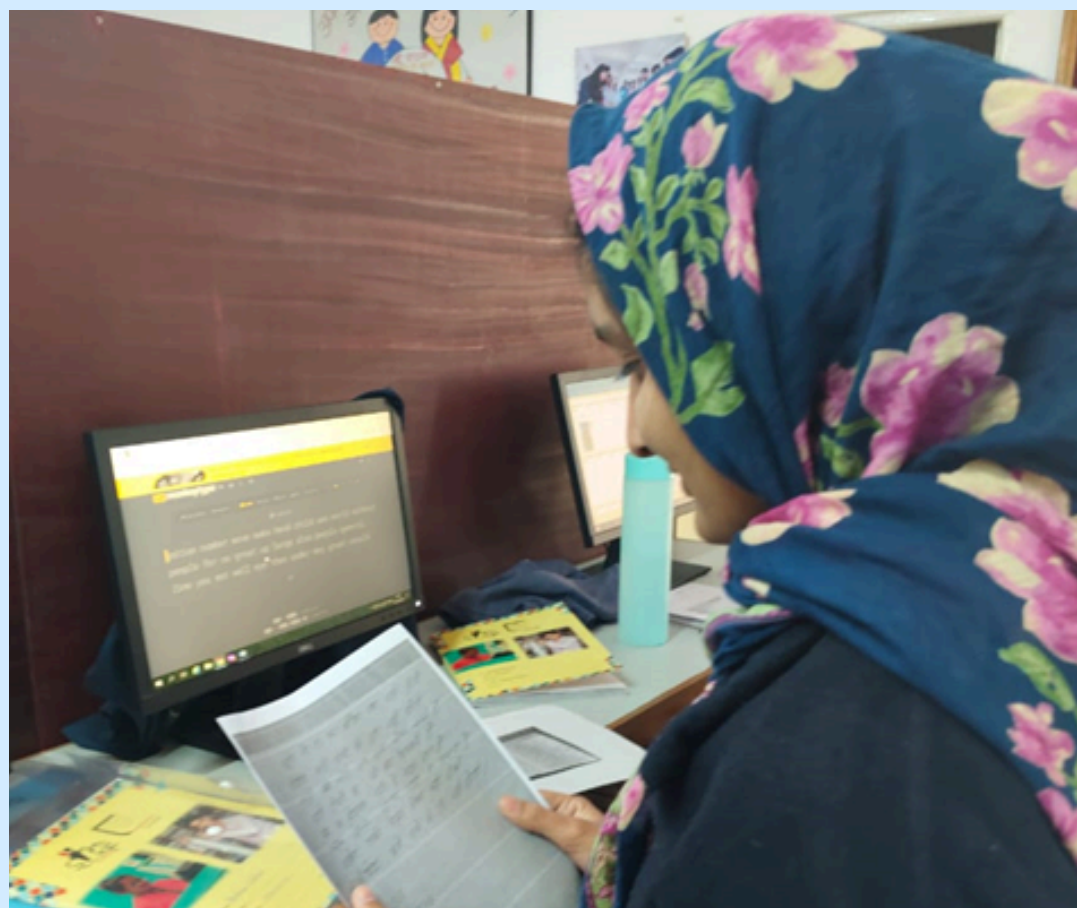
STEP Academy strengthened alumni engagement through Alumni Meets held across Banswara, Gogunda, Khedbrahma, Ahmedabad, and Desuri centres, with 192 alumni participating.

Alumni shared post-training achievements, employment journeys, and learnings.

Bajaj Finserv CSR team including Ms. Surbhi and Mr. Subham interacted with trainees, alumni, and trainers, highlighting the role of skill training, practical exposure, and On-the-Job Training (OJT) in building confidence, enabling organized employment, and supporting sustainable livelihoods and long-term career growth.



When Experience Meets Aspiration: JLL Volunteers Write to STEP Trainees



In November, Aajeevika Bureau facilitated a volunteer engagement with JLL, where graduate and management trainees wrote 25 personalised letters to Aajeevika trainees under the 'Letters for Tomorrow' initiative.

Drawing from their own early career experiences, volunteers shared practical advice and encouragement, offering reassurance and motivation to young trainees as they begin their professional journeys.

Green Skilling for a Sustainable Future

By Sanjay Chittora
Director (Skills & Entrepreneurship)

STEP Academy is empowering youth to build climate-smart careers through its Green Skilling initiatives focused on renewable energy and electric mobility.

Aligned with India's growing green economy, these programmes equip rural and semi-urban youth with industry-relevant skills in solar power and EV technologies.

With strong placement outcomes across Rajasthan and beyond, STEP Academy is enabling dignified livelihoods while contributing to clean energy adoption, reduced carbon emissions, and a more sustainable future.

Impact Story – Kishor Singh

Placed at OLA Electric Vehicles with a monthly salary of ₹21,000, Kishor has moved from rural livelihood challenges to stable employment in the EV sector, becoming a role model in his village and a contributor to clean mobility.

Read the full article: [Green Skilling for a Sustainable Future](#)



“Each trained green technician contributes not just to employment, but to cleaner energy, lower emissions, and a more sustainable society.”





Learning & Planning Together

The Hamkadam workshop was organised at STEP Academy with participation from multiple field teams. Centres shared key highlights, followed by discussions on program impact, challenges, and opportunities in skill training. The workshop featured learning sessions on the Iceberg Theory and youth psychology, and on growth mindset and future strategies, concluding with planning for the next six months.



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