BELGAUM DIOCESAN SOCIAL SERVICE SOCIETY (BDSSS)

Organisation Profile

Building dignity. Strengthening communities. Creating pathways to opportunity.



About BDSSS

Belgaum Diocesan Social Service Society (BDSSS) is a non-profit organisation. For more than 25 years, we have worked with marginalised and underserved communities in the districts of Belagavi, Dharwad, Haveri, Bagalkote and Gadag in Karnataka, and in Chandgad taluka of Maharashtra.

Our work is built around what communities tell us they need. We help children stay safe and learn. We help women earn, lead and save. We support farmers as the climate changes. We help families prepare for disasters and recover from them and build sustainable communities.

Our Mission

Formation of Just Human Society Based on Justice, Peace and Love.

Our Vision

Restoring Dignity of the Poor and the Marginalized Through Empowerment Process

How We Work

- **Rights first.** We help people understand their rights and entitlements and reach the services meant for them.
- **Working together.** We work alongside communities, local leaders, government departments and civil-society partners.
- **Responsible use of resources.** We focus on results, gender equality and care for the environment, and we use every rupee carefully.

Where We Work

Belagavi, Dharwad, Haveri, Bagalkote and Gadag districts (Karnataka) and Chandgad taluka (Maharashtra).

Our Programmes

Women's Empowerment



We build women's collectives and leadership through self-help groups, financial literacy, rights awareness, skills training, participation in local governance and support for income-generating activities.

Child Care, Protection and Education



We work to make communities safer for children through community-based child protection, awareness of child rights, educational support, supplementary learning and nutrition support.

Skills and Livelihoods



We connect young people and women who face barriers to opportunity with practical vocational skills, entrepreneurship support and routes to jobs or self-employment.

Sustainable Agriculture and Environment



We promote soil and water conservation, organic and climate-resilient farming, multi-cropping, watershed development and tree planting, and alternative livelihood such as Pollution Free Poultry Farming (PFPF).

Health, Hygiene and Nutrition



We promote preventive health, sanitation and access to health and nutrition information. This includes the Sparsha Cancer Campaign, which focuses on cancer awareness and screening.

Former Devadasi Women and Their Children



We supported dignity, inclusion, education, health, rights awareness, leadership and sustainable livelihoods for former Devadasi women and their families.

Integrated Rural Development



We bring villages together around their own priorities, improve access to basic infrastructure and services, and support collective action for inclusive village development.

Disaster Risk Reduction



We support preparedness, community awareness, relief and rehabilitation, so that families and communities recover better after disasters.

Featured Initiatives

STEPS 2.0 | Supported by Capco CSR



Supporting, Teaching, Education and Providing Supplies. STEPS 2.0 improved school learning environments and widened access to learning resources. Work in schools across Dharwad and Bagalkote has included school infrastructure and classroom support, digital learning tools and water

purifiers. The wider initiative has also provided sewing machines to support the skills and livelihoods of girls and women.

What it means for the community: better learning spaces, better access to learning resources and practical livelihood options.

Akshay Dhaaga | Supported by AkshayaShakti Welfare Association



Akshay Dhaaga gives rural women tailoring training so that they can start earning from home or in their village.

What it means for the community: skills that earn money, a route to home-based or local enterprise and greater financial independence for women.

Vocational Skills Partnership | FVTRS, Bengaluru



BDSSS has partnered with the Functional Vocational Training and Research Society (FVTRS) to help young people, including school dropouts and those from marginalised communities, get vocational training linked to jobs and self-employment. Training areas identified under this partnership are electronics, fashion, beauty, hospitality, soft skills and entrepreneurship.

What it means for the community: skills, confidence and fairer routes into work.

Saathi | Community-Based Child Protection, Dharwad



Saathi works in urban slums and villages in Dharwad district to strengthen community child-protection systems, involve children in decisions and improve prevention of and response to violations of child rights. It works with community groups, government departments and law-enforcement stakeholders, and pays attention to newer risks such as online safety and climate-related vulnerability.

Women Farmers and Enterprise



We promote climate-resilient farming and help women farmers add value to their produce, including training on organic products, packaging, labelling and marketing.

Ashraya



The Ashraya Project supports children living with HIV/AIDS in Khanapur, all from economically vulnerable backgrounds. Through regular follow-ups, CD4 monitoring and strong linkage with ART services, the project ensures stable healthcare and improved well-being.

Light to Life



The project supports 100 children through educational assistance, nutrition, healthcare and psychosocial support. It promotes child rights, leadership, sports and life skills to help children grow with greater confidence and opportunities.

Women in Micro Enterprises (WME)



The Women in Micro Enterprises (WME) project focuses on enhancing women's money earning capacity by promoting entrepreneurship and income-generating activities across the work areas of BDSSS.

Our Reach So Far

Cumulative figures.

What we have reached	Number
Villages	495
Gram Panchayats	198
Women	1,69,325
Children	1,05,725
Community members	6,19,725
Women supported to start income-generating activities	9,875

Other achievements

- Supported the construction of 254 houses and the repair of 143 homes after disasters.
- Helped improve 21 government schools, 13 Anganwadis and 9 Primary Health Centres.
- Supported 91 livelihoods post disaster in Chikodi and Khanapur.
- Provided COVID-19 relief to 33,734 people.

Our Partners

We believe lasting change comes from working together. We work with government departments, institutional donors, corporate supporters, community organisations, training partners and volunteers.

Institutional and development partners: Kindernothilfe (Germany), Misereor (Germany), Kindermissionswerk (Germany), Caritas India, Karnataka Regional Organisation for Social Service (KROSS), Manos Unidas, Andheri Hilfe, HelpAge India, Save Indian Farmers (USA), FVTRS, Deccan Herald and Prajavani Trust.

Corporate supporters: Capco CSR, United Way of Bengaluru, United Way of Mumbai, Siemens, Collins Aerospace, Orione Hydraulics.

Governance and Accountability

Item	Details
Legal status and registration number	Society, Government of Karnataka Society Registration Act, 1960 (No./DR/SOR/177/97-98 dated 14th November 1997
Year of registration	1997
Income tax registrations (12A / 80G)	F.No. 87/CIT-BGM/2001-02 dated 26th November 2001 156/80G (Ren)/CIT-BGM/2010-11 dated 14th September 2010

Item	Details
FCRA registration	094440071
CSR-1 registration	CSR00006275
Governing Body	9 Members
Latest audited accounts and auditor	2025-26
Child safeguarding and other key policies	Yes

Partner With Us

Partner with BDSSS to strengthen community-led development, open up opportunities for women and children, support sustainable livelihoods and build communities that can withstand shocks.

Fr. Peter Asheervadappa
Director, Belgaum Diocesan Social Service Society (BDSSS)
Email: bdsssd@gmail.com
Phone: 0836-2777774 | +91-9611310262
Website: www.bdsssociety.in