NEWS UPDATE

AUGUST 2025

"Another way to bring positivity into your life is to become a giver."

– RILEY STEVENS

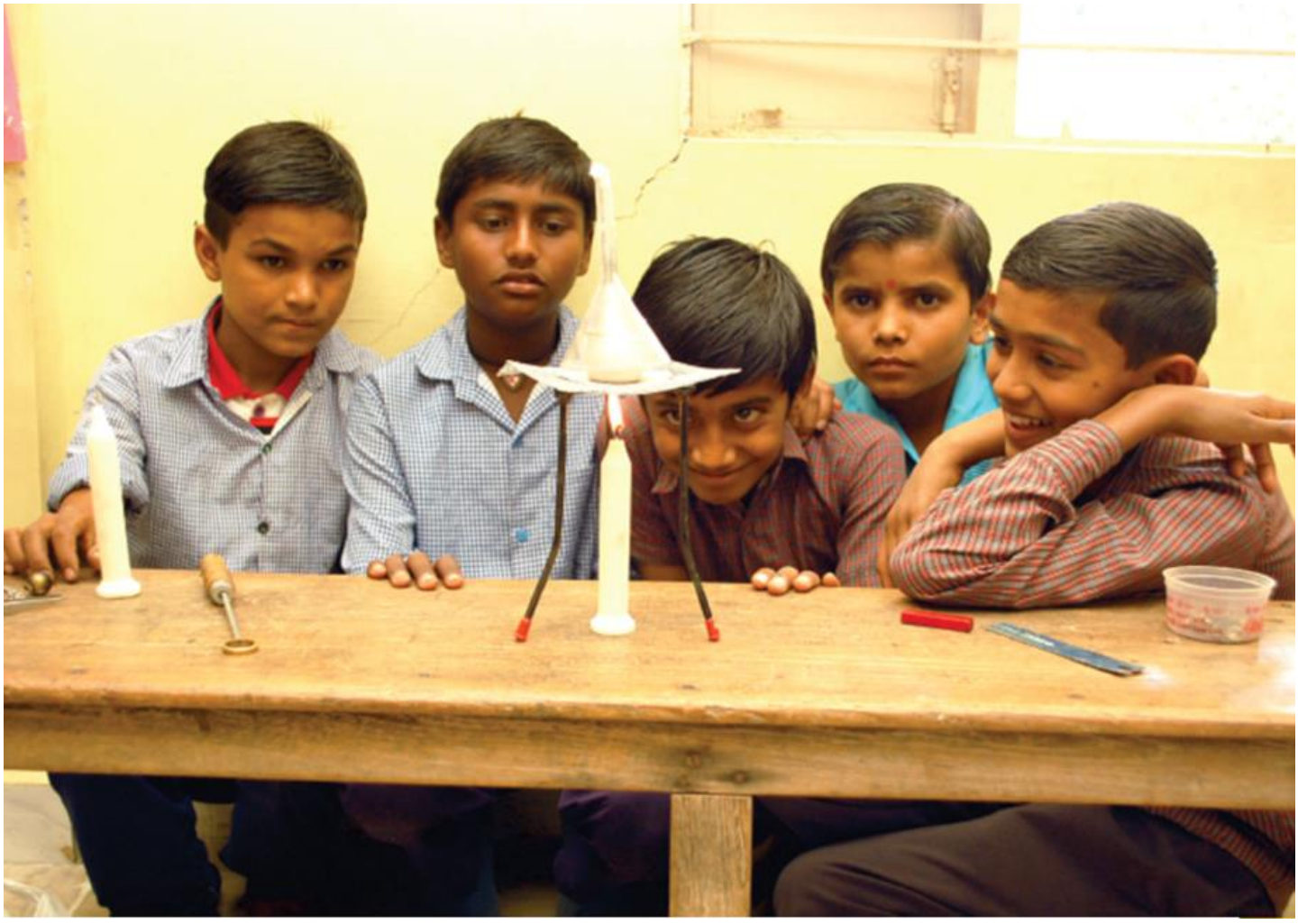


Table of Contents:

03 **Introduction**
History of M S International, Inc.
About Sarva Mangal Family Trust
Monthly Highlights

04 **Event**
101st Women's Empowerment Program
Groundbreaking Ceremony Alpha Palliative Care
CSR Employee Engagement Activity

09 **NGO in Focus for August'25**
Project Life

16 **Success Story**
Project Life

INTRODUCTION

HISTORY OF M S INTERNATIONAL, INC.

Manu and Rika Shah founded MSI in 1975, in the basement of their home in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. MSI is now the largest importer and distributor in the world of Premium Surfaces including granite, marble, porcelain and ceramic tiles, slate, travertine, limestone and other natural stone products from 37 countries. Most notably, MSI provided the granite for the Vietnam Memorial in DC.

Manu and Rika Shah established Sarva Mangal Family Trust (Sarva Mangal means 'let all be happy' in Sanskrit) over 20 years ago with compassion as their driving force for philanthropy. Manu's vision for SMFT is to act as a catalyst, challenge status quo, nurture passionate change-makers and support leapfrogging ideas that are scalable and sustainable. Today, all members from the Shah family are involved in social impact initiatives that are undertaken by SMFT. Manu supports VOSAP – Voice of Specially Abled People, which has created over 10,000 change makers and rated over 18,000 buildings rated for accessibility. He also supports Lend a hand India, which provides digital vocational training to over 300,000 students in 20,000 schools.

In 2007, Mr. Manu Shah was named Ernst & Young's national Entrepreneur of the Year in the distribution, manufacturing, and security category.

ABOUT SARVA MANGAL FAMILY TRUST

Established in 1994 by the Founders of M S International, Inc. The mission of the Sarva Mangal Family Trust is to improve and strengthen the health, education and they illness of communities and help them prepare for global jobs of the 21st century. Sarva Mangal is a Sanskrit word which means Goodness to All.

To advance this mission, the Sarva Mangal Family Trust has donated to and is continuing to work with various organizations and programs in health promotion and prevention, assisting victims of domestic violence, empowering seniors, entrepreneurship, technological literacy, community activism, and children's education.

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS



SMFT-PROJECT LIFE PARTNERSHIP CONTINUES TO STAND WITH WOMEN
Project Life, in collaboration with Life Global USA and Arham Yuva Seva Group, marked a significant milestone with the inauguration of its 101st Women's Empowerment Training Program and the distribution of equipment and kits, proudly sponsored by SMFT. The event was held at Prabhu Nem Darbar, Gujarat, in the divine presence of Rashtrasant Param Gurudev Shree Namramuni Maharaj, and was virtually graced by Mrs. Rika and Mr. Manu Shah. The occasion was further honored by the presence of Mr. Nirav Doshi, Vice President of MSI Services, as the Chief Guest. **(Continued on page 4)**

EVENT – 101st WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

August 2025 – Project 'Life', India, in collaboration with Life Global USA and Arham Yuva Seva Group, marked a significant milestone with the inauguration of its 101st Women Empowerment Training Program and distribution of equipment and livelihood kits to 450 underprivileged women in Junagadh, Gujarat. The event was graced by the divine presence of Rashtrasant Param Gurudev Shree Namramuni Maharaj Saheb and virtually attended by global philanthropists, including prime sponsors Mrs. Rika and Mr. Manu Shah, founders of MS International and Sarva Mangal Family Trust.

Since 2008, the program has empowered over 12,750 women across Gujarat, providing them with economic independence through skills and resources such as sewing machines, embroidery kits, and beauty kits. The 101st milestone reflects the organization's sustained commitment to rural women's empowerment.

The ceremony featured addresses from dignitaries including Mr. Neerav Doshi (MSI, Bengaluru), Mr. Tejas Parmar (Municipal Commissioner, Junagadh), and Mr. Subodh Odedara (Superintendent of Police, Junagadh). Rushikesh Pandya, COO of Project 'Life', highlighted the organization's 47-year humanitarian journey, while a live testimony from a local woman showcased the life-changing impact of the initiative. Seven women were honored with awards for their inspirational transformations.

Rashtrasant Param Gurudev Shree Namramuni Maharaj Saheb encouraged the practice of *Seva* and *Daatavyata*—selfless service and giving—as pathways to societal transformation. The Shah family announced a new Women Empowerment Centre in Junagadh to extend future support.

Over its journey, Project 'Life' has impacted 9.8 million lives through healthcare, education, empowerment, and relief initiatives.



Rashtrasant Param Gurudev Shree Namramuni Maharaj Addressing Crowd



Rika and Manu Shah Extending their Wishes



Rushikesh Pandya, CDO & COO, Project Life Taking about Importance of Partnership



Nirav Doshi, Vice President of MSI Services Distributing Employment Kits

EVENT – GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY ALPHA PALLIATIVE CARE

August 2025 – On August 17th, the SMFT team proudly participated in the groundbreaking ceremony of Alpha Palliative Care's new Kuttanad Link Centre, where SMFT serves as the prime sponsor. Kuttanad's low-lying geography had frequently flooded the previous centre, disrupting outreach efforts and limiting access to free physiotherapy services for underprivileged patients supported by SMFT-funded Alpha Palliative Care.

The new 2,300 sq. ft. facility is designed to significantly enhance care delivery. It will include a doctor's consulting room, an examination and emergency care area, a nurses' station, and a secure storeroom for medicines and mobility aids provided free of charge. A dedicated seminar and training hall will host awareness sessions for the public, self-help groups, MNREGA and ASHA workers, as well as support groups for cancer patients. Volunteer training for students under SAPC (Students Association of Palliative Care) will also be conducted here.

A state-of-the-art, well-ventilated physiotherapy centre—spanning at least 1,500 sq. ft.—will offer free therapy for patients recovering from strokes and neurological conditions such as cerebral palsy and muscular dystrophy. To improve accessibility, the centre will provide transport for patients unable to travel on their own, ensuring continued care without financial burden.

Additional facilities include a day care centre for elderly individuals and dementia patients needing daytime supervision, as well as rehabilitation and livelihood programs to support stroke survivors and sustain the centre long term.

This initiative underscores SMFT's commitment to improving healthcare access and quality of life for Kuttanad's most vulnerable communities.



Alpha Palliative Care and SMFT Team at Groundbreaking Event



Brick Laying Ceremony



SMFT Team lighting the Diya with Padma Shri Dr. G Shankar



Alpha Palliative Care Team with SMFT Team Post Event

EVENT – CSR EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITY

August 2025 – On August 21, employees from MSIS participated in a meaningful CSR engagement by visiting the SMFT-funded Akshaya Patra Kitchen in Chikkajala, Bangalore. The visit offered firsthand insight into the large-scale operations that provide nutritious midday meals to thousands of children daily across three states through the SMFT–Akshaya Patra partnership.

The day began with a guided tour of the state-of-the-art kitchen. Employees observed how rice and lentils are cooked in bulk using steam technology to ensure efficiency, hygiene, and quality. The team also explored the milk processing unit, which prepares hundreds of gallons of fortified milk every day to provide essential vitamins and minerals to schoolchildren.

A lively Q&A session followed, where MSIS employees learned about the operational challenges and innovative strategies involved in delivering safe and nutritious meals at such scale. They were inspired by the commitment to overcoming logistical hurdles to ensure no child goes hungry.

In the kitchen, the volunteers actively contributed by washing vegetables in bulk using chlorine-treated water and carefully de-stemming green chilies and curry leaves—key steps in preparing wholesome meals. While safety guidelines prevented them from chopping or cooking, their enthusiastic participation demonstrated solidarity with the kitchen staff.

The highlight of the day was visiting two local government schools to distribute meals and interact with the children. Sharing smiles and stories with the students reminded everyone that small acts of service can create lasting impact.

This initiative strengthened MSIS's commitment to community welfare and showcased how collective effort can transform lives.



MSIS Team in Cooking Area of Akshaya Patra



MSIS Team Washing Vegetables



Employees De-stemming Chilies and Curry Leaves



Midday Meal Distribution

EVENT – CSR EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITY





EVENT – CSR EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITY

"It was really intriguing to see the mass cooking process at Akshaya Patra. I really liked serving food to the school children and helping out the workers in Kitchen."

-Ruthwik R, Associate, Accounting Team

"I felt immense joy and deep satisfaction, along with happiness and peace, seeing all the kids. Feeling grateful and honored to have been part of this wonderful even"

-Ramya G, Coordinator, Product - International

"For me, I really liked work processes involved. I really appreciate how from step 1 till the very end everything was done in a neat and tidy manner."

-Mohammed Aamer Zain K, HR Specialist: Human Resources Team

"It was wonderful to see from up-close exactly how much effort goes into preparing meals for children at a scale and how every plate of food brings a smile to their faces."

-Srishti Gupta, Summer Intern: Learning and Development Team

"It was a wonderful opportunity for us to witness the dedication and effort that goes into philanthropy. I truly enjoyed the experience of learning and contributing as a team. Looking forward to participating in more such events. It was wonderfully organized."

-Asvini J, Instructional Designer: Learning and Development Team

NGO IN FOCUS AUGUST'25 – PROJECT LIFE

About the Nonprofit

Established in 1978, Project 'Life' is a global humanitarian initiative impacting 9.8 million lives through health, education, environment, and empowerment. Supported by partners across the UK, USA, Australia, and beyond, it connects communities and NRIs to create lasting social change.



Its key programs include Life Blood Centre, which has distributed over 735,000 blood units, and Life Green Field Centre, which has replanted 276,000+ trees. The Life Thalassaemia Prevention Centre has screened 720,000+ individuals, preventing 124 Thalassaemia Major births. The Life Education Centre has rebuilt 113 schools, enhancing primary education in rural areas.

Additionally, the Women Empowerment Program has trained 12,750 women, benefiting 51,000 families. Life Health & Wellness Centre, NRG (Non-Residential Gujarati) Centre, and LIHS (Life Institute of Health Science) further advance wellness, diaspora engagement, and medical education.



About the SMFT Funded Project

- **Women Empowerment Program** – Aims to empower underprivileged women through sustainable livelihoods. Support & sponsor livelihood training for the less privileged women of rural & urban slum areas.

- **Infrastructure Development of Primary Schools** - To make the learning experience of children in primary level better by renovating the dilapidated schools.

- **Life Blood Centre** – To increase access to blood units at free of cost/at concessional rates to the poor and needy patients.



- **Vertical Gardening Pilot Project (Life Greenfield Project)** - To boost urban biodiversity and greenery in the schools in MORBI, to spread awareness amongst the people on the advantages of vertical gardening.



NGO IN FOCUS FOR AUGUST'25 – PROJECT LIFE (Cont.)

Project Location/Geography

- Women Empowerment Centre – Junagadh, Gujarat
- Infrastructure Development of Primary Schools - Morbi District, Gujarat
- Life Blood Centre – Rajkot and Saurashtra, Gujarat
- Vertical Farming Pilot Project (Life Greenfield Project) – Morbi and Rajkot, Gujarat



Recent Project Updates

Significant progress is being made on several impactful projects. In Junagadh, efforts are underway to secure land for a new Women Empowerment Centre, aimed at creating opportunities for skill development and self-reliance.

In Morbi, the construction of Shah Happiness Foundation Primary Schools at Ghuntu and Nichi Mandal is nearing completion, continuing an initiative that has already benefited 1,200 students over the past two years by improving access to quality education.

Meanwhile, Rajkot and Saurashtra's Life Blood Centre is upgrading its facilities with advanced equipment, and a Vertical Gardening Pilot Project in Jabalpur village is promoting nutrition, environmental awareness, and hands-on learning.



Overall Impact

- Women Empowerment in Junagadh: In 2025, 300 women benefited from the Women Empowerment Centre, bringing the total to 600. Livelihood interventions, vocational training, and financial literacy programs have fostered economic independence, improved family well-being, and strengthened community participation.

- Primary Education Infrastructure: Modern primary schools built in Vaghpar, Gundakhada, Ghuntu, and Nichi Mandal, Gujarat, have provided safe classrooms, smart tools, and enriched resources, benefiting 1,800 children with improved access to quality education and supportive learning environments.

- Life Blood Centre Services: Life Blood Centre supported 27,500 individuals by delivering safe, high-quality blood and components. Advanced testing, storage, and distribution systems ensure reliable transfusions, reinforcing its leadership in critical care across Rajkot and Saurashtra.

- Vertical Gardening Initiative (Life greenfield Project): A vertical gardening project in Jabalpur village, Morbi, enhances nutrition, environmental awareness, and experiential learning. By engaging students in growing vegetables, it promotes sustainable practices, ecological responsibility, and hands-on education for long-term community well-being.



Highlight of the Month

Project 'Life', India, with Life Global USA and Arham Yuva Seva Group, celebrated its 101st Women Empowerment Training Program in Junagadh, Gujarat, distributing livelihood kits to 450 women. Since 2008, over 12,750 women have gained economic independence. Dignitaries attended, awards were given, and a new empowerment centre was announced.



Awards

Project Life has been honored with the following awards:

- ISBT Award for Developing Countries, 2020
- Award for Best Management by Rajkot Management Association, 2011
- Sherdil Gujarat Award, 2011
- State Award for Best NGO: Women Development Award, 2010 - 2011
- Gratification Acknowledgement Award for Best Performance in the Field of Blood Collection by Red Cross Society, Ahmedabad



In the News

2 | News India Times (August 16, 2025 - August 22, 2025) August 22, 2025

Joy of Sharing

A Century and Beyond: 101st Women's Empowerment Program Celebrated by Project 'Life', India and Life Global USA



"I take this opportunity to congratulate Project 'Life' on the inauguration of its 101st Women Empowerment Training Programme, held with the divine blessings of Param Gurudev Shri Namramuni Maharaj Saheb, a remarkable milestone in the journey of uplifting lives and shaping brighter futures. What began as a humble initiative in Gujarat has grown into a global movement of empowerment, fuelled by the unwavering support of Indian communities in the USA, CANADA, UK, Australia, UAE, OMAN, and around the world."



101st Women Empowerment Training Programme and Kit Distribution with the Divine Blessings of Rashtrasant Param Gurudev Shree Namramuni Maharaj Saheb



A remarkable milestone VIRTUALLY graced by the dignitaries from USA, UK & across the world

Project 'Life', India, in collaboration with **Life Global USA** and **Arham Yuva Seva Group** marked a major milestone with the inauguration of its 101st Women Empowerment Training Program and distribution of Equipment/kits to 450 underprivileged women in Prabhu Nem Darbar, Junagadh, Gujarat. The event was blessed by the divine presence of **Rashtrasant Param Gurudev Shree Namramuni Maharaj Saheb and virtually graced by Prime Sponsors Mrs. Rika & Mr. Manu Shah, founders of MS International and Sarva Mangal Family Trust, California USA.**

Since 2008, the Life Women Empowerment Program has transformed the lives of over 12,750 women across Gujarat State of Western India equipping them with livelihood skills and kits for economic independence - such as sewing & embroidery machines, and beauty kits. The 101st training program represents not just a number but a deep, sustained commitment to empowering India's rural women. For more information click weblink https://youtu.be/JjMDlyGlB-Y

The virtual presence of global supporters - including Mr. Amar Shah (Founder of Life Global, USA), Mr. Mayur & Mrs. Bina Sanghvi (Chair, Life Global UK), Mrs. Ila & Mr. Dipak Parekh, Texas (Donor, Project 'Life'), Mr. Dilip Punatar (Life Global Texas), Mr. Ramesh Shah, California (Donor, Project 'Life'), and Mr. Jasvant Doshi (President of Navnat Vanik Association of the UK) and many more brought global unity to this regional initiative. Dignitaries from India included Mr. Neerav Doshi, Vice President of MSI, Bengaluru, who represented Mrs. Rika & Mr. Manu Shah, Mr. Tejas Parmar (Municipal Commissioner, Junagadh), and Mr. Subodh Odedara (Superintendent of Police, Junagadh) and other prominent dignitaries graced the ceremony.

Rushikesh Pandya, COO of Project 'Life', took the audience through the **spiritual biography of Param Gurudev Shree,** the **extraordinary philanthropic association of Rika & Manu Shah, Founders of SMFT and MSI, California with Project 'Life', video of 47-year's humanitarian journey of Project 'Life'.** A touching highlight was the live interaction with an underprivileged woman from Junagadh, whose journey from hardship to empowerment and self-reliance stood as a powerful testament to life-changing impact. In recognition of such inspiring transformations, seven remarkable women were honored with awards and certificate of appreciation.

Meetal Koticha Shah, Joint Executive Trustee & CEO, Project 'Life' extended a warm welcome to all attendees, in person & virtually, setting the stage for an inspiring and memorable ceremony. **Mr. Kirit Vassa, Joint Executive Trustee, Project 'Life'** conveyed profound gratitude to the philanthropists for their continued support.

Rashtrasant Param Gurudev Shree Namramuni Maharaj Saheb inspired attendees in his spiritual address, to practice *Seva* and *Daatavyata* - selfless service and giving - as pathways to lasting societal transformation. Gurudev Namramuni Maharaj Saheb, the youngest saint of the *Gondal Gaccha* and disciple of ***Tapsamrat Param Pujya Ratilalaji Maharajsaheb***, is a revered spiritual leader and humanitarian who inspires youth worldwide. Blending scriptural wisdom with modern outreach, he leads transformative initiatives like the **Arham Yuva Seva Group**, guiding people toward compassion, service, and inner enrichment, earning the title *Yuva Hriday Samrat,* the King of Young Hearts.

Mrs. Rika & Mr. Manu Shah shared their vision for the newly funded Women Empowerment Centre in Junagadh, which will serve thousands more in the years to come, reaffirming their family's long-standing commitment to India's rural development. With the steadfast support of like-minded philanthropists and global charity organizations, **the 101st Women Empowerment Training Program** shines as a testament to collective goodwill and action. In its 47-year journey, Rajkot-based Project 'Life' has touched over 9.8 million lives through healthcare, education, empowerment, and relief for India's underserved. From Blood to Greenfield, from Thalassaemia Prevention to Primary

Project Life featured in News India Times for its Women Empowerment Program, August 2025

Check all Classified Ads Here

NEWS INDIA TIMES

Post Classified Ads Here

HOME COMMUNITY IMMIGRATION CRIME OPINION INDIA FILM U.S. NEWS BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY SPORTS 360 CLASSIFIEDS

Home › 360 › Project 'Life' of Rajkot hosts interactive session on women's empowerment

360 BREAKING NEWS COMMUNITY FEATURED PHILANTHROPY TOP STORIES U.S.-India

Project 'Life' of Rajkot hosts interactive session on women's empowerment

By **a Staff Writer** - February 28, 2025 0

- ADVERTISEMENT -





Members of Project 'Life' Interactive Session on women's empowerment discussion panel Jan. 31, 2025, in Rajkot, Gujarat. PHOTO: Courtesy Project 'Life'









Project Life featured in News India Times for its Women Empowerment Awareness Session, February 2025

SUCCESS STORY – PROJECT LIFE



Name: Aarti
Location: Vaghpar
Project: Infrastructure Development of Primary Schools

Aarti, born into a family struggling with poverty, knew the harsh realities of limited opportunities. Her father worked tirelessly as a farm laborer to support Aarti and her two siblings, often leaving little room for dreams beyond survival. Education seemed a distant aspiration, especially with the family's dilapidated local school, where resources were scarce and learning was a daily challenge.

Amidst this adversity, a ray of hope appeared in the form of Mrs. Rika and Mr. Manu Shah. Through their generous support of Project 'Life', a new school building—the Sarva Mangal Family Trust Primary School—was established at Vaghpar, Gujarat. This transformative initiative went beyond bricks and mortar; it brought modern classrooms, smart learning tools, scholarships, and an environment that nurtures curiosity and holistic growth.

For Aarti, this was a turning point. Inspired by the opportunities around her, she resolved to pursue higher education and dreams of securing a government job, not just to uplift her family, but to empower others facing similar hardships. She says,

"I am truly ever grateful to Mrs. Rika & Mr. Manu Shah, Mrs. Sona & Mr. Rajesh Shah, Mrs. Mona & Mr. Rupesh Shah, Sarva Mangal Family Trust, Orange, California, USA, and Project 'Life' Rajkot for giving me the opportunity to build a career and transform my life. Many other less privileged, bright, and needy students are looking for opportunities to build their educational careers."

Aarti's story echoes the aspirations of countless children who have benefited from Project 'Life', which has established 125 schools, opening doors to education and transforming lives across Gujarat. Through the dedication of generous philanthropists and the power of education, children like Aarti are not just dreaming—they are building futures.

Her gratitude echoed a universal truth: when we care for the most vulnerable among us, we uplift our entire community. Sight & Sketches didn't just provide a pair of eyeglasses, they offered hope, dignity, and a second chance at a brighter future.

SUCCESS STORY – PROJECT LIFE









Name: Rita
Location: Zanzarda
Project: Women Empowerment Project

Rita, a resident of Zanzarda village in Junagadh, Gujarat, faced the daily challenges of life in an under-resourced community. Living with her husband, a vehicle driver, and their two young children, she struggled to meet even basic household needs. The weight of ensuring her children's education and creating a stable, dignified future for her family often seemed overwhelming.

Yet, rather than surrendering to circumstance, Rita chose to take control of her destiny. She enrolled in the Beautician Practice Trade program at the Life Women Empowerment Centre, Junagadh, determined to gain the skills needed to build a better life. There, she not only acquired professional expertise but also rediscovered her confidence and hope. Upon completing her training, she received a beautician kit free of cost—an act of generosity that symbolized a fresh start.

With unwavering resolve, Rita launched her own venture, "Tanishi Beauty Parlour." What began as a modest initiative soon flourished into a sustainable livelihood, transforming her family's fortunes. From having no income, she now earns ₹2,40,000 per year, enabling her to provide for her children's education, meet household needs, and live with dignity and pride.

Rita's inspiring journey was formally recognized when she was honored by the Women & Child Welfare Department, Government of Gujarat, at Junagadh.

Her transformation was made possible by the generous support of Mrs. Rika and Mr. Manu Shah and the Sarva Mangal Family Trust, whose commitment to women's empowerment has helped countless individuals like Rita rise above adversity. Today, she stands as a beacon of hope, showing that with opportunity, determination, and support, even the most daunting challenges can be turned into stories of success.

Follow us on

Know more at

www.sarvamangalfamilytrust.org/

www.msisurfaces.com/corporate/charitable-trust.aspx

