

HAYDEN HALL INSTITUTE

2024

Annual Report



Introduction

As in previous years, 2024 at Hayden Hall, remained steadfast in its mission to empower individuals and communities through a comprehensive range of programs, services, and outreach efforts. Building on our longstanding commitment to inclusive development, we expanded training initiatives and extended our reach to remote centers, equipping individuals with essential life skills and promoting self-reliance among vulnerable populations.

The year brought both promise and profound loss. We mourned the passing of *Pema Di*, a beloved master weaver who dedicated over 30 years to the Skill Development Program. Her legacy of craftsmanship and mentorship has left a lasting impact on generations of women. We also bade farewell to other beloved family members of our staff, whose memories continue to inspire our work and reaffirm our purpose.

Despite these emotional challenges, our programs flourished. We made meaningful strides in education, skill development, gender and child protection, and healthcare. Notably, the Education Program expanded its reach, ensuring quality education and holistic development for children and youth in underserved areas across Darjeeling, Kalimpong, and Jalpaiguri.

Throughout the year, the Hayden Hall community demonstrated resilience, compassion, and unity—qualities that continue to guide our efforts toward a more inclusive, equitable, and empowered future.



PAUL D'SOUZA, SJ

Director's Message

Dear Friends, Partners, and Supporters,

As we ponder over the past year, I am deeply grateful for the progress we have made in transforming lives through our core mission of Integrated Community Development. Despite the vagaries of rapidly-changing circumstances, our commitment to serving those in need through healthcare, education, women's empowerment, child welfare, poverty alleviation and disability support has remained resolute. This year, we have been able to break new grounds, ventured into the tea gardens, and deepened our engagement with those we serve. Whether it was providing essential resources, or empowering individuals through education and skill development, every step we took was driven by our mission of compassion and service.

Upliftment of women remains a key area of our work, promoting leadership, economic independence, and equal opportunities enabling women to become agents of change in their families and communities. Our healthcare initiatives have enabled us in spreading awareness on critical health issues, healthy lifestyles, preventive methods, alternative therapies like reflexology, ensuring that the marginalized communities have access to essential health information and services. Through our education programs, we have equipped children with the knowledge and skills needed to be future-oriented. In our fight against poverty, we have provided families and individuals with resources, vocational training, and sustainable livelihood opportunities. We have strengthened our commitment to child welfare, ensuring that children have the right to safety, education, and a nurturing environment.

Furthermore, our disability support programs have championed inclusion, accessibility, and dignity for individuals with disabilities, enabling them to lead meaningful and fulfilling lives. A child receiving an education, a mother gaining access to healthcare, a family breaking the cycle of poverty, or a person with disabilities finding new opportunities—these are the moments that inspire us to continue our mission with even greater determination.

All this has been made possible through the tireless efforts of our staff, volunteers, interns and partners. The collective belief in our work fuels our passion and strengthens our resolve to build a more just, inclusive, and compassionate society, that every individual regardless of their circumstances, has the opportunity live in dignity. As we move forward, we remain committed to innovation, collaboration, and sustainable solutions that create lasting change. Together, we will continue to uplift lives and bring hope to those who need it most. Through the dedication of our team and the generous support of many, we have continued to make a meaningful impact in the lives of individuals and communities.

Thank you for being a vital part of this journey. Your support makes all the difference.

With gratitude,

Paul D' Souza, SJ
Director, Hayden Hall Institute



Logo

The logo of Hayden Hall Institute embodies our deep connection with grassroots communities. The flower blooming from the soil symbolizes our vision of a self-evolving community. Each petal represents one of our five key areas: **Gender, Child Protection, Health & Nutrition, Education & Vocational Guidance, and Livelihoods & Entrepreneurship**, all unified by our integrated approach to community development. The three dots symbolize our core values: Honesty, Persistence, and the pursuit of Excellence—principles that drive our motto: human development through love and service.

Vision

A healthy, well-informed, self-reliant and self-transforming community

Mission

- Responding to the needs of high – risk and vulnerable sections of the society.
- Access to quality community and individual healthcare and nutrition.
- Opportunity for children to gain access to and complete school through supplementary educational service.
- Culture of entrepreneurship and sustainability of livelihood.



Our Core values

Service

We are dedicated to serving people, positively impacting the lives of those we encounter. Our commitment to service drives us to go above and beyond, ensuring that we meet the needs of our community with excellence.

Joy

We find joy in our work and the positive impact we make. We foster an environment that embraces positivity, celebrating achievements and promoting a sense of fulfillment and happiness among our team members, stakeholders, and communities.

Compassion

At our core, we embrace compassion as an integral part of our organization. We approach our work with empathy and understanding, recognizing the importance of kindness and care in all that we do.

Honesty

Transparency and integrity are fundamental principles we uphold. We value honesty in our interactions, maintaining open and trustworthy relationships with our stakeholders. We believe in conducting ourselves ethically and responsibly.

Commitment

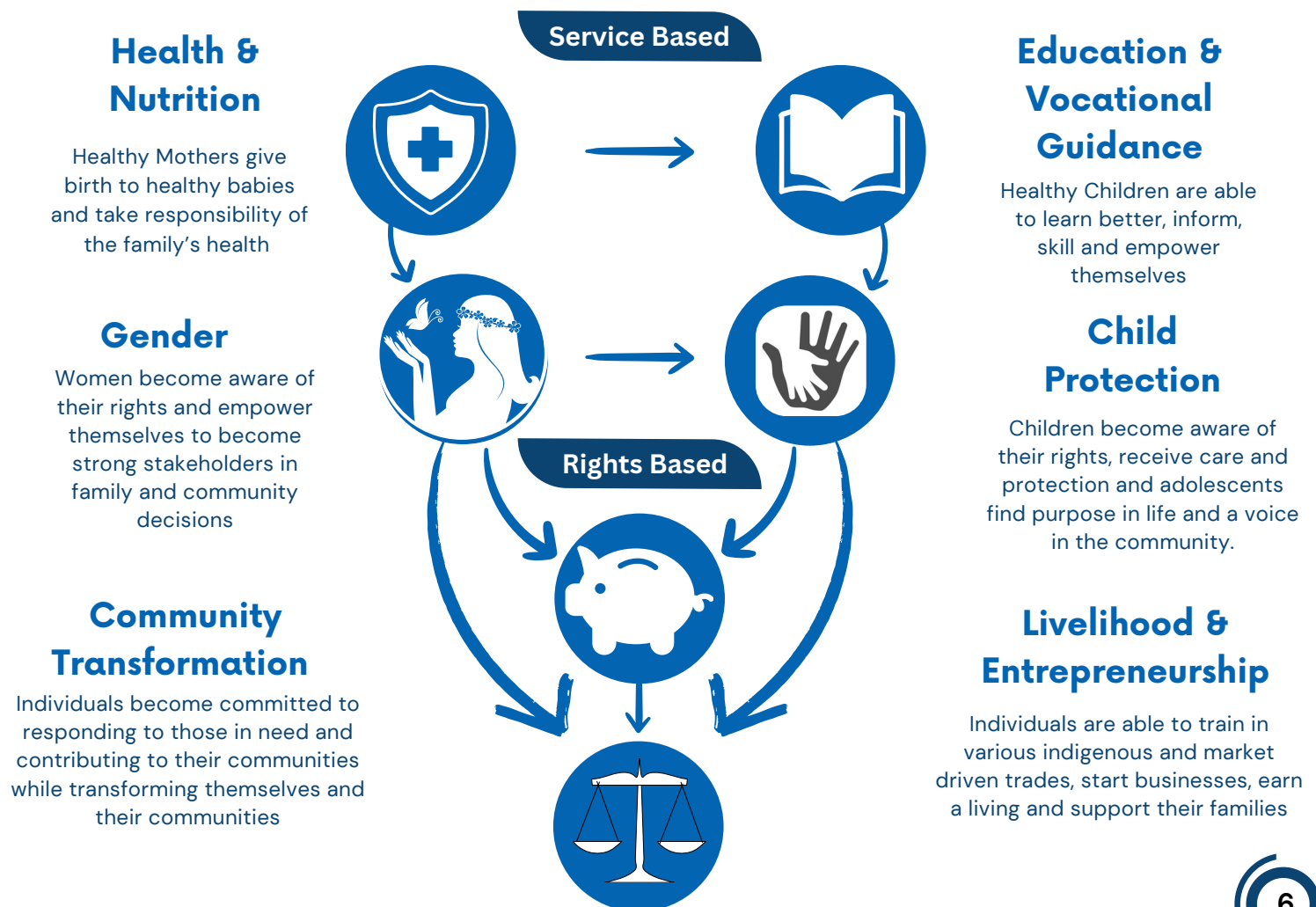
We are deeply committed to the success and well-being of our communities. Our unwavering dedication fuels our drive to deliver high-impact interventions, consistently striving for excellence and surpassing expectations.



1. Darjeeling
2. Kalimpong
3. Jalpaiguri

**180 Intervention Areas
Across three Districts of
West Bengal**

INTEGRATED CHANGE MODEL



Highlights of 2024

DISABILITY CAMP IN PANDAM

In 2024, Hayden Hall organised a Disability Camp in Pandam, a vital initiative aimed at addressing the healthcare needs of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) in remote areas. The camp provided comprehensive medical check-ups, physiotherapy consultations, and government pension services. Families of PwDs were also given awareness training on caregiving, inclusive education, and access to government disability schemes. This initiative not only improved the quality of life for individuals with disabilities but also fostered a more inclusive community by equipping caregivers with the necessary knowledge and resources for long-term support.



LIONS CLUB EYE CAMPS

In partnership with the Lions Club of Siliguri, Hayden Hall conducted 10 free Eye Camps, ensuring vision care for those in need, particularly from underprivileged backgrounds. Over 250 individuals were screened for common eye conditions such as cataracts, glaucoma, and refractive errors, with free spectacles distributed to those diagnosed with vision impairment. Additionally, patients requiring specialized care were referred for cataract surgeries and advanced treatments. The camp not only restored vision to many but also raised awareness on preventive eye health, nutrition, and early detection of eye diseases, empowering individuals to take proactive steps toward maintaining their vision.



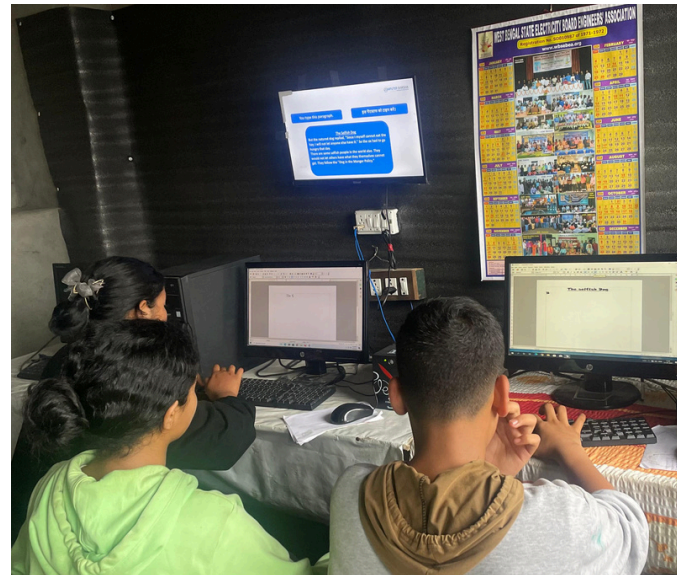
RENOVATION & REOPENING OF HAYDEN HALL SHOP, DARJEELING



A significant milestone in **2024** was the renovation and reopening of the **Hayden Hall Shop in Darjeeling**, a space dedicated to promoting indigenous craftsmanship and supporting women artisans. The renovated shop now offers a wider range of handcrafted products, including **handwoven carpets, textiles, jute handicrafts, and eco-friendly** items. The grand reopening, held on **12 November, 2024**, was marked by a ribbon-cutting ceremony, a prayer session led by our Director and an introduction to the Income Generation Program, attended by about **50 guests** and the **Hayden Hall staff**. This initiative has strengthened the economic empowerment of women artisans, providing them with better market access, increased visibility, and sustainable livelihood opportunities.

'RAGAROONG' FIELD ADOPTION – COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

Hayden Hall took a holistic approach to community development in Ragarooong, adopting the area and launching multiple initiatives to uplift the local population. A Computer Center was set up to provide digital literacy training for youth and women, enhancing their employability and bridging the digital divide. A Blood Donation cum Health Camp was organized to encourage community participation in strengthening healthcare services. Additionally, community meetings were conducted to discuss pressing local issues related to health, education, and livelihood, ensuring that the voices of the people were heard and addressed. To sustain long-term development, volunteer groups were formed, mobilizing local youth and community members to actively participate in service-oriented initiatives. This integrated approach has fostered self-reliance, skill development, and social cohesion, making Ragarooong a model for grassroots empowerment.





SELF-DEFENSE & SELF-ESTEEM WORKSHOP

Recognising the need for empowering women and adolescents with confidence and self-protection skills, Hayden Hall hosted a three-day Self-Defense and Self-Esteem Workshop from 12-14 September, 2024. The workshop, conducted by Giacomo Colomba, an MMA and Shou Wu Self - Defense Instructor from Auroville, provided 26 participants with practical training in self-defense techniques, situational awareness, and mental resilience. Sessions focused on basic strikes, escape techniques, and confidence-building exercises, ensuring participants were equipped with both physical and psychological tools to handle threats and challenges. This initiative reinforced Hayden Hall's commitment to fostering safety, empowerment, and self-reliance among women and youth, encouraging them to stand strong in all aspects of life.





Health Department



Building a
Healthier
Tomorrow

Health. Hope.
Humanity

Compassion in
Action

Healing Lives
Together



In **2024**, the Health Department of Hayden Hall remained committed to ensuring accessible, affordable, and quality healthcare services for marginalized communities in Darjeeling and Kalimpong, particularly focusing on maternal and child health, elderly care, chronic illness management, and preventive health interventions. The year was marked by significant strides in expanding community outreach, strengthening healthcare facilities and addressing health disparities in closed tea garden areas.

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH PROGRAM (MCH)

The Mother and Child Health Program (MCH) has been the cornerstone of Hayden Hall's healthcare interventions, addressing maternal and infant safety and promoting healthy pregnancies. In 2024, the program continued providing:

- **Antenatal and Postnatal Care:** 58 mothers received regular check-ups, nutrition supplements, and counseling on safe pregnancy and infant care.
- **Growth Monitoring & Immunization:** Conducted monthly check-ups for infants and young children, ensuring they met developmental milestones and received vaccinations in collaboration with government health services.
- **Nutrition Support for Mothers & Children:** Hayden Hall distributed essential food items such as rice, lentils and other food grains to pregnant and lactating mothers to combat malnutrition.





COMMUNITY HEALTH INITIATIVES & PREVENTIVE HEALTHCARE

Hayden Hall expanded its community health outreach, especially in closed and distressed tea gardens, where access to healthcare services is limited:

- **Medical Camps:** Conducted health check-ups in rural tea garden areas, benefiting over 500 individuals. These camps provided consultations, free medicines, and referrals for specialized care.
- **Health Awareness & Hygiene Education:** Workshops on personal hygiene, menstrual health, and nutrition were conducted across communities, with special sessions for adolescent girls and women.
- **Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Program:** Promoted safe drinking water, toilet hygiene, and handwashing practices to prevent waterborne diseases.



ELDERLY & CHRONIC ILLNESS CARE

Burns Club Support: Elderly care continued to be a priority, ensuring the well-being of senior citizens through medical support to **114 members** and community engagement.

- **Disability Care Program at Mother Teresa Shishu Bhawan:** Provided support and care to 51 women with disabilities, many of whom suffer from chronic conditions like arthritis, hypertension, and diabetes.
- **Home-Based Care for the Disabled and Elderly:** A team of healthcare workers visited home-bound elderly patients, providing medical assistance and social interaction to reduce isolation.

Hayden Hall continued its efforts to combat malnutrition among children through its direct nutrition program:

- 411 students at the Hayden Hall Education Center received daily nutritious meals, ensuring better health and learning outcomes.
- **IHC (Individual Health Care) Program:** Provided food and nutritional support to the most vulnerable individuals, including pregnant women, senior citizens, and people with disabilities.
- **Nutrition Education:** Parents and caregivers were trained on balanced diets, breastfeeding practices, and locally available nutrient-rich foods to improve family health.



SCHOOL & CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM

Strengthening Healthcare and Capacity Building to enhance the quality of healthcare services, the Health Department focused on training and collaborations:

- **Training for Community Health Workers (CHWs):** Conducted workshops on basic healthcare, first aid, maternal health, and nutrition, equipping CHWs to serve their communities effectively.
- **Partnerships with Healthcare Providers:** Strengthened collaboration with government hospitals, private clinics, and NGOs to improve referral services and ensure specialized treatment for patients.
- **Health Data & Monitoring System:** Implemented a health record system to track patient progress, ensure continuity of care, and improve service delivery.

EMPOWERING THE DIFFERENTLY ABLED PEOPLE THROUGH HEALTH CAMP

On 12 December, 2024, Hayden Hall, led by the **Community Development Worker Anjana Zimba**, and supported by **Purnima Rai**, organized a **Disability Health Check-up and Screening Camp** in **Pandam Village, Darjeeling Pulbazar Block**. During her field visits, **Anjana** identified individuals needing medical screening and certification for disability benefits. With the support of five specialist doctors, **32** individuals were screened, and **20** were certified as differently abled. This certification enabled them to register under '**Duare Sarkar**' for old-age pension and disability benefits, bringing much-needed financial and social security. The camp was a collaborative effort with **Government Officials, Darjeeling District Hospital, the Panchayat, and the Block offices**, ensuring access to rights and entitlements. Anjana expressed her joy, calling this a long-awaited milestone, and remains committed to furthering Hayden Hall's mission of empowering marginalized communities.

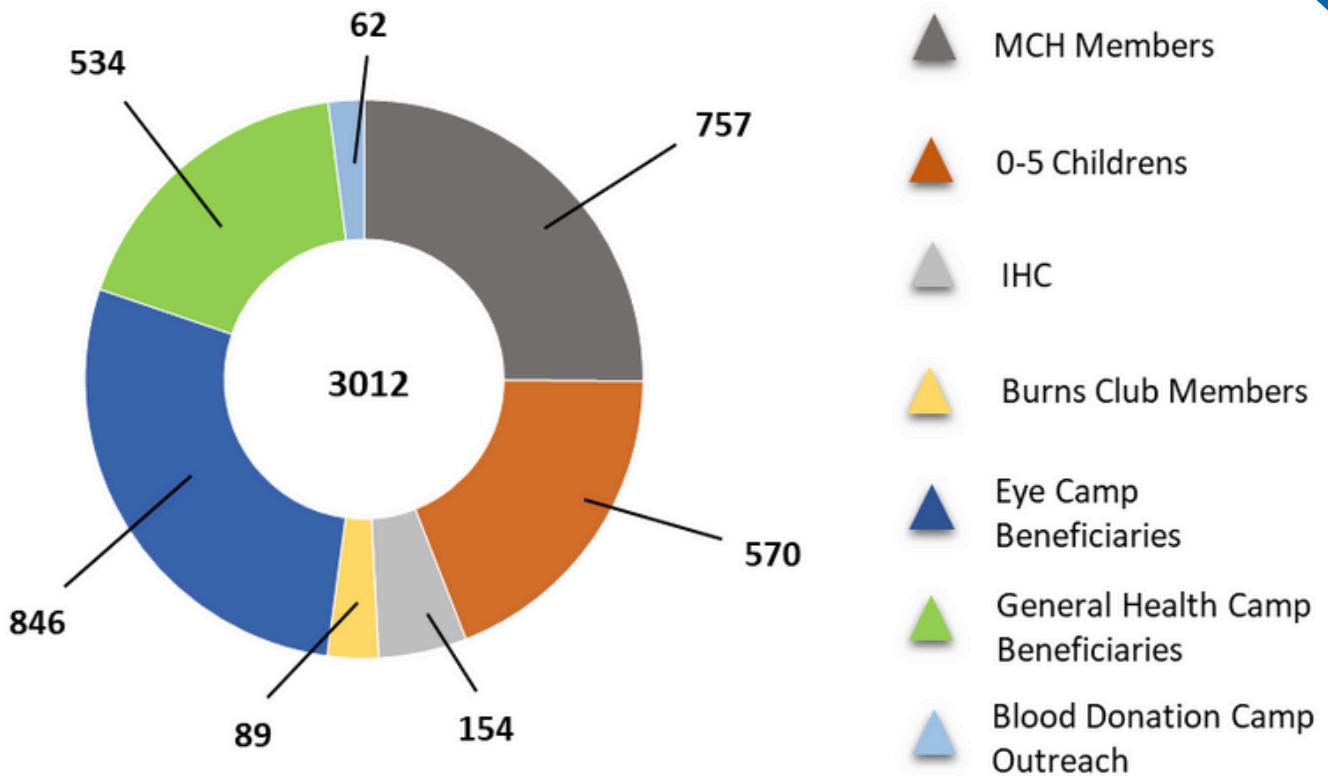


REFLEXOLOGY AS AN ALTERNATIVE HEALING PRACTICE



Reflex Therapy has been a crucial part of Hayden Hall's health program, offering alternative healing to those in need. In March 2024, after receiving specialised training from **Sr. Regina SJC**, our Community Development Worker, **Ms. Sunita Thapa**, identified a 66-year-old woman named Ms. Maya BK in Navin Gram who had been paralysed since December 2023, due to high blood pressure and diabetes. Despite hospitalisation, she remained bedridden, with little hope of recovery. During a Reflex Therapy camp, she expressed her willingness to try it. Over the next nine months, she received weekly sessions. Gradually, her condition improved—she regained mobility, began walking around her space, using the bathroom independently, and even experienced better speech. This transformation highlights the impact of Reflex Therapy as an alternative medical practice, bringing hope and relief to those who need it most.

Health



FUTURE GOALS & WAY FORWARD

In 2025, Hayden Hall aims to further expand its healthcare program by:

- Increasing medical outreach in remote areas through mobile health units and satellite clinics.
- Strengthening maternal and child health services with a focus on neonatal care and high-risk pregnancy management.
- Enhancing mental health support through counseling programs for adolescents, women, and the elderly.
- Advocating for policy changes to improve healthcare access for tea garden workers and marginalized groups.

Through these sustained efforts, Hayden Hall remains committed to building a healthier and more resilient community in the Darjeeling Hills



EDUCATION



Educate
Empower
Elevate

Brighter
Futures
Ahead

Learning
Growth
Transformation

Knowledge
Skills
Growth



The Education Program has achieved remarkable progress this year, focusing on providing quality education and holistic development for children and youth in underserved communities across Darjeeling, Kalimpong, and Jalpaiguri districts.

Strive program catered to 48 children in early childhood education and 35 in Creche, supported by home visits, parental engagement, and experiential learning. **The Post-School Evening Program** benefited 259 in-house students and 638 from 38 outreach centers, offering academic assistance, extracurricular activities, awareness sessions, and exposure visits. **Scholarship Program** extended financial aid to 40 deserving students, enabling continuity in their education, while workshops on self-esteem and self-defense enriched the learning experiences of students under the School Program.

Vocational training under DBtech equipped 45 youth with essential skills, including General Duty Assistant training, with 25 securing placements and 20 pursuing further training. **Parent-teacher meetings**, involving 150 parents across programs, strengthened parental engagement to improve learning outcomes. **Health check-ups for children** under five contributed to their well-being, and **cultural and festive celebrations** fostered a sense of belonging and community spirit among the beneficiaries. These initiatives collectively impacted over 1,000 beneficiaries and highlighted the importance of collaborative efforts to drive meaningful change.

Despite challenges such as financial constraints, geographical barriers, and limited parental participation, the program remains committed to expanding its reach and impact. Moving forward, the focus will be on strengthening vocational training programs, enhancing partnerships, and addressing challenges to ensure sustainable growth. The Education Program continues to inspire and empower communities, paving the way for a brighter and more equitable future.



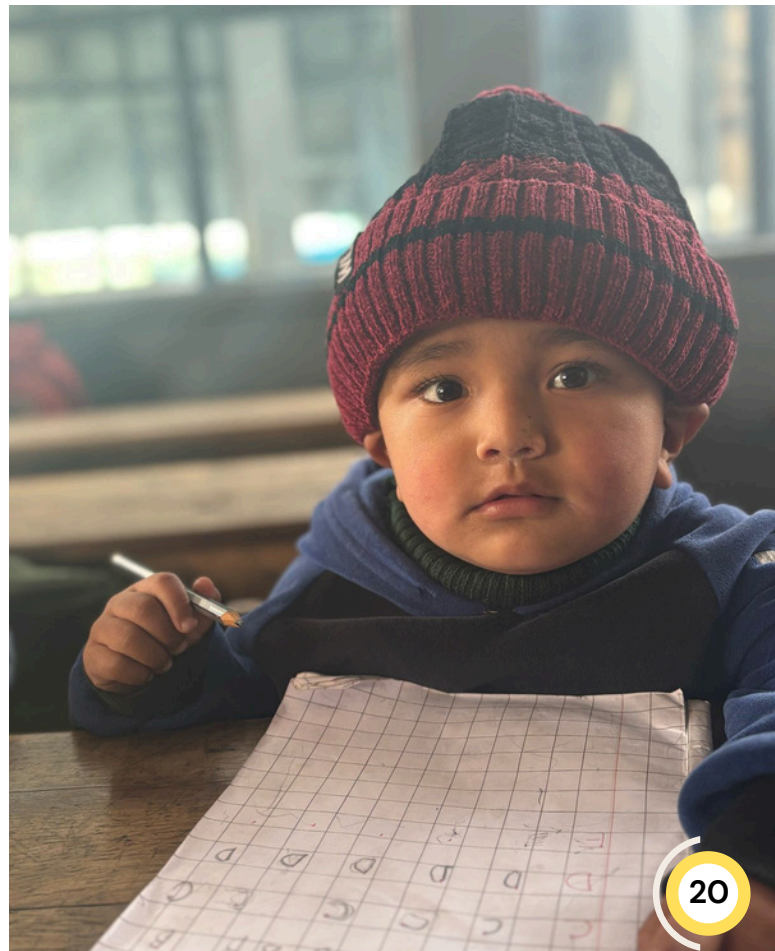
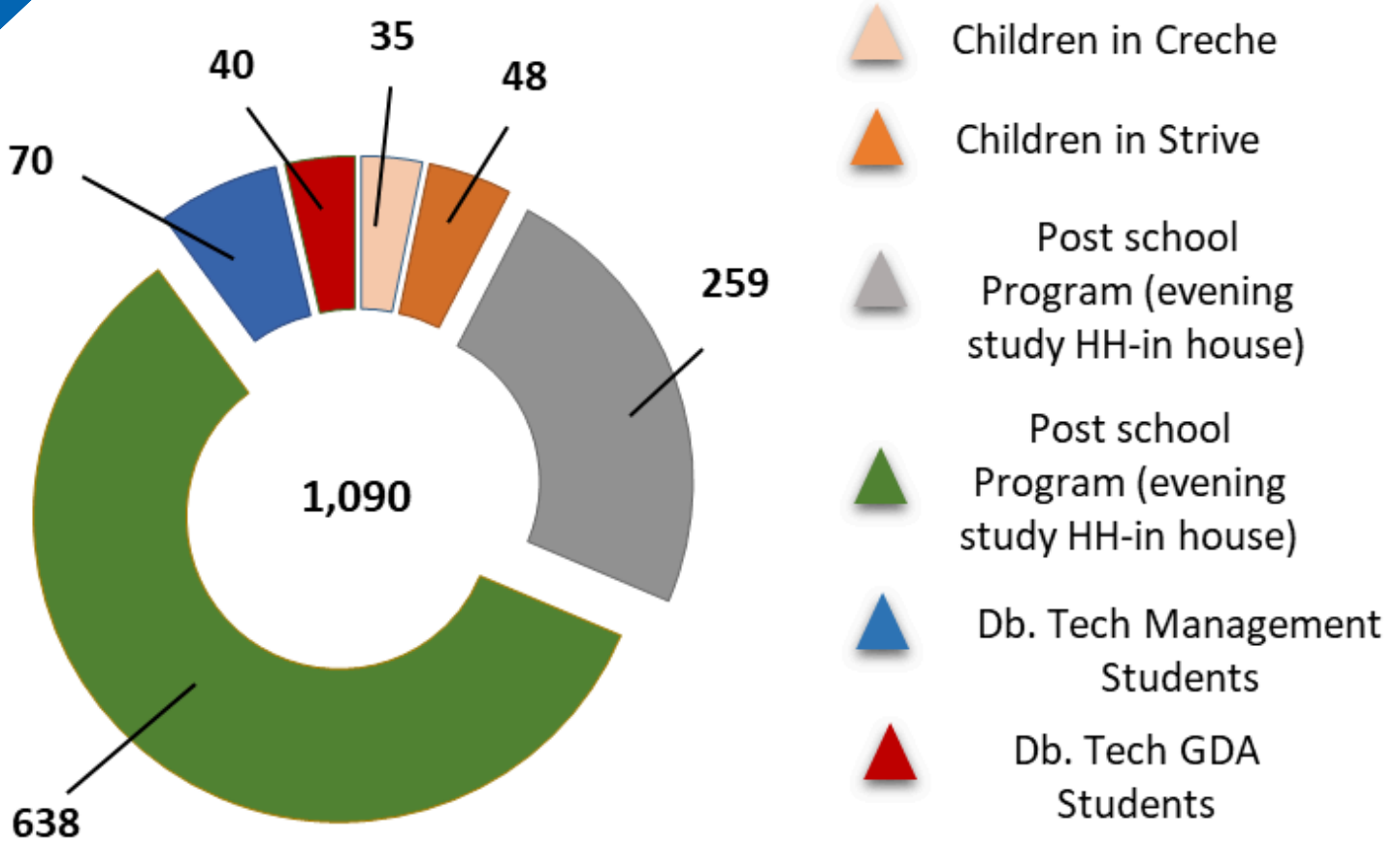
ACHIEVEMENTS



In September 2024, the Education Department at Hayden Hall organized its first-ever quiz competition for post-school program children, with participants from classes 8 to 12. For many, this was a new and exciting experience, as they never had the opportunity to observe or take part in such an event before.

The competition was more than just a test of knowledge as it was filled with engaging activities and joyful games. The enthusiasm and excitement among the children was evident, creating an atmosphere of learning, teamwork, and appreciation. Among all the yearly programs, this competition marked a significant change, making a lasting impact on both students and teachers. As educators, we realized the importance of introducing new and innovative activities to engage children, fostering their confidence, curiosity, and motivation to strive for excellence.

Education







MOTHER OF ALL CRÈCHE CHILDREN

For 25 years, **Laxmi Chettri** has been the heart and soul of our Creche Program at Hayden Hall, dedicating her life to nurturing children and empowering future generations. As an educator and caregiver, she has played a vital role in shaping the lives of countless young minds, ensuring they receive love, care, and knowledge they need to thrive.

Beyond her professional contributions, Laxmi has been a beacon of resilience and strength in her personal life. Balancing her responsibilities at Hayden Hall with her role as the backbone of her family, she has exemplified what it means to be a strong woman—one who nurtures both her home and her community with unwavering dedication.

Her journey at Hayden Hall has been one of continuous learning and growth. Over the years, she has embraced opportunities to enhance her knowledge and skills, adapting to new challenges with determination and grace. Whether it was developing new teaching methods, understanding child psychology, or learning new caregiving techniques, Laxmi never stopped evolving, making her an inspiration to her colleagues and the children she nurtured.

Her 25 years of service stands as a testament to her commitment, hard work, and the deep compassion she holds for those she serves. Hayden Hall is honored to celebrate her journey, recognizing not just her years of service but the profound impact she has had on the community. Laxmi Chettri's legacy is one of kindness, perseverance, and lifelong learning—a true inspiration for all.



2024

Income Generation



Woven Wonders

Sustainable Threads

Handcrafted Legacy

Crafted with Care



ENHANCE (WOMEN-POWER) EMPOWER ENABLE

Skill Development and Income Generation for Self-Reliance

Since **1975**, Hayden Hall has evolved its Functional Literacy into a robust Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Program, originally focused on literacy and numeracy, is now dedicated to empowering marginalized women through skill acquisition and economic independence. Today, our program emphasizes vocational training in weaving, carpet making, knitting, sewing, and jute-integrated handicrafts, all of which form the cornerstone of a sustainable livelihood framework.

In **2024**, our program centering around, “**Enhancing Skills and Empowering Women**”, extended its reach, identifying talented women from rural areas in Kalimpong and Darjeeling and equipping them with essential skills. This year, **175** women across these regions received training, with **75** beneficiaries gaining specific expertise in sewing and tailoring at three rural centers: Cedar Tea Garden, Choongthong Tea Garden, Dhoteria Kalej Valley, and across **70** villages within the Darjeeling Municipality. These areas, often affected by economic hardships, were prioritized based on needs assessments by our community development team. After completing their training, women were selected based on skill proficiency to produce items for income generation, contributing meaningfully to their households and communities.

IMPACTFUL PERSONAL JOURNEYS

Dipmala Subba, a 43-year-old mother from **Bhutta Kheti Tea Garden**, turned her passion for crafts into a reliable income source. Limited by low wages as a tea garden worker, she eagerly joined Hayden Hall’s training sessions, where she acquired skills in sewing, machine maintenance, and doll-making. Now, Dipmala takes custom orders for her handmade products through Hayden Hall outlet, providing essential financial support for her family. Likewise, **Saraswati Rai**, a 55-year-old resident of **Upper Kalej Valley**, transformed her lifelong talents in knitting, weaving, and sewing into a self-sustaining enterprise. After a 7-day training at Hayden Hall, Saraswati honed advanced techniques and market strategies, enabling her to produce and sell items such as dolls, sweaters, and beanies. Her story of economic independence exemplifies the impact of skill development on personal and family well-being.





OUR REACH IN FIELDS

The year 2024 marked the beginning of a transformative journey in skill development at Hayden Hall. Starting from the month of February 2024, sewing and tailoring training sessions were introduced in three outreach villages—**Cedars Rungmook, Liza Hill, and Dhoteray Rangbull**—focusing on the needs of communities, especially in closed tea garden areas. Each village hosted **25** participants, making a total of **105** women trained through the program.



The initial one-week training helped identify women with the potential to specialize and move toward income generation. As a result, **40** women secured contractual work in **doll making**, while **10** became contractual knitters. The remaining participants continue their journey of skill enhancement, enrolling in the **Jute Handicraft Training Program** to further expand their opportunities. This initiative has not only equipped women with valuable skills but has also paved the way for financial independence and sustainable livelihoods in vulnerable communities.



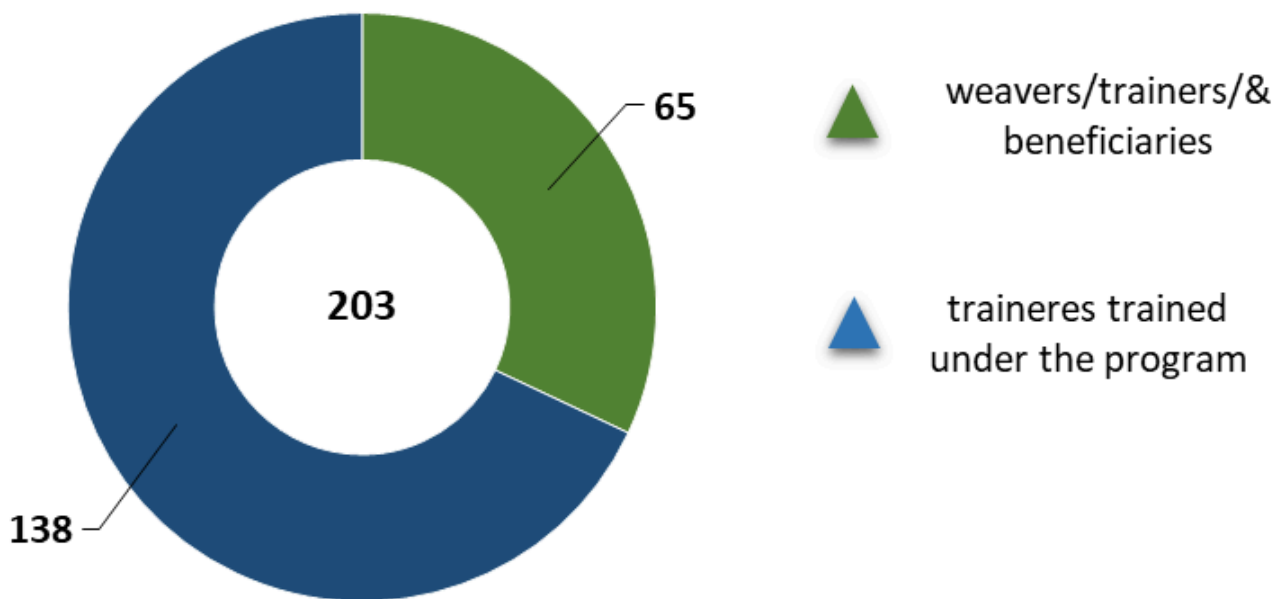
DEEPA ACHIEVING HER DREAMS

25 year old, **Deepa Kumari Saha's** journey is one of perseverance, growth, and empowerment. She began her association with Hayden Hall as a trainee, eager to learn new skills and build a future for herself. With dedication and hard work, she not only mastered various skills but also underwent a transformation in her confidence and personality.

Through the training sessions, Deepa gained hands-on experience, refining her abilities and understanding the importance of financial independence. The exposure she received through different activities helped her develop a strong work ethic, improve her communication skills, and understand the nuances of sales and customer engagement. Her dedication did not go unnoticed. After completing her training, Deepa was offered a role as a salesperson at Hayden Hall's Darjeeling outlet. Today, she is responsible for managing the store, handling sales, and working on innovative marketing strategies to attract customers and increase outreach. With her keen sense of responsibility and growing expertise, she has become an integral part of the team, ensuring smooth operations while also inspiring other young women to pursue opportunities for self-reliance.

Deepa's story is a testament to how skill development, when combined with determination, can transform lives. From a trainee to a store manager, she has paved her way towards independence and professional growth. Her journey reflects the core values of Hayden Hall—empowering individuals to build sustainable livelihoods while fostering confidence and leadership.

Skill Development





**POOJA
from the
Tailoring
Team**

www.haydehaldarjeeling.org

[f](#) [i](#) LEVELHOODHAYDEN HALL



**BACKSTRAP
WEAVING**

www.haydehaldarjeeling.org

[f](#) [i](#) LEVELHOODHAYDEN HALL



**SPINNING
THE YARN**

www.haydehaldarjeeling.org

[f](#) [i](#) LEVELHOODHAYDEN HALL



**TASSEL
BAG**

www.haydehaldarjeeling.org

[f](#) [i](#) LEVELHOODHAYDEN HALL



**BACKSTRAP
WEAVING**

www.haydehaldarjeeling.org

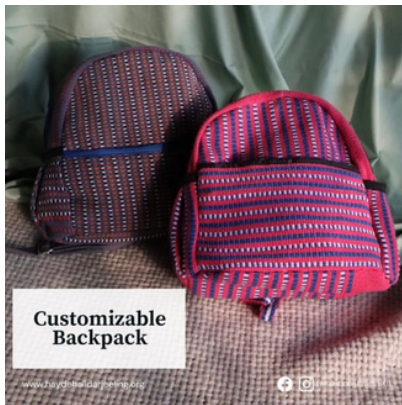
[f](#) [i](#) LEVELHOODHAYDEN HALL



**DARJEELING
AND THE
TEA TALES**

www.haydehaldarjeeling.org

[f](#) [i](#) LEVELHOODHAYDEN HALL



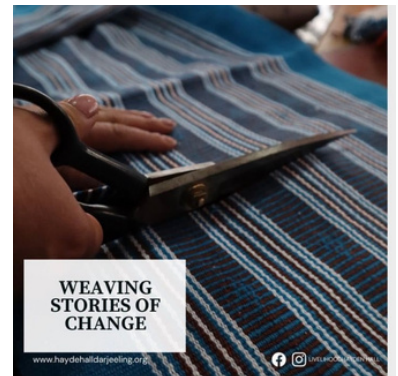
**Customizable
Backpack**

www.haydehaldarjeeling.org

[f](#) [i](#) LEVELHOODHAYDEN HALL



DHANLACHI



**WEAVING
STORIES OF
CHANGE**

www.haydehaldarjeeling.org

[f](#) [i](#) LEVELHOODHAYDEN HALL



**WOOLEN
SWEATERS**

www.haydehaldarjeeling.org

[f](#) [i](#) LEVELHOODHAYDEN HALL



BUNAI

www.haydehaldarjeeling.org

[f](#) [i](#) LEVELHOODHAYDEN HALL



**DARJEELING
AND THE
TEA TALES**

www.haydehaldarjeeling.org

[f](#) [i](#) LEVELHOODHAYDEN HALL

2024

Gender and Child Protection



Empower
Protect
Transform

Safe
Childhoods
Strong
Futures

Voices
Rights
Resilience

Strengthening
Tomorrow
Together

The **Gender and Child Protection** Program at Hayden Hall is an initiative designed to address the pressing needs of adolescents and women in Darjeeling and Kalimpong. This landmark program laid a strong foundation for fostering awareness, building resilience, and empowering vulnerable groups in the region.

Formation of Adolescent Groups

A key highlight of the program was the establishment of **37** adolescent groups, bringing together **680** adolescents, including **360** females and **320** males. These groups spanned **180** intervention areas in Darjeeling and Kalimpong, serving as vital platforms for peer learning, mutual support, and awareness-building. By creating safe spaces for discussion and education, the program has instilled confidence and a sense of community among young participants.

School-Based Awareness Sessions

The program actively engaged schools through targeted awareness sessions focusing on critical issues affecting adolescents.

Topics included:

- **Child Rights:** Educating children about their rights and the importance of safeguarding them.
- **Early Marriage and Pregnancy:** Highlighting the physical, emotional, and societal consequences of these practices.
- **Prevention of Child Abuse:** Equipping participants with the knowledge to recognize, prevent, and address abuse.

Additionally, students were informed about the availability of free child counselling services provided by the government, ensuring access to support systems for those in need.



Women-Centric Interventions

Recognizing the challenges faced by women, the program introduced a series of interventions aimed at empowering them with knowledge and tools for self-reliance.

These included:

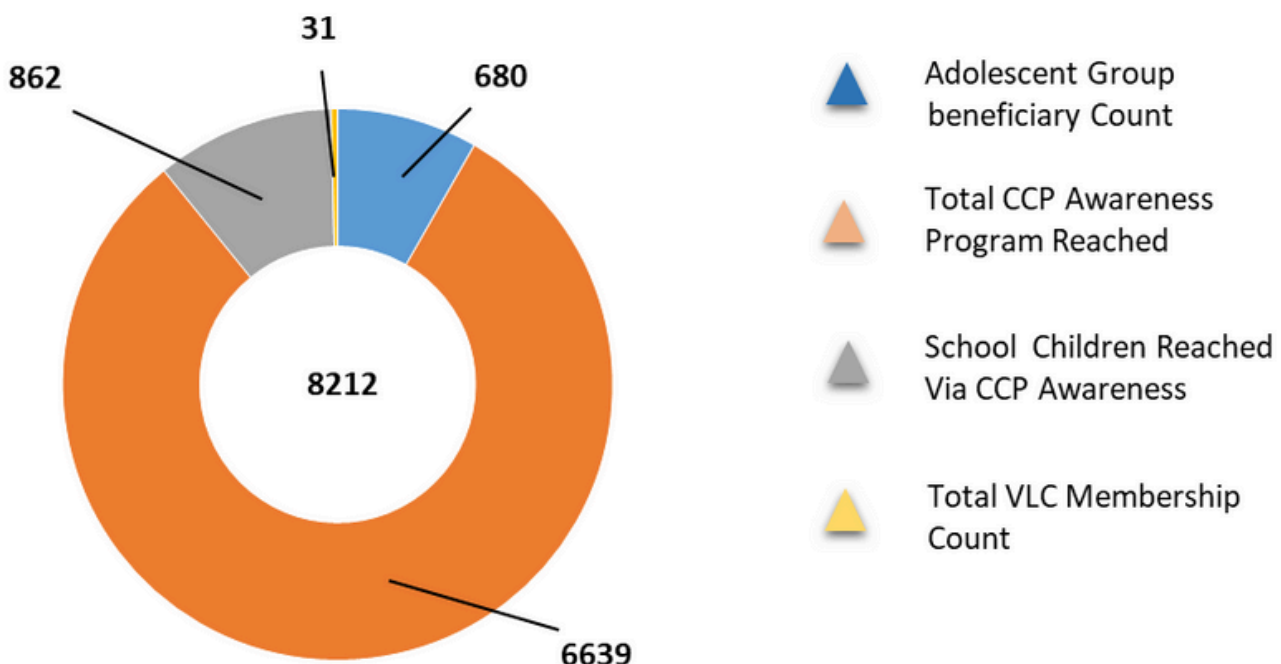
- **Awareness Sessions:** Topics covered ranged from Domestic Violence, early marriage and Free Legal Aid Services to One-Stop Centre Services and various government schemes and programs.
- **Financial Literacy Training:** Women were guided on saving practices to foster financial independence and security.
- **Self-Esteem and Self-Defense Workshop:** Conducted by Giacomo Colomba, an accomplished MMA and Shou Wu self-defense instructor from Auroville, this workshop provided participants with the skills and confidence to navigate challenging situations.

Impact and Outcomes

The Gender and Child Protection Program has been a transformative journey, setting the stage for long-term change. By addressing critical social issues and equipping participants with essential knowledge and practical skills, the program has contributed significantly to creating a safer and more informed community.

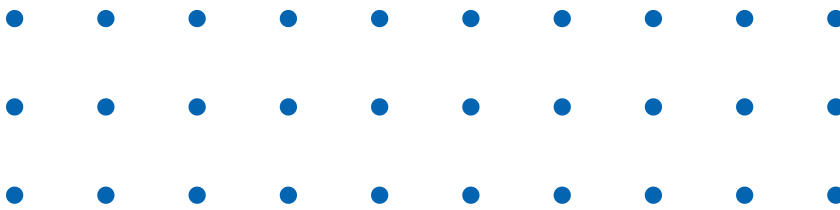
The success of the program in **2024** is a testimony to Hayden Hall's enduring commitment to safeguarding the rights and well-being of vulnerable groups. This initiative has not only empowered individuals but has also fostered resilience and collective action, paving the way for a brighter and more equitable future in Darjeeling and Kalimpong.

Gender and Child





TESTIMONIES OF NEW RECRUITS HAYDEN HALL 2024



"I consider myself truly blessed to have the opportunity to work at Hayden Hall as a caregiver. Learning from my seniors, especially Laxmi Di, has helped me gain invaluable knowledge and confidence. The staff here has become like family to me, and this place feels like home. I look forward to serving the organization with dedication in the coming years."

"Working at Hayden Hall has been an incredible experience. I am eager to explore and expand my learning capabilities, and within just a year, I have had the opportunity to develop new skills, including learning to drive. This has been a great journey so far, and I look forward to growing even more with the organization."



N
I
R
M
A
L

T
H
A
P
A



D
E
E
P
A

KUMARI
SAHA

"Becoming a staff member at Hayden Hall feels like a dream come true. My connection with this institute goes back to my childhood, from being in the crèche to learning sewing and tailoring. I have always aspired to work in an office, and today, that aspiration has become a reality. This organization has supported me through crises and helped me overcome numerous challenges. Now, I want to give back with my utmost dedication and abilities."

N
I
S
H
A
N
T
G
H
A
T
A
N
I



“Working as a System Administrator in this Institute has been both professionally rewarding and personally enriching, seamlessly integrating technical expertise with real-world impact. I oversee system management, and optimise operational efficiency to support the organisation’s mission. My field visits offer invaluable firsthand insights into community challenges and the tangible outcomes of our initiatives, bridging the gap between technology and grassroots efforts. Engaging with beneficiaries is both inspiring and humbling, further strengthening my dedication to social service. This role has honed my adaptability, teamwork, and continuous learning, and I am eager to leverage technology to enhance outreach, drive innovation, and create lasting, meaningful change.”

“My time at Hayden Hall has been an enriching journey of learning and growth. Starting as an intern and later transitioning into the role of a Communicative English Trainer, I had the opportunity to work closely with the livelihood department and contribute to various initiatives, including skill development programs for women, field visits, and documentation work. Engaging with artisans in backstrap weaving and jute training not only deepened my appreciation for traditional crafts and sustainable livelihoods but also allowed me to work at the grassroots level, gaining invaluable insights into community-driven change. This experience has not only strengthened my professional skills but has also complemented my academic pursuits, allowing me to apply my knowledge in a practical setting. I feel truly blessed to be a part of this organization that has played a significant role in shaping my career and personal growth.”



Y
O
H
A
N
S
U
B
B
A
L
I
M
B
U

OUR CORE TEAM

⊕ Director



PAUL D'SOUZA , SJ

⊕ Administrator



Cassian Dukpa

⊕ Finance



Dipika Adhakari

⊕ Programs



Akansha Tamang

OUR CORE TEAM

⊕ Health



SR CHUNKU SHERPA, SJC

⊕ Skill development & Entrepreneurship



Mary Gurung

⊕ Women & Child Welfare



Binita Mothey




To all our Stakeholders...

Hayden Hall recognizes the critical importance of partnerships and collaborations in its success, especially in promoting gender equality, protecting children's rights, and fostering community development. Key partners include State Child Protection Society, National Jute Board, Gram Panchayats and local communities, Self-help groups (SHGs), the District Health and Family Welfare Samiti, the District Legal Aid Service Authority (DLSA), German Consulate Kolkata, the Rotary Club of Darjeeling, the Inner Wheel club of Darjeeling, Srujna, and the Lions Club, Siliguri.

Hayden Hall expresses deep gratitude to all partners, donors, volunteers, interns, and stakeholders for their unwavering support and commitment in creating positive change. Together, we will continue to work towards building inclusive, sustainable, resilient, and empowered communities for a brighter future.





 Hayden Hall, 42 Laden La Road, Darjeeling, west Bengal – 734101
 +91 (0354) 2253166
 haydenhalldarjeeling@gmail.com