

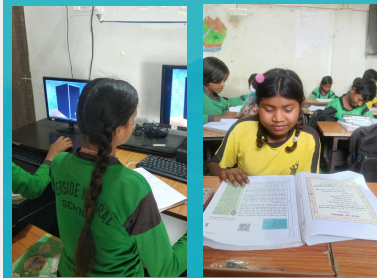
Mrida Education & Welfare Society

# Annual Report

2022-23



Empowering Tribal Children :  
A Year of Transformative  
Impact



Nurturing Excellence  
[www.mrida.org](http://www.mrida.org)



# INTRODUCTION

As we reflect on the past year, we are delighted to present the annual report of Mrida Education and Welfare Society. It is with great pride and gratitude that we share the remarkable achievements, challenges overcome, and the collective impact we have made in the lives of tribal children in 2022-23 in Mandla district of Madhya Pradesh.

Join us on this journey as we explore the key highlights and milestones that define our commitment to serving children from one of the most impoverished tribal belts in India.



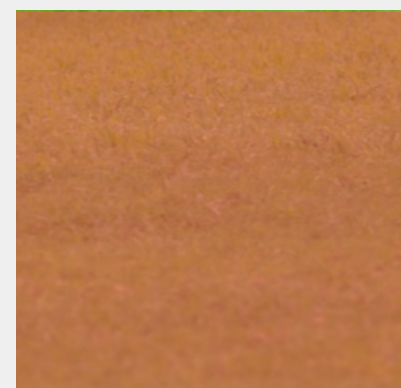
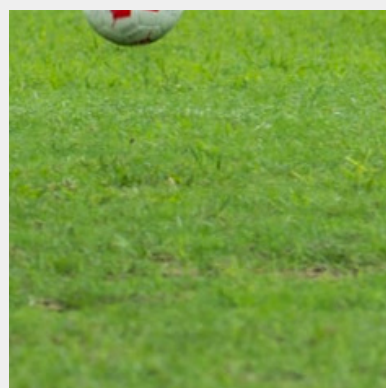
Create Role Models for the region through education and sports.



Serving the neediest children



Build a holistic environment for children.



# ABOUT MRIDA

Mrida exists to fulfill the education dream and career aspirations of tribal children from remote rural areas in India. Formed in April 2016, our vision is to end poverty in tribal belts of rural India. We work to develop career, vocational and skills training to empower middle grade and high school students to build a better future for themselves, their families, and their communities.

Above all, our work exists to serve the neediest children of the region - 10% of all our children come from single parent households with 2% being orphans, living with their guardians who usually happen to be old grandparents, unable to care for a child.

Impact Reach

**460** Tribal Children



Bring impactful and contextual education to children from tribal & impoverished communities in rural India.



End poverty in the tribal belts of rural India.

# FOUNDER'S NOTE

Dear Friends of Mrida,

I often speak about our relentless pursuit of excellence, and I understand how it might be misconstrued as achieving astonishing results with the children we serve. While those outcomes are essential, they are not entirely within our control. True excellence, for us, lies in the attitude of serving with utmost dedication and believing in the divine potential of each child.

Even in the darkest moments when support seems scarce, we must hold the unwavering belief that every child can manifest greatness. Our mission is to serve with a happy and inclusive heart, a stable mind, and without any expectations in return. This commitment to pure service is the true excellence we strive for.

To bring out the best in the children, we must first find that excellence within ourselves. As we grow in this pursuit, we will serve better, and the transformations in our children will naturally follow.

In a world where people often focus on taking or seeking "good deals," we believe in being part of that balancing force that seeks nothing but the welfare of others. This force is inherent in our true nature, and it drives all of us, including you, to support causes like ours—organizations that dedicate their lives to serving others.

Let us unite as part of this force of serving and reconnect with our true nature. Together, we can make a significant impact on the lives of these children and create a world where service and compassion prevail. That is our excellence! With heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering support.

**Digvijay Singh & Priya Nadkarni**

Founders of Mrida



# THE REGION

Mandla is densely forested and surrounded by river Narmada. that passes through the north-west side where Mohgaon Developmental Block is situated. Dominated by Gond and Baiga tribes, the block is one of the most backward in the state. With small rainfed landholdings that are losing productivity resulting in food insecurity and subsistence income, the people relied on the non-timber forest produce (NTFP) to support their livelihoods.

Although enrolment in schools, especially elementary schools, has improved in general in the district, the quality of learning outcomes leaves much to be desired. For example, Pratham Education Foundation, in its 2014 annual report had stated that almost half Class five students in government schools could not read a Class Two textbook. Against this overall status of education in the district, the tribal children's access to quality education was questionable. Forced by chronic poverty, during lean seasons, the tribes migrate to nearby villages and towns in search of work.

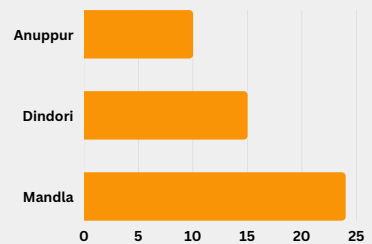
The seasonal migration of parents in search of work affects children's schooling, and an estimated 45% of the students enrolled in school do not attend school regularly. Food insecurity impedes families from spending on education and drives children to enter the workforce before they complete education, where they do not fit in and suffer poor working conditions and job loss, remaining trapped in a vicious poverty cycle. Poor education also leads to a high dropout rate at Class 9 for both boys and girls. The boys migrate for seasonal work, much like their parents and the girls get married, perpetuating multi-generational poverty.



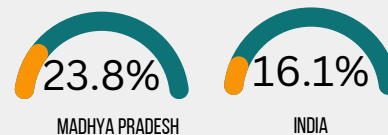
**Madhya Pradesh is one of the less developed states in India, with a low per capita income and poor human development indicators.**

**The state has struggled to attract investment and create jobs, leading to high poverty and unemployment rates.**

**Dropout Rate in PTVG Districts in MP**



**Dropout Rate in Secondary Schools**





# THE NEED

**1) Lack of opportunities for rural youth to get educated and skilled beyond school:** By 18 years of age and in some cases even earlier, rural youth need to be employed so they can contribute productively to the household. This has resulted in a high dropout rate, especially among first-generation learners who live in environments that are not conducive to learning. Illiterate parents who migrate for work, poor nutrition and large-scale consumption of tobacco and alcohol are some of the reasons children drop out early. Education provided in the region is not tailored to the specific needs of the local communities, leading to lack of relevance for children and low trust in education among parents.

**2) Absence of resources and trained teachers:** Since trained teachers are not available and parents do not have resources to invest in higher education, even children finishing high school do not have strong prospects to look forward to.

**3) High opportunity cost of education:** Average annual household income of the region is Rs. 30,000 - 40,000 and so there is a great need for children to start contributing financially to their families soon.

Therefore, there is a critical need to create an education system that provides distinct career pathways for children within the school system, enabling them to acquire the skills and knowledge required to become self-sufficient and contribute productively to their communities at an early age.



# OUR SELECTION PROCESS

Mrida Education and Welfare Society is committed to providing quality education and empowering students from underprivileged backgrounds. Our scholarship programs cater to three distinct categories of students, ensuring that talented individuals have access to education and support, regardless of their socio-economic status. Through a comprehensive selection process, we identify deserving students and offer them scholarships, thereby creating a transformative impact on their lives and communities.

## 1. Hostel Students on Full Scholarship:

We prioritize talented students from extremely poor families, with a particular focus on those from single-parent households or who are orphaned. These students are granted full scholarships, exempting them from any financial burden. Instead, we encourage their families to contribute food items, such as fruits or corn, whenever available. To select these children, we conduct a rigorous four-level process. This includes organizing a Baby League tournament, visiting the homes of talented children, assessing their socio-economic situation, and conducting baseline tests to evaluate their capabilities. Upon selection, we extend admission to these students and provide comprehensive support.

## 2. School Students on Tuition Scholarship:

Students from impoverished families in neighboring villages fall under this category. We believe that financial constraints should not hinder their access to education. Therefore, we waive the tuition fees for these students. However, they are responsible for covering expenses related to books, stationery, and travel to and from the school. By offering tuition scholarships, we ensure that these students have an equal opportunity to receive a quality education.

## 3. School Students Paying Subsidized Fees:

To cater to families who can contribute partially towards their child's education, we offer a subsidized fee structure. These students pay 40% of the actual per-child cost, allowing them to access education while sharing the financial responsibility. This approach ensures inclusivity, enabling families to contribute according to their capacity while receiving the benefits of our comprehensive educational programs.



**100%**

**100% GRADE LEVELS**

Grade level achieved in middle and high school despite the Covid-19 lockdown restrictions.

**400+**

**400+ STUDY HOURS**

Study hours achieved by students of Riverside Natural school, learning and practicing Robotics & Programming.



# AREAS OF WORK

Mrida Education and Welfare is proud to align its mission with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Through our initiatives, we contribute to various SDGs such as Quality Education, Zero Hunger, Reduced Inequalities, and Decent Work and Economic Growth. Our commitment to these goals drives our efforts to create a positive and sustainable impact on society.



**ACADEMICS**



**TECHNOLOGY**



**SPORTS**



**AGRICULTURE**



**MRIDA EDUCATION  
& WELFARE SOCIETY**



**WELL-BEING**



# INTERVENTION PROGRAMS SINCE 2016

SCHOOL | HOSTEL | SPORTS | TECHNOLOGY | AGRICULTURE

**1. Riverside Natural School & Hostel:** At Riverside Natural School & Hostel (RNS), we provide a nurturing environment for children from single-parent and vulnerable families belonging to tribal communities. Our comprehensive program combines education and accommodation, empowering these young minds to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

**2. Narmada Valley Football Academy (NVFA):** NVFA, a residential football academy committed to fostering sports excellence and coach development. With a strong emphasis on nurturing talent from a young age, NVFA offers a range of programs, including baby leagues and scouting camps, to identify and nurture the football stars of tomorrow.

**3. Narmada Valley Avishkaar Labs:** Step into the pioneering world of technology and innovation at Narmada Valley Avishkaar Labs, the first lab of its kind in the region. Our lab provides a platform for students passionate about engineering, programming, and agri-tech innovations, enabling them to explore and develop their skills. Through our engaging programs and mentorship, we strive to ignite a spark of curiosity and creativity, opening up exciting career pathways for aspiring young minds.

**4. Narmada Valley Kheti Swarozgar:** Narmada Valley Kheti Swarozgar is dedicated to transforming agriculture skills, fostering enterprise development, and boosting the local economy. Our program focuses on equipping individuals with the necessary knowledge and resources to succeed in the agricultural sector, empowering them to create sustainable livelihoods and contribute to the growth of their communities.



# NARMADA VALLEY FOOTBALL ACADEMY



## GIRLS' FOOTBALL TEAM SCOUTING CAMP

### INCREASE IN FEMALE PARTICIPATION

A scouting camp was organized for girls, where 63 participants from various villages across the Mandla district showcased their skills in high jump, long jump, running, and dribbling. The camp was a success, and witnessing the passion and dedication of these young athletes filled us with immense pride. The participation of tribal girls in the scouting camp served as a powerful testament to their potential and shattered societal stereotypes. It highlighted the importance of providing equal opportunities for talent development in marginalized communities. The camp not only gave these girls a platform to showcase their skills but also instilled in them a sense of confidence, self-belief, and empowerment.

## NVFA BOYS ATTEND ATK MOHUN BAGAN FC TRIALS

### CROSSING THE STATE BORDERS

5 NVFA boys attended the ATK Mohun Bagan FC trials in Kolkata. Their exceptional skills and dedication led to an invitation to the Bengaluru FC trials, demonstrating their potential to compete at higher levels. Pramod Wate was selected from 4000 trialists from all over India and played for the illustrious club at the U-17 Youth I-League.



# NARMADA VALLEY FOOTBALL ACADEMY



## PARTICIPATION IN DERVAN ENERGIA CUP 2023, U-17 GIRLS FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

NVFA participated in the Dervan Energia Cup 2023, an U-17 Girls Tournament, hosted by the Shri Vithalrao Joshi Charities Trust, Dervan from January 18 to January 21, 2023, in Chiplun, Maharashtra.

## VISIT FROM DISTRICT COLLECTOR OF MANDLA, MP.

IAS Harshika Singh, visited NVFA players during their practice session in Mandla as they prepared for the Indian Air Force - organized 61st Subroto Cup.



We had the District Collector for Mandla, I.A.S, Harshika Singh visit NVFA players during their practice sessions in Mandla as they prepared for the esteemed Subroto Cup.

# RAJA HRIDAY SHAH GOLDEN BABY LEAGUE

## 2022-23 THIRD EDITION.

The Raja Hriday Shah Golden Baby League, third edition was conducted towards the end of December 2023. This tournament focused on U-10 children - from 24 villages. This year we saw a rise in participation with 204 players - 46 girls and 158 boys

We are humbled to report a rise in female participation this year, indicating that our intervention programs are working towards creating an inclusive environment. We remain committed to promoting gender equality and empowering young girls to pursue their dreams and aspirations.

The tournament was a great success, with Amjhar emerging as the winner, followed by Umardih in second place, Panchhipani in the third place, and Kudopani in the fourth. The semifinals and finals were fiercely contested, with all teams showing great skill and determination. Overall, the tournament is always a great opportunity for young players and children to develop their skills, make new friends, and experience the joys of football.



# A FEW GLIMPSES



# NARMADA VALLEY AVISHKAAR LABS



## GRADUATING TO PYTHON LANGUAGE FROM SCRATCH

The students who excelled in the CEL Hackathon using Scratch and Pocket Code last year have now progressed to Python Language.

The Narmada Valley Avishkaar Labs Program aims to provide these children with a foundational understanding of programming and computer science concepts. Through engaging activities and interactive lessons, the children have been learning the basics of coding, logical thinking, and problem-solving. The transition to Python marks a significant milestone as the children progress to a more advanced programming language. This initiative not only equips them with valuable skills for the future but also fosters creativity and critical thinking among them.

## INAUGURATING OUR NEW COMPUTER LAB

With immense pride and gratitude, we inaugurated our new computer lab, a significant step towards technological empowerment for our students. This commendable achievement was made possible through the valuable support and collaboration of our partner, Amazon. Together, we are dedicated to providing our students with the necessary digital skills to excel in today's world.

# RIVERSIDE NATURAL SCHOOL



## MRIDA'S FIRST BATCH APPEARS FOR 10TH BOARD EXAM

Our institution's inaugural cohort of 16 students recently completed the Madhya Pradesh Board 10th standard exam, which took place from March 1st to March 20th, 2023.

This was our first batch of class 10. It was a special experience to see them grow up. The milestone achievement is proof of the dedication and hard work of our learners. It also reflects the unwavering commitment of our faculty who have been supporting and guiding them since 2016.

The experience of sitting for the board exam was a significant achievement in itself, and one that we are proud to have supported our students through. We eagerly await the results and look forward to celebrating our students' accomplishments.





# HEALTH IS WEALTH



Our hostel program is the sturdy pillar on which rests the success of our other work. Through this, we are able to tackle malnutrition and provide a well-rounded environment for children to grow up in. This includes yoga, regular health check-ups, movie screenings, outings and free-wheeling discussions with children.

Thanks to these efforts, there was a sharp dip in anemic children this year. We recorded an 8% improvement in hemoglobin levels in March 2022, after proper nutrition and medical interventions after the children returned to the hostel after the second COVID-19 second wave and subsequent lockdown restrictions. In July 2022, only two out of 100 students had borderline anemic.

In December 2022, we saw an increase in BMI for 80% of our day scholars who were enrolled in the daily lunch program of Feeding India Program by Zomato

# Success Stories

## Antara Dhurve becomes first professional girl footballer from MP

Antara Dhurvey, a dedicated NVFA footballer, earned her place in the Western India Football Association-organized national camp for the U-17 girls' team. Her selection validates the progress and commitment shown by our girls' football program. By the end of the year, she was selected by Golkulam Kerela FC in their u-19 Team with a three year contract making her the first tribal girl child in the region to play professional football ever.



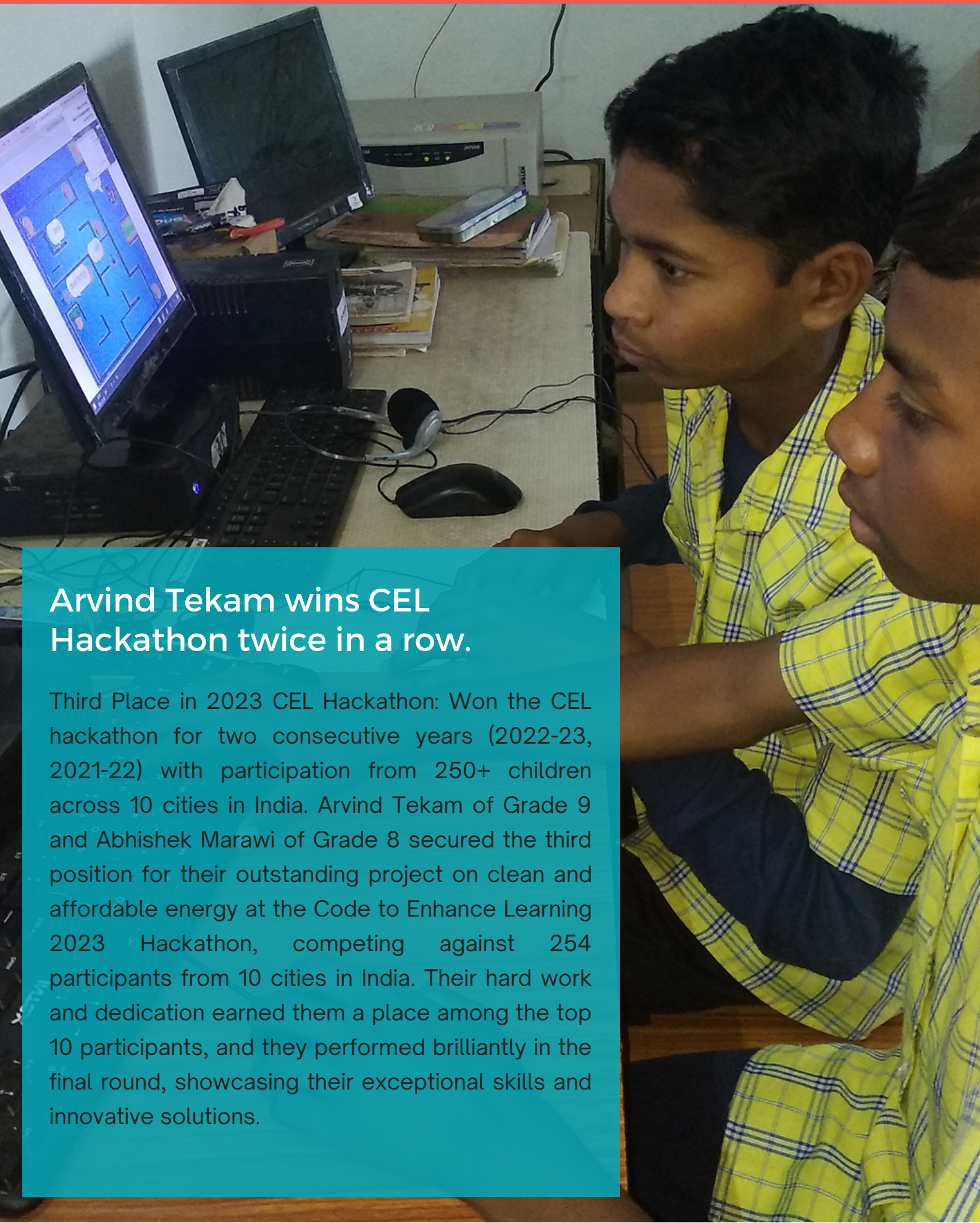
# Success Stories



## Girl U-17 Team win the Subroto State Championship

In their first appearance at the 61st Subroto Cup Football Tournament, the first-ever all-tribal girls' team from the region, representing Riverside Natural School, showcased their remarkable talent. They successfully qualified from Madhya Pradesh, surpassing teams from Bhopal, Narmadapuram, Gwalior, Indore, and Ujjain, earning the opportunity to compete at the prestigious Ambedkar Stadium in Delhi. During this tournament, the U-17 Girls' Football Team from Riverside Natural School received the esteemed HFO VN Singh Fair Play Award, recognizing their exceptional sportsmanship. Among the standout players, Akansha Narte and Ambika Dhurwey demonstrated outstanding skills and caught the attention of scouts and coaches. Their remarkable performances led to them being named among the top 25 players in this edition of the Subroto Cup. As a result, they were awarded scholarships of Rs. 25,000 each, further acknowledging their talent and dedication. Their success highlights the potential and prowess of young talent in the realm of girls' football, fostering a positive outlook for the future of the sport in tribal regions.

# Success Stories



## Arvind Tekam wins CEL Hackathon twice in a row.

Third Place in 2023 CEL Hackathon: Won the CEL hackathon for two consecutive years (2022-23, 2021-22) with participation from 250+ children across 10 cities in India. Arvind Tekam of Grade 9 and Abhishek Marawi of Grade 8 secured the third position for their outstanding project on clean and affordable energy at the Code to Enhance Learning 2023 Hackathon, competing against 254 participants from 10 cities in India. Their hard work and dedication earned them a place among the top 10 participants, and they performed brilliantly in the final round, showcasing their exceptional skills and innovative solutions.

# Success Stories



## **Nageshwar was selected for Minerva Academy FC**

Nageshwar Dhurvey, one of our talented players who joined us at the age of 6, has been selected to represent the renowned Minerva Academy FC. This achievement opens up new opportunities for Nageshwar and inspires other children to believe in their potential.

# Success Stories

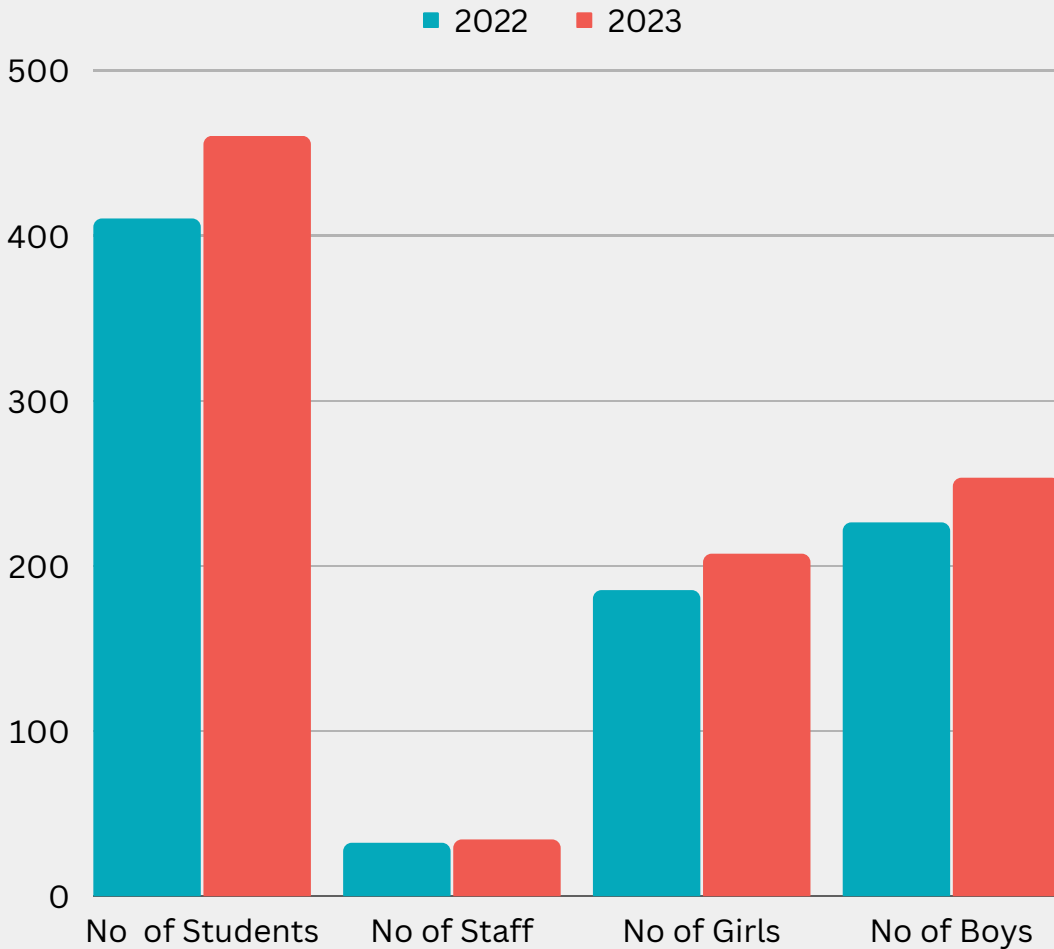


## Pramod Wate was Selected for ATK Mohun Bag FC

Pramod Wate's extraordinary journey took an unexpected turn as he secured a place in the renowned ATK Mohun Bagan FC Youth Academy, one of India's oldest and most prestigious clubs. Among nearly 4000 players, Pramod emerged as one of the top 30, earning his spot in the U-17 team after enduring a rigorous three-month trial at Kolkata's Salt Lake City ground. Throughout his journey, Pramod served as an inspiration for the children in Mrida, excelling not only in football but also in academics and cultural activities. Whether it was on the field, in the classroom, or within the community, Pramod consistently showcased his exceptional skills and achieved remarkable success. Despite the demanding nature of his professional football career, Pramod demonstrated admirable dedication and effective time management skills. This enabled him to excel academically, securing an impressive 74% in his 10th board exams. His ability to strike a balance between his sporting pursuits and academic commitments is truly commendable and highlights his remarkable work ethic and determination to succeed in all aspects of his life.

# IMPACT REACH

Empowering Tribal Communities, Nurturing Excellence.



## 2%

children dropping out at Class 8 while rest of Mandla District shows 12.65%



## 100%

of our children have access to health insurance through the Ayushman Bharat Yojana



## 100%

of Mrida's children with access to medical checkups as compared to the rest of Mandla District.

## 100%

of our children have access to computer and internet while only 5.6% schools have computers in Mandla District.

## 20%

of Mrida's staff comprises widows/abandoned women/single parents who we have trained. They are now earning a steady income and living in dignity in a space where they are wanted



## 16

Girls have reached the national levels for football from Mrida while the rest of the district continues to face challenges in providing women's sports opportunities

# RECOGNITION



Simply Sport Foundation  
@\_SimplySport

Congratulations to the U-17 girl's football team of @MridaEducation on winning the grassroots sports women's achievements of the year. This year the U-17 girls' team of Mrida beat other teams and went on to represent Madhya Pradesh in the 61st Subroto Cup.  
← Tweet



U-17 Girl's Football Team from Narmada Valley Football Academy (NVFA) fueled by Mrida Education & Welfare Society Wins Grassroots Sports Women's Achievement of the Year 2022 from Simply Sports Foundation

Participation in the Subroto Cup showcased the team's talent and potential. The U-17 Girls ' Team demonstrated exceptional teamwork, skill, and sportsmanship, leaving an indelible mark on the competition. Mrida's dedication to grassroots sports and relentless pursuit of excellence has helped us earn this prestigious accolade.





# PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS

01



## **Reliance Foundation**

Reliance Foundation's Education and Sports For All Program is funding 'Building Communities Around Football', a unique grassroots program that aims to build an ecosystem for sports and create awareness about usage of tobacco among children, implemented by us. The program targets to reach 1500 children from 50 villages and 30 Panchayats in Mandla district. The program is expected to be completed in FY 2023-24.

02



## **Boston Consulting Group (BCG)**

BCG is a global consulting firm with offices in India. They have contributed towards running costs of the school and the hostel for FY 2022-23. Their support has helped us provide uninterrupted access to high quality education, opportunities in STEM learning and a safe and secure living environment for children.

03



## **Feeding India, A Giveback by Zomato**

Thanks to our partnership with Feeding India by Zomato , we were able to provide a total of 1,15,964 meals to 185 children and staff. We started the mid-day meal program that has ensured healthy food, cooked in an FSSAI-certified kitchen to 57 children and has helped us improve nutrition standards among 115 hostel residents.

# PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS

04



## **Union Bank of India Social Welfare Trust**

With support from UBISWT, Mrida was able to purchase a school vehicle, television sets for the hostels that are also used during classes in school and other furniture/fixtures that have helped us equip our school and hostel better, thus ensuring we are providing a holistic environment for learning and living to all children.

05



## **Lotus Petal Foundation**

Getting access to high quality teachers especially for English has always been a challenge. We have experimented with various solutions - recorded, off the shelf programs and others to ensure our children have exposure and understanding of English language even though we are a Hindi medium school. LPF's Vidya Sahyog program has helped us provide two-way live classes from Class 3 to 8 to our children where a trained English teacher sitting in Gurgaon conducts classes in real-time.

06



## **Infosys Technologies Springboard Program**

Infosys Springboard team provided 50 tabs for the students of Riverside Natural school. The Infosys CSR team provided 50 tablets for the students of Riverside Natural school. Members of Infosys Nagpur CSR Group (Prayaas...Ek Koshish) visited us in Mohgaon and distributed the tablets that are pre-loaded with the Springboard program. The team is dedicated to promoting digital literacy and education for children in India. They work on developing educational programs and tools that teach children about programming, sports, and other subjects, with the goal of making learning fun and engaging.

# BE A FRIEND OF MRIDA

We are excited to introduce three impactful sponsorship opportunities at the upcoming Narmada Valley Residential Campus, a hub for sports and education excellence in Mandla, established by the Mrida Education and Welfare Society.

**1. Sponsor a Child:** By sponsoring a child, you can provide them with access to quality education and sports facilities. Your contribution will empower underprivileged children and offer them a brighter future filled with opportunities.

**2.Sponsor a Meal:** Through the "Sponsor a Meal" program, you can support the provision of nutritious meals to the students at the Riverside Natural School & Hostel. Your sponsorship will ensure that every child receives wholesome and nourishing food to fuel their growth and learning.

**3. Corporate Match:** Many employers subscribe to this way of giving, matching their employee contributions, thereby doubling donations for Mrida. Donors such as Microsoft and Omidyar Networks have contributed in this manner.

**4. Naming Rights for Infrastructure Components:** As part of our infrastructure development, we offer naming rights for various components within the campus. For instance, you can have your name or the name of your organization associated with the sports complex, auditorium, classrooms, libraries, or other vital facilities. This opportunity allows you to leave a lasting legacy and make a significant impact on the lives of future generations.

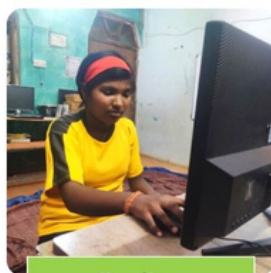
Join hands with us to transform lives and create a brighter future for rural India email us at [info@mrida.org](mailto:info@mrida.org)



## Transforming Lives of Tribal Children



School



Coding



Sports

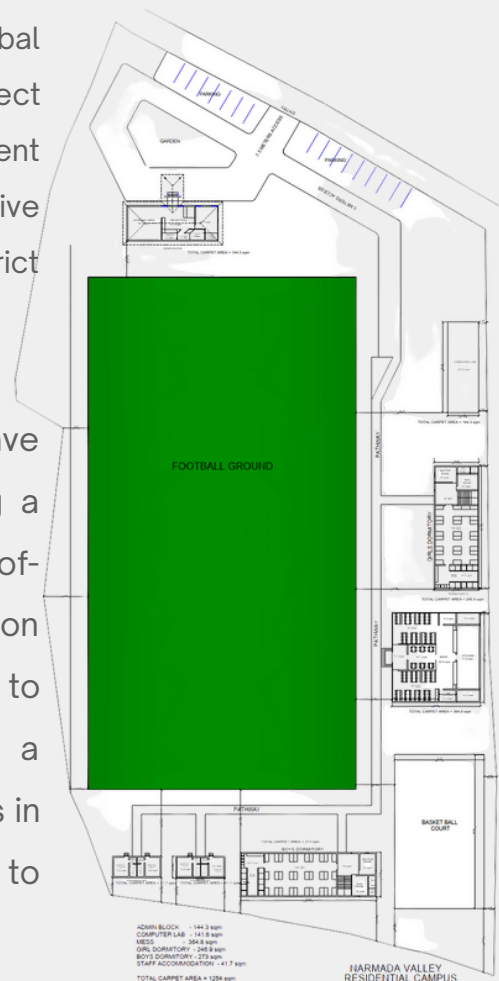


Meal Programs

# NARMADA VALLEY RESIDENTIAL CAMPUS

We are delighted to present the Narmada Valley Residential Campus, a transformative initiative dedicated to empowering tribal children through sports and education. With a total estimated project cost of Rs. 5 crore, our vision is to create a nurturing environment where 300 tribal girls and boys aged 6 to 17 years can stay, receive comprehensive training, and compete at various levels, from district to international tournaments.

In Stage 1, which is expected to cost Rs. 2.31 crore, we have successfully established essential infrastructure, including a ground floor hostel dormitory, staff quarters, and a state-of-the-art football ground. These facilities provide the foundation for our students' growth and development, enabling them to pursue their athletic dreams while ensuring they receive a quality education. All enrolled children are attending schools in Mandla district, where they will complete their education up to Class 12.



We take immense pride in preparing our students for life beyond the classroom. Our dedicated team ensures each child receives guidance and training to excel in their chosen path. Some students will be groomed for sports trials, while others receive preparation for armed forces entrance exams. We offer career coaching for those interested in coaching and sports-related fields. To achieve our goals and uplift communities, we need generous support. Help us expand facilities, offer better training resources, and enhance the student experience. Join us in creating a brighter future for talented tribal children. Your contribution makes a significant difference in empowering youth through sports and education.

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



We express sincere gratitude to all stakeholders who have played a pivotal role in advancing our cause. We deeply appreciate our generous donors, whose contributions significantly impact our programs. Immense gratitude goes to our dedicated volunteers who selflessly give their time, skills, and energy, driving our success. Our heartfelt thanks extend to our committed staff members whose unwavering commitment and expertise make a lasting difference. We acknowledge the invaluable guidance of our esteemed board members, shaping our growth. We also appreciate partners and supporters whose collaboration strengthens our programs. Together, we achieve remarkable milestones, creating positive change in the communities we serve. We celebrate the collective efforts and anticipate continued collaboration as we strive for greater heights in our mission.



# MRIDA EDUCATION & WELFARE SOCIETY

Annual Report 2022-23



निरंतर दीर्घ काल अभ्यास

## CONTACT US

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