



# Annual Report

2023-2024

# Joti Foundation



Joti Foundation is named after late Prabjot Singh, loving father, husband and philanthropist. Mr. Prabjot Singh was the most-trusted and humble personality in his hometown, Sri Muktsar Sahib, Punjab. With his great heartedness and magnanimous spirit, he led the expansion and development of the entire town without singeing any of his efforts. Every soul that crossed his path, was openly welcomed for any help that they ever required.

His charitable tales have no end even today, as people visit Sherewala, they are told of a leader who took care of several families in need, took it upon himself to fund the education of children and help young women to stand on their own feet, help officials looking for guidance and any support; and many such good deeds that have become an inspiration for many. Taking this legacy forward, Joti Foundation was established in 2020. We, at Joti Foundation are driven by empathy and a strong sense of justice to fight for the abolition of poverty, gender inequality and a more sustainable future.

We strive to build a future in which children do not go hungry but thrive, women do not hide but shine, villages do not struggle but grow and people with disabilities do not give up on the idea of a secure, healthy and nourished future where there is no discrimination. Team Joti Foundation vows to work at grassroots level and connect with the people in a better way. This would further our understanding of their needs- emotionally, mentally, physically and psychologically. We are here to reform the system, spark our country's future and make a difference in the lives of others!

# Note from the founder

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Dear Friends,

As I sit down to share the highlights of this transformative year, my heart is filled with extreme gratitude and a sense of purpose. It is a privilege to present this annual report, encapsulating the collective efforts and impact we have achieved together through Joti foundation.

Joti Foundation was started in 2020 with a simple idea of giving back to society. As the journey unfolded we came across a lot of challenges, overcoming those challenges we have emerged as a responsible organization with a shared belief that every person regardless of their circumstances, deserves access to resources that can uplift and empower. The resilience of the communities we serve and the passion of our team inspire me daily. Together we are making strides towards a future where every individual has the opportunity to thrive.

This year we worked majorly in Punjab, touched upon the lives of many which you will see as you will turn the pages of this report. In the upcoming year, we look forward to expanding our reach, introducing innovative solutions and building upon the foundations we have laid.

Joti Foundation is more than an organization, it is a collective effort, a shared vision for a better world. As we embark on this journey, your continued support is invaluable.

I extend my deepest appreciation to our donors, partners, and the dedicated team at Joti Foundation. Your belief in our mission is the driving force behind the positive change we are creating together. Let's continue to illuminate the lives of those in need and work towards a brighter and a more equitable future.

Thank you for being an integral part of Joti Foundation.

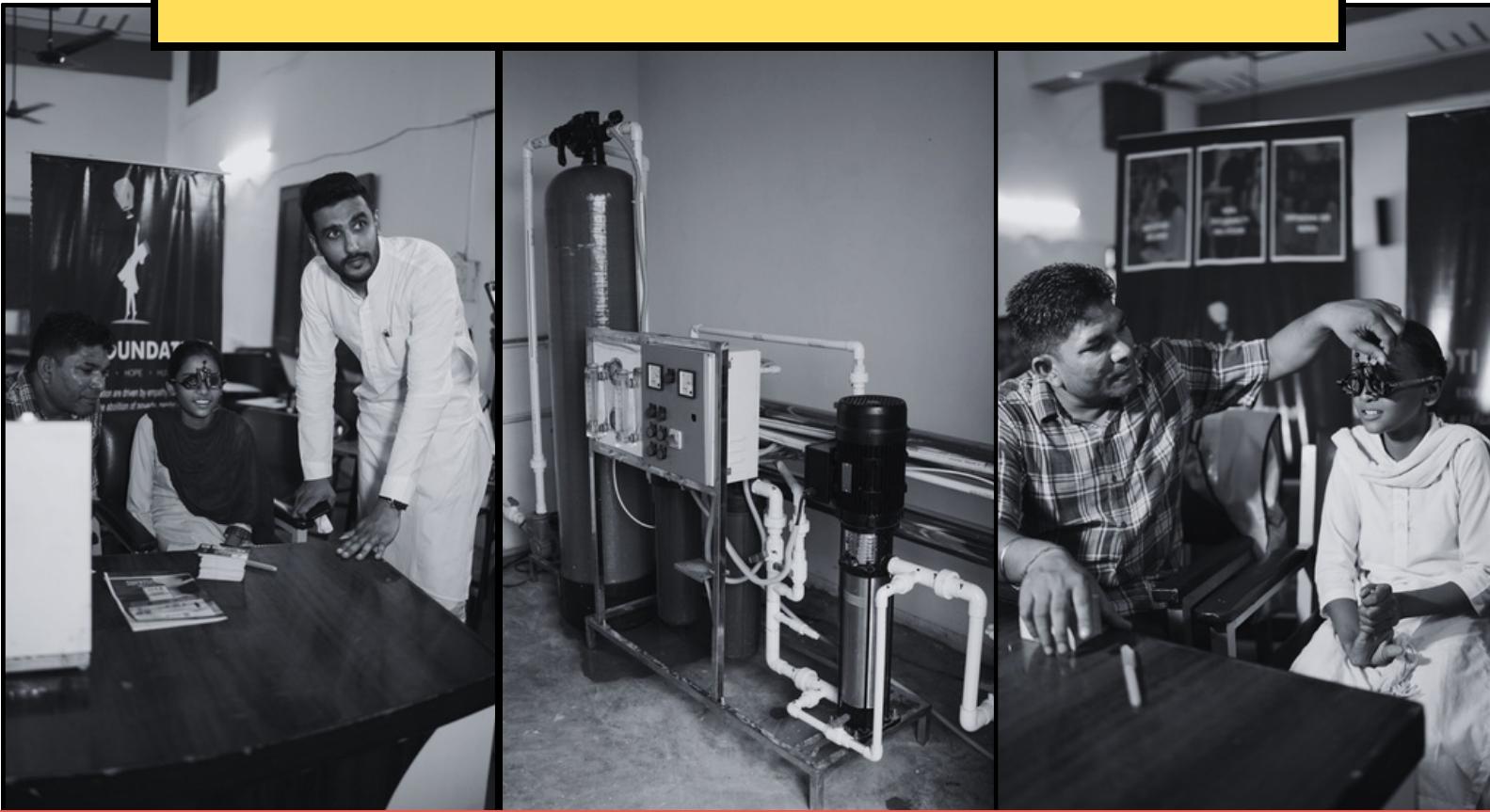
With gratitude,



Ajit Brar  
Founder  
Joti Foundation



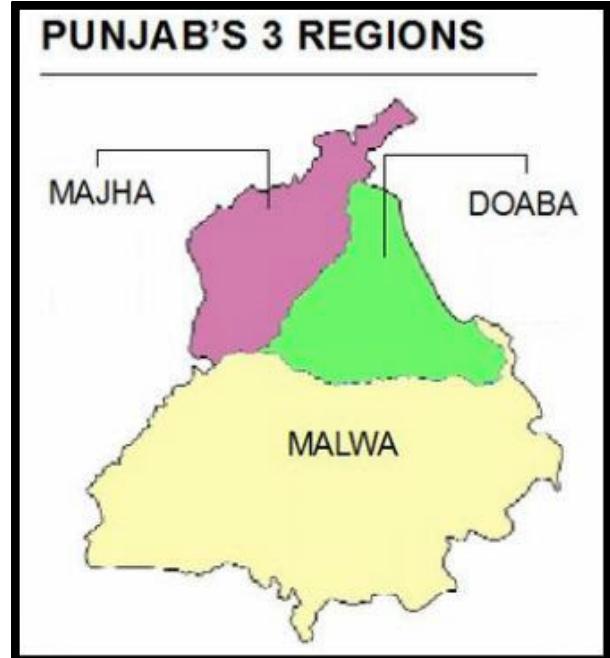
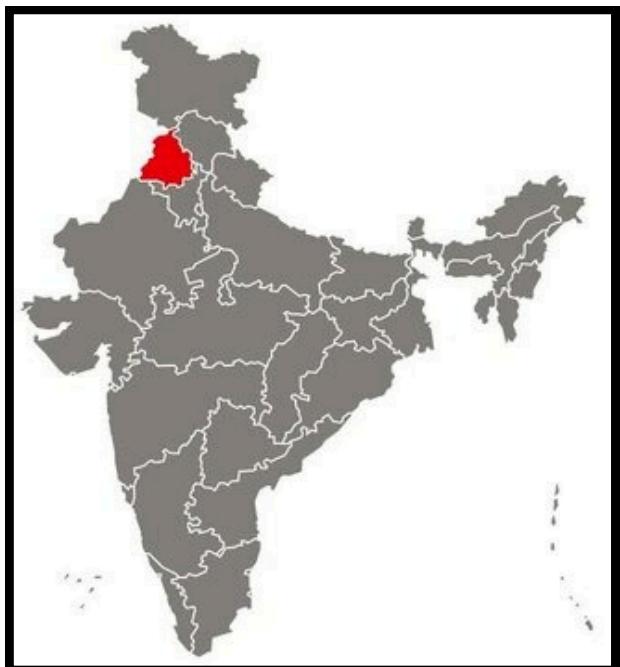
# INITIATIVES



# JAL JEEVAN

An initiative to provide safe drinking water





The water crisis in the Malwa region of Punjab which is also known as the 'Cancer belt of Punjab' has become dire, with an increasing impact on the health of the population residing in these villages. Over-dependence on fertilizers and pesticides, geogenic contamination and human activities have led to massive contamination of the groundwater resources in south-west Punjab. Studies show that the level of contamination, trace metals, and TDS have exceeded the acceptable limits for drinking water in most of the districts in Punjab. A study conducted by the Department of Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation (DWSS) in 2010 in Punjab showcased the presence of trace elements higher than the acceptable limits. They were heavy metals such as lead, chromium, cadmium, nickel, aluminum, arsenic, and uranium. These contaminants give birth to different types of cancer and other diseases like hepatitis, nervous system disorder, kidney damage etc. This region covers 14 out of the 23 districts of Punjab.

Recognizing the urgency of the situation, we have undertaken a crucial intervention to address the water crisis in rural areas of the Malwa region. Through the installation of Water Purification Units (WPUs), we aim to provide immediate access to safe drinking water for the affected population. These WPUs utilize advanced purification technology to remove contaminants and ensure that the water meets quality standards for consumption.

Since the inception of our intervention, Joti Foundation has made significant strides in providing access to safe drinking water in the Malwa region. To date, we have successfully installed six water purification units in districts of Sri Muktsar Sahib and Fazilka. These units serve as lifelines for the community, providing safe drinking water to approximately 30,000 people daily.

- Heavy metals contamination in drinking water/groundwater is at a higher concentration than the WHO permissible limit. There have been reports of premature greying of hair, premature ageing and excessive cancer death in Jajjal village of Bathinda

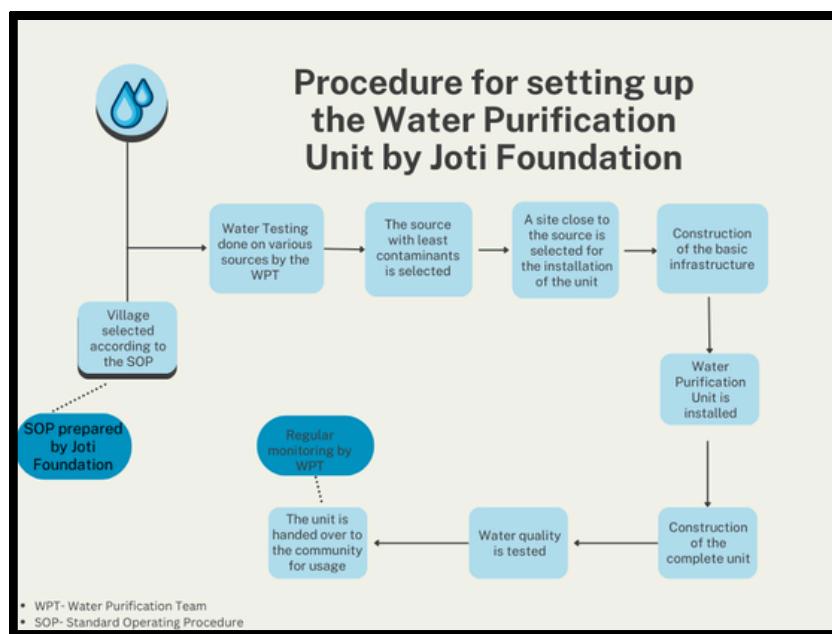
- The groundwater of the Malwa region comes in the category of very hardwater and unfit for drinking. The concentration of uranium in the region's groundwater ranges from 13.9 to 172.8 µg/l

- The most common symptoms of arsenicosis include dermatological which include dark/white pigmentation and gradual hardening of palms and soles along with appearance of hard nodular lesions.

- Cancer, Arthritis, Sinusitis, Anemia, Arsenicosis, Lead Poisoning, Methaemoglobinemia, Fluorosis, and kidney-related problems are common across the Malwa region of Punjab.

- High concentration of uranium can cause severe kidney problems, lung infection, autoimmune disorder, high blood pressure, reproductive system problems, and cancer.

- Studies linked arsenic with leukaemia, diabetes, neurological effects, cardiac disabilities and reproductive organs.



The impact of our intervention extends beyond the provision of safe water. By addressing a fundamental need for clean drinking water, we are safeguarding the health and well-being of communities, reducing the prevalence of waterborne diseases, and alleviating the burden of medical expenses associated with water-related illnesses. Additionally, access to safe water promotes economic stability by improving productivity and reducing healthcare costs.

# **CLEARER VISION FOR BRIGHTER FUTURE**

**Aims at providing free of cost spectacles to all the  
government school children of Punjab**



In August 2024, we embarked on a transformative journey with the launch of the 'Clearer Vision for Brighter Future' initiative. This ground breaking program was designed to address a pressing issue affecting the educational landscape of Punjab – the prevalence of weak eyesight among government school children. Recognizing the profound impact visual impairment can have on a child's learning capacity, Joti Foundation took proactive steps to provide comprehensive eye care services to enhance the educational outcomes of these children.

The initiative is to conduct mega screenings for approximately 29,000000 government school children across Punjab. Through these screenings, we aimed to identify students with vision impairments and provide them with free-of-cost spectacles, thereby enabling them to access the education they deserve without hindrance.

The implementation of the 'Clearer Vision for Brighter Future' initiative involved meticulous planning and coordination at every stage. Joti Foundation collaborated with government authorities, educational institutions, and healthcare professionals to ensure the seamless execution of the program. Camps were set up in each school of the districts, reaching even the most remote areas to ensure that no child was left behind.



Additionally, partnerships were established with optical suppliers to procure high-quality spectacles suitable for the diverse needs of the children.

The impact of the initiative was profound and far-reaching. By conducting mega screenings and providing free spectacles, Joti Foundation significantly improved the visual health of thousands of government school children.

One such poignant story is that of Sukhchain, a bright young boy whose potential was hindered by untreated vision problems. During our screening process, Sukhchain was found to have a severe vision impairment, with a prescription of 6 diopters, yet he was not wearing spectacles due to his family's financial constraints.

In this journey we came across hundreds of children like Sukhchain and transformed their lives through this initiative. In the FY 2023-2024 we covered various districts such as Sri Mukstar Sahib, Bathinda, Fazilka and Sangrur and screened more than 250000 children. Amongst these we identified and provided spectacles to over 10,000 children.

The provision of corrective eyewear not only enhanced their ability to see clearly but also contributed to their overall well-being and academic performance. Moreover, by addressing vision impairments at an early stage, the initiative helped prevent long-term complications and potential dropout rates due to undiagnosed visual problems.

Beyond providing direct services, we also prioritized community engagement and awareness-building efforts. In this initiative we gave a very significant role to the teachers of the districts. Through proper workshops and training we educated teachers how to do initial screenings with the help of Snellen chart. This made teachers a very important part of the entire project and worked towards sensitizing them about this cause.



# DISASTER RELIEF

Responded to Punjab floods



In August, Punjab was faced with one of the most devastating floods in recent memory, leaving a trail of destruction in its wake and impacting the lives of countless individuals and families. As floodwaters inundated vast swathes of land, leaving countless families displaced and livelihoods destroyed, we mobilized our expert teams to provide immediate assistance. Recognizing the urgency of the situation, our teams sprang into action, deploying motor rafts to facilitate evacuations and deliver crucial medical aid to those stranded in the floodwaters.

In the days that followed, as access to remote villages became increasingly challenging due to flooded roads and infrastructure damage, we adapted our approach, utilizing waterways to reach isolated communities. Despite the logistical hurdles, our teams navigated treacherous waters to deliver essential supplies, including ration packs and other vital items, to those in need.

Through our concerted efforts, we were able to make a tangible difference in the lives of thousands of flood-affected individuals and families. By providing evacuation facilities, medical aid, and essential supplies to 3000 households across five villages, we alleviated immediate suffering and offered a glimmer of hope amidst the devastation.

Moreover, our response efforts extended beyond mere relief provision, as we remained committed to supporting communities in their long-term recovery and rebuilding efforts. By prioritizing the most vulnerable populations and ensuring equitable distribution of resources, we sought to foster resilience and empower communities to chart a path towards recovery and renewal.



# EMPOWER-ED

Empowering underprivileged children  
through education



Recognizing the transformative power of education as a catalyst for positive change, we launched Project Empower-ED, an initiative aimed at empowering underprivileged children through education. With a firm belief in the potential of every child to succeed, regardless of their socio-economic background, the project seeks to alleviate financial barriers and provide holistic support to ensure access to educational opportunities.

The primary objective of Project Empower-ED is to break the cycle of poverty by equipping underprivileged children with the tools they need to excel academically and pursue their dreams. Through comprehensive scholarships, we aim to cover all educational expenses, including tuition fees, uniforms, books, examination fees, and other necessities. Additionally, the project endeavours to foster holistic development through sports, co-curricular activities, and educational excursions, enriching the educational experience and enhancing employability prospects.

In implementing Project Empower-ED, collaboration was key. We engaged with district administration, education departments, and school authorities to identify meritorious yet underprivileged children deserving of support.

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We ensured that scholarships were awarded to those with the greatest need and potential for academic success.

The impact of Project Empower-ED has been profound, touching the lives of many children and their families. By removing financial barriers to education and providing comprehensive support, we have empowered children to pursue their academic aspirations and unlock their full potential. T

hrough our efforts, we have witnessed remarkable transformations as children thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.



# SAMARTH

Empowering differently abled through sports



We recognize the profound impact that disability can have on the lives of individuals. In response to this, we launched project 'SAMARTH,' which translates to 'capable,' with the aim of empowering differently abled sportsmen and fostering their talents. Through this initiative, we seek to create a supportive and inclusive environment where these athletes can reach their full potential, inspiring countless individuals in the process.

The primary objective of project SAMARTH is to empower differently abled athletes by providing them with the necessary support and resources to excel in sports. We aim to foster a sense of belonging and inclusion, enabling these athletes to showcase their abilities on various platforms. By nurturing their talents and providing opportunities for growth, we aspire to break down societal barriers and challenge stereotypes surrounding disability in sports.

Project SAMARTH is implemented through a multifaceted approach that encompasses various elements, including training, mentorship, and access to competitive opportunities. We work closely with differently abled athletes to identify their strengths and interests, tailoring our support to meet their individual needs. Our foundation provides training facilities, coaching support, and access to specialized equipment to help athletes hone their skills and compete at the highest levels. Additionally, we foster a supportive community where athletes can connect with peers, share experiences, and inspire one another to achieve greatness.

The impact of SAMARTH extends far beyond the realm of sports, touching the lives of differently abled athletes and their communities. Through our efforts, these athletes have had the opportunity to represent India on state, national, and international levels, showcasing their talent and determination on a global stage. Moreover, this project serves as a powerful symbol of inclusion and empowerment, challenging perceptions of disability and celebrating the abilities of all individuals. By providing a platform for differently abled athletes to thrive, we inspire countless others to pursue their passions and overcome barriers in their own lives.



# CONTACT US

Punjab - Chak Sherewala, Sri Muktsar Sahib, Punjab - 152031

Haryana - Ireo Corridors, Sector 67, Gurugram, Haryana - 122102



[info@jotifoundation.org](mailto:info@jotifoundation.org)



<https://www.jotifoundation.org/>



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