

Sikkim Shines as a Beacon of Women's Empowerment:

Sarvamangala Society Nurtures the Next Generation of Leaders

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The tiny Himalayan region of Sikkim is marking its presence in the global panorama. In a testament to Sikkim's commitment to women's empowerment, Sarvamangala Society, co-founded by Suprabha Sharma in Chhota Singtam just three years ago along with mentors and supporters from the UK and Switzerland, is lighting the way for the state's brightest girls. With its roots firmly planted in Sikkim, the society is already making an indelible impact on 196 girls, 105 of whom hail from the communities of our state.

Sikkim has long been recognized as a pioneer in India for its socially inclusive vision. Encouraged by the state's openness to societal upliftment, Sarvamangala Society provides invaluable opportunities to girls brimming with potential and determination. Its mission is straightforward yet profound: to support and empower girls with the knowledge, skills and

confidence they need to succeed.

Through this program, girls are not only completing their education but are also being exposed to specialized training that sets them apart.

A cornerstone of Sarvamangala Society's success has been its partnership with esteemed international consultants. It has recently introduced body-language training guided by an expert from Switzerland who upskills Swiss government employees. This unique program, now also offered to Sikkimese girls, helps them cultivate an assured presence and exude confidence. 17-year-old Dawki, one of the girls excited about this program, commented: 'I could never imagine how important it is to learn confident body-language. I am really grateful.'

A Swiss psychologist is offering workshops on goal setting, planning and stress management. These workshops are helping the girls to set clear objectives, manage their time effectively and navigate the pressures of life with resilience.

This integral approach ensures that they are not only prepared academically but are also mentally and emotionally equipped to succeed in whatever paths they choose in today's competitive ecosystems. 21-year-old Sonam, who has been attending all the sessions, said: 'It really felt great to learn about the psychological factors underlying stress and how to handle them.'

Career guidance is offered by a PhD holder trained in Germany, who helps the girls explore diverse career paths, understand the global job market and make informed decisions about their futures. 24-year-old Punam, who got placed immediately with a good salary thanks to the career guidance she received through Sarvamangala Society, commented: '...'

In an increasingly digital world, IT skills are essential. Women professionals at a leading IT company based in Dubai have generously offered their expertise, providing cutting-edge IT skills training.

The girls are equipped with crucial technological know-how, making them competitive candidates in the job market and empowering them to create innovative solutions for the challenges of tomorrow. 19-year-old Yashoda, who has been diligently attending the IT skills sessions offered by MSE Technology for the past six months, said: 'Learning computer applications every week has opened up my possibilities.'

For the past two years, two experts trained by the British Council, renowned for its excellence in language education, have been offering Spoken English classes, teaching writing skills and providing interview training. This vital guidance opens doors to higher education and international opportunities, while also honouring our state's languages like Nepali, Bhutia and Lepcha. 14-year-old Ritu remarked: 'These lessons have simply opened my eyes.'

Sarvamangala Society has garnered strong support from

notable global figures. One of the project's most ardent champions is a distinguished inventor who worked with Steve Jobs at Apple and has hundreds of patents and inventions in her name. As a global tech leader, her support underscores the society's commitment to fostering innovation and excellence among Sikkim's young women.

Sarvamangala Society's achievements have not gone unnoticed on the international stage. In October last year, the organization was invited by the Swiss Embassy in New Delhi to speak about the work it has been doing. Two Sarvamangala girls from Sikkim interacted directly with the Swiss Ambassador Dr. Ralf Heckner, who told them how much he loved and admired the people of Sikkim. He greatly enjoyed his recent courtesy visit to Sikkim at the invitation of the Chief Minister. Sarvamangala Society's work was praised by the Ambassador and leading diplomats, who pledged their support. Subsequently, one of the Swiss diplomats visited

Sikkim, noting the many similarities between the mountainous country of Switzerland and our hill state.

At the heart of the society's work is a dedicated team of 140 mentors, 115 of whom are from Sikkim. These mentors, all of whom are women, play a pivotal role in nurturing and guiding the girls. They offer not just academic support but also life coaching and career advice. They serve as role models, showing the girls what is possible through hard work and determination. The mentors are integral to the success of the program, providing personalized attention and fostering an environment where each girl feels individually valued and supported.

Suprabha Sharma believes that Sikkim can become a model for the rest of India to follow. As Sikkim continues to lead the way in women's empowerment, the Sarvamangala girls' success stands as a shining example of what can be achieved when vision meets action.