

# A Tribal Doctor's Journey towards Empowering Tribal Youth and Women through Skill Building

**D**r. Ulhas Jayant Vasave, a medical doctor by profession, is an inspiring figure in the realm of public health and community development. With an MBBS from T. N. Medical College, Mumbai, and a Master's in Public Health from SRM University Chennai, Dr. Vasave is well-equipped with knowledge and experience. His training in Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) by CDC-US and NCDC-India, coupled with over 22 years of experience in public health and NGO management, underscores his commitment to improving lives and enabled him to make significant contributions to both the public health sector and various NGOs.

Dr. Vasave's career spans work with the Public Health Department of Maharashtra State and several international and local NGOs. Despite his impressive professional background, he remains deeply committed to using his skills to help the underprivileged. Actively involved in the conceptualization, planning, designing, and implementation of community-centered educational, healthcare, and hospital projects, Dr. Vasave channels his energy towards empowering marginalized communities both in India and abroad.

In 2007, Dr. Vasave, along with his family, founded AaSHRAY DURG Organization. Since its inception, the organization has successfully implemented numerous healthcare, educational, and community development projects in



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remote areas of the country. One of the organization's notable initiatives is "Project Prerana," launched in memory of the late Dr. Prerana Rajesh Vasave, who had a passion for helping women from marginalized communities.

**AaSHRAY ACADEMY**  
**OF COMMUNITY**  
**TRAINING (AACT)**



The AaSHRAY Academy of Community Training (AACT) is a flagship program by AaSHRAY DURG located in the Nandurbar district of Maharashtra. AACT focuses exclusively on the empowerment of women and youth by providing job-oriented education. This program aims to equip women and youth with the necessary skills to secure employment and achieve economic independence.

## CSR Support from Johnson Controls India Private Limited

AACT has received significant support from Johnson Controls India Private Limited under their CSR initiative. Johnson Controls is committed to inclusive growth and believes that empowering women is not only a moral imperative but also a strategic one that leads to sustainable development and inclusive growth. Their CSR initiatives are rooted in the principle that gender equality is essential for a thriving society and economy.

Johnson Controls collaborates with AaSHRAY DURG to focus on three core areas as part of their CSR policy -



Education, Economic Empowerment and Health & Well-being. Their efforts in these areas aim to break down barriers and create opportunities for women and youth to realize their full potential.

### **Education: Building a Strong Foundation**

Johnson Controls recognizes that education is the cornerstone of empowerment. Their educational initiatives aim to provide girls and women with access to quality education and hands-on training. Through scholarships, mentorship programs, and partnerships with NGOs like AaSHRAY DURG, Johnson Controls has trained around 144 youth (both girls and boys) in Nursing Assistance certificate courses and other allied health diplomas. These programs not only enhance their knowledge and skills but also enable them to contribute meaningfully to society.

### **Economic Empowerment and Health & Well-being**

Beyond education, Johnson Controls strives to eliminate barriers that prevent girls and women from pursuing their dreams. By investing in their education and economic empowerment, they are fostering a society where women have the power to shape their own futures. Johnson Controls' CSR initiatives are designed to break down the barriers that hinder women's progress and build a society where everyone can thrive.

### **A Vision for a Brighter Future**

At Johnson Controls India, there is a strong commitment to creating a world where women have the power to shape their own futures. Their CSR initiatives are focused on fostering a brighter, more equitable future for all by empowering women and supporting their journey toward economic independence and societal contribution.

Dr. Ulhas Jayant Vasave's journey with AaSHRAY DURG Organization, supported by the CSR efforts of Johnson

Controls India Private Limited, exemplifies the profound impact that strategic partnerships and dedicated individuals can have on marginalized communities. Through education, skill-building, and unwavering support, they are paving the way for a brighter, more inclusive future for tribal youth and women in India.

### **MORE ABOUT AASHRAY DURG NGO:**

Aashray Durg Organization, a dedicated non-governmental organization, is committed to driving social change through impactful Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives. With a strong focus on sustainability and community development, Aashray Durg collaborates with corporations to create meaningful and lasting contributions to society. Through various programs, the organization addresses critical social issues, ensuring that businesses play a crucial role in fostering social and environmental well-being.

### **Mission and Vision**

The mission of Aashray Durg is to foster sustainable development and improve the quality of life for underprivileged communities. Our vision is a world where corporate entities play a pivotal role in social transformation, embodying the true spirit of CSR by integrating ethical practices into their business models. We aim to bridge the gap between corporate resources and community needs, creating a synergistic approach to development that benefits all stakeholders.

### **Key Initiatives**

Aashray Durg has launched several notable initiatives aimed at addressing critical social issues. Our "Green Future" program focuses on environmental conservation through tree plantation drives and promoting renewable energy sources. This initiative has successfully planted



over 10,000 trees and installed solar panels in remote villages, reducing carbon footprints and providing clean energy. The project not only contributes to environmental sustainability but also educates communities about the importance of preserving natural resources.

Another significant project is the "Education for All" campaign, which aims to improve access to quality education in rural areas. By partnering with local schools and providing educational resources, Aashray Durg has helped increase school enrollment rates and reduce dropout rates among children. These efforts have empowered numerous young minds, equipping them with the knowledge and skills needed for a brighter future. The campaign also includes teacher training programs and the establishment of libraries, ensuring a holistic approach to education.

Additionally, the "Healthcare Outreach" program addresses the healthcare needs of underserved communities. Through mobile medical camps and health awareness campaigns, we have reached thousands of individuals, providing essential medical services and promoting healthier lifestyles. This initiative includes regular health check-ups, vaccination drives, and distribution of medical supplies. The program has significantly improved health outcomes in these communities, reducing the prevalence of preventable diseases and enhancing overall well-being.

Furthermore, Aashray Durg has implemented the "Livelihood Empowerment" project, aimed at providing vocational training and employment opportunities to marginalized individuals. By collaborating with local businesses and industries, we offer skill development workshops and job placement services. This initiative has enabled many individuals to secure stable employment, improving their economic conditions and fostering self-reliance. The project also focuses on promoting

entrepreneurship, encouraging beneficiaries to start their own businesses and contribute to local economic growth.

### Partnerships and Collaborations

Aashray Durg's success in CSR is amplified through strategic partnerships with forward-thinking corporations. By collaborating with

companies committed to social responsibility, we have been able to extend our reach and enhance the impact of our initiatives. These partnerships provide corporations with an opportunity to fulfill their CSR objectives while making a tangible difference in society.

Corporate partners benefit from enhanced brand reputation, employee engagement opportunities, and the satisfaction of contributing to meaningful social causes. Together, we create a synergy that drives positive change and fosters a culture of corporate citizenship. Our collaborations include joint projects, employee volunteer programs, and co-branded awareness campaigns, ensuring that both parties achieve their CSR goals effectively.

### Future Goals and Call to Action

Looking ahead, Aashray Durg aims to expand its initiatives and reach even more communities in need. Our future plans include scaling up our existing programs and launching new projects that address emerging social and environmental challenges. We are committed to continuously improving our impact and ensuring that our efforts lead to sustainable development.

We invite corporations to join us in our mission to create a sustainable and equitable world. Together, we can make a profound difference and leave a lasting legacy of social responsibility. By partnering with Aashray Durg, businesses can not only fulfill their CSR commitments but also contribute to a better future for all. Join us in this noble endeavor and be a catalyst for positive change.

**"Aashray-Durg", Bahu Uddeshiya Samajeek Sanstha**  
(Multipurpose Charitable Organisation)

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