

BSS's Policy Statement Corporate Social Responsibility

Preamble

- BSS believes in positively contributing to the economic, environmental and social well-being of communities through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) agenda.
- This policy statement sets out BSS's vision, mission, governance, commitments and initiatives towards implementing CSR through inclusive growth.

Vision

- To positively contribute towards economic, environmental and social well-being of communities through the BSS's Corporate Social Responsibility agenda.

Mission

Create a lasting value for communities by:

- Promoting and supporting education and other interventions for the underprivileged
- Encouraging employee volunteering
- Supporting Non-Governmental Organizations and other institutions with financial and other resources to collectively deliver community initiatives

Governance

- BSS has established Board-level Corporate Social Responsibility Committee which is responsible for monitoring, reviewing and approving CSR initiatives and expenditure. The Committee makes recommendations to the Board on CSR policy and related matters.
- BSS's CSR Board Committee shall consist of (3) or more directors, out of which at least one director shall be an independent director, if BSS is required to appoint an Independent Director.

Statement of commitment

- BSS, at all times, is committed to:
- Engage with communities to understand their material expectations and concerns, and will consider these material expectations and concerns to design its CSR agenda.
- Implement, monitor, review and evaluate CSR initiatives to achieve the desired outcomes in a transparent manner.
- Undertake projects in the areas of promoting education, enhancing vocational skills and livelihood, promoting preventive healthcare and sanitation, reducing inequalities faced by socially and economically backward groups, sustainable development, relief and rehabilitation, and interventions towards a cleaner India under Swachh Bharat Mission with the aim to serve communities at large and to transform their lives.
- Partner with government agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other institutions to collectively deliver the community development initiatives and support such organizations and institutions with appropriate and necessary resources.

- Encourage its employees to contribute and volunteer for various community development initiatives.
- Ensure that surplus arising out of CSR initiatives is utilized to further augment the CSR agenda and does not form part of the BSS's profits.
- Comply with all legal provisions applicable for CSR and adopt industry best practices, where feasible.

Implementation Mode :

- BSS through its present employees, and stakeholders will implement projects and programmes by procuring product and services directly from Vendors and Market at large.
- BSS will also directly implement all its CSR projects and programmes and / or partner with selected partners who may be either Governmental agencies, NGOs and / or other Institution, for implementing projects and programmes who have a proven track record to implement cost and process efficient CSR projects and / programmes that are scalable, sustainable, and have measurable social outcomes and impact.

Implementation Partners:

Charitable bodies, Government agencies, Not for Profit Organisations (NGOs), Trust Foundations, Companies under Section 8 of the Companies Act, and such other agencies who work in the interest of the Community in this space.

Focus Areas:

- **Promoting Education:** BSS endeavours to enhance the accessibility and affordability of quality education for deserving underserved sections of society including special education. Education will remain the primary CSR focus area for BSS, and the initiatives will focus on providing financial and other resources support to schools by providing infrastructure including school buses, scholarships and coaching to deserving children, parents, teachers, headmasters, principals and administrators to provide holistic learning environment for children at school and home. This will also include providing mid-day meals and creating relevant infrastructure such as specialised food delivery vans, utensils, kitchens, warehouses etc and other required nutrition and health related support to the children. The education initiatives will be implemented through Kotak Education Foundation (KEF) or through other identified implementing agencies and by the BSS's CSR team.
- **Enhancing vocational skills and livelihood projects:** BSS will work towards imparting vocational skills to deserving children and youth, women, elderly, and the differently-abled. The programmes/projects will aim at holistic development of these children and youth, women, elderly, and the differently-able through technical and soft skills and enhances their livelihood opportunities. The vocational skills and livelihood projects in agri-based vocations such as farming, dairy, etc. will be implemented through Kotak Education Foundation (KEF), BVV Sangha Kotak Mahindra Bank Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RSETI), government agencies, and the BSS's CSR team, and other not for profit organisations, NGOs, and such other agencies who work in the interest of the community in this space.
- **Promoting preventive healthcare and sanitation:** BSS will undertake projects/programmes directly and/or through implementing agencies working in healthcare and sanitation domain including but not limited to improving access to healthcare facilities by providing ambulances, screening vans, mobile health units etc, providing preventive and curative care including palliative care, health check-up camps for various age groups to spread awareness towards cancer prevention, HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, Malaria and other communicable and non-communicable diseases and illnesses, providing health check-ups for children covered under education initiatives and sensitizing the children on personal and community health and hygiene. On a case by case basis, BSS will also undertake projects/programmes in the fields of healthcare, sanitation, eradication of hunger and malnutrition, and provision of access to safe drinking water. BSS will also conduct periodic blood donation drives.

- **Reducing inequalities faced by socially and economically backward groups:** BSS directly and/or through implementing agencies will support projects/programmes towards rehabilitating socially and economically backward sections of society by providing safe houses through community house building initiatives. BSS shall also support NGOs working towards promoting gender equality, empowering women, setting up homes and hostels for women and orphans, aaganwadis, panchayats, community halls, setting up old age homes, day care centres and other such facilities for senior citizens, and reducing inequalities faced by socially and economically backward groups including tribal, marginal / landless farmers, landless labourers, such people who are below the poverty line across all segments.
- **Sustainable Development:** BSS directly and/or through implementing agencies including Kotak Education Foundation will support projects/programmes towards sustainable development or sustainability activities such as tree plantation either directly or through an external stakeholder / NGO. BSS and its subsidiaries shall provide support to NGOs working towards maintaining ecological balance, protection of flora and fauna, animal welfare, agriculture, agro forestry, forestry, conservation of natural resources and maintaining quality of soil, air and water including investing in projects/programmes for water conservation/ harvesting, adopting green technologies, waste reduction, recycling and reusing (3Rs) and renewable energy. Further, BSS will extend support to Not for Profit Organisations, NGOs, Institutes, Institutional Bodies and other such organisations that are committed to and work in areas of Environmental Social Governance (ESG), Sustainability, CSR either through direct activities or in the form of advisory, policy advocacy and stakeholder awareness etc.
- **Relief and Rehabilitation:** In cases of natural calamities and disasters, BSS will support relief and rehabilitation activities undertaken by the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund, Chief Minister's Relief Fund or any Central or State Government Body / Bodies or NGOs, Corporate entity or a group of Corporates including support through Kotak Education Foundation directly.
- **Relief and Rehabilitation (Covid 19):** Corona Virus (COVID-19) has been declared as pandemic by the World Health Organisation (WHO), and Government of India has treated this as a notified disaster. The spread of COVID-19 in India has been widespread. Economic and Social Impact of the pandemic has been equally significant. Many of these issues require sustained and long term CSR support. BSS may undertake and support various relief and rehabilitation activities related to COVID-19 including item nos. (i) and (xii) of Schedule VII relating to promotion of health care, preventive health care sanitation, and disaster management.
- **Clean India:** BSS will work directly and/or through implementing agencies including Kotak Education Foundation working towards making India clean but not limited to initiatives such as Swacch Bharat Kosh, Clean Ganga Fund, etc. This would encompass a broad spectrum of initiatives including cleaning of roads, bus stations, railway platforms and such other public facilities, building community toilets and public sanitation facilities, cleaning Ganga and other rivers, education and awareness generation on personal, household and environmental sanitation.
- **Sports:** BSS through Kotak Education Foundation or through NGOs and/or not for profit Organisations support rural sports, nationally recognized sports, Paralympic sports and Olympic sports including the training and development of sportsmen of the said sports.
- **Others:** On a case to case basis, BSS may also consider undertaking CSR programmes and / or projects on CSR focus areas which are eligible under section 135 read with schedule VII of the Companies Act, 2013 along with the Companies (Corporate Social Responsibility Policy) Rules, 2014 as amended from time to time and in line with the Government of India's notifications issued from time to time and as may be approved by the CSR Committee

Monitoring and Reporting of CSR activities and spend

- The fund utilization report will conform to the format prescribed U/S 134 and U/S 135 of Companies Act, 2013 and as per the updates/revised notification(s) issued by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs from time to time.

BSS Microfinance Limited (BSS)
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- The CSR team will ensure compliance and keep the CSR Committee and the Board informed on CSR activities and CSR spends. In the event of a nil or no activity or no expenditure the same will also be notified to the Board.