

## Community Training Camps in Rural India: Taking Skilling Closer to Youth

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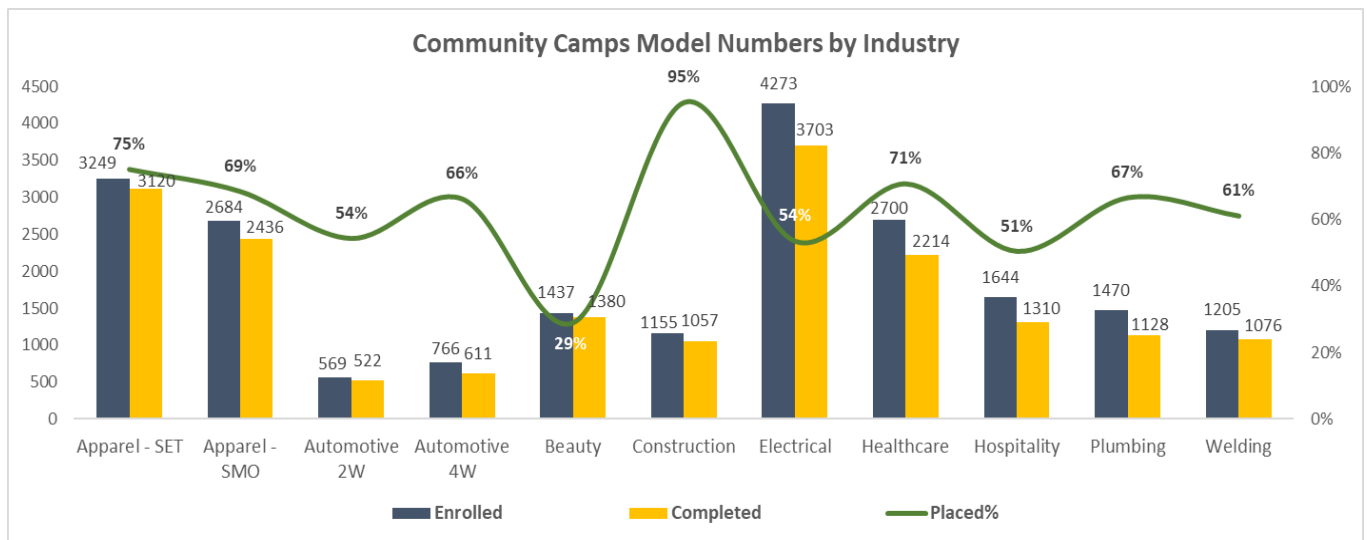
### Introduction

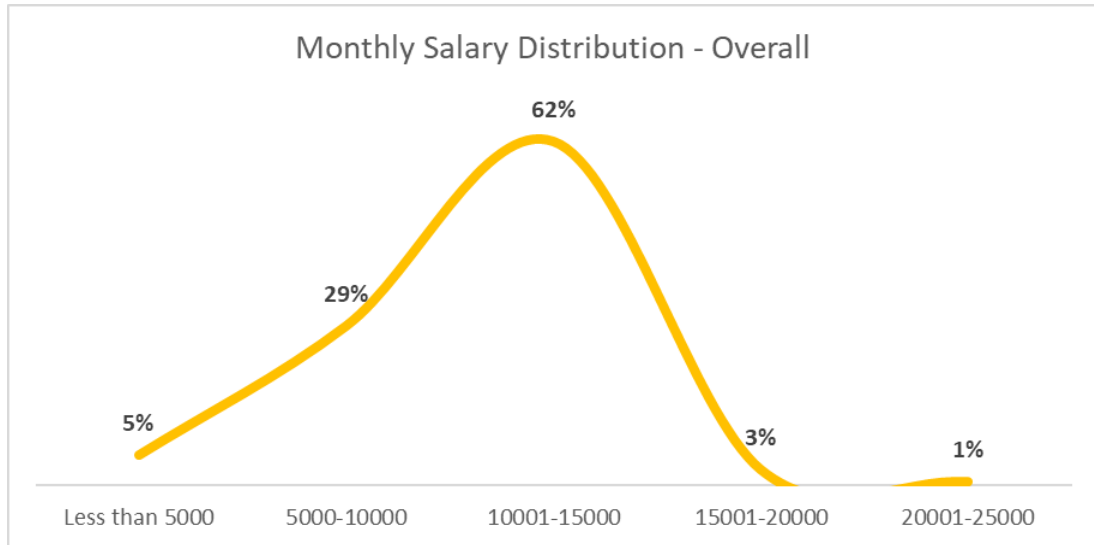
Since 2005, Pratham Education Foundation’s Vocational Skilling Vertical has trained over 300,000 first-generation entrants across 19 states through its residential vocational skilling model. Through years of mobilisation and engagement with youth in communities located within a 100 km radius of training centres, Pratham has observed a recurring challenge—many adolescents and youth remain unaware of available opportunities, uncertain about career pathways, and unable to enrol in long-term training due to the opportunity cost of staying away from work.

To respond to this, Pratham launched the Community Training Camp (CTC) model, a demand-driven initiative designed to bring vocational training directly into rural communities. Implemented across clusters of 5–10 villages, each camp runs for 30 days and offers industry-relevant training aligned to local employment opportunities.

### National Reach and Outcomes

Since 2023, Pratham has conducted 1,040 Community Training Camps nationally, enrolling 21,152 youth. Of these, 18,557 have completed training, and 11,735 youth (63%) have secured employment. Courses such as Electrical, Healthcare, and Apparel have performed strongly across rural geographies.

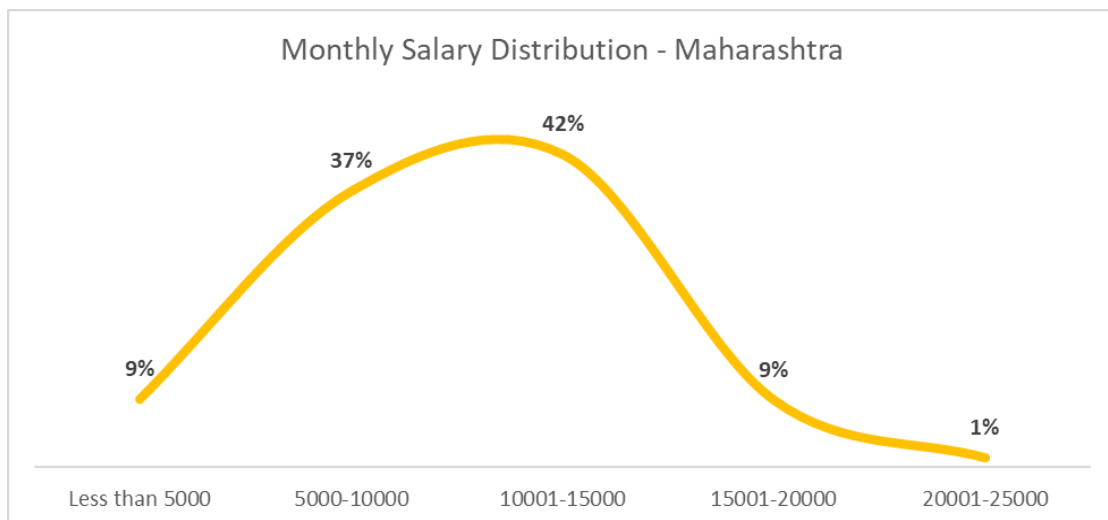




The average monthly income for placed youth stands at ₹10,000, with nearly 67% earning ₹10,000 or above, suggesting that short-duration, localised training can generate meaningful livelihood outcomes.

### Maharashtra as a Leading Implementation State

Within the Community Camp model, Maharashtra has emerged as the leading implementation state. A total of 278 camps have been conducted, enrolling 5,752 youth across multiple industries. Of these, approximately 5,060 youth completed training, and 3,479 (69%) are currently employed. This makes Maharashtra the highest contributor to Community Camps nationally, demonstrating the state’s ability to mobilise and train youth across diverse geographies. Unlike the national average, monthly income for placed youth in Maharashtra peaks in the range of ₹10,000–15,000.

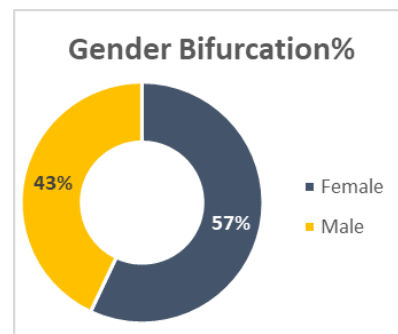


### Women’s Participation in Non-Traditional Trades

One of the strongest learnings from Community Camps has been the expansion of women’s participation in trades where their presence was historically limited. Since 2016, 8,326 women had

been trained in non-traditional trades through centre-based models. With the introduction of Community Camps, an additional 1,331 women enrolled locally, of whom 1,140 completed training.

Nationally, women account for nearly 57% of total enrolment in Community Camps. The proximity and familiarity of camp locations, along with flexible timings and the presence of female trainers, appear to have reduced mobility-related barriers and improved participation.



### **The Case of Gadchiroli**

For several years, Pratham mobilised youth from Gadchiroli to residential training centres outside the district. While this model worked for some, distance, safety concerns, unfamiliar environments, and high opportunity costs created barriers—particularly for women.

The Community Training Camp model changed this dynamic by delivering training within villages in familiar and accessible spaces. Through Area of Police centres and on-ground mentors, the initiative reached over 2,000 households across villages such as Aaldandi, Gatta, Gardewada, Halewara, Pimpri, Burgi, and Bhamaragad, mobilising 1,429 youth. Despite operational challenges such as seasonal livelihood cycles, heavy rainfall, and delays in training materials, the Gadchiroli camps trained 1,299 youth across six trades, achieving 90% of the planned target and recording a near-perfect placement rate.

### **Key Learnings**

The Community Camp model highlights three important lessons. First, proximity drives participation, especially for women who may face mobility and safety concerns. Second, community-based delivery improves retention, as youth are able to continue learning without leaving home or work. Third, curriculum flexibility remains critical, with trainers adapting language, examples, and course offerings to align with local contexts and emerging job opportunities.

The experience across states suggests that when skilling is delivered within the community—supported by mentors, local partnerships, and hands-on instruction—it can create deeper engagement, stronger completion, and meaningful employment outcomes.

**Read More:** [Livelihood Models of Rural Maharashtra](#)

**Author:** Raksha Sathish, Program Development Team