RITINJALI · NEW DELHI

Second Chance School

Alumni Impact Report · *2004–2023*

A twenty-year story of transformation — from exclusion to agency



SCS students — the programme's most recent cohort

97%	15×	66%	8.2/10
Currently Employed	**Income Multiplier**	**Higher Education**	**Job Satisfaction**
from <2% at entry	*early cohort median*	*from 7% at entry*	*across 20 years*

—THE PROGRAMME

What is the Second Chance School?

Most programmes help people get a job. The Second Chance School helps people rebuild a life — and then, quietly, the lives of those around them.

Founded by Ritinjali in New Delhi, the Second Chance School (SCS) has, since 2004, offered a structured residential pathway to young men who have been excluded from mainstream education through dropout, economic hardship, or social disadvantage. These are not young people who failed school. They are young people school failed to hold.

The programme integrates four elements that most skilling interventions treat as separate: academic re-entry (through NIOS, IGNOU, and DU SOL), vocational training (in hospitality, IT, healthcare, and trades), a Work and Life Readiness curriculum, and long-term mentoring that continues well after placement. It is this combination — qualification with character, skill with belief — that explains why SCS outcomes sustain over time in a way that short-term placements typically do not.

Twenty years on, the programme has served over 400 young men. This report draws on a rigorous alumni survey of 120 of them — spanning cohorts from 2004 to 2023 — to document what happened next.

> ***"SCS does not just deliver skills training. It rebuilds belief in self. Alumni who once struggled to complete school are now graduates, professionals, entrepreneurs, and mentors in their communities."***

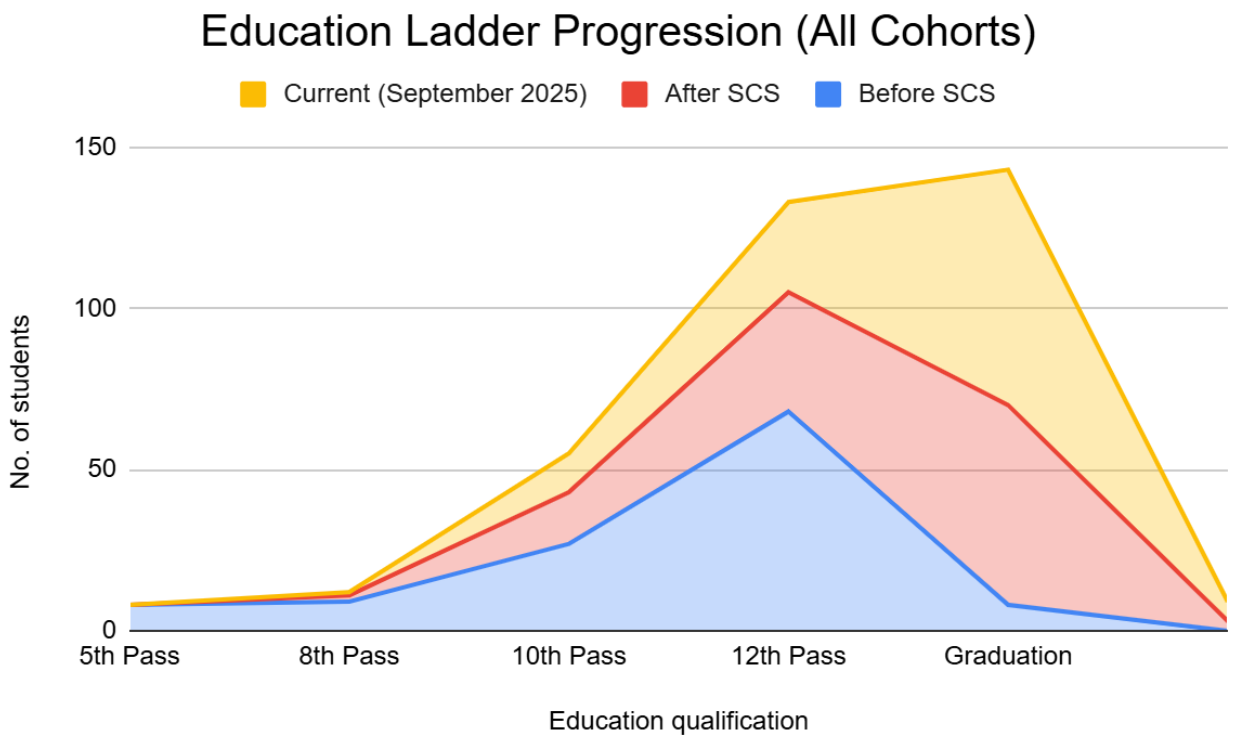
—EDUCATION

From Dropout to Degree

Before joining SCS, just 7% of alumni had a degree. Today, 66% are graduates or actively pursuing higher education — a tenfold increase in attainment that no other single intervention in their lives produced.

The educational transformation in this data is not just a number. It is the story of a generation of young men who were told — explicitly or implicitly — that formal learning was not for them. SCS's model of re-integration through open schooling systems gave them a route back in. What they did with it exceeded what the programme could have predicted.

Before enrolment, 35% of students were below Class 12. Today, only 10% remain at that level. The proportion who have graduated has grown from 7% to 66%. And 24% of alumni continued their studies entirely independently after leaving SCS — demonstrating that the programme builds not just qualifications, but the orientation toward learning itself.



Education Ladder Progression — Before SCS, After SCS, and Current (2025)

8 → 79	~1,000%	24%
Graduates before SCS → today	Increase in higher education attainment	Continue studying after leaving SCS

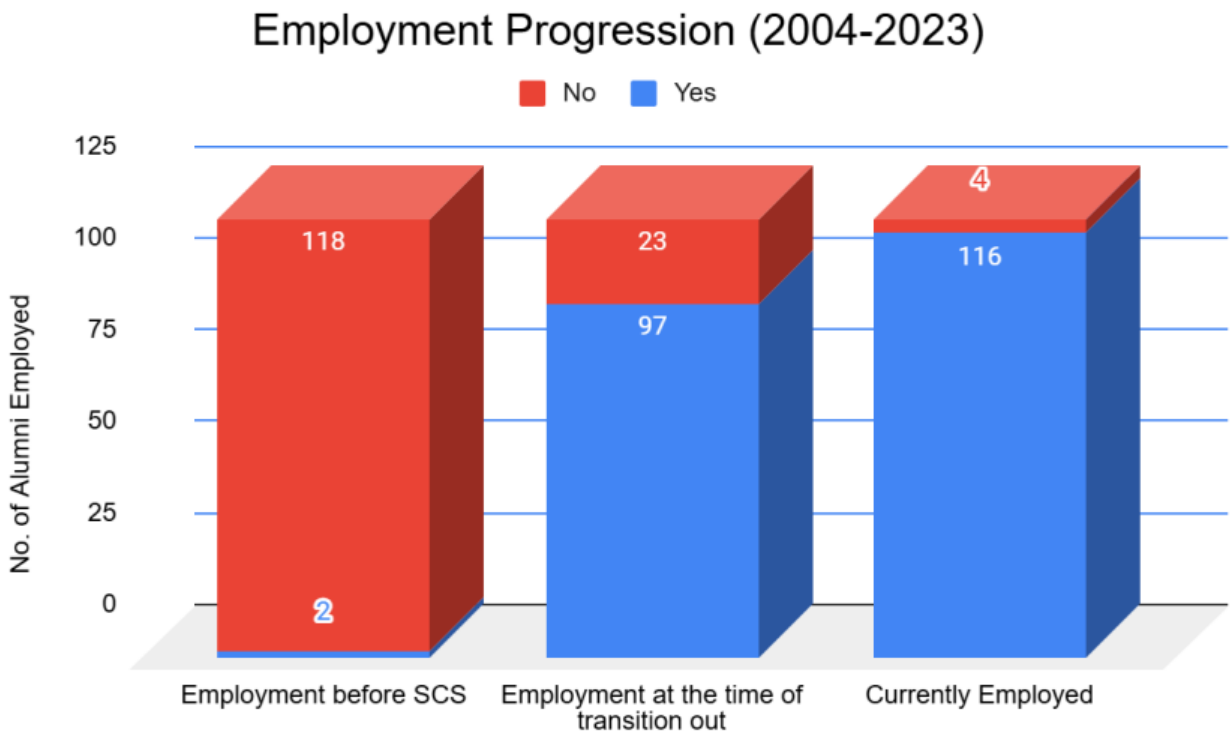
—EMPLOYMENT

From Invisible to Indispensable

Before SCS, fewer than 2% of alumni had ever held a job. Today, 97% are employed or self-employed — and have been, consistently, for years. This is not a placement statistic. It is a stability statistic.

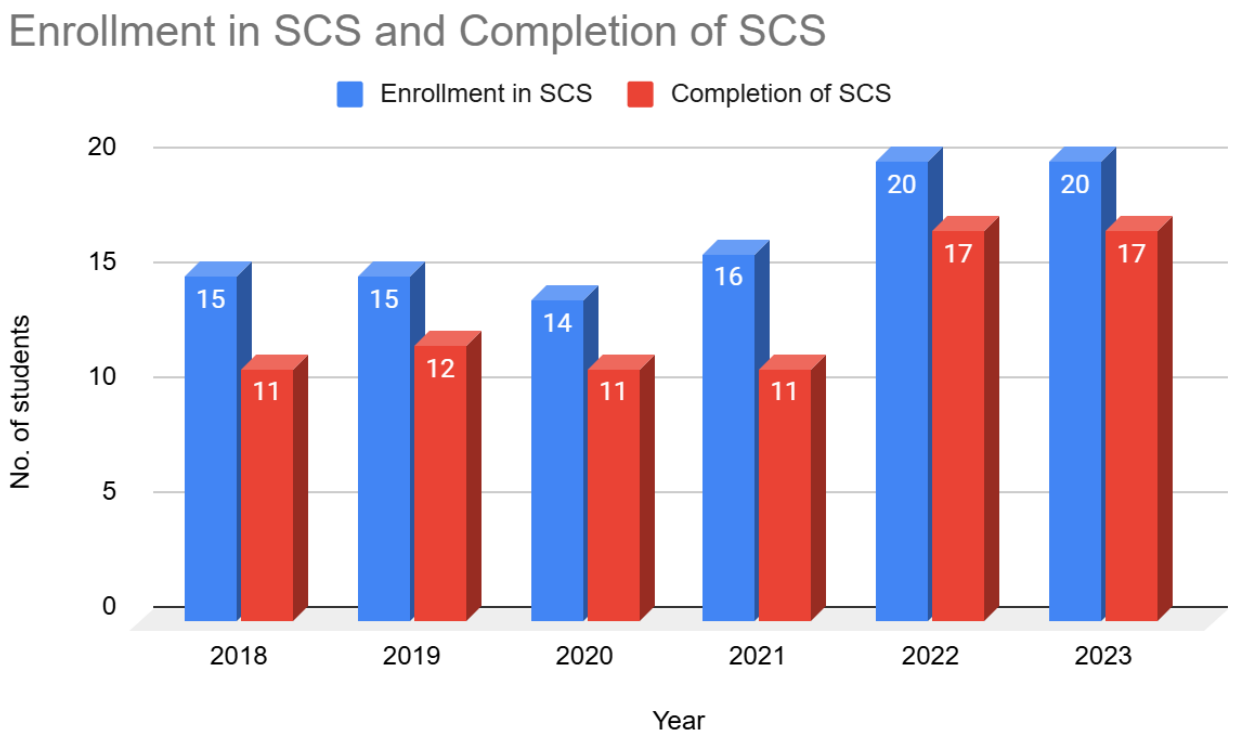
When a programme reports a high placement rate, the honest question is: and then what? For SCS, the answer is unambiguous. Over 80% of graduates secured work within weeks of completing the programme. Of those, the vast majority remain employed today — some for over a decade. The current employment rate of 97%, measured years after programme exit, is actually higher than the 81% at transition. Alumni do not just get jobs through SCS. They build careers.

The job-loss rate across twenty years is below 4%. Employer trust in SCS graduates has become, in many placement sectors, self-reinforcing — companies return to Ritinjali because the graduates they hired five years ago are still there.



Employment Progression — Before SCS, At Transition Out, and Currently (2025)

> ***"COVID-19 provided an unplanned stress test. Income was disrupted — then fully recovered within two years. Completion held at 79% through 2020 and rebounded to 85% by 2022–23. The resilience was not in the institution. It was in the alumni."***



Programme Completion Rate 2018–2023 — including COVID years

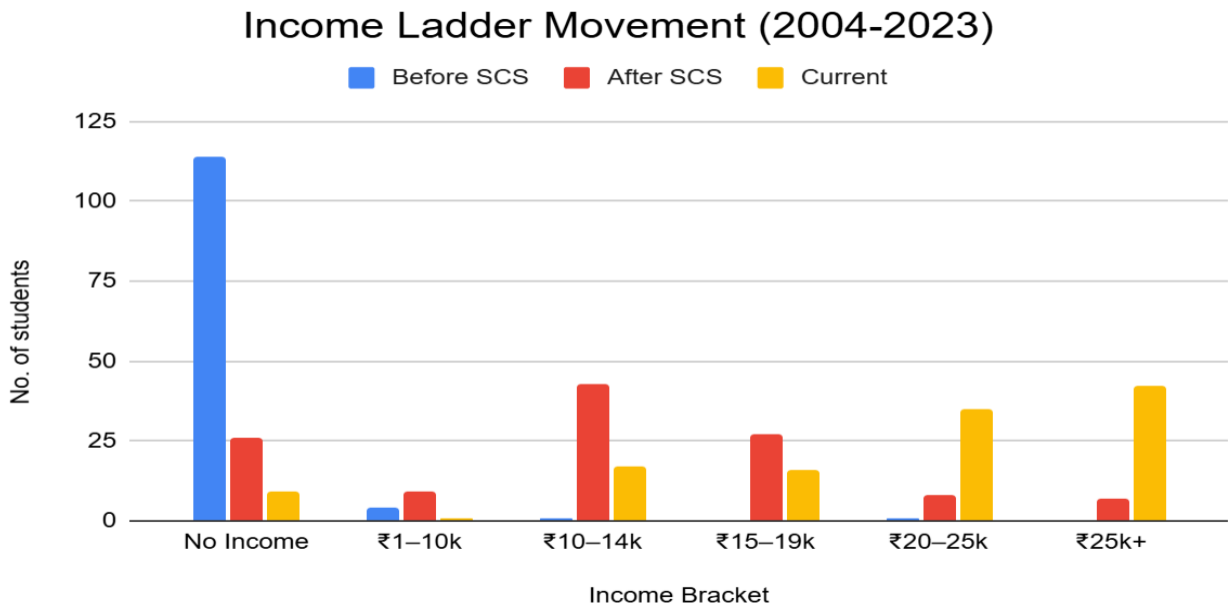
—INCOME MOBILITY

From Zero to Financial Independence

Before SCS, 95% of alumni had no income at all. Today, 97.5% earn a monthly income. The average is ₹28,898. The highest earner brings home ₹1.2 lakh a month. Zero-income households among alumni have been virtually eliminated.

Income data tells the story of SCS with unusual clarity. At entry, 114 of 120 alumni surveyed reported zero monthly income. At transition out, 97 were earning. Today, 116 earn — with only 9 reporting no income, most of whom are recent graduates still completing internships or technical education.

The multiplier effect across cohorts is striking. Alumni from early cohorts (2004–2017) now average ₹42,225 per month — more than 15 times their pre-programme earnings. Recent graduates average ₹24,445, roughly 9 times their income at entry. This is not a ceiling. It is where they are now, early in working lives that the trajectory suggests will continue upward.



Income Ladder Movement — Before SCS, After SCS, and Current (2025)

₹28,898	₹42,225	95%→2.5%	₹1.2L
Avg monthly income today	Early cohort avg today	Zero-income households	Highest earner monthly

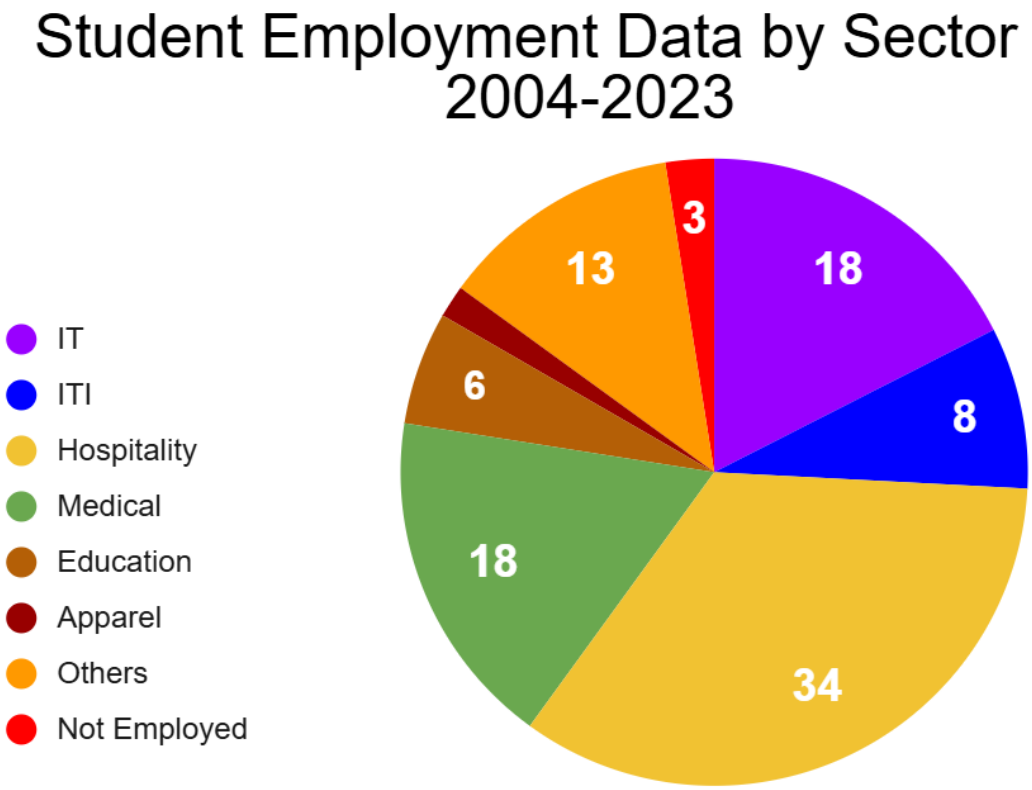
—SECTORS & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Aligned with India's Growth Engine

Hospitality, IT, and Healthcare together employ 70% of SCS alumni. The sectors where alumni cluster in recent cohorts — technology and healthcare — are precisely India's fastest-growing employment categories. This is not coincidence. It reflects deliberate curriculum evolution.

The sectoral shift between early and recent cohorts is one of the most telling indicators in this report. In 2004–2017, alumni predominantly entered hospitality and education roles — foundational and service-oriented. By 2021–2023, the dominant pathways were IT and healthcare — future-ready, higher-paying, and formally recognised under national skilling frameworks.

SCS updated its training pathways in response to post-pandemic labour market signals. Where many programmes locked into historical placement relationships, Ritinjali re-calibrated. The result is a cohort of recent graduates entering the economy at precisely the sectors where it is growing.



Student Employment Data by Sector (%) — 2004–2023

One in Five Alumni: Economic Leaders

Beyond conventional employment, 20% of alumni have become economic leaders — either building enterprises at home or working in international markets.

- 14 alumni work abroad — in the Gulf and Southeast Asia, in hospitality, healthcare, and technical trades. This is a 12% overseas employment rate for a cohort that arrived largely as school dropouts from low-income households.
- 10 alumni run their own businesses: salons, tailoring units, delivery ventures, tuition services, small cafés. Entrepreneurship doubled between early (5%) and recent (10%) cohorts, driven in part by Ritinjali's Pahal Entrepreneurship Programme.

> ***"These alumni are not just finding opportunities. They are creating them. The graduate who runs a café in East Delhi employs two people. The hotel manager in Dubai sends money home every month. The multiplier is real."***

—RIPPLE EFFECT

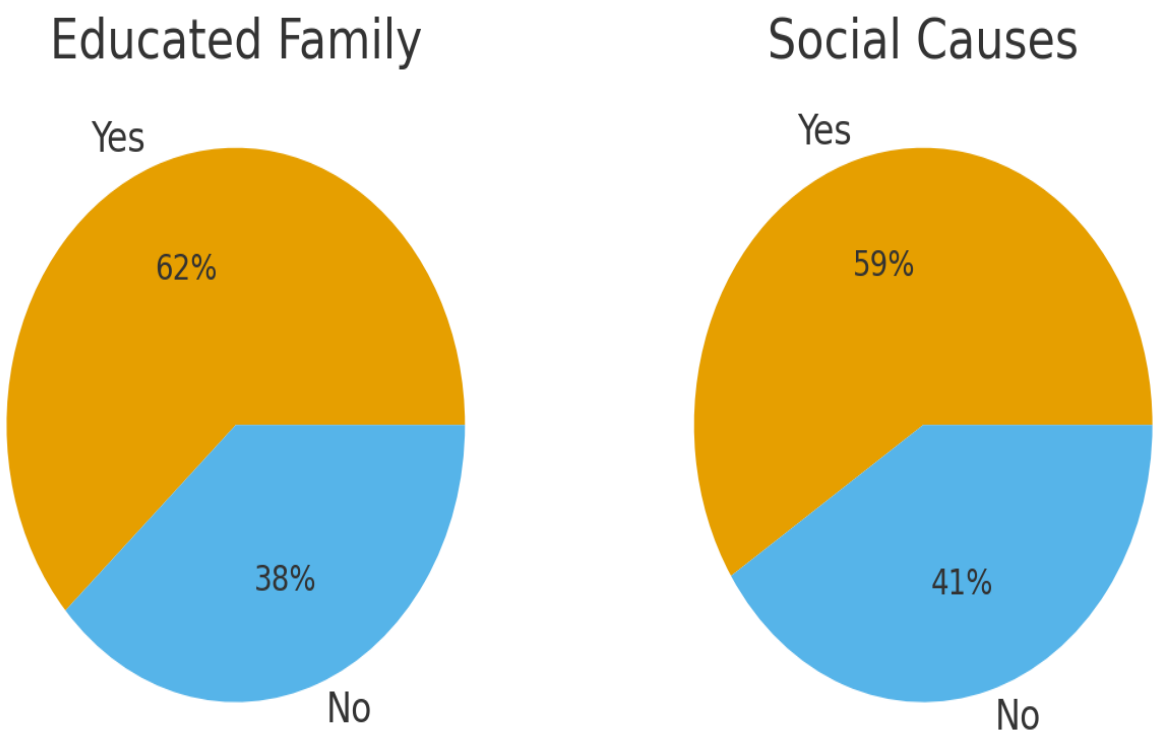
One Graduate, Many Lives

The most important number in this report is not 97% employment or 15× income growth. It is 62% — the proportion of alumni who have funded or guided another family member's education. That is where the cycle changes.

When SCS graduates stabilise economically, the first thing many of them do is look back. Back at a sibling who is still in school. Back at a cousin who needs fees paid. Back at a younger student coming through the same neighbourhood they came from. The data shows this in two particularly striking findings.

62% of alumni have actively supported or financed the education of a family member — siblings, children, cousins. Across an alumni base of over 400, this potentially means 500 or more additional learners whose trajectories have been altered by SCS graduates — at no additional programme cost. The cost-per-beneficiary, when ripple effects are counted, is substantially more favourable than the direct numbers suggest.

59% of alumni are engaged in civic and community life — volunteering at health camps, mentoring younger students, participating in NGOs. This is not a welfare outcome. It is a citizenship outcome. SCS alumni do not simply escape poverty; they become active participants in addressing it.



Ripple Effect — % of alumni who educated a family member and volunteered in social causes

62%	500+	59%
Funded family education	Indirect beneficiaries estimated	Active in civic causes

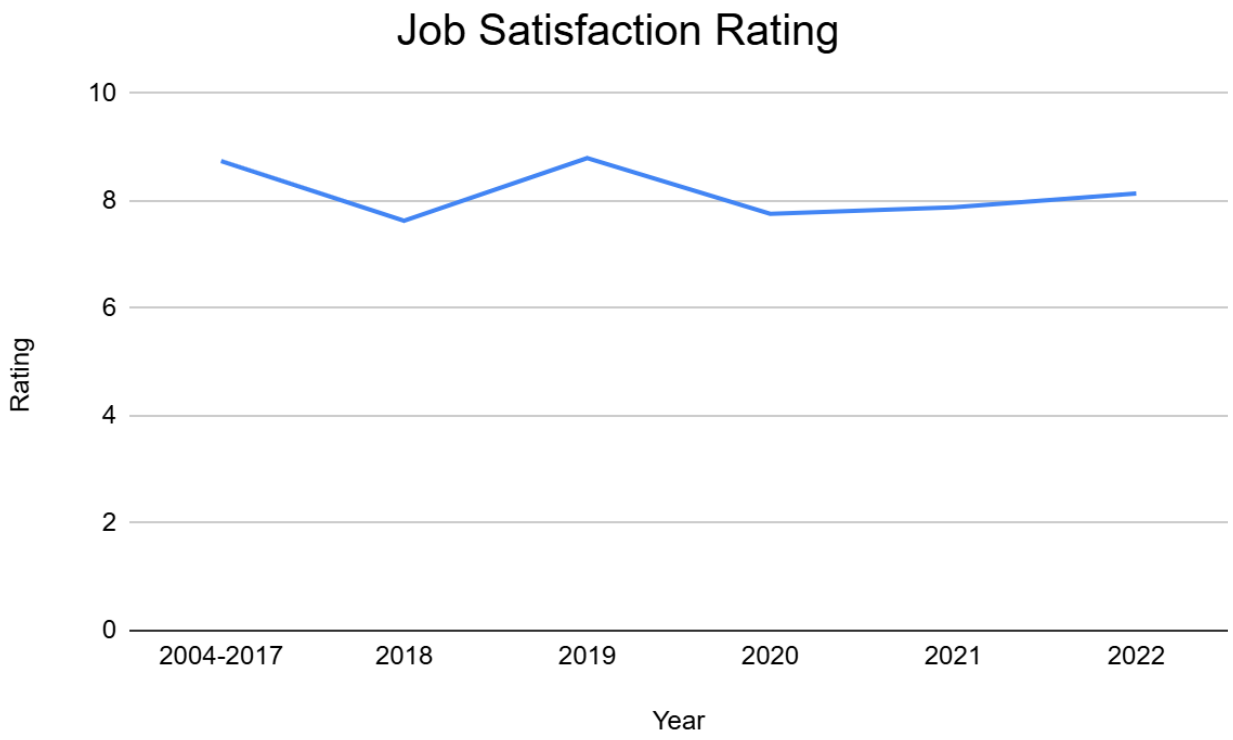
—WELL-BEING

Dignity, Not Just Income

SCS alumni rate their job satisfaction at 8.2 out of 10 — and older alumni, who have had time to build careers, rate it 8.7. They describe their work as 'respectable,' 'stable,' and 'aligned with what I learned.' These are not income words. They are dignity words.

Job satisfaction is an often-overlooked metric in livelihood programmes, which tend to focus on placement rates and wage levels. For SCS, it is arguably the most important number. A consistent 8.2/10 across twenty years and multiple cohorts is not luck — it is evidence that the programme matches young people to work they can sustain, in environments where they are respected.

Satisfied workers are retained workers. Retained workers build careers. Career-builders become the alumni who return to mentor the next cohort. The satisfaction data, read alongside the retention data, reveals a self-reinforcing cycle that the programme has maintained for two decades.



Job Satisfaction Rating by Cohort — avg. 8.2/10 across 20 years

—CONCLUSION

An Invitation

Twenty years ago, SCS was a bet — on the belief that given the right support at the right moment, every young person can build a meaningful life. The evidence in this report confirms that bet.

The young men who come to SCS arrive with interrupted educations, no income, and futures that appear to have already foreclosed. They leave with qualifications, skills, and — most importantly — a revised sense of what is possible. Years later, they are professionals, entrepreneurs, overseas workers, and fathers paying school fees they could not have imagined paying when they first arrived.

The data is unambiguous: 97% employment, 9–15× income growth, 66% in higher education, a satisfaction score of 8.2/10 sustained across two decades. But the data points toward something that cannot be fully counted: the siblings who stayed in school because an older brother could afford the fees; the younger students mentored by alumni who remembered what it felt like to be shut out; the communities where SCS graduates have become the people others turn to.

The need has not diminished. Each year SCS can expand its cohort size is another cohort of lives transformed, and another generation of ripple effects set in motion. Your partnership in this work is not charity — it is one of the most measurable, durable, and self-multiplying investments available in the Indian social sector today.

A second chance is sometimes all it takes to change a life — and through it, a community.

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