

SARA ANNUAL REPORT

2024-25



Democratise Data Science



Savitribai Ramabai Institute
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SARA EDUCATION TRUST
Reg. No. 2024/25/IV/389

Dear Readers,

We are thrilled to present the annual report of SARA, a journey that reflects our unwavering commitment to empowering under-represented communities through free and open-source data science education.

At SARA, our mission is to democratize data science by making it accessible to all, regardless of their background. We believe that everyone deserves the opportunity to learn and grow in this rapidly evolving field. Our workshops and educational programs are designed to demystify complex concepts and make learning an enjoyable experience.

We are grateful for the overwhelming support and positive feedback we have received. Participants have praised our clear and patient teaching methods, which have made statistics and R programming less intimidating. The integration of research methodology, statistical knowledge, and data analysis skills in our workshops has been particularly well-received.

Our journey would not be possible without the dedication of our team and the trust of our community. We are committed to continuing our efforts to create a more inclusive data science community and to inspire a new generation of data scientists.

Thank you for being a part of this journey. Together, we can make a difference.

We hope you enjoy reading this.

Warm regards,

Dr. Ajay Koli, PhD

Co-Founder & Exec. Director of the
SARA Institute of Data Science



Dr. Kiran Lata, PhD

Co-Founder & Director of the
SARA Institute of Data Science



**INCLUSIVE
DATA SCIENCE
COMMUNITY**

Launch of SARA

Every great story begins with a dream, and the SARA Institute of Data Science is no exception. Started on **April 5, 2023** by Dr. Ajay Kumar Koli (PhD) and Dr. Kiran Lata (PhD), along with a dedicated team of seven passionate individuals, the institute was born out of a shared mission to **democratize data science** and address its urgent need in today's world.



Every name tells a story, and **SARA** is no exception. It embodies a rich legacy of education, empowerment, and social justice, inspired by two remarkable women in Indian history: **Savitribai Phule** and **Ramabai Ambedkar**. The initials “**SA**” honor Savitribai Phule, a trailblazer in women's education and a beacon of empowerment through knowledge. The latter “**RA**” pays homage to Ramabai Ambedkar, symbolizing resilience, steadfast support, and the pursuit of equality.



The SARA team is deeply grateful to our first batch of students for their trust and belief in our mission. We especially appreciate those who traveled all the way from Maharashtra to learn data science with us.

SARA
STARTED ON
APRIL 5, 2023.

Moved to Sonipat

In September 2023, we relocated to Sonipat and established SARA at **Dr. Ambedkar Bhavan** Sonipat. To support this move and secure a dedicated space for our initiatives, we entered into a three-year agreement with **The Ambedkar Educational Society**, Sonipat.

This partnership allows us to utilize their premises for SARA's activities and reflects our shared commitment to advancing education and community development. Currently, all activities of the SARA Institute of Data Science are conducted from Dr. Ambedkar Bhavan, Sonipat.

The SARA team would like to express their heartfelt gratitude to President Satyawan Bhatia and all the esteemed members of the Executive Committee of The Ambedkar Educational Society, Sonipat.

SINCERE THANKS
THE AMBEDKAR
EDUCATIONAL
SOCIETY, SONIPAT



Facts & Figures

- **Over 200 students** have been successfully trained through our programs, including the empowerment of **more than 80 women**, fostering gender equity in the field of data science.
- We have consistently **prioritized admissions for students from marginalized communities**, ensuring that opportunities in data science are inclusive and accessible to all.
- To date, we have conducted **six fully residential data science training programs**, offering immersive learning experiences with food and accommodation provided.
- Our initiatives have been enriched by the insights of **seven international guest speakers**, who brought diverse global perspectives to our participants.
- We have also delivered **six invited talks and workshops at various academic institutions**, sharing our mission and expertise with wider educational communities.

**200+ STUDENTS
TRAINED**

**80+ WOMEN
EMPOWERED**



Courses & Trainings



**CODING FOR
EVERYONE**

**BREAK THE
BARRIERS**

1. Year-Round Free In-Person Courses:

We provide **completely free, in-person classes in Computer Basics and English Language** throughout the year for all students from **8th grade onwards**. Our goal is to eliminate the fear and hesitation many students have toward computers and English.

2. Summer and Winter Schools in Data Science:

We organize a **week-long Summer School in R programming**, offering **35–40 hours of intensive instruction** attended by PhD scholars, researchers, and industry professionals. In addition, our **Winter School focuses on teaching core statistical concepts using R**, empowering participants with the tools needed for advanced data analysis in academia and industry.

3. Bootcamps for Research and Publishing Skills:

We have also conducted focused bootcamps on **web-site development, thesis writing, and publishing workflows**. These include training in **GitHub** for version control and collaboration, and **Quarto** for creating dynamic, reproducible documents and websites. These skills are essential for modern academic and professional publishing.

Support SARA

At SARA, we believe that collective effort and community support are essential to drive meaningful change. As a growing institution committed to **democratizing data science education**, we warmly invite you to join hands with us in two impactful ways:

1. Share Your Knowledge – Teach at SARA

Your time and expertise can directly transform lives. We welcome professionals, academics, and researchers to contribute by offering **pro bono tutorials, lectures, or hands-on sessions** in their areas of expertise.

2. Support Financially – Donate to SARA

We are in the **early and foundational stage** of building SARA. Nearly all our courses are offered **free of cost**. Your financial contribution is **vital to sustaining and expanding** this mission.

Even a small donation can help us reach more students and improve infrastructure. You can make a donation by scanning the **QR code provided** in this report.


DONATE
TO SARA



Your support—whether through teaching or giving—helps us take a firm step toward an equitable, data-driven future.

Thank you for believing in our vision. Together, we can make data science a tool for social change.

Follow SARA

Platform	Website Link
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 GitHub	https://github.com/sara-institute
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 WhatsApp Channel	https://whatsapp.com/channel/0029Va4r7rGLCoWycMwThl2J
 Facebook Page	https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61564043738390
 Bluesky	https://bsky.app/profile/sarainstitute.bsky.social
 SARA Website	https://sara-edu.netlify.app/

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Cover photograph by Ajay Kumar Koli

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