



EK KADAM AUR FOUNDATION
FOR EDUCATION AND HEALTH

QUARTERLY REPORT

January to March 2022

Inclusion through Education



About the Foundation

Ek Kadam Aur Foundation for Education and Health is a non-profit charitable (public) organization registered in India since January 2017. We facilitate schooling and learning enhancement opportunities for children from low-income backgrounds through our programs in partnership with government and private schools and institutes in India and Nepal. Since 2020, we have been contributing to the educational and skill development needs of visually challenged children in India.

VISION

Ek Kadam Aur Foundation represents Dr Satish Tripathi's vision of a world where every child enjoys complete, uninterrupted rights and opportunities with free access to quality education, skill training and healthcare. Ek Kadam Aur Foundation envisions a world where every child is a potential leader and lives in dignity.

MISSION

Transforming lives of underprivileged children through education, technology, healthcare programs.

VALUES

Growth: We seek growth for our beneficiaries and ourselves

Inclusivity: Everything we do is designed to be accessible for all

Public Service: Whatever we do comes from a commitment to public service

Respect: Our respect for each other is not affected by our differences

Teamwork: We work together for a greater impact

Table of Contents

Message from the President	_____	02
Highlights	_____	03
Program Updates	_____	04
Nurturing Youth Leadership	_____	17
Other Notable Engagements	_____	18
Testimonials	_____	23

Message from the President



The beginning of the year 2022 marked the successful completion of the Foundation's 5 years in India and stepping into its 6th year of serving the learners' community. In the first quarter of 2022, from January to March, we reflected upon our past years of impact and strategically streamlined our focus areas for the coming years. We identified the areas where our intervention is needed the most. Through the power of education, skill development, and training, we aim to serve the blind children who have never to school and hide in their homes due to economic, psychological, and social constraints.

To put the ideas into action, we started our Train-the-Trainers Program for blind students this quarter in Uttar Pradesh, India, with a small group of 10 blind children who are brought to our classrooms by the trainers. These trainers will guide, teach, and mentor these students to be classroom-ready so that they can join their counterparts in a regular school. We envision instilling inclusion in education in its truest sense!

Our other flagship programs: High School Leadership Program, Train-the-Trainers Program, Active Learning Program, Internship and Ambassadors of Change Program, and Public Health Education continue to serve our students, teachers, and stakeholders to learn better and develop leadership skills. With the ease of pandemic restrictions and the reopening of schools, the Foundation accelerated its in-person activities and field visits for enhanced implementation of the programs.

We thank our board members, volunteers, corporate partners, individual supporters, and well-wishers for their utmost support and incomparable contributions to the Foundation. We look forward to creating a greater impact through Ek Kadam Aur with your support!

Happy reading!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Satish Tripathi". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Satish Tripathi (Founder/President)

Highlights

- Celebrated an Inclusive Holi: March 15, 2022
- Train the Trainers for Blind in Started in Uttar Pradesh: March 1, 2022
- Commencement of Train the Trainers program in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh: January 26, 2022
- Began Collaboration on Active Learning with College of Education, Coimbatore, Andhra Pradesh: January 2022 onwards
- Funding for a Project Received from Visakhapatnam Port Trust: February 23, 2022
- Team Visit to Ladakh: March 21-25, 2022
- EKAf at India STEM Foundation Talks: March 28, 2022
- Women's Day Celebration with Faculty Members at our Sponsored Schools: March 8, 2022
- Announcement of One More Named Scholarship: March 8, 2022

Inclusion is a belief system. It begins with the belief that every child has strengths to build upon, interests to share and experience to honor



Program Updates

Train the Trainers

Train the Trainers program recruits young local graduates and high school students to support elementary school children in their community with their foundational academic skills after school hours. TtT nurtures local youth leaders who give back to their community through public service. While the school children benefit from the trainers, the trainers also receive scholarships to pursue their academic and career aspirations.

Currently there are 6 trainers teaching under this program in Uttar Pradesh and one trainer is Teaching in Andhra Pradesh. These classes happen 6 days in a week for two hours each day. Trainers teach Hindi/Telegu, English and Math.





Inclusive Holi

March 15, 2022

Holi is a festival of colors and a time for adding joy to others' lives. The Foundation took this opportunity to have blind children join our Holi celebrations. This not only gave endless joy to every student, but they also introduced value of coexistence.

<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/holi-beyond-festival-colours-muskan-madhok/>

Virtual Trainings for the Trainers

January 13, 2022

Saumya Tripathi, Head of the Program, initiated a monthly virtual training for the trainers to reflect on how to make teaching fun and interesting for the students. During the first training session, trainers shared their ideas like adding games and activities, weekly competitions, and picnic/outing with winners of competitions.



Train the Trainers program in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh

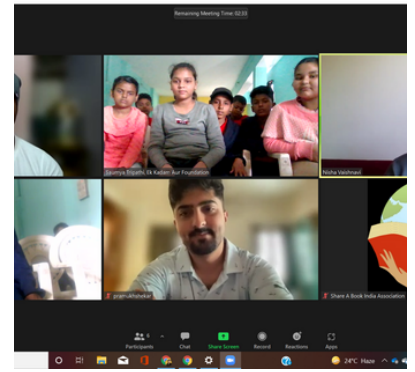
January 26, 2022

Joshna Shri, a winner of Entrepreneurship Bootcamp of the year 2020 and our former student of the High School Leadership Program, showed leadership by establishing the Train the Trainer's program in Visakhapatnam. She teaches children of the fishermen's community in her neighborhood. The Foundation supports her efforts and provides scholarship and mentorship for her college education.

Continuation of English-Speaking Session

January 2022

The Foundation continued English Speaking sessions for trainers. Sarika Kumari Pandey, a Volunteer from cognizant led these sessions. 12 sessions of English-Speaking classes were conducted in the first quarter of 2022.



Financial Literacy

January 24, 2022

Since the villagers lack access to information and awareness on how to ensure their financial security and stability, a session on Financial Literacy was jointly organized with Share a Book India Association (SABIA) for the villagers/trainers of the Train the Trainers program. The speaker, Sagar Gandhi, talked about importance of insurance policies, savings, and how to use mobile banking safely. They were alerted about frauds and scams as well.

EKAF Team Meets the Trainers

February 03, 2022

Foundation's all staff members met trainers for the first time through a virtual meeting. Staff members appreciated the change brought by trainers and discussed the challenges and new ideas.

Train the Trainers for Blind in Uttar Pradesh



March 1, 2022

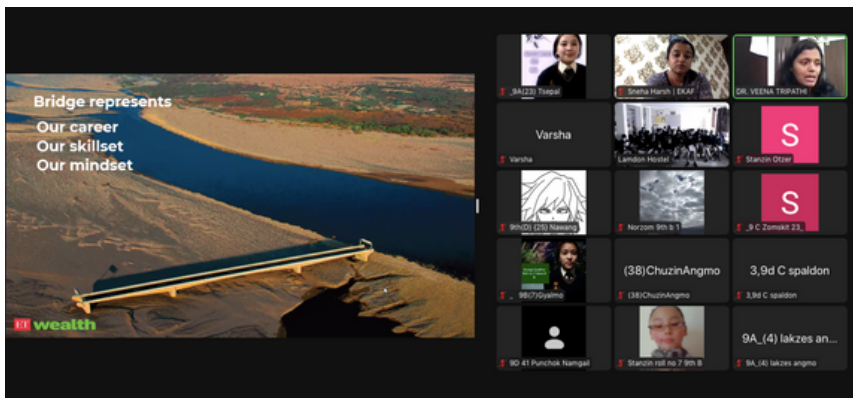
Train the Trainers program model is further extended for the blind children. In this model local youth are trained by trainers with special education background to teach blind children who have never been introduced to any kind of education and are left behind at home.

This program began with two blind girls, Ananya and Kusum, who live in Panhar village in Uttar Pradesh State. Belonging to farming families with low income, they were not exposed to education. Ruchi, a high performing high school girl and a resident of Panhar, is appointed as their trainer. Ruchi has been a trainer for three years and is herself an aspirant of competitive exams of civil services. Ruchi teaches blind children six days a week for two hours. She is supported with lesson plans and teaching materials by the Foundation. Initially Ananya and Kusum are learning Hindi, English alphabet, and numbers, then they will be further trained in braille and life skills.

Program Updates

High School Leadership

The High School Leadership Program (HSLP) offers training in 21st-century skills, world-class education, and mentorship platform to high-school students in five schools in India and Nepal by connecting them with more than 150 global experts from the US and India via virtual classrooms.



Screenshot of the virtual session conducted by Dr Veena Tripathi, Professor at Jaipuria Institute of Technology, on the topic 'Design Thinking'. Students from our partner schools in India and Nepal participated.



Students are working on the project assigned under the High School Leadership Program



Students and Teachers of Lamdon School performing group dance during EKAF Team visit to Ladakh

Communication and Presentation Skills

March 29, 2022

To focus on the presentation and importance of effective communication, Mr. Surjit Kumar Chaudhary, a Corporate Social Responsibility Professional, explained the 7 Cs of communication through animated videos, bringing much excitement to the virtual class.

Inclusive Leadership through Diversity

March 19, 2022

Ms. Srijan Bhan, Financial Product Analyst at Bloomberg LP, was invited to give a lecture on “How can we advocate for diversity and promote inclusion?” The students from Ladakh, Andhra Pradesh and Kathmandu shared their experiences of being in different cultural set-ups, and some of them opened up about the humiliation they faced while traveling to other states. Ms. Bhan shared how the students can make their classrooms inclusive of differently abled students and how it can help them become more sensitive and accepting of diverse people in different workspaces later in life.



Finding your Passion on Purpose

March 26, 2022

Mr. Terry Torok, Principal Co-Founder at Creative Intelligence Agency, led a session on “Finding your Passion on Purpose”. Terry inspired the students to think, believe, and look at the world with an inclusive, empathetic, and holistic viewpoint. He shared with the students about his passion and how it has led him to a greater purpose.

Making Conscious Career Choices

March 15, 2022

As a part of providing career support to high school students from India and Nepal, Somatic Leadership and Career Transition Coach, Myah Payel Mitra, was invited to lead a session on Making Conscious Career Choices. She discussed the importance of Experimenting and Adopting the 2% Mindset, where she encouraged the students to come out of their comfort zone and work on their careers. She added the benefits of strategic networking through LinkedIn and how it helps one's career endeavors.



Managing Distractions

March 22, 2022

As the covid-19 catastrophe created one of the most severe global education disruptions in history, the students face tremendous distractions due to the sudden switch to remote-learning. Mr. Suvro Raychoudhury, HR Director at CGI, was invited to lead a session on “how to manage distractions” while attending online classes. He shared the three critical elements for increasing focus – the spirit, body and mind – as a way to manage distractions and excel. He mentioned emphatically that online learning will stay with us for a long time now and described ways to keep attention in online classes.

Communication in the 21st Century

March 5, 2022

Mr. Sunchit Joshi, Assistant Manager at Firstsource Solutions, gave a lecture on “Communication in the 21st Century”. He discussed the important communication skills such as listening, picking the right medium, clarity and concision and empathy. He also touched on how the empowered youngsters are the leaders of tomorrow by giving the examples of exemplary work by Greta Thunberg and Malala Yusufzai.

Reasoning in Mathematics

March 1, 2022

The high school students need to find a purpose in studying mathematics that goes beyond the goal of scoring well in school examinations and preparing for any standardized test. For this, Ms. Munisha Venati, Senior Test Analyst at Cognizant, delivered a lecture on 'Why to Study Reasoning in Mathematics?' The session included a series of exercises like puzzle test, blood relations, alphanumeric series, coding-decoding and others.

Leaders of Tomorrow

February 22, 2022

Sathya Narayanan, Associate Director, Cognizant, and a member of the Foundation's Senior Leadership Team, gave a talk on, "Leaders of Tomorrow". His session consisted of interesting engagements such as a quiz, questionnaire, and interactive session with the students. With the help of various examples, he discussed traits of a good leader: visionary, passionate, We not I, Responsibility and Calm.



National Science Day Celebration

February 28, 2022

On National Science Day, The High School Leadership Program in association with Price Waterhouse Cooper (PwC) volunteers organized a 90-minute session that included why do we celebrate this day? The session comprised of the stories of great National scientists and award winners who have excelled in the field of science. All STEM enthusiasts found the knowledge sharing on STEM careers very exciting. The session had Quiz sections in between the topics developed by the corporate outreach team of PwC.

Entrepreneurship: Opportunities and Challenges

February 19, 2022

Comments made by judges in entrepreneurship-related reality shows intrigued our high school students. A 9th Grader from Ladakh asked a question, "what would I as an entrepreneur do if someone gave any negative comment on my business idea?" To address such complex questions in the entrepreneurial journey, Ms. Komal Parmar Rana, Assistant General Manager & Head-Entrepreneurship (CSR), Tata Consultancy Services, led an interactive session on "Entrepreneurship: Challenges and Opportunities." She introduced multiple career options as an entrepreneur and explained how to become a strong individual in business.

Molecules

February 26, 2022

Ms. Kokila Karunakaran, Programmer Analyst at Cognizant, delivered a lecture on "Molecules". The students enjoyed the chemistry lecture in a fun-filled interactive way. Zomskit, a student from Lamdon Model Senior Secondary School, mentioned that she finds chemistry a difficult subject to understand. However, the way the session was delivered with several activities made it so easy to understand the topic, "Molecules".

Diet, Microbiome and Diseases

February 15, 2022

Dr Smriti Arora, Assistant Professor at University of Petroleum and Energy Studies, Dehradun, delivered a lecture on "Diet, Microbiome and Diseases". She gave the examples of leading Microbiologists and how students can build their career in microbiology and its importance in day-to-day life. She explained microbiome, its composition, and functions.



HSLP's Class Captain from Lamdon Model Senior Secondary School, Leh

Time Management in Online Learning

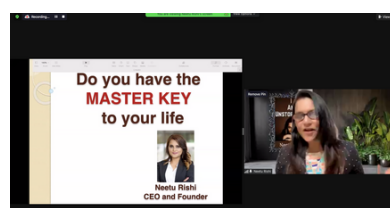
February 12, 2022

Students go through a lot of distractions while learning online: group chat messages and social media. To address this issue, Mr. Suvro Raychaudhuri, Director of Human Resources at CGI, shined a light on "Time Management in Online Learning". He mentioned the advantages of online learning and how to accept the new learning mode. He shared the method of core self-evaluation based on self-esteem, locus of control, emotional stability and generalized self-efficacy.

How to Build LinkedIn Profile

February 1, 2022

Ms. Neetu Rishi, CEO and Founder of The Success Door, taught the students "How to build a LinkedIn Profile?" Neetu encouraged the students to join and create a professional profile on LinkedIn. She also emphasized adding their awards, recognitions, and volunteering activities on LinkedIn and preparing for the upcoming career opportunities.



Art of Journaling

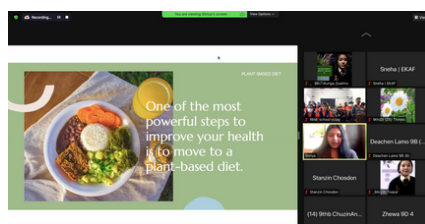
February 8, 2022

Padmajah Narasimhan, a content marketing strategist, led a session on the "Art of Journaling". She shared how journaling can be a creative and therapeutic exercise, and lead to improvement in writing skills as well. Stanzin Zhewa, from Lamdon Model Senior Secondary School said, "I have three journals till now as I started a year ago. I love planning my whole day, tracking my moods, drafting my bucket list, adding my favorite songs in my playlist, and setting short term goals!"

Basics of Plant-Based Nutrition

January 29, 2022

Ms. Shriya Agarwal, Marketing Communications Manager and Holistic Health Coach, led an interactive session on "Basics of Plant-Based Nutrition". She shared plant-based recipes with the students and generated interest in them. She also explained cultural and nutritional values related to food and how it impacts the environment.



Careers in Retail Industry

February 5, 2022

Ms. Madhu Menon, Associate Director- Human Resources at Firstsource, shared her knowledge on "Careers in Retail Industry" with our students. She introduced career opportunities like retail management in the industry and how to pursue them. Another takeaway from the session was the three key skills: Knowledge, Skills and Attitude also known as KSA that every HR professional looks for while hiring a candidate.

National Science Day

Jan 28, 2022

On January 28, 2022, the Program celebrated the National Science Day, marking the discovery of the Raman Effect by physicist and Nobel laureate CV Raman with the support of Corporate Volunteers. The volunteers shared their insights on careers in the science field. Students asked questions related to their STEM interests. The Q/A session was followed by a brief presentation on National Leaders who have contributed significantly to Science and Technology. Students also enjoyed taking part in the Science Quiz.



Effective Communication for Change

January 22, 2022

Ms. Aditi Sharma, an interdisciplinary researcher with a specialization in socio-cultural ecology, delivered a lecture on "Effective Communication for Change". She emphasized 5W(s) and 1H as the cornerstones of effective communication. She shared her own story on how she managed to bring the change in waste management near her house utilizing her effective communication skills.

Robotics Engineering

January 18, 2022

Mr. Haribabu Kasturi, Software Architect at CGI, addressed our students on the topic "Robotic Engineering". Hari himself is a robotic enthusiast who has built Wall Painting Drones and Car Cleaning Robots, Dosa and other Indian snacks making robots. Hari shared the opportunities in robot construction, robotic programming, web programming, and game programming to teach the latest engineering design concepts and computing technologies.

Leadership Lessons from Nature

January 8, 2022

Dr Deepti Sanghavi, Physician and Clinical Researcher, delivered a lecture on "Leadership Lessons from Nature". She explained how a leader can guide and direct an organization with simple lessons from the natural surroundings. Our students were enthusiastic about sharing their learnings from different geographical locations. For example, students from Ladakh shared their learnings from snow leopards while the students from Andhra Pradesh spoke about the oceans and trees.

Exploring Career Choices

January 4, 2022

At the high school level, students must explore different career paths. To elevate the students' interest in choosing the best career options, Ms. Madhu Menon, the Associate Director, HR, Firstsource, was invited to discuss "Exploring Career Choices" with our students. While explaining the difference between job and hobbies, and how students can transform their passion into a career, she pointed out that working can be exhausting at times. To maintain the work-life balance, she said one must learn time management as even the most successful global leader has only 24 hours in a day.

Trigonometry: Basics and Applications

January 11, 2022

Ms. Munisha Venati, Senior Test Analyst, Cognizant, taught our students the basics and applications of Trigonometry. She began the session with math quizzes and tactfully oriented the students to comprehend the formulas. The students solved the questions together and cleared their doubts on the spot.



High School Leadership Program has created such a strong bond among the students, teachers and our eminent guest speakers. Being a Program Head, I have witnessed students develop their 21st-century skills and learn about culture and diversity through virtual sessions with students from different geographical regions. In addition, the live interactions with the Industry experts provide a platform for the students to understand the practicality of the career choices that they want to make. As a result, each cohort creates multiple enthusiastic, talented and confident future leaders, entrepreneurs and tech experts.

- Sneha Harsh



Award List: January - March 2022



HIGH SCHOOL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

January: One Paragraph Writing Competition

Name	School
Helina Shrestha	N.K Singh Memorial EPS School, Kathmandu, Nepal
Geyzes Dolma	Lamdon Model Senior Secondary School, Leh Ladakh
Kunga Gyalmo	Lamdon Model Senior Secondary School, Leh Ladakh
Stanzin Zhewa	Lamdon Model Senior Secondary School, Leh Ladakh
Sonam Chuskit	Lamdon Model Senior Secondary School, Leh Ladakh

February: Ace the Case Competition

Stanzin Tsepel	Lamdon Model Senior Secondary School, Leh Ladakh
Kunga Gyalmo	Lamdon Model Senior Secondary School, Leh Ladakh
Stanzin Zhewa	Lamdon Model Senior Secondary School, Leh Ladakh

March: The Art of Origami - Holi Competition

Sivakumari	Ramakrishna Mission High School, Visakhapatnam
Bindu Vekata Prasanna	Ramakrishna Mission High School, Visakhapatnam
Mohammad Rayyan	Ramakrishna Mission High School, Visakhapatnam



The interesting and interactive competitions organised by ECAF are the best. These competitions have put huge efforts to make us the leaders of tomorrow!



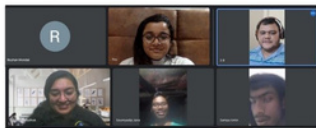
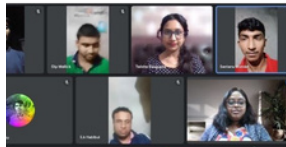
Utkarsh Tiwari,
N.K Singh Memorial EPS School
Kathmandu, Nepal

Program Updates

Technology for Visually Challenged

Technology for Visually Challenged Program addresses the accessibility and opportunity gaps in the quality of education and job market for the visually challenged (currently implemented in Kolkata, India in partnership with the Ramakrishna Mission Blind Boys' Academy) to improve their quality of life. The main goal of this program is to enable every left-behind visually impaired child in India (and eventually in the world) to gain access to quality education. We use our Train-the-Trainers model to achieve this.





Soft Skills Training

January 25, 2022

Ek Kadam Aur Foundation, in collaboration with the Firstsource, facilitated Soft Skills Training for its students under the Technology for Visually Challenged Program. To make it more interactive and effective, the Firstsource team led separate sessions for four groups of students.

The training began with an ice-breaking session. The topics covered were: Teamwork, Creativity, Adaptability, Time management, Communication, Logical and Critical Thinking, Empathy and Problem-Solving. The students learned about these topics, their importance and application in life.

Our deepest thanks to the volunteers from the Firstsource team; Geetu Chakraborty, Associate Director HR, Twisha Dasgupta, Assistant Manager HR Technology, Sukhendu, Assistant Manager HR and Vidushee, Manager HR.

Spoken English: A Series of Sessions

January 15 - April 9, 2022

Ek Kadam Aur Foundation organized a series of sessions on Spoken English in collaboration with the CSR Outreach Team of Cognizant, Kolkata. The volunteers, Avik Kundu, Sonam Singh, Sweta Pasayat and Ranjeet Soni, co-facilitated these sessions on a specially designed curriculum for our students of Technology for Visually Challenged program at the Ramakrishna Mission Blind Boys Academy, Kolkata. The sessions occur every Saturday from 12:00 pm to 1:30 pm IST. Sukanya, Anneysa Biswas and Amit Chowdhury. Sukanya, Anneysa Biswas and Amit Chowdhury are the speakers. Spoken English sessions are intended at improving the blind students' proficiency in communicating orally in English so that they can take advantage of the opportunities available solely in the medium of English language. Confidence in spoken English will also enable more comfortable and productive participation for blind students in our High School Leadership program's twice-a-week virtual classes.

Field Visit in Kolkata

February 19, 2022

Arpita Das Barman and Sneha Harsh from the Foundation visited our partner organization, the Ramakrishna Mission Blind Boys' Academy (BBA), and met with some stakeholders in Kolkata, India, to strengthen our programs there. They met with Swami Sarvalokanandaji Maharaj and Mr. Biswajit Ghosh, Principal of BBA, to discuss strategies for technological interventions by Ek Kadam Aur Foundation for the visually impaired students. They also met the students and had first-hand feedback about the Foundation's educational sessions and how can they be improved.

The team, along with Mr. Biswajit Ghosh, visited the Society for Welfare for Blinds, Ranaghat, West Bengal, to meet the students there. Students shared their artistic skills, their needs and future goals. The Foundation aspires to help these students become job-ready in their respective career fields.



Program Updates

Active Learning

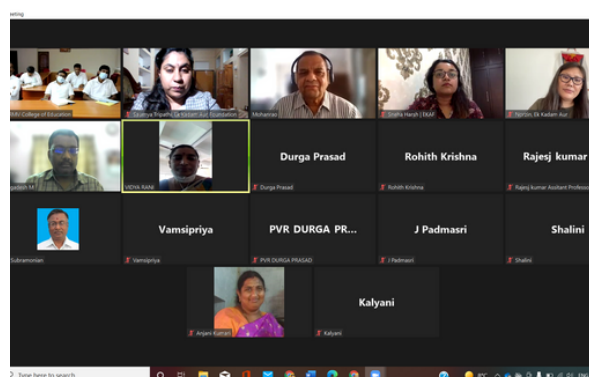
Active Learning promotes engagement of the students in their own education by moving from teacher centred to student centred learning. Workshops on Active Learning are provided regularly for teachers and students in partner schools. It encourages peer-led discussions, critical thinking and embodied learning.

Scaling Up Active Learning

January 2022 onwards

Emboldened by the success of our Active Learning workshops in Ramakrishna Mission High School, Sitanagaram, in 2020, the Foundation now seeks to scale up this program in collaboration with College of Education, Ramakrishna Mission Vidyalaya, Coimbatore, India and Avenues: The World School, New York, US. A preparatory meeting was held on Jan. 26, 2022 for exchange on ideas and conceptual understanding of Active Learning and similar practices implemented at the college. This was between the core program members from the Foundation and the Ramakrishna Mission Vidyalaya, Coimbatore, in the presence of Swami Garishthananda, Secretary, Ramakrishna Mission Vidyalaya. A recurring meeting on the first Saturday of each month was initiated on March 5, 2022. Each monthly meeting is preceded by a prior meeting wherein the members set agenda for the upcoming meeting.

After the simultaneous training and implementation for one year, this collaboration is expected to result in a robust and comprehensive Active Learning model for high schools in India supported by good quality videos of Active Learning in practice.



Nurturing Youth Leadership

Ambassadors of Change

The Ambassadors of Change of the foundation who are the high school interns from USA and India completed 1 year with the Foundation in March 2022! These ambassadors have contributed significantly over the year towards creating a global co-learning environment for our student beneficiaries in India and Nepal.

Internship Opportunities

Spring Interns from MIT, USA

February - May 2022

Nikhil Kakarla and Raymond Pan joined us (continued their engagement) as Spring Interns in February. Both students have previously interned with the Foundation as a part of MIT's Independent Activities Period (IAP) program. Nikhil joined as Curriculum Development Intern and Raymond as a Monitoring Evaluation and Learning Intern.

Independent Activities Period Interns from MIT, USA

January 2022

Three interns: Eric Liu, Nikhil Kakarla and Raymond Pan, joined us from MIT, US, under MIT's Independent Activities Period (IAP) program. Beginning their internship on January 6, Eric and Raymond worked on impact assessments of the High School Leadership and Train the Trainers programs respectively. Nikhil developed a curriculum based on the existing industry standard curricula for the blind children for the Foundation's Technology for Visually Challenged program. The IAP Interns got the opportunity to deliver presentations to the Foundation's Board of Directors (US organization) on Jan. 28, 2022. The Board members appreciated their accomplishments in such a short span of time. [Link to the blog post by MIT](#)

Other Notable Engagements

EKAF Going Places!

EKAF to Harvard

March 2022

The Foundation expresses its immense joy, and congratulates Sneha Harsh, the Head of High School Leadership program, for being admitted to the Master of Education program in Learning Design, Innovation, and Technology at the Harvard Graduate School of Education to pursue full-time study for the 2022-2023 academic year. Sneha was also selected for the Barakett Family Fellowship at Harvard.



Dear Sneha,

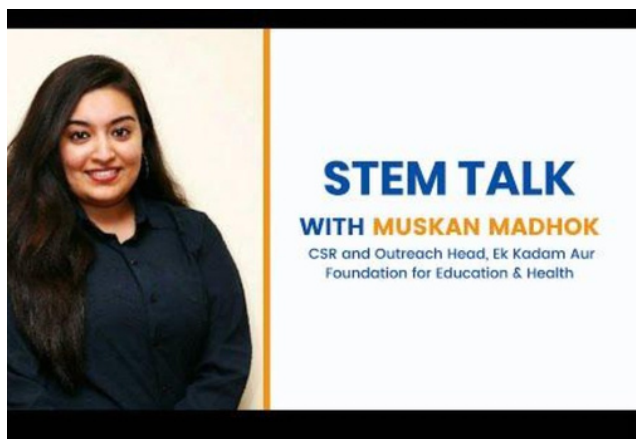
Congratulations! I am pleased to inform you that you have been admitted to the Master of Education program in Learning Design, Innovation, and Technology at the Harvard Graduate School of Education to pursue full-time study for the 2022-2023 academic year.

You will be a part of a cohort of students who bring with them not only impressive professional experience and excellent academic training, but also dedication to the profession of education. You are to be commended on the fine record of achievement by which you earned your place in the class.

EKAF invited to India STEM Foundation Talks

March 29, 2022

Muskan Madhok, CSR and Outreach Head of our Foundation, was invited to join Bhuvan Verma of India STEM Foundation (ISF) in an online conversation under ISF's online talks program, "STEM Talks with Leaders". She opined on the current efforts to strengthen STEM education in India, its relevance in the rapidly technology-driven world, and the STEM-led future.



Muskan's interview is available for viewing on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x3ummeGThQA>

EKAF at Lamdon, Leh Ladakh

March 21 - 25 2022

Members of the Foundation visited Leh, Ladakh to meet with the students and teachers at the Lamdon Model Senior Secondary School to strengthen our ongoing partnership and explore collaboration with governmental and non-governmental organizations in Ladakh working in the education sector.

The Lamdon school lavished warm welcome to the EKAF team with cultural performance and fruitful discussions. The Foundation is grateful for opportunities to meet with the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Heads of the Education Department of Ladakh and the Ladakh Hill Development Council, and Venerable Bikkhu Sanghsena of the Mahabodhi International Meditation Center.

Here's a glimpse into the student-led cultural event held at the school during the visit:

<https://www.lamdonschoolleh.org/post/welcoming-team-ek-kadam-aur-foundation>



Onboarding of Dr Babu Ram Upadhyay Educational Academy

March 2022 onwards

Dr Babu Ram Upadhyay (B.R.U.) Educational Academy is an Elementary/Primary Education school that provides education to children from low-income families. Ek Kadam Aur Foundation collaborated with B.R.U. Educational Academy to provide digital education and access to a library to the children. The Foundation will continue to offer assistance to BRU Academy in the areas of Communication and Active Learning methodology.



Project Ruhani: 10-day Volunteering Program

January - February 2022

Ek Kadam Aur Foundation hosted a 10-day volunteering program for the students of Enactus, Lady Shri Ram College of Delhi University, to help them raise funds for Project Ruhani. Project Ruhani will provide workshops in Social-Emotional Learning for 50 high school students of the Foundation. The volunteers started this fundraiser on January 10, 2022. The volunteers exceeded their target fundraising for Project Ruhani. On March 5, 2022, the volunteers were felicitated for successfully completing the volunteering program with the Foundation. The volunteers were also introduced to public service opportunities which might become available for them in 2Q2022. Project Ruhani will be implemented in May 2022.

Funds from Visakhapatnam Port Trust

February 23, 2022

The Foundation is grateful to the generosity of the Visakhapatnam Port Trust for funding the implementation of two projects under the Foundation's High School Leadership Program: Entrepreneurship Bootcamp and I-Search. Entrepreneurship Bootcamp is a month-long project aimed at introducing entrepreneurship and inculcating a deeper sense of building a meaningful and sustainable enterprise. I-Search Project is a 4-week project-based learning workshop for the students to develop self-initiated and multidirectional learning. These projects will be implemented during 2022 Summer.

Donation of Computers by Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)

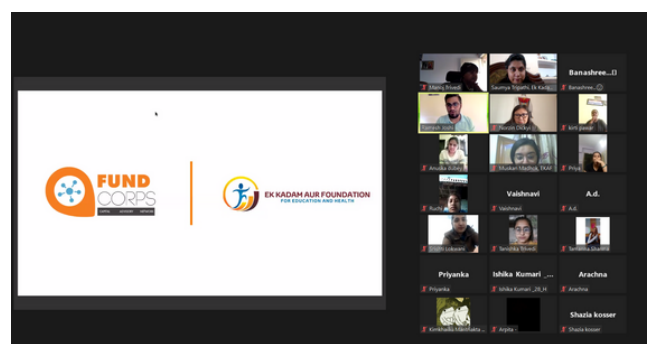
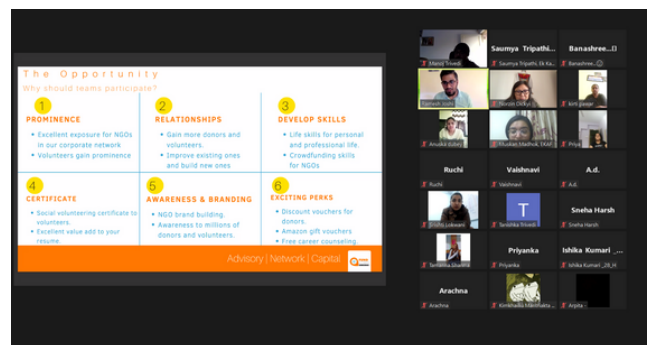
February 11, 2022

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) donated 5 used laptops to Ek Kadam Aur Foundation. These laptops enabled the Foundation to set up a computer lab for its student beneficiaries (sighted and blind). The Foundation facilitates use of technology in education and skill development and strives to continue to provide digital education to the students.

Collaboration with Fundcorps

February 2022 onwards

Ek Kadam Aur Foundation initiated collaboration with the Fundcorps Networking Group, a Crowdfunding Platform that helps raise funds through its unique strategic support. The platform has provided opportunity to school and college students to volunteer for a social cause that will make a difference in the lives of many underprivileged children. It also gives them a chance to enhance their communication skill, relationship building skill, leadership and problem-solving skill, creativity, empathy, and social skills. The funds raised through this collaboration will be used for educating visually challenged children.

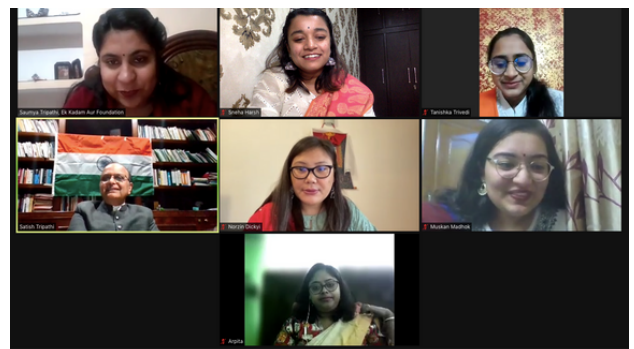


Republic Day Celebration: A Celebration for All

January 25, 2022

To commemorate India's 73rd Republic Day, Ek Kadam Aur Foundation organized a virtual event, celebrating the golden heritage of India and reaffirming our pride in being a part of it. Student captains from the High School Leadership Program showcased their leadership skills by hosting the entire show – from compering the show to directing the activities such as quiz, dance, music, and speech. Children from the Train-the-Trainers program in Uttar Pradesh performed dance and students from Ramakrishna Mission School Blind Boys' Academy sang songs and recited poetry. Mr. Sathya Narayanan, the Advisory Member of the High School Leadership Program who joined us from the United Kingdom and Eva Bennet and Esha Bennet, the Ambassadors of Change from the US, presented inspiring speeches.

The Republic Day celebration brought our friends and well-wishers from India, Nepal, UK and US together! With participation of over 170 attendees, this event became a memorable one for the Foundation.



A Gratitude Luncheon

January 10, 2022

The Foundation hosted a luncheon for all the teacher coordinators at Ramakrishna Mission High School, Visakhapatnam for their dedicated service and support towards smooth running of our High School Leadership Program at their school. This was an opportunity to thank Ms. Prasanna Rani, the Principal and faculty members of the school for hosting the Ek Kadam Aur team during its visit to the school on the sidelines of its Annual Meeting in Visakhapatnam (December 21-26, 2021).

Testimonials



Stanzin Tsepal
Lamdon Model Sr Secondary School, Leh Ladakh
Student, High School Leadership Program

This quarter, there were numerous sessions and competitions were held. One of my favourite sessions was 'Finding your Passion on Purpose' by Mr. Terry Torok. I enjoyed participating in all of the competitions, however Ace the Case was my favourite where I had to think myself as an event organizer.



Stanzin Zomskit
Lamdon Model Sr Secondary School, Leh Ladakh
Student, High School Leadership Program

I am so proud to call myself a student of EKAF and I really get confident after attending every Session and here we just don't learn about studies but also about thinking out of the box, AI Technology, Career making, Communication, and many more....So many competitions are held and I really enjoy it and learn something and something new each and every time. -



Siva Kumari
Ramakrishna Mission High School, Vizag
Student, High School Leadership Program

I like to be a student of Ek Kadam Aur because the High School Leadership Program helped me to know who I am. Being the captain of the class, I learned leadership skills and enjoyed attending inspirational sessions with my classmates



Sinza Dahal
N K Singh Memorial EPS School, Nepal
Student, High School Leadership Program

It has been fabulous involving in the classes of Ek Kadam Aur organization. It has taught me things apart of books and school it also helped me build up my confidence even more.

Participating in different competitions taught me how to cope with my group members as well as my opponent. I am very thankful to my school teachers as well as Ek Kadam Aur team members for this marvellous journey.



Dr Alissa Block- Rissman Illinois, USA
Speaker, High School Leadership Program

I had an extremely positive experience presenting to the High School Leadership Program. I was very impressed with the thoughtful and intelligent questions asked by the students. They were engaged and interested which made it a joy to present to the group. There was great energy among the students and teachers.



Floran Jayaraj
Senior Executive, Global CSR and Employee
Volunteering, Firstsource Solutions

Since a few years ago, I have had the opportunity to volunteer with EKA Foundation, as part of my organization's Volunteering Program. My first thought was that EKA was another NGO that would run CSR and community initiatives in accordance with the traditional NGO model. While working closely with the EKA team, I realized their approach to Education and Healthcare is very holistic and comprehensive.

Especially when it comes to Education, their programs are extremely focused and student-centered. The level of planning and completion of any program is flawless, thus meeting the needs of all stakeholders.

Happy to work with such a dedicated and passionate team of EKA.



Dr Smriti Arora
Assistant Professor, The University of
Petroleum and Energy Studies, Dehradun
Speaker, High School Leadership Program

I thank EK Kadam Aur Foundation for inviting me to interact with the high school students of India and Nepal via their High School Leadership Program. The students of the foundation were curious and inquisitive. They asked interesting questions during and post the sessions. Dr. Satish Tripathi and Ms Sneha Harsh were exceedingly warm and welcoming. Events such as the larger purpose to my existence.



Aditya
Trainer, Train the Trainers
Panhar, Auraiya District, UP

I am proud to say that I am associated with Ek Kadam Aur Foundation through Train the Trainers Program. Through this program we not only impart elementary education to the financially & visually challenged children of our village but also, we get to learn a lot like how to make a lesson plan and how it should be delivered to the children. With the support of our seniors, we the trainers are also provided with free workshops and lectures on various subjects and topics. TtT is a ray of hope through education in the lives of these children and gives us a chance to work for the betterment of society. Thank you EKAF for making a positive impact in the lives of the trainers as well as children.



Sarika Kumari Pandey
Corporate volunteer | Cognizant
Technology Solutions

Ek Kadam Aur Foundation: A step towards the future we aspire to create for our upcoming generations, the better world we talk about in social media platforms and the all-inclusive and prosperous society we aim to develop. I am Sarika Kumari Pandey, an engineer from Cognizant Technology Solutions. I learnt about Ek Kadam Aur through an initiative of my company called Outreach to help the underprivileged section of the society. I take Spoken English Classes every weekend in Train-the-Trainers program of EKAF. In this program, we aim to develop the communication skills of the rural students (who later teach the underserved kids of Auraiya District of Uttar Pradesh). Cascading my knowledge through the students I teach fills me with joy and self-satisfaction. Students are given quality content through Power Point Presentations and motivational videos. Special individual attention and weekly assignments (written and oral) are tagged to the students so that no stone is left unturned in the process of making them more confident orators.

I take a sense of pride in nourishing the deeper roots of the society through this noble initiative of Ek Kadam Aur Foundation. I am so grateful to be a part of EKAF family. I hope together, we will be successful in making the world of our dreams.



Joshna Sree
Trainer | Train the Trainers, Visakhapatnam

I am Joshna Sree from Visakhapatnam, a former student of RamaKrishna Mission High School, Visakhapatnam. I am the winner of Entrepreneurship Bootcamp conducted by Ek Kadam Aur Foundation.

I'm currently in 12th grade, and I've joined Ek Kadam Aur as a trainer for its Train the Trainers program. At the moment, I'm teaching 10 students of classes 1-5 from the government primary school. It's my pleasure to share that the students are performing well in their school, and they are getting good marks now.

Ek Kadam Aur supports my education with scholarship and organizes regular Spoken English Classes for me.

My sincere thanks to Satish sir, Saumya ma'am, Prasanna ma'am (my school principal), and everyone who supported me a lot. Saumya Ma'am helps me a lot! She cares for me like a mother. She is very kindhearted and supports me a lot.

Thank you, Ek Kadam Aur Foundation, for giving me this golden opportunity.

Sustainable Development Goals Aligned



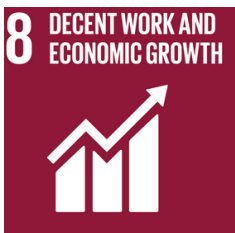
GOOD HEALTH AND WELL BEING

The Foundation provides public health care education to the vulnerable and underserved sections of society to create basic hygiene awareness and health practices.



QUALITY EDUCATION

The Foundation strives to provide high-quality and democratized education to underprivileged children to help them realize their full potential.



DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

The skills gained through our programs by the students, trainers and teachers improve employability skills, resulting in decent work opportunities and economic growth.



PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

The Foundation collaborates with industry experts, individuals, volunteers, and like-minded organizations to achieve common goals.



REDUCED INEQUALITIES

Our vision is "Education for All". Our programs are aimed at creating inclusivity. Our Technology for Visually Challenged Program symbolizes Equity, Inclusivity and Leadership.

We thank you for your continued support !

Contact Us

+91 91-0519-0002
admin@ekkadamaur.org
www.ekkadamaur.org

