



EK KADAM AUR FOUNDATION
FOR EDUCATION AND HEALTH

QUARTERLY REPORT

April 2021 to June 2021



Schooling may
have stopped,
but
learning must
not!

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1. FORWARD BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



We continue to live through one of the most challenging times in our recent human history. None of us is spared of the despair and misery caused by Covid-19 pandemic. We, at the Ek Kadam Aur Foundation, share solidarity with our fellow human beings and hope that we emerge strengthened from this shared experience of unimaginable pain. We are particularly concerned by the widening gaps in educational equity exacerbated by this pandemic, and the increasing number of young children who are not able to

enjoy their basic right to access quality education. We are, more than ever, committed to taking every step possible towards addressing this important issue.

As we complete the first half of the Year 2021, we are pleased to share milestones that we have accomplished in our thematic areas of work, not only in terms of access to quality education but also in terms of making it inclusive for all. This year, we celebrated Helen Keller Day with students from the Blind Boys Academy, Kolkata. Our endeavors are strengthened by partnerships with volunteers from well-meaning organizations such as Cognizant Chennai, Cognizant Kolkata, and IBM. We are overjoyed that our young interns from India, Nepal and the US have grown into budding leaders who consider public service as an important aspect of their professional development.

We are thankful for the support of our individual and organizational partners and our donors. I am personally grateful to our colleagues at the Foundation for their hard work and dedication to public service. Equally importantly, we thank our beneficiaries, the young children whose zeal for learning and quality life continues to keep us inspired.

I warmly invite you to go through this 2Q2021 report to see how Ek Kadam Aur Foundation in partnership with its stakeholders is delivering during these tough times. Happy reading!

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

Satish Tripathi, PhD, MPH

Founder, Ek Kadam Aur Foundation

2. OUR MAIN ENDEAVOR: INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

Ek Kadam Aur Foundation's vision and model of education-based growth rely on inclusivity. To realize this mission, we undertake programs that align strongly with our mission of inclusion. This mission drives our team and interns to constantly seek new areas of knowledge and refine our approaches. We try to incorporate the best practices from our own existing programs and those of other like-minded organizations to provide the best possible learning experience for our students. Our efforts are complemented by incorporation and use of the latest technological innovations in our programs so that nobody is deprived of access to quality education merely due to physical disabilities.

We have made extra efforts, and continue to do so, to make all our programs inclusive for all children. Besides our robust ongoing Technology for Visually Challenged Program, our visually challenged learners are now taking active part in some of the initiatives of our High School Leadership Program. A few of them participated in the Helen Keller Day celebration, much to our admiration and awe. We are currently exploring ways to adapt some aspects of our Train the Trainer Program and implement a similar model to cater to the visually challenged. Technology has greatly enabled our work, and we strive to ensure its easy availability, whether it's Artificial Intelligence, smartphones, internet, live or virtual classrooms, for the students.

At the Ek Kadam Aur Foundation, we nurture the idea of education that goes beyond the limits of school curricula. We regularly organise interactive sessions with experts, teachers, entrepreneurs, and society leaders to not only help the students excel in academics but also gain necessary social skills to build their character. They enjoy their communication skills and entrepreneurship skills development classes. While we navigate the opportunities embedded in virtual mode of learning, we also develop our programs in such a manner that the indispensable human touch is retained. The students learn in a collaborative space where they are encouraged to seek and share. In short, we are preparing them to thrive in a world that exceeds exams.

It is a great achievement for us that our mission is constantly being rewarded and reaching new heights. Through our High School Leadership Program, we have successfully conducted 100+ classes in the past year alone. We persist in our attempts at making quality education inclusive for all, beginning with our own programs.

3. OUR ENGAGEMENTS

STEM EDUCATION | RURAL UPLIFTMENT | ACTIVE LEARNING | INCLUSIVE EDUCATION |
DIGITAL INCLUSION | SKILL DEVELOPMENT | EMPLOYMENT CREATION

1. HIGH SCHOOL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

The High School Leadership Program is based on the recognition that education is the biggest driving force behind uplifting the lives of children and that every child deserves a chance at a better life. The initiatives under this program are designed to provide quality education to all the children in our care and help them make best use of the given opportunities. At this stage, we impart knowledge to students through virtual classes. We have completed four academic years on 30th of June, 2021, which includes 300+ lectures among other educational programs. Despite the challenges aggravated by the pandemic, with lockdowns and closure of schools, we continue to be able to organize the classes, thanks to the determination and support of our e-faculties from India and the US.



*Virtual Session on 'Healthcare Professions' by Dr Divya Sharma,
Research & Development Scientist at Cipla, New York on June 19, 2021*

1.1 I-SEARCH PROJECT 2021

This project was aimed at inspiring and encouraging the students to explore their interests and delve deeper into them than their classrooms and textbooks would normally allow. I-Search was a month-long program, running from June 1 to 30, 2021. Students from Ramakrishna Mission High School, Visakhapatnam, Ramakrishna Mission High School, Sitanagaram, Lamdon Model Senior Secondary School Leh and N.K. Singh Memorial English Preparatory School, Kathmandu participated in this project. Each group got the rare opportunity to interview subject matter experts and to be guided by them in their search. . The Summer interns of Lady Shri Ram College for women served as the group leaders. I-Search integrated Active Learning techniques under the supervision of project coordinators, Sneha Harsh and Muskan Madhok.



Screenshot taken during the Launch of I-Search Program 2021 on June 1, 2021. The orientation session was conducted by Eva Bennet and Esha Bennet, United States.

Phases of the program:

- Students were first asked why they chose the topic they were working on
- Students were then asked to make a 'data summary report' to present it in a concise form
- After that, the students had to interview their Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) to gain better and practical knowledge of their respective topics
- It culminated in the final presentations which reflected their learnings from the program.

- Sessions on confidence-building and development of PowerPoint presentations were also conducted



Screenshot taken during the final presentation delivered by the students of Ramakrishna Mission School Sitanagaram and Visakhapatnam, Landon Model Senior Secondary School Ladakh and N K Singh Memorial English Preparatory School, Kathmandu

Key features of the program:

- Dividing the students into smaller groups of 3 to 4 students to instill collaborative spirit
- Students conducted extensive research, both on-field and theoretical knowledge, on the chosen topic. On-field research included interviewing the subject matter expert/professional. Theory research included information collection from various sources: internet, books or journals, articles and so forth. Students participated in weekly meetings to clear doubts and seek guidance from the coordinators and group leaders

1.2 INNOVATION CHALLENGE

Innovation is the key to a bright future. With this as our driving force, the High School Leadership program led the Innovation Challenge. This included a series of lectures by Dr Meghna Thakkar, along with a case study competition, designed to make students think critically on cases related to Public Health. This challenge started on May 22, 2021, and the first lecture was on Public health and Epidemiology. The second lecture included students' case study presentations and feedback by our e-speaker, Dr Meghna Thakkar which was held on 25 May 2021. The challenge concluded with the announcement of the winners from the four participating schools. Furthermore, another lecture on career opportunities in the field of Public Health and epidemiology was held on May 29, 2021.



A screenshot from the series of three lectures on Public Health along with the Innovation Challenge- the case study competition for the high school students in India and Nepal.

1.3 JOBS OF THE FUTURE SESSION

“You do not have to fit into the already existing work roles, you can create the ones you wish to pursue.”

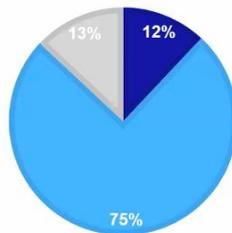
The screenshot shows a virtual session interface. The main content is a slide titled "The Fourth Industrial Revolution : Now!". The slide features a timeline of industrial revolutions: 1.0 STEAM (Mechanization, 1700), 2.0 ELECTRICITY (Mass Production, 1800), 3.0 COMPUTING (Automation, 1900), and 4.0 SMART SYSTEMS (Cyber physical, Rapid, TODAY). To the right is a diagram of Industry 4.0 components including Big Data and Analytics, Autonomous Robots, Simulation, System Integration, Industrial Internet of Things, Cybersecurity, Cloud, Additive Manufacturing, and Augmented Reality. The Cognizant logo is visible at the bottom right of the slide. A video feed of a presenter is visible on the right side of the screen.

The Foundation conducted a virtual session on ‘Jobs of the Future’ on June 15 by Mr Viswanaathan Radhakrishnan, the Global Lead for Education and Skilling at Cognizant Outreach for the corporate employee volunteering program of Cognizant. He has conceptualized, driven and implemented several social impact initiatives over the years, enabling over 100,000 employees of Cognizant to volunteer.

Impact on Jobs

EXISTING JOBS IN 10 YEARS

■ Automate ■ Enhance ■ New



The screenshot shows a video player interface. The video title is "The 10 skills you need to thrive in the Fourth Industrial Revolution". The video content shows a person speaking in front of a World Economic Forum logo. The video player controls are visible at the bottom, including a play button, a progress bar at 0:00 / 0:37, and a "Scroll for details" link.

**What are the most important skills needed to succeed in the workforce of the future?
What are the high paying jobs of the future?**

The session commenced with the search for answers for questions such as what the students wished to opt as a career; this received an out-pour of responses and led the session towards a discussion on contemporary careers. Furthermore, Mr Radhakrishnan discussed the newer career options which have become available in the wake of COVID-19; he also tried to encourage the students to work hard for their future to lead a fulfilling life that touches others' lives and in return, flourishes their own lives. The session was highly engaging and impactful as it generated interest among students in getting to know possible future paths they can venture upon. The schools which joined the session were Ramakrishna Mission High Schools in Visakhapatnam and Sitanagaram, Lamdon Model Senior Secondary School Leh and N.K. Singh Memorial English Preparatory School, Kathmandu. Over 200 participants benefited from the session including the students, teacher coordinators and the volunteers from the Cognizant Chennai team.

Here are the diverse range of topics conducted this quarter:

E-Faculty	Topics (STEM, Leadership, Communication and Entrepreneurship)
Anish Dalal	How to start a business with no money
Kartikesh Misra, BE	Introduction to Robotics and Programming
Divya Sharma, PhD	Why do we fall ill
Dr Aarohi Vachhrajani	Life as a Physiotherapist
Ancy Thomas, PhD	Science and Innovation to build a better world
Rashi Tiwari, PhD	You are what you eat
Omkar P Ghenand, BE	Optogenetics
Ngima Hyolmo, BE	Drone Theory
Advait Dikshit, BA	Questions are the answers
Amreen Luthra, PGDM	Unlocking Confident Communication
Bindu Bennet, PhD	Covid-19: Prevention and Remedies
Pradeep K. Agrawal, PhD	Teamwork and Leadership, Challenges and Opportunities

Biswajit Ghosh, MA	Inclusive Education: Education for all
Neetu Rishi, MBA	Discover the author in you
Meghna Thakkar, PhD	Innovation Challenge A series of 3 lectures on Public Health and Case Study Competition
Apurva Kushare, MSc	Managing Career and Passion
Pradip Chandra Sikdar, BA	How Technology can help shaping a more inclusive society
Shristi Lokwani, MS	Heredity: Why do you look the way you do?
Viswanaathan Radhakrishnan, BTech	Jobs of the future
Divya Sharma, PhD	Healthcare Professions
Prateek Agrawal	How to Solve any problem and never get stuck in life
Rathna Sanjeev Kumar, MSc	Making Presentations for Effective Communication
Priyanka Das	Personality Development and Confidence Building Session: Be your best self during the presentation

EK KADAM AUR FOUNDATION
FOR EDUCATION AND HEALTH

High School Leadership Program
VIRTUAL SESSION #71

HOW TO START A BUSINESS WITH NO MONEY

Anish Dalal
e-Speaker
Forbes 30 Under 30,
Co-Founder of SAPPHIRE

April 3, 2021 | Saturday | 8:00 AM IST

www.ekkadamaur.org

EK KADAM AUR FOUNDATION
FOR EDUCATION AND HEALTH

High School Leadership Program
VIRTUAL SESSION #75

SCIENCE AND INNOVATION TO BUILD A BETTER WORLD

Ancy Thomas, PhD
e-Speaker
Post-doctoral Fellow,
Robert H. Lurie Cancer Center,
Northwestern University,
Chicago, USA.

April 17, 2021 | Saturday | 8:00 AM IST

www.ekkadamaur.org

EK KADAM AUR FOUNDATION
FOR EDUCATION AND HEALTH

High School Leadership Program
VIRTUAL SESSION #82

TEAMWORK AND LEADERSHIP, CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Pradeep K. Agrawal, PhD
E-Faculty
Chair and Professor
Department of Chemical Engineering
Michigan Technological University

May 11, 2021 | Tuesday | 8:00 AM IST

www.ekkadamaur.org

Posters of some virtual sessions conducted under the High School Leadership Program.

2. TECHNOLOGY FOR VISUALLY CHALLENGED PROGRAM

A majority of the visually challenged students in India do not have enough access to effective facilities that can help them reach their full potential. Ek Kadam Aur Foundation's mission is to introduce pilot projects for the visually challenged children aimed at encouraging and assisting the students in developing their latent talents, building their confidence, shaping their employability skills, becoming self-reliant and preparing them for fuller lives.

Through our various programs, virtual classrooms and specially designed classrooms, visually challenged students at the Blind Boys Academy, Kolkata, have the opportunity to attend classes in STEM lessons and receive training in typing, communication and entrepreneurial skills. We also find mentors to guide them on the career path. We create spaces for them to meet and learn from global entrepreneurs and path breakers, many of whom have walked the same road as them. Some of our mentors for the students are visually challenged themselves! We also have student interns from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, US, researching on and developing the latest technologies, software and hardware, to ease their learning process and assist their growth.

We continue to seek to enhance and upscale the quality of education and opportunities for the visually challenged students to help them attain the confidence and capabilities to be an active part of our world.

HIGHLIGHTS

- To cope with the 'new normal' during the COVID-19 pandemic, the foundation shifted its offline computer classes to virtual platforms. The classes are being held every Tuesday by field experts.
- This quarter, we integrated High School Leadership Program with Technology for Visually Challenged Program to make it inclusive for visually challenged students. On 8th June, Pradeep Sikdar delivered his first lecture on Assistive Technology and how visually challenged people can use computers and smartphones. Pradeep Sikdar is a teacher at B.T Road Government Sponsored High School who also dabbles in freelance sound engineering. He is also a music arranger, composer and voice-over artist.
- Students from Blind Boys Academy attend leadership and communication classes with other students under the High School Leadership program.
- Established collaboration with Cognizant Outreach, Kolkata, through which their volunteers take virtual classes every Saturday to teach computer skills, basic to advanced, to the students. Students from the Blind Boys Academy, Kolkata, took active part in the Helen Keller Day commemoration, 'Antaragni', on 26th June 2021.



Series of sessions are conducted by Cognizant Kolkata volunteers with the blind students

ANTARAGNI

Helen Keller is known for both her extraordinary life and work. At the Ek Kadam Aur Foundation, we draw inspiration from her more closely as we strive to enable children that share her physical condition to become like her. We celebrated Helen Keller Day to remind ourselves what educational opportunity and determination to receive it can do. Through this event, we also wanted to showcase our relentless efforts at making opportunities accessible and inclusive for all.

Our interns from Lady Shri Ram College prepared a performance based on the three themes of Inclusivity, Opportunity and Empowerment. We had delivery of speeches and poem recitals. The highlight of the event was participation of our students from the Blind Boys Academy, Kolkata, who presented their recorded performances. The crowd was moved by the immense talent showcased by the boys' performances. Dr Satish Tripathi, Founder of the Foundation, concluded the session with his kind and encouraging remarks. Apart from the students, teacher coordinators, interns and our EKAF team, the Advisory Committee of EKAF also attended this celebration of inclusivity.



Screenshot shows the participation of 100+ students and faculty members attending and performing during *Antaragni*, the cultural event to celebrate Inclusivity and Diversity.

3. TRAIN-THE-TRAINERS PROGRAM

Recent educational reports conclude that most rural-based children do not have the basic literary writing or reading competencies. Even in the presence of a local primary school, the lack of awareness and guidance keeps these children from attaining effective formal education. As such, the Train the Trainers program is a creative approach to combat this shortfall at the primary level of education in rural areas. This program initiates the young graduates and high school students from the target rural areas to undergo a rigorous training program which trains them in the art of classroom-specific education, especially catering to the needs of primary school students. These trainers not only teach the basic primary courses to the students but also work at the grass root level for raising educational awareness among the local residents of the village. The foundation facilitates these young trainers by providing them scholarships and mentorship for their further studies. This arrangement works out for the primary school students as well as the graduate students of the target communities.

HIGHLIGHTS

CLASSES RESTARTED DESPITE THE PANDEMIC

Classes have restarted for trainers; the train-the-trainers program was on hold for a short span of one and a half months due to the second wave of Covid-19. We are renewed with fresh enthusiasm, as the cases decline and conditions improve. Remedial classes are also being conducted.

EXPLORING NEW WAYS OF LEARNING

When the going gets tough, the tough get going. Classes for English communication commenced on WhatsApp and Zoom as the trainers pulled up their socks to teach young and enthusiastic children. We are supported by corporate volunteers in this dream of bridging the gap. Multiple volunteers from Share A book India association are teaching once a week and helping the trainers.



Train the Trainers classes conducted at trainers home



SHARING BEST PRACTICES: TRAIN-THE-TRAINER FOR BLIND STUDENTS

The Train-The-Trainers Program for visually challenged students has also been upscaled to embrace inclusivity and challenge ableism.

PRERNA SAATHI: RECOGNITION FROM STAKEHOLDERS

The Principal of Government Primary School in Panhar appointed three Ek Kadam Aur Foundation trainers as Prerna Saathi, which means 'inspirational partner', as these students/trainers would be guiding the rest towards the glory of knowledge. Trainers are ardently working with the School Headteacher to accelerate the reach and enthuse students with zeal.

4. ACTIVE LEARNING PROGRAM

The Active Learning Program aims to transform the traditional passive learning environment into a more student-friendly and multidirectional one. Through this program, students learn to confront their 'traditional fear' of a teacher, and by doing so, they become more adept at questioning the knowledge shared with them and take active part in their learning process. The program promotes higher-order thinking, communication skills, critical thinking, innovation, creativity, classroom discussions, debates and self-directed projects. Our approach closely follows the guidelines of the National Education Policy 2020, which has its sharp focus on transforming the traditional learning environment into a more practical, collaborative, interactive and student-centric environment.

4.1 INTEGRATION OF ACTIVE LEARNING PROGRAM WITH OTHER PROGRAMS

- In this quarter, the foundation took a new initiative to inculcate active learning practices among the students under its High School Leadership Program. This initiative, the 'I-Search Project', was a four-week long group project for the students to immerse themselves into their topics of interest.
- This self-driven project has helped the students to develop new insights into their subject matter through their active and collaborative self-initiated learning. The students were divided into groups so they can also learn to develop collaborative spirit, coordination, communication and leadership skills. Students also improved their content writing skills by furnishing self-written reports and writing samples.

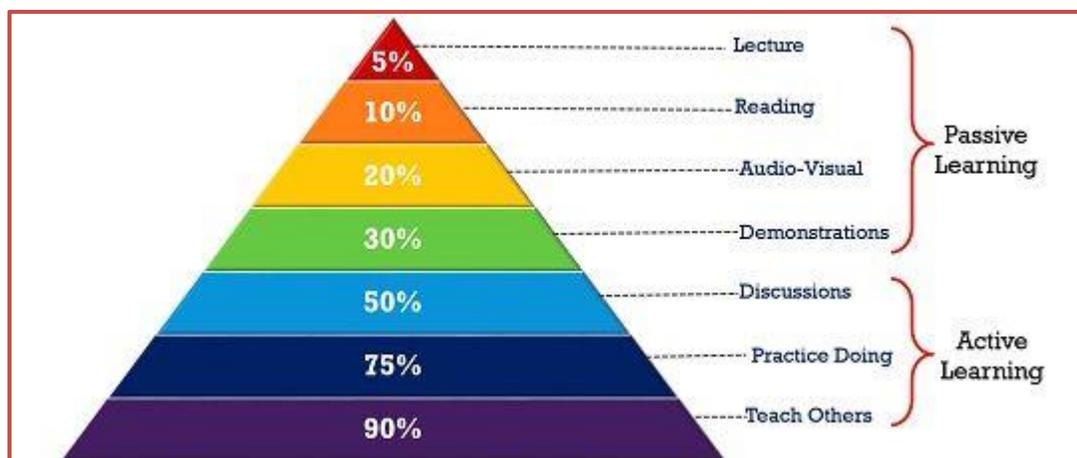


Image shows 'Learning pyramid' developed by National Training Laboratory

5. PUBLIC HEALTH EDUCATION

The Public Health Education initiative of Ek Kadam Aur Foundation is based on the belief that the holistic development of children or adults is incomplete without good health. EKAF takes a step forward towards dissemination of information on hygiene and healthy habits with families of students and their neighbors in the villages where its Train-the-Trainers program is active. The Foundation organizes medical, eye and dental camps. A few hundred people benefit from this program every year.

As the world continues to be challenged by the pandemic, we are finding ways to help our beneficiaries understand the situation better in order to develop better coping mechanisms. For this purpose, over the last quarter, we have hosted sessions on Covid-19 under the High School Leadership Program. Ek Kadam Aur invited Dr Bindu Bennet to address the students in the High School Leadership Program. Dr Bennet gave a lecture on the topic “Covid-19: Prevention and Remedies”. Some of the most important tips and suggestions included avoiding false information on social media, and how they can join the fight in defeating the spread of the virus.

In addition, Ek Kadam Aur constantly seeks to provide safe spaces for conversations and sharing to provide psychological relief. Our staff, interns and volunteers reach out to the students and their parents to provide a support network. We have also tried to provide financial assistance as and when needed.



A virtual session on Covid-19: Prevention and Remedies was conducted as a Public Health Education Initiative by Ek Kadam Aur Foundation to spread awareness among the students and teachers

4. EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES, NURTURING LEADERS

4.1 AMBASSADORS OF CHANGE PROGRAM

The Ambassadors of Change program enables exchange learning between the students based in the US and the ones in India and Nepal. The program consists of interns from the High Schools in the US participating in weekly meetings to discuss improvements and new ideas to benefit other programs. Due to its online setup, the program is versatile and extends the reach to schools and students otherwise restricted by physical boundaries and distance. The Ambassadors of Change brought in the idea for the I-Search Project. Our interns led the I-Search Project as mentors for the student groups working on the projects in India and Nepal. These interns were also among the judges for the final presentation and helped select the winners of the I-Search Project 2021.

The Ambassadors of Change provides a unique opportunity for sharing ideas and perspectives in terms of educational models and methods, promoting cross-cultural understanding and developing innovative ideas for a more robust learning process.

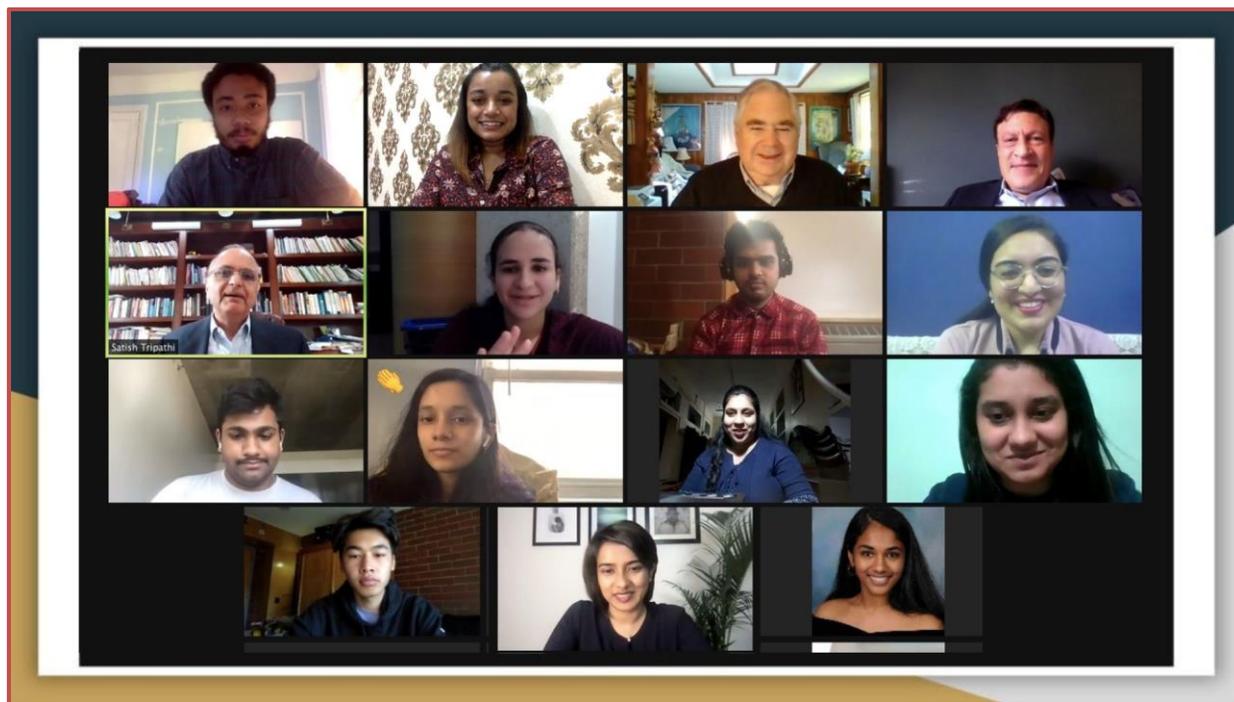
4.2 INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Ek Kadam Aur Foundation provides internship opportunities for college students to enable the youth to engage in public service through its programs and help them attain work experience and leadership skills.

The internship program began with opening of the opportunity to the students in the U.S. based universities. Our interns are selected undergraduate and graduate students from Massachusetts Institute of Technology and undergraduate students from Harvard University and New York University.

In the Spring 2021, the Foundation welcomed its Spring Interns from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, United States! This year, we have 7 undergraduate and 1 graduate student interns: Pragati Muthukumar (2023), Sabrina Queipo (2024), Ngima Hyolmo (2024), Promia Chowdhury (2024), George Friedlander (2021), Omkar Ghenand (2023), Kartikesh Mishra (2024) and Kritisha Kantilal (2021), who are spending their spring working with the Foundation's Programs such as Technology for visually challenged, High School Leadership, Train-the-Trainers, and Active Learning. On May 7, 2021, interns presented their project outline and progress virtually to the Board of Directors, Fernando Quezada, Professor Tom D' Aunno, Bianca Ghose, and Satish C

Tripathi, PhD, MPH. While we strongly encourage Leadership Development programs to be in person, we want to ensure the safety of our interns and staff hence, all our internships during the Year 2021 are remote. Ek Kadam Aur Foundation's internships are geared toward development of skills such as program development, evaluation, impact assessment, data collection and analyses and opportunity to work in a corporate environment.



Spring Interns 2021 Presentations to the Board

This summer, the Foundation extended the summer internship opportunity to students from universities from India and Nepal. Seven interns from India, one from Nepal and three from the US took advantage of this internship opportunity in 2021.

Our interns provide active assistance to the conceptual development and implementation of our existing programs. They also do research and provide ideas for improvement of the same, and developing of new projects. So far, the interns have made substantial contributions to our major programs such as High School Leadership, Train-the-Trainers, Technology for Visually Challenged, and Active Learning Program. During their internship period, the EKAF team trains them in the areas of program evaluation skills, authentic impact assessment, and data collection and interpretation using rigorous analytical skills. The Foundation also incorporates their useful suggestions. The best performing intern is honored with the 'best intern of the month' award. Each internship period concludes with a presentation to the Board of Directors of Ek Kadam Aur Foundation.



MEET THE TEAM



Shruti Pansari, B.Com (Honors)
Lady Shri Ram College for Women
University of Delhi, India
Batch of 2022



Vrinda Gumber, B.A.(Hons) English
Lady Shri Ram College for Women
University of Delhi, India
Batch of 2021



Vasudha Raina, B.A. (Hons.) Journalism
Lady Shri Ram College for Women
University of Delhi, India
Batch of 2022



Indpreet kaur, B.A.(Hons) Political Science
Lady Shri Ram College for Women
University of Delhi, India
Batch of 2022



Padma Angmo, B.A. (Hons.) English
Lady Shri Ram College for Women
University of Delhi, India
Batch of 2023

MEET THE TEAM



Anusha Acharya, BE Mechanical
Pulchowk Campus, IOE
Tribhuvan University, Nepal
Batch of 2021



Durva Shetye, MA Economics
Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics
Pune, India
Batch of 2022



Akshita Chugh, B.A. (Hons.) Journalism
Lady Shri Ram College for Women
University of Delhi, India
Batch of 2022



Sheng Huang, Computer Science and Engineering
Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)
USA
Batch of 2024



Andrew Emmel, Bachelor's in Bioengineering
Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)
USA
Batch of 2024

Ek Kadam Aur Foundation's Summer Interns 2021

5. CSR AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

The Foundation offers corporates and organizations the opportunity to implement Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programs in the areas of Education (elementary/middle/high school & rural/semi-urban), digital inclusion, Skill Enhancement and Employment creation for the Visually Challenged, internships, merit-cum-mean scholarships, public health education, and other areas aligned with the Mission of the Foundation.

CORPORATE VOLUNTEERING

Ek Kadam Aur Foundation is delighted to welcome the volunteers from **three corporates** this quarter namely “Cognizant Chennai”, “Cognizant Kolkata” and “PwC”. With the help of these volunteers, Ek Kadam Aur Foundation hosts a variety of e-lectures and virtual interactions under its educational programs.

1. Cognizant Chennai

The volunteers from Cognizant Chennai are contributing to the High School Leadership Program of Ek Kadam Aur Foundation by organising e-lectures on topics revolving around soft skills, career pathways, STEM education and skill development. The purpose of this collaboration is to upskill the education of high school students from rural and semi urban areas.

2. Cognizant Kolkata

The volunteering collaboration with Cognizant Kolkata promotes digital inclusion and fostering skill development of visually challenged students, making them more employable, through sessions on computer literacy and digital education.



3. PwC

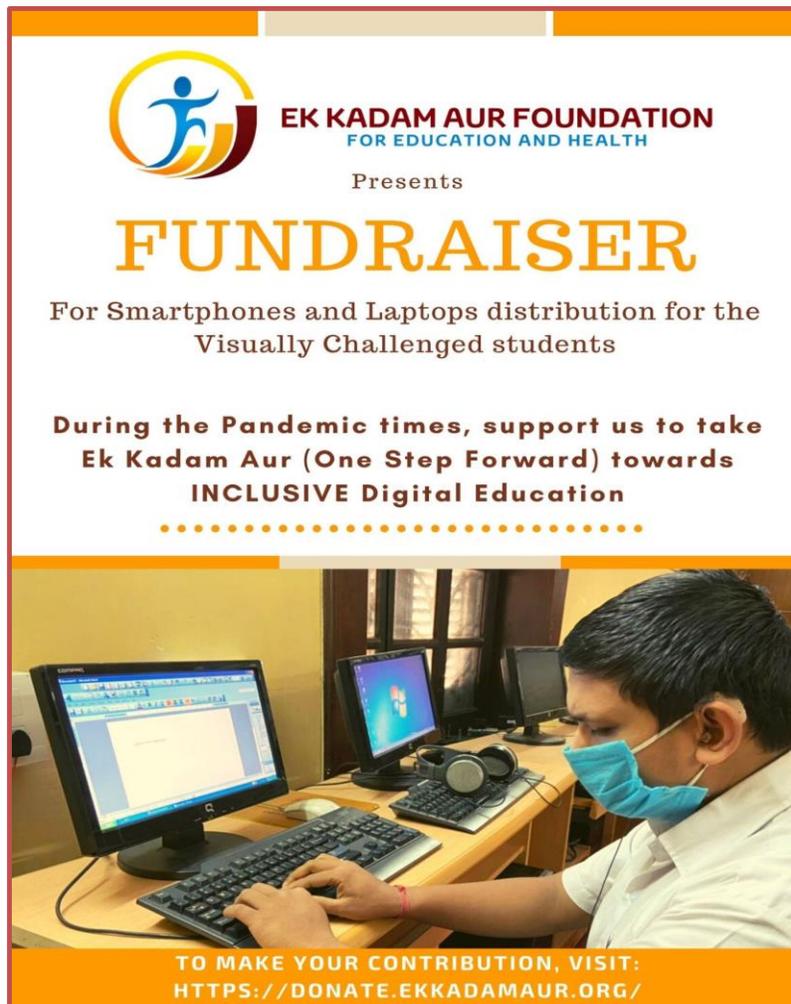
PwC is volunteering with the High School Leadership Program of Ek Kadam Aur Foundation by organizing sessions on soft skills and personality development. The main purpose of these sessions is to develop leadership skills amongst the high school students.

FUNDRAISER FOR THE BLIND EDUCATION

Due to the Pandemic, access to education has become even more difficult. The digital divide has impacted schooling severely especially for visually challenged students. Ek Kadam Aur Foundation aims to reduce this inequality by reaching out to these students through Technology. To promote digital inclusion, Ek Kadam Aur Foundation has launched a fundraising campaign for distributing smartphones and laptops to the Visually Challenged Students.

The Foundation welcomes tax-deductible donations of cash and in-kind donations such as books, laptops, and smartphones. The Foundation looks forward to working with individual and corporate partners to fund scaling of its programs.

Schooling may have stopped but learning must not!



The poster features the Ek Kadam Aur Foundation logo at the top left, which consists of a stylized human figure in blue and yellow within a circular frame. To the right of the logo, the text reads "EK KADAM AUR FOUNDATION FOR EDUCATION AND HEALTH" in blue and red, followed by "Presents" in black. The word "FUNDRAISER" is prominently displayed in large, bold, orange letters. Below this, the text "For Smartphones and Laptops distribution for the Visually Challenged students" is written in a smaller black font. A call to action in bold black text states: "During the Pandemic times, support us to take Ek Kadam Aur (One Step Forward) towards INCLUSIVE Digital Education". A horizontal line of orange dots separates this text from a photograph of a young man wearing a blue surgical mask and a white shirt, sitting at a desk and using a computer. The bottom of the poster has an orange background with white text that says "TO MAKE YOUR CONTRIBUTION, VISIT: [HTTPS://DONATE.EKKADAMAUR.ORG/](https://donate.ekkadamaur.org/)".

EK KADAM AUR FOUNDATION
FOR EDUCATION AND HEALTH

Presents

FUNDRAISER

For Smartphones and Laptops distribution for the
Visually Challenged students

**During the Pandemic times, support us to take
Ek Kadam Aur (One Step Forward) towards
INCLUSIVE Digital Education**

.....

TO MAKE YOUR CONTRIBUTION, VISIT:
[HTTPS://DONATE.EKKADAMAUR.ORG/](https://donate.ekkadamaur.org/)

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

- **Social Media Outreach**

Active social media engagement has proved instrumental in increasing our programs' reach to different corners of the world. In the past quarter, the Foundation has successfully kept a steady update of all the ongoing programs on its social media handles. This has proved to be a repository of the foundation's works and programs, all located at one site. You can join our community by connecting with us on LinkedIn or Facebook.

LinkedIn - <https://www.linkedin.com/company/ek-kadam-aur>

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/Ek-Kadam-Aur-Foundation-for-Education-and-Health-105084514631282/>



- **Share a Book India Association volunteering collaborations**

Share a Book India Association volunteers interact with the students of the Foundation's Train-the-Trainers Program where the volunteers use storytelling as a medium to encourage students to learn.

- Participated in Global NGO Expo where we got the opportunity to pitch our initiatives in front of 100+ corporates and individual donors. The Foundation received an **Excellence Award** for impactful social practices.

6. WHAT'S NEXT?

6.1 HIGH SCHOOL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

- Provide skill development and self-learning/coaching courses to all the students under the program
- Make this program more inclusive to visually challenged students
- Explore ways to enable visually challenged students to participate and benefit from the Entrepreneurship Bootcamp.
- Continue activities like business plan writing competitions in the forthcoming quarter. Organize career awareness and counselling sessions for the students to prepare them about the vocations in demand right now and other career opportunities.

6.2 ACTIVE LEARNING PROGRAM

- Devise new strategies for Incorporating Active Learning Program in students' everyday academic curriculum.
- Work towards developing and curating new curriculums and activities for consolidating this program in their day-to-day learning schedule.
- Explore strategies to implement Active Learning in school activities.

6.3 TRAIN THE TRAINERS PROGRAM

- Collaborating with the corporate volunteers to train the trainers in the field of communication, employment, career, leadership and interpersonal skills.
- Preparing the primary school students under this program for a cultural performance celebrating the country's Independence Day in the month of August. The trainers will supervise and prepare the young students for delivering a successful performance.
- Applying the Train the Trainers model for the visually challenged students, wherein a trainer will be trained to provide one-on-one help to a visually challenged student assigned to them. The trainer will provide visually challenged students with their studies and daily activities.

6.4 TECHNOLOGY FOR VISUALLY CHALLENGED PROGRAM

- To develop a framework with the help of Summer Interns 2021 from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) to make all programs inclusive of the visually challenged students by integrating Technology for Visually Challenged Program with other programs.
- To continue conducting sessions with corporate volunteers for imparting digital education and soft skills development of the visually challenged students.
- To organise more student engagement activities such as talent shows, competitions and open mic events for visually challenged students to encourage their participation.

7. LEADERSHIP AWARDS

To maintain the balance between academics and co-curricular activities and ensure holistic development, the foundation consistently mentors and motivates its beneficiaries to become dynamic personalities. Ek Kadam Aur Foundation provides leadership training and conducts competitions that prepare the young champions from India and Nepal to develop interpersonal and professional abilities, all of which are assertive life skills they will carry into adulthood. Under the High School Leadership Program, the foundation acknowledged the winners of competitions conducted this quarter. In addition, the foundation is organizing the cultural event followed up by an award felicitation ceremony on India's Independence Day, 15 Aug 2021, to celebrate the victories of its beneficiaries.

Congratulations to our shining stars of the competitions!!

Innovation Challenge Winners (22 May - 29 May, 2021)

Winners

- Sindhu Kumar from Ramakrishna Mission School, Visakhapatnam
- Deachen from Lamdon Model Senior Secondary School, Ladakh
- Uha Chandrika from Ramakrishna Mission School, Sitanagaram

Special mention

- Divya from Ramakrishna Mission School, Sitanagaram

I-Search Project Winners (1 June - 30 June, 2021)

Group and members	Topic	School
Skarma Dolma, Padma Edzes, Deldan Angmo, and Punchok Dolker	Culture of Ladakh	Lamdon Model Senior Secondary School
Sindhu Kumar, Vijay Gopal, Sonia, Tejesh, and Venkat Vivek Sai	Space Technology	Ramakrishna Mission High School Visakhapatnam
Padma Chosdon, Stanzin Samstan, Lhazes Wangmo, and Rigzen Dolma	Effects of Tourism in Ladakh	Lamdon Model Senior Secondary School



8. TESTIMONIALS: What Each Move Forward Does!

WHAT EKAF MEANS TO ME

Where ambition meets serene efforts
And balance is the key
Where castles are built
Of knowledge and creativity,
That is what EKA is to me.
The voice of the mute
The sight of the blind,
The hands of the differently-abled
Teaching us that everyone has a light,
That is what EKA makes us believe.
Planting seeds in young minds
Helping them achieve great heights
Making them see a future
So vivid and bright.
So come and join EKA
For it has the potential to revolutionize
And make it inclusive and equal
One where children paint their own skies.



- **Inderpreet Kaur**
Lady Shri Ram College For Women,
Delhi University, India
Summer Intern, EKA, 2021

TESTIMONIAL BY E-FACULTY



It's always a pleasure to interact with the ignited minds of Ek Kadam Aur Foundation affiliated schools. I am happy to be able to share my love for Biology and knowledge gained through my education & work to introduce them to concepts that interest them but are not touched upon in their regular curriculum. I really appreciate the organization's openness to accept my proposal to conduct an Innovation Challenge for the students around Public Health.

Despite the second wave of Covid-19 pandemic and ongoing exams at some of the schools, the excitement and effort exhibited by the students through their participation is worthy of an applause. During these 3 day events, I was indeed impressed by the ability of students to navigate through the electronic medium, their presentation delivery skills and PowerPoint skills. Ek Kadam Aur has indeed brought these students up to speed with being comfortable with online tools/ medium of learning by supporting them with the equipment and educating them to use them effortlessly.

I truly enjoyed the questions raised during the sessions especially on the recent rise in spread of Black Fungus among the COVID-19 patients and whether that would be classified as a pandemic, outbreak or an epidemic. That made me feel proud that the students indeed are not only receptive of the new concepts introduced in the sessions but also are trying to apply it to real life situations that they witness around. The students were challenged with two case studies, one on resolving the spread of TB and the other on resolving the surge in COVID-19 cases in their community. It was surprising to see that more students chose the TB case study than COVID-19 case which would have been much easier to tackle due to the recent wave of awareness around it. I was really pleased to see the courage and enthusiasm of the students to take the challenge up on a new topic rather than a familiar topic and apply their problem solving minds. This reflects on their ability to become great future leaders of the society and their own lives.

I hope to support the good work of the organization through new interactive sessions. It is fulfilling to see talented students benefit from these sessions and get inspired to shape their future careers in different fields. Last but not the least, it was indeed nice of Satish ji to participate in person during these sessions despite it being difficult due to the time zone differences. The brainstorming meetings and the support by Sneha Harsh and Muskan Madhok to smoothly organize the Innovation Challenge was a great help to make it a success.

- **Meghna Thakkar, PhD**
E- Faculty, Ek Kadam Aur Foundation

LET'S HEAR FROM OUR SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM MEMBER!



Ek Kadam Our Foundation for Education and Health is an NGO providing world class education to economically underprivileged students by using state of art technology.

The Foundation and its various activities have been a wonderful platform for our students to groom themselves to become future leaders. Considering a significant number of unemployed youth population, we need to create an enabling environment for different Start-ups in India. The Entrepreneurship Bootcamp under its High School Leadership Program is a significant initiative to produce future entrepreneurs and job creators for the Indian market.

The various programs of Ek Kadam Aur Foundation have not only helped our students but also our teachers to learn new knowledge and skills to develop a positive teaching attitude. I am convinced that the various programs of Ek Kadam Our Foundation have and are making a very positive and lasting impact on our children. The programs will give these children a chance to become competitive and do well in their future.

On behalf of the Lamdon Family, I would like to express my deep gratitude to Dr. Satish Tripathi, Ms. Sneha Harsh, Ms. Saumya Tripathi & Ms. Muskan Madhok for consistently supporting our students and faculties to shape Lamdon as one of the best schools of the 21st Century.

- **Dr Stanzin Dawa**
Principal,
Lamdon Model Senior Secondary School, Ladakh, India

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TESTIMONIAL BY TEACHER COORDINATOR



The High School Leadership program under the aegis of EK KADAM AUR has opened my eyes to new vistas of education and the various advantages that it has thrown open. As a teacher I, along with my students was exposed to the expertise of experts from various fields, which has not just ignited the inquisitive nature of my students but also my own self. More importantly it has been an experience to which I was looking forward to throughout the time period. From a student's perspective, it threw open the various vistas of education, skill development and engaged them constantly without tiring them out and importantly taking up the program

during the pandemic has ensured that both teachers and students were duly engaged. The productive nature of the program also made sure there was full participation by the students to whom this program turned out to be a welcome one. Not to mention it has also helped many teachers to do away with stress and strain of Pandemic induced lockdown and focus more on their interactive skills. Various lectures on Communication, Entrepreneurship, skill development, career orientation and various other topics of learning, though not part of regular curriculum, ensured that the students took one small step forward in the right direction that is a holistic approach towards education. Also connecting with the peers in various locations in India and Nepal was welcoming one for all!

I thank Satishji and his dynamic team for their continuous efforts and support towards the various programs!

- **Ramya Neeharika, MSc, MBA**

Teacher Coordinator

Ramakrishna Mission High School, Visakhapatnam, India

TESTIMONIAL BY THE STUDENTS

Firstly, I am very happy to take part in this program. I learnt how to improve my communication and public speaking skills. I have gained some knowledge on drones. I have also learnt some important concepts on the topic of public health. I was able to improve my critical thinking skills. Now, I can interact with my elders and share my experiences with them and learn from them. I have improved my creativity skills too. I am very satisfied with the opportunity to participate in the Innovation Challenge Program.

- **Kum. Uha Chandrika,**

X Std., Ramakrishna Mission High School, Sitanagaram

We are very much thankful to Ek Kadam Aur for giving us this great opportunity to learn from speakers across the globe. Through these sessions, we learnt various topics which pave a path for our bright future. All the Ek Kadam Aur sessions helped us to know how competitive the world around us is and ignited the fire in us to attain knowledge about things that can be so useful for us. All the sessions helped us gain knowledge and increase our interest in studies. Innovation challenge programme helped us learn how to study a disease and find ways to control it and develop this learning into a case study.

- **Kum. Naga Divya**

X Std., Ramakrishna Mission High School, Sitanagaram



The virtual sessions of Ek kadam Aur have taught me new learnings and a great experience. These sessions have helped me to build my skill-sets by participating in the multiple competitions like I-Search Project and Case Study Competition. It makes the learning even more exciting. All the sessions have been very motivating and I learn new things every Tuesday and Saturday. The session conducted by Norzin Dickyi on 'STEPping into the New Year' is personally one of my favorites. Thank you, Ek Kadam Aur for giving me the platform.

- **Skarma Dolma**

Lamdun Model Senior Secondary School, Ladakh, India

My confidence level got built and also I got to know about outer knowledge apart from book studies. I find myself lucky to get chosen by Ek Kadam Aur Foundation to attend its High School Leadership Program and now I can speak in mass with full confidence too.

- **Sakshi Jha,**

NK Memorial EPS, Nepal

IN THE MEMORY OF OUR COLLEAGUE



Poem by Lt Shri Viswesara Rao, Ek Kadam Aur Foundation

Ek Kadam Aur Forward and onward we help you grow
With care and cure we enhance your knowledge to
seamless flow
With “Ek Kadam Aur” – a better future we bestow
Bright and beautiful your life will glow.

Helping you to amplify your voice
Creating in you the ability to live in dignity
“Ek Kadam Aur” glides you into a world of choice
Fortifying you with our stamp of quality!

You have the potential to change the world
Enhancing your skills with state-of-art-technology
Weaving tall thought-woven sails, that flap unfurled
“Ek Kadam Aur” projects you to the top mantle of the best
in human ecology!!

Paving the path from unknown to the known
“Ek Kadam Aur” guides you to an animated future
Leading your life to the golden throne
With our dedication and development for you that we
nurture!

Encouraging you to develop inquisitive attitude
Enabling you to gain your full range of rights
Extending largely your knowledge fences with fortitude
“Ek Kadam Aur”, escalates you to great heights!!

Ignoring race, religion, class, caste or economic standing
Marshalling confidence and motivating the
underprivileged
We assure you of our commitment as binding
With “Ek Kadam Aur”- your learning experience shall be
everlasting!!

