

A young boy in a red school uniform is captured mid-jump in a village street. He has his arms outstretched and a joyful expression. The background shows other children and adults in a rustic setting with mud-brick buildings.

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023

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**EMPOWERING INCLUSIVE EDUCATION FOR ALL**

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# Introduction

## About the Ek Kadam Aur Foundation

Ek Kadam Aur is a nonprofit organization registered in India (80G) and the US (501c3) that works towards delivering quality education to underprivileged children in India and Nepal. We work at the crucial juncture where blindness, poverty, and lack of accessibility converge.

## Vision

The Ek Kadam Aur Foundation's vision is to create a world where every child has the right to quality education, access to skill enhancement, and healthcare.

## Mission

Our mission is to help underprivileged children improve their lives through education, technology, and healthcare initiatives.

## Our Values



**Growth**



**Respect**



**Inclusion**



**Teamwork**

## Our Programs

**Arunodaya (Sunrise) for Blind Program:** A Program through which the Foundation identifies visually impaired children aged 5 to 14 years from remote regions of India to provide personalized one-on-one training from mentors and special educators to prepare them for regular mainstream schools.

**High School Leadership Program:** A flagship initiative of the Foundation that offers training in essential 21st-century skills like communication and leadership. Students in this program get the opportunity to participate in entrepreneurship boot camp and the I-Search (research-based) Program.

**Train the Trainers Program:** This Program aims to empower local graduates and high school students to assist elementary school children in their community with fundamental academic skills outside school hours.

**Active Learning Program:** It fosters student engagement by transitioning from teacher-centered to student-centered learning, promoting the development of 21st Century Skills. Regular workshops and training programs on Active Learning are conducted for teachers and students in partner schools.

**Nurturing Youth Leadership:** We strongly believe in nurturing young leaders to public service. To facilitate this, we host several student interns from New York University, Harvard University, and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) from the US each year. While we engage them in social impact opportunities, we also gain from their insights and perspectives, especially from an academic lens.

# Ek Kadam Aur's Conference on Prevention and Treatment of Visual Challenges and Educating Children and Adults with Blindness

Ek Kadam Aur organized a conference on "Prevention and Treatment of Visual Challenges and Educating Children and Adults with Blindness" from 30 – 31 October 2023 at the Shangri-La Hotel New Delhi, India. The conference aimed to promote awareness about the challenges of visual impairment in India. The two-day global conference focused on preventing, treating, and educating children and adults with blindness. Experts from India, Australia, Mauritius, Ireland, and the US shared their insights. They discussed the roadmap to help children with blindness develop life skills and train them to be school-ready. At this conference, the Ek Kadam Aur Foundation hosted experts and professionals from visual impairment, ophthalmology, optometry, education, technology, and rehabilitation. More than 200 people participated in the conference, including experts from medical, education, nonprofit, research, pharmaceutical, corporate, and government departments.

Speakers from renowned medical research and ophthalmology institutions attended the conference and shed light on critical issues in the treatment and prevention of blindness. Dr. Rohit Saxena, MD, PhD, Professor of Ophthalmology, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, Dr. Praveen Vashist, MD, MSc, Professor and In-charge, Community Ophthalmology, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, along with other renowned experts talked on 'How to Prevent Blindness?'



Dr. Mallika Nadda is a social worker, ex-professor, and the President of Special Olympics India. She was previously the Vice Chairman of Special Olympics India. Apart from being a social worker, Mallika Nadda has also been working to rehabilitate the helpless and disabled for a long time. Establishing the Himachal unit of Special Olympics India is the most important role in this. She attended the conference as a guest of honor and appreciated the work of Ek Kadam Aur Foundation in India.


Within the realm of classical music, Dhrupad is a timeless gem, and Shilpa Shanker Narain's journey into its mystical depths is transformative. Inspired by early exposure to classical music and Khayal training, Shilpa's odyssey is exceptional. Ms. Shilpa Narain and her accompanying artist on Pakhavaj, Shri Roman Das, presented a beautiful Drupad performance at the Ek Kadam Aur Foundation's world conference.




# Speakers' Highlight




**PROFESSOR S.P. ARUN**  
PhD, Center for Neuroscience,  
Indian Institute of Science,  
Bengaluru, India




**DR. MATHEW THOMAS**  
MD, Senior Regulatory and  
Clinical Advisor, Healthcare  
Innovation Catalysts,  
Rockville, Maryland;  
Formerly, US Food and  
Drug Administration




**DR. MEHUL MEHTA**  
PhD, Center for Drug  
Evaluation and Research,  
US Food and Drug  
Administration




**PRANAV SAVLA**  
Founder and CEO,  
Vidyadrishti




**DR. PAUL HARPUR**  
PhD, Associate Professor,  
The University of  
Queensland, Australia



**CAROLINE CASEY**  
President, International  
Agency for Prevention of  
Blindness, London, UK



**DR. YOGENDRA NARAIN**  
IAS, Chancellor H. N.  
Bahuguna Garhwal University;  
Formerly, Secretary of  
Defense, Secretary-General  
of Rajya Sabha, and Chief  
Secretary of Uttar Pradesh,  
Govt. of India



**DR. SATISH TRIPATHI**  
PhD, MPH,  
Founder/President, Ek  
Kadam Aur Foundation for  
Education and Health




**DR. SWATI AJAY  
PIRAMAL**  
MD, MPH, Vice  
Chairperson, Piramal  
Enterprises Limited,  
Mumbai, India



**AMBASSADOR LUIS  
GALLEGOS**  
JD, Director, Board of  
Advisors, Ek  
Kadam Aur and Global Expert  
on Human Rights, Disability  
Rights, and Ageing



**RAMU MUTHANGI**  
CEO and Co-Founder, SHG  
Technologies Private, Ltd.



**Dr. Mallika Banerjee  
Nadda**  
Chairperson, Special Olympics,  
Bharat, New Delhi



**DR. ROHIT SAXENA**  
MD, PhD, Professor of  
Ophthalmology, All India  
Institute of Medical Sciences,  
New Delhi




**HUNNY  
BHAGCHANDANI**  
Founder, Torchit, India




**DR. RADHIKA  
TANDON**  
MD, Professor of  
Ophthalmology, All India  
Institute of Medical  
Sciences, New Delhi



**DR. PRAVEEN VASHIST**  
MD, MSc, Professor and In-  
charge, Community  
Ophthalmology, All India  
Institute of Medical Sciences,  
New Delhi



**PROF. ANIL KUMAR  
ANEJA**  
PhD, Chairman, Department of  
English and Director of Center  
of Disability Studies,  
University of Delhi, New Delhi



**Kiran Majumdar Shaw**  
Executive Chairperson,  
Biocon Limited, Bengaluru

# Artist Highlight



## Shilpa Shanker Narain

Surrounded by classical music from a young age and early exposure to Khayal, Shilpa's journey led her to a profound connection with Dhrupad. Since 2010, she has devoted herself to rigorous training in Dhrupad under the guidance of renowned maestros Padmashri Gundecha Brothers and Shri Sanjeev Jha. Shilpa actively engages in performing, teaching, and exploring the rich history and intricacies of Dhrupad. Shilpa aims to revitalize the ancient Dhrupad art, shifting it from a rigid, textbook-bound form to one that resonates with today's musical landscape. This dynamic living tradition evolves in response to the contemporary world.

Shilpa Shanker Narain's performance added more vibrancy to the conference; children with blindness studying under the Ek Kadam Aur Foundation's Arunodaya (Sunrise) for Blind program also showcased their talents at the conference.

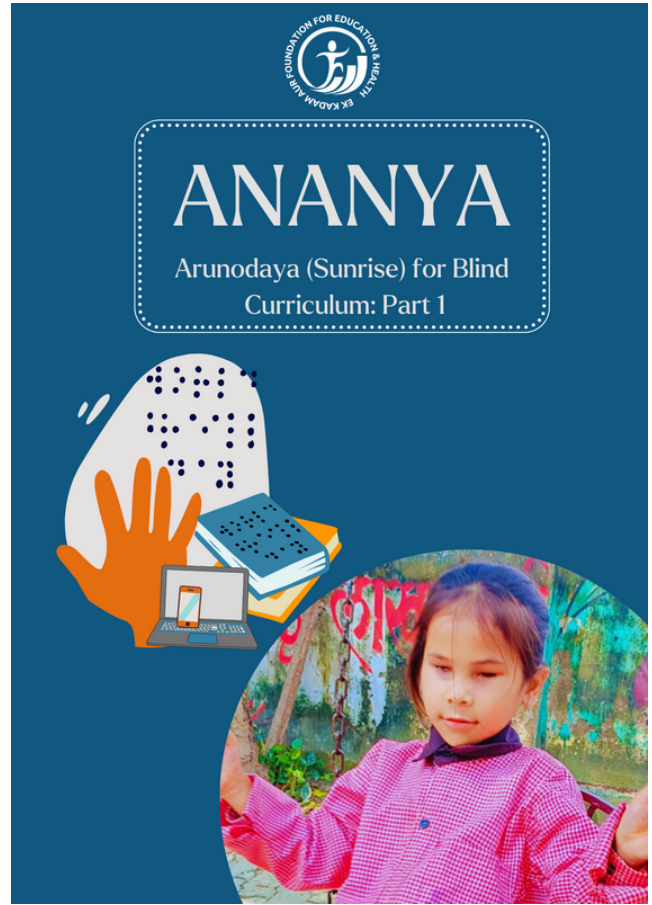
# Important Publications



## Arunodaya

### Dawn of Enlightenment and Emancipation

This book is dedicated to all those children who go beyond the boundaries of their disabilities and fight for their rights, dignity, and happiness. When we started the Arunodaya (Sunrise) for Blind program in 2022, we aimed to support children with blindness in the remotest parts of India and protect their right to education. However, as we moved forward, we realized the issue's complexity. We learned about the social, academic, health, mental well-being, and economic challenges of children with visual impairments.



## Ananya Curriculum: Part 1

This book is the result of dedicated efforts, passion, and the shared vision of educators, field workers, and thinkers to enrich the lives of individuals with visual impairment. It is a testament to the belief that every child, regardless of their sight or any other disability, has the right to acquire essential skills to learn and be educated, learn and adapt technology, and master the art of independent living.

“Inclusion happens in its true sense when we don’t have to talk about it”

**Download the Books Here:**



# Recommendations

## By Ek Kadam Aur

Ensuring the prevention and inclusion of visually challenged (blind) children and adults in the education system in the Indian context is crucial for their overall development and integration into society. Here are some major recommendations to achieve this goal:

### 1. **Early Intervention and Screening:**

Implement a nationwide program for early intervention and screening to identify visual challenges in children as early as possible. Provide access to eye exams and vision correction for those with visual impairments.

### 2. **Accessible Curriculum and Learning Materials:**

Develop and adopt inclusive educational materials, such as Braille textbooks, large print materials, and accessible digital content. Ensure all educational facilities have assistive technologies like screen readers and magnification software.

### 3. **Qualified Teachers and Special Educators:**

Train teachers and special educators in inclusive teaching methods and strategies to cater to the diverse needs of visually challenged students. Recruit and retain more visually impaired teachers as role models and mentors.

### 4. **Braille Literacy Programs:**

Promote and expand Braille literacy programs to ensure that visually challenged students can read and write effectively.

### 5. **Accessible Infrastructure:**

Make educational facilities, including schools and colleges, accessible for individuals with visual impairments through features like ramps, tactile pathways, and accessible restrooms. Ensure that public transportation to educational institutions is accessible.

### 6. **Support Services:**

Establish resource centers and support services within educational institutions to assist visually challenged students with mobility training, learning aids, and counseling. Offer orientation and mobility training to help them navigate their environment independently.

### 7. **Customized Education Plans:**

Develop individualized education plans (IEPs) for visually challenged students that address their unique needs and learning goals. Regularly assess progress and adjust teaching strategies accordingly.

### 8. **Sensitization and Awareness Programs:**

Conduct awareness programs for teachers, students, and the general public to reduce stigmatization and increase understanding of visual challenges. Promote positive attitudes toward individuals with visual impairments.

### 9. **Government Policy and Funding:**

Enforce and strengthen existing policies on the rights and inclusion of individuals with disabilities. Allocate adequate funding and resources to support inclusive education for visually challenged individuals.

### 10. **Collaboration with NGOs and Disability Organizations:**

Partner with non-governmental organizations and disability advocacy groups to provide support, resources, and expertise in promoting inclusion. Share best practices and experiences with other stakeholders.

**Ek Kadam Aur will continue working with the government, nonprofits, and other important decision-makers in the coming years to achieve these goals.**

# Key Highlights

The Ek Kadam Aur Foundation published two books in 2023. The “Arunodaya - Dawn of Enlightenment and Emancipation” is focused on the Arunodaya Program, and the “Ananaya - Curriculum Book” is for bringing inclusivity in teaching.

01

In 2023, more than 103 sessions were organized in the High School Leadership Program, and we have more than 200 mentors helping children from India and Nepal.

02

In 2023, the Foundation enrolled 187 children in the Arunodaya (Sunrise) for Children with Blindness program, and more than 19 children have completed phase 1.

03

In 2023, Ek Kadam Aur started the Arunodaya Program in Andhra Pradesh state in India.

04





# Message from the President



Dear Friends,

We are thrilled to provide you with a summary of our accomplishments and impact in 2023! Your continued support is motivating and empowering, and we extend our heartfelt gratitude to you. The insights gained from seven years of work in India have greatly shaped our journey, making 2023 a significant year for us.


Our primary focus in 2023 was the Arunodaya (Sunrise) for Children with Blindness Program, which saw remarkable progress and achieved significant milestones in Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, and Andhra Pradesh. We proudly announce our expansion to Vishakhapatnam, now totaling 5 locations. Building strong partnerships with government officials and local communities has been instrumental in our success. A highlight of the year was the successful hosting of our First Global Conference on Preventing and Treating Visual Challenges, Educating Children and Adults with Visual Impairments, featuring over 60 speakers and attended by 250 participants.

We take great pride in our other initiatives, including the High School Leadership Program, Train the Trainers Program for Elementary Schools, and Active Learning Program, which engage numerous young students and individuals seeking transformation. The High School Leadership Program successfully executed the I-Search Project focusing on Sustainability. Our Active Learning Program also formed invaluable partnerships with the Sri Ramakrishna Mission College of Education in Coimbatore and The Avenues World School in São Paulo. Collaborating with exceptional high school students from the US, India, and Nepal through our Ambassadors of Change initiative has been pivotal to our Nurturing Youth Leaders Program.

We express our sincere gratitude to the dedicated teachers of the Arunodaya for Blind Program, as well as to our board of directors, advisory board members, team associates, volunteers, stakeholders, corporate partners, and individual supporters. Your guidance

and contributions form the cornerstone of our work. With your unwavering support, the Ek Kadam Aur Foundation remains steadfast in its commitment to expanding its reach and effecting positive change through inclusive education.

With heartfelt thanks and warm regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Satish Tripathi".

Dr. Satish Tripathi  
(Founder/President)

# Goals For 2024

## **Arunodaya (Sunrise) for Children with Blindness Program**

- Increase the program's geographic reach to cover more remote areas, ensuring that even the most marginalized visually impaired children can access quality education and support.
- Forge strategic partnerships with government bodies, educational institutions, and NGOs to create a support network for visually impaired children after they complete the program.
- Expand awareness and sensitization programs to reach a wider audience, including policymakers, educators, and the general public, fostering a more inclusive and empathetic society.
- Provide training and resources to more mentors, special educators, Government school teachers, and community members, empowering them to contribute effectively to the program's objectives.
- Implement measures to ensure the program's sustainability beyond 2024, including fundraising initiatives, partnerships with sustainable development organizations, and the establishment of a robust mentorship and support structure.
- Conduct research and gather data to demonstrate the program's long-term impact on the lives of visually impaired children, advocating for continued support and investment.

## **High School Leadership Program**

- Enhance the integration of 21st-century skills across all facets of the curriculum, ensuring that students receive comprehensive exposure to critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and communication skills.
- Broaden the program's focus to include projects and activities that cultivate a global perspective, encouraging students to think beyond cultural boundaries and fostering an understanding of diverse perspectives and global issues.
- Conduct initiatives that instill an entrepreneurial mindset among students, promoting innovation, resilience, and adaptability. This includes incorporating real-world problem-solving and project-based learning experiences.
- Integrate activities and workshops that focus on emotional intelligence, empathy, and interpersonal skills development. These skills are essential for effective leadership and collaboration in today's interconnected and diverse world.
- Empower students to take on leadership roles in designing and implementing certain aspects of the program, fostering a sense of ownership, autonomy, and responsibility for their educational journey.

## **Nurturing Youth Leadership Program**

- Continue implementing a holistic internship program that provides all students with a comprehensive leadership development experience.
- Continue to expose participants to real-world scenarios and challenges within their areas of interest. This goal ensures interns gain practical insights into their chosen field, making the experience valuable for future academic and career pursuits.
- Prioritize diversity and inclusion within the internship program to create a supportive and diverse environment that embraces different backgrounds, perspectives, and experiences.
- Strengthen networking opportunities, allowing students to connect with professionals and peers, potentially opening doors for future educational and career pathways.

# Arunodaya (Sunrise) for Children with Blindness Program

## Key Highlights of the Program

In 2023, the Arunodaya (Sunrise) for Children with Blindness program brought education to the doorsteps of children with blindness with the help of 29 special educators and 79 mentors. With the addition of 26 new students in the last quarter, our program now educates 187 blind children in four different states in India.



## Uttar Pradesh

In 2023, 19 children from Uttar Pradesh graduated from Phase 1 and started Phase 2. This means these 19 children will be assimilated into the schools. We have also started providing them with digital training. One of our generous donors donated smartphones for the children, and our dedicated digital training staff has started the children's training.

**Addition of new districts:** In 2023, three new districts from Uttar Pradesh were added. They are Kannauj, Farrukhabad, and Ghazipur.

**Visit by the interns from New York University:** Ek Kadam Aur (One Step Forward) welcomed the fourth batch of the NYU Capstone Project. Four interns visited Uttar Pradesh for the program's field observation and Impact Assessment. The interns visited the children's homes and schools, met the stakeholders, and prepared a report for the organization.

## Madhya Pradesh

**Beginning of the Program:** Madhya Pradesh has been added to the armor in the process of scaling up the program. In January 2023, 16 children from Jabalpur were enrolled in the Program. They were assigned mentors and Special Educators. By the end of the year, 35 children were enrolled.

**Prizes received on the occasion of the celebration of World Disability Day:** 4 children of the Program received prizes and medals from the District Officials for obtaining a position at the various sports competitions organized by the Siroha District in Madhya Pradesh on the occasion of World Disability Day, 2023.

**Inauguration of a resource room cum office at Auraiya, UP:** In 2023, a resource room cum office was inaugurated in Auraiya district. It is an open space for children, mentors, special educators, and anyone interested in the program. The room also serves as a library for individuals with blindness, with Braille books from NIEPVD available for access.

**Ananya received an award from the Basic Shikshak Adhikari (BSA) for Yoga Performance:** Our first child, Ananya, received her marvelous Yoga performance during the Independence Day celebration at the District Magistrate's office.

## Chhattisgarh

**Beginning of the Program:** In the process of scaling up the Program, another district of Chhattisgarh has been added to the armor. In July 2023, 19 children from Janjgir were enrolled in the Program. They were assigned mentors and Special Educators. By the end of 2023, 35 children had been enrolled in the program.

**Community Sensitization Programmes:** The foundation organized community sensitization programs to create an inclusive environment in the community and help members understand the potential of children with visual impairment and other disabilities.

## West Bengal

**Enrollment of new children:** In 2023, 23 children are enrolled, out of which 9 children are enrolled in the same school with whom a memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed, i.e., Sri Sri Ramakrishna Satyananda Dristideep Shikshaniketan. 7 children have been enrolled in the Birbhum district. Also, 5 students are from Purba Bardhaman, 1 from Hooghly, and 1 from Murshidabad. There are currently a total of 71 students in West Bengal.

## Andhra Pradesh

**Beginning of the Program:** By the end of 2023, we started the program in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. 1 child was enrolled in the program by the end of December 2023. The Mentor and Special Educator have been assigned to the child as well.



Smartphones were distributed to the Arunodaya program children from Auraiya.



Arunodaya program student Ananya received an award for Yoga Performance.



Arunodaya program student Devika Kumari secured third place in the District Level Sports Competition.



Arunodaya program student Sukanya fetching water using hand pump.

# High School Leadership Program

## Key Highlights of the Program

The High School Leadership Program continues to stand as a flagship initiative within the Ek Kadam Aur Foundation framework. Its primary goal is to equip students with essential 21st-century skills, encompassing leadership, communication, entrepreneurship, and STEM subjects. The delivery of world-class lessons is facilitated through engaging virtual classrooms, ensuring that participants from our four partner schools in India and Nepal benefit from the collective wisdom of over 200 professionals and industry experts within the Foundation's expansive global network.

Structured as bi-weekly sessions held every Tuesday and Saturday, the program goes beyond conventional teaching. In addition to targeted topic-specific sessions, students are immersed in various activities, competitions, quizzes, and workshops, fostering a multifaceted learning experience. A distinctive feature of the program is the bimonthly dedicated session for feedback and reflection, providing students with a platform to articulate their thoughts, refine their talents, and actively contribute to a milieu of ideas, thereby cultivating holistic learning.

### Program Impact Numbers



Partner School	Location	No. of students (2023)
Lamdon Model Senior Secondary School	Leh, Ladakh, India	140
Ramakrishna Mission High School	Vishakapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, India	58
Ramakrishna Mission High School	Sitanagaram, Andhra Pradesh, India	16
N.K.Singh Memorial English Preparatory School	Kathmandu Nepal	35

## Key High School Leadership Sessions in 2023

Topic	Resource Person	Affiliation
<b>STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts &amp; Management)</b>		
STEM Professionals: The ordinary and extraordinary career paths	Dr. Smriti Arora, Assistant Professor	University of Petroleum and Energy Solutions
Digital Transformation	Ms. Shubhada Kulkarni, Associate Director – Presales	Firstsource Solutions Limited
CRISPR and Genetic Engineering	Ms. Meghna Thakkar, PhD., Life Science Analyst and Strategy Consultant, Marketing Intelligence Manager	Danaher Corporation
STEM and Innovation	Mr. Surjit Kumar Choudhary, Lead Corporate Social Responsibility	Tata Consultancy Services
Importance of Agriculture	Mr. Shiekh Abdul Rahman, Infra Architect	Cognizant
Cyber Security	Ms. Varsha Raicod, Senior Software Engineer and Scrum Master	CGI
Cyber Safety Measures	Ms. Varsha Raicod, Senior Software Engineer and Scrum Master	CGI
Cyber Bullying – A virtual Menace	Ms. Varsha Raicod, Senior Software Engineer and Scrum Master	CGI
Structure of the Atom - Chemistry	Tharani Devi, Associate Director, Learning & Development Shared Services	Cognizant Technology Solutions Limited



## Key High School Leadership Sessions in 2023

Motion - Physics	B. Sivapriya, System Engineer	Tata Consultancy Services, Chennai
Force and Laws of Motion- Physics	Sukhendu Bhattacharya, Manager – Human Resources	Firstsource Solutions Limited
Sound - Physics	B. Sivapriya, System Engineer	Tata Consultancy Services, Chennai
Epigenetic - Biology	Meghna Thakkar, PhD, Life Science Analyst & Strategy Consultant, Market Intelligence Manager	Danaher Corporation
Work & Energy (Physics)	Hariharan Ramkrishnan, Test Manager Projects	Cognizant Technology Solutions Limited
Why STEAM is so important to 21st Century Education?	Rajeshkumar Rajendran, Engagement Delivery Partner	Cognizant Technology Solutions Limited
Blood & Science of Hematology	Manoj Kumar, Manager – Projects	Cognizant Technology Solutions Limited
Artificial Intelligence	Pranav Savla, Founder	Vidyadrishti & Phoenix Digital Media
Computational Thinking	Pranav Savla, Founder	Vidyadrishti & Phoenix Digital Media
Carbon Footprint: Meaning, Causes & Ways to reduce it	Swetha Sivakumar, Manager	Cognizant Technology Solutions Limited
How to create an impact using Dream Research Innovate Problem/Project Based Learning (DRIPBL)?	Ms. Rachna Nath, TIME Innovative Speaker, NASA Ambassador, Innovator and Educator	

## Key High School Leadership Sessions in 2023

Circular Economy – Giving Waste a New Life	Muskan Madhok, Volunteer	Ek Kadam Aur Foundation for Education and Health
Waste Management – Meaning, Types/Methods, Importance, Benefits, and Solutions	Sania Ahmed, Manager, Customer Experience	Firstsource Solutions Limited
Circles (Mathematics)	Suresh Gangadharan, Senior Engineering Manager	Cognizant Technology Solutions Limited
Mensuration (Mathematics)	Jyoti Swaroop Upadhyay, Senior Software Engineer	CGI
Exploring Computer Science – History, Evolution, and Modern-Day Appliances	Aditya Jha, Senior Manager, Capability Development (Europe)	Firstsource Solutions Limited
Take charge of your Health – A guide for teenagers	Dr. Alissa Rissman, Pediatrics Specialist, US	
Statistics (Mathematics)	Anshul Jain, Senior Manager, Data Science	Firstsource Solutions Limited
Atoms and Molecules (Part 1 & Part 2)	Jyoti Swaroop Upadhyay, Senior Software Engineer	CGI
Introduction to Website Development and its Frameworks	Dr. Deepak Keynes, Team Lead	Cognizant Technology Solutions Limited
E-Waste Management for School	Dr. Harveen Kaur, E -Waste Management Specialist	
Technical Skills: Creativity, Design, Graphic Designing, Logo Making, Poster Making	Saurabh Singh, Creative Director	Firstsource Solutions Limited
Revisiting the Educational Heritage of India	Sahana Singh, Author & Writer	

## Key High School Leadership Sessions in 2023

<b>SOFT SKILLS &amp; LIFE SKILLS</b>		
Leadership	Ms. Dimple Tahilramani, Soft Skills Trainer, Certified Counselor and Content Writer	LXL Ideas
Herd Mentality and its Implications	Dr. Deepti Sanghavi, Senior Consultant – Medical Writing & Clinical Researcher	Confidential
Confidence Building	Ms. Preeti Ogale, Program Manager	Tata Consultancy Services
Problem Solving – A leadership skill	Mr. Hiren Shah, Associate Director - Operations	Firstsource Solutions Limited
Better Public Speaking: How to become a confident and compelling speaker?	Ms. Monishka Singh, Human Resource Professional	Boston Consulting Group (BCG)
The Art of Communication	Varsha Raicod, Senior Software Engineer and Scrum Master	CGI
Better Writing: How to be an excellent Writer?	Rathna Sanjeev Kumar, Executive Assistant	Cognizant
How to make a Power Point Presentation	Jaya Kumar, Manager, Global Business Services	Cognizant Technology Solutions Limited
Goal Setting & How to do it well?	Salome John, Head, High School Leadership Program	Ek Kadam Aur - Foundation for Education and Health

## Key High School Leadership Sessions in 2023

Change Leadership: What is it & 11 skills to achieve it?	Sathish Kumar Issac, Manager Recruitment	Cognizant Technology Solutions Limited
Personality Development	Satya Deepika Dasaka, Senior Software Engineer	CGI
Life Skills and its Importance	Padma Kumari, Founder	Padmashakti Consultancy
Cultivating Good Habits	Guru Aravind Ardhanari, Senior Manager	Cognizant Technology Solutions Limited
Emotional Intelligence	Sagaya Sophia, Senior Associate	Cognizant Technology Solutions Limited
Role of Social Media in shaping Public Opinion	Sivasankari Muthappan, Engineering Director	Cognizant Technology Solutions Limited
Power of Authenticity	Pallavi Puri, Food Policy Communication Manager	Vital Strategies, New York City
Self-Education	Aditi Sharma, Career Coach & Sales Trainer, LinkedIn Top Voice	
<b>CAREER COUNSELLING</b>		
Cyber Security – A Career Choice	Varsha Raicod, Senior Software Engineer	CGI
Career Planning – Components & Way Forward	Bhuvaneshwari Sadasivam, Deputy General Manager, Healthcare Transition	Cognizant Technology Solutions Limited
Entrepreneurship – A great career choice	Manisha Acharya, PhD, Project Director, Founder & Director	E&Y & Weneurs Forum

## Key High School Leadership Sessions in 2023

<b>WORKSHOPS</b>		
Spike Theory, Selectivity and where to experience	Sarosh Nagar, Undergraduate Student, President	Harvard University & Emerging Technology Group
Resume Development & Framing	Sarosh Nagar, Undergraduate Student, President	
Interviews: Tips, Tricks and Framing	Sarosh Nagar, Undergraduate Student, President	
Cover Letters: What works and what doesn't?	Sarosh Nagar, Undergraduate Student, President	
Rejections: How to recover and move forward	Sarosh Nagar, Undergraduate Student, President	
Connections: Making the most of a situation	Sarosh Nagar, Undergraduate Student, President	
Public Speaking Course – SAID – Types of Speeches & What makes a great speaker?	Aditi Dey, Ambassador of Change, USA	Ek Kadam Aur - Foundation for Education and Health
Public Speaking Course – SAID – How to write a Speech lesson	Aditi Dey, Ambassador of Change, USA	
Public Speaking Course – SAID – Presentation skills	Aditi Dey, Ambassador of Change, USA	
Blogging & Vlogging	Swaraj Karna, Ambassador of Change, Nepal	
Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens	Anusuiya Bhorkar, Ambassador of Change, USA	
Prevention of Blindness: Observation Week	Biswajit Ghosh, Director, Arunodaya (Sunrise) for Blind	
Celebrating Uniqueness: Respecting Differences, Honoring Similarities	Alma Chopra, Entrepreneur, Motivational Speaker, Life Coach, and Disability Advocate & Inclusion Ambassador	

## Key High School Leadership Sessions in 2023

<b>ENTREPRENEURSHIP BOOTCAMP SESSIONS</b>	
Introduction to Entrepreneurship	Deshna Mohanty, Firstsource Solutions Limited
Stage Ideation: Coming up with a Business Idea	
Feasibility of the Business idea	
Business Plan: How to make one?	
Types of Entrepreneurships	
Decision Making & Processes	
Negotiation for a business	
Launching & Growing the Business	
Social media & Entrepreneurship	
Financing Business, Business Incubators/Accelerators & Barriers to Entrepreneurship	

### COMPETITIONS & ACTIVITIES OF THE YEAR

Short Essay Writing Exercise	Impromptu Speech (Activity)
Cultural & Art Presentations	goIT Monthly Challenge – SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure)
International Women’s Day	Maths Fair
Let’s talk about our Goals: Motivating session for the year forward	Gratitude December: Art presentation on school boards/walls
Activity - Your Favourite Character	I – Search Project
Start Innovating Today: Exercise with the students	Entrepreneurship Bootcamp

# TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR HEALTH - A GUIDE FOR TEENAGERS



NOVEMBER 7 | TUESDAY

8 AM (IST) | ZOOM

Guest Speaker  
**DR. ALISSA RISSMAN**  
Pediatrics Specialist, US

LET'S LEARN TOGETHER



High School Leadership Program session poster.

# PHASE 4: DAY 2

TECHNICAL SKILLS:  
CREATIVITY, DESIGN,  
GRAPHIC, GRAPHIC  
DESIGN, LOGO MAKING,  
POSTER MAKING, USE OF  
TECHNOLOGY



MONDAY  
NOVEMBER 6, 2023  
8 AM (IST)

SAURABH SINGH  
CREATIVE DIRECTOR,  
FIRSTSOURCE

High School Leadership Program session poster.

High School Leadership Program session poster.

# MATHEMATICS - CIRCLES



AUGUST 1 | TUESDAY

8 AM (IST) | ZOOM

Guest Speaker  
**SURESH GANGADHARAN**  
Senior Engineering Manager,  
Cognizant

LET'S LEARN TOGETHER



High School Leadership Program session poster.

High School Leadership Program session poster.

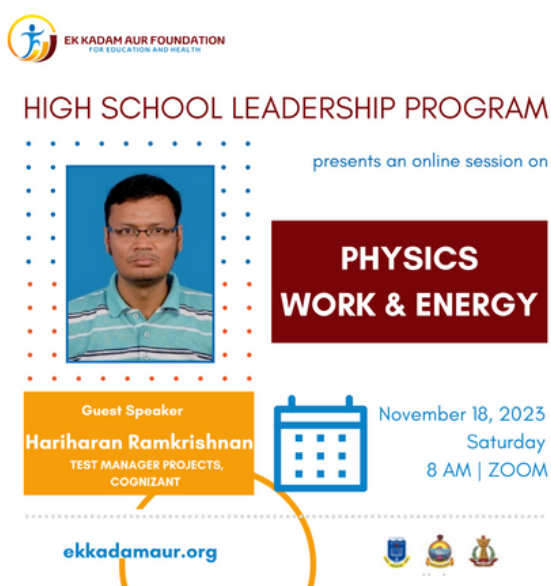
High School Leadership Program session poster.



High School Leadership Program session poster.



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High School Leadership Program session poster.



# Highlights of the Program

## Entrepreneurship Bootcamp - 2023

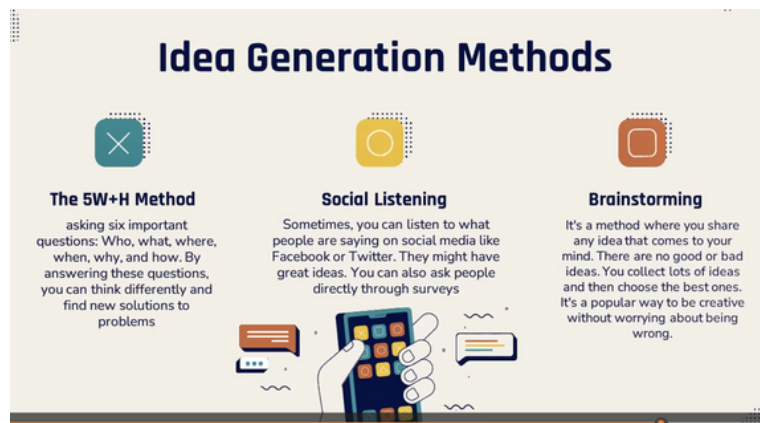
The Foundation orchestrated its fifth annual Entrepreneurship Bootcamp in partnership with Firstsource Solutions Limited, fostering a culture of innovation and business acumen among participating students. This month-long initiative was meticulously designed to acquaint young minds with the intricacies of constructing a purposeful and sustainable enterprise.

The journey commenced with an insightful orientation, setting the stage for an immersive knowledge-sharing experience. Delving into the realms of entrepreneurship, participants underwent a series of rigorous sessions led by the mentorship of Deshna Mohanty. This phase aimed at equipping students with a comprehensive understanding of the entrepreneurial landscape, covering vital aspects such as entrepreneurial trends, ideation, and roadmap preparation.

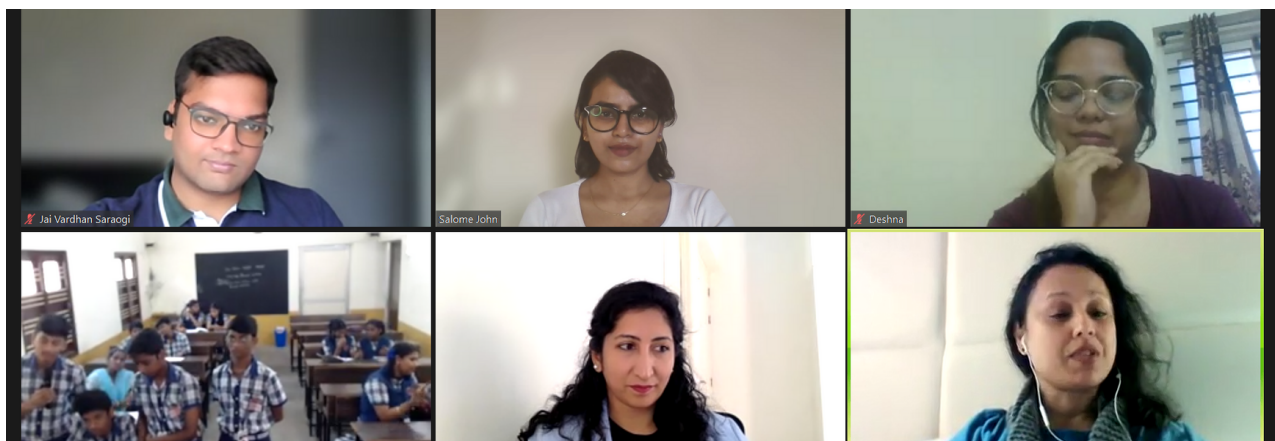
Six standout ideas advanced to the finals. The culmination saw these aspiring entrepreneurs presenting their concepts to a panel of judges, a momentous occasion that underscored the culmination of weeks of dedication and learning. Ultimately, three teams emerged victorious, and their innovative ideas were recognized and celebrated as the standout achievements of the Entrepreneurship Bootcamp. This event showcased our budding entrepreneurs' prowess and affirmed our commitment to nurturing a culture of innovation and business excellence within the academic community.



Bootcamp Program session poster.



Bootcamp Program session poster.



Bootcamp Program session Screenshot.

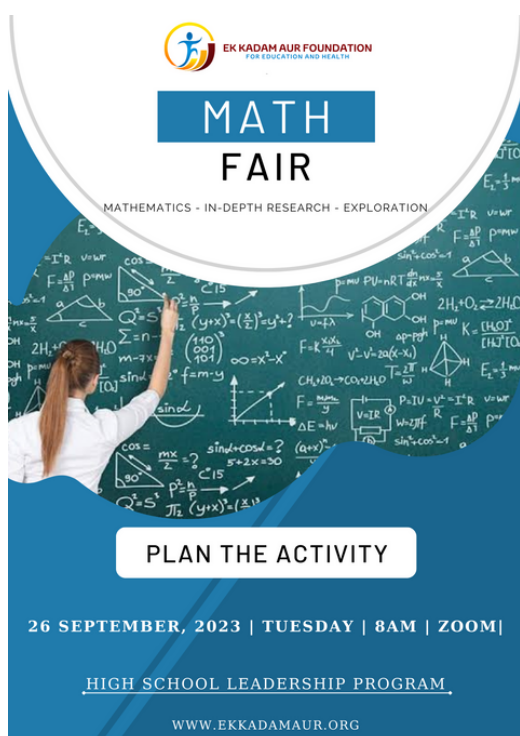
## I-Search Project - 2023

The Foundation organized its third I-Search Project, a transformative initiative designed to cultivate self-initiated exploration and project-based learning among students. This 1.5-month-long project, conducted from August 25th to October 7th, 2023, centered around the theme of Sustainability & Waste Management, reflecting our commitment to addressing contemporary global challenges.

Employing an Active Learning pedagogy, the Project served as a dynamic platform for students to embark on self-directed, multidirectional learning journeys. The participants from the 9th grade of Ramakrishna Mission High School, Visakhapatnam, and Lamdon Model Senior Secondary School underwent specialized training in presentation and communication skills, further enhancing their ability to articulate and share their findings effectively.

The culmination of the I-Search Project marked a significant achievement, with four outstanding teams securing top ranks.

1. Animal Waste Management - Lamdon Model Senior Secondary School
2. Poverty Alleviation - Ramakrishna Mission High School, Visakhapatnam
3. Water Waste Management - Lamdon Model Senior Secondary School
4. Waste Management in Oceans - Ramakrishna Mission High School, Visakhapatnam



I-Search project event poster.



I-Search project event poster.

## **Annual Senior Leadership Meeting - 2023**

On the 1st of November 2023, the Annual Senior Leadership Meeting convened in New Delhi, serving as a focal point for the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) to engage in a collaborative discourse. The meeting witnessed the participation of President & Founder Satish C. Tripathi, Senior Global Manager Salome John, and our Senior Leaders, including R.K. Mohan Rao, MSc, Management Representative, Ramakrishna Mission High School, Stanagaram, Andhra Pradesh; Prasanna Rani, MA, B.Ed., who holds the position of Principal at Ramakrishna Mission High School in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh; Dr. Stanzin Dawa, PhD, the Principal of Lamdon Model Senior Secondary School, Leh, Ladakh; and Mr. Rajendra Sharma, MA, Vice-Principal of N.K. Singh Memorial English Preparatory School, Kathmandu, Nepal.

This meeting provided a platform for substantive discussions, strategic planning, and collaborative initiatives aimed at advancing the shared educational goals of our High School Leadership Programs.

## **MoU Signing of 2 Partner Schools**

During our Annual Senior Leadership Meeting, we successfully formalized partnerships by signing Memoranda of Understanding with two of our esteemed Partner Schools. Dr. Stanzin Dawa, PhD, Principal of Lamdon Model Senior Secondary School in Leh, Ladakh, and Mr. Rajendra Sharma, MA, Vice-Principal of N.K. Singh Memorial English Preparatory School in Kathmandu, Nepal, joined hands with us in a commitment to further our shared educational objectives and initiatives of the High School Leadership Program. The Foundation remains committed to fostering enriching learning experiences that go beyond conventional education, preparing our students for the complexities of the world while instilling a passion for lifelong learning.



High School Leadership Program Stakeholders in MoU signing ceremony.

# Corporate Engagement in High School Leadership Program

**Corporate Volunteering:** The Foundation recognizes the power of collective effort. In 2023, we completed another year of engaging with our corporate volunteers! Our corporate partners, Cognizant, Firstsource, CGI, and Tata Consultancy Services, volunteered in the High School Leadership Program. Through corporate volunteering, we conducted over 100 sessions for the students, teachers, and trainers. The Foundation reached out to government bodies and private institutions for support to advance our work in education, skill enhancement, curriculum development, and digital inclusion.

**Firstsource Supports Women Leaders:** On International Women’s Day in March 2023, the High School Leadership Program collaborated with Firstsource Pvt. Ltd. and invited Ms. Aakriti Bhargava, Senior Manager - HR, to conduct a virtual session on International Women’s Day (IWD). Ms. Aakriti Bhargava stressed the vital role of educational institutions in creating an equitable, inclusive, and harmonious society where individuals from all backgrounds, regardless of gender, can thrive.

**Corporate Volunteers Led Entrepreneurship Bootcamp:** The Annual Entrepreneurship Bootcamp was organized in collaboration with Firstsource Solutions Limited, and Deshna Mohanty facilitated the 10-day mentorship sessions. The final presentations of the boot camp were judged by judges: Rachna Nath, TIME Innovator Educator & NASA Solar System Ambassador; Henna Sharma, Founder, Hope Happiness Coach & Chief Happiness Officer; Jai Vardhan Saraogi, Director, KIG Kraft Tech Container Pvt.Ltd, and Deshna Mohanty, Assistant Manager, Pre-sales Firstsource Solutions Limited.



Women’s Day event poster.



Bootcamp Activity Poster.

# Active Learning Program

## Key Highlights of the Program

After the successful completion of the Active Learning Program in 2020, the foundation decided to scale up the program. The foundation collaborated with the College of Education in Coimbatore in Tamilnadu state of India. After rigorous discussion for a year and a half, the program expanded in the state by training the college faculty members and student teachers, who will then train the school teachers. In addition to this, they also used these Active Learning strategies during the internships and their teaching in the classrooms. The Program focuses on shifting the onus from the teachers to the learners in the Classroom. To achieve the goal of this program, Ek Kadam Aur has partnered with Sri Ramakrishna Mission College of Education, Coimbatore, and The Avenues World School, São Paulo, Brazil. In this partnership, the teachers from the Avenues School, which is leading in adopting Active Learning Strategies in their classrooms, have trained the student teachers from the College of Education in different subjects. Based on the feedback from the Avenues, the lesson plans were prepared by the participants from the College of Education, and the lesson was given to middle graders from the Avenues School. The Active Learning Program accelerated during 2023.

As per the plan, all the participants (The Avenues School, The College of Education, and Ek Kadam Aur) decided to dedicate one week to one subject. The training lasted four weeks and covered the subjects of Mathematics, Science, English, and Social Science. Every Monday, all the participants met and discussed the specific subject planned for the particular week, and the questions were asked and shared among all to develop a better understanding. On Fridays/ Wednesdays, the student-teachers taught the lessons to the students at the Avenues Global School through Zoom. The student-teachers adopted different active learning strategies and did a great job based on the feedback they received from the students and the trainers.

After the online sessions were completed, the student teachers started preparing lesson plans focusing on the students' active participation in their classes. The student teachers implemented some of the lesson plans in the classes. The Active Learning Program will escalate further during the first quarter of the next year, 2024.

## Program Impact Numbers



# Nurturing Youth Leadership Program

## AMBASSADORS OF CHANGE

In 2023, our foundation collaborated with a group of eight exceptional high school students, serving as our esteemed "Ambassadors of Change," representing the United States, India, and Nepal. Here, we highlight the remarkable projects they conceived and executed during their tenure:

Aditi Dey, the United States Ambassador, led the "SAID" project, which consisted of three sessions focused on public speaking, culminating in a final debate. Additionally, she spearheaded the "Eye to Eye" initiative to integrate blind students into visual classrooms through instructional simulations for sighted peers. Aditi's unwavering commitment has facilitated transformative learning experiences.

Pranav Savla, the Ambassador from India, made significant contributions by gathering invaluable ideas for empathy-related activities, particularly benefiting visually impaired children, parents, peers, and teachers, thereby supporting our Arunodaya Program. Collaborating closely with Aditi on the "Eye to Eye" project, Pranav initiated a Collaborative Creativity Workshop within the High School Leadership Program, focusing on computer science skills. His unique perspective as a person blind since birth has profoundly influenced our Arunodaya for Blind Children Program, promoting inclusivity and empathy.

Utkarsh Tiwari and Swaraj Karna, the Ambassadors from Nepal, collaborated on a Micro Greens Project session for our students, fostering environmental awareness and sustainability.

Anusuiya Bhorkar, an Ambassador from the United States, conducted a session on Stephen Covey's 'Seven Habits of Highly Effective People'. She is enthusiastic about establishing a dedicated club for the cause at her school in New York City.

Esha Bennet and Eva Bennet, ambassadors from the US, successfully undertook the "I-Search Project," focusing on sustainability and waste management within the current year's High School Leadership Program.

Shivani Muthukumar, an Ambassador from the US, organized a Maths Fair for the students of the High School Leadership Program, providing them with an opportunity to revisit mathematical concepts and present their findings.

The commitment demonstrated by these Ambassadors extended beyond their individual projects. Shivani Muthukumar and Anusuiya Bhorkar actively participated in the virtual celebrations of the High School Leadership Program. Their dedication and passion are a profound source of inspiration, driving meaningful projects that harmoniously align with our foundation's vision.



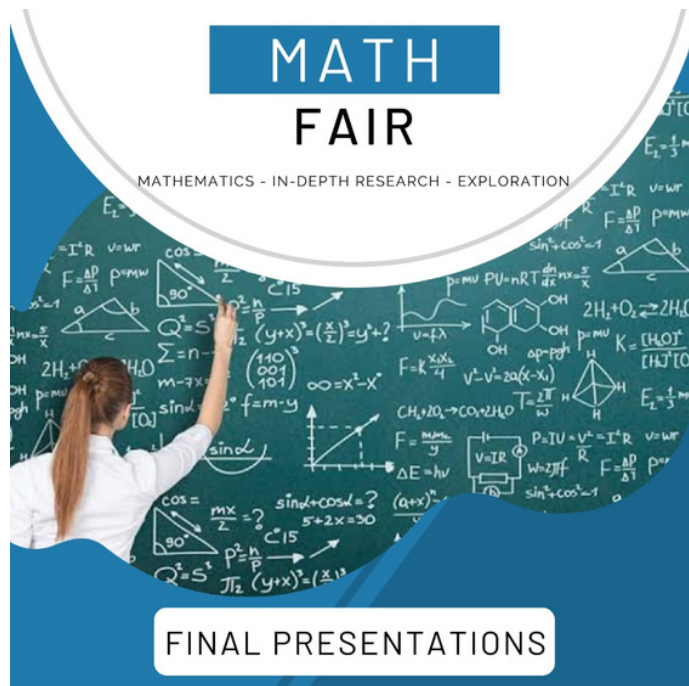
I-Search project event poster.



I-Search project event poster.



I-Search project event poster.



I-Search project event poster.

## **NYU Wagner Capstone Project**

In January 2023, interns from NYU Wagner School of Public Service embarked on a fieldwork project in Auraiya to assess the impact of the Arunodaya for Blind Children Program. Following their fieldwork, they presented their findings to their class and the EKA team, contributing valuable insights to the program's assessment. Subsequently, in October 2023, the Foundation welcomed its next cohort of interns from NYU Wagner School of Public Service. These interns are currently engaged in data analysis and impact assessment projects. They are slated to visit India in the first quarter of 2024, furthering the Foundation's commitment to rigorous evaluation and continuous improvement.

## **INTERNSHIPS**

Nurturing a sense of commitment to public service lies at the heart of the Foundation's leadership training for its students and members. In 2023, the Foundation continued its dedication to this principle by providing internship opportunities to students from prestigious institutions such as Harvard University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), and New York University (NYU).

### **Spring 2023 Interns from MIT, USA**

Spring 2023 saw the arrival of four interns from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Over a month, these interns engaged in various projects to foster inclusivity and promote corporate social responsibility. Two interns concentrated on devising strategies to cultivate inclusive classrooms, while another focused on documentation. The fourth intern delved into the realm of Corporate Social Responsibility. Their tenure culminated in presentations to Ek Kadam Aur on January 25th, showcasing their contributions.

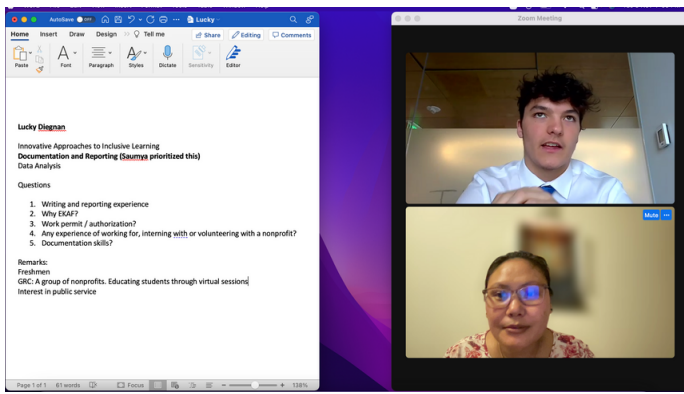
### **Interns from Harvard**

In February, the Foundation welcomed three interns from Harvard University. Tasked with comprehensively understanding the strengths and challenges of the Arunodaya program, they conducted extensive focus group interviews with participating mentors, special education teachers, and administrative staff. Their insights are invaluable for the program's continued growth and expansion to serve more students.

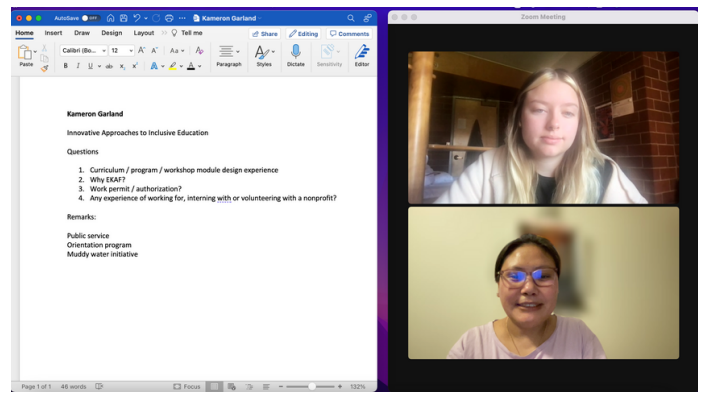
### **Summer 2023 Interns from MIT, USA**

During the summer of 2023, the Foundation hosted Thomas Stueber and Luke Schenk from MIT, who were actively engaged in data analysis and website development projects, respectively. Thomas Stueber's data analyses yielded insightful findings to enhance the efficacy of the Arunodaya for Blind Children Program and the High School Leadership Program. Meanwhile, Luke Schenk focused on enhancing the foundation's website and implementing changes to improve functionality and user experience. These enhancements aim to make the website more accessible and user-friendly, facilitating better engagement with the foundation's mission and initiatives.





MIT IAP intern Lucky Deignan



MIT IAP intern Kameron Garland



NYU Wagner Capstone Team Visit



NYU Wagner Capstone Team interviewing children



NYU Wagner Capstone Final Presentation

# Awards and Recognitions

In 2023, we had the privilege of honoring Prof. Thomas D'Aunno, Dr. J.D. Lu, Dr. Alissa Block Rissman, and Professor. Prof. Aravinda Sistla in recognition of their invaluable contributions to the Foundation. Additionally, we proudly awarded plaques to the winners of the Entrepreneurship Bootcamp and I-Search Project at Ram Krishna Mission High School, Vishakhapatnam, acknowledging their outstanding projects.



Public Service Award to Prof. Thomas D'Aunno.



Public Service Award to Dr. J.D. Lu .



Public Service Award to Dr. Alissa Block Rissman.



Public Service Award to Prof. Aravind Sistla.



I-Search Project Award to Ram Krishna Mission High School, Visakhapatnam.



I-Search Project Award to Ram Krishna Mission High School, Visakhapatnam.

# Ek Kadam Aur in Media

Click here to read more articles about the Ek Kadam Aur Foundation

In 2023, Ek Kadam Aur 's work was published in more than 35 media articles.

**Ek Kadam Aur Global Conference brings out a host of opportunities to combat visual impairment**

The transformation-driving conference on "Prevention and Treatment of Visual Challenges and Educating Children and Adults with Blindness" organized by the nonprofit organization Ek Kadam Aur Foundation (EKAF) had been an insightful event fostering awareness on visual impairments and the immediate need to address the issue with a holistic approach.

The conference organized on 30 to 31 October at the Shangri-La Hotel at Connaught Place of New Delhi effectively promoted awareness on challenges related to visual impairment, amidst the presence of experts from India, Australia, Marikina, Ireland, and the US.

During the two-day conference, EKAF hosted professionals from the fields of ophthalmology, optometry, education, technology, and rehabilitation. The grand event addressed the vibrant presence of over 200 thought leaders, including experts from medical, education, nonprofit, research, pharmaceutical, corporate, and government departments.

The experts' deliberations on the core issues of the conference's theme aptly provided insights on visual challenges, thereby creating a platform where top practitioners in the field strategized to create a roadmap to help children and adults with blindness develop life skills and training to become an equal part of the society.

"The primary objective of the conference was to create an idea exchange platform to research best practices, and innovations in the field of visual impairments. The quality of the talk for children with visual impairments, the prevention awareness and support for those who are partially or completely visually impaired empowers them to lead a better life," Dr. Salim Tashir, Founder and President of Ek Kadam Aur Foundation.

"India has 200,000 children suffering from visual impairment, most of them belonging to remote areas, who lack access to rehabilitation programs and quality education. We are committed to providing them with the best possible support and resources to help them lead a better life."

Conference coverage in media

**Ek Kadam Aur Global Conference Brings Out A Host Of Opportunities To Combat Visual Impairment**

(MENAFN - ForPressRelease) New Delhi, November 2, 2023: The transformation-driving conference on "Prevention and Treatment of Visual Challenges and Educating Children and Adults with Blindness", organized by the nonprofit organization Ek Kadam Aur Foundation (EKAF) had been an insightful event

Conference coverage in media

**Ek Kadam Aur Global Conference brings out a host of opportunities to combat visual impairment**

Published on November 3, 2023

New Delhi: The transformation-driving conference on "Prevention and Treatment of Visual Challenges and Educating Children and Adults with Blindness", organized by the nonprofit organization Ek Kadam Aur Foundation had been an insightful event fostering awareness on visual impairments and the immediate need to address the issue with a holistic

Conference coverage in media

## कमजोरी को अपनी मजबूती बनाएं बच्चे



**कमजोरी को अपनी मजबूती बनाएं बच्चे**

कमजोरी को दिव्यांग बच्चों की मजबूती में परिवर्तित करें, यह लक्ष्य मेटा हठस में अर्जुनदाय का कार्यक्रम है। फाउंडेशन के द्वारा आयोजित दिव्यांग बच्चों के प्रति जागरूकता कार्यक्रम में प्रमुख अतिथि के रूप में मीरुदु एरुकेसनल एंटरप्राइजिस्ट ने बच्चे की मजबूती में परिवर्तित करने की आवश्यकता को उजागर कर दिया। कार्यक्रम में प्रमुख अतिथि के रूप में मीरुदु एरुकेसनल एंटरप्राइजिस्ट ने बच्चे की मजबूती में परिवर्तित करने की आवश्यकता को उजागर कर दिया। कार्यक्रम में प्रमुख अतिथि के रूप में मीरुदु एरुकेसनल एंटरप्राइजिस्ट ने बच्चे की मजबूती में परिवर्तित करने की आवश्यकता को उजागर कर दिया।

Arunodaya Program coverage in media

## एक कदम और फाउंडेशन ने बाएं नेत्रबधित बच्चों को स्मार्ट



**एक कदम और फाउंडेशन ने बाएं नेत्रबधित बच्चों को स्मार्ट**

एक कदम और फाउंडेशन ने बाएं नेत्रबधित बच्चों को स्मार्ट बनाने के लिए एक कार्यक्रम का आयोजन किया। कार्यक्रम में बाएं नेत्रबधित बच्चों को स्मार्ट बनाने के लिए एक कार्यक्रम का आयोजन किया। कार्यक्रम में बाएं नेत्रबधित बच्चों को स्मार्ट बनाने के लिए एक कार्यक्रम का आयोजन किया।

Arunodaya Program coverage in media



**एक कदम और फाउंडेशन ने दिव्यांगता दिवस पर किया जागरूक**

लोकभारती न्यूज ब्यूरो

अजीतमल औरैया। क्षेत्र के मुरादगंज के मानसुखपुर गांव में रविवार को एक कदम और फाउंडेशन ने दिव्यांगता दिवस के बारे में बताया कि

Arunodaya Program coverage in media

**पाँच सालों से ब्रेल लिपि व टैलर प्रेम से देखे शिक्षा**

**ब्रेल ज्ञान है और ज्ञान टैलर है: सुई ब्यूरो**



**पाँच सालों से ब्रेल लिपि व टैलर प्रेम से देखे शिक्षा**

बच्चे को पाँच सालों से ब्रेल लिपि व टैलर प्रेम से देखे शिक्षा देना चाहिए। बच्चे को पाँच सालों से ब्रेल लिपि व टैलर प्रेम से देखे शिक्षा देना चाहिए। बच्चे को पाँच सालों से ब्रेल लिपि व टैलर प्रेम से देखे शिक्षा देना चाहिए।

Arunodaya Program coverage in media

## न्यूयाक यूनवास्ता का छात्रों ने किया जल का भ्रमण

एक कदम और संस्थान के अंतर्गत चल रहे अर्जुनदाय प्रोग्राम में शामिल बच्चों ने की मुलाकात



**न्यूयाक यूनवास्ता का छात्रों ने किया जल का भ्रमण**

एक कदम और संस्थान के अंतर्गत चल रहे अर्जुनदाय प्रोग्राम में शामिल बच्चों ने की मुलाकात

Arunodaya Program coverage in media

## एक कदम और फाउंडेशन के बच्चों ने देशभक्ति गीत गाए

लोकभारती न्यूज ब्यूरो



**एक कदम और फाउंडेशन के बच्चों ने देशभक्ति गीत गाए**

लोकभारती न्यूज ब्यूरो

Arunodaya Program coverage in media

# 2023 in Highlights



The Arunodaya Program celebrated a successful expansion as it reached two additional districts, Janjgir and Sakti, in the state of Chhattisgarh.



Arunodaya (Sunrise) for Children with Blindness program activities in various program locations.

**Ek Kadam Aur Foundation's Leadership Team Meeting:** The meeting was held in New Delhi from 8th to 12th June 2023. The goal of this meeting was to review and evaluate all programs and develop strategies for their implementation over the next 1-3 years.



Ek Kadam Aur Foundation team at the leadership meeting in New Delhi.

# 2023 in Highlights



Ek Kadam Aur Foundation team at the IIT Delhi Campus, New Delhi.

## Empowering Workshop at IIT Delhi:

Our team had the privilege of attending an enriching workshop organized by the Assistech Foundation at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi, focused on 'Utilizing Assistive Technologies to Educate Children with Visual Impairment'. During this event, our team gained valuable insights into innovative assistive devices and discovered ways to optimize the use of existing resources, ultimately improving the learning experiences of visually impaired children.



Ek Kadam Aur Foundation team at the NCERT office, New Delhi.

## Embracing Inclusive Education at NCERT, New Delhi:

A comprehensive workshop titled 'Introduction to Inclusive Education and Government's Initiatives to Promote Inclusive Education' was conducted by the National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) in New Delhi. During this enlightening session, our staff members gained a profound understanding of inclusive education within the Indian schooling system.

# 2023 in Highlights

## WORKSHOPS

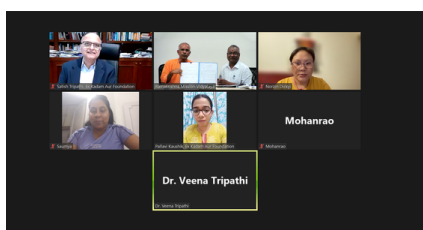


The Foundation prioritizes continuous learning and upskilling for staff members and stakeholders involved in the programs. During 2Q2023, staff members participated in two workshops:



The first workshop, organized by the Assistech Foundation at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi, focused on using Assistive Technologies to teach children with visual impairment.

Team members gained insights into new assistive devices and discovered ways to utilize existing resources as assistive tools, improving the children's learning experiences. The second workshop, 'Introduction to Inclusive Education and Government's Initiatives to Promote Inclusive Education,' was conducted by the National Council for Educational Research and Training, New Delhi.



A Memorandum of Understanding was signed with Ramakrishna Mission College of Education, Coimbatore, India, on March 17, 2023, to formally collaborate on Active Learning program and develop a universally applicable model.



The District Magistrate hosted our blind children at his residence in Auraiya on February 25th, 2023. The children presented cultural performances. The DM admired their talent and encouraged the children to take full advantage of our program.

# 2023 in Highlights

Focus Group Interview by Harvard interns: was conducted on March 31, 2023, by interns from Harvard University, working on understanding the strengths and challenges of the program, with the mentors from various sites of the Arunodaya program.



Capstone Team, New York University, conducted a field visit in the Auraiya district from 11th January to 18th January 2023. The members of the Capstone Team, Angelica Gualpa, Fatema Husain, Devynn Barnes, and Angela (Ahram) Hwang, are students of Master's degrees in International Development at the Wagner School of Public Service, New York University. The team conducted a community-based participatory qualitative analysis of the Arunodaya program, including informational interviews with EKA trainers, blind children, and their parents. Ek Kadam Aur Foundation is grateful to Professor Anna Levy of NYU for the opportunity to work with a committed team.



Interns from New York University during their field visits in Auraiya District, Uttar Pradesh, India.

# 2023 in Highlights



**6th Foundation Day:** On 14th January 2023, we organized a program in Auraiya, which was graced by the presence of the Additional District Magistrate (ADM), Mr. Mahendra Pal Singh, and the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) team. The interns from New York University were also present.

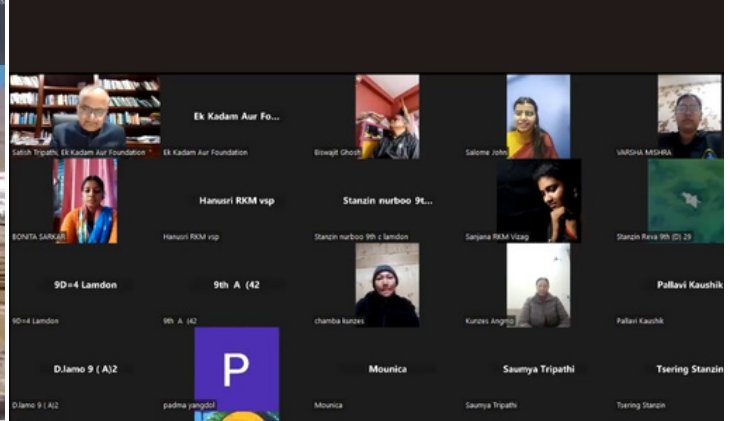
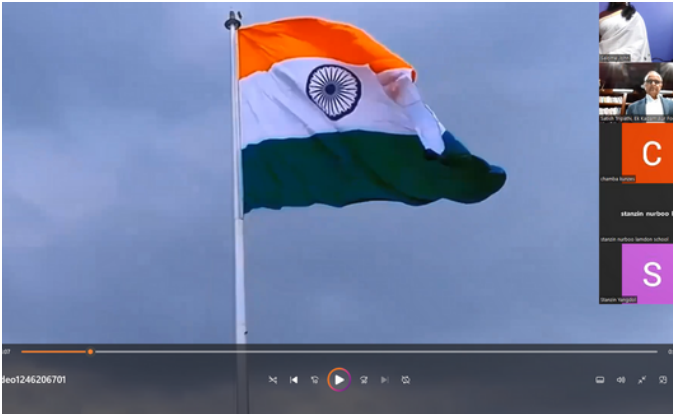
On January 17th, 2023, the High School Leadership Program commemorated the Foundation's 6 years of transforming children's lives through education with our partner schools. Our founder, Dr Satish Tripathi, expressed his appreciation for the invaluable contributions of our partners and supporters in making this journey a success.



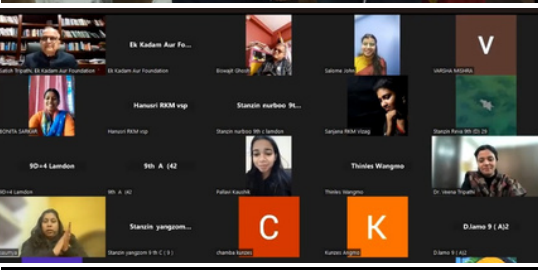
**74th Republic Day of India:** We organized a cultural program in the Government School, Panhar, on 26th January 2023. Mrs. Anita Rajput, the Village Head, attended the program as the Chief Guest. The girls performed a patriotic dance, and the boys made impressive pyramids.



# 2023 in Highlights



For virtual celebrations, we invited Lieutenant Commander Amit Kumar Rathi, Indian Navy (Mountaineer, Sky Diver, and Horse Rider), as our Guest Speaker for the High School Leadership program session. He shared his extensive knowledge and experience of serving in the Indian Navy. Through his guidance, the students felt empowered to pursue their goals of serving the nation.



International Women’s Day: In Auraiya, the District Magistrate (DM) invited us to a Women’s Day celebration event attended by several government officials. The DM called upon Ananya, the first and youngest beneficiary of the Arunodaya program, and announced his decision to support her education. He encouraged each government official to sponsor one child in our program for her/his education. In the High School Leadership Program, in collaboration with Firstsource, we invited Ms. Aakriti Bhargava, Senior Manager - HR, to conduct a virtual session on International Women’s Day (IWD). Ms. Aakriti Bhargava stressed the vital role of educational institutions in creating an equitable, inclusive, and harmonious society where individuals from all backgrounds, regardless of gender, can thrive



# 2023 in Highlights

## Celebration of 77th Indian Independence Day

- In Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, we celebrated Independence Day with the children enrolled in our program, featuring a heartfelt rendition of the national anthem and various performances, with Commissioner Mr. Abhay Varma, IAS, as our chief guest.
- In Uttar Pradesh, we celebrated Independence Day with the children of BRU Educational Academy. Children in the Arunodaya program recited beautiful poems, sang songs, and showcased Yoga performances. The event was attended by industrialist and social worker Rajkumar Dubey and Social Worker Pooja Digambar Kushwaha.
- In West Bengal, the 77th Independence Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm, and all the program stakeholders were filled with patriotism. In this celebration, all the children with visual impairment from the Arunodaya (Sunrise) for Blind program performed. The event was graced by Mr. Dhruvajyoti Dey IPS, Commissioner of Kolkata Police, who greatly motivated and inspired the children.
- Similarly, in Chhattisgarh, Independence Day was celebrated by the children of our program in their respective schools in the Bamhindih Block. They showcased their skills through talented performances.



# Testimonials



I am truly blessed to share my experience with Ek Kadam Aur Foundation's class, which has proven immensely valuable. The unique blend of academic learning, career insights, and practical life skills has proven invaluable. I'm deeply grateful for the opportunity to participate in these classes.

**Thinlas Dolma, HSLP Student,  
Lamdon Model Senior Secondary School,  
Leh Ladakh, Class 9**



After joining the program, Ananya has seen much difference. She's started reading, and she remembers what she has learned. Ananya tries to do her work as much as possible on her own.

The biggest change has come with yoga. She loves doing yoga. We never thought that she would be able to do it so well, but she is getting better at it day by day. We are very happy to see this change.

**Sarvesh Sharma,  
Ananya's Father  
Arunodaya (Sunrise) for Blind Program**



I am very happy being in this program. I had a good time with my mentor and Babu Singh, Sir. I can read and write in Braille. This program provided me with an opportunity to meet different people and open up. I feel privileged to be a part of this program.

**Pooja,  
Student of Arunodaya (Sunrise) for Blind  
Program, Uttar Pradesh**



After joining the program, Vikas started reading very well and became brilliant. He learned Braille, and he's learning a lot of new things. He tries to do his work as much as possible, which is excellent. We never thought that it would be possible.

He has become regular in his studies to learn, read, and learn well whatever is being taught.

**Vikas's Mother,  
Student of Arunodaya (Sunrise) for Blind  
Program, Uttar Pradesh**

# Ek Kadam Aur Foundation's Impact Since 2015

Program	Description	Impact
Arunodaya (Sunrise) for Blind Program	The Arunodaya (Sunrise) for Blind Program, started in 2022, identifies visually impaired children aged 5-14 years from remote parts of India and trains them to be school-ready.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 203 Children</li> <li>• 95 Mentors</li> <li>• 29 Special Educators</li> <li>• 7 States</li> </ul>
High School Leadership Program	The Program, a flagship initiative of the Foundation started in 2017, offers training in essential 21st-century skills like communication and leadership.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 719 Virtual Sessions were organized</li> <li>• 1573 Students benefited</li> </ul>
Train - The Trainer For Primary (Elementary) School	The Program, started in 2018, helps local graduates assist elementary school children with basic academic skills after school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 943 Students benefited</li> </ul>
Active Learning Program	The Program, started in 2018, promotes student-centered learning and 21st Century Skills through workshops and training for teachers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 Workshops were conducted</li> <li>• 34 Teachers benefited</li> </ul>



**We thank you  
for your continued  
support!**

**Contact Us**

**[www.ekkadamaur.org](http://www.ekkadamaur.org)**

