



# QUARTERLY REPORT

April - June 2024

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# Introduction

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## About Ek Kadam Aur

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.

### **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.

# Key Highlights



## Expansion and Impact of Arunodaya Program:

Arunodaya has reached 252 visually impaired children, with 96 students successfully advancing to Phase 2 of the program. This progression demonstrates significant strides in their educational journey and independence skills.



## Educational Initiatives within the High School Leadership Program:

Students participated in the Ek Kadam Aur Innovation Challenge this quarter, focusing on improving their communities through STEM. They identified local issues in healthcare, education, environmental sustainability, and social justice, conducted in-depth research, and developed innovative solutions.



## Ambassadors of Change:

In Q2 2024, high school students Shivani Muthukumar and Mohammed Rayyan served as our "Ambassadors of Change." Shivani led the "Innovation Challenge," a STEM-based project to improve communities, while Mohammed interned with the Arunodaya Program in Andhra Pradesh, showcasing their dedication and impact.



# President's Message

Dear Friends,

As we move forward in our eighth year in India, committed to reducing the educational disparity for underserved communities, especially those with blindness, we take this opportunity to reflect on our accomplishments in the 2nd Quarter and look ahead to the future. We are delighted to share this report, providing a holistic overview of our achievements during the 2nd Quarter of 2024.



**Dr. Satish Tripathi**  
**Founder/President**

The foundation's flagship initiative Arunodaya (Sunrise) for Blind Program continues to pave our path to providing quality education to children with blindness. In this quarter, our enrollment has grown to over 246 students and the program has made significant growth in Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, and West Bengal, while also continuing to grow in our recently expanded states, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Maharashtra, thereby extending our reach to seven states in India. The inclusion of interns from esteemed institutions like the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Harvard University, and New York University significantly enhanced our impact assessment and data analysis efforts. Our successful workshops and awareness programs also empowered mentors, teachers, parents, and communities to play an active role in the comprehensive development of children with blindness.

Our other initiatives, including the High School Leadership Program, Nurturing Youth Leadership, and Active Learning Program, continue to positively impact the lives of our students, teachers, and stakeholders by fostering enhanced learning and leadership development. We are determined to make an even greater impact through persistent in-person activities and field visits.

We deeply thank our board members, volunteers, corporate partners, individual supporters, and well-wishers for their invaluable guidance, support, and contributions. With your unwavering commitment, the Ek Kadam Aur Foundation eagerly anticipates empowering future generations through education.

Thank you for your continued support.

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

**Dr. Satish Tripathi**  
**Founder/President**  
**Ek Kadam Aur**

# Arunodaya (Sunrise) for Children with Blindness

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**Bringing Education to the Doorsteps  
of Children with Blindness**



# Arunodaya Impact

April - June 2024

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**246**

**TOTAL STUDENTS**

**41**

**NEW ENROLLMENTS  
THIS QUARTER**

**96**

**STUDENTS PROMOTED  
TO PHASE 2**

**166**

**SPECIAL EDUCATORS  
& MENTORS**

**25**

**VISUALLY IMPAIRED  
MEMBERS IN THE TEAM**

# Phase 2 of Arunodaya Program

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We're proud to announce that **96 children** have successfully completed Phase 1 of our program and advanced to Phase 2, this quarter.

Phase 2 of the Arunodaya Program focuses on the effective inclusion and support of children with blindness in mainstream schools. This phase involves creating a structured support system, adapting curriculum and classroom environments, and implementing continuous monitoring and feedback mechanisms.

## Key Activities

**Committee Formation and Meetings:** A committee consisting of the Head Teacher, Class Teacher, Special Educator, Mentor, and Parent meets regularly. They discuss and plan strategies to enable children with blindness to study effortlessly, collaboratively identifying support measures.

**Baseline Assessment and Curriculum Adaptation:** The Compliance Team conducts baseline assessments to determine the learning level of children with blindness in core subjects, particularly Hindi and Math. Key topics from the core syllabus are then shared with mentors and special educators for targeted teaching.

**Classroom Environment Adjustments:** Classroom seating arrangements are adjusted to optimally position children with blindness. Peer groups are formed to assist these children, promoting collaborative learning. Spaces are kept clear and organized, with verbal descriptions provided for visual materials. Craft activities with sighted peers help develop 3D study materials.

**Monitoring and Evaluation:** The Compliance Team reassesses the visually impaired child's learning level after three months to measure progress. Core topics are continuously selected based on reassessment outcomes. The Project Manager ensures provision of necessary books and study materials, while the Compliance Manager maintains quantitative data on assessments and resource allocation.

**Support and Training:** Teachers receive ongoing training to adapt teaching methods and use assistive technologies. Peer support programs and counseling services are implemented to address the social and emotional needs of children with visual impairments.



# Updates from West Bengal

This quarter, Ek Kadam Aur's Arunodaya program in West Bengal reached a total of 71 children, including 9 new enrollments. Notably, 20 students advanced to phase 2 of the program.

**Celebrating Creativity:** On World Creativity and Innovation Day, 15 of our children participated in an event organized by the Kolkata Creativity Centre. With support from their mentors and our team members, these young artists created beautiful paintings, showcasing their talents and challenging perceptions.



Children with their paintings at Kolkata Creativity Centre.



A child painting with mentor's guidance.

**Skills Enhancement:** Mr. Biswajit Ghosh, Director of Academic Affairs for the Arunodaya program, conducted an impactful workshop at Nabadwip APC School for the Blind. The session focused on critical skills, including Braille, Abacus, Taylor Frame, and tactile identification, equipping our children with essential tools for learning and independence.

**Community Engagement:** The Ek Kadam Aur team actively participated in the Helen Keller Day celebration at Blind Boys' Academy, Narendrapur, on June 27, 2024. This event provided an opportunity to connect with the wider community supporting visually impaired individuals.



Mr. Biswajit Ghosh explaining the abacus.



Biswajit Ghosh (Director) and Khokon Sardar (Special Educator) at Blind Boys Academy.

“



When I discovered that my son was blind, I felt extremely worried and didn't know what to do. However, everything changed after enrolling in Ek Kadam Aur's Arunodaya Program.

Prasanta was the first student from West Bengal to participate in the program. The Ek Kadam Aur team taught Prasanta how to read and write in Braille, as well as how to independently perform daily tasks and move around.

A wonderful development recently occurred - Prasanta was accepted into the Blind Boys Academy, Narendrapur. He performed so well in his interview that he was placed directly in Class 2! Previously, I was fearful about Prasanta's future. Now, I feel hopeful.

**- Soma Singh, Prasanta's Mother**

”

“



I work with Ek Kadam Aur's Arunodaya Program since December 2022. I cannot see, but I teach children who also can't. I have taught two students: Sukanya and Prasanta, who have now been admitted to good schools.

It makes me very happy to help these children. I also enjoy demonstrating to their families that their children can achieve great things.

**-Uttam Pandit, Special Mentor**

”



# Updates from Uttar Pradesh

This quarter, the Arunodaya program in Uttar Pradesh reached 62 children, including 1 new enrollment in Agra. Impressively, 33 students advanced to phase 2 of the program.

**Corporate Collaboration for Literacy:** 28 of our children, accompanied by their parents and special educators, participated in a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative organized by the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC). This collaboration resulted in the distribution of 40 Braille Kits, providing essential tools for our students' education and independence.



Children of Arunodaya with Braille kits.



Braille kits distributed by NTPC team.

**Celebrating Achievement:** We're proud to announce that Ananya, the first child enrolled in our Arunodaya Program in Uttar Pradesh, participated in a District Level Yoga Championship and emerged victorious. This remarkable achievement highlights Ananya's personal growth and challenges societal perceptions about the capabilities of visually impaired individuals.

**Technology Empowerment:** Passang Bhutia, the Foundation fellow, led an extensive smartphone training program this quarter. The comprehensive sessions equipped our children, mentors, and special educators with essential digital skills. This initiative promotes technology inclusivity within our community, enabling more independent and connected lives for those with visual impairments.



Ananya receiving the award in the yoga competition.



Passang Bhutia providing digital training to students.

“



My son, Monu, is visually impaired. Due to a lack of awareness and money, we could not provide him with the best facilities. However, after enrolling him in Ek Kadam Aur, we found hope that he could live a life like other children. The support from the organization has changed our perspective and has positively impacted Monu's future.

Previously, Monu had stayed at home and hadn't been learning anything. Now, with the help of mentors and special educators, he is learning Braille and basic life skills.

**- Samshir Quraishi, Monu's Father**

”

“



My son has been blind since birth. He always wanted to study, but we had no one to teach him. Ek Kadam Aur came into our lives like a gift, bringing light into our darkness.

The mentors and special educators at Ek Kadam Aur have done their best to teach my son. Before, my son would listen to sounds and identify them. He did the same thing every day because he had nothing else to do. But after joining Ek Kadam Aur, he learned many things like walking on his own, reading and writing in Braille, and daily living skills.

**-Samanti, Mother of Prince**

”



# Updates from Madhya Pradesh

This quarter, the Arunodaya program in Madhya Pradesh reached a total of 42 children, including 9 new enrollments and 33 continuing students. Notably, 22 of these students have reached phase 2 of the program.

**A Dream Come True:** Atharv Sahu, one of our students, has been enrolled in Wisdom Valley School. This was Atharv's dream school; his admission shows the power of hard work and our program's support. His journey reflects the transformative impact of our educational initiatives, empowering students to turn their dreams into reality and paving the way for their bright futures.



Manoj Trivedi, Manager of Madhya Pradesh, with Atharv Sahu.

**Mentor Scores Big:** Prem Das Hariyale, a visually impaired mentor from Bareilly District, has achieved a remarkable feat. He was selected for the Madhya Pradesh Blind Football Team and competed at the Zonal Level. Prem Das, who teaches 5 children in our program, is a shining example of what's possible with the right opportunities.



**BLIND FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION MADHYA PRADESH**  
AFFILIATED BY  
**INDIAN BLIND FOOTBALL FEDERATION**  
ADDRESS:- 25-A, HAZARAT NIZAMUDDIN COLONY, PIPLANI, BHOPAL (M.P.)  
Reg No:3871022

Ref:-  
Date:- 23/04/2024

To  
The Director  
Ek Kadam Organisation, Madhya Pradesh  
Sub:- Permission for Participation in 2nd North-Central Zonal Blind Football Tournament

Respected Sir, .

It gives me great pleasure to inform you that the Premdas of the your Organisation got opportunity to play for the State team of Madhya Pradesh in North-Central Zonal Blind Football Tournament which are going to be held from 07th May to 09th May 2024 at Ludhiana, Punjab. There will be 2 days practice camp before going for the tournament.

So I request you to give him leave from 4th May to 11th May 2024 for attending this camp and tournament.

Thanking You



Mohammad Shahid  
secretary General  
Blind Football Association  
Madhya Pradesh

Letter received from the Blind Football Association, Madhya Pradesh.

“



I am 12 years old. I live in a village in Raisen, Madhya Pradesh. I joined Ek Kadam Aur last month.

Shivwati Didi (Didi means "sister" in Hindi) is my teacher. She teaches me daily tasks. I'm learning school subjects too.

I study opposite words, practice multiplication tables, and learn about nouns and pronouns.

I can now introduce myself to others. Every day, I learn something new. I enjoy studying now and feel more confident.

- Gajendra Lodhi, Student

”

## Updates from Andhra Pradesh

In Andhra Pradesh this quarter, the program reached a total of 5 children, with 1 new enrollment and 4 students continuing from the previous quarter.

**Strengthening Grassroots Partnerships:** Srinu Masa, our Senior Manager for Andhra Pradesh, led a productive meeting with block-level health workers in Nathavaram Block, Anakapalli District. The gathering, which included various health officials, resulted in increased awareness of our mission and secured commitments for data sharing on visually impaired children in the region.



Srinu Masa leading and addressing the meeting.



Health officials participating in the meeting.

“



Our son, Shanmuk Sai, is blind. Ek Kadam Aur trained my wife, Gayathri, to teach Shanmuk Sai. She became more than just his caregiver - she became his educator. The foundation always praised her when our son made progress.

Ek Kadam Aur helped us see Gayathri's teaching skills and Shanmuk Sai's talents. They have changed our family's life.

**- Shivaji, Father of Shanmuk Sai**

”

“



I am a working mom with two visually impaired children, Akhil and Nihanth. People worried about me working, fearing for the safety and well-being of my blind children left at home. However, Ek Kadam Aur Foundation changed everything.

They taught us how to help our children be independent. Now, our kids can do many things alone - use the bathroom, eat, play, and find things at home. This newfound independence has alleviated concerns about my work outside the home and empowered our entire family.

**-Gayathri, mother of Akhil and Nihanth**

”



# Updates from Rajasthan

This quarter, the program in Rajasthan reached a total of 33 children, including 11 new enrollments and 22 continuing students from previous quarters.

**Enhancing Skills:** Special Educators Soma Chakraborty and Susmita Das conducted an in-depth workshop for mentors, focusing on Braille, the Abacus, and the Taylor Frame. The mentors who received training from them will utilize their newfound knowledge and skills to teach and support visually impaired children effectively.



Children receiving training to identify vegetables.



Students and mentors learning Abacus techniques.

**Empowering Communities:** In May 2024, Mr. Biswajit Ghosh, Director of the Arunodaya Program, led training sessions for parents and community members in Karauli District, Rajasthan. These sessions aimed to deepen community engagement and support, enhancing local understanding and collaboration with our program.



Parents receiving training from Mr. Biswajit Ghosh.



Biswajit Ghosh in conversation with community members.





I am Lovekhush Jadhav, a 5-year-old from Karauli, Rajasthan. When I first joined Ek Kadam Aur, I didn't know much about the special tools for children like me who can't see.

My teacher, Sapna didi, is amazing. She's teaching me Braille and how to use the Taylor frame and abacus. I'm learning so many new things! Now I can talk better with others too. I love asking questions when Sapna didi comes to teach. There's always something new to learn.

**-Lovekhush Jadhav, Student**



I am Ravi, an 11-year-old from Dholpur, Rajasthan. Before Ek Kadam Aur, I had never been to school and knew nothing about special tools for visually impaired children.

Ajay sir, my mentor, is opening up a new world for me. He's teaching me Braille, abacus, and Taylor frame. But it's not just about tools - I'm learning about everyday life too.

Now, I can tell stories and solve math problems. My language skills are improving every day.

**-Ravi, Student**

# Updates from Maharashtra

This quarter, Ek Kadam Aur's Arunodaya program in Maharashtra welcomed 10 new children. Additionally, 2 students from previous quarters continued their learning journey with us.

**Parent Empowerment:** Mr. Biswajit Ghosh, Director of the Arunodaya Program, conducted a training and counseling session for parents at Sahayogini Palak Sanstha. This initiative aimed to equip parents with skills to better support their visually impaired children.



Team Ek Kadam Aur at Sahayogini Palak Sanstha.



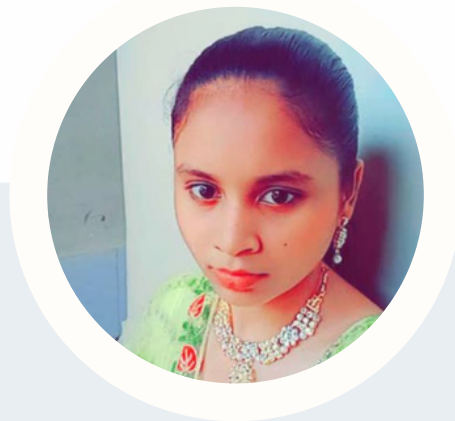
Team Ek Kadam Aur at Sahayogini Palak Sanstha.

**Community Outreach:** On May 11, 2024, Ek Kadam Aur Foundation was invited to present our program to the Venus Club in Mumbai. This opportunity allowed us to raise awareness about our work and potentially expand our network of supporters in the region



Team Ek Kadam Aur with members of Venus Club.

“



I am Sumaiya Shaikh, sister and mentor to Aman, who is part of the Arunodaya Program. Being involved in this program has been a wonderful experience for both of us.

As Aman's mentor, I have learned much about teaching visually impaired children. The Special Educator has been incredible, showing me different ideas, techniques, and methods I never knew before.

This knowledge has made me more interested and invested in Aman's education. I can see the difference it's making - Aman is doing better than ever.

**-Sumaiya Shaikh, Mentor of Aman**

”

“



My name is Madiha Shafiq Shaikh. I am 11 years old, and I live in Maharashtra. I'm so happy to be part of the Arunodaya Programme!

Since joining, I have learned to read and write in Braille. It's like magic - I can now read with my fingers! But that's not all. I've learned so many new things that I didn't know before. My special educator, Pushpendra sir, makes learning fun and interesting.

The best part is that my mom, Salima, is learning with me. She also learned Braille to help me with my studies. We practice together, which has made me even more interested in learning.

**-Madiha Shaikh, Student**

”



# Updates from Chhattisgarh

This quarter, we maintained our support for 21 children, with 17 students advanced to phase 2 of the program in Chhattisgarh.

**Government Partnership:** We're discussing a tripartite MoU with the Samagra Shiksha Mission, Rajnandgaon district. This collaboration, involving the District Collector, Mr. Sanjay Aggarwal, and Abhilasha NGO, aims to adopt our program as a government project. The MoU is expected to be signed next quarter.



Program Managers Manoj Trivedi and Mayank Ruhella in a meeting with District Collector Mr. Sanjay Aggarwal.



**Environmental Awareness:** Our students participated in tree planting on World Environment Day, June 5th, demonstrating their commitment to the community and environment.

**Academic Excellence:** Dev Bareth, a Phase 2 student, achieved an A+ grade in 4th standard, showcasing the program's positive impact on academic performance.



Our student planting a tree on Environment Day.



Dev Bareth proudly holding his grade card.



“



My name is Umang Kanwar, and I'm from Akaltara, Janjgir, Chhattisgarh. I have been blind since birth. Before, my father thought I couldn't go to school because of my blindness. But now, I'm going to school and learning to be independent.

I've learned to read and write Hindi and English alphabets using Braille. I can even recognize animals by their sounds - something I couldn't do before.

My father is so happy to see me go to school every day. It gives him hope for my future. And you know what? I want to become a teacher when I grow up.

-Umang Kanwar, Student

”

## Monitoring and Impact Assessment

At Ek Kadam Aur, we prioritize rigorous monitoring and impact assessment to ensure the highest quality of service for our visually impaired students. Our comprehensive approach includes:

**Digital Attendance Tracking:** We utilize WhatsApp groups for each location to mark daily attendance, ensuring consistent participation.

**Stakeholder Engagement:** Weekly calls with stakeholders provide opportunities for appreciation and prompt resolution of field challenges.

**Regular Assessment:** Monthly tests evaluate children's progress, with feedback shared with mentors and special educators to guide instruction.

**Team Collaboration:** Weekly meetings with the compliance team and field coordinators facilitate knowledge sharing and program updates. Special educators receive weekly syllabus and activity guidance.

**Quality Assurance:** We maintain a steadfast commitment to delivering the quality of service promised at the time of each child's enrollment.



## Arunodaya Annual Program Strategy 2024

Ek Kadam Aur's senior leadership team convened for the Arunodaya Annual Program Strategy event, held from April 29 to May 2, 2024, at the Ramakrishna Mission Institute of Culture, Kolkata. This crucial gathering provided a platform to review program updates and chart the way forward for our initiatives supporting visually impaired children. The event facilitated in-depth discussions on our achievements, challenges, and strategic plans for enhancing the impact of the Arunodaya program.

## Meetings & Collaborations

**Meeting with Sahayogini Palak Sanstha:** Dr. Satish Tripathi, Founder and President, met with Mr. Suresh Naik, the President of Sahayogini Palak Sanstha, our partner organization in Mumbai. This meeting focused on strategic discussions and reinforcing the partnership between the two organizations. The Ek Kadam Aur staff members also met with the Sahayogini Palak Sanstha members. This meeting aimed to strengthen the collaboration and discuss future initiatives.

**Anniversary and Celebration Event:** The Ek Kadam Aur team was invited to the 10th Anniversary and Helen Keller Day celebrations at Sahayogini Palak Sanstha in Navi Mumbai. Children from Arunodaya actively participated in singing and dancing programs, showcasing their talents and adding to the event's success.



Team Ek Kadam Aur with Sahayogini Palak Sanstha.



Shreyansh performing a song at the event.



# High School Leadership Program (HSLP)

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**Empowering Future Leaders with  
Essential 21st-Century Skills**



# HSLP Impact

April - June 2024

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**14**

**WEBINARS  
CONDUCTED**

**09**

**MENTORS**

**Number of enrolled students from  
our partner schools:**

**Lamdon Model Senior Secondary School, Leh, Ladakh:**

**100 Students**

**Ramakrishna Mission High School, Vishakapatnam, Andhra Pradesh:**

**30 Students**

**Ramakrishna Mission High School, Sitanagaram, Andhra Pradesh:**

**16 Students**

**N.K.Singh Memorial English Preparatory School, Kathmandu Nepal:**

**35 Students**

# Key Highlights

**Innovation Challenge (a project-based STEM activity):** This quarter, students participated in the Ek Kadam Aur Innovation Challenge, an initiative designed to inspire them to improve their communities through STEM. The challenge required students to identify a specific problem in their community, such as healthcare, education, environmental sustainability, or social justice issues. They were then tasked with conducting thorough research to understand the root causes and impacts of the problem, consulting experts, gathering data and analyzing existing solutions.

With a deep understanding of their chosen issue, students developed innovative, practical, and feasible solutions to positively impact the community. They were encouraged to think creatively and explore unique approaches to problem-solving. The culmination of their efforts was a detailed write-up and a presentation by groups showcasing their identified problem and proposed solution, demonstrating their critical thinking and research skills.



The High School Leadership Program has been a transformative experience for me. I have gained invaluable skills in leadership, communication, teamwork, and an understanding of various technologies and career paths. The program has also been life-changing in helping me overcome my fear of public speaking. I have participated in debate competitions and even had the honor of hosting events. This experience has given me immense confidence and the ability to take on similar roles in the future. Additionally, the High School Leadership Program has positively impacted my academic performance.

Overall, this program has been an essential part of my high school journey. It has motivated me, made me happier, and significantly contributed to my development both personally and academically. I highly recommend it to any high school student looking to grow and achieve their full potential.

**-Stanzin Deachen, Student,  
Lamdon Model Senior Secondary School, Leh Ladakh**

## List of Sessions (April - June, 2024)

MONTH	TOPIC	RESOURCE PERSON	AFFILIATION
April	Quantum Computing: Between the 0 and 1	Pranav Savla, Founder	Vidyadrishti & Phoenix Digital Media
April	Ongoing & Upcoming Project and Activities + Feedback Session	Salome John, Senior Program Manager, High School Leadership Program	Ek Kadam Aur - Foundation for Education and Health
April	Orientation: Innovation Challenge (a project-based activity)	Shivani Muthukumar, Ambassadors of Change, USA	Ek Kadam Aur - Foundation for Education and Health
April	Skills of the 21st Century: Communication Skills	Deshna Mohanty, Assistant Manager	Firstsource Solutions Limited



<b>MONTH</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>RESOURCE PERSON</b>	<b>AFFILIATION</b>
<b>April</b>	<b>Group Presentations: STEM TOPICS</b>	<b>Salome John, Senior Program Manager, High School Leadership Program</b>	<b>Ek Kadam Aur - Foundation for Education and Health</b>
<b>April</b>	<b>Session 2: Innovation Challenge (a project-based activity)</b>	<b>Shivani Muthukumar, Ambassadors of Change, USA</b>	<b>Ek Kadam Aur - Foundation for Education and Health</b>
<b>April</b>	<b>Importance of Co-Curricular, Extra Curricular Activities and Skill-Based learning in today's century</b>	<b>Karishma Shah, Senior Manager</b>	<b>Firstsource Solutions Limited</b>
<b>May</b>	<b>Skills for Future Progression &amp; Career Guidance</b>	<b>Kavitha Krishnamurthy, Team Manager</b>	<b>Cognizant Technology Solutions Limited</b>
<b>May</b>	<b>Management Skills and Technique for School Going students</b>	<b>Sangeetha Ponnaian, Program Manager</b>	<b>Cognizant Technology Solutions Limited</b>

<b>MONTH</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>RESOURCE PERSON</b>	<b>AFFILIATION</b>
<b>May</b>	<b>Session 2: Innovation Challenge (a project- based activity)</b>	<b>Shivani Muthukumar, Ambassadors of Change, USA</b>	<b>Ek Kadam Aur - Foundation for Education and Health</b>
<b>June</b>	<b>Sound: Physics</b>	<b>Natarajan Sivashanmug am, Manager Projects</b>	<b>Cognizant Technology Solutions Limited</b>
<b>June</b>	<b>Digital Literacy &amp; Online Safety for students</b>	<b>Deshna Mohanty, Assistant Manager</b>	<b>Firstsource Solutions Limited</b>
<b>June</b>	<b>Artificial Intelligence – Basics, Subsets, Advantages &amp; Disadvantages</b>	<b>Mrunal Bhokare, Founder &amp; CEO</b>	<b>Divegen Technologies</b>
<b>June</b>	<b>Final Presentations - Innovation Challenge (a project- based activity)</b>	<b>Salome John, Senior Program Manager, High School Leadership Program</b>	<b>Ek Kadam Aur - Foundation for Education and Health</b>

# Nurturing Young Leadership Program

## Ambassadors of Change

During the second quarter of 2024, the foundation had two high school students serving as our "Ambassadors of Change," representing the United States and India. Let's take a closer look at the remarkable projects they developed and implemented during their time with us:

### Shivani Muthukumar

Shivani Muthukumar spearheaded an innovative project-based activity for our High School Leadership Program students. Her "Innovation Challenge" initiative aimed to inspire students to improve their communities through STEM. The challenge required students to:

1. Identify a specific problem in their community.
2. Conduct thorough research to understand the root causes and impacts of the problem.
3. Consult experts, gather data, and analyze existing solutions.
4. Develop innovative, practical, and feasible solutions aimed at making a positive community impact.



Ek Kadam Aur and the Ambassadors of Change program gave me amazing opportunities to be creative and think of fun programs to do for the students participating. Volunteering here has allowed me to give back by creating programs and also helped me develop valuable skills like presenting, communicating, and organization. I am grateful to be part of this meaningful cause and for the impact that Ek Kadam Aur has had on me.

- Shivani Muthukumar,  
High School Intern, Ambassador of Change



## Mohammed Rayyan

Mohammed Rayyan joined the Arunodaya Program for a 3-month internship, serving as the coordinating compliance representative for Andhra Pradesh. Mohammed is a shining example of a student who completed the High School Leadership Program with the foundation and returned as a volunteer to contribute to the cause.

The commitment demonstrated by these Ambassadors extended beyond their projects. Their dedication and passion are a profound source of inspiration, driving meaningful initiatives that align harmoniously with our foundation's vision.



As a student, I had the privilege of first learning about the impactful work of Ek Kadam Aur. This initial exposure inspired me to become an Ambassador of Change intern, where I served as the Data and Compliance Coordinator for the Arunodaya Program in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. In this role, I managed data, ensured compliance, and supported initiatives for poor and visually impaired children. The hands-on experience enhanced my skills and understanding of social responsibility.

I am thankful to the foundation for giving me this opportunity. Witnessing the positive impact of our efforts on the children was incredibly rewarding and reaffirmed my commitment to contributing to meaningful causes. My time in the foundation has been transformative, providing invaluable insights and a strong foundation for future social work and community service endeavors.

**- Mohammed Rayyan,  
Ambassador of Change & Alumni, High School Leadership Program**

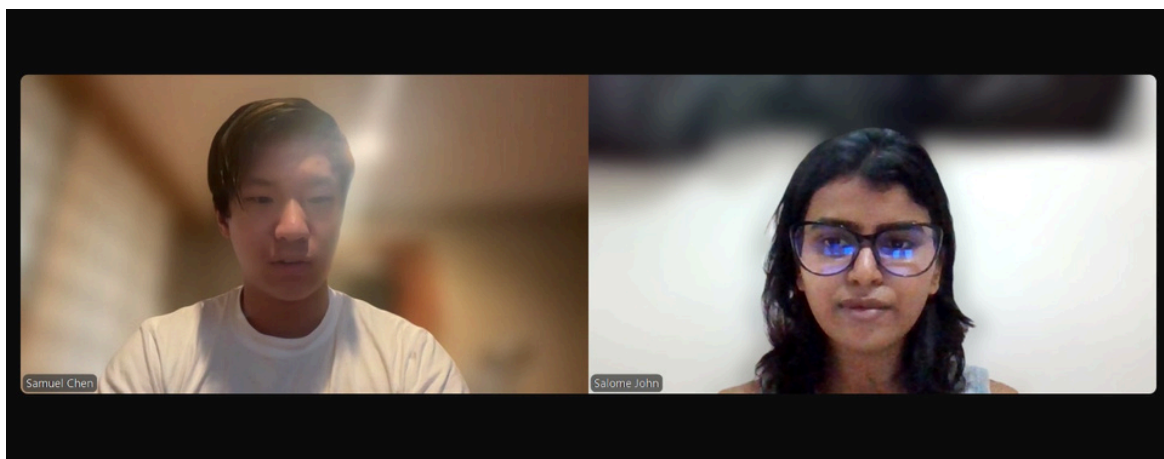
# Internship Programs

## MIT PKG Summer Internship 2024

Samuel Chen, a rising sophomore, joined the foundation in June as a Data Analyst and Impact Assessment Intern for the MIT PKG Summer Internship 2024. He has been actively working on the Arunodaya (Sunrise) for Blind Program, analyzing quantitative data from 96 children who completed Phase 1. Samuel is developing this analysis into a manuscript for publication in the coming quarters.

## NYU Capstone Internship: 2023-24

Four interns—Faisal Alhedaib, Yeji Lee, Rishi Soneja, and Yue Feng—completed their internship period with the foundation. They submitted their final report and made their final presentation on the Impact Assessment of the Arunodaya Program. The dedication and contributions of our interns and Ambassadors of Change continue to drive our mission forward, embodying the spirit of innovation and community impact that our foundation strives to cultivate.



Samuel Chen (Intern) meeting with Salome John (Acting Chief of Staff).

## Active Learning Program

**Active Learning Scale-Up Program:** In April, Dr. Satish Tripathi visited Ramakrishna Mission, Belur Math, to discuss the Active Learning Scale-Up Program. During this visit, Swami Suvirananda, General Secretary of Ramakrishna Mission, Belur Math, proposed including Ramakrishna Mission School (RKM), Agartala, in the ongoing Active Learning Program at the College of Education, Coimbatore.

In response, Ek Kadam Aur drafted and shared a proposal with the Secretary of RKM, Agartala, which the school has since accepted. Following this acceptance, a tripartite agreement has been drafted and shared with both RKM Agartala and RKM Coimbatore. We look forward to signing this agreement and initiating the inclusion process in the next quarter.



# Rising Above: Pallavi's Inspiring Path in Education and Service



Pallavi's journey from a young girl in New Delhi to a transformative force in education is a tale of resilience and inspiration. From grade first, she skilfully balanced academics with co-curricular activities, displaying an early interest in education, women empowerment, child rights, leadership, and the defense forces. Her passions for travel, reading, and driving underscored her vibrant and confident personality.

A defining moment in her childhood came when she missed her school van at the age of five. Instead of seeking help, she confidently took public transport home, navigating six kilo meters route her father usually took. Her family's initial worry turned to pride when she arrived safely, her independence and resourcefulness evident even at such a young age.



As she grew, Pallavi's interests expanded. In middle school, she delved into leadership, sports, public speaking, debates, and cultural activities. Joining the Global Education and Leadership Foundation (tGELF), she won the "Student Endeavor" award at the state level. High school saw her excel in the National Cadet Corps (NCC), where she thrived in activities like sports, rifle shooting, and cultural performances, quickly earning her 'A' certificate.

In college, Pallavi's leadership continued to shine. She was elected Vice-President of her NCC unit at 19 and represented her college in the Republic Day Parade in 2016. Her dedication to the NCC saw her rise to Senior Under Officer, restoring discipline and respect among cadets. Her ambition to serve in the Indian Army was recognized when she was recommended for the Officers' Training Academy in 2022, but life had other plans.

Pallavi pursued a Bachelor's in Elementary Education at Jesus and Mary College, graduating with first division and ranking seventh at the university level. She earned a master's in education from Jamia Millia Islamia, receiving a gold medal for her top position.



In 2022, Pallavi entered public service with Ek Kadam Aur Foundation as a Foundation Fellow. Initially focused on developing a curriculum for children with blindness in the Arunodaya (Sunrise) for Blind Program, she expanded her role to Project Management. Her efforts led to the program's growth, contributing to enrolment of 250 children across seven states. By 2023, she was promoted to Global Project Manager for both the Arunodaya and Active Learning Programs, reflecting her dedication and effectiveness.

Pallavi's story is a testament to the power of resilience and dedication. Her work continues to make a meaningful difference in the lives of children with blindness, driven by her passion to serve those deprived of education due to poverty.



# We thank you for your continued support !



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