



EK KADAM AUR FOUNDATION
FOR EDUCATION AND HEALTH

Annual Report

2022



**BRINGING EDUCATION TO
BLIND CHILDREN AT THEIR
DOORSTEPS**

www.ekkadamaur.org

About the Foundation

Ek Kadam Aur (One Step Forward) Foundation works at the intersection of blindness, poverty, and inaccessibility to provide quality education to the children of underserved communities in India and Nepal. All its educational programs are aimed at bridging gaps in the educational opportunities for the neglected children and facilitating their growth as future citizens and leaders.

VISION

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



MISSION

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



VALUES

G: growth **R:** respect **I:** inclusion **T:** teamwork

Ek Kadam Aur is a non-profit charitable organization registered in the US since 2015 under 501c3 and India since 2017 under 80G.

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Message from the President



Dear Friends,

We are pleased to present to you a summary of our work and the impact of our efforts in the year 2022! We thank you for your support that continues to encourage and enable us.

The Year 2022 was very special for us. Our observations and learning through working in India for six years culminated in the beginning of what started as Project Arunodaya pilot to now Arunodaya Program! Arunodaya means 'Sunrise' in Hindi. And with Arunodaya (Sunrise) for Blind Children program, we are now leading a unique approach to blind children's education that serves as a dawn, a sunrise, of hope in providing access and opportunity for quality education to the blind children in India from low-income families and some of the remotest villages. At the end of the year, we had 40 blind children from three states in India receiving one-on-one mentorship in basic literacy and core skill areas from peer trainers certified by our team of Special Educators. This program is inspired by the success of peer mentorship that we began in 2017 for sighted children under "Train-the-Trainers" program for elementary (primary) schools and guided by the observations from our Technology for Visually Challenged Program that the blind children, without right support in their primary education, fail to catch up with sighted peers of the same grades when they grow up. In short span of one year, we have established collaboration with well-known institutions working on inclusive education.

Our other programs are continuing to significantly contribute to our Mission of providing high quality education to students from families with low economic background. Our High School Leadership Program is now extended to all students of Class 9 and 10 in our sponsored schools. Our Active Learning program is well positioned to develop a universal model of Active Learning under collaboration with RKM College of Education (deemed university), Coimbatore, India, our implementation partner, and Avenues, World School, Sau Paulo, Brazil.

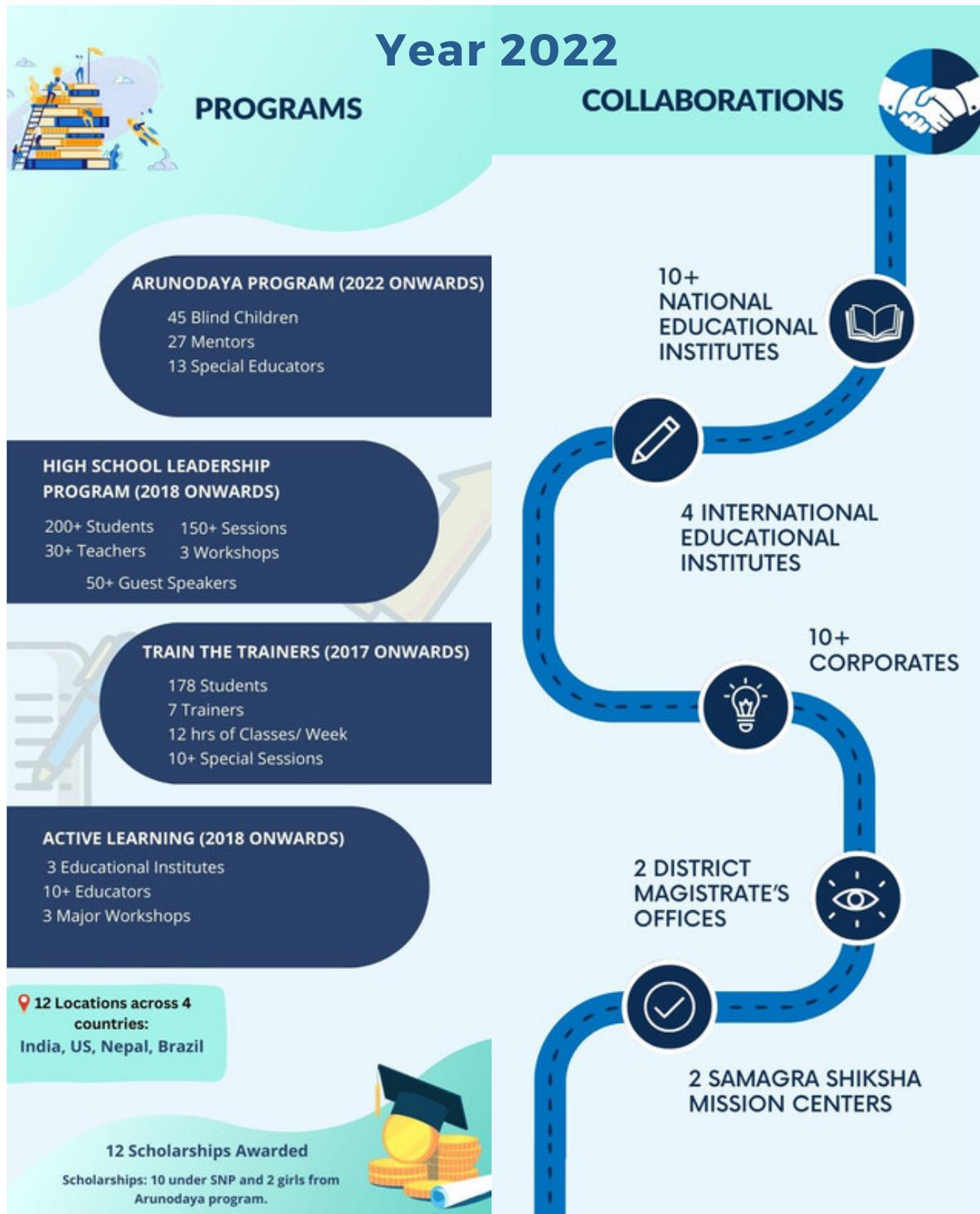
I am grateful to my colleagues in Harvard Advanced Leadership Initiative Fellowship program for their generous support and knowledge-sharing for Arunodaya.

Thank you all for being a part of our journey of transforming lives; we anticipate your continued support as go ahead in this mission.

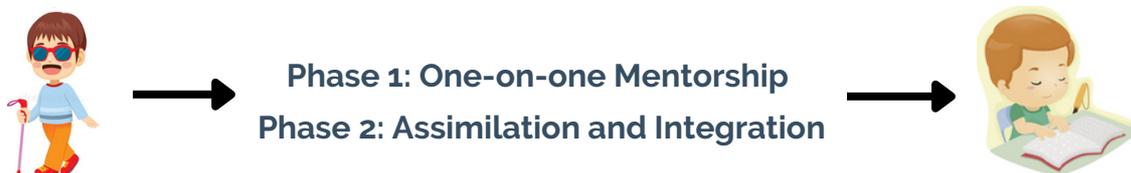
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Satish Tripathi". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Satish Tripathi (Founder/President)

HIGHLIGHTS



LAUNCH OF ARUNODAYA (SUNRISE) FOR BLIND CHILDREN PROGRAM



HIGHLIGHTS



Arunodaya Program has come a long way in its journey of transforming lives of blind children. Initiated in Auraiya District, Uttar Pradesh, now the program is implemented in three states with over 40 children enrolled. Ground work is completed in yet another state, and the implementation is all set to take off.



April 12 -13, 2022 | Dr. Tripathi's Meet and Greet with the Stakeholders during his visit to Auraiya district to observe the programs in Uttar Pradesh. Delegates from the Inclusive Education Block Resource Persons, Mr Mukesh Shukla and Mr Kuldeep Sachan met Dr. Tripathi to offer their support.



March 2022 was a month of celebration! We initiated the concept of "Inclusive Holi" and ensured blind children's active participation in the celebrations. Women's Day was an opportunity to salute the leadership of our teachers who nurture students into future leaders. The theme was "Gender Equality Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow", and the celebration was funded by the Firstsource. In line with our mission of inclusivity, our Diwali Celebrations were made more vibrant by the engagement of blind children.

HIGHLIGHTS



Jan. 25 and Aug. 15: Republic Day and Independence Day Celebrations in India are important to our Foundation. Every year, we take this opportunity to remind ourselves the duty to uphold this republic and serve the young children who will lead it one day. On Republic Day, our children under Train-the-Trainers program came together in person to showcase their skills and present a glimpse of ever evolving and growing India. Our virtual celebration of the golden heritage of India brought 170 of our friends and well-wishers from India, Nepal, UK and US together!

In the same spirit, we organized a special celebration on the Independence Day: Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav. In-person celebrations in Auraiya by members of Train-the-Trainers and Arunodaya program. Graced by the presence of the Basic Education Officer Vipin Kumar Tiwari and Block Education Officer Arun Kumar.



April 11, 2022, Dr Satish Tripathi, The Founder and President of Ek Kadam Aur Foundation, visited Ladakh (Union Territory of India) to expand areas of our contribution. He called upon the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Mr. R K Mathur, and discussed potential areas of collaboration. We were also hosted by the Lamdon Senior Secondary School, one of our partner schools, where Dr Tripathi addressed the students.



Strengthening Collaborations for Greater Impact: Ek Kadam Aur at National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities, Dehradun; IIT, Delhi; and National Association for Blind, New Delhi.

Our Programs

Arunodaya (Sunrise) for Blind Children aims to identify each blind child (with 100% vision loss; ages 4-13 years) from remote parts of India and train them under trainers certified by our team of qualified special educators. This intervention will give them a fair chance to thrive within India's existing social and educational systems.

High School Leadership offers training in 21st-century skills, world-class education, and mentorship platform to high-school students in five schools in India and Nepal by connecting them with more than 200 global experts from the US and India via virtual classrooms.

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

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



Program Updates

Arunodaya (Sunrise) for Blind Children

In 2022, Ek Kadam Aur Foundation launched its 'Arunodaya (Sunrise) for Blind Children Program' to bring education to the doorsteps of blind children.

In alignment with the New Education Policy of India (NEP 2020) and Goal 4 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals to "ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all" by 2030, Ek Kadam Aur seeks to identify every blind child (ages 4-13) and provide an opportunity of one-on-one mentorship to make them school-ready and ensure their successful assimilation and integration into the mainstream educational system.

The program duration for each child is 1 year (divided into two phases: 1. One-on-One Training and 2. Integration and Assimilation) depending on their learning and development pace. This intervention gives them a fair chance to thrive within India's existing social and educational systems, achieve economic and social mobility, inclusion, and equality, and enables the education systems to meaningfully integrate visually impaired children into regular classrooms.

Mr. Biswajit Ghosh, formerly the Principal of Ramakrishna Mission Blind Boys' Academy, Kolkata, who's himself completely blind, serves the Foundation as one of the Directors of the Arunodaya Program.

We are encouraged by the progress of the blind children in Uttar Pradesh and Chhattisgarh states in academics, orientation and mobility, daily living skills, and Braille and abacus training. The children are now able to move around on their own, identify the dots in the Braille, do basic operations on abacus and are engaged in co-curricular and cultural activities such as singing, poetry recital, and can identify household items. The team plans to introduce Active Learning Methodologies and hold frequent meetings with key officials in government to increase the reach of the program.

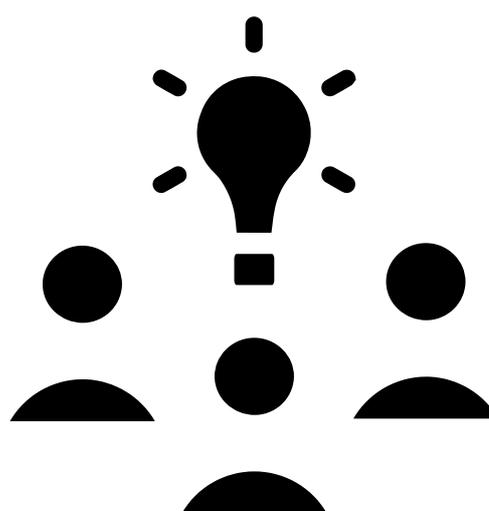
Project Status: Currently Running in Three States in India

Places	Auraiya District, Uttar Pradesh	Gaurella Pendra Marwahi District Chhattishgarh	West Bengal (Kolkata, South 24 Parganas Hoogly and Bankura)
Started	March 2022	July 2022	November 2022
Children	25	8	7
Mentors	14	7	5
Special Educators	3	2	3

Total Children 40 | Total Mentors: 26 Total Special Educators: 8

Collaborations

1. National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities, Dehradun
2. National Centre for Assistive Health Technologies, IIT, Delhi
3. Raised Lines Foundation, Delhi
4. Ramakrishna Mission College of Education, Coimbatore
5. District Magistrate's Office, Gaurela Pendra Marwahi District, Chhattisgarh
6. Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, Chhattisgarh
7. Samagra Shiksha Mission, Uttar Pradesh



Highlights of the Year

Implementation in Auraiya District, Uttar Pradesh

On March 1, 2022, the Train the Trainers program was extended to include blind children. Gradually, owing to the need for training the blind children separately to support their pace of learning, a separate project was created and is now called "Arunodaya (Sunrise) for Blind Children" to reflect the essence of the program. During the second quarter, the program was scaled to include the entire Auraiya district. The program has formed strategic partnerships with government agencies that work on inclusive education, such as Basic Siksha Parishad and Samagra Shiksha Mission.

We have appointed special educators to train the mentors. Mr. Devanand Yadav, an educator specialized in blind children's education with 20 years of experience, was on boarded as the Master Trainer for the mentors. He provides training to mentors and maintains video and written records of the trainings. The videos are used for further training of the mentors. We also have special Educators Sharad Kumar and Raju Yadav.

Mr. Biswajit Ghosh conducted an audit of the program by visiting the homes of five blind children in Panhar, Uttar Pradesh. He also visited two government schools in Auraiya district; Shahbadiya and Baripur Maafi and met with the blind children in these schools and their teachers.



Every blind child enrolled in Arunodaya Program received one-on-one mentorship.

Implementation in Gaurela Pendra Marwahi (GPM) District, Chhattisgarh

On July 14, 2022, the program was expanded to Gaurela Pendra Marwahi (GPM) District in Chhattisgarh in collaboration with the District Magistrate, Ms. Richa Choudhary, after series of deliberations and ground research since April 2022. So far, eight blind children have been identified and enrolled in the program. The program works in coordination with and support from the offices of the District Magistrate and Block Resource Persons. The EKAF team visited the implementation site to understand the challenges faced by blind children. The team also facilitated workshops on Braille, Abacus, and Taylor Frame for local mentors, government school teachers, and BRPs.



We facilitated an in-person 3-day workshop on Compensatory Function Skills for the teachers, mentors and special educators who are a part of our Arunodaya Program implementation in Chattisgarh.



Parents and community awareness and cooperation are the key to accelerate our mission imparting education to the blind children. To engage these children in a more informed manner, the Foundation introduced a sensitization drive in the villages in Chattisgarh.

Implementation in West Bengal

The Arunodaya Program was launched in West Bengal on November 1, 2022, and 15 children were enrolled in the program. The Director of the program, Mr. Biswajit Ghosh and Bonita Sarkar, a Scholar of the Arunodaya Program, visited health officials and Missionaries of Charity to collect data on the blind children. The team is expanding its enrollment of children in West Bengal to provide education and necessary skills for all blind children for a wider coverage in 2023.



Our one-on-one mentorship for the blind children under Aronodaya program includes training in enhancing sensorial skills using multiple approaches. The children are engaged in music and games to increase their involvement and interest in learning.



The blind children are prepared to transition to schools by enabling them to develop basic life skills such as opening a door, going to the bathroom, eating by their hands, and playing with other children. In Kolkata, Mr. Ghosh supervises the training and interacts with the children.

Joining the Changemakers in Blind Children's Education

Ek Kadam Aur Foundation has teamed up with several national players in the education of blind children. We joined hands with the National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities (NIEPVD) in Dehradun, Saksham, National Centre for Assistive Health Technologies (NCAHT), the National Association for Blind (NAB) and Blind Relief Association (BRA) in Delhi to collaboratively work on educational modules for the blind children, training for the mentors and developing a mechanism for admission of blind children in schools once they complete the curriculum of Arunodaya program.



Ek Kadam Aur Team at National Center for Assistive Health Technologies (NCAHT), Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi. We discussed our collaborative strategies to ensure every blind child in India receives quality education.



Saumya Tripathi and R.K Mohan Rao from Ek Kadam Aur with Prof. Pankaj at National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities, Dehradun.

Four-Day Workshop on Expanded Core Curriculum for Pre-Primary Education

To build the capacity of the Arunodaya management team, Ek Kadam Aur visited the National Institute for Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities (NIEPVD), Dehradun, the apex body working for the education and welfare of visually impaired persons, Government of India, to participate in a training workshop tailored to our needs.



NIEPVD, led by its Director, Dr. Himangshu Das, conducted a four-day workshop on Expanded Core Curriculum for Pre-Primary Education from November 22-25, 2022. On the sidelines of the workshop, members from the two organizations explored areas of collaboration on development of curriculum for the program and sharing of knowhow and resource by the institute for the benefit of Arunodaya program.



Curriculum Development for Phase I of the Program

Nikhil Kalara, an intern from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, developed initial draft curriculum for the first phase of Arunodaya. Research team at Ek Kadam Aur has revisited the curriculum and titled it "Ananya" which means unique in Hindi due to its unique approach to the education of blind children. The draft curriculum will be reviewed by the experts at the National Institute for Persons with Visual Disabilities, Dehradun.

Train-the-Trainers Program for Elementary (Primary) Schools

The Train-the-Trainers program now makes a difference in two states in India! As it completed five years in Uttar Pradesh in January 2022, we did a pilot in Visakhapatnam. The program continues to be a catalyst for education and community engagement.

Throughout the year, the program provided learning opportunities to trainers through presentations by external resource persons on topics such as financial literacy, communication skills and basic English. The elementary school students were taught Hindi, English, mathematics, and use of computers. The peer mentorship has consistency resulted in students' better academic and extracurricular activities at school. The mentors and students celebrated Republic Day, Independence Day, and Foundation Day.

The program focusses on the overall development of the students; hence they are engaged in extracurricular activities including music and dance and wellness programs such as yoga, and creative exercises.

The Foundation is committed to ensure that its trainers are well-rounded individuals and equipped to make a positive impact in the lives of the students they teach, and communities they live in. We help trainers in upskilling themselves through initiatives such as financial literacy, use of technology, and English language proficiency.

Highlights of the Year:

Train the Trainers program in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh

Joshna Shri, a winner of Entrepreneurship Bootcamp of the year 2020 and our former student of the High School Leadership Program, taught children as a pilot to potentially bringing Train-the-Trainer's program to Visakhapatnam. She taught children of the fishermen's community in her neighborhood. The Foundation supports her efforts and provides scholarship and mentorship. She is one of the winners of Shrawan and Priti Nigam Scholarship 2022.

Children's Playground Set Up!

On April 7, 2022, the Foundation set up a playground in the Government Primary School in Panhar village. The playground equipment was purchased using donations and was installed with the help of the school staff and volunteers. The students of the school are now able to use the playground equipment to play and interact with their peers during recess and after school hours. It not only provides an opportunity for physical activity and exercise but also helps to foster social and emotional development among the children. The foundation is committed to providing the children with access to fun and engaging activities that promote their overall well-being.



Computer Classes: The students have continued to benefit from the computer classes held twice a week for 2 hours each. They learn how to operate laptops and use Microsoft Office and Paintbrush programs.

Dance Classes: Avni Dubey and Kirti Saxena, trainers of the program, teach dance to children of Government Primary School, Panhar, Uttar Pradesh. The children have presented amazing performances on the Republic, Independence, and Foundation Day.



Yoga Classes: The Foundation considers physical wellbeing of its children as an important factor for their overall growth and development. Advanced yoga classes were organized for the children in Government Primary school, Panhar, Uttar Pradesh. Yoga trainer, Dr Vishal Yogi, taught complex asanas like Astavakrasana, Dhanurasana, and Uttanasana. The training enabled the children to show their yoga skills during the celebration of Azadi ka Amrat Mahotsav.



Spoken English Classes for the Trainers

During July - September 2022, Ek Kadam Aur provided English-speaking training to the trainers of this program. These sessions were led by Sarika Kumari Pandey from Cognizant, Kolkata. Twenty sessions were conducted. The sessions focused on basic communication skills, vocabulary, and good practices in oral and written communications.

Financial Literacy

Since the villagers lack access to information and awareness on how to ensure their financial security and stability, a session on Financial Literacy was jointly organized with Share a Book India Association (SABIA) for the villagers/trainers of the Train-the-Trainers program on January 24, 2022. The speaker, Sagar Gandhi, talked about importance of insurance policies, savings, and how to use mobile banking safely. The training also included how to be alert about frauds and scams.

High School Leadership

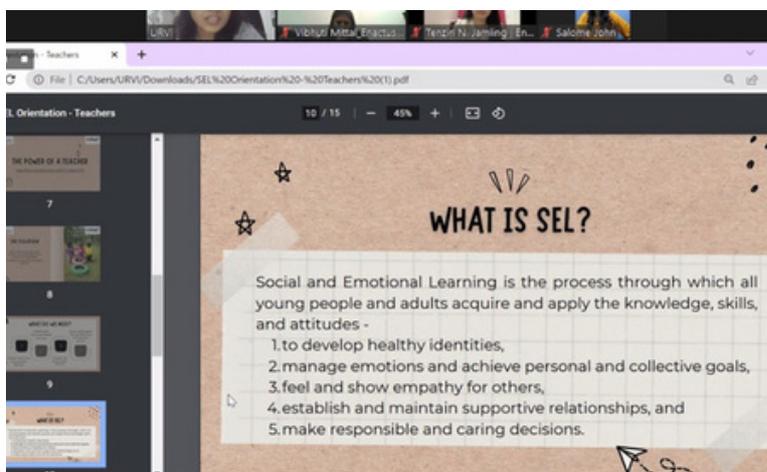
The High School Leadership Program is one of the flagship programs of Ek Kadam Aur Foundation aimed at providing students with training in 21st-century skills such as leadership, communication, entrepreneurship and STEM subjects through world-class lessons via virtual classrooms. Students from our four partner schools in India and Nepal enjoy direct access to expertise and knowledge of over 200 professionals and industry experts in the Foundation's global network.

The regular sessions are held twice a week every Tuesday and Saturday for an hour each. Besides the regular topic-specific sessions, these students also have exposure to different activities, competitions, quizzes and workshops. Every month a session is dedicated to feedback and reflection with the students; these sessions help ensure that students have the opportunity to share their thoughts, hone their talents and contribute to ideas in the course of holistic learning. This year the Foundation also organized sessions and celebrations for the teachers at the partner schools.

Senior Leadership Team

The High School Leadership Program's Senior Leadership Team (SLT) includes a group of members namely, R.K. Mohan Rao, MSc - Former Chief Operating Officer, Technology Business Incubator, Bengaluru,

India; Prasanna Rani MA, B. Ed. - Principal, Ramakrishna Mission High School, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh; Stanzin Dawa, PhD - Principal, Lamdon School, Leh, Ladakh; and, Rajendra Sharma, MA - Vice Principal, NK Singh Memorial English Preparatory School, Kathmandu, Nepal. This team plays a crucial role in guiding and advising and as well as helping to ensure that the High School Leadership Program can implement its strategies, priorities, and annual goals. The team meets twice a month to discuss overall progress and maps out the activities of the future months.



Partner School	Location	Students
Lamdon Model Higher Secondary School	Leh, Ladakh	74
Ramkrishna Mission High School	Visakhapatnam, Andhra	50
Ramkrishna Mission High School	Sitanagram, Andhra	16
NK Singh Memorial English Preparatory School	Kathmandu, Nepal	30

Highlights of the Year

Project Ruhani: 10-day Volunteering Program January - February 2022

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

Shrawan and Priti Nigam Scholarship, 2022

Through introductory session students were taught how to fill up the scholarship application. After 2 months of submissions and scrutiny of the applications by experts we presented our winners of the Shrawan and Priti Nigam Scholarship for the year 2022 on 15th October. In an online event with all our students, teacher coordinators, and High School Leadership Program team, Ms. Urvashi Bhorkar shared the scholarship's vision of "Education for all, regardless of any social standing" and how Inclusive Education is key to breaking barriers and ensuring a more accessible, sustainable and equitable future. Ten students who are or have been a part of the Foundation's High School Leadership Program were awarded the scholarship to pursue their further education.

I-Search Project - 2022

The Foundation organised its second I-search Project. The month-long I-Search project (July 9 to August 30, 2022) aimed at instilling self-initiated exploration into diverse subjects was a project-based learning workshop for the students. Using Active Learning pedagogy, this project helped the students develop self-initiated and multidirectional learning. We trained students of 9th grade from the Ramakrishna Mission High School, Visakhapatnam, N.K. Singh Memorial High School, Kathmandu, Nepal) and Lamdon Model Senior Secondary School in presentation and communication skills. The I-Search successfully concluded with 3 teams winning the top ranks.

- Ladakh, Hanle (IAO): by students of Lamdon Model Senior Secondary School,
- Farmers, a Case Study: by students of Ramakrishna Mission High School, Visakhapatnam
- Multiverse: by N.K. Singh Memorial School, Nepal

Ruhani: Social and Emotional Learning Workshop

Ek Kadam Aur Foundation collaborated with Project Ruhani, an initiative by Enactus Lady Shri Ram College for Women, and conducted a Social and Emotional Learning Workshop for the teachers of the Foundation's partner schools. This workshop was conducted over a period of 2 weeks, starting with an orientation, followed by 10 hours (1 hour each day) of training mentored by Ms. Urvi Shah Jain, Counselling Psychologist and Founder, Ekatva. This workshop was an effort to destigmatize mental health and inculcate the concepts of Social and Emotional learning for both students and teachers.



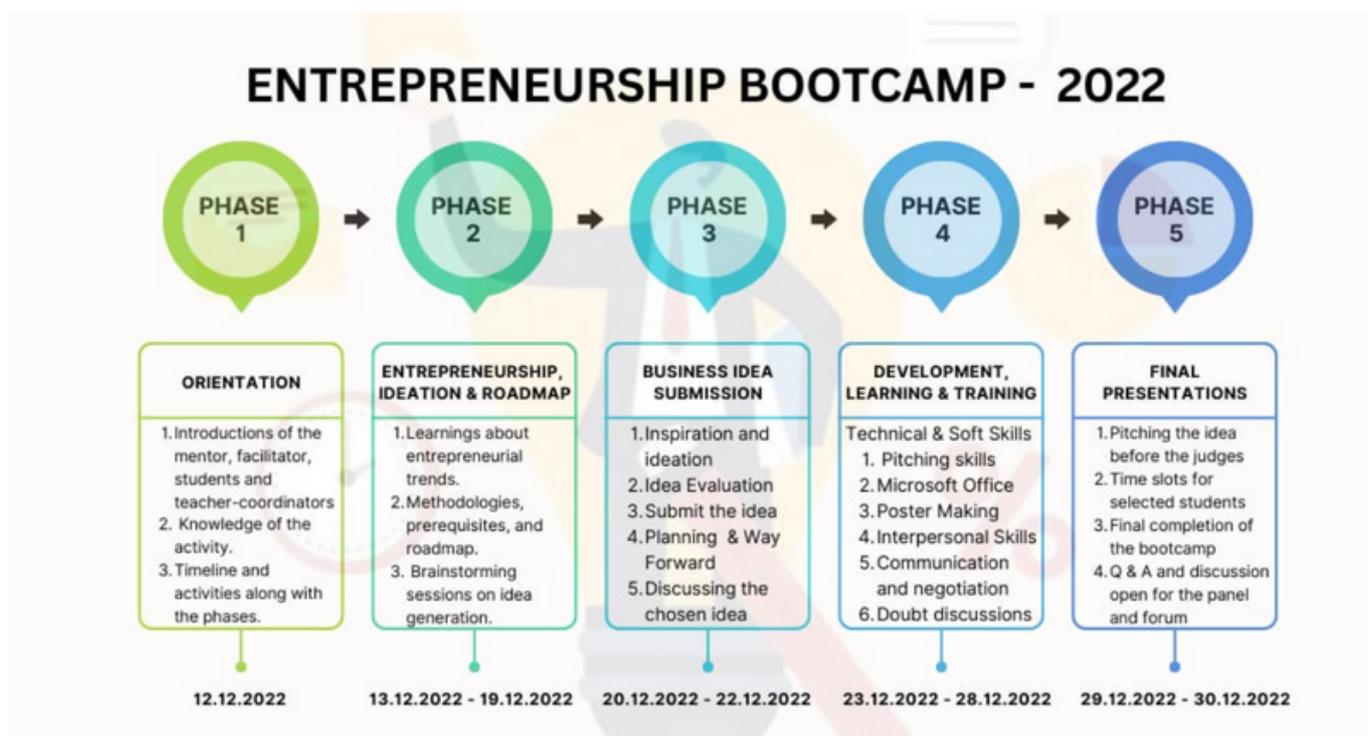
Orientation of New Batch of 9th Class at Landon Model Higher Secondary School

The Program Coordinator, Salome John, conducted an Orientation for the new batch of Class IX. The orientation started with the formal introductions of the team members followed by an exploratory presentation

about the High School Leadership Program, its objectives, the processes, the impact, the importance and its benefits. Following which we had former students of the program share their experiences while encouraging students to attend the sessions without fail. Dr. Stanzin Dawa, Principal of Lamdon Model Higher Secondary School, onboarded the new batch of Class IX.

Entrepreneurship Bootcamp - 2022

The Foundation organised its fourth annual Entrepreneurship Bootcamp to encourage innovation and business sense in the students. A month-long exercise aimed at introducing the field of building a meaningful and sustainable enterprise in the young minds. A phase of intensive knowledge sharing started with the orientation, followed by rigorous sessions on entrepreneurship trends, ideation, and roadmap preparation mentored by Remya Nair, Bosch India Ltd. Eight selected ideas made it to the finals. Students pitched their ideas to judges. 5 teams were announced as winners of the Entrepreneurship Bootcamp.



Competitions & Activities, 2022	
Cultural Representation Competition	The Art of Origami - Holi Competition
Art Gallery	Impromptu Speech Competition
One Paragraph Writing Competition	Secret Santa Activity
Ace the Case Competition	Online Quiz
National Science Day Celebration	New Year Resolution, 2023

High School Leadership Program: Sessions, 2022

Sl. No.	Topic	Resource Person	Affiliation
Career Counseling			
1	Exploring Career Choices	Madhu Menon	Firstsource
2	Careers in Retail Industry	Ms. Madhu Menon	Firstsource
3	Making Conscious Career Choices	Myah Payel Mitra	Somatic Leadership and Career Transition Coach
4	Content Creation as a Career	Anant Seth	eMotion Media
5	Five steps to develop employability skills	Shriya Agarwal	HOPBI
6	Tech based career opportunities	Mohan Gajapathy	Cognizant
7	Pathways to a Career in Regulatory Affairs	Ms. Shruti Dumbre	Karyopharm Therapeutics Massachusetts, USA
8	Career O' Curiosity: Session by TCS IMF team on STEM careers	Mr. Sukhendu Bandhu	TCS
9	Careers in Climate Industry	Aditi Sharma	Anant School for Climate Change
10	Robotics Engineering	Mr. Haribabu Kasturi	CGI
Learning and Implementing			
1	Art of Journaling	Padmajah Narasimhan	Content Marketing Strategist
2	Time Management in Online Learning	Mr. Suvro Raychaudhuri	CGI
3	Responsible Usage of Social Media	Varsha Raicod	CGI
4	Simple isn't necessarily easy	Dr. Veena Tripathi	Ek Kadam Aur Foundation
5	Future depends on present decisions	Shehrevar Davierwala	Global Educator
6	Financial Planning	Yagnesh Mayani	Firstsource
7	Quality Education	Salome John	Ek Kadam Aur Foundation
8	Learning the art of living	Shelby Chen	Harvard ALI Fellow
STEM			
1	Trigonometry: Basics and Applications	Munisha Venati	Cognizant
2	Heredity and Variations	Srishti Lokwani	Seedling Group of Schools
3	Molecules	Ms. Kokila Karunagaran	Cognizant
4	Reasoning in Mathematics	Ms. Munisha Venati	Cognizant
5	Natural Resources	Maheshwari	Cognizant
6	Design Thinking	Dr Veena Tripathi	Jaipuria Institute of Management
7	Human Reproduction	Srishti Lokwani	Seedling Group of Schools

8	Earth Day Special: Artificial Intelligence to Save the Earth	Shyamranjan Mishra	TCS
9	What is Anthropology? A description of the study of anthropology and a look at archaeological sites	Dr Alissa Block-Rissman	DO Practicing Physician (Paediatrician), US
10	What , why & how of science communication	Dr Smriti Arora	UPES
11	Online Etiquettes and Cyber Safety Measures	Varsha Raicod	CGI
12	Epigenetic	Dr. Meghna Thakkar	Jaipuria Institute of Management
13	Biodiversity	Dr. Laxmikant P. Naik	TCS
14	Periodic Table	Dr. Machinani Rao	Woodbury Biologics Consulting, LLC.
15	Basics of Neuroscience	Dr. Meghna Thakkar	Danaher Corporation
16	Design Thinking	Ishita Agarwal	Business Communication Specialist
17	Blood and its Components	Krupa Pandya	NANOKOTE
18	Orbital Hybridization	Dr. Machinani Rao	Woodbury Biologics Consulting, LLC.
19	Laws of Motion and Gravity	Parth Bhatnagar	MIT, US
20	Understanding Pharma: Drug Development	Dr. Madhavi Chhabra	Genfit, US
21	Design Thinking for Creative Problem Solving	Purvee Chauhan	ASCD, US
22	Innovation for Energy Conservation	Sachin Pokharna	TCS
Leadership			
1	Leadership Lessons from Nature	Dr Deepti Sanghavi	Physician and Clinical Researcher
2	Leaders of Tomorrow	Sathya Subhramanian	Cognizant
3	Inclusive Leadership through Diversity	Ms. Srijan Bhan	Bloomberg LP
4	Traits to develop leadership skills in 2022	Madhu Menon	Firstsource
5	Session on "Effective Teamwork: How to work together in groups and achieve goals?"	Mr. Ryan White	Firstsource
6	The Power of Positive Leadership	Alankrita Pandey	Titli Organisation
7	Time Management	Susmita Mishra	Amazon
8	Conflict Management	Sathya Subhramanian	Cognizant
9	What is Goal Setting and how to do it well?	Salome John	Head, HSLP, EKAF
10	Confidence - An Important Life Skill	Biswajit Ghosh	Advisor, Ek Kadam Aur Foundation
Entrepreneurship			

1	Entrepreneurship: Opportunities and Challenges	Komal Parmar Rana	TCS
2	Success Under Constraints	Survo Raychaudhuri	CGI
3	Entrepreneurial Mindset	Priyanka Mathur	Winnnyway
4	Digital Skills for Entrepreneurs & Independent Consultants	Shriya Aggarwal	HOPBI
5	Finding your Passion on Purpose	Mr. Terry Torok	Creative Intelligence Agency
6	Growth Minsdet	Henna Sharma	Chief Happiness Officer
7	Soft Skills: The Recipe for Success	Dr Maya Sharma	Global Medical Director
Health and Well-Being			
1	Basics of Plant-Based Nutrition	Ms. Shriya Agarwal	HOPBI
2	Diet, Microbiome and Diseases	Dr Smriti Arora	UPES
3	Health in our hands	Dr. Rashi Tiwari	Ananas Nutrition Consultancy
4	Yogic breathing, Meditation, and Happiness	Henna Sharma	Chief Happiness Officer
5	Let's talk about Emotions	Urvi Shah Jain	Ekatva, Therapy and Counselling
6	Good Heath and Well Being	Pallavi Kaushik	Ek Kadam Aur Foundation
7	Stress Management Techniques for Students	Ishita Agarwal	Business Communication Specialist
8	Managing Distractions	Mr. Suvro Raychoudhury	CGI
Communication			
1	Effective Communication for Change	Aditi Sharma	Anant School of Climate Change
2	Communication and Presentation Skills	Mr. Surjit Kumar Chaudhary	Communication Expert & CSR Professional
3	Communication: How to ask for what you want?	Dr. Veena Tripathi	Ek Kadam Aur Foundation
4	Communication in the 21st Century	Mr. Sunchit Joshi	Firstsource
5	Impromptu Speech: Tips and Techniques	Salome John	Ek Kadam Aur Foundation
6	Branding to create impact	Shriya Aggarwal	HOPBI
7	How to develop and deliver effective presentations?	Nirbhay Lumde	CGI
8	Discover the author in you!	Neetu Rishi	The Success Door
9	Interview skills	Shriya Agarwal	HOPBI
10	How to Build LinkedIn Profile	Neetu Rishi	The Success Door
11	The Art of Asking Right Questions	Douglas Jack	Firstsource

EK KADAM AUR FOUNDATION
FOR EDUCATION AND HEALTH

HIGH SCHOOL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM
Virtual Classroom Session

LET'S TALK ABOUT EMOTIONS!



Guest Speaker
URVI SHAH JAIN
Facilitator of Project Buhani,
Enactus Lady Shri Ram College

11 OCTOBER 2022 | 8 AM IST | TUESDAY | ZOOM

www.ekkadamaur.org

EK KADAM AUR FOUNDATION
FOR EDUCATION AND HEALTH

HIGH SCHOOL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM
Virtual Classroom Session

GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



Guest Speaker
Pallavi Kaushik
Ek Kadam Aur Foundation

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

22 OCTOBER 2022 | 8 AM IST | SATURDAY | ZOOM

www.ekkadamaur.org

EK KADAM AUR FOUNDATION
FOR EDUCATION AND HEALTH

HIGH SCHOOL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM
Virtual Classroom Session

IMPROMPTU SPEECH TIPS AND TECHNIQUES



Salome John
Global Manager
HSLP & CSR
Ek Kadam Aur Foundation

29 OCTOBER 2022 | 8 AM IST | SATURDAY | ZOOM

www.ekkadamaur.org

EK KADAM AUR FOUNDATION
FOR EDUCATION AND HEALTH

HIGH SCHOOL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM
Virtual Classroom Session

CONFLICT MANAGEMENT



Guest Speaker
SATHYA SUBRAMANIAN
Associate Director,
Cognizant UK

5TH NOVEMBER 2022 | 8 AM IST | SATURDAY | ZOOM

www.ekkadamaur.org

EK KADAM AUR PRESENTS

VIRTUAL CLASSROOM SESSION
ON
TIME MANAGEMENT



WITH
SUSMITA MISHRA
SENIOR PROGRAM MANAGER, AMAZON

08 | 8 **LET'S LEARN TOGETHER!**

HIGH SCHOOL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM
presents an online session on

Digital Skills for Entrepreneurs and Independent Consultants



Guest Speaker
Shriya Aggarwal
Founder & CEO, HOPBI

November 12 Saturday 8 AM | ZOOM

EK KADAM AUR FOUNDATION
FOR EDUCATION AND HEALTH

HIGH SCHOOL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM
presents an online session on

CONFIDENCE - AN IMPORTANT LIFE SKILL



Guest Speaker
BISWAJIT GHOSH
Retired Principal, Ramakrishna Mission
Blind Boys Academy

November 15 Tuesday 8 AM | ZOOM

EK KADAM AUR FOUNDATION
FOR EDUCATION AND HEALTH

HIGH SCHOOL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM
Virtual Classroom Session

UNDERSTANDING PHARMA (Drug Development)



Guest Speaker
Dr. Madhavi Gidh-Jain
Medical Writing Head, Sanofi (US)

22 NOVEMBER, 2022 | 8 AM IST | TUESDAY | ZOOM

www.ekkadamaur.org

EK KADAM AUR PRESENTS

VIRTUAL CLASSROOM SESSION
ON
LAWS OF MOTION AND GRAVITY



PARTH JEDI

19 | 8 **LET'S LEARN TOGETHER!**

EK KADAM AUR FOUNDATION
FOR EDUCATION AND HEALTH

EK KADAM AUR PRESENTS
AN ONLINE SESSION ON

CAREER IN CLIMATE INDUSTRY




GUEST SPEAKER
ADITI SHARMA
PROGRAM COORDINATOR,
ANANT SCHOOL FOR CLIMATE ACTION,
ANANT NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

DECEMBER 10 | 8 AM | ZOOM

EK KADAM AUR FOUNDATION
FOR EDUCATION AND HEALTH

EK KADAM AUR PRESENTS
an online session on

HEALTH IN OUR HANDS



Guest Speaker
DR. RASHMI TIWARI
Founder, Ananas Nutrition Consultancy
Owner, Vegan Gelato & Cafe
Lifestyle Transformation Consultant

DECEMBER 20 | TUESDAY | 8:00 AM | ZOOM

EK KADAM AUR FOUNDATION
FOR EDUCATION AND HEALTH

HIGH SCHOOL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM
presents an online session on

WHAT IS GOAL SETTING AND HOW TO DO IT WELL?



Speaker
SALOME JOHN
Global Manager
Ek Kadam Aur Foundation

December 10 Saturday 8 AM | ZOOM

EK KADAM AUR FOUNDATION
FOR EDUCATION AND HEALTH

HIGH SCHOOL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM
EK KADAM AUR PRESENTS

MOCK IMPROMPTU SPEECH COMPETITION



FACILITATOR: SALOME JOHN

1ST NOVEMBER 2022 | TUESDAY | 8 AM (IST) | ZOOM

EK KADAM AUR FOUNDATION
FOR EDUCATION AND HEALTH

EK KADAM AUR PRESENTS
AN ONLINE SESSION ON

DESIGN THINKING FOR CREATIVE PROBLEM SOLVING



DECEMBER 17, 2022 | 8 AM IST | SATURDAY | ZOOM

EK KADAM AUR FOUNDATION
FOR EDUCATION AND HEALTH

HIGH SCHOOL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM
presents an online session on

ENTREPRENEURIAL MINDSET



Guest Speaker
PRIYANKA MATHUR
Founder, Winway

DECEMBER 17, 2022 | 8 AM IST | SATURDAY | ZOOM

www.ekkadamaur.org

A taste of our HSLP Sessions

Active Learning

Ek Kadam Aur's Active Learning program promotes the "Active Learning" teaching method that shifts the focus of learning from the teacher to the student. It emphasizes student engagement and participation in the learning process, rather than relying solely on the teacher to impart knowledge. This method encourages students to take an active role in their education by asking questions, participating in discussions, and conducting research.

Training sessions on Active Learning were offered to teachers and students in partner schools to help them understand and implement this teaching method. These sessions focus on strategies such as peer-led discussions, critical thinking exercises, and embodied learning activities that involve using the body to understand concepts.

The program was initially launched in 2020 and was successful in Ramakrishna Mission High School, Sitanagaram, Andhra Pradesh. Active Learning has been shown to be an effective method for increasing student engagement and understanding of course material. It is particularly useful in helping students develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills, as well as fostering creativity and collaboration.

Highlights of the Year



Scale-up of the Program

In January 2022, Ek Kadam Aur Foundation initiated collaboration for its Active Learning program with the College of Education at Ramakrishna Mission Vidyalaya in Coimbatore, India.

A preparatory meeting was held on January 26, 2022 for exchange of ideas and conceptual understanding of Active Learning and similar practices already implemented at the college. To launch the Collaboration between Ek Kadam Aur Foundation (EKA) and the College of Education (CoE), RKM Vidyalaya, Coimbatore, an in-person meeting was held on July 4, 2022, in the college campus in which Mr. Mohan Rao and Dr. Satish Tripathi participated. They reiterated the importance of ALSP and discussed its core features and details of outcome from the Foundation's experience in Sitanagaram, Andhra Pradesh. The members also explored the need for technological interventions and subject-specific laboratories for Mathematics, Sciences, Social Science and English respectively. It was decided that 10 schools will participate in the pilot for ALSP including 4 schools in RKM Vidyalaya campus and 6 more schools within 6 Km distance from RKMV.

Currently, the Active Learning practices have been adopted in Mathematics, Science, and Social Science in the Ramkrishana Schools in Coimbatore.

International Collaborations

Cognizant of the need to develop a universally applicable Active Learning Framework, the Foundation initiated a collaboration between Ramakrishna Mission College of Education, India, meets the Avenues, Brazil. An Introductory Meeting was held on August 6, 2022. Two members, Allison Uros and Clara Prado, representing Avenues, Brazil, participated in the presence of faculty members of CoE including Dr. G. Subramonian, Principal, College of Education, and Dr. Satish Tripathi.

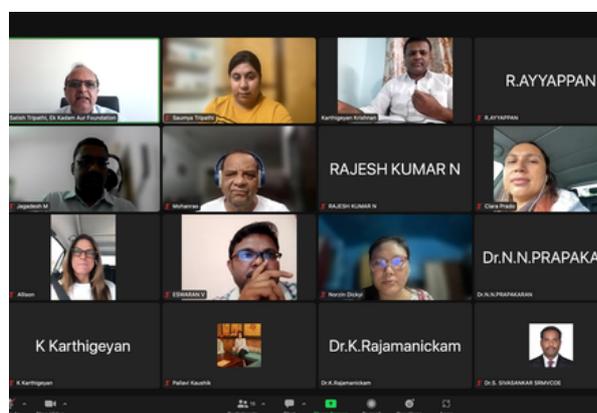


Key objectives of the collaboration are:

- To provide regular workshops and training sessions for teachers and students on Active Learning strategies such as peer-led discussions, critical thinking exercises, and embodied learning activities that involve using the body to understand concepts
- To help teachers and students understand and implement the Active Learning methods
- To create a robust and comprehensive Active Learning model for high schools in India supported by good quality videos of Active Learning in practice

Recurring Meetings

A recurring meeting on the first Saturday of each month was initiated on March 5, 2022. Each monthly meeting is preceded by a prior meeting wherein the members set agenda for the upcoming meeting. Regular virtual meetings are held to ensure sustained progress of the program. The team finalized the composition and list of participants for the Active Learning training program.



Content and Methodology

In September monthly meeting, the EKAF and Faculty members of College of Education (COE) discussed the Content and Methodology of Active Learning Training Program as per the details provided by our colleagues from Avenues, Sao Paulo, Brazil. Ms. Allison Uros & Ms. Clara Prado made a presentation on Active Learning Methodology in practice at Avenues, Sao Paulo, Brazil, and shared their experience and impact on student learning. They also made a presentation on proposed Active Learning Training Methodology. The faculty members of College of Education offered a presentation on Active Learning Methodology in Practice at Government Schools, Tamil Nadu, India, and shared their experiences.

Nurturing Youth Leadership

Ek Kadam Aur Foundation strongly believes in nurturing youth leadership that is deeply rooted in a strong sense of public service. It provides year-round internship opportunities for college students (both active and graduates) and summer internships to high school students under Ambassadors of Change program.

Ambassadors of Change

The Foundation celebrated completion of one year of the Ambassadors of Change program in March 2022. The Ambassadors, six from the US, contributed significantly towards creating a global co-learning environment for our student beneficiaries in India and Nepal. In the second quarter of the year, eight High School students, six from the US and two from India, worked on their individual projects under the Foundation's High School Leadership and Arunodaya programs. This activity provided these interns a cross-cultural learning experience. The summer program concluded in August 2022 with the ambassadors submitting their final work products. We congratulate the ambassadors for successfully completing the Summer 2022 Internships and look forward to welcoming these bright, young minds back to the Foundation in 2023 Summer!



Ek Kadam Aur felicitated Esha Bennett, Eva Bennett, and Aditi Dey for their significant contributions to the Foundation through Ambassadors of Change

"Leadership is a skill that must be nurtured at young age. Our AoC program advances this vision."

• Dr. Tripathi

Internship Opportunities

Nurturing a strong sense of public service is at the core of the Foundation's leadership training for its students and members. The Foundation provided internship opportunities to students from Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), and New York University (NYU).

Spring 2022 Interns from MIT, USA

Eric Liu, Nikhil Kakarla, and Raymond Pan from MIT joined the Foundation as interns. Eric and Raymond worked on impact assessments of the High School Leadership and Train-the-Trainers programs, respectively. Nikhil developed a curriculum based on the existing industry standard for the blind children for the Foundation's Technology for Visually Challenged program. In May, the IAP Interns made their presentations to the Foundation's Board of Directors (US organization).

Summer Interns 2022 from MIT, US

Keaten Clarno, Emmi Mills, Sheng Huang, and Samir Amin from MIT worked on projects on Information Technology, Impact Assessment, CSR and Fundraising. All the projects contributed to the Foundation's Arunodaya program. In June 2022, Keaten Clarno, launched a fundraiser. On Aug. 27, the interns gave their final presentation to the Foundation's Board.

Social Media and Fundraising Intern

Ms. Varsha Mishra joined us as Social Media and Fundraising Intern for the second quarter, 2022. Varsha worked on developing our Social Media posts. She also launched a fundraising campaign for Train-the-Trainers for Blind Children program.

NYU Wagner Capstone Project

On May 2, 2022, our NYU Wagner's Capstone team, Kayla Savage, Maggie Soko and Tatiana Walker, completed their 8-month project that began in 2021 and presented their findings and recommendations virtually to the Ek Kadam Aur Foundation. Victoria Donohue, The Capstone Team presented to Faculty Advisor and EKAF Project Supervisors, Dr Satish Tripathi and Ms. Sneha Harsh presentation on "Improving Accessible Learning for students with Visually Disabilities".

On October 21st, 2022, Ek Kadam Aur Foundation welcomed the 4th batch of NYU Wagner Capstone team as its social impact interns. The team consists of Angelica Gualpa, Fatema Husain, Devynn Barnes, and Ahram Hwang, who are students of master's in international development, The Capstone team will continue its work on Arunodaya (Sunrise) program for Blind children until May 2023. Ek Kadam Aur Foundation appreciates Professor Anna Levy for her time, coordination, and guidance to the NYU Capstone team.

Interns from Harvard

Since September 7, 2022, following the internship expo at Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE), Melody Salisbury, a master's student joined us as an intern for the Project Arunodaya for Blind. Melody works on data analysis and impact assessment of the program. Her background in education and life experience of being a visually challenged person provided helpful insight to the program.

Another intern from Harvard, Seema Kumari, an undergraduate student, began her internship with EKAF's Arunodaya Program in December 2022. She spent 20 days in Auraiya, Uttar Pradesh, conducting fieldwork and closely working with blind children, their mentors, and special educators. To assess the program's effectiveness, Seema interviewed parents and schoolteachers. Seema will make recommendations to improve the program and seek collaborators to support it.

Scholarships

Shri Mati Ram Kishori Memorial Scholarship

On Women's Day, on March 8, 2022, Dr Archana Tripathi instituted a named scholarship, Shri Mati Ram Kishori Memorial Scholarship, in the memory of her late mother. This is a once-a-year scholarship for education of a girl child. Dr Archana Tripathi is an associate professor and researcher with more than 20 years of experience in academia. She also has six years of experience in journalism and has received the best reporting award from Rajasthan Patrika.

Wanti Rani and K.L Virmani Scholarship

In April 2022, Ek Kadam Aur Foundation for Education and Health launched the named scholarship 'Wanti Rani and K.L. Virmani Scholarship' for the visually challenged students funded by Dr. Upasana Dhanda and Mr. Pranshu Virmani in the memory of their grandparents.

Shrawan and Priti Nigam Scholarship

Ek Kadam Aur Foundation invited applications for the second round of Shrawan and Priti Nigam Scholarship for the students participating in the High School Leadership Program. It is an annual Merit-cum-Means Scholarship established and funded by Ms. Urvashi Bhorkar in the name of her beloved late father, Mr. Shrawan Nigam, and her mother, Mrs. Priti Nigam. The winners of the scholarship for the year 2022 were declared on 15th October and funds were transferred.



EK KADAM AUR FOUNDATION
FOR EDUCATION AND HEALTH

SHRAWAN AND PRITI NIGAM SCHOLARSHIP 2022

Ek Kadam Aur Foundation (EKAF) is pleased to announce its first named scholarship "Shrawan and Priti Nigam Scholarship". It's an annual Merit-cum-Means Scholarship established and funded by Ms. Urvashi Bhorkar in the name of her beloved late father, Mr. Shrawan Nigam and her mother, Mrs. Priti Nigam. It will be awarded to 10 students who are or have been a part of the Foundation's High School Leadership Program (HSLP) at its partner schools. Each awardee will receive a sum of **Rs. 10,000/- INR** in total.

Deadline to Apply: August 15, 2022
Announcement Date: September 5, 2022



EK KADAM AUR FOUNDATION
FOR EDUCATION AND HEALTH

WANTI RANI AND K.L. VIRMANI SCHOLARSHIP

To support the Education and Life-Skills Development of the Visually Challenged students associated with the Foundation's Train-the-Trainers for Visually Challenged Program!



EK KADAM AUR

Proudly Presents the Winners of

**SHRAWAN & PRITI NIGAM
SCHOLARSHIP 2022**



Mohammed Rayyan
RKM High School, Vizag



Joga Joshna Sree
RKM High School, Vizag



Utkarsh Tiwari
NKS School, Nepal



Yerupilli Bhargav Sai
RKMHS, Vizag



Nadupuri Triveni K
RKMHS, Vizag



V. Nikitha
RKMHS, Vizag



Valli A. Prem
RKMHS, Vizag



Kasarapu Hanusri
RKM High School, Vizag



Dabbiru Deekshitha
RKM High School, Vizag



Cheedi Sravya
RKM High School, Vizag



Congratulations!



CSR Collaborations & Outreach

The Foundation recognizes the power of collective effort. We completed one year of engaging with our corporate volunteers in June 2022! Our corporate partners (TCS, PwC, CGI, and Firstsource) joined hands with the Foundation to support educational and skill development programs. The Foundation conducted over 150 sessions for the students, teachers, and trainers through corporate volunteering. The Foundation reached out to government bodies and private institutions for support to advance our work in the areas of education, skill enhancement, curriculum development, and digital inclusion,

Highlights of the Year

Donation of Computers by Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)

On February 11, 2022, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) donated 5 used laptops to Ek Kadam Aur Foundation. These laptops enabled the Foundation to set up a computer lab for its student beneficiaries (sighted and blind). The Foundation facilitates use of technology in education and skill development and strives to continue to provide digital education to the students.

Funds from Visakhapatnam Port Trust

On February 23, 2022, the Foundation received funds from Visakhapatnam Port Trust for implementation of two projects under the Foundation's High School Leadership Program: Entrepreneurship Bootcamp and I-Search. Both the projects were successfully completed in the year.

CSR Funds from RS Livemedia Private Limited

In April 2022, RS Livemedia Private Limited granted CSR funds for Ek Kadam Aur Foundation's "Youth Ed-powering Youth" project under its Train-the-Trainers Program. This project aims to enable students to provide foundational education to younger children (sighted and visually challenged) in their own community leading to nurturing of youth leadership. The project is currently being implemented in Uttar Pradesh, India.

Firstsource Supports Women Leaders

On International Women's Day in March 2022, Ek Kadam Aur Foundation and Firstsource Solutions Limited teams celebrated and acknowledged the contributions of women teachers, volunteers, and staff members of the Foundation who contribute to public service through their leadership. Firstsource team sponsored the gift hampers which were distributed to the Foundation's women leaders, educators, trainers, and staff members to acknowledge their contributions.



EmpoweED Women!



CSR Stakeholders' Survey

The Foundation conducted a survey of materiality assessment with the stakeholders to assess and analyse the key thematic areas of Foundation's interventions to which the stakeholders connect the most. The assessment helped the Foundation determine the key focus areas of its intervention, leading to increased focus on educating the blind children.

Outreach: Article published

A manuscript on "Sustainability in Education: People, Planet, and Profit Perspective" authored by Ms. Muskan Madhok was published in CRISP (Center for Research and Implementation of Sustainable Practices) Global's website. The article highlights the ways in which sustainability can be achieved in the education industry as well as its importance. <https://crispglobal.org/sustainability-in-education/>

Corporate Volunteers Led Entrepreneurship Bootcamp

The 4th Entrepreneurship Bootcamp was organized in collaboration with Bosch India Ltd. Ms. Remya Nair, Learning and Development Expert & Change Catalyst at Bosch facilitated the sessions. The final presentations of the boot camp were judged by judges: Mr. Shayak Mazumdar, CEO & Co-Founder, Eunimart, Ms. Priyanka Mathur, Founder, Winnyway, Tejal Rane Pratap, Corporate Innovation & Portfolio Manager, Bosch Global Software Technologies Private Limited (BGSW) and Ms. Remya Nair.

Outreach Activities in Auraiya

Dr. Veena Tripathi visited Auraiya with the objective of amplifying the reach and prominence of the Arunodaya Program. During her visit, she held productive meetings with key people, including the District Magistrate, the CSR Executives of NTPC and UPL, and financial institutions. These discussions centered around the possibility of forging alliances and securing support for the Arunodaya program.



Alone, we can do so little; together we can do so much." - Hellen Keller
These words guide our effort to build meaningful collaborations so we can make a bigger impact in the lives of blind children.

Other Notable Engagements

EKAF invited to India STEM Foundation Talks

On March 29, 2022, Muskan Madhok, CSR and Outreach Head of our Foundation, was invited to join Bhuvan Verma of India STEM Foundation (ISF) in an online conversation under ISF's online talks program, "STEM Talks with Leaders". She opined on the current efforts to strengthen STEM education in India, its relevance in the rapidly technology-driven world, and the STEM-led future.

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

EKAF at Lamdon Model Senior Secondary School, Leh, Ladakh

Between 21 - 25 March 2022, members of the Foundation visited Leh, Ladakh to meet with the students and teachers at the Lamdon Model Senior Secondary School to strengthen our ongoing partnership and explore collaboration with governmental and non-governmental organizations in Ladakh working in the education sector. The Foundation met with the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Heads of the Education Department of Ladakh and the Ladakh Hill Development Council, and Venerable Bikkhu Sanghsena of the Mahabodhi International Meditation Center.

On April 11, 2022, The Founder and President of Ek Kadam Aur Foundation, Dr Satish Tripathi, and Muskan Madhok, Global Manager and Head, CSR, visited Ladakh to continue the deliberations. They met and felicitated the Lt. Governor of Ladakh, Mr. R K Mathur, for his contribution to public service. The Governor appreciated Foundation's work in Ladakh in the education and skilling domain.

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

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

Onboarding of Dr Babu Ram Upadhyay Educational Academy

Dr Babu Ram Upadhyay (B.R.U.) Educational Academy is an Elementary/Primary Education school that provides education to children from low-income families. Ek Kadam Aur Foundation collaborated with B.R.U. Educational Academy March 2022 onwards to provide digital education and access to a library to the children. The Foundation will continue to offer assistance to BRU Academy in the areas of Communication and Active Learning methodology.



Meeting with our Advisory Board Member and Educators in Delhi

We held a meeting in New Delhi on 26 June 2022 during which Dr Satish Tripathi interacted with Mr. Sharad Tripathi, Advisory Committee Member of the Foundation's program for the visually challenged children, and Mr. Monu Singh who worked with NCERT for a significant part of his life.



STEPS TOWARDS INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

Updates from Ek Kadam Aur Foundation's conference for the flagship program "Train the Trainer for Blind". *This program aims to develop education systems to meaningfully integrate visually impaired individuals into society.*



Ek Kadam Aur at Harvard University

On August 3, 2022, we participated in the Internship Expo at Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE). The Foundation hosted interns from Harvard Kennedy School in the past. However, this year, we made available social impact internship opportunities to Ed.M. students. More than 100 students visited and inquired about the exclusive internship openings. Dr Satish Tripathi and Sneha Harsh (our former colleague) engaged with over 75 students of which 40 students showed interest in an internship with Ek Kadam Aur.



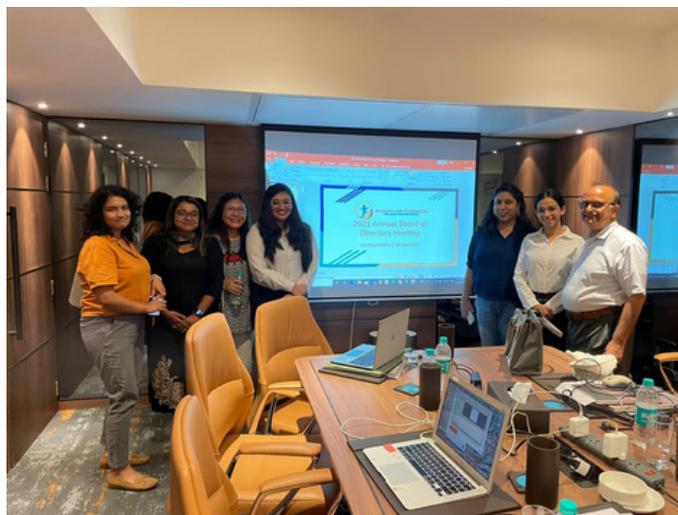
In December 2022, our Founder and President, Dr. Satish Tripathi, completed his fellowship at Harvard University's Advanced Leadership Initiative (ALI). On December 7, 2022, he made a presentation on our Arunodaya: Sunrise for Blind Children project to his cohort and associated faculty members. The audience appreciated the project, gave standing ovation, and offered encouraging remarks.



Team Meeting in Mumbai

Between June 27 - July 1, 2022, with the shifting of Ek Kadam Aur Foundation's Head Office from New Delhi to Mumbai, and with the visit of Dr Tripathi, the Ek Kadam Aur team held its in-person meeting in Mumbai. The meeting allowed us the space and time to co-create a yearly budget and program strategy to obtain preliminary data for the Arunodaya project. An interactive workshop on Disability Sensitive Communication for the Visually Impaired was conducted by Ishita Agarwal to improve the staff's understanding of the program's beneficiaries. We also got the opportunity to meet with some inclusive education experts and thought leaders like Dr. Farida Khan, co-founder, WhiteHat Jr., Geetha Krishnan, author and corporate trainer, and Ramesh, co-founder, Light of Life, to learn best practices to apply to our programs.

We held our Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors (BoD) in Mumbai on 28 June 2022. The staff members made detailed presentations on their programs and the overall progress of the previous year. The BoD commented on the scope of improvement in each program and shared their valuable insights on the Foundation's future goals.



During the meeting, the Foundation presented Public Service Award 2022 to Ms. Saumya Tripathi, Associate Director, for her dedication and completion of 5 years in service of the Foundation.

New Faces at EKAF

Anoop Dubey joined the team in April as the Field Coordinator for Arunodaya in Uttar Pradesh. Pallavi Kaushik joined us in May as our Program Coordinator for Active Learning and Program Associate for Arunodaya programs. In September, Salome John joined us as the Coordinator for High School Leadership Program. The same month, we expanded our Arunodaya Program team with joining of Mr RK Mohan Rao, who has been a part of Ek Kadam Aur Foundation since its founding days, in yet another leadership role, Mr. Biswajit Ghosh as the Program Director, and Bonita Sarkar joined us as a Foundation Scholar for field work in Kolkata, West Bengal. After interning with us as social media and fundraising Intern for the second quarter, 2022, Ms. Varsha Mishra joined our Arunodaya project team in October. Dr. Veena Tripathi joined us in November as the Director of Global Strategic Partnerships and Outreach.



ANOOP DUBEY



R.K. MOHAN RAO



BONITA SARKAR



PALLAVI KAUSHIEK



VARSHA MISHRA



SALOME JOHN



DR. BISWAJIT GHOSH



DR. VEENA TRIPATHI

Testimonials

Namita Paul (Teacher Coordinator, RKM Vizag)

“Ek kadam Aur has taken our school children far ahead than we had anticipated. All the school curricula got a lot better, and it was possible only with the ice topping of Ek kadam Aur. Children are doing well with communication skills and also developing their soft skills. There has been 100 percent participation for various school's activities and children have come very close to what we know as wholesome education. A good number of our students show in-depth interest in subjects taught. EKA TEAM and all your fine tuning has been consistently showing up on the screen of RKMHS, Visakhapatnam. Thank you so much for all the dedicated people who love children so much.”

Devanand Singh (Special Educator, Arunodaya, Uttar Pradesh)

“This program is very beneficial and promising one. I, being a special educator, feel very good to be a part of the program and use my potential and knowledge in the best place. This program is going to create a huge impact in the long run by taking these baby steps. Thank you for providing me an opportunity to be a part of this program.”

Joshna (Trainer, Train the Trainers, Visakhapatnam)

At the moment, I'm teaching 10 students of classes 1-5 from the government primary school. It's my pleasure to share that the students are performing well in their school, and they are getting good marks now. Ek Kadam Aur supports my education with scholarship and organizes regular Spoken English Classes for me.

My sincere thanks to Satish sir, Saumya ma'am, Prasanna ma'am (my school's Principal), and everyone who supported me a lot. Thank you, Ek Kadam Aur Foundation, for giving me this golden opportunity.

Aditya (Trainer, Train-the-Trainers (TtT), Panhar, Auraiya District, UP)

Through this program, we not only impart elementary education to the financially & visually challenged children of our village but also, we get to learn a lot like how to make a lesson plan and how it should be delivered to the children. With the support of our seniors, we the trainers are also provided with free workshops and lectures on various subjects and topics. TtT is a ray of hope through education in the lives of these children and gives us a chance to work for the betterment of society.

Floran Jayaraj (Corporate Volunteer, Firstsource Solutions)

Since a few years ago, I have had the opportunity to volunteer with EKA Foundation, as part of my organization's Volunteering Program. My first thought was that EKA was another NGO that would run CSR and community initiatives in accordance with the traditional NGO model. While working closely with the EKA team, I realized their approach to Education and Healthcare is very holistic and comprehensive. Especially when it comes to Education, their programs are extremely focused and student-centered. The level of planning and completion of any program is flawless, thus meeting the needs of all stakeholders.

Sarika Kumari Pandey (Corporate volunteer, Cognizant Technology Solutions)

I learnt about Ek Kadam Aur through an initiative of my company called Outreach to help the underprivileged section of the society. I taught Spoken English Classes every weekend in Train-the-Trainers program of EKAF. In this program, we aim to develop the communication skills of the rural students (who later teach the underserved kids of Auraiya District of Uttar Pradesh). Students are given quality content through Power Point Presentations and motivational videos. Special individual attention and weekly assignments (written and oral) are tagged to the students so that no stone is left unturned in the process of making them more confident orators. I hope together, we will be successful in making the world of our dreams.

Dr Alissa Block- Rissman (Highland Park, Illinois, USA, Speaker, High School Leadership Program)

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

Kirti Saxena (Trainer, Project Arunodaya, Auraiya)

"It has been almost a year since I joined Ek Kadam Aur foundation and I feel enriched. I learned a lot of things while interacting with children who are visually disabled. Ek Kadam Aur is working day and night for the betterment of education of the children. It is not only helping the children in the field of education but is also helping them in their daily life activities so that the children can become self-reliant. After joining the Foundation, I was able to use all the knowledge I had learnt during my psychology classes at the college."

Gunja Gendley (Trainer, Project Arunodaya, Chhattisgarh)

The Project Arunodaya has come like a boon to my daughter's life. My daughter, being a completely blind child, has been facing challenges in her life and I've always tried to support her in every aspect of life but this program has given me the direction of how to go about it. I've learnt Braille and I'm so happy that my daughter is learning Braille now. With this program, came a hope that my daughter can also do good in her life and be independent. She has become very curious to learn new things every day and this curiosity keeps me driving. I am so grateful to Ek kadam Aur Foundation to start this program and happy to be a part of it."

Tsepal (High School Leadership Program Student, Lamdon Model Secondary School, Leh Ladakh)

"The month of August was not just a simple month for me as I was engaged with many activities, one of them was the I-search project, it not only allowed us to learn more about our topics, but it also allowed us to implement all those learnings from

EKA sessions related to this project like teamwork, leadership, mental health, how to be organized and so many more. We were fascinated by how people from other states were also interested in knowing about our own project on Hanle IAO. I would like to express my gratitude to Ek Kadam Aur for giving us yet another amazing experience to enhance our leadership skills in a very interesting way."

C. Sreedevi (Teacher, Ramkrishna Mission High School, Visakhapatnam)

The SEL workshop greatly expanded my understanding of mindfulness and gave me great understanding of how it can be used and taught to develop students' self-awareness and self-management skills, it gives me a Framework for what I already do. This workshop was beautifully executed to bring together Research and practice. It also helped me in providing self-interventions for my wandering minds and to be more and more controlled. SEL skills make us better people at home, at school, in our community and in the workplace. Overall the workshop was a roller coaster ride with more fun and at times emotional.

Mounica (Teacher, Ramakrishna Mission High School, Visakhapatnam)

HSLP is the best platform for the 9th grade students as it boost up the children in all ways and also making them learn different sort of things by the very highly qualified and professional speakers. We (our school) as a part of this HSLP feel so much beneficial for choosing our students also to be a part of this. By HSLP, students can learn their academic subjects and also the life subjects such as Active participation, Leadership skills, listening skills, and a lot more.

Triveni and Nikitha (Students, Class X Ramakrishna Mission High School Visakhapatnam)

We consider ourselves very lucky to have these wonderful Entrepreneurship Bootcamp sessions and the other precious thing is that we learnt so many creative plans and ideas from these sessions. Many thanks to Ramya and Salome madam. From these sessions we build up our confidence levels and communication skills. We actually, were afraid during the starting days of these sessions to communicate but later we were inspired a lot and completely lost our fear and understood the meaning of our capability by competing with others.

Goals 2023

Arunodaya (Sunrise) for Blind Children Program

- Bring the program to at least 111 children who would complete one year; we hope to accomplish by enrolling at least 120 children by the end of the year.
- Improve the ongoing implementation and increase the outreach across India and beyond.
- Build more partnerships and collaboration with both governmental and non-governmental organizations.
- Facilitate capacity building training for the government schoolteachers and management teams. Integrate Active Learning Methodologies in the training modules.
- Invite external audits of the program impact.

High School Leadership Program

- Focus on student-led events to encourage development of leadership, communication and entrepreneurial skills.
- Create the EKAF Alumni directory "Horizon Alumna."
- Support activity-based learning incorporating Active Learning pedagogy.
- Expand Competitions, Project Works and Bootcamp activities.
- Nurture cross-cultural learning among the students.
- Integrate Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) into our session plans.

Train the Trainers Program

- Partner with local organizations and businesses to provide more support.
- Offer additional courses and workshops for the trainers.
- Encourage alumni of the program to become involved as trainers, volunteers, or mentors to create a sustainable model for the program's success and continued growth.
- Evaluate and adapt the program's activities and curriculum to ensure it remains relevant and effective in meeting the needs of the students and community.
- Collaborate with other education initiatives in the region to share resources and knowledge, and create a collective impact on education and development in the area.

Active Learning Program

- The training will be provided to the teachers and the students engaged in the program.
- The students will become the active learners and leaders in the society.
- Take the program to 6 schools connected with College of Education, Coimbatore.
- Set up an institutional studio at the College of Education, Coimbatore to produce high quality content for ALP as well as Arunodaya Program.

OUR WORK VIS-À-VIS UN'S SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Sustainable Development Goal 3: Good Health and Wellbeing

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

PUBLIC HEALTH CAMPS AND
PUBLIC HEALTH EDUCATION



Sustainable Development Goal 4: Quality Education

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

HIGH-QUALITY AND
DEMOCRATIZED EDUCATION



Sustainable Development Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

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

SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND
UPSKILLING INITIATIVES



Sustainable Development Goal 10: Reduced Inequalities

Our vision is "Education for All." Our programs are aimed at creating inclusivity. Our Arunodaya (Sunrise) Program for Blind Children symbolizes Equity, Inclusivity, and Leadership.

INCLUSION AND LEADERSHIP



Sustainable Development Goal 17: Partnership for the Goals

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

COLLABORATIONS FOR GOOD



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