

Quarterly Report

July - September 2023



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Introduction

About the Ek Kadam Aur Foundation

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

Vision

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

Mission

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

Our Values



Growth



Respect



Inclusion



Teamwork

Our Programs

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

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

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

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

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

Key Highlights

In Uttar Pradesh, under the Arunodaya (Sunrise) for Blind Program, we have 44 children in 3 districts: Auraiya, Kannauj and Gazipur. Out of them 19 children in Auraiya have been successfully assimilated in their nearby schools.

01

We are excited to share that 85% of children learned the Hindi alphabet, and 68% learned the English alphabet under Chhattisgarh's Arunodaya (Sunrise) for Blind Program.

02

In the Birbhum district of West Bengal, we signed an MoU with Sri Ramkrishna Satyananda Drishtideep Sikshaniketan School, where a special educator from our program will teach six children, and those children will stay in the school's hostel.

03

Wait is over! We are all set to organize a world conference on "Prevention and Treatment of Visual Challenges, and Educating Children and Adults with Blindness" in October 30 and 31st in New Delhi.

04



Message from the President



Dear Friends,

As we stride through the seventh year of our unwavering dedication, our primary mission remains the reduction of educational inequalities among children originating from rural areas. In parallel, our relentless pursuit of ensuring universal access to quality education endures. We take great satisfaction in presenting this report, offering a comprehensive overview of our accomplishments during the third quarter of 2023.

Throughout this period, the Arunodaya (Sunrise) for Blind Program continued to make substantial strides, accomplishing remarkable progress, and achieving significant milestones in the states of Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, and West Bengal. With an expanded presence in our four locations, the program has cemented robust partnerships with government officials and local stakeholders. Notably, we are gearing up to host our inaugural Global Conference on Preventing and Treating Visual Challenges, as well as Educating Children and Adults with Visual Impairments. This event delves into the scientific, educational, and social aspects of these challenges.

The Arunodaya (Sunrise) for Blind Program maintains an unwavering commitment to delivering steadfast support and quality education to visually challenged children across the expanse of India. Shifting our focus to our other flagship initiatives, such as the High School Leadership Program, the Train the Trainers Program for Elementary Schools, and the Active Learning Program, we take immense pride in observing their continued success in engaging an ever-expanding number of young students and transformative individuals.

The High School Leadership Program, in addition to its regular sessions, has accomplished the successful execution of the I-Search Project, themed around Sustainability for the year. Within the framework of the Active Learning Program, Ek Kadam Aur has forged invaluable partnerships with the Sri Ramakrishna Mission College of Education in Coimbatore, as well as The Avenues World School in São Paulo.

Furthermore, we have had the privilege of collaborating with two exceptional high school students who represent the United States, India, and Nepal as part of our Ambassadors of Change initiative, which is integral to our Nurturing Youth Leaders Program.

Our heartfelt gratitude extends to the dedicated teachers of the Arunodaya (Sunrise) for Blind Program, our esteemed board of directors, advisory board members, committed team associates, enthusiastic volunteers, invaluable stakeholders, supportive corporate partners, and compassionate individual supporters. Your unwavering guidance and steadfast contributions serve as the bedrock of our endeavors. With your unwavering support, the Ek Kadam Aur Foundation remains steadfast in its commitment to extending its horizons and working diligently to effect positive change through the transformative power of inclusive education.

With profound appreciation and heartfelt thanks, Warm Regards.

Dr. Satish Tripathi (Founder/President)

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Arunodaya (Sunrise) for Blind Program

Key Highlights of the Program

This quarter, the Arunodaya (Sunrise) for Blind program brought education to the doorsteps of children with blindness with the help of 26 special educators and 71 mentors. With the addition of 9 new students, our program now educates 163 blind children in four different states in India.



Uttar Pradesh

From the third quarter, each child will be assigned a personal mentor who will visit their home to teach them fundamental literacy and numeracy skills, orientation and mobility skills, and sensory skills. These lessons will be conducted for two hours a day, six days a week. The objective behind providing this specialized assistance is to boost the children's confidence in particularly new environments. school. We intend to instill in them a love for learning and equip them with the necessary knowledge to excel in mainstream schooling in the future.

Special Educators' Training:

A workshop had been conducted for the special educators of the program to guide them on how they can start visually impaired children's assimilation in nearby schools, and, effectively they were provided with the set of activities that need to be done in the schools.





Election of School Captains:

A captain has been elected in each school, who is given the role to support the children with blindness in daily school activities like helping them in their studies, and ensuring that any child with visual impairment is not facing any challenges in school.

Weekly Catch Up with Special Educators:

In order to ensure that special educators are able to help children with blindness, our Foundation's experts met with the special educators every week to discuss challenges. In addition to that, we conducted an inclusion survey to find out the specific needs of children in the school.



Madhya Pradesh

During the year's third quarter, the total count of enrolled children reached 27. We celebrated India's Independence Day on August 15th with our children, featuring a heartfelt rendition of the national anthem and various performances, and, with Commissioner Mr. Abhay Varma, IAS as our chief guest.

We believe for a program's success, quality assurance is paramount. So, midline surveys and tests were diligently conducted during the third quarter to assess the program's progress and identify areas needing support. Monthly tests monitor ongoing development and academic performance, guiding personalized instruction. A dedicated team maintains monitoring regular contact with children through weekly calls that are conducted to know the ground reality and problems/challenges faced by the children, parents or mentors, and appropriate measures are taken to resolve them, along with counseling them regarding the importance of education and how important it is to attend the classes regularly.



Chhattisgarh

In the last quarter, the Arunodaya (Sunrise) for Blind Program has had a great impact on the self-improvement of children with visual impairment in Chhattisgarh.

We observed that 68% of the children were able to learn the English alphabet and 85%, the Hindi alphabet, indicating that the program's designed syllabus and teaching methods are successfully imparting essential knowledge and skills. Furthermore, the outcome of assisting kids with embracing readiness connected with their homes is a positive indication of an all-encompassing turn of events.





West Bengal

During the third quarter of 2023, 9 more children have been enrolled in West Bengal out of which 3 children are from and Paschim Bardhaman Purulia District which takes up the count of the total number of children to 48. Further, In the Birbhum district, we signed an MoU with Sri Ramkrishna Sri Satyananda Drishtideep Sikshaniketan School, where a special educator from our program will teach six children, and those children will stay in the school's hostel.

A Fun Fact: Students now love studying, so now they ensure that teachers do not miss the class. They call teachers and ask them to come when teachers are on leave.

Monitoring and Impact Assessment:

Along with the monthly tests, midline surveys and tests were successfully conducted during the third quarter to assess progress and identify areas needing support. Monthly tests monitor the ongoing development and academic performance, guiding personalized instruction. A dedicated monitoring team is assigned to maintain regular contact with the children, special educators, mentors, and guardians, ensuring responsiveness to their needs.

During the third quarter, the children have shown tremendous progress in all areas, i.e., Education, Socialisation, Compensatory Functional Skills, Independence, and Confidence.









Other Notable Engagements

Celebration of 77th Indian Independence Day

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







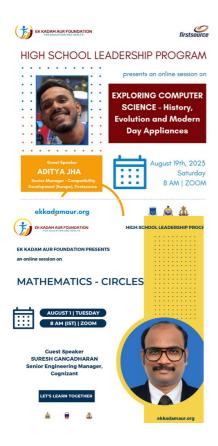
High School Leadership Program

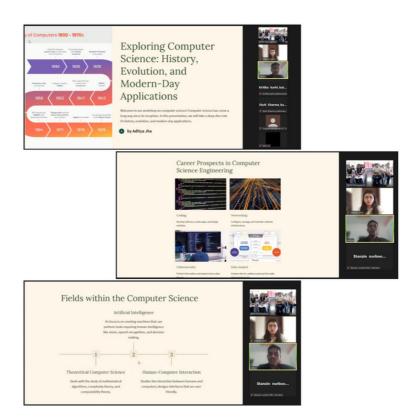
Key Highlights of the Program

During the third quarter of 2023, the High School Leadership Program successfully held 33 sessions for our student beneficiaries from partner schools. These sessions provided a holistic contemporary learning experience, covering various vital topics relevant to students. The sessions were conducted by subject matter experts from around the world, offering students access to in-depth knowledge and empowering them to present themselves effectively and handle different situations.

Program Impact Numbers

- Number of webinars conducted: 33
- Number of mentors: 19
- Number of enrolled students from our partner schools:
 - 1. Lamdon Model Senior Secondary School: 140 students
 - 2. Ramakrishna Mission High School, Vishakapatnam, Andhra Pradesh: 58
 - 3. Ramakrishna Mission High School, Sitanagaram, Andhra Pradesh: 16 students
 - 4. N.K.Singh Memorial English Preparatory School, Kathmandu Nepal: 35





HIGH SCHOOL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM LIST OF SESSIONS (July - September, 2023)

JULY

SI. No.	Topic	Resource Person	Affiliation
1	How to make a Power Point Presentation	Jaya Kumar, Manager, Global Business Services	Cognizant Technology Solutions Limited
2	Rejections: How to recover and move forward	Sarosh Nagar, Undergraduate Student, President	Harvard University & Emerging Technology Group
3	Connections: Making the most of a situation	Sarosh Nagar, Undergraduate Student, President	Harvard University & Emerging Technology Group
4	Emotional Intelligence	Sagaya Sophia, Senior Associate	Cognizant Technology Solutions Limited
5	Circular Economy – Giving Waste a New Life	Muskan Madhok, Volunteer	Ek Kadam Aur Foundation for Education and Health
6	Goal Setting & How to do it well?	Salome John, Head, High School Leadership Program	Ek Kadam Aur - Foundation for Education and Health

SI. No.	Topic	Resource Person	Affiliation
7	Waste Management – Meaning, Types/Methods, Importance, Benefits, and Solutions	Sania Ahmed, Manager, Customer Experience	Firstsource Solutions Limited
8	Circles (Mathematics)	Suresh Gangadharan, Senior Engineering Manager	Cognizant Technology Solutions Limited
	AUGUST		
SI. No.	Topic	Resource Person	Affiliation
9	Mensuration (Mathematics)	Jyoti Swaroop Upadhyay, Senior Software Engineer	CGI
10	Exploring Computer Science - History, Evolution, and Modern-Day Appliances	Aditya Jha, Senior Manager, Capability Development (Europe)	Firstsource Solutions Limited
11	Career Planning – Components & Way Forward	Bhuvaneshwari Sadasivam, Deputy General Manager, Healthcare Transition	Cognizant Technology Solutions Limited
12	Revisiting the Educational Heritage of India	Sahana Singh, Author & Writer	

SEPTEMBER			
SI. No.	Topic	Resource Person	Affiliation
13	Introduction to Website Development and its Frameworks	Dr. Deepak Keynes, Team Lead	Cognizant Technology Solutions Limited
14	E-Waste Management for School	Dr. Harveen Kaur, E -Waste Management Specialist	
15	Statistics (Mathematics)	Anshul Jain, Senior Manager, Data Science	Firstsource Solutions Limited
16	Atoms and Molecules (Part 1)	Jyoti Swaroop Upadhyay, Senior Software Engineer	CGI
17	Role of social media in shaping Public Opinion	Sivasankari Muthappan, Engineering Director	Cognizant Technology Solutions Limited







Highlights of the Program

- In the third quarter, our ongoing collaboration with the Emerging Technology Initiative (ETI), founded by Harvard University undergraduates, continued. ETI conducted two enlightening workshops on Technology and Career Development.
- The 2023 I-Search Project, our third edition, ran from August 30, 2023, to September 30, 2023, fostering self-initiated exploration and project-based learning. This monthlong workshop focused on sustainability and waste management topics, employing Active Learning pedagogy for 9th-grade students from Ramakrishna Mission High School, Visakhapatnam, and Lamdon Model Senior Secondary School.
- The Public Speaking Project, "SAID Speak, Analyze, Investigate, and Debate," offered
 all students an opportunity to improve their speaking and writing skills, culminating in
 a partnered debate. Aditi also initiated her second project, "Eye to Eye," aimed at
 facilitating the integration of blind peers into visual classrooms through simulation
 activities and written instructions, resulting in transformative learning experiences.
- Independence Day was celebration was an organization-wide celebration here at Ek Kadam Aur. All our team members and stakeholders from the High School Leadership engaged in virtual celebrations with much patriotism and enthusiasm. The event was hosted by our very own students and featured performances from teachers, our partner schools, special guests, and an engaging quiz to mark the occasion.





Train - The Trainer For Primary (Elementary) School Program

Key Highlights of the Program

During the third quarter, Train - The Trainer For Primary (Elementary) School Program continued the dedicated involvement with community changemakers, ensuring education for all children. In Uttar Pradesh, with the support of five trainers in Panhar and Jhawar ka Purva, we are providing education to 160 students. Our comprehensive curriculum covered subjects like Hindi, English, and Mathematics, with classes conducted six days a week. Children enrolled in the program excelled in yoga and dance during this quarter, and participated in various inter-school competitions, winning prizes.

Program Impact Numbers





Active Learning Program

Key Highlights of the Program

The Active Learning Program started officially in July after continuous discussions and meetings for more than a year and a half. The Program focuses on shifting the onus from the teachers to the learners in the Classroom. To achieve the goal of this program, Ek Kadam Aur has partnered with Sri Ramakrishna Mission College of Education, Coimbatore, and The Avenues World School, São Paulo, Brazil.

In this partnership, the teachers from the Avenues School who are leading in adopting the Active Learning Strategies in their classrooms have trained the student teachers from the College of Education in different subjects. Based on the feedback from the Avenues, the lesson plans have been prepared by the participants from the College of Education, and the lesson to middle graders from the Avenues School.

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

Program Impact Numbers



Nurturing Youth Leadership Program

Ambassadors of Change

In the third quarter, our foundation had the privilege of collaborating with eight high school students as our dedicated "Ambassadors of Change" representing the nations of the United States, India, and Nepal. Below, we present the impactful projects they conceived and executed during this period.

Aditi Dey, the United States Ambassador, spearheaded the "SAID" project, which encompassed three sessions focusing on public speaking:

Lesson 1	Types of Speeches & What makes a great speaker?
Lesson 2	How to write a Speech lesson
Lesson 3	Presentation skills
Finale	Debate Project

Aditi also initiated the "Eye to Eye" project, which aims to facilitate the integration of blind students into visual classrooms by creating instructional simulations for sighted peers. Her commitment has provided transformative learning experiences.

Pranav Savla, the Ambassador from India, made significant contributions:

- Collating invaluable ideas for empathy-related activities, particularly benefiting visually impaired children, parents, peers, and teachers, thus supporting our Arunodaya Program.
- Collaborating closely with Aditi on the "Eye to Eye" project.
- Proposing a Collaborative Creativity Workshop within the High School Leadership Program, dedicated to computer science, content creation, and presentation skills. His unique perspective as a person blind since birth greatly influences our Arunodaya for Blind Children Program, promoting inclusivity and empathy.

Swaraj Karna, the Ambassador from Nepal, organized a session on Blogging and Vlogging, providing students an opportunity to work on projects while showcasing their content creation skills.

Anusuiya Bhorkar, an Ambassador from the United States, conducted a session on Stephen Covey's 'Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens.' This session enabled students to identify habits that are beneficial during their teenage years, ultimately enhancing their efficiency and personal growth.

Esha Bennet and **Eva Bennet** successfully worked on the "I-Search Project," with a focus on sustainability and waste management for the current year.

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





Testimonials



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

Thinlas Dolma, HSLP Student, Lamdon Model Senior Secondary School, Leh Ladakh, Class 9 Hello! My name is Sonal Jogi, the mentor of Jai Kumar Sonwani, a visually impaired student under the Arunodaya Program. I'm really grateful to the Foundation for giving me such an wonderful opportunity like this, and I'll always make an effort to provide my all for students like Jai.

Saloni Jogi, Jai Kumar Sonwani's Mentor, Arunodaya (Sunrise) for Blind Program



Anjana Didi is my mentor, and learning with her has been a wonderful experience. She's taught me how to count money, use a cane for walking, and English. My dream is to become a teacher when I grow up.

> Abhishek, Student of Arunodaya (Sunrise) for Blind Program, Madhya Pradesh



I joined the Arunodaya Program in 2022, and it has been amazing. I have learned Abacus, Braille, and Taylor frame. I have made new friends who like the same things I do. I want to be a bank manager. Arunodaya is helping me reach my dreams.

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



We thank you for your continued support!

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