



PROJECT BRIDGING THE GAP

LEVEL 1
Progress Report

DUMDUM SARVODAYA
BALIKA VIDYAPITH,
WEST BENGAL

2023



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ABOUT US



Educhange Foundation is a not-for-profit organization and resource center to advocate for play-based education among children and young adults. We use a play-based learning (PBL) model to transform the learning environment for children and bring play into the classrooms. We aim to foster holistic learning and capacity building through carefully curated learning projects that blend local cultures, arts, and language, to encourage sustainable learning. Our projects and programs pan across semi-urban, rural and urban spaces where we train educators, teachers, and facilitators in delivering play-based learning among children coming from various socio-economic and cultural backgrounds

VISION

To create holistic and inclusive learning environments for children and young adults through play-based experiential learning methods.

MISSION

To enable children and young adults with skills, competencies and know-how of holistic learning through play-based experiential methods of education.

FOCUS AREAS



FOUNDER'S DESK



'Like a young sapling, every child needs the right environment to grow!' We can come together to provide them that!'

Manjir Ghosh



Manjir Ghosh is the Founder and Director of Educhange, a social-impact organization that aims to foster holistic growth among children. She has over 30 years of experience in school administration, curriculum development, teachers' training, and children's interactive and learning workshops.

She has extensive experience working with NGOs such as Terre des Hommes, Kolkata Urban Service for the Poor(KUSP), IPER, Sanlaap, and Kolkata Sanved. She has held leadership positions at Ashok Hall Group of Schools, Delhi Public School, and Usha Martin Schools.



12,000+

Children reached

40

Schools involved

12

NGOs and Shelter
Homes impacted

2

**Years of
Educhange**

PROJECT BRIDGING THE GAP



With Project Bridging the Gap, **Educhange Foundation** aims to develop spoken English skills among the students of Bengali medium Government schools in West Bengal, within 6 months. We provide a holistic approach and a unique PBL(play-based learning) model of training children to gain communicative English skills to help amplify the 3 C's in each student: Comprehension, Communication, and Confidence to address and bridge the existing gaps in opportunities, accessibility and the ability to communicate.

We have successfully conducted a Level 1 6-month (April 2023-October 2023) pilot project with a batch of 25 students at **Dumdum Sarvodaya Balika Vidyapith**, Kolkata, West Bengal. The findings of the project are to be discussed further in this report.

PROJECT BRIDGING THE GAP

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

Project Bridging The Gap has three main objectives:

- The students overcome shyness due to the lack of communication skills in English.
- The students develop confidence and gain job-ready skills like communication and presentation.
- The students enhance personal expressions and develop vocabulary in English speaking.



Educhange aims to equip government and low-resource private schools in semi-urban and rural areas of West Bengal with an alternative, PBL (play-based learning) learning system to inculcate interest, engagement, and meaningful exchange of thoughts and values among students. The aim of the organization is to bring a child back to school after the COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns and invoke joy through an active and engaging learning environment. All jobs in the 21st century require English knowledge for carrying out even basic event coordination, presentation, and email writing. Our communicative courses at semi-urban and rural schools would strengthen their capacity building in order to develop job-ready skills.

PROJECT BRIDGING THE GAP



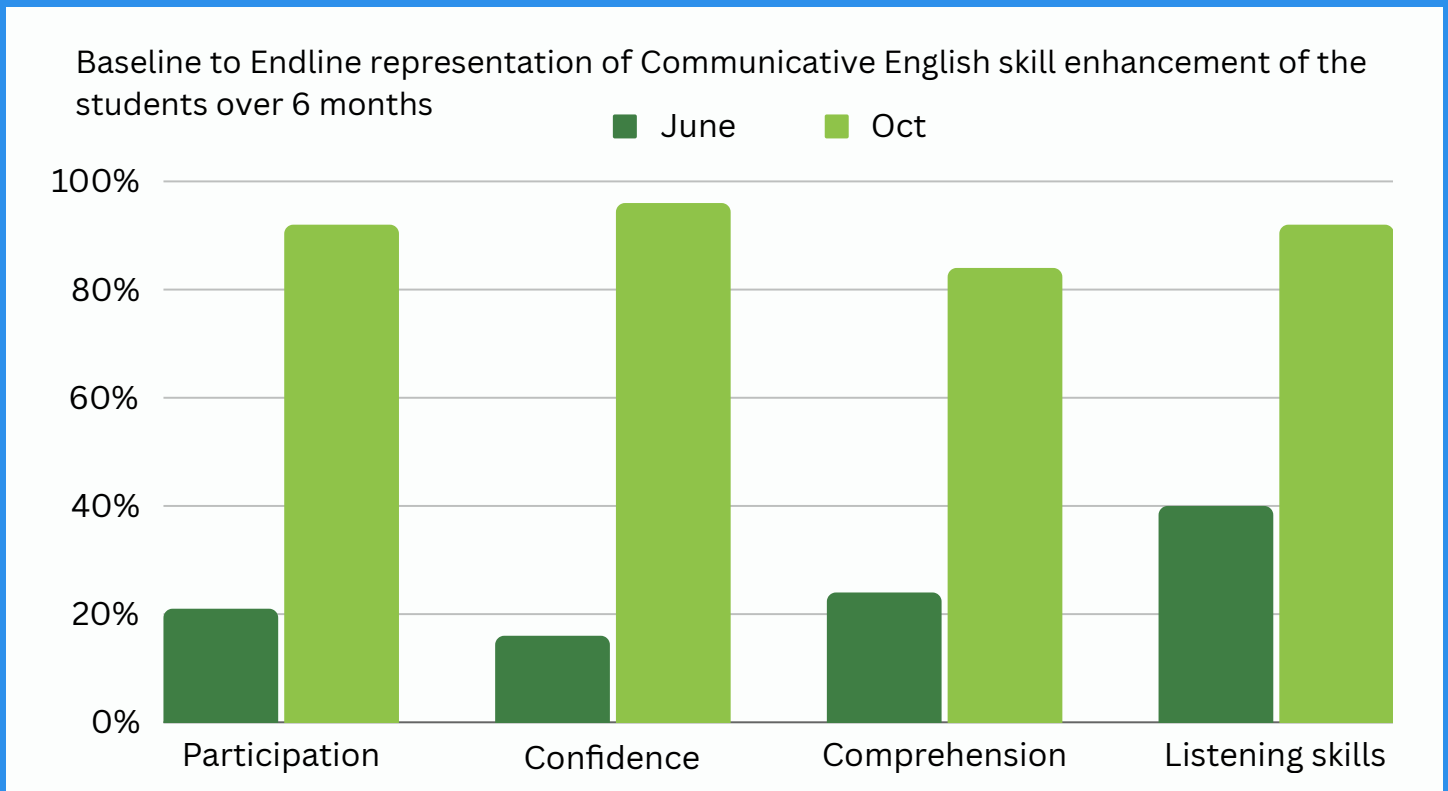
METHODOLOGY

The program engages students in a range of PBL (play-based learning) interactions like games, listening to the radio, news content, poems and music, skits, picture cards and object identification, site visits and watching movies which induce students' interest, in not only the knowledge but also the rhythm of the language.

Through the specially curated, unique lesson plans emphasizing on hands-on experiential activities students deeply engage with the course and form a connection to the language they are learning.

PROJECT FINDINGS

Over the past 6 months (May 2023 to October 2023), we have recorded the progress of the batch of 25 students in Dumdum Sarvodaya Balika Vidyapith who have taken our course on Communicative English and here is the result that we have received at a glance:





EVALUATION

The Communicative English Project titled 'Bridging the Gap' evaluation process was conducted in a highly experiential and blended format. During the project implementation period of 6 months 100% of the students engaged with the Facilitator and were able to take interest and participate in the learning process.

Through group discussions, focus group processes and presentations, the students were able to communicate in English. We were also able to map and observe the rise in their confidence levels in relation to learning a new language.

The final evaluation was conducted through a English Language skit that all the students performed in front of their parents, teachers and peers.

We, at Educhange believe learning is a continuous process and we were able to learn as much from the students during our project with them. We are in the process of formulating a Level 2 of this project to continue this successful pilot going forward.

OUR JOURNEY



BRIDGING THE GAP

Testimonials

I love these communicative English classes that are held in our school. I attend all the classes because it is so fun to learn English in this way. I find it to be very interesting.

Student



BRIDGING THE GAP

Testimonials

My English is getting so much better than what it used to be since the time I first started attending these classes. I am trying to speak English on my own nowadays.

Student



BRIDGING THE GAP

Testimonials

I have learnt so many new words in English from these classes. I don't feel like missing a single class. My most favorite part about these classes is listening to songs, poems I also love the new didis who come to teach us English.

Student



BRIDGING THE GAP

Testimonials

I have now started speaking outside the English class in front of my other teachers. These classes have helped to boost my courage and made learning English so much fun and interesting. I want to learn more and more.

Student



BRIDGING THE GAP

Testimonials

It is a surprise for us how within 6 months our students have gained so much confidence! They have developed smartness not only about approaching English as a language but in their other classes and programs in school.

Ms. Titi,
teacher.



BRIDGING THE GAP

Testimonials

The students used to be hesitant and shy and now they are heard trying to communicate in English in their classes and corridors which is a huge progress for us! We thank Educhange for their hardwork and effort and doing so much for our girls!

Ms. Parijat,
teacher.

MOVING FORWARD



01 Further development of the course

After the successful completion of Level 1 of the course and a remarkable improvement of the student's communicative skills and confidence, the teachers have shown eagerness to continue with Level 2 of our 6 month course Bridging The Gap at Dumdum Sarvodaya Balika Vidyapith, which will begin from January 2024. It will focus on an advance level of grasping the English Language where the focus will be on speaking and reading skills.

02 Replication of the course

After the successful completion of Level 1 of Bridging The Gap: Communicative English course as a pilot project at Dumdum Sarvodaya Balika Vidyapith, other schools have shown interest in our program. We plan to begin our course in 3 other schools from January 2024.

03 Interschool presentations

Several schools, which are engaging in this course will come together to present, exchange ideas in one platform. This will create exposure, self-help opportunities, a familiarity with participating outside schools, build communities.



Those responsible for **concept and coordination**

NAMES OF EDUCHANGE FACILITATORS WHO CONDUCTED THE CLASSES

- Shivamrita Chakraborty, Sharanya Chakraborty, Rupsha Sen, Ruchira Mukherjee.

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We thank you for your continued support in our efforts.

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