



Educhange

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024





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ABOUT EDUCHANGE

Saltlake Educhange Foundation is a Section 8 not-for-profit organization based in Kolkata, West Bengal, dedicated to revolutionizing education through the innovative ‘Curriculum through Co-curricular’ approach. Our mission is to empower every child to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally by bringing play into the classroom.

We develop and deliver immersive projects and programs that address learning gaps, and declining reading habits and ensure comprehensive learning by partnering with educational institutions, child homes, and under-resourced government and private schools in rural, urban, and semi-urban areas.

Our unique “Curriculum through Co-Curricular” approach, developed by our Founder and Director, Manjir Ghosh, over 30+ years, has proven to significantly enhance children’s reading levels, comprehension, critical thinking, and academic performance. What sets us apart is our participatory and experiential approach to teacher training, module development, and fostering a holistic learning experience for all stakeholders.

At Educhange, we are passionate about making reading and learning joyful and empowering every child to thrive and succeed holistically.

FROM THE FOUNDER'S DESK

Let us nurture the dream of creating thoughtful and empathetic minds through reading, joyful learning and friendship with the environment!

Educhange believes in direct interaction with children, parents, teachers and systems of practice to understand need, and take forward child development and growth.

We as Educhange want to create a positive learning environment for growing humans and learn with them. Reflecting on this year of trial, tests, analysis, and implementation, I am filled with gratitude, joy and learning. I and my team look forward to building environments of learning and joy for all children, one step at a time in the years ahead.



Manjir Ghosh

MISSION

To foster holistic learning in children's educational and learning environments through a unique "Curriculum through Co-curricular method."

VISION

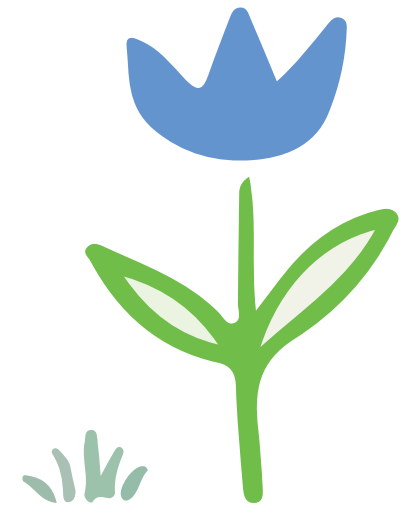
To ensure that every child learns the school curriculum with joy.

VALUES

*Inclusivity, Participation,
Transparency, Empathy*



PROJECTS OVERVIEW

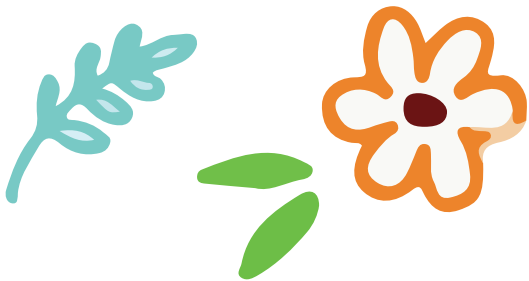


- 1. BOIMON MELA**
- 2. BOOK CLUB**
- 3. BOOK CAMP**
- 4. STORYTELLING**

BOIMON MELA

Educhange Boimon Mela is our flagship fundraising endeavour through which we organize affordable, accessible, and reasonable book fairs in schools with the aim of developing reading habits among children hailing from low-resourced backgrounds. We provide the children access to carefully curated highly innovative, age appropriate and engaging childrens' literature from publishers based across India. This project helps us fundraise for our 'Bridging the Gap' project (teaching Communicative English to underprivileged children) in low resource schools.

IMPACT 55+ schools and over 45,000 students in West Bengal in the last 1 year



LEARNING



Need for Libraries

Our outreach shows 1 in 5 low-income schools lack awareness of book fairs and functional libraries. Boimon Mela has been crucial in introducing these elements. We plan to partner with NGOs and government agencies to create Book Corners and hold Boimon Mela bi-annually, providing diverse books and supporting library development.



Safe Reading Environments

Our project shows that children thrive in safe, uninterrupted reading spaces. Boimon Melas have provided such environments. We plan to introduce pop-up Storytelling Stations, where facilitators read aloud to enhance listening and reading skills.



Engaging Students

In high-income private schools, 1 in 4 hesitated to host book fairs due to concerns about student interest. Boimon Mela has successfully engaged previously disinterested students. We propose pre-fair programs like Book Camps and storytelling sessions to boost enthusiasm and demonstrate the value of book fairs.

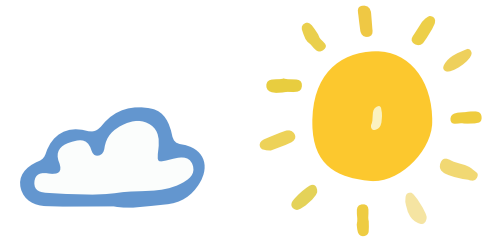


Role of Parents and Teachers

By hosting Boimon Mela during Parent-Teacher Meetings, we foster engagement and encourage book purchases. While some parents hesitate to invest in storybooks, teachers advocate for reading's benefits beyond academics, promoting holistic development.

BOOK CLUB

Educhange Book Club entails a holistic approach and unique art-based learning method of reading books. It promotes love of literature among students' in a positive, playful, and nurturing environment that broadens their horizons about what literature can entail. It aims to improve reading habits and creative confidence among students.



IMPACT

3 schools and 1 centre (120+ students)



LEARNING

Improved Concentration

Initially, 1 in 3 students in grades 3-5 and 1 in 5 in grades 6-9 struggled with focus. Book Club sessions created a relaxed atmosphere, helping students feel more comfortable with reading. We'll continue fostering stress-free spaces to enhance focus and task completion.

Enhanced Imagination and Teamwork

Our Book Clubs boost imagination and critical thinking through engaging reading and art-based activities. With 90% of activities promoting collaboration, students develop teamwork and leadership skills, contributing to improved academic performance

Access to Quality Literature

Many students lack access to age-appropriate reading materials at home and in schools. Weekly Book Clubs introduce good literature and guided reading experiences. We'll collaborate with schools to better utilize libraries and ensure regular access to quality books.

Fostering Empathy and Well-Being

Book Clubs provide a safe space that promotes belonging and mental well-being. Discussions about characters and personal reflections foster empathy, helping students express emotions and support each other, particularly important for teenagers.

STORYTELLING

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IMPACT 3 schools + 1 centre
(120+ students)



LEARNING

Improved Attention and Imagination

Our storytelling sessions enhance students’ attention, active listening, and imagination. By incorporating live music, movement, and theatrics, we create a multisensory experience that boosts comprehension and encourages creative responses.

Overcoming Creative Blocks

Many students struggle with generating original ideas. Storytelling sessions help break down these creative barriers by providing diverse avenues for expression. Students develop storytelling, storyboarding, and presentation skills, often sharing their own stories or songs inspired by the sessions.

BOOK CAMP

Educhange organizes Book Camps as a unique program designed to promote a passion for reading among students while encouraging creativity and imagination through interactive activities. Organized within schools, the camp provides students with practical, hands-on experiences related to book reading. Through various activities, competitions, and workshops, students engage actively with literature, exploring new ideas and creative expression.

IMPACT 100 students



LEARNING

Challenges in Introducing Book Camps

Introducing Book Camps in schools has been challenging due to their unconventional, low-touch nature, combining reading with co-curricular activities. Despite initial hesitance, schools are increasingly interested. To address this, we will provide detailed pre-event orientations for teachers and administrators, featuring testimonials and tailored activity proposals to highlight the benefits.

Book Camps as a Reading Gateway

A 1-day Book Camp offers students interactive reading and artistic activities in a welcoming environment, fostering a love for reading. To sustain this momentum, we will implement structured follow-up activities and provide take-home materials, like reading prompts and art kits, to ensure lasting impact on students’ reading habits.

PROGRAMS OVERVIEW



1. ONE AT A TIME:

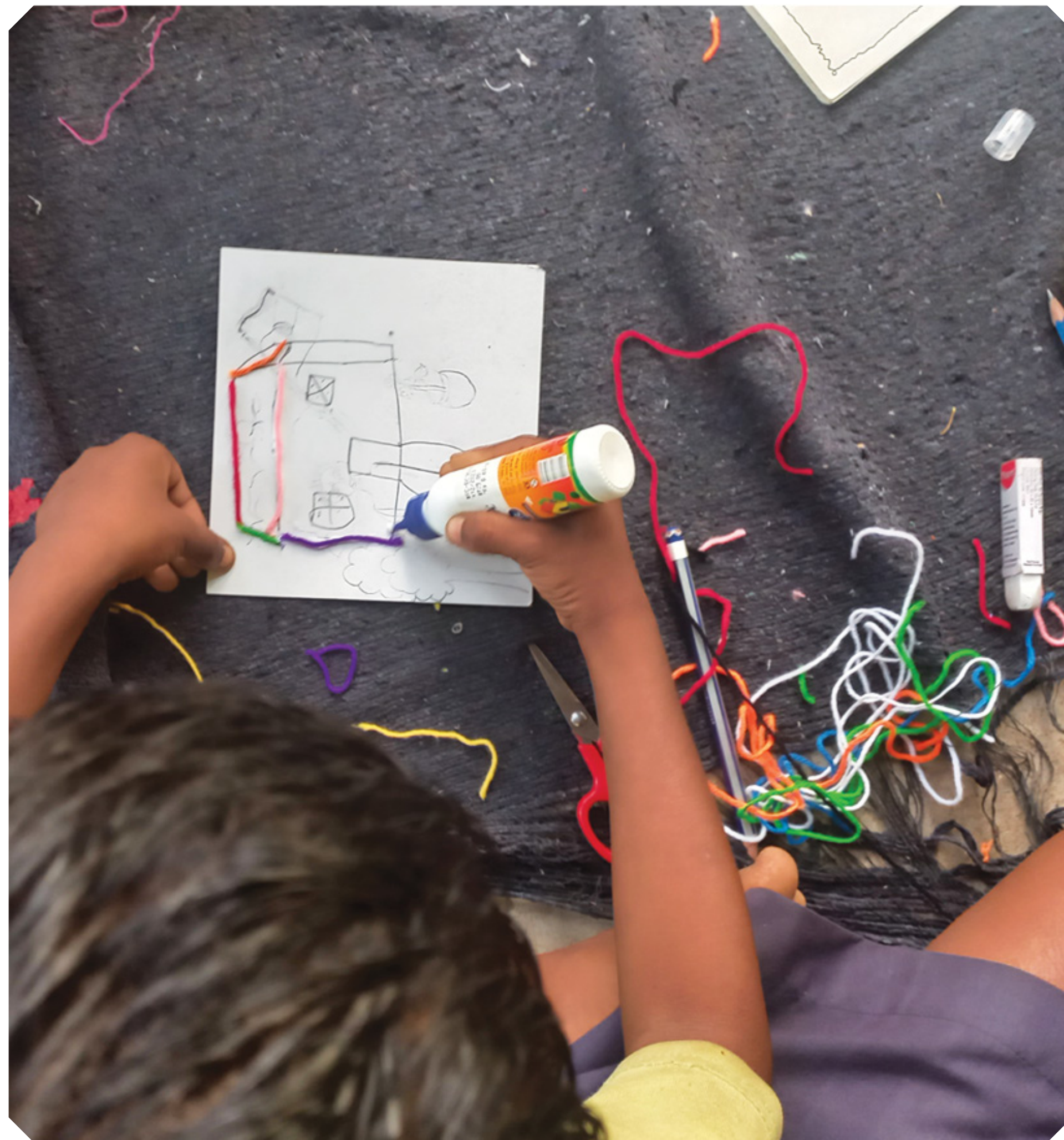
**RE-BUILDING SCHOOL SYSTEMS IN
WEST BENGAL AFTER COVID-19**

**DUMDUM SARVODAYA
BALIKA VIDYAPITH**

2. 'ANONDOMON' INITIATIVE:

LEARNING CURRICULUM WITH JOY

**SIDO KANHU MISSION,
ARSHA, PURULIA**



ONE AT A TIME

DUMDUM SARVODAYA BALIKA VIDYAPITH



One at a Time: Re-Building School Systems in West Bengal after COVID19 is Educhange Foundation's flagship adoption program. Through this initiative, the organization adopts 1 government and low-resourced school in West Bengal each year and through intensive intervention rebuilds its educational and academic infrastructure in a holistic and sustainable manner.

This year, Educhange adopted 'Dumdum Sarvodaya Balika Vidyapith' located near Nagerbazar, Dumdum, Kolkata in West Bengal in April 2024.

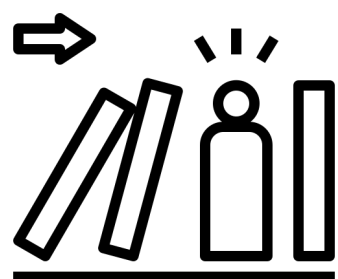
We had conducted an online fundraising campaign on the platform Milaap and with your generous contributions and support we were able to accumulate a sum of almost One Lakh which helped us kick-start the program. We also have Educhange Circles consisting of individual donors who support specific projects and courses like Bridging The Gap:Communicative English. We would also like to mention Sahay Foundation for being a constant source of support and funding our Special Maths Classes.

BACKGROUND

Dumdum Sarvodaya Balika Vidyapith was established in 1957 and experienced its peak in 1997, celebrating an enrollment of 700 students. The students were diligent, excelling in both academics and co-curricular activities, including sports. They even participated in district-level competitions, showcasing their abilities and bringing recognition to the school. However, the school's fortunes started to decline around 2010, and the situation worsened during the COVID-19 lockdowns. The school faced a significant number of student dropouts due

to relocations and economic challenges amid the pandemic. Currently, the official enrollment stands at 200 students, but only around 50 students attend classes regularly. Despite these challenges, Dumdum Sarvodaya Balika Vidyapith remains committed to providing education to its dedicated students. The school administration and staff are diligently working to rebuild the school's reputation and regain its former standing. We aim to bring all the 200 enrolled students back to the school!





OUR INTERVENTION

Support Classes: Expert-led maths and science classes for class 10 exam preparation.

Communicative English: Course for class 5-9 students to enhance language skills and confidence.

Book Corner: Space with 150 donated books to promote reading habits.

Storytelling Sessions: Weekly discussions using Book Corner resources to enhance reading skills.

Science Lab Development: Building a lab for hands-on learning and experiments.

Computer Lab: Establishing a lab to improve digital literacy.

Kitchen Garden: Creating a garden for biological learning and sustainable practices.

Educational Events: Organizing curriculum-linked events and field visits.

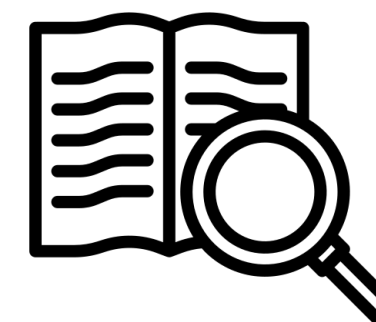
Physical Skill Workshops: Conducting Kalaripayattu workshops for physical development.

Infrastructure Development: Enhancing classrooms with soft boards and plans for whitewashing.

Teaching Materials: Supplying teaching aids to enhance learning.

Teacher Workshops: Monthly sessions to improve teaching methods.

Home Visits: Engaging parents about the importance of school attendance.



LEARNING

Infrastructure Renovation:

Significant renovations are needed to create an inviting school environment that encourages regular attendance and interactive learning.

Comprehensive Assessments:

Students often rely on memorization for assessments. We are introducing creative and analytical approaches to promote critical thinking and application of knowledge.

Faculty Training on NEP 2020:

We are conducting regular workshops to help teachers understand and implement NEP 2020 strategies, focusing on multidisciplinary approaches and skill-based education.

Student-Led Initiatives:

Introducing student-led activities, like a library and events, empowers students, boosts confidence, and fosters leadership and teamwork.

Career Guidance:

Regular workshops on educational benefits and career opportunities help combat absenteeism and dropout rates, improving attendance and motivation to complete schooling.

ANONDOMON INITIATIVE

SIDO KANHU MISSION

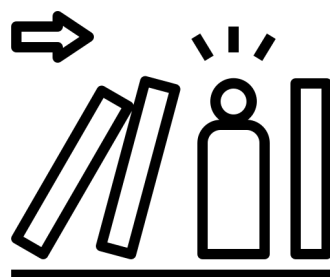


As a part of Anondomon initiative, Educhange has been closely working with the 50 children at Sido Kanhu Mission since April 2024, to ensure holistic development at their home, following the 'Curriculum through Co-curriculum' method. Educhange strives to empower them with the necessary skills, exposure, resources, and knowledge to succeed in various aspects of their lives as adults and become contributing members of society.

BACKGROUND

Sido Kanhu Mission, located at a quaint village in Arsha, Purulia, homes more than 50 children who are either orphaned, abandoned, or have a broken family. Led by Naren Hansda, a local hero, has organized all the children under one roof through his heartfelt rendition of jhumur songs, which not only uplifts their spirits but also serves as a means to sustain their needs. Through the concerted efforts of this close-knit community, the children have been successfully enrolled in nearby government schools, where they attend classes regularly but lack proper learning resources, exposure, and guidance for better educational outcomes.





OUR INTERVENTION

Communicative English Course:

Enhances reading, writing, and speaking skills for class 5-9 students, boosting confidence for higher education.

Book Corner Development: Established with ₹15,000 worth of donated age-appropriate literature to promote reading habits.

Interactive Storytelling Sessions: For grades 1-4, using Book Corner resources to improve listening, vocabulary, and comprehension through arts-based activities.

Theatre Workshops: Foster creativity and presentation skills by integrating school syllabus texts.

Dance Movement Workshops: Develop emotional regulation and motor skills through movement, interpreting syllabus texts.

Folk and Contemporary Music Classes:

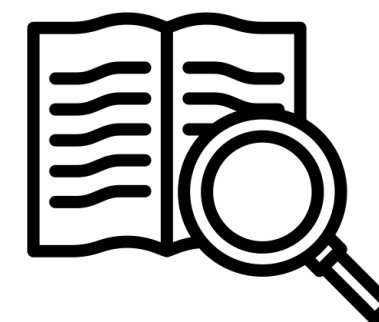
Expose students to cultural traditions and enhance listening skills with diverse music, including English songs.

Math Support Classes: Strengthen math foundations with doubt-clearing sessions and problem-solving guidance.

Nature Trails and Environmental Workshops:

Utilize local surroundings to teach environmental awareness and nature-based education.

Film Screenings: Enhance comprehension and critical thinking through diverse narratives and global perspectives.



LEARNING

Overcoming Language Barriers:

About 90% of our students speak Santhali or Munda at home, while Bengali is the school language. This disconnect affects their learning. Our “Curriculum Through Co-curricular” approach uses art, movement, and games to make lessons relatable. Support classes also help students understand instructions, enhancing their learning outcomes.

Improving Learning Outcomes:

While students have basic reading skills, comprehension is often weak. Our experiential learning techniques involve hands-on activities and storytelling, fostering connections between reading and real life. This deepens understanding and cultivates a love for learning beyond memorization.

Sustainable Community Development:

Limited higher education options leave students uncertain about their futures. We provide tutoring and resources for senior students to complete their degrees, equipping them with vocational skills, digital literacy, and social skills. By encouraging a mentoring culture, we promote community development and empower students for personal and communal growth.

WAY FORWARD

Launching Our Website: We are excited to launch our official website, which will serve as a platform to share our resources, updates, and achievements. It will also provide parents, teachers, and educational institutions with easy access to our programs, events, and publications.

Publishing Children's Books: We plan to expand our publication wing of publishing contemporary children's literature in the next year and after. These books will be designed to promote literacy, local and cultural awareness, will be affordable, and foster love of reading among children.

Expanding Book Club, Book Camp, and Storytelling Sessions: We aim to extend the reach of our Book Club, Book Camp, and Storytelling sessions into more schools across

the region in order to create impact among thousands of children. These programs have proven successful in cultivating creativity, improving reading skills, and fostering critical thinking, and we are committed to bringing these experiences to a wider audience of students.

Developing the Infrastructure of Sarvodaya: By next year, we plan to further develop the infrastructure of Dumdum Sarvodaya Balika Vidyapith, enhancing its facilities to create a more conducive learning environment. This includes building sustainable, child-friendly spaces that incorporate learning tools and support the holistic growth of students.

TESTIMONIALS

"This is a miracle! We had no idea that children love books so much. Usually, they are most reluctant about reading their school books but today they have been reading nonstop at the Boimon Mela!"-

Sudhir Chatterjee, Headmaster,
Janakalyan Siksha Mandir

"I am enjoying the book clubs a lot. My favourite part of it was reading adventure books and drawing maps and doing treasure hunt. This is so different from my other classes and I have read more and more books this year from last year!"

Gourav Das, Class 6, DPS Howrah

"The session was a huge exposure to the students for making them realise that they are the power house of talents. I didn't realise that our students were capable of imagining so much!"-

Teacher, The Narayana School, Sodepur.

"I wait for Friday all week because we have Book Clubs on Friday! The Book Club sessions are like therapy for me, with no pressure for a change!"

Ribha Ganguly, Class 9, DPS Howrah.





Educhange

SALT LAKE EDUCCHANGE FOUNDATION

9830057087

educange2022@gmail.com