

Muktangan : Learning and Growing Together

Education is a powerful catalyst for change, and Muktangan is at the forefront of revolutionizing the education landscape in India. With a holistic approach that integrates teacher education and school practices, Muktangan is empowering communities and creating a positive impact in the lives of students. Founded by Elizabeth Mehta, Muktangan's innovative model emphasizes community engagement, research-based pedagogy, and strategic partnerships to bridge gaps in the education system. By empowering teachers and fostering a harmonious learning environment, Muktangan is setting a remarkable example of how education can be transformed for a brighter future.

VKRCE Trust, Tamil Nadu

In today's rapidly evolving world, access to quality education has become a fundamental necessity for individuals to thrive. However, many students in rural areas of Tamil Nadu, India, face significant barriers to obtaining a proper education. VKRCE Trust, a public charitable trust founded by Mr. KrishnaN, is working tirelessly to bridge the educational divide by leveraging virtual learning platforms. Through their innovative approach, the trust aims to provide underprivileged students with equal opportunities to excel academically, regardless of their socio-economic background. By focusing on mathematics and utilizing technology, VKRCE Trust is revolutionizing education in rural India and empowering the next generation of learners.

Learn more about these stories on page number 2 & 3.

Overcoming Challenges

Building a Sustainable Future for NGOs in India

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) play a crucial role in India's development and social progress, but they face several challenges in implementing their community development programs effectively. A recent study has highlighted some of the critical challenges that NGOs in India face and provided recommendations to address them.

One of the biggest challenges faced by NGOs in India is financial dependence. According to the study, 12% of respondents cited this as the main drawback. NGOs struggle to raise funds from government agencies and financial institutions, and the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act 2010 (FCRA) makes it difficult for newly established NGOs to get funds from foreign funding agencies. This financial challenge has a direct impact on the sustainability of NGOs.

Another significant challenge for NGOs is related to human resources. Due to the short-term nature of projects, HR capacity building is not given enough priority. NGOs struggle to retain employees due to their inability to provide good incentives and attractive benefits. Inadequate HR management activities also contribute to this problem.

In addition to these challenges, NGOs in India also face administrative difficulties, such as poor governance, lack of strategic planning, and ineffective networking and communication systems. Interference by political parties in day-to-day activities, lack of cultural understanding about the communities NGOs work with, and the enormous requirements of poor or underserved people.

The study suggests that the Indian government should take steps to address these issues. It recommends liberalizing rules and regulations governing grants-in-aid and sanctioning adequate grants based on the requirements of NGOs. The government should also provide proper guidelines related to HR policies and practices. To ensure accountability and prevent misuse of funds and resources, the government should appoint a commission of inquiry or committees to cross-check such activities. Additionally, NGOs could benefit from using the latest technologies for raising funds and improving communication systems.

While NGOs in India face several challenges, there is hope for positive change. By addressing these issues and providing adequate support, NGOs can continue to play a critical role in India's development and social progress. By investing in capacity building, improving financial strategies, and enhancing governance and communication systems, NGOs can overcome the obstacles they face and create a lasting impact on the communities they serve.

*Ref: Problems and Challenges of Non-Governmental Organizations in Pune City, State of Maharashtra, India. Authors: Mohammad Amiri, Behzad Pagheh. August 2019.



Muktangan was honored with the Innovation for India Awards in the field of education. This prestigious recognition highlights the organization's innovative approach to teacher and school education, emphasizing integration and community empowerment.



One of Muktangan's significant achievements is the positive feedback received from parents and guardians of the students enrolled in their schools. The support and appreciation from the community demonstrate the impact Muktangan has on the students' educational journey and overall development.



Muktangan: Revolutionizing Education Through Integration and Empowerment

Education is a powerful tool that has the ability to transform lives and create a brighter future. In the realm of education, Muktangan has emerged as a beacon of hope, revolutionizing the way teachers are trained and schools are run. With a holistic approach that emphasizes integration, empowerment, and community engagement, Muktangan has become a driving force in the education sector in India.

Muktangan's Integrated Model of Teacher and School Education has been on an impressive journey since its inception. Founded by Elizabeth Mehta, a visionary leader, Muktangan has successfully established seven community-based municipal schools that have reached standard 10, marking a significant achievement in their educational journey. The organization offers two specialized courses in early childhood and elementary education, constantly enhancing its pedagogical and leadership learnings through strategic partnerships with both government and non-government organizations.

Muktangan recognized the disconnects within the education system, both in teacher education and school practices. Through meticulous research and innovative thinking, Muktangan developed an integrated model that aims to bridge these gaps. Traditionally, pedagogical processes used in teacher education often differ from those implemented in actual classrooms. Muktangan's solution to this challenge is to provide trainees with regular internships in a network of schools, allowing them to apply the theories taught directly to their classroom experiences. This approach benefits both the trainees and the schools, creating a harmonious and effective learning environment.

At the core of Muktangan's model lies the empowerment of teachers and the communities they serve. Muktangan believes in enabling teachers to identify with the culture and educational aspirations of marginalized communities. As an initiative of the Paragon Charitable Trust, Muktangan has trained seven local women in a meticulously researched pedagogy, empowering them to set up a preschool for 90 children in a local municipal school. Through a Public Private Partnership with the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM), Muktangan established its first primary school, nurturing four batches of students who have, without dropping out, in course of time, successfully cleared their SSC examination with an impressive average mark of 73%. These accomplishments can be attributed to the dedicated community teachers trained by Muktangan.

In 2011, the Dasra-created Giving Circle provided crucial funding for Muktangan's three-year teacher education program aligned with the 2009 National Curriculum Framework. This program was designed to immerse trainees as teachers in the classroom during their second and third years. The grant enabled the development of modules that were pilot-tested on subsequent batches of trainees. The success of these modules led to their presentation to senior educationists and government officials in Delhi, further reinforcing Muktangan's commitment to sharing their learnings and promoting positive change at a systemic level.

Muktangan's integrated model has been recognized for its impact on the education sector in India. It bridges the gap between teacher education and school practices, creating a harmonious learning environment that uplifts both teachers and students. Muktangan sets a shining example for others to follow in their pursuit of a brighter tomorrow.

Follow and support Muktangan's work at <https://muktanganedu.org/>

VKRCE Trust: Bridging the Educational Divide in Rural India through Virtual Learning

Education is a fundamental pillar of societal development, and VKRCE Trust, a public charitable trust founded by Mr. Krishnan, is leading the charge in empowering rural students in Tamil Nadu, India. With a vision to create a virtual school that provides quality education to underprivileged students in their mother tongue, the trust is bridging the educational divide by utilizing technology to make learning accessible. Their focus on mathematics is providing a strong foundation for students to excel in their academic pursuits.

The trust's primary objective is to provide equal access to quality education for students in rural areas who lack resources and opportunities. With a strong emphasis on Tamil medium instruction, VKRCE Trust is working to empower students who cannot afford private tuitions or additional educational resources. Their primary focus is on the subject of Mathematics for grades starting from 6th to 12th. They have already developed a repository of over 1,500 video lessons that cover all the relevant topics in the subject till 8th standard. Their virtual school is reaching government school students, providing them with comprehensive educational content that they can access from the comfort of their own homes. The trust aims to bridge the gap in educational resources and ensure that every student has an equal opportunity to learn and succeed.

***"It's not just about giving them a meal, it's about sitting down with them, listening to their stories, and making them feel like they matter and education is the starting point."* - Mr. Krishnan (Founder, VKRCE Trust)**

One of the significant challenges faced by VKRCE Trust is reaching students in remote villages who lack access to technology and the internet. However, the trust has been working to raise awareness about its virtual school and has created an extensive collection of educational videos in the Tamil language. VKRCE Trust is also working to obtain government support and approval to integrate its content into official channels. Mr. Krishnan recognizes the importance of maintaining recognition for his contributions to ensure accountability and prevent the potential misuse of educational materials.

Although VKRCE Trust is a relatively young organization, it understands the importance of measuring its impact. The trust is working to build a strong foundation by creating sufficient content and reaching students effectively. In due course, metrics for gauging impact will be developed, including tracking the number of students accessing the resources, the improvement in their understanding and academic performance, and feedback from beneficiaries and educators. VKRCE Trust aims to continuously improve its virtual school and ensure that it is making a positive impact on the lives of rural students.

VKRCE Trust, led by Mr. Krishnan, is making a positive difference in the lives of rural students in Tamil Nadu, India. By leveraging technology and focusing on government schools and Tamil medium instruction, the trust is providing equal educational opportunities to underprivileged students. Their comprehensive educational content and virtual school are bridging the gap in educational resources, empowering students, and contributing to the long-term development of society. VKRCE Trust is a shining example of the transformative power of education.

Follow and support VKRCE's work at <https://www.youtube.com/@MathsMadeSweet>



Maths Made Sweet, the captivating YouTube channel by VKRCE Trust, brings a delightful learning experience tailored specifically for Tamil-speaking underprivileged school children.

Join JEET by becoming a member

If you are an NGO, passionate about making an impact in the education sector, we encourage you to join JEET today and become a member of the movement to transform education in India. As a member, you will have the opportunity to work with a network of NGOs, governments, organizations, institutions, and individuals who are deeply committed to promoting quality education for all.

To become a member of JEET, simply scan the QR Code below.

Join us today and let's work together to eliminate educational inequality and promote quality education for all.



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Member organizations of JEET

Vipla Foundation (erstwhile Save the Children India)

www.viplafoundation.org

Activities : Education Initiatives, Skill Development Programs, Community Development

VKRCE Trust

[YouTube@MathsMadeSweet](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvKRCe)

Activities : Education, Digital Video Library, Training.

Ramakrishna Sarada Samiti

www.rkssngo.org

Activities : Education, Women's Empowerment and Health Camps

National Association for the Blind

www.nabindia.org.in

Activities : Prevention of blindness and low vision, Education, Talking books, Braille press, Vocational training, etc.

Bombay Community Public Trust

www.bcpt.org.in

Activities : Educational scholarships, medical relief, development of some training manuals and films, conducting NGO development activities and projects through NGOs

Shree Samarth Vyayam Mandir

<https://ssvmdadar.com/>

Activities : Sports Training & Certification and Yoga

MSP Foundation

<http://www.msp-edu.org/>

Activities : Educating, uplifting and strengthening through schools including the villages of Ambavade and Gursale, in Central Maharashtra.

Muktangan Education Trust

<https://muktanganedu.org/>

Activities : Seven Mumbai Municipal schools Integrated with a Teacher Education Center, Outreach through Collaborative Learning, Research and Advocacy

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Bridging the Skills Gap: Learning from Germany's Dual Education System for India's NEP 2023

As India moves forward with its new National Education Policy (NEP) 2023, there is much to be learned from Germany's dual education system, which has been widely praised for its effectiveness in providing vocational training to students while simultaneously meeting the needs of employers.

The German model combines classroom instruction with practical on-the-job experience, allowing students to gain hands-on experience in their chosen field while receiving theoretical knowledge. This approach has been successful in Germany, where it has helped to reduce youth unemployment and address skill-shortages in key industries.

India has a significant need for a strong vocational education and training system. Historically, the country's education system has been focused on academic education, with vocational training often seen as a less desirable option. However, this has resulted in a significant mismatch between the skills that are being taught in educational institutions and those that are in demand in the labor market.

The NEP 2023 aims to address this issue and provide a more holistic education system. One of the key goals of the NEP 2023 is to promote vocational education and training, with a particular focus on developing skills in emerging industries such as artificial intelligence, robotics, and the Internet of Things.

The German dual education system has the potential to support the goals of the NEP 2023. The emphasis on industry partnerships and practical training could help to ensure that students are learning the skills that are in demand in the labor market. Furthermore, the focus on practical, hands-on training through a mature apprenticeship program could help reduce the stigma attached to vocational education in India.

To implement a dual education system in India, there are several steps that need to be taken. One of the key challenges is the need for a well-developed apprenticeship system. This involves a partnership between educational institutions and industry to provide students with on-the-job training and experience. The German model could provide a useful framework for developing such a system in India.

Another challenge is the need for qualified trainers who can deliver high-quality vocational education and training. India will need to invest in the development of a strong cadre of trainers who are skilled in delivering practical, hands-on training needed by industry besides connecting students with the classroom syllabus.

The German dual education system provides a valuable example for India as it seeks to develop its vocational education and training system. By emphasizing practical, hands-on training and industry partnerships, India can help to bridge the gap between education and employment and ensure that young people are equipped with the skills they need to succeed in the 21st century workforce. The NEP 2023 offers a unique opportunity for India to take bold steps towards a more inclusive and industry-relevant education system, and the German dual education system could offer a useful framework for achieving this goal.