

## Jnana Prabodhini

In this article, we delve into the transformative journey of Jnana Prabodhini, an educational organization committed to shaping the minds of the future. From its humble beginnings after independence, Jnana Prabodhini has evolved into a beacon of educational innovation and social impact. Focusing on holistic development, the organization not only imparts high-quality education but also instills a sense of social responsibility in its students. From pioneering initiatives in after-school classes to addressing seasonal educational gaps, Jnana Prabodhini's story is one of perseverance, focus, and a relentless commitment to illuminating minds and transforming lives.

## Rishi Valmiki Eco School

In this article, we unveil the unique pedagogical approach of RVES, where education transcends traditional boundaries, weaving together academic excellence, environmental sensitivity, and emotional well-being. As we explore the 360-degree program and the innovative 'VANN' project, we discover how RVES is not merely a school but a transformative haven, fostering a generation of learners equipped with both knowledge and a deep love for the natural world.

Learn more about these stories on page number 3 & 5.

## Unveiling Human Potential: The Impact of Sports, Education, and Achievement

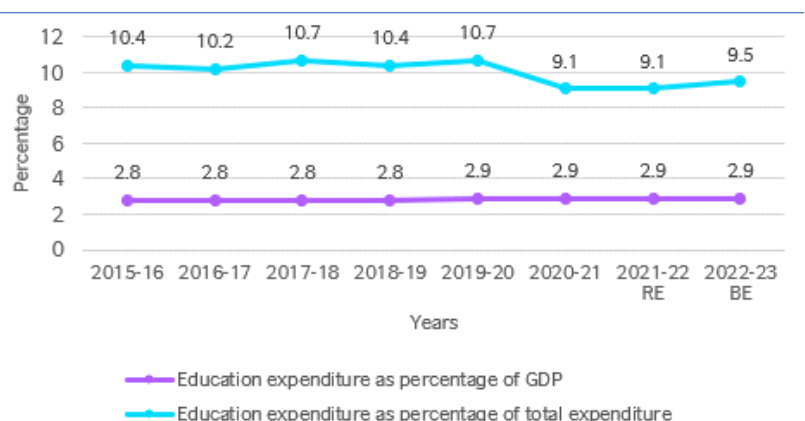
1. Central budget for education should increase progressively and not be stagnant
2. State budgets for education and reforms must be supported by both Centre and States
3. Educational reforms must be made by co-opting parent associations in the endeavor.

### Central Budget for School Education

Under the Constitution of India, education is listed in the concurrent list, which means that both the central government and state governments have the authority to make laws and policies regarding education. According to PRS Legislative Research, In 2023-24, The Department of School Education and Literacy, responsible for school education, has been allocated Rs 68,805 crore (61% of the Ministry's expenditure). Higher education accounted for rest of the budget of Rs.44,095 crores, taking the total on education to Rs.1.13 Lakh crores or One Trillion Rupees.

### Educational Budget of States and Centre

According to India's Economic Survey 2022-23, total education outlay, including both national and state level expenditure, added up to 2.9 per cent of the country's 2022 GDP – a proportion that has remained constant for the last four years. This is much lower than the ambition of India's education budget to be at 6 per cent of GDP set out in the National Education Policy 2020. The proportion of total annual education spending has been around 10 per cent of total government expenditure across all sectors and dropped to below 10 per cent since 2020-21.



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If you are 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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## What about Parents/ Guardians of School going children?

In the complex landscape of Indian education, parents and guardians play a pivotal role in shaping the learning experience of their children. Unlike in some countries where Parent Associations are recognized and actively contribute to educational policymaking, India lacks a formal structure at the national level for parents to voice concerns and engage in meaningful consultations.

In stark contrast to nations like Ireland, where Parent Associations are officially recognized under the Education Act, Indian parents find themselves without a formalized platform to address critical issues affecting their children's education. Recognizing this void, there is an urgent call to establish a National Parent Association in India, a representative body empowered to advocate for the interests and concerns of school children.

The establishment of a National Parent Association is imperative, given the myriad challenges that persist in the realm of school education. Issues such as home schooling, digital literacy, foundational literacy and numeracy standards, and tailored education for differently-abled and mentally challenged children necessitate active parental involvement. By providing parents with a structured platform, we can foster collaboration between educational authorities and the families who are intimately involved in the educational journey of their children.

Crucially, the establishment of a National Parent Association goes beyond a symbolic gesture; it is a strategic move towards achieving the larger goal of making school education accessible and free for all children in India. The provision of free education is not just a financial imperative but a moral and ethical commitment towards eliminating illiteracy and ensuring a brighter future for the nation.

The partnership between the Centre and States is paramount in this endeavor. Initiatives to make education free must be complemented by comprehensive educational reforms, and here is where the role of Parent Associations becomes instrumental. Co-opting parents into the decision-making process ensures a holistic approach to policy formulation, drawing on the invaluable insights and perspectives of those directly involved in the education system.

Home to a significant number of illiterates, India faces the urgent need to revolutionize its education sector. This transformation requires collaborative efforts where parents, educators, and policymakers work hand in hand. The establishment and recognition of a National Parent Association represent a progressive step towards building an inclusive and effective education system.

The absence of formalized Parent Associations at the national level in India is a gap that must be urgently addressed. The creation of a representative body not only provides a voice to parents but also strengthens the partnership between parents and educational authorities. This collaboration is indispensable in addressing the diverse challenges facing school education and in realizing the vision of making education free for all children in the country. It is a call for collective action, where the power of perseverance and focus can lead to transformative changes in India's educational landscape. Only through such collective efforts can India shed the unfortunate distinction of being home to the largest number of illiterates worldwide.

# **The Triumph of Perseverance and Focus: Jnana Prabodhini's Journey of Illuminating Minds and Transforming Lives**

In the post-independence era, as India embarked on the journey of nation-building, Appasaheb Pendse envisioned a pivotal role for education, particularly in the realms of science and technology. What began as a modest initiative of after-school classes soon evolved into a holistic approach to education, with the realization that academic pursuits alone were insufficient to shape well-rounded individuals. This realization led to the affiliation with the CBSE board in 1969, marking the establishment of an institution that aimed not only to impart quality education but also to instill a profound sense of social responsibility in its students.

The early initiatives of Jnana Prabodhini were rooted in the belief that education should go beyond the confines of textbooks and classrooms. The founders recognized that in the process of nation-building, students needed to be actively engaged in social issues. Thus, the curriculum evolved to encompass a broader perspective, focusing on holistic development.

The affiliation with the CBSE board in 1969 was a significant milestone for Jnana Prabodhini. It signified a commitment to providing not just academic excellence but also a more comprehensive educational experience. The emphasis shifted towards nurturing individuals who were not only well-versed in their academic pursuits but were also actively engaged in understanding and addressing societal challenges. This transition laid the groundwork for a curriculum that aimed to create socially aware and responsible citizens.

***“Pre-independence we had people who died for the country. We now need young people who will live for the nation to build it.” - Appasaheb Pendse***

One of the unique challenges that Jnana Prabodhini confronted in the 1990s and early 2000s was the seasonal educational gap faced by migrant families during the sugarcane harvest season. Migrant workers and their families, who traveled to Maharashtra for the harvest, often found their children without access to formal education for more than six months. In response, Jnana Prabodhini initiated 'Sakhar Shaala,' a school that operated for 100 days during the harvest season.

This initiative was not merely an attempt to fill an educational void; it was a thoughtful intervention that exposed students to the broader social issues faced by migrant communities. It became a platform for students to not only continue their education but also to gain insights into the challenges faced by different sections of society. 'Sakhar Shaala' exemplified the organization's commitment to not only imparting knowledge but also creating socially conscious individuals.

Jnana Prabodhini's mission extends beyond traditional educational goals. The organization aims not only to provide high-quality education but also to make students socially aware and equipped with the skills to effect positive change. Programs encouraging students to engage with nearby villages, identify local challenges, and propose solutions have become integral to the educational experience provided by Jnana Prabodhini. This approach ingrains a sense of responsibility and optimism regarding societal issues.





The impact of Jnana Prabodhini is not confined to classrooms. Alumni stories illuminate the organization's success in instilling a commitment to societal betterment. A standout example is an alumna from 1995 who, fueled by a desire to empower women, initiated self-help groups. Over time, more than 100 such groups emerged, empowering women to attain financial independence. These stories exemplify how education can serve as a catalyst for meaningful societal impact.

In its golden jubilee year in 2012, Jnana Prabodhini took a strategic step forward by establishing the Education Activity and Research Centre. This center became the nerve center for research, development, and the expansion of educational programs beyond the confines of Maharashtra. The organization's impact has rippled across the nation, reaching over 1 lakh students and 10,000 teachers.

This expansion wasn't merely about geographical reach but about adapting and evolving the educational approach based on research and evaluation. The programs initiated by Jnana Prabodhini were not static; they were subject to continuous refinement to ensure effectiveness. The center became a hub for exploring innovative educational practices, conducting research on effective teaching methodologies, and staying abreast of advancements in the education sector.



In the last 15 years, Jnana Prabodhini has embraced technology to enhance its educational outreach. By creating a diverse library of educational videos and collaborating with the Indian government, the organization secured a prominent place on the Diksha app. This forward-looking approach became particularly valuable in 2020, underscoring the importance of early investments in educational technology.

The organization's foray into technology wasn't just about adapting to the times but about making education more accessible. The creation of educational videos covering various subjects, including science, maths, geography, and history, demonstrated a commitment to reaching students irrespective of their geographical location or socio-economic background. This initiative aligned with the organization's ethos of providing quality education to as many students as possible.

As Jnana Prabodhini looks to the future, the organization envisions an expansive role in shaping education across India. A well-structured plan, focusing on education, skill development, and social awareness programs, aims to create a vast network involving students, teachers, and industry experts. The goal is to foster collaboration for the collective betterment of society. This vision for the future isn't just about quantitative expansion but about qualitative impact. Jnana Prabodhini seeks to go beyond the traditional metrics of success in education. It aims to create a network of individuals who are not only academically proficient but are also equipped with the skills and mindset to actively contribute to societal development.



Jnana Prabodhini's journey is a beacon of educational innovation and societal transformation. It exemplifies the power of education to not only enlighten young minds but also to inspire them to become agents of positive change in the world. The organization's legacy is not just in classrooms; it is etched in the stories of alumni who have embraced the ethos of Jnana Prabodhini – education for holistic development and societal progress.

As the organization looks to the future, its commitment to providing quality education and fostering societal awareness remains unwavering. Jnana Prabodhini stands not just as an educational institution but as a force that continues to illuminate minds and transform lives.

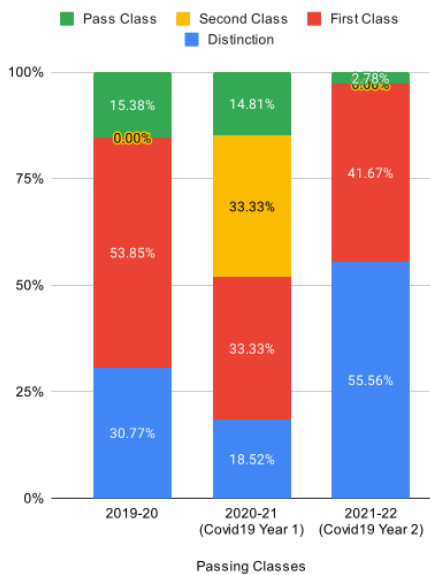
Follow and support Jnana Prabodhini's work at <https://www.jnanaprabodhini.org/>



## Nurturing Minds, Nurturing Nature: The Inspirational Journey of Rishi Valmiki Eco School

In the heart of the bustling metropolis of Mumbai, where the rhythm of life often drowns out the needs of the underprivileged, Rishi Valmiki Eco School (RVES) emerges as a beacon of hope. As part of the Dnyansadhana Education Society, a distinguished trust with a remarkable 35-year legacy in the education sector, RVES stands as a non-profit institution with a resolute mission — to provide quality education to underprivileged children while nurturing a generation impassioned by nature.

Yearly S.S.C. Boards Results



At the helm of this transformative educational initiative is the indefatigable founder, Nikita Pimple. Her dedication to uplifting the underprivileged is not merely a mission but a lifelong commitment. RVES doesn't adhere to conventional educational paradigms. Instead, it embraces a distinctive pedagogy centered around story-based and experiential learning for all subjects, with a special emphasis on wildlife education. The school ingeniously transforms the Maharashtra State Board curriculum into captivating stories and activities, ensuring that education is not only informative but also an enjoyable journey.

The school's vision is both audacious and inspiring — envisioning a future where each child receives quality education, lives in harmony with nature, and eventually becomes a steward of the planet. This vision is translated into action through RVES's comprehensive mission, which encompasses holistic development through story-based and experiential curricula, remedial programs, nature education, and emotional support.

A hallmark of RVES is the 360-degree program, meticulously designed for the holistic development of students. This multifaceted approach includes nature and wildlife education, a story and activity-based curriculum, tailored remedial programs addressing individual needs, co-curricular activities for instilling positive life skills, a focus on peer learning through young educators, active parent engagement, and the cultivation of an empathetic environment.

Under the banner of "VANN," RVES has crafted an experiential wildlife curriculum to instill environmental sensitivity in its students. The program ingeniously integrates academic concepts with nature stories, covering around 50 species of Indian wildlife per grade. This approach not only imparts knowledge but also cultivates a deep appreciation for the environment, laying the foundation for future conservationists.



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The power of storytelling is harnessed to its fullest at RVES, where values and life skills are imparted through nature stories. The project 'VANN' not only teaches complex academic concepts but also instills crucial life skills such as observation, critical thinking, and problem-solving. This innovative approach ensures that education extends beyond the confines of the classroom, creating a lasting impact on students' lives. Parents, too, express their gratitude for the role RVES plays in their children's lives, with one parent noting that the teachers at RVES not only play the role of educators but also act as parents, providing support and care.

***“Our goal is to create not just students but future leaders who will lead with empathy, intelligence, and a deep-rooted commitment to environmental sustainability.” - Nikita Pimple***

RVES goes beyond the pursuit of academic excellence; it aspires to shape future generations of responsible citizens and environmental stewards. The school's impact is evident in the aspirations of its students, who don't merely seek employment but aspire to build careers in fields such as environmental sciences, civil services, public welfare, and the social sector.

The success of RVES is not only measured in academic achievements but also in the positive mindset and eagerness of its students. The school's influence extends beyond the classroom, shaping young minds into conscientious individuals who are not only academically proficient but also environmentally aware.

In a world where education is often synonymous with attendance and marks, Rishi Valmiki Eco School stands out as a testament to the fact that true education goes beyond textbooks. It is an inspiring narrative of how dedication, innovation, and empathy can come together to create an institution that not only imparts knowledge but also molds compassionate individuals ready to make a positive impact on the world. RVES is not just a school; it is a nurturing ground for young minds and a sanctuary for the love of learning and nature. The school stands as a testament to the transformative power of education, proving that with the right guidance and environment, every child can blossom into a capable, compassionate, and conscientious individual.



- **Saloni** excels in football against societal norms, backed by school support.
- **Represented India in a UK tournament**, displaying determination and inspiring others.



- **Nushrat's** journey characterized by consistent growth.
- Chosen as a **Kids for Tigers - Tiger Ambassador for Sanctuary Nature Foundation & Sanctuary Asia**.
- Demonstrates passion for **nature and spreading awareness**.
- Aspires to be a **fashion designer**, displaying unwavering determination.



- **Biyom**, born to **daily wage parents** in Mumbai, facing financial difficulties.
- Persists due to **school support**.
- Passionate about **engineering**.
- Achieves success in **JEE Mains and JEE Advanced without external coaching**.
- Secured **admission to IIT**.

Image courtesy : Meghshala Website

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## Member organizations of JEET

### **Vipla Foundation**

[www.viplafoundation.org](http://www.viplafoundation.org)

**Activities :** Education Initiatives, Skill Development Programs, Community Development

### **VKRCE Trust**

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

**Activities :** Education, Digital Video Library, Training.

### **Ramakrishna Sarada Samiti**

[www.rkssngo.org](http://www.rkssngo.org)

**Activities :** Education, Women's Empowerment and Health Camps

### **National Association for the Blind**

[www.nabindia.org.in](http://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](http://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

## Striking a Harmonious Chord: FCRA Regulations and the Path Ahead for Education NGOs in India

In the vast canvas of India's non-governmental organizations (NGOs), a nuanced dance unfolds as regulatory winds of change sweep through the sector. The Modi government's determined efforts to tighten regulations, initially aimed at NGOs reliant on foreign funding, have now cast a discerning eye on domestic fundraising. This regulatory evolution, ostensibly propelled by the noble cause of fortifying transparency and accountability, reverberates profoundly within the realm of education-focused NGOs.

### Unraveling the Regulatory Tapestry:

Central to this narrative is the intricate relationship between NGOs and the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 (FCRA). Originally conceived to streamline foreign contributions, the FCRA has evolved into a complex framework impacting NGOs addressing critical educational challenges. Recent actions against prominent NGOs, exemplified by Save the Children and Sightsavers India, showcase a tightening grip on both foreign and domestic fundraising efforts, leaving NGOs entangled in a web of uncertainty.

### The Ethical Tightrope:

The saga of Save the Children unfolds as a poignant example, where a campaign designed to address malnutrition inadvertently ignited a clash between noble intentions and governmental sensitivities. The subsequent withdrawal of an emotionally charged advertisement triggered a broader conversation about the ethical dimensions of NGO fundraising. The dilemma encapsulates a central question – how can NGOs effectively communicate their causes without inadvertently running afoul of regulatory red flags?

### Navigating the Shadows of Ambiguity:

Within this regulatory tangle, a critical issue emerges – a lack of clarity. The actions against NGOs, such as Sightsavers India, raise pressing questions about the specific laws or regulations violated. NGOs find themselves in a precarious position, attempting to align their initiatives with guidelines that seem more like shadows than clear directives. A plea for a more transparent and explicit regulatory framework echoes through the sector.

### Forging a Collaborative Future:

Navigating the uncertain path forward necessitates a delicate balance between regulatory adherence and fostering collaboration. Transparency and accountability must become guiding principles, with NGOs willingly opening their books to scrutiny while the government ensures clarity in its directives. Collaboration is not a one-sided affair; it requires an open dialogue between NGOs and government agencies. Encouraging partnerships can help avoid duplication of efforts and ensure that resources are allocated with precision.

### Ethical Fundraising in the Limelight:

The Save the Children episode flags a larger concern – the ethics of fundraising. Emotional appeals are potent tools, but the line between advocacy and manipulation is razor-thin. Crafting clear guidelines for ethical fundraising is not just a bureaucratic necessity; it's a moral

## JEET's Mission

There are about 200M disadvantaged students from non-English backgrounds from 5,00,000 government and other low-fee private schools. We pledge to empower them.

JEET is developing an app/ website to give free access to a targeted 2,00,000 lessons and videos up to class 12, in 22 Indian languages.

We aim to build an all-India alliance of 1,00,000 NGOs working in the fields of Education, Sports, and Vocational training. In unity lies strength, indeed.

We facilitate periodic meetings among members. We highlight the achievements of members through social media and our own monthly newsletter - JEET KI AOR.

**GOALS: Outreach, Collaboration, Resource collection, & Empowerment**

**Touch 200 Million**  
Disadvantaged school children

**Cover 5,00,000**  
Schools & Teachers

**Compile 2,00,000**  
Education videos and lessons

**Enroll 1,00,000**  
National NGOs

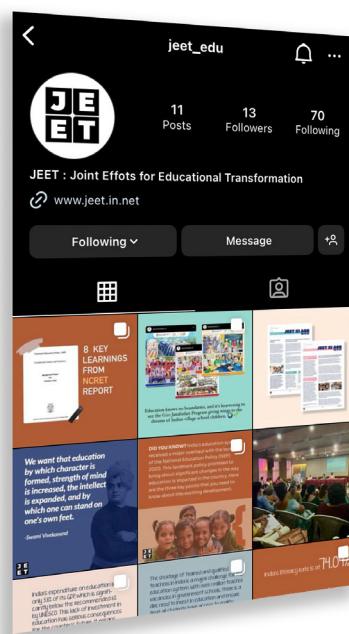
Published by :  
Ramakrishna Sarada Samiti - JEET,  
Sion, Mumbai, Maharashtra 400022

imperative. NGOs must deftly navigate this ethical tightrope, obtaining proper consent when featuring individuals, especially from vulnerable populations, in their campaigns.

### Civil Society: A Crucial Player in the Conversation:

The dialogue on regulatory reform should extend beyond government corridors. Civil society's active engagement is not just a welcome addition; it's a necessity. The dynamic nature of NGOs requires regulations that evolve in tandem with societal needs. Regular consultations and feedback mechanisms can bridge the gap between governmental intent and on-ground realities.

As India's education sector navigates the challenges ahead, a shared commitment to the greater good can ensure that regulatory frameworks become catalysts for positive change rather than stumbling blocks. Striking this harmonious chord requires not just regulatory reforms but a collective symphony, where NGOs, the government, and civil society play in unison for the betterment of education and society at large. The journey forward, laden with challenges, also holds the promise of a transformative collaboration that propels India's education landscape for the underserved, to greater heights.



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