

Shanti Bhavan Children Project

In this issue, step into a world where education transforms lives. In this article, we explore the remarkable journey of the Shanti Bhavan Children's Project. Founded by Dr. Abraham George in 1997, this initiative has dedicated over two decades to empowering young minds from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. From holistic education to gender equality, from patient philosophy to the launch of Shanti Bhavan 2.0, we delve into a narrative that resonates with the power of education to create lasting change."

Think Sharp Foundation

In a world where education shapes the future, Think Sharp Foundation (TSF) has embarked on an extraordinary journey that transcends the boundaries of urban and rural learning. The story of TSF is a testament to the vision of its founder, Mr. Santosh Phad, whose personal experiences ignited a mission to bridge the gap between rural and urban education. What began as a single step has evolved into a movement that empowers rural schools, nurtures brighter minds, and paves the way for a promising tomorrow. Join us as we delve into TSF's inspiring voyage, where innovation, collaboration, and determination have created a stronger foundation for the sharper minds of the future.

Learn more about these stories on page number 4 & 5.

Redefining Education: Inside India's PM SHRI Schools Transformation

Education has long been recognized as a fundamental pillar for the growth and development of a nation. It shapes the minds of the youth, molds their perspectives, and equips them with the tools they need to become productive citizens. In this pursuit of education excellence, the Government of India has launched a transformative initiative known as PM SHRI Schools, aimed at revolutionizing the education landscape in the country. This comprehensive scheme envisions the creation of more than 14,500 exemplary schools, each a beacon of quality education, inclusivity, and holistic development.

The PM SHRI School Framework: Laying the Foundation for Excellence

The PM SHRI School initiative is more than just a conventional educational reform; it's a holistic framework designed to reshape the entire education ecosystem. The scheme is designed to be implemented over a span of five years, from 2022-23 to 2026-27. These schools are set to showcase the practical implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, making them the embodiment of the policy's vision.

At the heart of this initiative is the creation of an ecosystem where every student is embraced and nurtured. The framework emphasizes the importance of a safe and stimulating learning environment, where students from diverse backgrounds can thrive. The physical infrastructure and resources within these schools are carefully curated to facilitate an effective and enjoyable learning experience. The goal is not only to foster cognitive development but also to equip students with 21st-century skills, preparing them for the challenges and opportunities of the modern world.

"PM SHRI Schools are more than just places of learning; they are the seeds of a new educational paradigm. Through these schools, we aim to empower students with knowledge, values, and skills that will shape them into responsible and capable citizens of tomorrow." - Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of Education of India

Pedagogical Paradigm Shift: From Rote Learning to Holistic Development

One of the most significant transformations brought about by the PM SHRI Schools is the shift in pedagogy. The traditional rote-learning approach is being replaced by an experiential, holistic, and learner-centered method. The emphasis is on making learning enjoyable, inquiry-driven, and discovery-oriented. The introduction of play and toy-based learning methodologies ensures that education becomes a joyful process, encouraging active participation from students.

2022 ●
2023 ●
2024 ●
2025 ●
2026 ●
2027 ●

A total fund of Rs 27,000 crore has been allocated for the PM Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI) scheme, which will cover 14,500 schools over a period of five years




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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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Furthermore, the assessment process is undergoing a paradigm shift. The focus is shifting from memorization to conceptual understanding and practical application. Competency-based assessment ensures that students are not just passive recipients of information but active thinkers capable of solving real-life challenges. This aligns perfectly with the NEP 2020's vision of a holistic and outcome-based education system.

Inclusivity and Sustainability: Key Pillars of PM SHRI Schools

Another notable aspect of the PM SHRI Schools is their commitment to inclusivity and sustainability. These schools are designed to cater to students from all walks of life, regardless of their backgrounds or abilities. The creation of a network of exemplary schools serves as a knowledge-sharing platform for neighboring schools, fostering a culture of continuous improvement.

In line with the global trend toward sustainable practices, PM SHRI Schools incorporate eco-friendly features. Energy-efficient solutions, such as solar panels and LED lighting, are integrated into the school infrastructure. Nutrition gardens promote natural farming, while waste management practices contribute to a cleaner environment. These schools play a pivotal role in instilling a sense of environmental responsibility in the young generation.

The Road Ahead: Challenges and Opportunities

While the PM SHRI School initiative holds immense promise, there are challenges to be addressed. Ensuring the consistent implementation of the framework across all schools, irrespective of their geographical location or resource availability, will be a crucial task. Adequate teacher training and continuous professional development are essential to sustain the quality of education delivery.

Furthermore, the success of PM SHRI Schools relies on effective monitoring, evaluation, and feedback mechanisms. Regular assessments need to be tailored to gauge not only cognitive skills but also life skills and values that contribute to holistic development.

Paving the Way for a Brighter Future

The PM SHRI Schools initiative is a visionary step towards reimagining education in India. By prioritizing quality, inclusivity, and holistic development, these schools have the potential to create a new generation of well-rounded citizens equipped to face the complexities of the modern world. The synergy between this initiative and the National Education Policy 2020 underscores the government's commitment to creating an education system that empowers students to become active participants in their learning journey.

As the journey continues, it will be essential to stay adaptable and responsive to the evolving needs of education. The success of PM SHRI Schools will be measured not just by academic achievements but by the positive impact they have on students' lives, their communities, and the nation as a whole. With a strong foundation laid by the framework, these schools have the potential to transform education in India and shape the future of generations to come.

In JEET's view, the PM SHRI Schools initiative embodies the essence of transformation, aiming to mold students into engaged, productive, and socially conscious citizens. As this initiative gathers momentum, JEET remains committed to contributing to its success by offering insights, expertise, and support to ensure that every student's journey through these schools is a step towards a brighter and more promising future.

Unveiling Insights: MSP Foundation's Path to Equity

Uplifting Stories of Small Beginnings and Big Impacts

In our previous issue, we delved into the inspiring narrative of MSP Foundation, an organization that radiates enthusiasm and commitment in supporting emerging initiatives. The heartening origin story captured the essence of their passion for aiding smaller organizations just starting their journeys. This month, the spotlight remains on MSP Foundation, with their remarkable journey garnering attention from various local news channels. This outpouring of support is a beacon of encouragement, particularly crucial for fledgling organizations tirelessly dedicating themselves to the greater good.

An Unwavering Commitment to Empowerment

MSP Foundation's latest endeavor exemplifies their relentless dedication to creating positive change. The organization recently orchestrated a stationary and essentials distribution drive, a gesture that goes far beyond the tangible items provided. From lunch boxes to essential school supplies and even school bags, the distribution drive embraced a comprehensive approach to cater to the diverse needs of children. This thoughtful initiative was made possible through the concerted efforts of MSP Foundation, with unwavering support from the esteemed Rotary Club of Mumbai.

Cultivating Equity through Action

What sets this distribution drive apart is its profound impact on children hailing from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds. The drive transcends mere material provision, serving as a stepping stone towards equity. Regardless of their circumstances, every child receives equal treatment, thereby instilling a sense of inclusivity and fairness from a young age. MSP Foundation's emphasis on this foundational principle marks a significant stride towards a more equitable society.

In light of their impactful work, JEET extends his heartfelt congratulations to MSP Foundation. He takes immense pride in seeing how the foundation's efforts are translating into meaningful transformations in the lives of underserved children. Jeet commends MSP Foundation's dedication and wishes them continued success in their noble journey.

सत्य सहाद्री

सिलेक्टिव्ह न्यूज



अंबवडे: येथील द हॅपी होम शाळेत साहित्य वाटप प्रसंगी मुंबई रोटरी क्लबचे पदाधिकारी व मान्यवर..

अंबवडे येथे शालेय साहित्य वाटप अन वृक्षारोपण

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मुक्तागिरी

अंबवडे येथे शालेय साहित्य वाटप अन वृक्षारोपण

मुक्तागिरी वृत्तसेवा,
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Aug 07, 2023 Page No. 3
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Catalysts of Empowerment: Shanti Bhavan Children's Project and the Resonance of Education

In the heartlands of India, where challenges often seem insurmountable, a glimmer of hope shines through the efforts of the Shanti Bhavan Children's Project. Established by Dr. Abraham George in 1997, this remarkable initiative has dedicated over two decades to reshaping lives through the power of education, emerging as a beacon of empowerment for children from economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

"Our goal is to create an educational model that's easily translatable to anywhere in the world where you have an underserved population."

***- Gowri Manoharan,
ShantiBhavanChildren
Project***



Shanti Bhavan's mission reaches beyond conventional education. Providing 17 years of comprehensive education, including character development, life skills, and gender equality, the school caters to children from the lowest socio-economic classes, including the marginalized Dalit community. Many students come from families struggling to make ends meet on less than \$2 a day. Education at Shanti Bhavan transcends textbooks. It's an ecosystem that nurtures curiosity, creativity, critical thinking, and emotional intelligence. With a meticulously designed curriculum blending academic rigor with arts, sports, and extracurricular activities, students emerge as well-rounded individuals poised to navigate the complexities of the modern world.

Out of the many standout achievements, gender equality is one that shines brightly among the accomplishments of Shanti Bhavan. In societies where girls are frequently marginalized, Shanti Bhavan uplifts them, enabling them to dream beyond conventional societal boundaries. This commitment to gender equality is epitomized by the inaugural cohort of girls who completed their studies in 2007, symbolizing the advent of a transformative era of empowerment.



Shanti Bhavan's philosophy of perfecting one school before expansion underscores their commitment. For almost 26 years, the organization meticulously nurtured students from kindergarten through 12th grade, witnessing their gradual transformation. This approach, focusing on character evolution and life skills, forms the bedrock of their success. In 2022, Shanti Bhavan embarked on a new chapter with the blueprint of Shanti Bhavan 2.0, a second school in Karnataka. This expansion stands as a testament to the success of their patient approach. It reflects their confidence, garnered over years of observing transformative change within their existing institution.



Parental involvement is vital at Shanti Bhavan. With a 97% high school graduation rate, parents are actively engaged through parent-teacher conferences and regular updates. It's a collaborative effort that nurtures a supportive ecosystem. Sponsoring a child's education is a conduit for change. Monthly or yearly donations cover expenses, and sponsors receive quarterly updates, forming personal connections with the journey they're shaping. Volunteers contribute to extracurricular activities and supplementary classes, enriching the experience further.

Shanti Bhavan celebrates India's linguistic diversity, exposing students to various languages, including their mother tongues and Hindi. The institution's adaptability was highlighted during the pandemic, showcasing their commitment to quality education.

Shanti Bhavan's journey is a testament to the transformative power of education. By nurturing young minds, fostering gender equality, and embodying a patient philosophy, they're sowing seeds of change that ripple far beyond their campus. Their model, focusing on holistic growth and long-term investment, serves as a blueprint for societal transformation.

Follow and support Shanti Bhavan Children's Project work at <https://www.shantibhavanchildren.org/>



I just knew one thing that I wanted to give back to the society, so that students who could not make it to Mumbai or cities like Mumbai have a quality schooling and education system in their own village” - Mr. Santosh Phad, Founder, TSF



Follow and support ThinkSharp Foundation's work at <https://www.thinksharpfoundation.org/>

ThinkSharp Foundation : A Strong Foundation today for Sharper Minds of tomorrow

Mr. Santosh Phad, a visionary in the field of education, founded the ThinkSharp Foundation (TSF) with a deep understanding of the challenges faced by rural schools due to inadequate facilities. Having experienced the stark contrast between his own rural schooling and the enriched education he received in Mumbai, he resolved to bridge the urban-rural education divide. This marked the inception of TSF in 2011, with the mission to enhance rural education's quality and accessibility, especially since a significant portion of India's population resides in rural areas.

TSF initiated the **“StudyMall”** program, aimed at transforming rural schools into engaging learning spaces. The first step was upgrading traditional classrooms to e-classrooms, boosting students' participation and comprehension. By improving infrastructure, TSF increased engagement and facilitated better learning experiences.

Step-by-Step Approach and Constant Learning :

TSF's journey from ideation to practical implementation proved to be an enriching experience. Initially focused on e-classrooms, the organization evolved with changing educational needs. Recognizing the importance of computer skills and libraries, TSF established computer labs and modular libraries in schools. Solar cells were installed to ensure uninterrupted power supply, enhancing the quality of education even in areas with inadequate infrastructure. Moreover, TSF addressed sanitation facilities and building upgrades to prevent students from leaving their villages for education.

To ensure long-term sustainability, TSF collaborated with corporations, tech companies, and social enterprises to minimize recurring expenses for schools. These partnerships multiplied TSF's impact, providing software, resources, and expertise. TSF also trained school staff to effectively utilize facilities and technologies, resulting in continued successful engagements.

From a single school to over 250, TSF's scaling success was rooted in meticulous school assessment, infrastructure upgrades, and consistent monitoring. Stringent checks and balances were maintained to ensure that the educational quality and outcomes were consistently met. Leveraging technology in their processes, TSF maximized project impact.

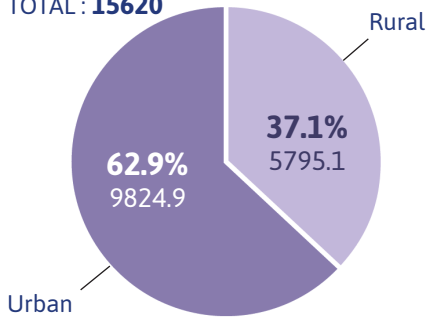
Recognizing the need for qualified educators to harness the benefits of upgraded infrastructure, TSF partnered with **“Teach For India”** to train fellows in using technology effectively under **“TFI initiative by Teach For India”** fellowship. TSF developed outcome-specific activities like coding and library programs, fostering critical thinking and creativity. These initiatives significantly boosted student engagement and learning outcomes, with attendance rising from 80% to 91%, and student feedback improving from 2.5/3 to 4.5/5.

TSF's impact extended across Maharashtra and Gujarat, working in underserved regions. The organization received recognition for its efforts, with one of its teacher-fellows receiving an ICT award from the Government of India. The ultimate impact is seen in the transformation of rural schools into vibrant centers of learning and growth, nurturing the potential of each student. The ThinkSharp Foundation's journey from humble beginnings to empowering hundreds of rural schools exemplifies the power of vision, collaboration, and adaptability. By enhancing infrastructure, teacher training, and student engagement, TSF is building a strong foundation for brighter minds in rural India.

Private Education Sector Numbers

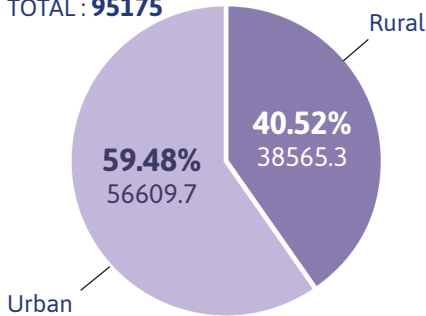
Students in Pre-Primary

TOTAL : 15620



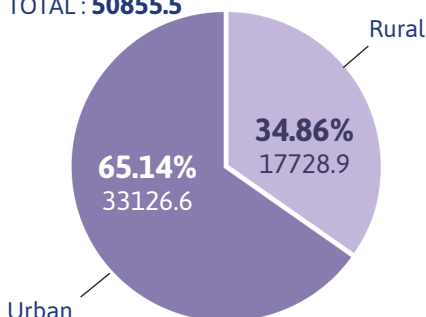
Students in Primary

TOTAL : 95175



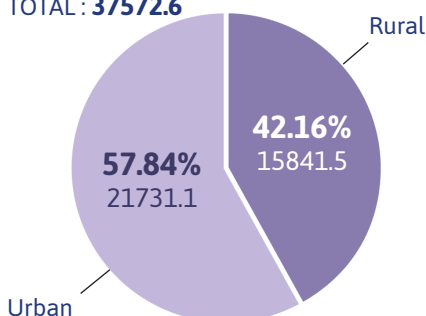
Students in Upper-Primary

TOTAL : 50855.5



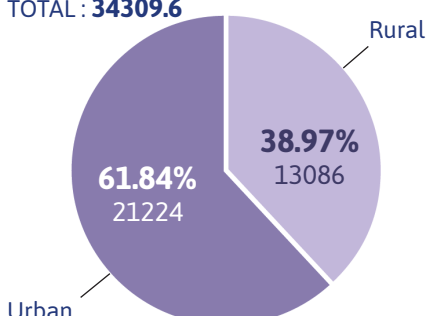
Students in Secondary

TOTAL : 37572.6



Students in Higher Secondary

TOTAL : 34309.6



Reforming the Public Education System in India

India's Public Policy Success in Education

Immediately after India's independence only 17% of adults were literate. Schools were available to only 40% of the children in the age groups 6 to 11, and to only 10% in the age groups 11-17. Gender inequity was also high, the percentage of girls attending school in the age group 6 - 11 years was 23.3% in 1950-51. However, the constitutional goal was whole heartedly embraced giving the much needed public policy push to provide free, compulsory education for all up to 14 years. Result, as on date - Academic Year 2022-23 - we have achieved almost 100% enrolment in the primary grades, gender inequity got abolished at that level, and literacy rate is 77%.

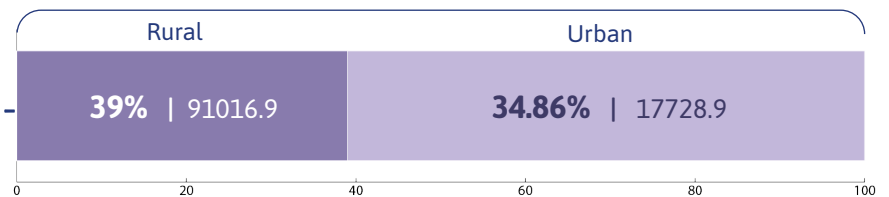
Problem Statement - Public Schools Diminished

But as the five year plans progressed and around the time and after, the 12th five-year plan was discontinued in 2014, the presence of private sector in education had been established and the dominance of public sector got gradually eroded. Public schools diminished due to inadequate government budgets, and private schools rushed to occupy the space. Voices came in support of private education that recognised them as equal players in the cause of nation building, to provide education to all though not free. Data just before COVID-19 suggests, almost 44% of students in K-12 education in India were from schools in the private sector, aided or unaided. This has created a manmade inequity where private players focussed on providing education to those who can pay while public schools were grappling with the twin crises of access, and quality.

Growth of Private Education Sector - US\$ 32 Billion Industry

According to the FICCI-ARISE report on Liberalization of India's Private Education Sector, the summary of the market size of the private school sector in India FY2017-18 was, in Rupees Crores 233,532.8, or USD 32.44 billion shown here:

Rs. 233532 Cr = US \$32.44 B



Source: FICCI-ARISE Report Oct 2021

Emerging Educationally Disadvantaged or Backward

Gradually but surely the low public sector expenditure in education since Independence, has handed over the Indian K-12 Education system to the private sector in a platter. Thus a 32-billion-dollar industry was created, directly or indirectly, which enriched the private school owners but resulted in the delivery of poor quality education to the disadvantaged who are not only the students coming out of the public schools but also the students from Budget Private Schools, which have worse educational infrastructure. Poor quality education is one of the key reasons for high drop outs and non-inclusion. Furthermore, the lack of access to quality education reinforces a cycle of limited opportunities and limits the potential for social mobility among marginalized communities.

