

National Association for the Blind

Empowering the visually impaired individuals in India has been the aim of the National Association for the Blind (NAB) since its establishment in 1952. Over the years, the NAB has worked tirelessly to provide education, vocational training, employment opportunities, and social support to visually impaired individuals, while also advocating for their rights and promoting an inclusive society. In this article, we will take a closer look at the NAB's scope, achievements, and works in various states across India, highlighting their significant contributions to the lives of visually impaired individuals.

Bombay Community Public Trust

Exploring the impactful work of the Bombay Community Public Trust (BCPT), a non-profit organisation that strives to improve the quality of life for Mumbai residents. Founded in 1991, BCPT funds programmes in various areas, including education, healthcare, and community development, with a focus on low-income neighbourhoods. The organisation employs a two-pronged strategy of collaborating with NGOs and actively participating in desired activities. One of its most significant projects is the English E-teach programme, aimed at building excellent English language skills in children from non-English backgrounds. BCPT's work has positively impacted many lives and made it an inspiring and essential part of Mumbai's social landscape.

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

RKSS's Fun-Filled Summer Camps: Instilling Values and Critical Thinking in the Next Generation

Ramakrishna Sarada Samiti (RKSS) has been hard at work for the past few months, networking with like-minded experts and attending national level conferences to address the issues faced by the underprivileged in the education system. However, despite all of this external work, RKSS remains dedicated to working closely with the community.

This summer, RKSS has embarked on a new initiative to organize summer camps for children in Mumbai. The age group of 5-12 years is particularly interesting as it is the period when cognitive development is at its peak. The children are brimming with an unparalleled energy that is infectious, and they have been participating in a variety of activities, including dance, zumba, group sessions, art, and quick exercises. The summer camp provides a perfect blend of physical, technical, creative, and digital activities that cater to the diverse interests of the children.

One of the key objectives of this year's summer camp is to instill values and critical thinking skills in the children. The aim is to encourage them to think about the world in a new light, ask questions, and find answers about their surroundings. RKSS has developed in-house activities that strive to achieve this objective. Storytelling, watching movies and short documentaries, and group discussions on the learnings have been some of the techniques employed.



Summer camps, along with education in general, can have a long-lasting and significant impact on children. By making learning fun and engaging, RKSS is creating an environment that is conducive to the overall development of the children. RKSS is dedicated to continuing its efforts towards the betterment of education and finding innovative ways to make a positive impact.

RKSS's summer camp is an excellent example of an educational initiative that combines fun and learning in a way that has a lasting positive impact on children. By focusing on values and critical thinking skills, RKSS is providing children with the tools they need to become responsible and engaged citizens of the future. RKSS's unwavering commitment to the betterment of education is commendable.



Maharashtra State Award for Best Institution: In recognition of its contribution towards the welfare of the blind, NAB Mumbai has received the Maharashtra State Award for Best Institution.



NAB Mumbai has been recognized for its outstanding work, winning numerous awards and accolades, including the National Award for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities in 2004 and the Helen Keller Award for the Best Institution in 2006.



Breaking Barriers and Creating Opportunities: The Inspirational Story of the National Association for the Blind (NAB) in India.

The National Association for the Blind (NAB) is a non-governmental organization that works towards the empowerment of visually impaired individuals in India. It was established in 1952 with the aim of promoting the welfare and rehabilitation of persons with visual impairments. The scope of the NAB is to provide education, vocational training, employment opportunities, and social support to visually impaired individuals. They also work towards creating an inclusive society where persons with disabilities can lead dignified lives.

In a recent interview with NAB, they described the meticulous and thorough groundwork required to address the challenges faced by visually impaired individuals in the area of education. This involves conducting surveys at the district level, followed by processing and analyzing the data to create a comprehensive action plan. An essential aspect of this approach is educating parents on how to support and educate their visually impaired children. NAB provides the necessary tools to make this process seamless, enabling parents to better support their children's education.

Moreover, NAB has taken an initiative to teach visually impaired individuals vocational skills, which enables them to become self-reliant and independent. Through this program, NAB aims to empower visually impaired individuals to learn and work on their own, leading to a more fulfilling life.

The NAB also runs several other programs and services across India, including mobile eye clinics, Braille printing and production centers, computer training centers, and counseling services. They work closely with government agencies, private organizations, and individuals to promote the rights and interests of visually impaired individuals. The NAB has been active in several states in India, including Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Delhi. In Maharashtra, the NAB has established the National Association for the Blind - India (NAB-India), which provides services such as education, vocational training, and employment opportunities to visually impaired individuals.

In Uttar Pradesh, the NAB runs a mobile eye clinic that provides eye care services to people in remote areas. The NAB also operates a Braille printing and production center in the state, which produces Braille books, magazines, and other educational materials for visually impaired students. In Karnataka, the NAB has established a computer training center for visually impaired individuals. The center provides training in computer skills such as typing, using screen readers, and accessing the internet. In Tamil Nadu, the NAB operates a counseling center for visually impaired individuals and their families. The center provides emotional and psychological support to individuals who are coping with visual impairment.

The National Association for the Blind (NAB) has been instrumental in empowering visually impaired individuals across India. Through their dedicated programs and services, NAB has helped thousands of individuals to lead dignified, independent, and fulfilling lives. Their unwavering commitment to creating an inclusive society is highly commendable, and their work has been a source of inspiration for others in the field of disability rights and advocacy. The NAB's efforts have made a significant impact in the lives of the visually impaired, providing them with the necessary tools and support to thrive and succeed.

Follow and support NAB's work at <https://www.facebook.com/NabIndia1234/>

Empowering Communities: The Impactful Work of the Bombay Community Public Trust

The Bombay Community Public Trust (BCPT) was founded in July 1991 by a group of concerned people, including the late H.T. Parekh and R.M. Lala. Its mission is to improve the quality of life for Mumbai residents by tackling numerous social, educational, health, and environmental issues that impact them, with an emphasis on low-income neighbourhoods. BCPT funds programmes in a variety of areas, including education, seniors citizen care, women's empowerment, the girl child, health and nutrition, and community development.

To achieve its aims, BCPT employs a two-pronged action strategy: collaboration with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and active participation in the desired activity. Its projects include educational scholarships to meritorious and needy students, medical relief to patients, content development and execution of English E-teach projects, engagement of volunteers in teaching English to primary school children, development of training manuals and films as per need, conducting NGO development activities by organising training programmes for NGOs, and providing basic infrastructural assistance to start-ups.

Over the past 27 years, BCPT has undertaken 871 projects either on its own or in partnership. The organization also carries out impact assessments of its projects and makes mid-course changes based on the assessments. Recently, the English E-teach programme underwent a pre-test and post-test assessment, which showed a significant and large difference in marks obtained by students of standards 1 to 4. BCPT has also partnered with HDFC Foundation, Tata Trust, Narottam Seksaria Foundation, and around 300 voluntary organisations as implementing partners.

One of BCPT's most significant donor-driven projects is English E-teach, started in 2009. Its objective is to build excellent English language skills in children from non-English medium schools by using standardized teaching methods to impart branded, quality content at low, affordable cost. Interactive animated audio-visual content based on school syllabus has been created for children of standards 1 to 5, and about 900 short films have been produced and given to primary school teachers for their use. English E-teach has been installed in 20,398 schools across Maharashtra, with over 900 schools in Mumbai given permission to install and use EET. During the pandemic, when face-to-face teaching was stopped, the interactive digital content of English E-teach was used to teach 26 online learning groups, who were taught by volunteers. After regular schools started, 76 trained volunteers have been teaching English in primary schools in Mumbai.

BCPT's work at the ground level is instrumental in touching and improving the lives of the main target group and many others. For example, an income-generating project for women or a self-help group with an organized savings program positively affects entire families. The communities of women rag-pickers in many geographical areas are achieving dignity of labour and an improvement in their living standards. Affordable/free healthcare and education for infants, children, and women are saving lives and improving the health of communities.

Despite its successes, BCPT faces challenges, such as reaching more people and ensuring the continuity of its programmes. However, its dedicated work and commitment to the betterment of society have made a positive impact on many lives, making it an inspiring and essential part of Mumbai's not-for-profit landscape.

Follow and support BCPT's work at <http://www.bcpt.org.in/>



Developing and executing English E-teach projects to improve English language skills in children from non-English backgrounds.

Join JEET by becoming a member

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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Member organizations of JEET

Ramakrishna Sarada Samiti

www.rkssngo.org

Activities : Education, Women's Empowerment and Health Camps

National Association for the Blind, India

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

VK Ramaswamy Iyengar Chellamal Education Trust

<https://ramaswamychellamtrust.org/>

Activities : Making educational videos for the disadvantaged children and providing free access to them

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Contributors : Raghu Pilaka, Partha Shrungarpure

The 5+3+3+4 Structure and what it means for the Underprivileged Students

The education system in India is undergoing a massive transformation, with the introduction of the new 5+3+3+4 structure. This new system is expected to revolutionize the way education is imparted in the country, and has the potential to bring about a significant improvement in the quality of education provided to students, especially those who come from underprivileged backgrounds.

One of the key advantages of the new 5+3+3+4 structure is that it places a greater emphasis on skill-based learning, as opposed to the traditional rote learning approach. This is particularly important for underprivileged students, who often do not have access to quality field-specific education. By focusing on skill-based learning, the new system aims to equip students with the necessary skills and knowledge to succeed in their chosen fields, regardless of their socio-economic background.

Another major benefit of the new structure is that it is designed to be more inclusive, and to cater to the diverse needs of students. Under the old system, students were expected to follow a fixed path, with little room for flexibility or customization. This often put students from underprivileged backgrounds at a disadvantage, as they were unable to access the specialized courses and programs that were available only to students from more affluent backgrounds.

However, under the new 5+3+3+4 structure, students have much more flexibility and choice when it comes to their education. The system is designed to be more modular, with students able to choose from a wide range of subjects and courses, depending on their interests and career goals. This means that even students who do not have access to quality field-specific education can still receive a well-rounded education that prepares them for success in their chosen field.

Overall, the new 5+3+3+4 education structure has the potential to bring about a significant improvement in the quality of education provided to underprivileged students in India. By placing a greater emphasis on skill-based learning, inclusivity, flexibility, and practical learning, the new system aims to ensure that all students, regardless of their socio-economic background, have access to a well-rounded education that prepares them for success in their chosen field. This is a positive step towards creating a more equitable and just society, where every individual has the opportunity to achieve their full potential.

JEET's Highlights for April 2023

> This month JEET is involved in the educational sector, working with students at the RKSS summer camp and teaching them valuable skills and values through fun activities.

> So far, JEET's repository has over 11,000 educational videos covers subjects in Hindi, Tamil and English.

> Later this month, JEET will participate in the CIVIL20 India 2023 conference to promote education equity for underprivileged children.

JEET continues to partnerships with like-minded organizations, with a focus on action-driven collaboration to create an open-source library of educational videos and study materials for underprivileged children.