

**DEVI  
SANSTHAN**

Dignity Education  
Vision International

*Leave no one behind*

# ANNUAL REPORT

2022-23



# From the Director

Dear friends, colleagues, supporters – and everyone championing the cause of literacy,

The Covid pandemic struck a severe blow to education around the world: according to a recent World Bank report, only 70% of the 10-year-olds in Low and Middle Income Countries around the world can read. But even before the pandemic, we were not on track to meet the Sustainable Development Goal of universal literacy by 2030. Business as usual is not enough. Accelerated learning is the need of the hour.

To this end, we at DEVI Sansthan have focused this year on scaling up literacy programs in collaboration with government and NGO partners. From implementing large-scale projects in government schools of Shamli (Uttar Pradesh) and Sambalpur (Odisha) to launching our literacy program internationally in the Maldives and with Literacy Chicago, we've been catalysing educational transformation.

We have also partnered with local language experts to replicate the groundbreaking Accelerating Learning for All (ALfA) program in more languages, bringing the tally to over 30. We've further refined our materials and methods to inculcate 21st century global citizenship skills, including critical thinking, creativity, collaboration and climate consciousness. DEVI has also launched the Massive Open Online Training series, for high-quality, zero-cost teacher empowerment.

Other highlights have included the publication of *Literacy Now: A Roadmap for Urgent Global Action* (Bloomsbury, 2022), and our ALfA program featuring in a book by the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

Along the way, we've learnt a lot, taken existing partnerships deeper while also forging new collaborations. We're deeply grateful for the support of many governments, NGOs and CSR foundations. Let's keep working together for a fully literate world!

Warm regards,



**Sunita Gandhi**

Founder & CEO, DEVI Sansthan  
Dignity Education Vision International  
Chief Advisor, Academics, City Montessori School  
(World's largest school)  
Former Economist, The World Bank, USA  
PhD (Physics), Cambridge University, UK





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# Key Events

## 2022-23

Q1 Apr-Jun 2022

- Ministry of Education Secretary Anita Karwal requests DEVI to work for improving in two Low Performing Districts. ALfA teacher training commences in 10 schools of Shamli district.
- Ministry of Education in Maldives signs up to implement ALfA in a pilot program.

Q2 Jul-Sep 2022

- Disruptive Literacy: A Roadmap for Urgent Global Action (Bloomsbury) launched during the Synergy Summit.
- Training teachers from 10 schools each in Shamli, Uttar Pradesh and Sambalpur, Odisha, ready for ALfA implementation
- Online training for hundreds of teachers from Maldives.

Q3 Oct-Dec 2022

- Scale-up of implementation in Shamli to 200 schools. Teacher training, pre-tests conducted.
- MOU with Uttar Pradesh Primary School Department to implement ALfA in 15 districts.

Q4 Jan-Mar 2023

- In-person training of 800 teachers from government primary schools of Lucknow, Unnao and Barabanki districts.
  - Publication of Harvard Graduate School of Education's book Rebuilding Resilient Education Systems After Covid-19 Pandemic, featuring ALfA implementation in Shamli (Chapter 8) and Maldives (Chapter 10).
  - First Massive Open Online Training and Policymakers Conclave attracts over 25,000 views, with participants from 50+ countries.
- MOU signed with Department of Secondary School Education, Uttar Pradesh, to use the Literacy Now App in an Each One Teach One Campaign.

# DEVI Sansthan BACKGROUND

## DEVI Vision & Mission

DEVI Sansthan (Dignity Education Vision International), a non-profit organization with a global reach, is spearheading educational transformation with a special focus on foundational literacy. Our revolutionary approach embeds global citizenship skills and climate change education. With the vision of universal literacy, we use research-backed, swift, scalable, and replicable techniques and methodologies to effect lasting change.

## Why Literacy

Literacy is the foundation of a child's education. Universal literacy is key to a nation's peace, progress and prosperity. The ability to read, write and do basic arithmetic is a key human right, without which many other rights cannot be realised.

The benefits of literacy are numerous- a Cambridge study in India found that a mere 4% increase in literacy rate would have the same positive effect on reducing child mortality as a 25% reduction in the poverty rate. Sadly over 250 million illiterate adults are in India - about 40% of the world's illiterate population. 70% of 10-year-olds in Low and Middle Income Countries around the world cannot read. We urgently need to tackle this literacy crisis.





# ABOUT Alfa

# HOW ALfA WORKS

ALfA is a joyful process of learning, based on years of psychological and pedagogical research into education.

**Table 1: Key differences between traditional and ALfA classrooms**

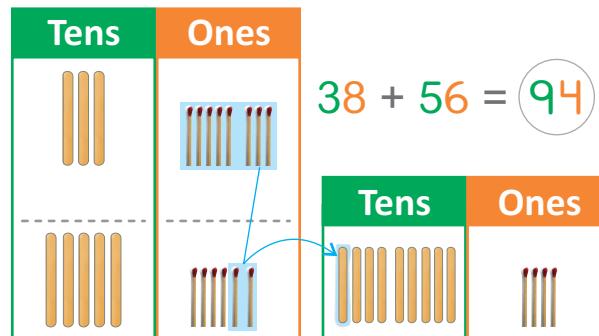
Traditional classroom	ALfA classroom
Transaction of learning is from teacher to student. Much rote memorisation.	Transaction of learning is from student to student. Learning is derived. No rote learning.
Children are grouped by skill level.	Random pairing ensures greater academic learning, a highly interactive environment, and development of 21st Century Skills.
Students work in whole class or groups, sit in rows facing the teacher.	Students work entirely in pairs; they face each other. Pairs are changed everyday.
Knowledge is abstract, with sometimes hands-on activities.	Children learn primarily through hands-on activities; use simple materials like matchsticks and ice cream sticks to learn entire mathematics.
Textbooks and workbooks are bulky. Designed for teachers to teach from.	Thin booklets, short modules with teacher prompts, are designed for children to learn by themselves.

## Numeracy

Children use concrete objects (e.g. ice cream sticks and matchsticks) to represent tens and ones and to do operations.

Measurement, shapes, positions, etc., are taught practically, for example, 14 measurement of a tailor.

Children make questions for each other and the learning goes from concrete to abstract.



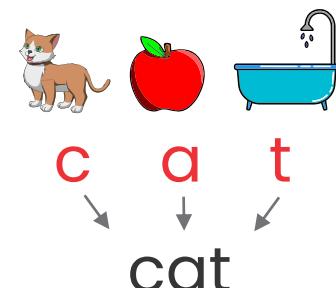
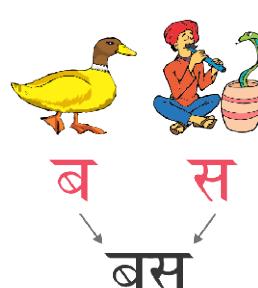
## Literacy

Children derive first sounds from the known pictures. Teacher provides demonstration based on prompts provided in the ALfA books. Children take turns, ask each other questions (as shown below), and learn with their pair.

What is this **picture**?

What is its first **sound**?

What **word** do these sounds join to make?



# Alfa 4-STEP LEARNING

## STEP 1: TEACHERS DEMONSTRATE BY PAIRING UP WITH ONE CHILD

Each module has prompts instructing how to do the activity. Children will need you to read these out (at least at early stages, before they can read). You can then demonstrate the activity along with another child.



## STEP 2: TWO STUDENTS DEMONSTRATE FROM THE FRONT AS A PAIR

Next call a pair to the front to demonstrate – one child asking questions and the other responding; then swapping roles.



## STEP 3: THE WHOLE CLASS LEARNS ON THEIR OWN IN PAIRS

Have everyone work through the same question in their own pairs. This helps them become confident in the process—repeating what they've already seen done. Monitor the class to see how each pair is doing.

## STEP 4: STUDENTS QUIZ EACH OTHER BY MAKING QUESTIONS

Children pose many new questions for each other. The process of making new questions for each other, beyond what is given in the book, gives children a chance to exercise their creativity, and excites them as active participants.

# CLIMATE CHANGE & ALfA

Education needs to address the climate crises in new and creative ways, for example, reduce carbon footprint by saving millions of tons of paper and ink wasted each year in printing textbooks and workbooks. Learners also need to become climate actors.

## Climate Footprint

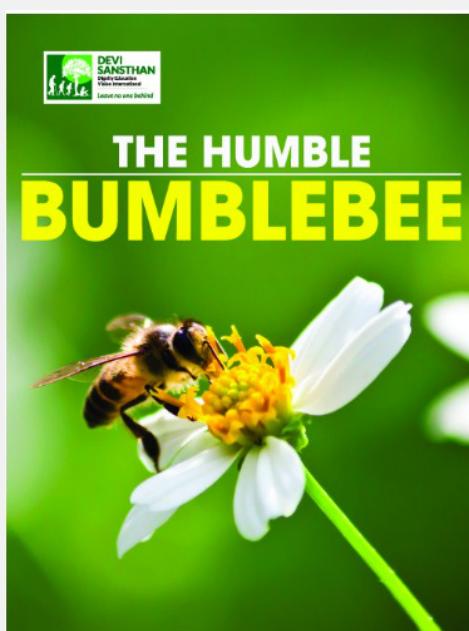
Imagine if we could use 1/10<sup>th</sup> or 1/20<sup>th</sup> of the paper currently used in textbooks and workbooks! ALfA booklets are thin with 1/10<sup>th</sup> or less of carbon footprint which is further halved when two learners work as a pair. When digital media is available, ALfA resources are available for access both online and offline with no additional carbon impact

## Climate Consciousness

Children avoid plastic and learn to select and use sustainable materials like pebbles, shells and leaves for hands-on activities.

## Climate Action

Climate action is integrated in the activities. Further, the learners enact roleplays and read stories that inspire climate action.



### "GLOBAL WARMING CAUSES DRAMATIC INCREASE IN FOREST FIRES"

screamed the newspaper headline. Tara quickly skimmed the article and fell into deep thought. She wished she could do something to help protect forests. *Excerpt from a Climate Change short story.*

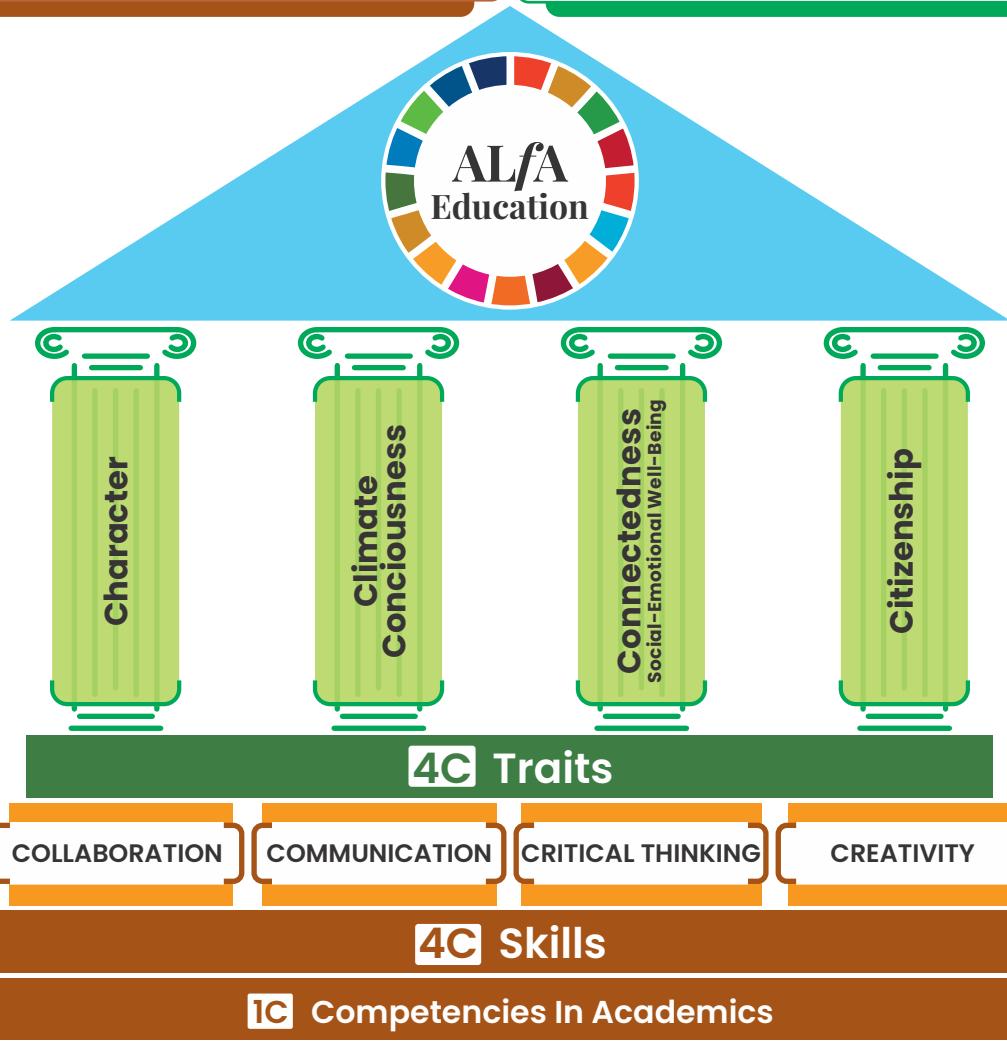
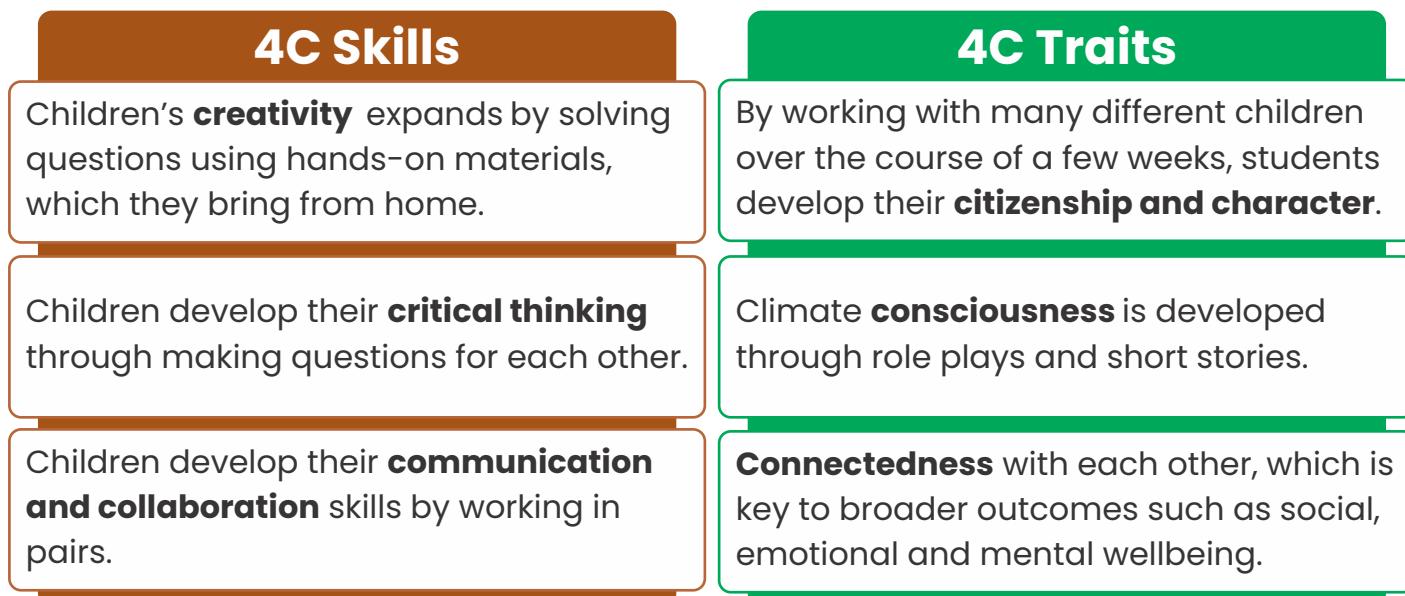


[Click here](#)

to explore  
our collection

# ALFA 4C SKILLS + 4C TRAITS

ALFA seamlessly integrates the 4C Skills leading to 4C Traits of a twenty-first century learner. These 8Cs cannot be taught from a textbook, but rather acquired while working with each other in the everyday context of a classroom. Pair setting creates a safe environment in which learners feel free to share and express.





# OUR INITIATIVES

# Government Schools

Upon a request from the Ministry of Education Secretary, Anita Karwal, DEVI Sansthan began working in two of India's 'Low Performing Districts' (LPDs): Shamli, Uttar Pradesh, and Sambalpur, Odisha. The success of the initiative led to an MOU with the Uttar Pradesh education department in November 2022, enabling ALfA implementation in 15 districts.



## Shamli

Implementation of Accelerating Learning for All in 10 schools commenced in August 2022, with a further 10 schools taken as a reference group. Impressive results and teacher testimonies led the DM to request a scale-up to 200 schools, with 70 as a reference. Data from March 2023 testing a representative sample of the 200 schools has shown that their results have improved typically 50% greater than the improvement of reference schools, corresponding to an effect size of 0.3.

To see the MOU [Click here](#)



Many children have shown drastic improvement, gaining literacy impressive skills, as showcased in this video.

[Click here](#)



The literacy program has also attracted attention from the press, as shown here.

[Click here](#)



## Sambalpur

DEVI trained teachers in 10 schools of Sambalpur district, Odisha, to implement ALfA in 10 schools. Initially teachers were reluctant, feeling under pressure to complete their traditional curriculum. But as they began trying out the ALfA methods in their classes, they grew to love it, and promoted it to their colleagues. Students are also reaping the benefits.

Check out a video of our work in Sambalpur here.

[Click here](#)

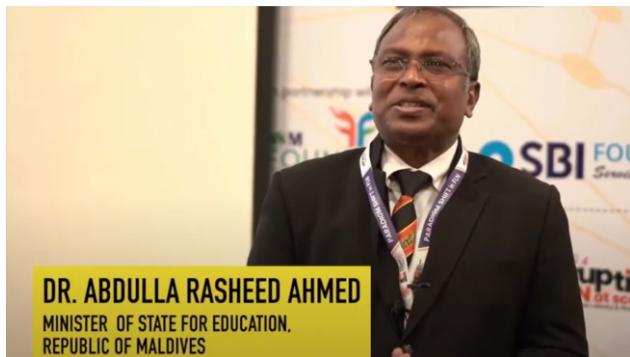
## Lucknow, Unnao & Barabanki

160 schools of Lucknow and two neighbouring districts – Barabanki and Unnao – were randomly selected to implement ALfA for Hindi, Numeracy and English. Over 800 teachers were trained in person on 24–25 January, and received their ALfA toolkits. Initial school visits suggest that children are making rapid learning progress



Teachers enjoy a hands-on numeracy activity during the ALfA training.

## Ministry of Education, Maldives



DR. ABDULLA RASHEED AHMED  
MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION,  
REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES

The Minister of State for Education addressed the Synergy Summit, July 2022.

[Click here](#)

In September 2022, we conducted an online training for over 200 teachers from the Maldives. A delegation of 70 teachers and school heads also came to visit our schools and literacy programs in Lucknow. The Education Ministry has been assisting with replicating the ALfA materials in Dhivehi. An in-person training is scheduled for May 2023 to kickstart the program, to be conducted initially in 10 government schools. The program is seeking funding support from UNICEF.





## Each One Teach At Least One

Each One Teach At Least One Campaign is a home based solution where students of Grades 5 to 12 commit to make at least one child or adult literate. They adopt a learner in their homes or near their home's neighbourhood, and teach them using the disruptive Global Dream FLN Toolkits.

In a 2023 agreement with the Department of Secondary Schools in Uttar Pradesh, up to 5 million student volunteers are set to use the Literacy Now App to teach illiterate relatives and neighbours in the coming year.



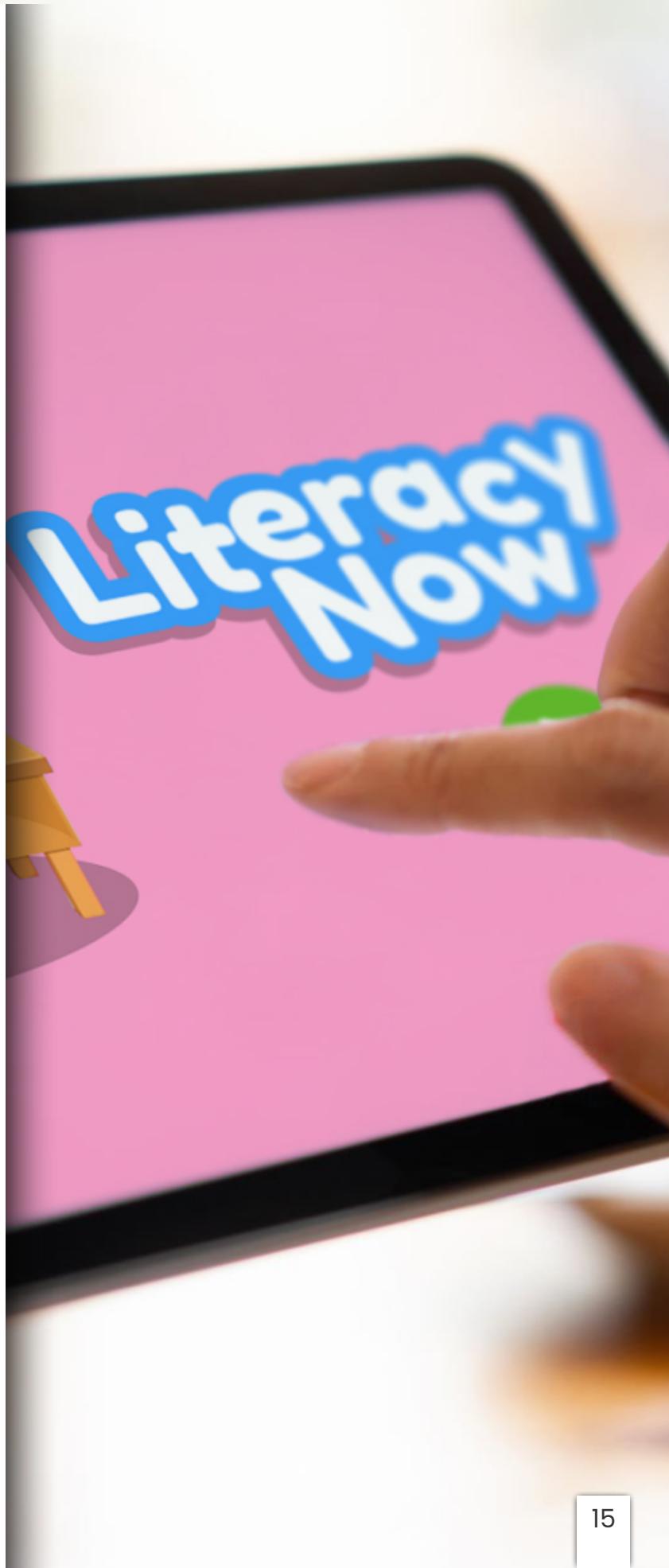


Supported by SBI Foundation, we developed the Literacy Now App. the App makes high-quality, low-carbon literacy education accessible to all.

To date, 16,840 student volunteers have enrolled on the app; registering 14,308 learners

The app provides:

1. **Registration**—Students register themselves with their basic demographic details, and can in turn add one or more learners.
2. **Pre-Test**—Learners take a short test on any device: mobile, tablet or computer.
3. **Lessons**—These are 3-minute video lessons that the student can share with the learner on any device. The app also has fun drag-and-drop games.
4. **Post-Test**—After the learner has become capable of reading, they take a post-test and continue with reading practice.
5. **Verification**—The student volunteers request for verification of their learner on the app. A verifier calls to test the learner on their reading skill.
6. **Certification**—The learner and the student volunteers get their certificates.



# Adult Literacy

## West Bengal



IIMPACT and DEVI Sansthan have been working together to mobilize and motivate mothers from the economically and socially backward rural areas of Murshidabad district, West Bengal and empower them with literacy. The mother literacy program started on 1st August 2022 with 50 volunteers and 1000 mothers, who are engaged in the ALfA Literacy Program. The results have been impressive, empowering hundreds of women with the vital skills of reading and writing.



## Mizoram



Directorate of School Education  
Government of Mizoram

The Directorate of School Education, Mizoram has partnered with DEVI Sansthan to implement the Global Dream FLN program to enhance the FLN skills of 5,000 adult learners who are illiterate in the 3 districts of Aizawl, Lawngtlai and Mamit.



## Literacy Chicago



In collaboration with Literacy Chicago, the Global Dream ALfA English toolkits are being converted into videos and will also be piloted with adult learners in Chicago.

To watch a video of Literacy Chicago's first ALfA lesson.

[Click here](#)



# Community Education



DEVI Sansthan has initiated Ek Tara School where the teachers and students of City International School, Manas City, Lucknow, join efforts to educate the children from the nearby slums till Grade 5. CIS absorbs them into the main school from Grade 6 onwards. Many children of the Ek Tara School have passed CIS with flying colours, and have proceeded to undertake higher education. The children are taught all the skills including sports, dance, music and swimming. To date, we

have enrolled 70+ slum children in the school who attend the classes on regular basis in the afternoon session. Both children and adults come to learn basic reading and writing, and women are also given vocational training. While professional teachers are employed, CIS children also periodically help. The CIS parents are invited to support a child so that children from the financially weaker sections of our society can access quality education.

# Slum Empowerment

As well as working directly in education, DEVI Sansthan is running holistic community empowerment programs in several urban poor communities in central Lucknow – the capital of Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous state. These programs give us greater empathy and understanding about the lives of the poor, thus informing us about how best to fight poverty. Rather than providing services directly ourselves, we help people access government medical care and government entitlements.

## Medical

Often the poor are unable to access the healthcare they need, due to the complexity and expensiveness of the medical system. We help by taking people to hospitals, buying medicines, and giving cash support to patients. Over the past few years, we have taken hundreds of people to hospital for a huge array of issues – from broken bones to bronchitis! We've also had the privilege to witness a few people recover from critical illnesses. A recent focus has been on tuberculosis prevention and treatment, through community education, nutrition support and assisting people with the hospital system.

## Entitlements

We help people fill forms and submit them at various government offices for key documentation and services, including aadhar & PAN cards (basic ID), ration cards (subsidized food grain), bank accounts, pensions (disability, old age & widows). A primary focus has been gas connections, as the fuel transition from wood to gas has huge health, environmental and economic benefits. The main reason that many people still do not have a government gas connection is the upfront cost. In our project, we are subsidizing half the upfront cost of the connection. So far we've helped over 500 people get gas connections.



*Farha used to cook on a wood stove before DEVI sponsored half the upfront cost of getting a government gas connection.*



*Collating people's documents to file an application for affordable housing.*

# 2022-23 Impact



150+

people assisted  
to get an eye  
check-up & glasses

100+

people  
assisted to  
apply for pensions

80+

people helped  
to get gas  
connections

50+

people with disabilities  
got government  
certification

## Stories of Hope and Struggle

*Rashida\* – getting a roof over your head*

Three years ago, we applied for a government grant (Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna) for Rashida, to build a house on her plot of land. Rashida, a widow, currently lives in a shack by the side of a railway track, in a slum which gets demolished every few years. After long periods of waiting and innumerable trips to the District Urban Development Authority, Rashida's application was finally approved and her house building is well underway. This will hopefully mean long term secure accommodation for her and her family, as well as potentially a source of income if she finds tenants.

*Sabreen\* – fighting a deadly disease*

We met Sabreen, 18, in her makeshift bamboo-and-plastic shack. She was skin-and-bones, vomiting anything she would eat and coughing terribly. Her mother-in-law had spent thousands of rupees on treatment at private doctors, but now Sabreen was losing hope. Our community workers took her to the local hospital, where she was admitted for several days before being diagnosed with multi-drug resistant tuberculosis (MDR TB). This lethal disease requires at least 9 months of treatment using 5 different antibiotics, which have potentially serious side-effects. Several months into treatment, Sabreen is now feeling a lot better, is gaining weight and no longer coughing much.

## Learn more

Understand some of the challenges the poor face in accessing government services.

[Click here](#)

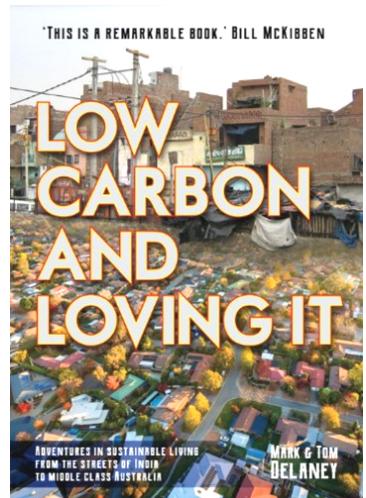
Read about the burden of tuberculosis among the urban poor.

[Click here](#)

Read our project coordinator's book, Low Carbon And Loving It: Adventures in Sustainable Living

[Click here](#)

\* Names changed for privacy.





EVENTS



Presentation by Dr Abdulla Rasheed Ahmed, Minister of State for Education, Maldives

# SYNERGY SUMMIT, Delhi 11 & 12 July 2022

## THEME: Need for a Paradigm Shift

DEVI Sansthan hosted its first summit to create synergy among stakeholders in FLN in July 2022.



Disruptive Literacy: A Roadmap For Urgent Global Action Book Launch



Signing MOU with M3M Foundation for FLN implementation in government schools



Lighting of the lamp with eminent guests, including a representative of Lao PDR



#DisruptiveFLN

Foundational Literacy & Numeracy



# GLOBAL DISRUPTIVE TALKS *on* FOUNDATIONAL & *Literacy* NUMERACY

The D-Talks live video series brings together socially responsible leaders and sustainable development practitioners to engage in conversations that lead to change.

A 20-to-30-minute presentation by the speaker is followed by interactions with the guest. The D-Talks are simultaneously relayed on multiple media platforms including YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, Telegram, Twitch and others.

## 4 ACTS of D-talks

### Awareness

To raise awareness of the seriousness of the FLN crises



A

### Commitments

To get commitments for a time-bound people's movement



### Sharing

To inspire greater action by the sharing of successes

S

### Targets

To discover groundbreaking solutions that meet targets efficiently



T

# Disruptive Talks on Literacy

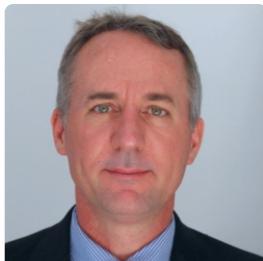
The D-Talks have witnessed the participation of 174 speakers from 22 countries in the first series.

Speakers have included activists and academics, policymakers and practitioners at all levels: government,

international agencies, non-profit sector, donor community, corporates, universities, youth and schools.

We look forward to engaging discussions with you in Series 2.0 of the D-Talks.

## 174 Speakers from 22 Countries Include



**Robert Jenkins**



**Dr. Abdulla Rasheed**



**Vicky Colbert**



**Jon Corripo**



**Mary McCool Berry**

Global Director,  
Education &  
Adolescent  
Development,  
UNICEF

Minister of State for  
Education  
Head, National  
Institute of  
Education (NIE),  
Maldives

Founder & Director  
Fundación Escuela  
Nueva

Co-Author, The  
Eduprotocols  
Field Guide Book 1  
and 2 & Eduprotocols  
Math Edition

Reading Specialist  
Literacy for All  
Advocate

Albania

Argentina

Bangladesh

Brazil

Bulgaria

Colombia

India

Kenya

Maldives

Pakistan

Portugal

Qatar

Serbia

Slovakia

South Africa

Switzerland

UK

USA

## Country *wise* Talks



Scan Me To Watch the D-Talks



Nepal

New Zealand

Netherlands

Nigeria

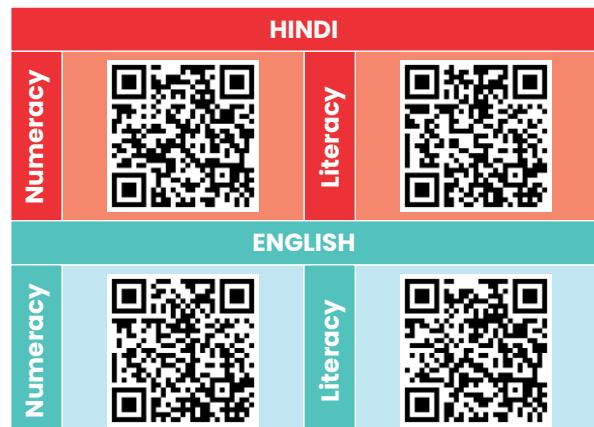
# Massive Open Online Training

DEVI Sansthan recently conducted the first Massive Open Online Training (MOOT) on the Accelerating Learning for All (ALfA) program, to empower teachers with innovative pedagogies to improve Functional Literacy & Numeracy (FLN) teaching.



## Why a MOOT?

There are many logistical constraints to physical trainings, including the time and financial expense of travel & venues. The MOOT is an experimental idea to bring the best aspects of a physical training – participation, engagement and discussion – into an online format. This highly scalable and flexible format enables us to get the ALfA process and pedagogy out into the world as quickly as possible. It's also low carbon!



Scan the QR codes to watch recordings of the MOOT Sessions.



## Data Highlights

**25,660**

YouTube Views across 13 sessions

**53**

countries with representatives from all 6 continents participated

**26**

states of India participated

**72%**

of participants expressed interest in becoming an ALfA trainer

**86%**

of participants said they would 'definitely' use ALfA in their class

**93%**

of participants found the online format of the training to be effective

**95%**

of participants wanted access to ALfA materials

**97%**

of participants passed the quiz & were shared free access to ALfA materials

**99%**

of teachers said they had new take-away points from the training

## Training Format

The training was conducted in three time slots each day on 9-10 March in English, to cater for participants from different time-zones around the world. This was followed by a Policymakers' Conclave on 11 March. On 14-15 March, the training was done in two time slots in Hindi, to cater for Indian teachers.

The training was broadcast live on YouTube; with participants interacting via the live comments, audience polls, and a quiz at the end of the training.

## MOOT Advantages

- Empower teachers with many ideas for change
- Improve teacher enthusiasm
- Implement change immediately
- Enhance learning outcomes swiftly using new & advanced techniques
- Equip teachers with practical ideas for hands-on activities
- Gain access to Accelerating Learning for All (ALfA) materials for implementation

## How we made MOOT highly effective

Many complain that online training is often boring, but we innovated to make the MOOT an enriching experience for all.

- More interactive: Enabled through audience polls and live chat
- More participatory: Multiple people can share & receive instant responses
- More engaging: Conversational presentations by two or three facilitators create more interest than monologue
- More enjoyable: Participants take part in a fun quiz and receive certificates

## Why send your teachers to a MOOT?

Participants leave the power-packed 3-hour sessions highly motivated to implement ALfA and empowered with practical skills such as how to:

- Use paired learning to accelerate FLN acquisition by the class
- Take instant whole-class feedback on learning levels
- Conduct fun hands-on literacy and numeracy activities using easily available materials from home and surroundings

## A Call to Action

### Policymakers

Invite all your teachers to the next MOOT to take their skills and motivation to the next level

Implement the 45-days-to-FLN challenge across your schools

### Trainers

Become a registered ALfA trainer to deliver online and in-person workshops in your language and contexts

Help replicate the ALfA materials in more languages (already available in 30+)

### Teachers

Come to the next MOOT and motivate your friends and colleagues to join Implement ALfA in your classroom and share your photos and videos with us and the world

# 11 March 2023

# POLICYMAKERS CONCLAVE

The Policymakers Conclave was repeated in the three time-slots below to enable the participation of people from all corners of the world. It brought together leading policymakers, principals and pedagogues to discuss disruptive solutions to the FLN crisis.



**Inger-Mette Stenseth**

Co-Founder of World Climate School, Norway

Inger-Mette Stenseth is co-founder of World Climate School, desentralised network and part of the Climate Education Coalition



**Samuel Sasu Adonteng**

Lead Programmes Officer, AASU

Mr Samuel Adonteng is the All Africa Student Union's primary contact with the UNESCO COVID-19 GEC and ECW Youth Subgroup.



**Rana Dajani**

President, We Love Reading

Rana Dajani is a Ph.D. molecular cell biology from University of Iowa, a Harvard Radcliff fellow, and a former Fulbrighter.



**Rashmi Arun Shami**

Principal Secretary School Education

Rashmi Shami, IAS, has held numerous key posts in the Madhya Pradesh government, including the Director of Tribal Area Development and Planning and Commissioner of Rajya Shiksha Kendra.

## BREAKUP OF 3.5 HOURS

### SESSION 1

45 mins

THEME A  
Welcome /  
Scaling up  
MOOT  
worldwide

### SESSION 2

45 mins

THEME B  
Disruptive  
Solutions to a  
Global Literacy  
Emergency

### SESSION 3

30 mins

PRESENTATIONS  
From the Field  
with Evidence of  
FLN with 10X  
Results

### SESSION 4

45 mins

THEME C  
Collaborations  
and Synergies  
towards Mass  
Mobilization

### SESSION 5

45 mins

THEME D  
System-wide  
Reforms,  
Policies &  
Plans



# PUBLICATIONS & MEDIA

# HARVARD ON ALfA FLN

Harvard Graduate School of Education, USA

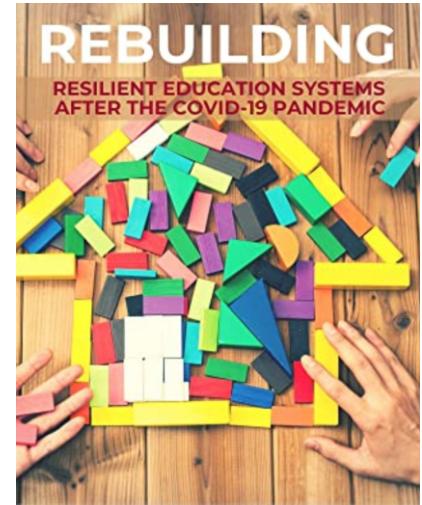
## Chapter 8

### Policy Pathways for Improving Foundational Literacy and Numeracy in Uttar Pradesh, India

**in "Rebuilding Resilient Education Systems After the COVID-19 Pandemic", March 2023, Amazon**



[Click here](#)



Book By Prof. Fernando Reimers et al,  
Harvard Graduate School of Education

Chapter 8 of the book by Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE), Cambridge, USA, published in March 2023 documents the ALfA program in Shamli, and recommends its widespread adoption in UP.

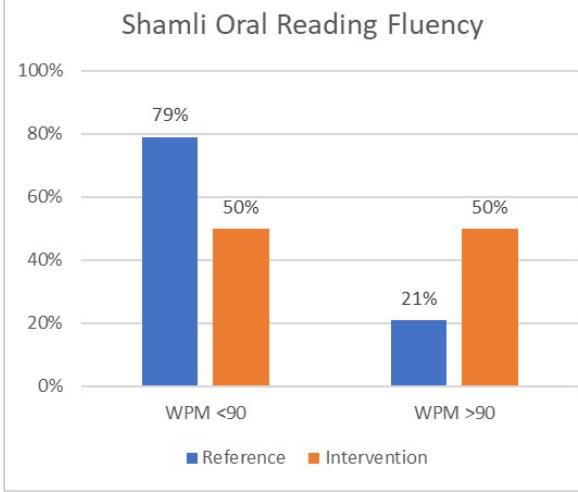
Chapters 8 also documents results from the ALfA program from a Randomized Control Trial (RCT) conducted in the Shamli district of Uttar Pradesh. The RCT demonstrates a significant effect size of 0.23 for Grade 3 and 0.89 for Grade 5.

Chapter 10 of the same book is about the introduction of ALfA program at the nationwide level in the Republic of Maldives.

On this and next page are some extracts from the chapter on FLN in UP by HGSE.

We recommend the UP government (1) incorporate the promising ALfA pedagogy developed by DEVI for the first 6 weeks to quickly establish a strong FLN foundation, (2) after the ALfA program, shift to the curriculum.

Accelerated Learning for All (ALfA), helps children quickly gain FLN competencies. The pedagogical approach works as follows: students start with known words in the form of pictures, identify the sounds, and work backward to the letters.



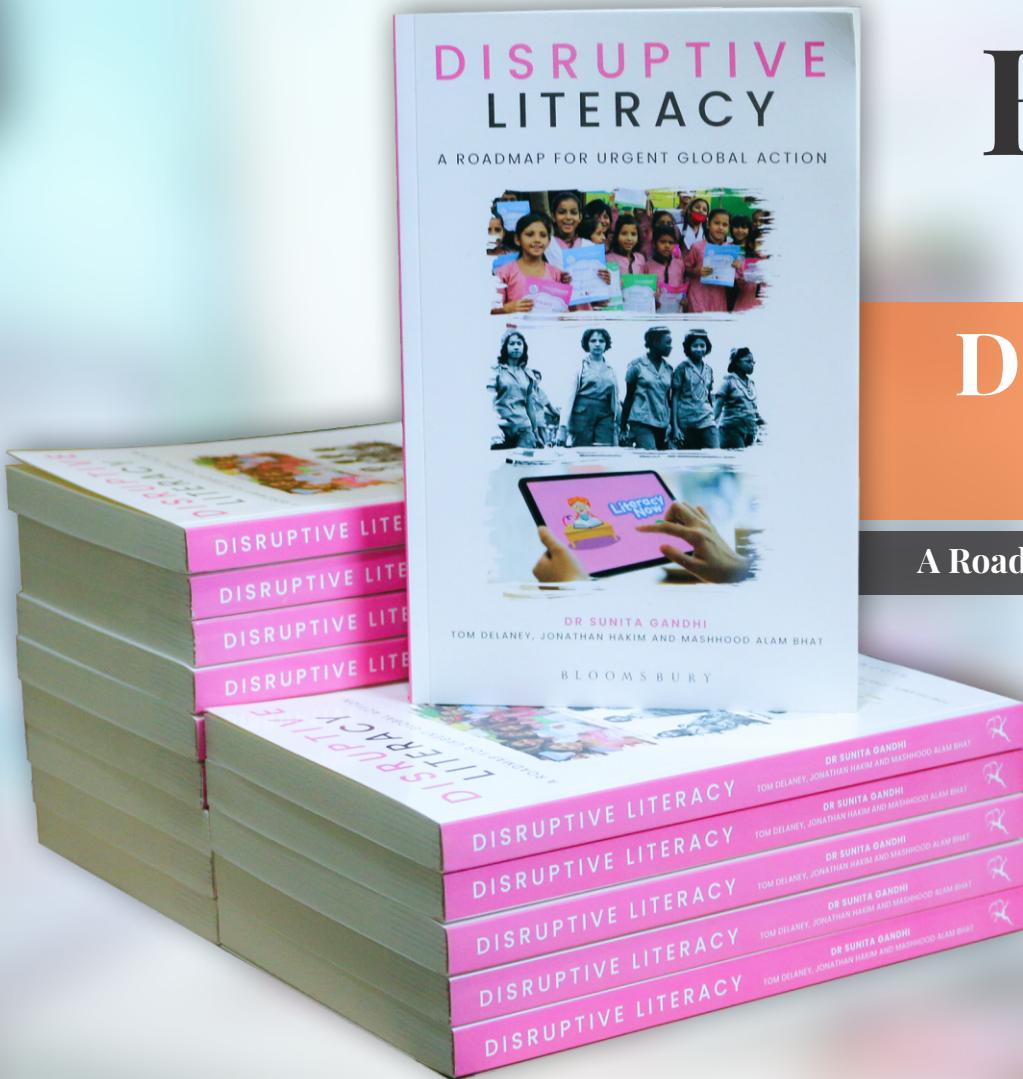
*Students in the intervention groups had much higher ORF [oral reading fluency] levels than those in the reference group. For Grades 4-5, 50% of the intervention group students were able to read the passage at >90 words per minute (WPM) compared to 20% of reference group students.*

The effect size\* of the project was **0.23 for Grade 3** students and **0.89 for Grade 5**... the results suggest there is significant value in pursuing the ALFA model in other schools if implemented in a coherent, structured, and coordinated manner.



\*Effect size is a statistical measure of how substantial the impact of an intervention is. 0.23 is considered a substantial effect size, and 0.89 very large.

# Books



## DISRUPTIVE LITERACY

A Roadmap for Urgent Global Action

"Drawing from remarkable examples of movements around the world, and sprinkled with stories from the authors' grassroots educational work in the Global Dream Accelerating Learning for All (ALfA) program, Disruptive Literacy is an easy-to-read but hard-to-ignore manifesto that will touch your heart and inspire you to action."

Published by  
Bloomsbury,  
Available on  
Amazon



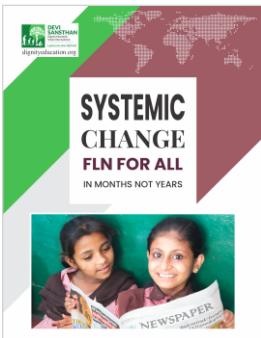
*"A much-needed manifesto for achieving large scale transformation of the global literacy crisis."*

**Ernesto Schiefelbein**  
Former Minister of Education, Chile

*"A must read for policymakers and all those associated with the campaign against illiteracy."*

**Anil Swarup**  
Former Secretary of Education, India

# Reports



## Systemic Change

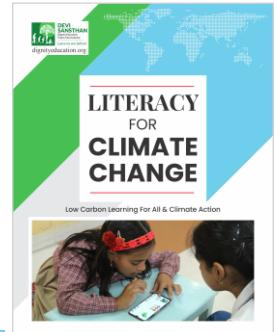
[Click here](#)

Our education system is failing to ensure all students acquire basic foundational literacy and numeracy skills. Drawing from international research and DEVI Sansthan's experience, this in-depth report analyses the gaps in the current system and prescribes a way forward with policies, processes, and pedagogies to accelerate learning.

## Literacy for Climate Change

[Click here](#)

Illiteracy and Climate Change are two huge problems holding back global development. This report analyses the surprising linkages between these twin emergencies, and highlights how the Accelerating Learning for All program minimizes environmental impact while inculcating climate consciousness.



## Massive Open Online Training

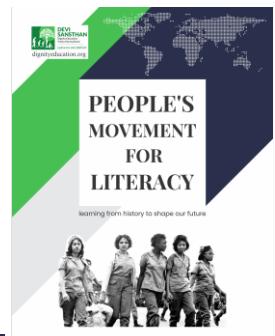
[Click here](#)

DEVI Sansthan ran our first MOOT on 9-11 and 14-15 March 2023, to empower thousands of teachers with the ALfA methodology. 93% of participants found the training to be effective, and 95% said they wanted to try ALfA out in their classrooms.

## Mass Movement

[Click here](#)

A shocking 770 million adults around the world cannot read. To achieve universal literacy, we need to mobilise a mass campaign.. This report draws inspiration from historic mass movements for literacy, from Cuba to Ernakulam, to illuminate a roadmap for a 21st century global literacy movement

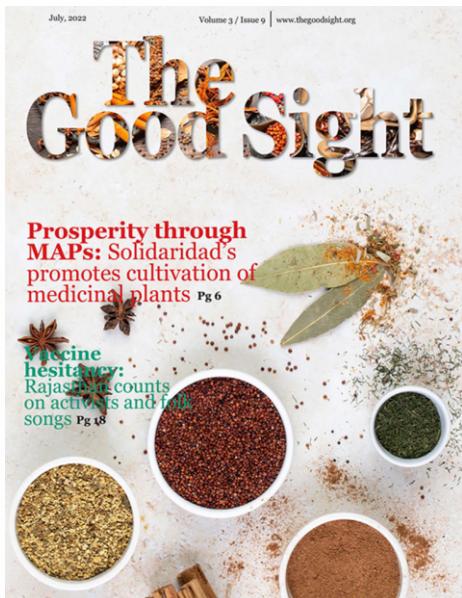


## 45 Days to FLN Challenge

[Click here](#)

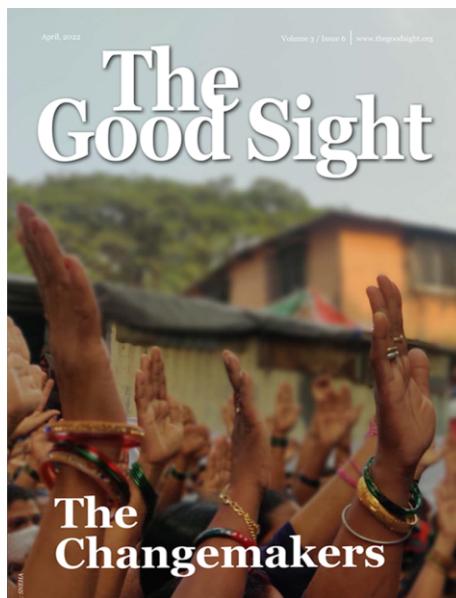
Literacy need not take years. This brochure outlines the 45-Days-to-FLN Challenge, inviting schools to take up the ALfA methodology to unlock tremendous rates of learning. We unpack a step-by-step research process, from conducting baseline tests and training teachers to implementation and endline analyse.

# Magazines



Synergy: Accelerating Learning for All

[Click here](#)



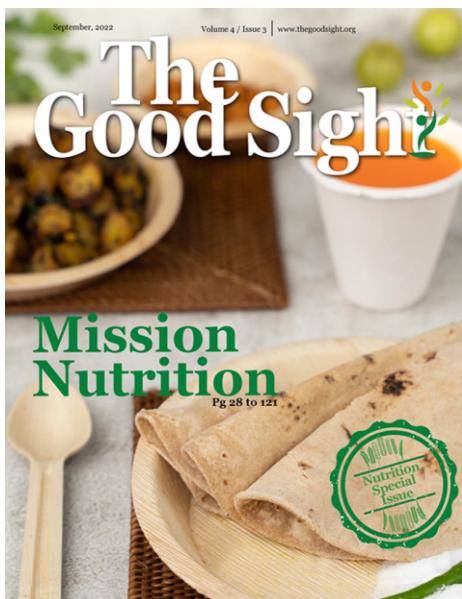
A Paradigm Shift in FLN

[Click here](#)



Transforming Literacy Education through ALfa

[Click here](#)



Why Investing in FLN Should be Prioritized

[Click here](#)



Literacy for All

[Click here](#)



Foundational Literacy and Numeracy: The Missing Ingredient

[Click here](#)

# Successful foundational learning model



[Click here](#)

SUNITA GANDHI



**T**O DAY, SEVEN OF TEN CHILDREN ACROSS India cannot read with comprehension by their tenth birthday. The Covid-19 pandemic severely disrupted Indian education, but the pre-pandemic picture wasn't rosy either. Barely half of children were able to read after five years of schooling.

The National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN) Bharat programme, launched in July 2021 by the Union education ministry's Department of School Education and Literacy, has set an ambitious goal of universal foundational literacy and numeracy (FLN) by 2026-27. For the first time, FLN has been accorded highest priority in the detailed and visionary National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. How can this goal be attained?

A dispassionate analysis is required to assess whether this goal is attainable. Evidence suggests that increasing 'inputs' doesn't improve 'outcomes'. There is no causal relationship between more teachers training and better results in terms of children's learning outcomes. Moreover, grouping children by ability creates fixed mindsets that can be damaging. Nor do teachers change their behaviour quickly. Like master puppeteers, they feel justified in teaching the way they have always done. Their schedules are full with textbook completion, and several non-teaching duties. There's little room for innovation and undertaking new projects — workbooks, hands-on activities, tracking, revision, testing, remedial work, etc. However, it's time for governments to think out-of-the-box and devise disruptive new solutions.

The body of evidence suggests that most teachers want to excel in their work, and also want their students to excel. Here are a few suggestions to create more conducive teaching-learning conditions in classrooms:

- **Focus on outcomes.** Teachers should be accountable for students learning outcomes, not quantum of inputs.
- **Learning & sharing.** Teachers need to share evidence and learn from each other, highlight good work and celebrate success. Schools need to move beyond carrot and stick accountability to motivate teachers.
- **Reduce burden.** School managements should focus on developing students' competencies for each grade as prescribed by NIPUN Bharat, to accelerate fluency and understanding, writing, and mastery of numeracy.
- **Children-led learning.** School managements need to switch from teacher-led processes that slow down learning and implement child-led processes instead.

In March 2022 at the invitation of the Union education ministry, Dignity Education Vision International (DEVI) Sansthan, a Lucknow-based NGO promoted by this writer, introduced its child-led ALfA (Accelerated Learning for All) foundational learning programme for classes I-V children in ten schools in the Shamli district of Uttar Pradesh. After

**After 30 days, children's learning outcomes were so transformed that the district magistrate requested DEVI Sansthan to expand its programme to another 200 schools**

30 working days, the learning outcomes of children were so transformative that the district magistrate requested DEVI Sansthan to expand its programme (starting this November) to another 200 schools with 70 more schools in the control group.

In the pilot programme, 84 percent of children began to read full textbook paragraphs in 30 days. Many are reading newspapers and prescribed textbooks in other subjects. Even younger children in classes I-II have surpassed NIPUN Bharat goals for literacy and numeracy. Learning outcomes of all children including those with special needs, shy and hyperactive children, have shown considerable improvement.

It's pertinent to note that the ALfA toolkit comprising three booklets: Reading (28 pages), Writing (10) and Numeracy (24) requires just two periods per day for 60-90 days — equivalent to 8-12 percent of the school year. ALfA books are usually completed within two-three months but the process of paired learning continues through the entire year and has accelerated learning in all subjects.

The ALfA child-led process of paired learning is groundbreaking new pedagogy. It scaffolds learning from known to the unknown in logically organised and visually attractive modules that enable children to self-learn, with each new module building on the previous. Under this pedagogy, teachers don't teach, they are galvanizers. They explain the 'prompts' in each module. They gather required resources, prepare the environment, and speak the language of encouragement to motivate every child.

Government and public reaction to the ALfA programme has been enthusiastic. It has been replicated in 25 national and international languages and the Republic of Maldives is implementing ALfA countrywide, with six other national governments evaluating it closely.

State governments and private schools — especially budget private schools — are advised to experiment with ALfA and its variants to dramatically improve children's learning outcomes. Interested parties are welcome to connect with DEVI Sansthan through our website [www.dignityeducation.org](http://www.dignityeducation.org).

It is possible to universalise FLN within months, rather than years. It's time to end business as usual in India's classrooms.

(An alumna of Cambridge University and former economist at the World Bank, Dr. Sunita Gandhi is the founder-CEO of DEVI Sansthan, Lucknow)

# Newspapers

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26°C

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NEWS / CITY NEWS / LUCKNOW NEWS / Global Policymakers To Discuss Education

### Global policymakers to discuss education

TNN / Mar 6, 2023, 08:34 IST

181 PTS

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AA

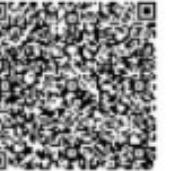


Lucknow: A unique online program will help your children to make up for the education loss during the pandemic. The 'Accelerated Learning for All' (ALFA) program developed by Dignity Education Vision International (DEVI Sansthan) will help children easily learn how to read, write and do arithmetic. To make this online program, which is free for children, reach the masses, a Massive Open Online Training (MOOC) and global policymakers conclave will be held in online mode from March 9 to 14.

"Around 7 lakh teachers from 39 countries and 24 states of India will be participating in three different slots per day during the conclave," said founder and CEO of DEVI Sansthan Sunita Gandhi.

The conclave will be inaugurated by Defence minister [Rajnath Singh](#), Prime Minister, the Central African Republic Felix Moloua, and former education minister of Yemen. TNN

# AUSTRALIA MORNING TRIBUNE



## Educationist & Innovator Dr. Sunita Gandhi develops new pedagogy 'Global Dream - ALFA'



Travelling from Lucknow to India's capital New Delhi, a surprise squadron of Kindergarten to Grade 2 students addressed a press conference at the Press Club of India, to help the world solve one its greatest problems in education – that of universal literacy and numeracy.



## 'Learn to Read, Write in 30 Hours': Ex-World Bank Economist's Inverted Teaching Helps 5 lakh Rural Kids

While kids take at least a few years to learn the alphabet, read and write, Dr Sunita Gandhi's new way of inverted learning has made many rural children "literate" in as little as 30 hours.

The former World Bank economist and doctorate from Cambridge University has taught more than five lakh underprivileged kids across the country in the past six years. Gandhi, a Lucknow-based philanthropist, has made this possible through her programme, 'Global Dream'.

Speaking to News18, Gandhi said, "Thousands of children can't attend school due to various reasons. Most of them are in rural vicinities. Our aim is to provide basic literacy in as little as 30 days. We have been working on this programme with the help of our volunteers and have been providing this new way of learning to underprivileged kids for free."





# OUR PARTNERS



## Forum for African Women Educationalists

The coordinators of the Forum for African Women Educationalists (FAWE) have attended our MOOT and Policymakers Conclave, and we are looking forward to collaborating and working in the field of education with them.



## Kupanda Sisters

Kupanda Sisters is implementing ALfA in their school in Guyana, using a web-based learning modality



QUIZIZZ

Quizizz

Quizizz has partnered with us to bring fun, online tests with instantaneous feedback to the Massive Open Online Trainings.



Arca Beta

DEVI is training teachers from this NGO to implement ALfA in their school in Iquitos, Peru. We hope that impressive learning results will inspire more organisations to join the campaign.



Piramal  
Foundation

Piramal Foundation

We are beginning a partnership with Piramal Foundation to enhance foundational literacy and numeracy (FLN). They have shared a list of 112 aspirational districts which we will work with them in a phase-wise manner. The program will enable children in grades 1–5 to quickly catch up with the grade-level curriculum and achieve grade-level learning outcomes.



## Dubai Cares

دبي العطاء  
Dubai Cares

Dubai Cares has been our media promotion partner, helping spread the word on the Policymakers Conclave and Massive Open Online Trainings in March 2023



## Teachers Without Borders

Interns from Teachers Without Borders have helped replicate the ALfA toolkits in several languages: French, Spanish, Dutch, Serbian and Twi (Ghana). TWB founder Prof. Fred Mednick also helped us organize the Massive Open Online Training and Policymakers Conclave.



DEVI Sansthan partnered with SBI Foundation to develop the Literacy Now App, which provides lessons on the Mobile App and on other devices. Using this App, it is possible to make an illiterate learner of any age reading capable by spending 20 minutes per day for 30-45 days.



## M3M Foundation

M3M foundation has generously supported DEVI Sansthan to help run the Synergy Summit: A Paradigm Shift in FLN (Delhi, July 2022). They have also collaborated with our work in Shamli district, Uttar Pradesh.

## Private Schools

DEVI's "Each One Teach One" program mobilizes and trains school and college students to teach literacy. A 5-year MOU has been signed with City Montessori School, wherein 25,000 student volunteers of grades 5-11 will participate in the 'Teach At least One' campaign every year.

# Global Advisory Committee

We thank our advisory committee members for their guidance and motivation.



**Aïcha Bah Diallo**

Founding Member of  
FAWE, Guinea



**Alesha Anderson**

Senior Program  
Officer at Pro-Literacy  
Worldwide, USA



**Alexandre Romanovsky**

Advisor to Companies  
Dedicated to the United  
Nations, USA



**Bill Graham**

Vice Chair, NGO Committee  
for Education, Learning &  
Literacy at the United  
Nations in New York, USA



**Chetnaa Mehrotra**

Founder, Applied  
Theatre Organization  
(Rangbhumi), India



**Chris Macrae**

Head of Talent, Diversity,  
Equity and Inclusion at  
GlaxoSmithKline, USA



**Cindy Charles**

Kupanda Sisters Inc.  
Founder & CEO,  
Guyana



**David J. Rosen**

Director, Adult Literacy  
Resource Institute, University  
of Massachusetts, USA



**David Bovill**

Partnerships Manager,  
DEIP, UK



**Ernesto Schiefelbein**

Chilean Pedagogue,  
Professor, Economist &  
Politician, Chile



**Fred Mednick**

Founder, Teacher  
Without Borders, USA



**Gail Davis-Carter**

UN ECOSOC Representative,  
UN Partner and Social  
Entrepreneur, USA



**Girish Menon**

CEO, STIR Education,  
UK



**Inger-Mette Stenseth**

Founder, World Climate  
School, Norway



**Joanne Telser-Frere**

Director, Program  
Development, USA



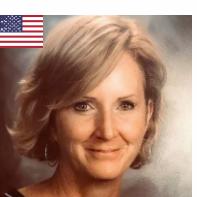
**Jon M Corippo**

Author, Eduprotocols,  
USA



**Kyle Zimmer**

Author, Eduprotocols,  
USA



**Mary McCool Berry**

Founder, Read Keys,  
USA



**Michael Matos**

Education Technology  
Director, ScaleLIT, USA



**Navneet Anand**

Director, GreyMatters  
Communications &  
Consulting, India



**Nicolas Gravel**

Professor of Economics,  
Aix-Marseille University,  
France



**Nixon Joseph**

CEO, Children's  
LoveCastles Trust,  
India



**Peter Campling**

Global Programmes  
Director, USA



**Peter Kwasi Kodjie**

Secretary-General All  
Africa Student's Union,  
Ghana



**Rana Dajani**

President, We Love  
Reading, Jordan



**Ravi Sreedharan**

Founder & President, Indian  
School of Development  
Management, India



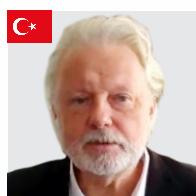
**Rebecca Doreen**

Founding Director,  
Vadiva Trust  
Organization, Zimbabwe



**Richard Allen**

Director of Partnerships,  
VOYCE, USA



**Robert Thorn**

Director, Developing Real  
Learners & Academy of  
Learner Development, Turkey



**Samuel Sasu Adonteng**

Programmes Officer for  
Tertiary Education, AASU,  
Ghana



**Sigamoney Naicker**

Professor, University of  
the Western Cape,  
South Africa



**Sigbjorn Dugal**

Founder, Pickatale  
Norway



**Stephen Peters**

President, The Peters  
Group, USA



**Sylvia Guimaraes**

Co-founder & President,  
Vaga Lume, Brazil



**Vicky Colbert**

Founder & Director,  
Fundación Escuela Nueva,  
Colombia

# Supporters



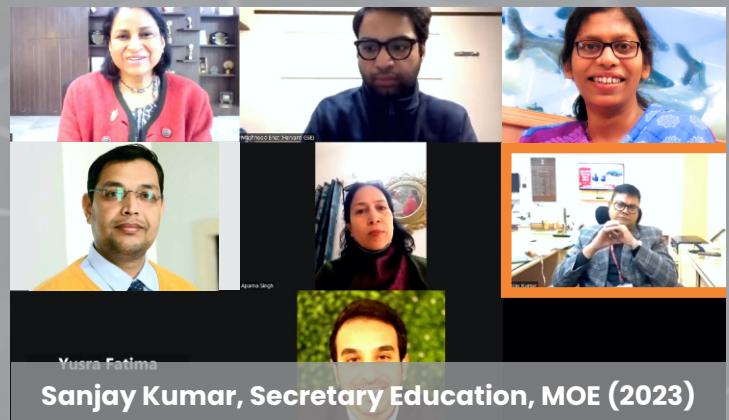
Shri Rajnath Singh, India's Defense Minister



Alok Ranjan, Chief Secretary, Uttar Pradesh (2015)



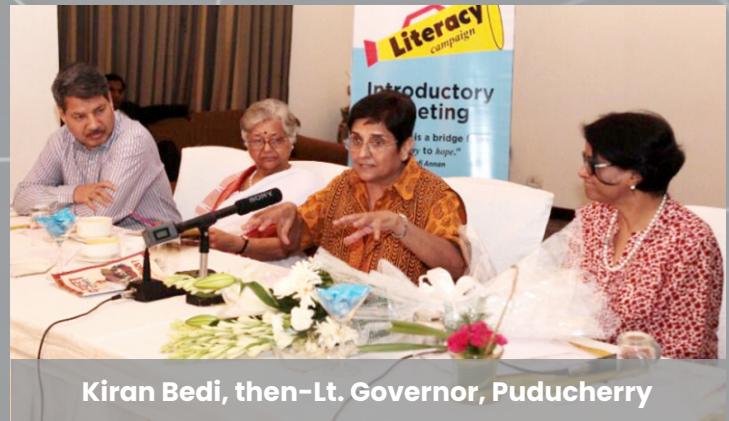
Anita Karwal, Secretary Education, MOE (2022)



Yusra Fatima  
Sanjay Kumar, Secretary Education, MOE (2023)



Vijay Kiran Anand, Director-General School Education, UP



Kiran Bedi, then-Lt. Governor, Puducherry



Dileep Shukla, Script-Writer, Bollywood



Raj Shekhar, then-DM Lucknow

# Financial Reporting

## **Provisional Balance Sheet**

M/D/VIS/14/S/IN

**PROVISIONAL BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH, 2023**

Manish Chandra Srivastav  
For Devi Sansthan

Dr Sunita Gandhi  
For Devi Sansthan

Secretary

 (President)



Place: Lucknow  
Date: 08/09/2023

## **Provisional Income & Expenditure**

M/S DEVI SANSTHAN

**35. NAZARBAGH, LUCKNOW  
Provisional Income & Expenditure A/C  
(For the year ending 31st March, 2023)**

**Manish Chandra Srivastav**  
For Devi Sansathan  
  
Manish Chandra  
Srivastav  
Secretary

  
Dr Sunita Gandhi  
For Devi Sanselan  
  
(President)

A circular blue ink stamp. The outer ring contains the text "ABHIMA NYU SINGH & CO. Chartered Accountants, LUCKNOW, U.P. INDIA". The inner circle contains "Digitally signed by ABHIMANYU SINGH Date: 16/03/2020 16:45:18 05:30".

Place: Lucknow  
Date: 08/09/2023

# Provisional Receipts & Payment A/C

M/S DEVI SANSTHAN

35, NAZARBAGH, LUCKNOW  
Provisional Receipts & Payment A/C  
(For the year ending 31st March, 2023)

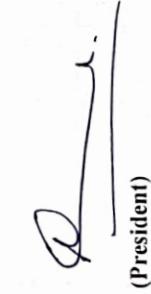
Receipts	Amount	Payments	Amount
To Opening Balance		By Advertisement & Publicity	5900
Cash	3,120.50	By Salary & Wages	7614438
Bank	1,302,067.28	By Travel & Conveyance	5902.81
To Sale of Books	3,872,760.97	By Printing & Stationary	12600
To Donation	1,988,787.00	By Seminar & Conference	100000
To School Fees	816,400.00	By Bank Charges	2808.15
To Interest Income	9,957.00	By Fees & Taxes	6136
To Unsecured Loans	8,195,452.21	By Unsecured Loans	6071209.81
		By Closing balance	
		Cash	591778.5
		Bank	1867771.69
Total	16,188,544.96	Total	16188544.96

Manish Chandra Srivastav  
For Devi Sansthan



(Secretary)

Dr Sunita Gandhi  
For Devi Sansthan



(President)

For M/S Abhimanyu Singh & Co.  
Chartered Accountant



Digitally signed  
by ABHIMANYU SINGH & CO. \* SUNIL JAIN  
ABHIMANYU SINGH Date: 2023.09.30  
YU SINGH 16:45:33 +0530  
(Abhimanyu Singh) ACCO  
Chartered Accountant

Place: Lucknow  
Date: 08/09/2023

# Schedule of Fixed Assets

M/S DEVI SANSTHAN  
35, NAZARBAGH, LUCKNOW

(For the year ending 31st March, 2023)  
SCHEDULE OF FIXED ASSETS FORMING THE PART OF BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31st MARCH, 2023

S. No.	Particulars	Rate	W.D.V. AS ON 01-04-2022	Additions upto Sep, 2021	Additions after Sep, 2021	Total	Dep as on 31-03-2022	W.D.V. AS ON 31-03-2023
1	Building	2.50%	531,225.73	-	-	531,225.73	13,280.64	517,945.09
2	Furniture & Fixture	10%	24,625.85	-	-	24,625.85	2,462.59	22,163.27
3	Equipments	15%	813.33	-	-	813.33	122.00	691.33
4	Computer	20%	114.10	-	-	114.10	22.82	91.28
5	Books & Periodicals	15%	1,498.39	-	-	1,498.39	224.76	1,273.63
6	Other assets	15%	54.44	-	-	54.44	8.17	46.27
7	Gen. Sets	15%	7,834.00	-	-	7,834.00	1,175.10	6,658.90
8	TV/ VCD	15%	241.93	-	-	241.93	36.29	205.64
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>566,407.77</b>	-	-	<b>566,407.77</b>	<b>17,332.36</b>	<b>549,075.41</b>



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SINGH  
CO., LTD.  
LUCKNOW  
Date: 2023.09.30  
1645240530  
ACCOUN

“

Literacy is the bridge  
from misery to hope.

”

Kofi Annan

Former UN Secretary General



“ Dreams are not that which we see while we are sleeping, it is that which prevents us from sleeping.

**Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam**

Former Indian President





**DEVI  
SANSTHAN**  
Dignity Education  
Vision International  
*Leave no one behind*