

Kishalay Foundation

Mentoring Early Education in Rural India

Since 2013



We are a self-motivated and self-funded group of social activists working towards the development of childhood education in rural and underprivileged sectors of West Bengal, India.

We work with government aided primary schools in the remote villages of Sunderban, 80 kms from the main city Kolkata. We aim to set up regional centers at block level and work closely with the schools in the areas of pedagogy, sports, and computers on "Cluster Schools" model.

Our objective is to bring in all stakeholders (teachers, students, parents, and SIs-Govt. officers) together to run various intervention programs for the educationally-backward communities and thus optimize the quality and cost of their education.

With this philosophy in mind our advisor and cofounder Biplab Das, IIM Bangalore alumni, and a few of his batch mates and friends, decided to form **Kishalay Foundation** on 23rd August, 2013.

Kishalay Foundation

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Our Vision

- To make early education in rural India more effective by working with Government-aided primary schools and setting up new model schools.
- To make an impact on the basic healthcare services in rural India by setting up preventive healthcare centers.

Why Kishalay Foundation

There many NGOs in early education space in India, each trying to address some of the key problem areas such as food and nutrition, education for girls, education for most marginalized section of society and so on. We are probably one of the few non-profit initiatives that focus on *"enhancing early education delivery offered by the State Government"*.

Low teacher-student ratio – a deep concern:

We strongly believe that only government-aided initiatives such as mid-day meal programs are not enough to bring kids to the schools. The teacher-student ratio in primary and middle schools of south 24-parganas is pretty low around 1:50 (source: [Research report](#) by Management and Administrative Sciences Review).

A report suggests that 35% of children in grade 1 (one) cannot recognize numbers such as 1-9 and almost 50% of children in grade 5 cannot even read a grade 2 level text. Further, there is a huge problem of school dropout (nearly 40%) every year.

To fill the knowledge gaps of students and apply effective learning practices, we join hands with the local school authorities, social activists, and villagers. Kishalay Foundation provides supplementary education to the poor children through various tools, toys and development programs.

Our Learning Programs

We conduct three types of interventions programs for the Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs) in India such as:

1. Sports Intervention Programs
2. Edutoys Intervention Programs
3. IT Intervention Programs

Our Engagement Model

- Conducting Cricket and Football Coaching camps for kids in schools and making them a part of sports curriculum
- Teaching Abacus program for kids in schools
- Providing counseling and motivational sessions for kids in schools
- Offering basic computer training programs for kids in schools and trainer programs for school teachers
- Organizing preventive healthcare camps for kids in schools
- Conducting feedback analysis from teachers and students
- Offering YepMe Annual Best Primary Teacher award
- Involving all stakeholders - teachers, students, parents, and school inspectors to create an effective early education ecosystem

Our Current State of Work

- **Regular intervention programs** in Government-funded primary schools – currently reached 25 schools so far. – yearly plantation program in one primary school included.
- **Kishalay EduLab** (for 6-12 year-old kids) – We are running 5 centers with 250 students in Sunderban area at Godkhali, Dulki, Manmathanagar, Harekrishnapur, and Jhowkhali area. Three of them except Godkhali are in the extreme underprivileged area where we worked for vulnerable kids.
- **Kishalay EduKid** (for 3-5-year-old kids) – It is our affordable preschool format. Currently, there are two centers, one running at Godkhali with 50 students. Our effort has received a great response from the local community for the quality we are delivering. Recently we opened another center at Shibgunge area operating from April 2017.
- **Apurba Roy Scholarship** – The program is sponsored by Sujay Ray, an IT Professional from Bangalore. It supports three needy kids for their educational expenses and their families to help them come out of extreme poverty.
- Yearly plantation drive in primary schools
- Annual YepMe Best Primary Teacher award

Our Success Stories

In the past 4+ years, we have reached 30 schools in Sunderban region with our various intervention programs. In 9 schools, we have started Edutoys intervention programs with Abacus and other creative and educational toys for effective learning. In total, we engaged approximately 4000 school students so far.

Kishalay Edulab

We worked with Bamunia Primary school and started ***Kishalay Edulab*** there with a computer coupled with educational videos on rhymes, basic science, hygiene, arithmetic and also children movies. This was appreciated by the School Inspector of the region. Our initiative has significantly improved the attendance in classes and generated interest in learning among 150 students in the school. We have selected one teacher of new generation as an IT program coordinator who train other teachers in computer enabled learning.

Kishalay EduKids

After observing many class eight students not even being able to write their names properly in Bengali, their native language, we thought we must start early if we want to stop these learning gaps in new generation kids. With this view in mind, we have started ***Kishalay EduKids*** Preschool in Godkhali with 30 students. We have hired local teachers and trained them with better techniques to impart quality education to our students.

Godkhali FP School

We provided Godkhali FP school with sports package (Cricket set, Footballs), which increased physical activities among students resulting in greater interest in classroom learning.

YepMe Best Primary Teacher

We presented *YepMe Best Primary Teacher* awards in 2014 and 2015 to *Mr. Bibek Pal* and *Ms. Bibha Makal* for their outstanding contribution in early education. This generated greater interest and awareness among teachers and the local community.

Our Expansion Plan

There are close to 9000 Government-supported primary schools in South 24 Parganas district of West Bengal. In the next 3 years we plan to reach each school with at least one of our intervention programs. Apart from Sunderban area, we also want to reach other EBBs of West Bengal such as Medinipur and North 24 Parganas districts in near future.

Apart from these initiatives, we plan to replicate **Kishalay EduKids** Preschool model for 2-5 years-old kids in other EBB districts of West Bengal. Please support us to take our mission forward.

We aim to set up regional centers at block level and work closely with the schools in the areas of pedagogy, sports, and computer education by following "Cluster Schools" model.

In addition to the classroom based teaching, we have been providing many interactive learning experiences to the students for their better results.

Help Us to Help Them

Currently, we are a self-funded group. We need moral and financial support from benevolent people, large institutions, commercial and non-profit organizations, fundraisers, and government authorities both at state and national level. We are not a large

We received some donations from Ketto.org for our Plantation drive program and sponsoring higher education for a child earlier. But, considering the volume of our current work activities and growing needs of poor students, we need more financial support from crowdfunding platforms so that we can turn our plans and their dreams into a reality.

Please donate

To make an individual donation, please visit this [link](#).

Become a volunteer

We have a variety of programs for volunteers of all levels, from inexperienced workers to professionals. [Contact us](#) to join our volunteer program.

Glimpses of Our Activities



[Kishalay Edukids at our Godkhali center of Sunderban]



[Apurba Roy Scholarship 2016 distribution program at Godkhali, Sunderban]



[Fruit sapling distribution to school children to address Nutrition requirements]



[Sports Intervention program in one of the primary schools at Sunderban area]