

Kishalay Foundation

Mentoring Early Education in Rural India | Since 2013



Early
Education



Child
Nutrition



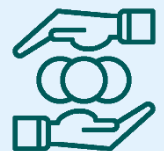
Preventive
Healthcare



**"From Rural Roots to
Educational Excellence-
Transforming Futures
Through Quality Learning"**



Community
Support



Livelihood
Support



Sustainable
Development



38+

Learning Hubs



6000+

Students reached



180+

Volunteers

Founding Story

Biplab Das, co-founder of Kishalay Foundation, grew up in a rural village in the Sundarbans, where he experienced the significant educational challenges faced by students in remote areas. These villages often suffer from poor infrastructure, lack of qualified teachers, and limited access to quality learning resources. Inspired by his childhood school headmaster, Padma Shri awardee Sri Tushar Kanjilal, Biplab recognized that the key to overcoming these backlashes lies in providing quality early education and fostering the right learning environment.



Determined to create change, Biplab, along with his IIM Bangalore classmate Saurabh Kumar, founded Kishalay Foundation on August 23, 2013. While working with Accenture in Kolkata, Biplab, together with close friends Soumitra Dandapat and Jhila Nandi, set out to improve learning outcomes in rural schools, where dropout rates and inadequate facilities are common. Today, Kishalay Foundation enhances early education for underprivileged children in West Bengal through a 'Cluster Schools' model, partnering with government-aided schools to engage teachers, students, and government officers in driving meaningful change.

Why Kishalay Foundation?

While many NGOs focus on essential areas like nutrition, girls' education, and supporting marginalized communities, we've chosen a unique path. We're one of the few non-profit organizations dedicated to enhancing the early education delivery provided by the State Government. Alongside this, we also work on child nutrition, preventive healthcare, livelihood support, community engagement, and sustainable development projects—ensuring a holistic approach to nurture young minds and empower communities thereby creating a better society.

Vision & Mission

We envision a future where early education in rural India is transformed through effective partnerships with government primary schools and the establishment of innovative model pre-schools. Alongside this, we aim to improve basic healthcare by organizing preventive healthcare programmes. Our mission is to create lasting change in these communities by enhancing early education, supporting nutrition, and providing essential healthcare. We also strive to bridge the digital divide, ensuring that even the most remote areas are not left behind.



Current State of Work

Kishalay Foundation is actively making a difference across rural West Bengal and beyond. We currently operate 38 EduKids centers in some of the most remote areas, including 6 in Murshidabad, 2 in Purulia, 1 in Ranchi, 1 in Kolkata, and 28 in the Sundarbans. These centers focus on providing early education and nutrition to children in underserved communities.



Each month, Kishalay Foundation provides nutritious meals to approximately 1400 students under the Nutrition Program, with a team of 180+ members, 85% of whom are women, reflecting our commitment to empowering women in leadership. Alongside fitness training, the foundation has launched a Sports Academy to teach Handball to marginalized girls and boys in the Sundarbans, while addressing menstrual hygiene and nutrition for pregnant mothers through the 'Jagriti Program' to improve community health and well-being.

Our Partners:



The Problem

Rural primary education in India faces critical challenges. The Annual Status of Education Report reveals that 35% of grade 1 children cannot recognize numbers 1-9, and almost 50% of grade 5 children cannot read a grade 2 level text. Additionally, dropout rates are alarmingly high at nearly 40%. Delaying action on this issue risks pushing millions of children into the workforce without a basic educational foundation, which could severely impact India's future as a developed nation.



The Solution

We are building a strong early education ecosystem in remote rural India by addressing gaps in the current system. Through our core Learning Hubs, we engage with nearby primary schools, delivering intervention programs that foster sustainable improvements in early education quality. Our Cluster Schools model focuses on enhancing government



provided early education, with an emphasis on improving learning pedagogy, providing quality nutrition and nurturing health development. By creating regional learning hubs in each rural zone, we aim to drive lasting change and ensure a brighter future for children in rural India. Currently we are operating 38 learning hubs, directly impacting 1500+ kids, covering 6 districts (South 24 Parganas, North 24 Parganas, Kolkata, Murshidabad, Purulia and Ranchi) across West Bengal and Jharkhand.

Empowering Communities, Nurturing Future

In 2023, Kishalay Foundation signed an MoU with Young Indians (Yi) Kolkata chapter, partnering on initiatives to uplift underprivileged communities in the Sundarbans. Together, we are developing five model villages — Godkhali, Ramkrishnapur, Ramgopalpur, Mokamberia, and Kamardanga.



As part of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Young Indians (Yi) is a non-government, not-for-profit organization driven by industry leaders and actively contributing to India's development. Through our collaboration with Yi's "Rural Initiative" team, we are implementing impactful projects in education, skill development, menstrual hygiene, healthcare, and climate change across several villages. Together, we have established initiatives such as a health clinic, stitching unit, and sanitary pad production facility to empower rural women through skill development and economic independence. Our health clinic offers preventive healthcare services, while the stitching unit and sanitary pad production facility provide livelihood options. For children, we have created safe spaces like a play area and library. Additionally, we have introduced Rainwater Harvesting and Biogas plants to promote sustainable agriculture and community well-being.

Areas of Work



Mangrove Plantation



Biogas Plant



Rainwater Harvesting



Child Nutrition



Stitching Unit



Sanitary pad production unit



Health Clinic

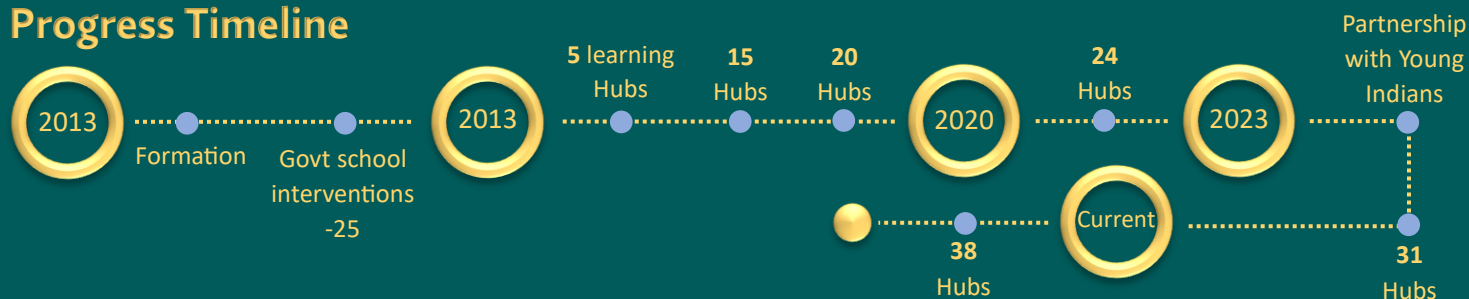


Skill Development



Kids Library & Playground

Progress Timeline



Impact Achieved

Since 2013, Kishalay Foundation has been making a meaningful impact across various fields. Our dedication to livelihood support includes initiatives like cattle rearing and chicken and duck farming, providing sustainable income opportunities for rural communities. In our Natural Organic Farm, we deploy organic farming techniques to produce natural food items that are free from harmful chemicals and pesticides. These organic products are cultivated to promote healthy eating and ensure that children and rural communities have access to safe, nutritious options for better development. Moreover, our nutrition program actively incorporates these organic food items, ensuring that rural children receive the essential nourishment they need for their growth and development.

Glimpses of Kishalay



Community Support



Livelihood Support



Menstrual Healthcare



Kishalay Sports Academy



Organic Farming



Cattle Rearing



Chicken & Duck Farming



Fish Pond



Eco Tourism

CSR Partners



Community Projects

At Kishalay Foundation, our commitment to community support drives us to transform lives in rural areas through a holistic approach. By empowering women to lead agro-based initiatives, we enable them to cultivate organic produce that not only nourishes local children but also fosters sustainable livelihoods for their families. Our "Food for Work" project addresses economic hardships while ensuring women empowerment, strengthening the fabric of our community.



This year, we've made strides in environmental sustainability by planting over 5000 trees in Sundarban, including fruit saplings and mangroves, to create a greener and healthier future for our environment. In times of crisis, such as during the COVID-19 pandemic and the devastating Amphan and Remal cyclones, our ground team stepped in, provided vital relief and support services to the distressed people in Sundarban.

Education is also a cornerstone of our community support efforts, exemplified by the Kishalay Hope Scholarship, which helps deserving students overcome financial barriers and pursue their dreams. Kishalay Foundation, in association with Nanritam Foundation, is also providing education to underprivileged street children who have made railway stations their homes, supporting them to have a better future. We are running this project currently at Jadavpur and Kalikapur Railway stations



“Through these diverse community support initiatives, Kishalay Foundation remains committed to driving lasting change, empowering vulnerable populations, and shaping a brighter future for all. As we continue to expand our reach into the remotest areas, we are steadfast in our mission to develop rural communities and provide early education, ensuring that no one is left behind”

— Kishalay Foundation



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