

Magic Bus

In this feature, we shine a spotlight on Magic Bus, a dynamic organization dedicated to transforming the lives of children and youth from marginalized communities through sports-based education and mentorship. With a presence spanning over two decades, Magic Bus has been a catalyst for change, reaching over 1.5 million beneficiaries across India. Through innovative programs that blend sports, life skills training, and academic support, Magic Bus empowers young people to break free from the cycle of poverty and realize their full potential.

Bhumi

Let's explore the remarkable journey of Bhumi, an organization passionately committed to educational empowerment in India's rural areas. With a vision to nurture the potential of every child, Bhumi has emerged as a force for change, impacting over 100,000 children across 12 states. Through innovative educational programs and a vast network of dedicated volunteers, Bhumi provides comprehensive support to children from marginalized backgrounds, ensuring they have access to quality education and essential life skills. By fostering a culture of community engagement and empowerment, Bhumi not only uplifts individuals but also cultivates sustainable socio-economic progress in rural India.

Learn more about these stories on page number 4 & 6.

JEET Platform Development Work Inauguration

On Saturday 20th April 2024, Managing Director of SBI Foundation Shri Sanjay Prakash inaugurated the Platform Development of JEET, which is being done by iProgrammer Solutions Pvt Ltd., Pune.

The meeting was attended by 25 NGOs from all over India but mainly from Mumbai. These NGOs are working in the area of education – vocational and sports included. Some of the participating NGOs include all the founding member NGOs of JEET and others like Door Step School, Meghashala, Adhyayan Foundation, Ratna Nidhi Charitable Trust, Masoom Education, Sri Aurobindo Society Delhi, Fortess Chennai and Meghashala, Bengaluru among others.

The program began with a Christian and Vedantic prayer in line with the teachings of Sri Ramakrishna, 'As many faiths so many paths.' After prayer a song in praise of Swami Vivekananda was sung who gave many a golden word on Education. To recall one of his famous quotes, "I consider every man a traitor who having been educated at the expense of the poor pays not the least heed to them." Lamp lighting at the picture of Swami Vivekananda was done first by MD followed by both the Chairman and advisor of RKSSNGO, and others.



Welcome speech was given by the COO of the founder NGO Bombay Community Public Trust Ms. Utpala Thacker where she explained why JEET was formed and what are its objectives and mission. Namely, to bring quality and equity to Indian Education system and eradicate illiteracy and poor quality education.

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.



Jeet Edu



jeet_edu



jeet_edu

Follow and support JEET's work at <https://jeet.in.net/>

Next, the meeting was addressed by the Working Member of JEET Sri Raghu Pilaka who is also the Director of RKSS (Ramakrishna Sarada Samiti), the anchor NGO of JEET. He introduced the audience to the many foundational works undertaken by JEET during the last year since its formation on 23-01-23 like the publication of JKA newsletters and commencing the development work of JEETs portal, which would be a free LMS platform for the under privileged and linguistically disadvantaged school children from classes 1 to 12.



This was followed by a brief presentation by iProgrammer the software company that has been entrusted to develop JEET LMS platform with rich and free educational videos and digital lessons. Several members of the audience raised questions whether (1) The platform being developed allows content creators to post their lessons (2) Content curation means what and who does this for JEET (3) Can this be accessed by other NGOs if so how (4) Can an already developed LMS platform integrate with JEET platform, etc.

The presentation was followed by a brief speech by the advisor of RKSS Srinivas Venkatram who emphasised the importance of working as a collaborative and the challenges that JEET may face in future. How effectively the collaborative of NGOs in education will overcome them will determine its success in future.

The Chief Guest and MD SBI Foundation Sri Sanjay Prakash was the next and final speaker. Some of his important observations were as follows:



SBI Foundation manages the CSR funds and their purpose an utilisation of the State Bank of India and all its subsidiaries

SBIF supported JEET because of the unselfish work of RKSS and its Director Raghu Pilaka and the Trustees in the field of education

JEETs purpose is to provide life time free educational videos and digital lessons to children from Government schools and disadvantaged background in the hope that not only the digital divide will be shortened but quality education will also be provided at the doorstep of the under served

JEET is supposed to deliver a platform with 12000 videos and digital lessons accessible by the students as well as address the needs of 2 big educationally backwards states namely Bihar and Andhra Pradesh.

The first phase of funding will support the development of the platform, which is being inaugurated today and shall be completed in 14 months

In future SBIF will support and ensure JEET grows bigger and better catering to all states and their vernacular languages having at least 2 Lakh videos without spending substantially for video production.

Content aggregation and curation is the key to this project and JEET will surely live up to the expectation under the able leadership team.

Next a felicitation function was held where 'lamp lighters' Jyoti Tyagarajan of Meghashala and R Krishnan of VKRCE Trust were felicitated along with the founder members of JEET: Utpala Thacker COO of BCPT, Vidya Raghu Chairman of RKSS, Dymphena CEO of Muktangan, Uday Deshpande Head of Sree Samarth Vyayam Mandir, Mayappa Budhe Head of MSP Foundation, and Pramod Nigudkar, CEO of Vipla Foundation.

After felicitation there was roundtable on the topic of NGOs Accelerating by the Power of Collaboration where several heads of NGOs have expressed the need to collaborate and shared their experiences of collaboration in the field of service to the under privileged especially in Education.

The meeting ended with a few more felicitations to the staff and patrons of JEET and a vote of thanks by the Director of RKSS Shri Raghu Pilaka. The meeting was compered by the able and enthusiastic volunteer of RKSS Medhaj Madhavan. Each of the attendee carried a file with them made by the artisans of SATTVA a project of RKSS, and the gifts given away in the felicitations were also their handcrafted works. Thus the meeting ended as a grand success and we hope the bell that tolled this launch will serve as a death knell to all ignorance, and untruth – **Asatoma Satgamaya, Tamasoma Jyotirgamaya.**





Empowering Through Education: The Remarkable Journey of Magic Bus

In the bustling landscape of global NGOs, Magic Bus stands out as a beacon of hope, commitment, and transformative change. For over two decades, this pioneering organization has been dedicated to breaking the cycle of poverty through education, mentorship, and community engagement. With a focus on children and youth from marginalized communities across India, Magic Bus has embarked on a journey that has touched the lives of millions, fostering empowerment and unlocking potential.

Founded in 1999 by Matthew Spacie, Magic Bus began its humble journey in the streets of Mumbai with a simple yet profound mission: to provide vulnerable children with a route out of poverty through education. Since then, the organization has expanded its reach exponentially, operating in over 22 states and union territories in India, and extending its impact to countries like Nepal and Bangladesh. At the heart of Magic Bus's approach lies a unique blend of sports, mentorship, and life skills training. By leveraging the universal language of sports, Magic Bus creates safe and inclusive spaces where children can learn essential life lessons, develop critical skills, and build resilience. Through meticulously designed curricula, children are equipped with the tools they need to navigate the challenges of poverty, make informed decisions, and aspire for a brighter future.



One of the cornerstones of Magic Bus's success is its emphasis on holistic development. Beyond academic education, the organization places a strong emphasis on imparting essential life skills such as leadership, communication, and financial literacy. This comprehensive approach ensures that children not only excel academically but also thrive in all aspects of their lives, setting them on a trajectory towards long-term success. The impact of Magic Bus's work is nothing short of remarkable. Over the years, the organization has reached an impressive milestone, positively impacting the lives of over 1.5 million children and young people. Through its various programs, Magic Bus has witnessed tangible results, with participants experiencing improved school attendance, enhanced academic performance, and increased confidence and self-esteem.

Behind these numbers lie countless stories of transformation and empowerment. Take, for instance, the story of Rani, a young girl from a remote village in Rajasthan. Through Magic Bus's intervention, Rani not only completed her education but also became a role model for other girls in her community, inspiring them to pursue their dreams fearlessly. Magic Bus's impact extends far beyond the individuals it directly serves. By empowering children and youth to break free from the shackles of poverty, the organization is contributing to broader societal transformation. As these empowered individuals grow into agents of change within their communities, the ripple effects of Magic Bus's work are felt far and wide, creating a more equitable and inclusive society for all.



However, Magic Bus's journey is far from over. With millions of children still trapped in the cycle of poverty, the organization remains steadfast in its commitment to effecting lasting change. Through strategic partnerships, innovative programming, and unwavering dedication, Magic Bus continues to pave the way for a brighter future, one child at a time.

In a world grappling with myriad challenges, Magic Bus serves as a shining example of what is possible when compassion, determination, and innovation converge. As we celebrate the achievements of this extraordinary organization, let us also reaffirm our commitment to supporting initiatives that empower the most vulnerable among us and pave the way for a more just and equitable world.

Follow and support Magic Bus's work at <https://www.magicbus.org/>

1. Winner of the Nikkei Asia Prize for Regional Growth in 2010, recognizing its impactful community development work.

2. Received the Charity Awards' International Aid and Development Award in 2013 for its outstanding contributions to global development.

3. Recognized by UNESCO for its innovative approach to education and youth empowerment.

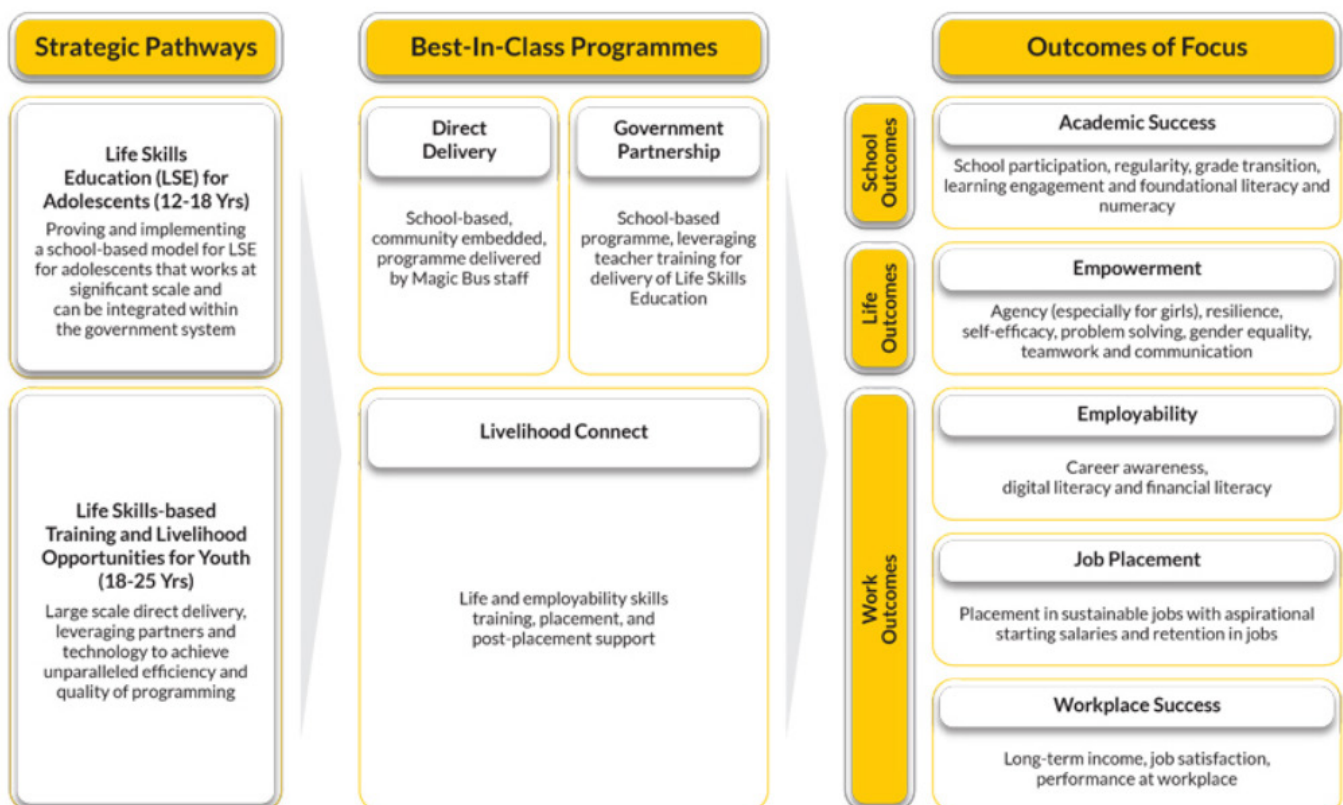
4. Awarded the prestigious Beyond Sport Award in 2014 for its transformative impact on children's lives through sports-based programming.

5. Listed among the Top 100 NGOs by The Global Journal for its exemplary work in empowering marginalized communities.

6. Honored with the Asian Development Bank's Developing Asia Journalism Award for Excellence in Social Development Reporting in 2017.

7. Accredited as a Great Place to Work® in 2020, reflecting its commitment to employee satisfaction and organizational culture.

Since 1999, Magic Bus has empowered the lives of more than 1 Million young people across India.





Empowering Minds, Transforming Futures: Bhumi's Revolutionary Impact in Education

In the dynamic landscape of non-profit organizations, Bhumi shines as a beacon of educational empowerment, commitment, and holistic development. For over a decade, Bhumi has been at the forefront of bridging the educational divide in India, leveraging innovative programs and passionate volunteers to catalyze change. With a mission to nurture the potential of every child, Bhumi has embarked on a transformative journey that has touched the lives of thousands, fostering a brighter future for generations to come.

Founded in 2006 by Dr. Prahalathan KK and friends, Bhumi began as a humble initiative with a vision to provide quality education to underprivileged children. Over the years, the organization has grown exponentially, expanding its reach to impact over 100,000 children across 12 states in India. Bhumi's commitment to educational excellence and inclusivity has earned it widespread recognition and accolades, solidifying its position as a leader in the field of educational empowerment.



1. Comprehensive Educational Programs: Bhumi's innovative programs cater to the diverse educational needs of children from marginalized communities. From academic support and mentorship to digital literacy and life skills training, Bhumi's initiatives encompass a wide spectrum of educational interventions designed to empower children to reach their full potential.

2. Impactful Volunteer Network: At the heart of Bhumi's success lies its dedicated army of volunteers, who serve as mentors, tutors, and role models to the children they support. With over 20,000 active volunteers, Bhumi has created a robust ecosystem of passionate individuals committed to driving positive change in education. This volunteer-driven model not only maximizes impact but also fosters a sense of community and belonging among participants.

3. Tangible Results: Bhumi's impact on the ground is palpable, with participants experiencing significant improvements in academic performance, confidence, and overall well-being. Through rigorous monitoring and evaluation, Bhumi has demonstrated impressive outcomes, including a 25% increase in literacy rates and a 30% improvement in school attendance among program participants.



4. Innovative Approaches: Bhumi continuously strives to innovate and adapt its programs to meet the evolving needs of children and communities. From digital learning platforms to STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) education initiatives, Bhumi remains at the forefront of educational innovation, equipping children with the skills and knowledge they need to thrive in the 21st century.

5. Community Engagement and Partnerships: Bhumi recognizes the importance of collaboration and community engagement in driving sustainable change. Through strategic partnerships with government agencies, schools, and corporate partners, Bhumi amplifies its impact and reaches even more children in need. By mobilizing resources and leveraging collective expertise, Bhumi is able to scale its programs effectively and create lasting change.

Follow and support Bhumi's work at <https://bhumi.ngo/>

Member organizations of JEET

Vipla Foundation

www.viplafoundation.org

Activities : Education Initiatives, Skill Development Programs, Community Development

VKRCE Trust

YouTube@MathsMadeSweet

Activities : Education, Digital Video Library, Training.

Ramakrishna Sarada Samiti

www.rkssngo.org

Activities : Education, Women's Empowerment and Health Camps

National Association for the Blind

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

6. Recognition and Awards: Bhumi's unwavering commitment to educational empowerment has earned it widespread recognition and accolades. The organization has been honored with numerous awards, including the National Award for Child Welfare and the NASSCOM Social Innovation Forum Award, for its exemplary contributions to education and social development.

As Bhumi continues to expand its reach and impact, the organization remains steadfast in its commitment to realizing its vision of an inclusive and equitable society where every child has access to quality education. Through tireless dedication, innovative programming, and a passionate network of volunteers, Bhumi is paving the way for a brighter future, one child at a time.

In a world where education serves as the cornerstone of progress and prosperity, Bhumi stands as a beacon of hope, illuminating pathways to brighter futures for countless children. With each passing day, Bhumi's tireless dedication, innovative programming, and passionate volunteer network empower minds and transform lives. As we celebrate the remarkable achievements of this organization, let us renew our commitment to supporting initiatives that uplift and empower the next generation, forging a more inclusive and equitable society for all.

Revamping Rural Education: A Path to Empowerment

The ASER 2023 report paints a concerning picture of rural education in India, revealing that more than half of adolescents aged 14 to 18 lack fundamental literacy and numeracy skills. This stark reality underscores the urgent need for transformative action to bridge the educational gap and empower rural children for a brighter future.

To address these challenges, a comprehensive approach is necessary. Firstly, we must reimagine teaching methodologies to prioritize foundational learning. This entails focusing on building strong literacy and numeracy skills from the outset, utilizing innovative and interactive teaching techniques tailored to the diverse needs of students.

Teacher training and professional development programs play a pivotal role in this endeavor. Educators must be equipped with the necessary tools and resources to effectively impart essential skills to their students. Investing in ongoing training initiatives that promote experiential learning and critical thinking can significantly enhance educational outcomes in rural areas.

Technology integration holds immense potential in enhancing access to quality education in remote regions. Digital learning platforms and educational resources can supplement traditional classroom instruction, offering students opportunities for self-paced learning and skill development. Moreover, initiatives aimed at improving digital literacy among students and teachers can bridge the digital divide and unlock new avenues for learning.

Community involvement and parental engagement are essential components of a holistic approach to education. Establishing partnerships between schools, communities, and local stakeholders can create a supportive environment conducive to learning. Encouraging parents to actively participate in their children's education reinforces learning at home and strengthens the overall educational ecosystem.