Bright Future India

In today's edition, we cover the inspiring story of Bright Future India, an organization founded in 2009 to transform the lives of youth in Worli, Mumbai. Motivated by the aimlessness observed among local youth, Bright Future India established programs like Buniyad, Bulandi, and Badi Soch to provide career guidance, vocational training, and entrepreneurial support. The organization's holistic approach has empowered thousands of young individuals, increased family incomes, and created a motivated generation ready to contribute positively to society.

Parivartan

In today's edition, we highlight Parivartan Mahila Sanstha, a transformative community development organization. Established in 2000 with a focus on women's empowerment, Parivartan has expanded its mission to include holistic education and community support. Key initiatives like the Mukta Balikashram provide comprehensive care and education for orphaned girls, while programs in the tribal areas of Thane District and the Dilasa Day Care Center for senior citizens showcase their commitment to uplifting entire communities. Parivartan's success demonstrates the power of education and community involvement in fostering sustainable development and empowerment.

SAKSHAR BHARAT: Primary Enrollment to Drive 100% Literacy

India has achieved a remarkable milestone of a 100% Gross Enrolment Ratio2 in elementary school education and above 90% in upper primary (ages 11-13). Taking this as a trigger, India must now aim to achieve 100% literacy—ensuring all members in a family are literate. Schools and students will be pivotal for the success of such a program. First time schooler will be expected to list the illiterates in his/ her home, which will be kick start the program of training and certifying them as literates.

The literacy rate for the year 2022-23 is 80.3%3 and, with a population of 1430 Million4, the number of illiterates is estimated at max 282 million. Urban areas have a rate of 89%, while rural areas are at 77%. The male literacy rate is 86.2%, and the female literacy rate is 74.2%. The global illiterate population is 773 million5, making India home to the largest number of illiterates in the world.

Under the Saakshar Bharat program (MOE 2009), 76.4 million adult learners were certified as literate until 2023, averaging 5.5 million per year over 14 years6. We now need to change gears and make 56 million literates every year with the help of students, schools, corporations, institutions, NGOs, and volunteers, hence its appropriate to call it Saakshar Bharat Mission. This can be achieved similar to Swachh Bharat Mission, though promoting literacy demands a significantly greater behavioural and attitudinal shift than encouraging cleanliness.

Join JEET by becoming a member

If you are passionate about making an impact in the education sector, we encourage you to join JEET today and become a member of the movement to transform education in India. As a member, you will have the opportunity to work with a network of NGOs, governments, organizations, institutions, and individuals who are deeply committed to promoting quality education for all.

To become a member of JEET, simply scan the QR Code below.

Join us today and let's work together to eliminate educational inequality and promote quality education for all.

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All developed countries have near-100% literacy, and India will soon have the third highest GDP in the world. Achieving 100% literacy in five years is a big and audacious goal, but it is possible if the Centre and States prioritize it and allocated required budget. This will help us achieve SDG 4.6, ensuring that all youth and most adults achieve literacy and numeracy by 2030.

Like all literacy programs, schools will be pivotal, with their primary and upper primary students driving this mission, supported by others, particularly NGOs. In this mission, we will extensively use digital and online mediums, along with the available conventional infrastructure and people power, to create a magical synergy.

About JEET: JEET (Joint Efforts for Educational Transformation) is the Indian association of NGOs in education (including skilling and sports). Ramakrishna Sarada Samiti (RKSS) NGO has been nominated to be the association's anchor NGO. RKSS is dedicated to education for the past 55 years, focusing on deprived and under-resourced communities in Pratiksha Nagar, Sion-Koliwada, Mumbai. Our extensive experience in community outreach activities has been pivotal in our efforts. For Project JEET we are collaborating with J.P. Morgan Chase, and is funded by the SBI Foundation.

JEET has been tirelessly working to uplift the standards of education across India, with a special focus on rural areas where educational resources are often scarce. Recognizing the unique challenges faced by rural communities, JEET has implemented a multi-faceted approach to bridge the educational gap. By collaborating with local NGOs, schools, and community leaders, JEET has established numerous grassroots programs aimed at providing quality education and skill development opportunities to children and adults alike. These programs are tailored to address the specific needs of rural populations, ensuring that education is accessible and relevant to their socio-economic contexts.

One of JEET's significant initiatives will involve the deployment of mobile learning units, which bring educational resources directly to remote villages. These units will be equipped with digital learning tools and are staffed by trained educators who conduct classes and workshops on a variety of subjects, including basic literacy, numeracy, and vocational skills. This approach not only helps in overcoming the logistical barriers of reaching isolated areas but also fosters a culture of learning and self-improvement within the community. Additionally, JEET organizes community learning centers that serve as hubs for educational activities, providing a space for both children and adults to engage in continuous learning.

This grassroots approach is vital for achieving broader educational transformation in India. Rural areas, which constitute a significant portion of the country's population, often lag behind urban centers in terms of educational attainment. By focusing on these regions, JEET ensures that the benefits of educational initiatives are equitably distributed, thereby fostering inclusive growth. Empowering rural populations with education not only enhances their quality of life but also contributes to the overall development of the nation. It is through these concerted efforts that JEET aims to create a literate and skilled populace, driving India towards achieving its ambitious goal of 100% literacy and contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals.

For more information, visit www.rkssngo.org.

Illuminating Futures: The Inspiring Journey of Bright Future India

In the bustling neighborhood of Worli, Mumbai, Kishor grew up observing a disconcerting trend among his peers. Despite the myriad opportunities that could have been within their reach, the youth around him seemed to lack direction and ambition. Many were content with simply finishing their education and hoping to join the police force, not out of passion but due to the perceived benefits and free pass it offered. This often led to a culture of aimlessness, where distractions, teasing, and even addiction became prevalent. Kishor was deeply troubled by this wasted potential and often pondered why the success stories of driven, motivated youth seemed so distant from his reality. This thought ignited a spark within him, compelling him to address this issue and transform the lives of the youth around him.

In 2009, driven by his childhood observations and a strong desire to make a difference, Kishor founded Bright Future India. His mission was clear: to create individuals who were focused, goal-oriented, and equipped with the necessary skills to succeed. Bright Future India was born out of the need to provide direction, purpose, and support to young people, ensuring that their educational paths were intentional and their futures bright.

Bright Future India focuses on transforming the lives of young individuals aged 13 to 25 by providing them with guidance, skills, and opportunities essential for a prosperous future. The organization believes that by empowering the youth, entire communities can be uplifted. Their mission extends beyond mere job preparation; it encompasses instilling a sense of purpose, direction, and self-worth in young individuals.

35,126	76%	74.6%
Outreach	Placements Rate	Increase in Family Income
93%	**90%**	**60%**
Parents Positively Impacted	Young People are Career Ready	Young Female Aspirants Graduated

The core programs of Bright Future India are Buniyad, Bulandi, and Badi Soch, each designed to address different facets of youth development. The Buniyad program lays the foundation by providing career guidance and life skills training. It helps young people identify their interests and aptitudes, develop essential skills such as communication, critical thinking, and problem-solving, and prepare for the job market with resume building, interview preparation, and professional etiquette.

The Bulandi program focuses on employability training and vocational skills. It provides specialized training in fields like retail, hospitality, and healthcare to enhance job readiness. The program also offers placement support, connecting trained individuals with employers and facilitating smooth transitions into the workforce. This comprehensive approach ensures that participants are not only job-ready but also well-prepared to thrive in their chosen careers.

Badi Soch is an entrepreneurship program that nurtures the entrepreneurial spirit among youth. It supports aspiring entrepreneurs in developing their business ideas, from concept to execution, providing mentorship from industry experts and access to funding opportunities. Badi Soch aims to cultivate innovative thinking, resilience, and leadership among young people, empowering them to create their own opportunities and contribute positively to society.

बुनियाद
Steps to Livelihood Programme
Age Group: 13-17 Years

बुलंदी
Livelihood Programme
Age Group: 18-25 Years

बड़ीसोच
Entrepreneurship Development Programme
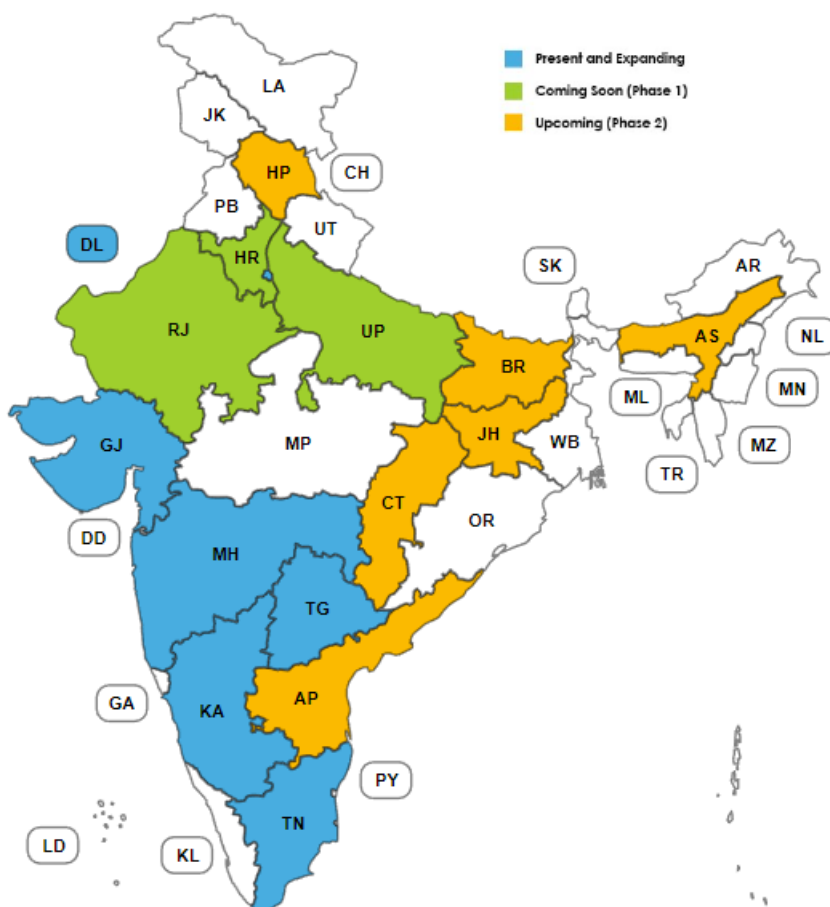Age Group: 18-25 Years

Since its inception, Bright Future India has made significant strides in impacting the lives of thousands of young people. The organization's reach extends across various communities, and its programs have achieved remarkable success in several key areas, including high placement rates, career readiness, increased family income, and the empowerment of young women. Graduates of Bright Future India's programs are well-prepared to meet the demands of the job market, and their success stories are a testament to the organization's effectiveness.

One of the unique aspects of Bright Future India is its holistic approach, which involves not just the youth but also their families and communities. The organization conducts workshops and awareness programs to educate parents about the importance of career planning and skill development. This creates a supportive environment that is crucial for the success of young individuals.

Looking ahead, Bright Future India envisions a society where every young individual has access to the resources and support needed to pursue their dreams. The organization plans to expand its programs to more communities across India, reaching a larger number of youth. They aim to continuously improve and adapt their programs to meet the evolving needs of the job market and society. Bright Future India also seeks to partner with more educational institutions, corporations, and government bodies to create a robust support system for youth development.

The success of Bright Future India is best illustrated through the stories of its beneficiaries. From young people securing prestigious jobs to those launching successful businesses, the impact of the organization is profound and far-reaching. Kishor's vision of a motivated, focused generation is steadily becoming a reality, one young person at a time. Through its comprehensive programs and unwavering commitment, Bright Future India is not just changing individual lives but is also paving the way for a brighter future for the entire nation.

Follow and support Bright Future India's work at https://brightfutureindia.org/

Empowering India's Marginalized Youth: Rupantar's Revolutionary Influence on Education

Parivartan Mahila Sanstha, established in 2000, began its journey with a mission to empower women and ensure their dignity and freedom. Initially focused on women's empowerment, Parivartan has evolved into a holistic community development organization, recognizing that sustainable development requires the involvement of the entire community. Today, Parivartan works extensively in education, fostering the growth of children and communities through knowledge sharing and holistic development.

The Genesis of Parivartan

The inception of Parivartan was driven by a group of dedicated women from Maharashtra who were deeply involved in various social sectors. Their shared vision was to uplift women by making them self-reliant and dignified members of society. However, as the organization grew, it became evident that empowering women also meant engaging their communities to create a supportive environment for sustained progress.

Mukta Balikashram: A Beacon of Hope for Orphaned Girls

One of the pivotal initiatives by Parivartan is the Mukta Balikashram, a residential care center established in 2005 for orphaned and destitute girls. Recognizing that education is crucial for these girls, Mukta Balikashram offers comprehensive care from the age of four until they complete their education at seventeen. The center provides not only shelter but also addresses the emotional, social, and educational needs of the girls.

At Mukta, education is given paramount importance. Young girls attend local schools and receive additional tuition to ensure they excel academically. Beyond conventional education, the girls are taught vocational skills such as bag making, sewing, embroidery, jewelry making, and beauty parlor training, equipping them with skills to secure their futures. Mental and emotional well-being is also a priority, with regular counseling sessions provided by professionals from the Institute for Psychological Help (IPH) in Thane.

Holistic Education: Beyond Academics

Parivartan's approach to education extends beyond the classroom. At Mukta, the girls are engaged in personality development programs and emotional development activities. Regular medical camps ensure their physical well-being, while nutritionists provide guidance on healthy eating. This holistic approach ensures that the girls are not only academically proficient but also physically healthy and emotionally resilient.

Expanding Horizons: Community Development Programs

Parivartan's commitment to education and community development is exemplified in its work in the tribal belt of Thane District. In areas like Mokhada, where educational opportunities are scarce, Parivartan has implemented the Khelwadi project. This initiative focuses on providing quality education to children from first to fourth standards, improving their reading, writing, and communication skills through innovative teaching methods.

The Khelwadi project also addresses broader social issues. Parivartan conducts awareness camps on the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA), empowering villagers to utilize government schemes for

Follow and support Parivartan Mahila Sangathan's work at https://parivartanmahila.org/

their benefit. By providing training and facilitating active community participation, Parivartan helps reduce migration and poverty in these areas, fostering sustainable development.

Dilasa Day Care Center: Supporting Senior Citizens

In addition to its work with women and children, Parivartan runs the Dilasa Day Care Center for senior citizens in Dombivli. This center provides a space for seniors to share their experiences, combat loneliness, and engage in various recreational activities. Dilasa offers food, shelter, and medical care, ensuring that the elderly can enjoy their later years with dignity and support.
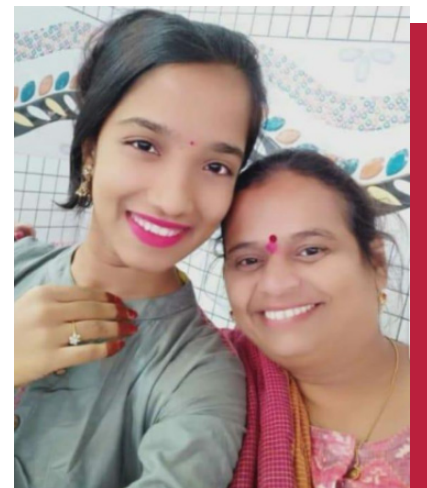
Lessons for Other Organizations

Parivartan's success offers valuable lessons for other organizations aiming to foster community development through education:

1. Holistic Approach: Addressing the multifaceted needs of individuals—from education and vocational training to emotional and physical well-being—ensures comprehensive development.

2. Community Involvement: Engaging the community in development initiatives creates a supportive environment and ensures the sustainability of programs.

3. Focus on Education: Prioritizing education as a tool for empowerment can transform lives, enabling individuals to become self-reliant and contributing members of society.

4. Tailored Programs: Adapting programs to meet the specific needs of different groups, such as orphaned girls or tribal children, ensures that interventions are effective and impactful.

Parivartan Mahila Sanstha has evolved from a women's empowerment organization to a beacon of holistic community development. By focusing on education and involving the community, Parivartan has created a model of sustainable development that other organizations can emulate. Through its various programs, Parivartan continues to inspire and empower individuals, fostering a society where everyone can live with dignity and freedom.

Mukta has been instrumental in helping me discover my potential. The various activities and vocational guidance provided by Mukta clarified my career path. I have completed seven exams in classical Kathak dance and am currently pursuing a BEd while learning choreography. I also support events in choreography and dance. Mukta has instilled confidence in me, allowing me to perform in professional stage shows. I aspire to start my own dance academy in the future.

With a sparkling smile, she said, "Mukta has strengthened my wings to fly where the sky has no limit."

JEET's Mission

There are about 200M disadvantaged students from non-English backgrounds from 5,00,000 government and other low-fee private schools. We pledge to empower them.

JEET is developing an app/ website to give free access to a targeted 2,00,000 lessons and videos up to class 12, in 22 Indian languages.

We aim to build an all-India alliance of 1,00,000 NGOs working in the fields of Education, Sports, and Vocational training. In unity lies strength, indeed.

We facilitate periodic meetings among members. We highlight the achievements of members through social media and our own monthly newsletter - JEET KI AOR.

GOALS: Outreach, Collaboration, Resource collection, & Empowerment

Touch 200 Million
Disadvantaged school children

Cover 5,00,000
Schools & Teachers

Compile 2,00,000
Education videos and lessons

Enroll 1,00,000
National NGOs

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The Link Between School Dropouts and Affordability in India: Trends and Government Interventions

School dropout rates in India remain a significant concern, particularly among children from rural and economically disadvantaged backgrounds. While there has been notable progress in increasing enrollment and reducing dropout rates, affordability continues to be a critical barrier for many families. This article explores the trends in school dropouts related to affordability and examines the effectiveness of new and upcoming government schemes aimed at supporting education for underprivileged children.

Trends in School Dropouts

Recent data from the Economic Survey 2022-23 reveals a positive trend in school enrollment and a corresponding decrease in dropout rates across various education levels. Enrollment in primary and higher-secondary education has shown substantial growth, with a marked increase in the number of girls enrolled, indicating progress towards gender parity in education. Despite these gains, challenges remain, especially in rural areas where economic constraints and cultural factors significantly impact educational continuity.
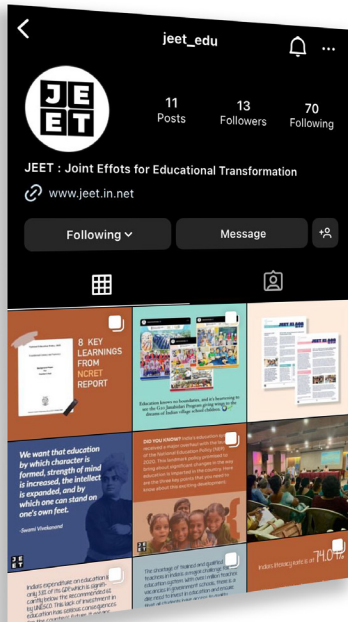
Affordability and Its Impact

Affordability is a key factor influencing school dropout rates in India. Many families in rural and low-income urban areas struggle to meet the direct and indirect costs of education, including fees, uniforms, books, and transportation. This financial strain often leads to children dropping out to contribute to household income or because their families prioritize immediate economic survival over long-term educational benefits.

Government Schemes and Initiatives

To address these challenges, the Indian government has introduced several schemes aimed at making education more accessible and affordable for disadvantaged children:

1. Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan: This integrated scheme aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education from pre-primary to higher secondary levels. It focuses on improving school infrastructure, providing free textbooks, uniforms, and support for teacher training

2. Mid-Day Meal Scheme: This program provides free lunches to children in primary and upper primary schools, improving nutritional status and encouraging regular attendance

3. Beti Bachao Beti Padhao: Aimed at improving child sex ratios and ensuring the education of girls, this initiative provides financial incentives and community support to keep girls in school

4. SAKSHAM: This scheme focuses on the education of children with special needs, providing resources and support for inclusive education.

5. SWAYAM: An e-learning platform that offers free online courses and educational resources to students across the country, making education more accessible and flexible.

Follow JEET on social media for simplified analysis and insights into various policies, news, and events in the education sector. Join us as we dissect and discuss important topics, helping you navigate and understand the complexities of the education landscape. Stay informed, inspired, and engaged with JEET!

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Upsides and Downsides of Government Schemes

While these schemes have shown promise in reducing dropout rates and improving educational access, they also face significant challenges:

Upsides:
- Increased Enrollment: Programs like Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan and Mid-Day Meal Scheme have significantly boosted enrollment and retention rates by addressing basic needs and reducing the financial burden on families.
- Gender Parity: Initiatives such as Beti Bachao Beti Padhao have helped close the gender gap in education, promoting the education of girls in communities where they were traditionally marginalized.
- Support for Special Needs: SAKSHAM has improved the inclusion of differently-abled children in mainstream education, ensuring they receive the necessary support and resources.

Downsides:
- Implementation Challenges: Many schemes face issues with implementation at the grassroots level, including corruption, misallocation of funds, and inadequate infrastructure.
- Quality of Education: While enrollment rates have improved, the quality of education in many government schools remains a concern. Poor teacher training, outdated curricula, and lack of resources can undermine the effectiveness of these programs.
- Sustainability: Ensuring the long-term sustainability of these initiatives requires continuous investment and monitoring. Economic constraints and policy shifts can impact the stability and success of educational schemes.

Intriguing Questions

As we consider the effectiveness of these government schemes, several questions arise:

- How can the government ensure that funds allocated for education are used efficiently and reach the intended beneficiaries?

- What measures can be taken to improve the quality of education in government schools to match the rising enrollment rates?

- How can community involvement be enhanced to support and sustain educational initiatives, particularly in rural areas?

- What role can technology and digital learning platforms play in bridging the educational divide and supporting continuous learning for all students?

Addressing the dropout rates in India requires a multifaceted approach that goes beyond mere enrollment. While government schemes have made significant strides in making education more accessible and affordable, continuous efforts are needed to improve the quality of education and address the underlying economic and cultural factors contributing to dropouts. By fostering community involvement, ensuring effective implementation of schemes, and leveraging technology, India can move closer to achieving its goal of inclusive and equitable education for all.