

## NaiDharti Foundation

In today's edition, we shine a light on Nai Dharti, a transformative force in the field of education. Founded by Nandita and R.K. Banerjee, Nai Dharti is dedicated to uplifting underprivileged girls, particularly from ragpicker communities, in Patna. With a mission to provide free, quality education and life-changing opportunities, Nai Dharti has been breaking down barriers and empowering these girls to create brighter futures for themselves. Through its relentless commitment and innovative community-driven approach, Nai Dharti is a beacon of hope, turning dreams into reality for countless young lives.

## Navnirmiti EduQuality Foundation

Also featured in this edition is Navnirmiti EduQuality Foundation, a pioneering organization dedicated to transforming education for underprivileged children through innovative learning tools and methodologies. Founded in 1995 by physicist and educator Vivek Monteiro, Navnirmiti has been at the forefront of making quality education accessible, with a focus on mathematics, science, and holistic childhood development. From early childhood programs to cutting-edge STEM initiatives, Navnirmiti's work is empowering thousands of children to overcome educational barriers and lead lives of dignity and independence. Join us as we explore the foundation's groundbreaking initiatives and their profound impact on communities across India.

Learn more about these stories on page number 3 & 5.

## Using AI for Teaching Government School Children in India

### Introduction

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is revolutionizing education worldwide. In India, government schools face unique challenges such as large class sizes, limited resources, and diverse student backgrounds. AI-powered tools can help address these challenges by personalizing education, improving engagement, and providing insights for teachers. This guide will help educators and administrators understand how to leverage AI for teaching children in government schools.

### 1. Understanding AI in Education

AI in education refers to the use of machine learning algorithms and data analysis to enhance teaching and learning experiences. AI can assist in personalized learning, automated grading, and providing feedback to students. It can also help teachers by tracking student performance and offering suggestions for improvement.

### 2. AI Tools for Education

There are several AI tools available that can help government school teachers in India:

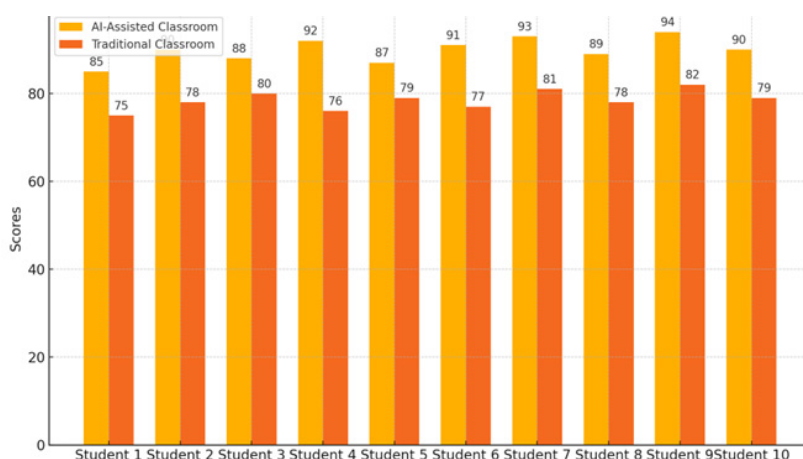
**-Adaptive Learning Platforms:** These platforms use AI to tailor lessons according to the learning pace and style of individual students. Examples include Byju's and Khan Academy.

**-AI-powered Tutoring Systems:** These systems provide instant feedback and tutoring assistance. An example is Edtech platforms like Vedantu, which offer AI-driven live classes.

**-Automated Grading Systems:** These tools help teachers by automating the grading process, especially for objective assessments like multiple-choice tests.

Graph: Student Performance with AI vs. Without AI

A bar graph showing improved student performance (test scores, engagement) in AI-assisted classrooms versus traditional classrooms.



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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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### 3. Case Examples of AI in Indian Government Schools

**-Delhi Government Schools:** In 2021, the Delhi government launched an AI curriculum for students, using AI-powered tools to help teachers monitor student progress.

**-Tamil Nadu Education Department:** In 2023, Tamil Nadu implemented AI-driven personalized learning platforms in select government schools to support students struggling in math and science.

These case studies show that AI, when applied correctly, can enhance learning outcomes in government schools across India.

### 4. How to Use AI in Classrooms

For government school teachers, integrating AI into classrooms can start small:

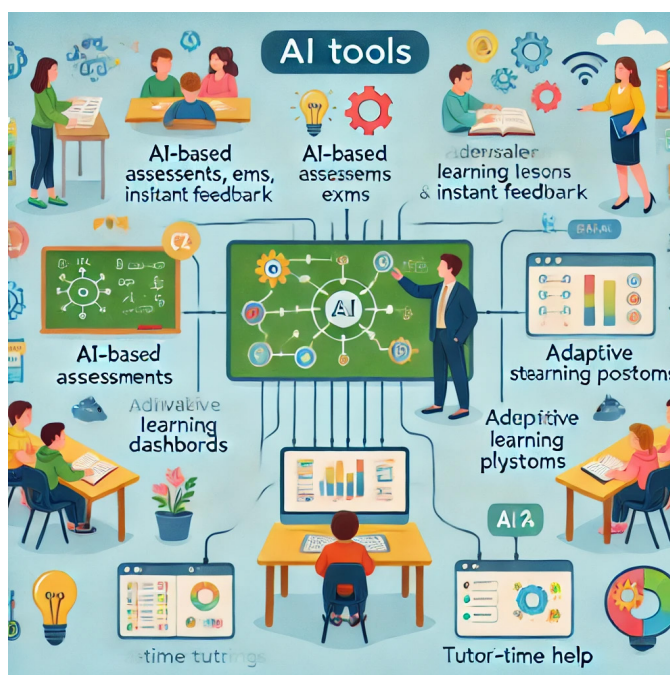
**-Start with AI-powered Apps:** Use learning apps that adapt to student needs, such as Khan Academy, which provides content in regional languages.

**-Incorporate AI into Lesson Plans:** Teachers can use AI tools to create quizzes, games, and interactive lessons.

**-Automated Assessments:** AI can be used to assess students and provide instant feedback, allowing teachers to focus on personalized teaching.

*Illustration: AI Integration into the Classroom*

*A diagram showing the different AI tools used in a classroom setting – from AI-based assessments to personalized learning dashboards.*



### 5. Benefits and Challenges of Using AI

#### Benefits:

1. Personalized Learning: AI can tailor lessons to meet individual student needs, ensuring no child is left behind.
2. Efficient Use of Time: Teachers can save time on administrative tasks, like grading, and focus on teaching.
3. Data-Driven Insights: AI provides valuable insights into student performance, helping teachers adjust their methods.

#### Challenges:

1. Limited Resources: Government schools often lack infrastructure, such as computers and internet access, which are necessary for AI tools.
2. Teacher Training: Teachers need proper training to use AI tools effectively.
3. Data Privacy: Safeguarding student data is a significant concern when using AI tools.

## Conclusion

AI has the potential to transform education in Indian government schools. By personalizing learning, automating administrative tasks, and providing data-driven insights, AI can help address many challenges faced by teachers and students alike. However, successful implementation will require investment in infrastructure, training, and policies to ensure AI is used effectively and ethically.

## Parivaar: Transforming Lives through Seva Kutirs

Parivaar, a hardworking humanitarian organization, has reached a significant milestone with the establishment of over 750 Seva Kutirs, serving some of the most deprived and underserved areas across 17 districts in Madhya Pradesh and one in Chhattisgarh. These Seva Kutirs provide a lifeline for more than 55,000 children aged 3 to 14, offering not only education from pre-school to Grade 8 but also critical nutritional support.

In these remote and impoverished regions, where access to basic education and nourishment is often severely limited, Parivaar's intervention is creating transformative change. The Seva Kutirs offer a safe, nurturing environment where children can learn and develop, breaking down barriers to education while addressing malnutrition, a key issue affecting their overall well-being.

Each Seva Kutir functions as a hub of learning and care, focusing on holistic development. By ensuring access to education and daily meals, Parivaar is creating a model where academic growth is paired with health and wellness, thus fostering an environment where children can thrive.

Many of the children served by the Seva Kutirs come from families who live in extreme poverty, where education is often seen as a distant dream. Parivaar has turned that dream into a reality, ensuring that these children receive a strong educational foundation that can pave the way for future opportunities and self-sufficiency.

Over the past two decades, Parivaar has been unwavering in its mission to serve the most vulnerable. Founded on the values of compassion and service, the organization has touched thousands of lives through its innovative community-based model. By working closely with local communities, Parivaar ensures that their efforts are both sustainable and deeply impactful.

These Seva Kutirs not only benefit the children but also create ripples of positive change within entire villages, lifting families and empowering communities to rise above their challenges. With a focus on long-term community transformation, Parivaar's work continues to expand, striving to reach even more children in need and giving them the tools to build brighter futures.

As Parivaar grows, its commitment to serving the poorest of the poor remains steadfast. Through initiatives like the Seva Kutirs, Parivaar is helping to dismantle the cycle of poverty by offering education, nutrition, and hope. The organization's efforts stand as a testament to the power of grassroots intervention in transforming lives, one community at a time.

To learn more about Parivaar's mission and support their work, visit [Parivaar.org](http://Parivaar.org)





## ***Nai Dharti: A Journey of Grit, Determination, and Hope for the Future***



Nandita Banerjee and R.K. Banerjee had always dreamed of making a meaningful difference in the lives of children from underprivileged backgrounds. Both well-educated professionals with secure jobs, they could have continued on their career paths, but something deep within them called for action. The streets of Patna, particularly the ragpicker communities where young girls roamed without hope or support, were their calling. It was a society divided by wealth and opportunity, but Nandita and her husband envisioned a future where those divides could be bridged—one child at a time.

### **The Beginning of a Movement**

In the early days, Nandita ventured into the slums and ragpicker communities, engaging with the girls who had no one to turn to. Many of these children were orphans, struggling to survive in the harshest conditions. Her mission was clear: to uplift these girls, provide them with education, and give them the tools to shape their own futures. What started as a small, heartfelt effort soon blossomed into an organized mission—Nai Dharti.



Initially, there were only eight girls who joined Nai Dharti, but Nandita never saw this as a limitation. The early years, from 2011 to 2014, saw growth despite obstacles, with the number of students expanding to 50 girls, all attending classes up to the 5th grade. During this period, a critical source of funding came from the State Bank of India (SBI), and the ragpicker communities, who saw the transformative impact of Nai Dharti on their daughters, became the organization's most powerful advocates. They took it upon themselves to share their experiences and became brand ambassadors for the cause. Word of Nai Dharti's work spread, and the organization continued to grow. Importantly, all of this education was—and remains—completely free for the students. Nai Dharti's founders were committed to removing the financial barriers that typically prevent marginalized children from accessing quality education. But challenges loomed ahead, and they knew their journey was far from over.

### **The Struggles and Breakthroughs**

In 2016, a major hurdle arose. Nandita and R.K. Banerjee desperately wanted to establish a permanent school. They had the vision and drive, but lacked the infrastructure for affiliation to a regular Board. According to regulations, a school affiliated to Bihar School Examination Board requires at least two acres of land, which Nai Dharti did not have. Despite their best efforts, this meant the school could not be officially recognized as an affiliated school. Undeterred, they, along with a few supportive friends, managed to raise enough donation to purchase 13,000 square feet of land to construct a school building. Even though the lack of official affiliation restricted them to provide formal teaching beyond Std VIII, they continued their mission with even greater resolve, providing informal teaching for Std IX and X, and using open schooling system to get five batches complete board examination and join the mainstream thereafter. They continuously struggled to raise Corporate donations for the project, ensuring that the school and hostel would be built regardless of obstacles. By 2019, their dream had taken shape in the form of a four-story school and a hostel with a capacity for 200 students and accommodations for 120 girls—again, all free of cost.



Nandita's husband, R.K. Banerjee, who had been a constant support from the start, was so inspired by the work of Nai Dharti that he decided to leave his secure job 10 years before his retirement. In 2016, he joined Nandita full-time, committing himself entirely to the mission of the organization.

## Member organizations of JEET

### **Vipla Foundation**

[www.viplafoundation.org](http://www.viplafoundation.org)

**Activities :** Education Initiatives, Skill Development Programs, Community Development

### **VKRCE Trust**

[YouTube@MathsMadeSweet](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvKRCe)

**Activities :** Education, Digital Video Library, Training.

### **Ramakrishna Sarada Samiti**

[www.rkssngo.org](http://www.rkssngo.org)

**Activities :** Education, Women's Empowerment and Health Camps

### **National Association for the Blind**

[www.nabindia.org.in](http://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](http://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

## **The Roadblocks to Success**

Nai Dharti's story is one of perseverance, but like many grassroots initiatives, it faces significant financial and infrastructural challenges. Without government backing, the cost per student is much higher than it would be in a recognized institution. Currently, Nai Dharti spends about Rs. 72,000 per child annually to keep its operations running. With no stable long-term funding source, the organization constantly faces uncertainty about its future. This financial strain is compounded by the limitations of the school's infrastructure. Digital infrastructure could be a game-changer, reducing costs and expanding access to resources, but it's not without its challenges. Digital education requires investment in technology, internet access, and training for both teachers and students—resources that are scarce in many underprivileged communities. Additionally, would a digital shift detract from the deeply personal and community-based model that has made Nai Dharti so impactful?

## **The Screening Process: A Commitment to True Impact**

Nai Dharti has always been committed to serving the truly underprivileged. To ensure that the girls benefiting from the school are the ones who need it most, the organization employs a rigorous screening process. The team goes into neighborhoods and directly engages with families to understand each child's situation. They gather details about the girl's background, her family's financial condition, and her need for support. It's a hands-on, community-driven approach that ensures Nai Dharti's resources go to those who truly need them.

This human touch is a core value of Nai Dharti and is one of the reasons the organization has garnered such support from the communities it serves. The Banerjees' unwavering dedication to understanding the lives and needs of each child has been instrumental in the success of their mission.

## **The Road Ahead: A Future Full of Possibilities**

Despite the hurdles, Nai Dharti's future looks promising. Nandita and R.K. Banerjee's grit and determination have brought them this far, and they show no signs of slowing down. But the question remains: how can grassroots organizations like Nai Dharti overcome these persistent challenges?

One possible solution lies in partnerships with corporate sponsors and philanthropic organizations that share Nai Dharti's vision. While government funding may not be an option, there are other avenues to explore, including crowdfunding, CSR partnerships, and long-term grants from international bodies focused on education and social development. Collaborations with educational technology companies could also provide affordable solutions for digital learning without compromising the school's core mission of personal, face-to-face engagement. Moreover, public awareness campaigns, much like the one led by the ragpicker community in Nai Dharti's early years, can continue to play a pivotal role. Grassroots movements thrive on the support of the people they serve, and community advocacy will remain essential for the organization's growth.

The story of Nai Dharti is one of resilience, hope, and a relentless pursuit of a better future for underprivileged girls. Nandita and R.K. Banerjee's journey proves that even in the face of systemic obstacles, passion and perseverance can build something extraordinary. The road ahead is long and fraught with challenges, but with the support of their community and potential new partnerships, Nai Dharti can continue to grow, offering a better tomorrow for the girls of Patna.

In a world where education remains a distant dream for so many, Nai Dharti is a shining example of what can be achieved with determination, resourcefulness, and a heart full of compassion.

## Navnirmiti EduQuality Foundation: Empowering Through Innovative Education



Navnirmiti EduQuality Foundation believes that “Education is the tool to lead an independent life with dignity and self-respect.” Since its inception in 1995, the foundation has been a pioneer in developing educational tools and techniques that facilitate quality learning for children, regardless of their backgrounds. Through innovative approaches, Navnirmiti has empowered thousands of children to lead independent, dignified lives, by making education accessible, fun, and meaningful.

### Origins Rooted in Science

Navnirmiti’s journey began with a breakthrough during the solar eclipse of 1995, when physicist and educator Vivek Monteiro, along with the All India People’s Science Network (AIPSN), developed specialized solar-viewing lenses. These lenses allowed safe viewing of the eclipse and were sold for as little as Re. 1, making them accessible to everyone. This initiative helped dispel superstitions surrounding eclipses and provided employment opportunities for marginalized women involved in manufacturing the lenses.

Building on this success, Navnirmiti continued to innovate, developing scientific toys that promoted playful learning of math and science concepts. These toys turned abstract concepts into enjoyable experiences, helping children overcome their fear of subjects like arithmetic and physics.



### Transforming Mathematics Education

One of Navnirmiti’s key contributions is its innovative approach to teaching mathematics. The foundation observed that traditional schooling often relies on rote learning, which fails to help children grasp the practical applications of math. Recognizing this gap, Navnirmiti developed math kits that emphasize experiential learning. Through hands-on activities, children are encouraged to explore, discover, and learn at their own pace. These kits, which are used in over 5,000 schools, make complex arithmetic computations simple and intuitive.

By adopting the “Do, Discover, and Learn” approach, Navnirmiti helps children understand math in a practical, nature-connected way. The foundation’s belief is that math can be easy and enjoyable if taught through meaningful, real-life contexts.

### Expanding STEM Learning

Navnirmiti also plays a pivotal role in promoting STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education. Its programs are implemented in 20 middle schools, impacting over 3,000 students in Rajasthan, Pondicherry, and Kalpakkam. These programs aim to foster scientific thinking by encouraging students to observe, analyze, hypothesize, and communicate effectively. Navnirmiti’s teaching aids for science and astronomy have been transformative, enabling students to grasp complex concepts through engaging, hands-on activities.

### Early Childhood Education: Building Foundations

In 2004, Navnirmiti expanded its reach to younger children through the Early Childhood Education (ECE) program. This initiative focuses on the holistic development of children aged 3 to 6, emphasizing the importance of cognitive growth during the critical early years. The program follows an activity-based approach, integrating various subjects to create a playful, informal learning environment.







Navnirmiti's Kilbil Model Anganwadi Program is another important initiative that transforms traditional anganwadis into quality early childhood education centers. The program has improved infrastructure, provided teaching-learning materials (TLMs), and offered capacity-building support to anganwadi workers. So far, it has impacted over 13,500 children across 551 anganwadis.

### Addressing Dropout Rates with the Carvaan Initiative

Navnirmiti recognized that many children drop out of school due to an uninspiring and unwelcoming school environment. To address this issue, the foundation launched the Carvaan Initiative, an annual camp for underprivileged children in Mumbai. For over 15 years, Carvaan has engaged more than 25,000 children in activities ranging from astronomy and math to creative arts and sports. The camp aims to foster independence, self-confidence, and social skills while making learning a fun, immersive experience.

### Bridging Literacy and Numeracy Gaps

In response to the alarming statistic that 75% of children in India struggle with reading and writing, Navnirmiti launched the Foundation of Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) Program in 2020. This program focuses on improving reading and arithmetic skills in children aged 3 to 9. Through targeted interventions, FLN has already benefited 1,300 children across three BMC schools in Mumbai. The program aims to build strong foundational skills that will set the stage for future educational success.



### Community Libraries: A Gateway to Learning

Navnirmiti also runs the Shodhak Community Library program, offering free library services to children in densely populated slum areas near IIT Bombay. This initiative provides a safe space for children to engage with books, storytelling, puppet shows, and creative activities. Regularly attended by around 40 children, the library helps nurture creative thinking, expand intellectual horizons, and break the cycle of poverty through education.

### Empowering Tribal Communities

Navnirmiti extends its impact to tribal communities as well, establishing community learning centers in four tribal hamlets. These centers are run by tribal girls trained as teachers, helping to improve education within these marginalized communities. Through this initiative, children in these remote areas now have access to education that was previously out of reach.



### A Legacy of Innovation and Empowerment

From breaking superstitions with solar eclipse lenses to revolutionizing the way math and science are taught, Navnirmiti EduQuality Foundation has consistently pushed the boundaries of what education can achieve. Its innovative programs have touched the lives of thousands of children, giving them the skills, confidence, and opportunities they need to succeed. By focusing on experiential learning and holistic development, Navnirmiti is helping to build a future where every child, regardless of their background, can achieve their full potential.

For more information on Navnirmiti's work, visit Navnirmiti EduQuality Foundation.

## 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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## Merging Schools in Arunachal Pradesh: Is It the Right Solution for Low Enrolment?

### Arunachal Pradesh education minister bats for merging schools with low enrolment

Arunachal Pradesh has over 2,800 government-run lower primary, upper primary, secondary and higher secondary schools. There are over 7,600 regular teachers and more than 5,900 ISSE (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan teachers).

The recent call by Arunachal Pradesh's Education Minister Pasang Dorjee Sona to merge government-run schools with low enrolment has sparked a crucial debate on the future of education in the state. With over 2,800 schools and nearly 13,500 teachers, including Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (ISSE) teachers, the state's education system faces challenges in infrastructure, quality, and enrolment rates. The minister argues that merging schools will improve the quality of education, streamline resources, and resolve issues related to teacher shortages. But the big question is: will it really solve the deeper problems?

**Why Is This Happening?** The proposal to merge schools stems from the issue of low enrolment in several schools, a problem not unique to Arunachal Pradesh. In states with large rural populations and difficult terrains, like Arunachal, schools often operate with just a handful of students, stretching already thin resources. Infrastructure in many areas remains inadequate, and teacher shortages persist—414 trained graduate teachers (TGTs) and 186 post-graduate teachers (PGTs) are currently needed in the state. By merging schools, the government hopes to create a more efficient system where fewer schools operate but with better facilities and human resources. But is merging schools the only viable solution?

**What Can Be Done?** While merging schools might address some of the resource challenges, it's essential to ask what the long-term impacts could be on accessibility. Many children in rural and remote areas may be forced to travel longer distances to reach the newly consolidated schools. For a state like Arunachal Pradesh, where transportation infrastructure is already limited, this could lead to a further drop in enrolment, particularly for girls and younger students. Instead of focusing solely on merging schools, the state could consider improving infrastructure in under-enrolled schools, such as better transportation or building hostels for students who live far away.

**What Are the Alternatives?** Other options include increasing investment in teacher training, particularly in science and math, which are currently facing acute shortages. Collaborating with organizations that provide educational technology and distance learning could also be an effective solution in areas where physical infrastructure is lacking. Partnering with NGOs and private initiatives to upgrade school facilities and improve teacher-student ratios could balance the divide between low-enrolment schools and more established institutions.

**Balancing the Educational Divide** Ultimately, addressing the divide in school infrastructure is crucial for Arunachal Pradesh. States like Bihar, Jharkhand, and Odisha have faced similar issues but have adopted different strategies, such as teacher-sharing programs, mobile learning centers, and strengthening rural education through local community engagement. Arunachal could take lessons from these efforts to ensure that merging schools is not just a short-term fix but part of a broader strategy to enhance education for all its students. The real challenge is not just about merging schools—it's about creating an education system that provides equitable access and quality for every child, regardless of where they live.