

**BAL Foundation**

In today's article, we explore the impactful work of Bal Foundation, led by Ajit Lipankar, whose unwavering commitment to grassroots empowerment is transforming lives in rural Maharashtra. Through direct, no-frills support to marginalized communities, including single-parent families and individuals with disabilities, Bal Foundation exemplifies how quiet, persistent efforts can create profound change and bring dignity to those often left behind. Ajit's journey underscores the power of resilience and resourcefulness in overcoming systemic gaps and creating opportunities for the underprivileged.

**SUPPORT street children**

In today's article, we shed light on SUPPORT, an organization that has become a lifeline for street children and youth battling substance abuse in Mumbai. With its holistic rehabilitation programs addressing addiction, education, and skill development, SUPPORT stands as a powerful testament to how care, guidance, and opportunity can pave the way for self-reliance and lasting transformation. Its unwavering focus on building strong foundations ensures that beneficiaries are equipped to rebuild their lives with dignity and purpose.

**AI for Education – Government of India Initiatives**

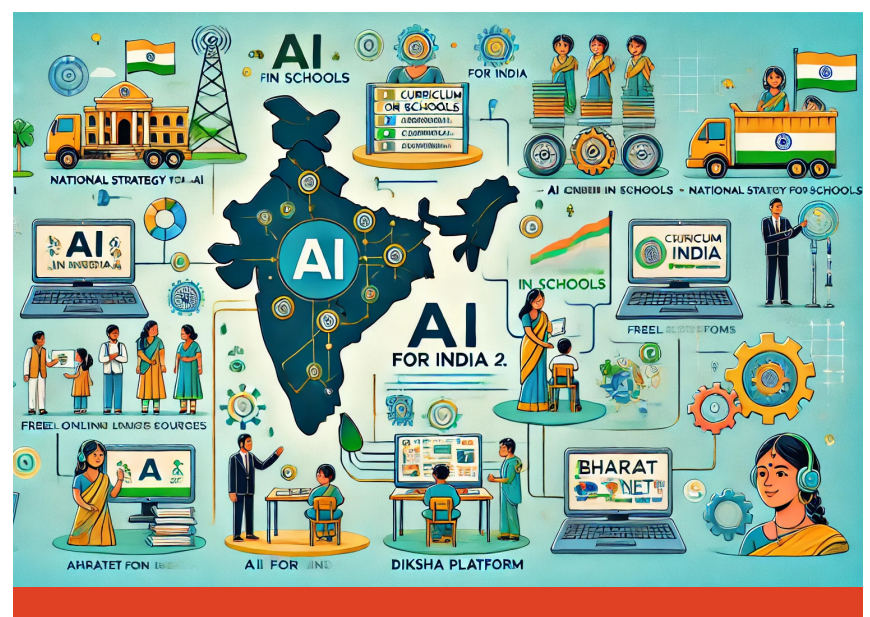
The Government of India has initiated several measures to integrate Artificial Intelligence (AI) into the education sector, aiming to enhance learning outcomes and bridge existing educational divides. Here's an overview of these initiatives:

**1 National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence:** NITI Aayog's "National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence" identifies education as a priority sector for AI intervention. The strategy emphasizes leveraging AI to improve access and quality of education, particularly in underserved areas.

**2. National Education Policy (NEP) 2020:** The NEP 2020 unfolded by the Ministry of Education underscores the importance of integrating AI into the curriculum at various educational stages. It advocates for introducing contemporary subjects like AI to equip students with relevant skills for the future.

**3. AI Curriculum in Schools:** The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has introduced AI as an elective subject for classes IX to XII. This initiative aims to familiarize students with AI concepts and applications early in their academic journey.

**4. DIKSHA Platform:** The Ministry of Education's DIKSHA platform promises to integrate AI solutions to facilitate self-paced learning and close monitoring. It serves as a digital infrastructure for teachers and students, providing access to a wide array of educational resources.



Learn more about these stories on page number 3 & 4.

**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



**70%**

India has a large population lacking digital connectivity



**e-Gov Plan**

An initiative to improve access to digital services nationwide



**BharatNet**

Expanding broadband in rural areas to enhance digital infrastructure

**5. AI for India 2.0 Initiative:** Launched on World Youth Skills Day, July 15, 2023, the "AI for India 2.0" initiative offers free online AI training accredited by NCVET and IIT Madras. This program aims to equip youth with essential AI skills, breaking language barriers by offering courses in multiple Indian languages.

**6. Addressing the Digital Divide:** Despite these efforts, challenges persist. Reports indicate that approximately 70% of India's population has poor or no connectivity to digital services, highlighting a significant digital divide. The government is working to address this through initiatives like the National e-Governance Plan and BharatNet, aiming to enhance digital infrastructure across the country.

### Digital Access

*Working to ensure fair access to digital resources.*

**+50%**

Targeting internet access growth by 2025.

**1.3 Billion**

India's large population makes digital access vital.

**80%**

Workforce needs digital skills to succeed.

**1 in 3**

Rural India needs more infrastructure investment.

**7. Ethical Considerations and Data Privacy:** The government emphasizes responsible AI adoption, focusing on ethics, privacy, and security. NITI Aayog's approach document on Responsible AI outlines guidelines to ensure ethical AI deployment in education and other sectors.

In summary, the Government of India is proactively integrating AI into the education system through policy reforms, curriculum updates, digital platforms, and skill development initiatives. However, addressing infrastructural challenges and ensuring equitable access remain critical to fully realize AI's potential in transforming education.



**300 million**

people lack access to basic digital services, which affects their socioeconomic status.



**2.5 million**

20 households will gain internet access in the coming years.



**\$1 billion**

Funds will boost digital infrastructure in underserved areas.

# A Lifelong Commitment to Empowerment: The Story of Bal Foundation

In the heart of Maharashtra's rural and semi-urban landscapes, Ajit Lipankar carries forward a profound mission with the Bal Foundation—a labor of love and a continuation of decades spent empowering lives. Ajit, a quiet yet determined force, has dedicated his life to uplifting those often left behind by systemic gaps and societal neglect. His journey, marked by resilience and unwavering commitment, is a testament to the power of individual will in transforming communities.

For over 25 years, Ajit led the Utkarsha Mitra Bahuddeshiya Seva Foundation, a multi-faceted organization operating at the state level. Under his leadership, it became a hub of cultural and educational enrichment, supporting talents in music, arts, sports, and literature while offering scholarships to promising students. Despite the organization's wide-reaching impact, the inevitable migration of volunteers and members seeking financial stability led to challenges that marked the end of one chapter and the beginning of another.

Two years ago, Ajit founded the Bal Foundation, a deeply personal and highly focused endeavor. The foundation reflects his belief that meaningful change starts small and grows organically. Rooted in a philosophy of direct, no-frills support, Bal Foundation operates without flashy campaigns or political motives. Instead, it serves as a quiet yet essential pillar for those in need, particularly single-parent families and individuals with disabilities in areas like Ambeshiv and Khede Padi, near Badlapur.

Ajit's approach to social work is refreshingly unbureaucratic. "I don't set targets of helping 150 or 200 people a year. I just focus on whoever comes to me for help," he explains. Whether it's assisting with school fees, facilitating access to government pension schemes, or arranging medical aid, Ajit and his team of volunteers address each case with genuine care. His wife plays a vital role, offering a comforting presence for women, many of whom are single mothers navigating an overwhelming system.

One of Bal Foundation's most impactful initiatives focuses on people with disabilities, a demographic often neglected in rural regions. Ajit helps families navigate the complex web of paperwork to access government schemes and benefits, a task that frequently requires trips to urban centers like Thane and Ulhasnagar. "I want to make life easier for them," he says. "Their education, healthcare, and overall dignity are my priorities." Despite the financial constraints that come with running a grassroots organization, Ajit's resourcefulness stands out. He has built relationships with other organizations and individuals who rarely decline his calls for support. Blood donation drives, school sponsorships, and medical aid are made possible through these collaborative efforts, underscoring the power of trust and community.

Looking ahead, Ajit envisions extending the foundation's reach to rural geographies in Palghar and Thane districts. He hopes to expand support systems for people with disabilities while continuing to focus on education and healthcare for marginalized groups. **"All I ask from the kids is to take these opportunities seriously and grow,"** he says with quiet optimism. The Bal Foundation stands as a reminder that true change often emerges not from grand gestures but from persistent, compassionate action. Ajit Lipankar's journey, driven by his belief in the dignity and potential of every individual, serves as a powerful example of how one person's resolve can uplift entire communities.



ब्लॅकेट व व्हा वाटप करताना



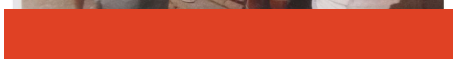
आदिवासी पाड्यातील ब्लॅकेट



वाटप



आदिवासी पाड्यात मिठाई आणि फराळ वाटप करताना अध्यक्ष आणि सचिव







## SUPPORT: Building Foundations for a Drug-Free and Dignified Life

SUPPORT's work begins in the most marginalized spaces—railway stations, bus depots, and street corners—where outreach workers identify children and young adults struggling with substance abuse. Many of these individuals are victims of extreme poverty, family breakdown, and the harsh realities of street life. Once they enter SUPPORT's day care centers, they receive immediate care: meals, medical attention, and a safe space to begin their journey toward recovery. The organization's first step is detoxification, a month-long process overseen by healthcare professionals. This phase is critical, helping children regain their physical and mental balance. SUPPORT also addresses co-morbidities like tuberculosis, which are common among its beneficiaries. Post-detox, the children and youth participate in therapy, including life skills training, entertainment, and customized rehabilitation plans. Education plays a pivotal role in SUPPORT's philosophy. After completing detox and rehabilitation, children under 18 are encouraged to re-enter formal schooling, while older youth are guided toward vocational training. These programs not only equip beneficiaries with knowledge and skills but also instill confidence and self-worth.



### ***Manoj Tirki's journey epitomizes the transformative power of education.***

Once a homeless child addicted to substances, Manoj was enrolled in a local school after rehabilitation. With SUPPORT's encouragement, he excelled academically, scoring 73% in his 10th-grade exams. Today, he is training to become an electrician—a testament to the importance of a strong educational foundation in building a dignified life.

### ***Vocational Training: Empowering Independence***

For young adults, SUPPORT provides vocational training in fields like tailoring, electrical work, and hospitality. These programs bridge the gap between rehabilitation and self-reliance. Ravi, a former beneficiary now working as an electrician trainer, credits SUPPORT for teaching him discipline and communication skills. His journey from addiction to a stable career highlights the organization's long-term commitment to its beneficiaries.



### ***A Lifelong Support System***

SUPPORT's impact extends far beyond rehabilitation. The organization maintains lifelong records of its beneficiaries, ensuring they have access to continued guidance and support. It has partnered with initiatives like NDSC for skill development and the Mangroves Foundation to provide environmental education and holistic experiences.

### ***The Ripple Effect of Compassion***

What sets SUPPORT apart is its emphasis on community. Many former beneficiaries, like Ravi and Ramu Teja Thapa, return to work with the organization, creating a ripple effect of hope and resilience. Ramu, once a troubled child living on the streets, now serves as a staff member, helping others navigate the path he once walked.

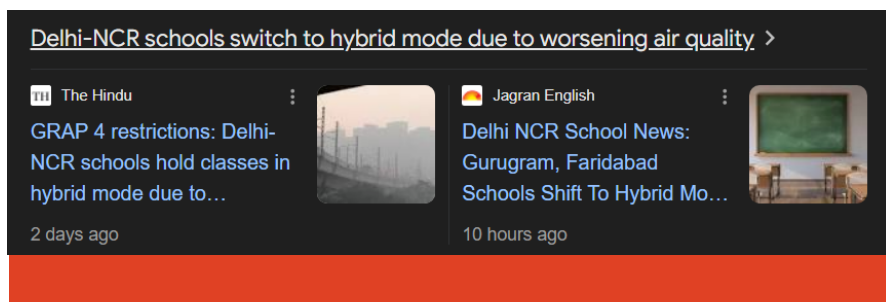
### ***Why Strong Foundations Matter***

SUPPORT's work underscores the importance of addressing foundational issues before diving into education or skill development. Addiction, poverty, and trauma create barriers that can only be overcome through holistic care. By tackling these challenges head-on, SUPPORT ensures that children and youth have the tools to lead meaningful, self-reliant lives. SUPPORT remains at the forefront of drug rehabilitation and child welfare in India. It is not just an organization; it is a home, a family, and a platform for transformation.



# Hybrid Learning: A Resilient Path Forward Amid Pollution Challenges

## Member organizations of JEET



As Delhi's air quality deteriorates, schools are increasingly adopting hybrid learning models to ensure educational continuity while safeguarding students' health. The Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) has been escalated to Stage IV, indicating 'Severe+' air quality levels, prompting educational institutions to transition to online platforms for certain grade levels. In this hybrid model, students up to Class 5 are engaging in online classes, while those in higher grades continue with in-person sessions, especially as board examinations approach. This approach aims to minimize exposure to hazardous pollutants without disrupting academic progress.

Despite the health risks associated with poor air quality, many parents and students express a preference for physical classrooms. They cite the benefits of direct teacher interaction, structured learning environments, and social engagement as critical components of education that are challenging to replicate online. The current situation underscores the potential of hybrid learning as a sustainable educational model. By integrating online and offline methods, hybrid learning offers flexibility and personalization, catering to diverse student needs and circumstances. This model not only addresses immediate challenges, such as environmental hazards, but also aligns with global educational trends emphasizing adaptability and technological integration.

To enhance the effectiveness of hybrid learning, educational institutions should consider the following strategies:

**Investing in Technology:** Ensuring all students have access to necessary devices and reliable internet connectivity to participate fully in online classes.

**Teacher Training:** Providing professional development for educators to effectively deliver online instruction and manage virtual classrooms.

**Curriculum Adaptation:** Modifying teaching materials to suit both online and offline platforms, ensuring consistency and continuity in learning outcomes.

**Student Engagement:** Implementing interactive and collaborative tools to maintain student interest and participation in a virtual setting.

**Parental Involvement:** Encouraging active communication between parents and educators to support students' learning experiences at home.

By embracing hybrid learning, schools can create resilient educational systems capable of withstanding various disruptions, whether environmental, health-related, or otherwise. This model not only ensures the safety and well-being of students but also prepares them for a future where digital literacy and adaptability are paramount.

### 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