Varitra

Based in Haryana, Varitra Foundation is quietly reshaping how we think about education and grassroots engagement. Instead of jumping into classrooms with ready-made solutions, they began by listening—visiting schools without formal permissions, asking teachers what they actually needed, and meeting every stakeholder from the Sarpanch to Self-Help Groups before stepping into households. Their refusal to be seen as service providers—especially when it comes to school infrastructure—signals a deep commitment to co-creation. Over time, they've built not just projects, but a foundation of trust that allows real, lasting transformation to take root.

Sankalp

From the industrial city of Jamshedpur, Sankalp began with a single tuition center under a tree—and has since grown into a multi-pronged education initiative reaching over 1,400 children across government and community settings. Focused on bridging learning gaps for underprivileged children, Sankalp runs remedial centers, school-based interventions, and skilling programs, while also supporting livelihoods through micro-enterprises. What makes them stand out is their clarity of purpose: education as a right, not a privilege—and the unshakeable belief that every child, regardless of background, can learn and thrive with the right support.

Bringing AI to the Classroom: A Guide to NCERT's Class 9 Curriculum

This piece is a comprehensive facilitator handbook for the Artificial Intelligence (AI) curriculum designed by NCERT for Class 9 students, curated with support from Intel®. It reflects an important step in understanding how our country is adopting AI into the classroom syllabus. The handbook is designed to equip educators with practical tools and strategies, offering detailed guidance on teaching core AI concepts, ethics, data literacy, and generative AI. It also includes engaging activities and real-world examples to make learning interactive and meaningful. The curriculum not only introduces students to the fundamentals of AI but also encourages them to think critically about its ethical and societal implications. By integrating hands-on projects and simple digital tools, it aims to make AI accessible and relevant to young learners. Teachers are supported with step-by-step instructions, classroom exercises, and discussion prompts to help create a dynamic learning environment. Below is a summary of its key sections:

1. Artificial Intelligence Curriculum Overview

·Purpose: Equip students with AI skills and mindset to thrive in an AI-driven world.
·Key Features: Enhanced content, real-life examples, social impact solutions, and use-case walkthroughs.
·Structure: Divided into units covering AI reflection, ethics, data literacy, math for AI, and generative AI.

2. Unit 1: AI Reflection, Project Cycle, and Ethics

1.1 Understanding AI
·Definition: AI mimics human intelligence to make decisions, predict outcomes, and improve autonomously.
·Domains: Natural Language Processing (NLP), Computer Vision (CV), and Data for AI.
·Activities: Interactive games like Rock, Paper, Scissors (Data for AI), Semantris (NLP), and Quick, Draw (CV).

1.2 AI Project Cycle
·Stages: Problem Scoping, Data Acquisition, Data Exploration, Modeling, Evaluation, Deployment.
·Example: CottonAce app for pest management using AI.
·Activities: Problem scoping using the 4Ws framework, system mapping, and data visualization.

1.3 AI Ethics
·Topics: Difference between ethics and morality, ethical principles (human rights, bias, privacy, inclusion).
·Activities: Moral Machine platform, ethical scenarios, and discussions on AI bias and privacy.

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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3. Unit 2: Data Literacy

2.1 Basics of Data Literacy
·Definition: Ability to understand, analyze, and communicate data.
·Topics: Data pyramid (data, information, knowledge, wisdom), data privacy vs. security, and cyber security best practices.
·Activities: Ranking news sources, exploring data literacy frameworks, and understanding data breaches.

2.2 Acquiring, Processing, and Interpreting Data
·Types of Data: Qualitative (textual) and Quantitative (numerical).
·Methods: Surveys, web scraping, sensors, and observations.
·Activities: Trend analysis using Google Trends, data visualization techniques (textual, tabular, graphical).

2.3 Interactive Data Dashboard
·Tool: Tableau for data visualization.
·Activity: Visualizing favorite songs by genre using bar charts and bubble charts.

4. Unit 3: Math for AI (Statistics & Probability)

3.1 Importance of Math
·Concepts: Statistics, probability, linear algebra, and calculus.
·Applications: AI uses math to explore data, train models, predict events, and find missing values.

3.2 Statistics
·Definition: Collecting, exploring, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data.
·Applications: Disaster management, sports analytics, disease prediction, weather forecasting.

3.3 Probability
·Definition: Likelihood of an event occurring.
·Applications: Sports performance, weather forecasting, traffic estimation.

5. Unit 4: Generative AI

·Definition: AI algorithms that generate new data resembling human-created content (e.g., text, images, music).
·Types: GANs, VAEs, RNNs, Autoencoders.
·Examples: Art creation, music composition, chatbots, and deepfakes.

Applications
·Benefits: Creativity, efficiency, personalization, scalability.
·Limitations: Data bias, computational demands, uncertainty.
·Tools: GAN Paint, Artbreeder, Runway ML, ChatGPT, Gemini.

Ethical Considerations
·Challenges: Ownership, bias, misinformation, privacy.
·Responsible Use: Diverse training data, bias scrutiny, user privacy, and public discussions.

6. Activities and Revision
·Interactive Activities: Games, system mapping, data visualization, GAN Paint experiments.
·Quizzes: Multiple-choice questions for each unit to reinforce learning.

Conclusion: The curriculum aims to foster AI readiness by teaching students foundational concepts, ethical considerations, and practical applications. It emphasizes hands-on learning through activities, tools, and real-world examples to inspire creativity and critical thinking.

Varitra Foundation: Reimagining Education and Community Engagement in Rural Haryana

In the heart of Haryana's rural landscape, Varitra Foundation is leading a quiet but determined transformation in the education ecosystem. Founded with the belief that long-term change begins with trust and collaboration, Varitra works closely with government schools and communities—not as external consultants or service providers, but as long-term partners in progress.

A Return with Purpose

Varitra's journey began when its founding team made the decision to return to their home region. Motivated by a deep commitment to work within their own community, they identified education as the most effective entry point for sustainable change. "Education is the core of every society," the founder explains. "It's where change begins. If you can work on education, you can unite the community and create long-lasting impact."

From the outset, the team was clear about its approach. They were not interested in quick-fix training programs or generic service delivery. Instead, they focused on building trust-based relationships with schools and communities.

Starting with Listening

In its initial phase, the Varitra team visited 25 government schools across Kaithal district. They introduced themselves to the school staff, made their intentions clear, and emphasized that participation was entirely voluntary. "We had no formal permissions at that point. We simply offered support—if they were open to it," says the founder.

This approach was not just a matter of courtesy; it was a strategic decision to co-create solutions with educators, rather than impose them. Teachers were encouraged to identify their own needs, and Varitra adapted its work accordingly.

Layered Community Engagement

Varitra's work extends far beyond the school compound. Community engagement is a cornerstone of their approach. Before reaching out to individual families, the team begins by meeting with local institutions such as the Sarpanch, Anganwadi workers, ASHA workers, and Self-Help Groups (SHGs).

These interactions lay the groundwork for deeper involvement, allowing the team to understand existing community dynamics and build trust systematically. By engaging with these grassroots stakeholders, Varitra ensures its work is both grounded and sustainable.

Rethinking Infrastructure: Beyond Service Delivery

In its early days, Varitra implemented a number of infrastructure initiatives, particularly under the Building as Learning Aid (BALA) model. These interventions—murals, blackboards, and child-friendly spaces—were well received and attracted attention from funders and school authorities alike. However, the team quickly realized that they were at risk of being reduced to infrastructure service providers, rather than being seen as collaborators in educational transformation. "We were being invited only to paint walls, not to improve learning outcomes," the founder notes.

In response, Varitra changed its strategy. From the second year onward, infrastructure projects were no longer offered proactively. Instead, they became part of a larger, need-based ecosystem, aligned with the schools' commitment to educational reform.

Today, the foundation conducts internal assessments to identify gaps in facilities—ranging from classroom space to sanitation infrastructure—and matches these needs with potential funders. Implementation is managed through local partners or contractors, while Varitra focuses on ensuring that the intervention is integrated with broader learning objectives.

Core Areas of Work

1. Transforming Learning Environments

Creating inclusive, safe, and engaging school spaces through design interventions, joyful learning tools, and contextual educational materials.

2. Empowering Educators and Learners

Initiatives such as Shiksha Sahelis—young female education facilitators—and after-school support programs aim to strengthen both teaching quality and student engagement.

3. Strengthening Communities

Capacity-building programs for women, adolescent girls, and youth aim to develop local leadership and promote active citizenship. The foundation also works on life skills, menstrual health, and digital literacy.

Varitra Foundation's work centers around three core areas: transforming learning environments, empowering educators and learners, and strengthening communities. By redesigning school spaces and introducing contextual, child-friendly learning tools, they create environments that foster curiosity and inclusion. Their programs support both teachers and students through initiatives like Shiksha Sahelis and after-school learning support. At the community level, Varitra works closely with women, youth, and adolescent girls to build leadership, life skills, and digital literacy—ensuring that education becomes a shared responsibility and a catalyst for wider social change.

An Integrated, Trust-Based Model

What distinguishes Varitra is not the scale of its operations, but the depth of its engagement. The foundation takes a systems approach, working within existing structures and strengthening them from within. Their emphasis on slow, community-anchored processes over rapid expansion sets them apart in a sector often driven by visibility and scale. By consciously choosing to grow through relationship-building rather than formal mandates, Varitra has positioned itself as a reliable, long-term partner in rural development—one that values collaboration over control, and listening over intervention.

Varitra's work is not just about education—it's about restoring agency. In letting teachers speak first, in meeting communities at every rung of the ladder, and in walking the long road without guarantees, Varitra is showing us what it means to practice humility with strategy. They are not just changing schools—they are changing how civil society organizations think about their role.

In our eyes, Varitra is building something rare: trust-based systems in a space often driven by metrics. That, to us, is real leadership. And it's a kind of leadership the Indian development sector needs more of.

Haryana

45.14% Students couldn't pass grade XII exams in 2015

7.05% Schools have computers

6.08% Primary schools are single-teacher schools

Sankalp: A Movement of Students, For the Future of India

In a quiet corner of Jamshedpur, away from the glint of steel plants and the academic bustle of NIT, a silent revolution in education has been brewing since 2007. Sankalp, meaning "resolution" in Hindi, began as exactly that—a heartfelt promise made by a group of young students at the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Jamshedpur to address the educational inequalities they saw around them.

What started as informal tuition classes under trees and in community spaces has today grown into a structured, volunteer-driven initiative with 11 centers across five states, serving over 650 children daily. But what sets Sankalp apart is not just the scale of its reach—it's the spirit behind the work.

Learning Beyond Classrooms
Sankalp's approach is straightforward but profound: offer free, quality education to children from low-income families, and do it in a way that builds consistency, care, and curiosity. Each child enrolled in their learning centers is given academic support in subjects like Mathematics, English, and Science, often tailored to the child's level rather than their age or grade.

But Sankalp doesn't stop at tutoring. Over the years, it has built systems to sponsor complete school education—from fees and uniforms to books and stationery—for children who show promise but whose families cannot afford the costs. Today, 41 children are fully sponsored, ensuring not only enrollment but also retention in formal schooling.

Parallel to this is Sankalp's Adult Literacy Program, particularly focused on empowering women. Conducted in communities like Mohan Nagar in Adityapur, these classes provide basic reading and writing skills—often the first step toward financial literacy, dignity, and participation in decision-making at home.

A Model of Volunteerism That Works
Sankalp is driven entirely by volunteers, primarily students of NIT Jamshedpur. Their model of operation—where learning, management, funding, and accountability all lie in the hands of young adults—is both empowering and radical. These volunteers don't just teach; they conduct community visits, fundraise, track student progress, and maintain relationships with schools and parents.

It's a live laboratory in civic leadership. Volunteers learn to navigate real-world challenges—from the unpredictability of slum communities to navigating education bureaucracies. And perhaps, most importantly, they learn the art of showing up consistently—a lesson as valuable as any academic degree.

Impact at Scale, Yet Deeply Local
Sankalp now operates in Telco, Adityapur, Varanasi, Dhanbad, Madhepura, Jamui, and Banka, among others. Each center is tailored to its community's needs—rural centers may focus more on foundational literacy and attendance support, while urban centers engage with school-going children in the evenings.

Despite its expansion, Sankalp retains a decentralized and responsive character. It doesn't believe in a one-size-fits-all curriculum or top-down mandates. Instead, it adapts, listens, and evolves—keeping students, families, and volunteers at the center.

The Digital Divide in Rural India: A Call for Urgent Transformation

In a state where tribal youth have long faced barriers to education and opportunity, the Maharashtra government's decision to establish two dedicated tribal study centres—one each in Gadchiroli and Amravati—feels both timely and urgent. Spearheaded by Gondwana University Vice-Chancellor Dr. Prashant Bokare, these centres are envisioned not just as academic institutions but as launchpads for systemic change. At the heart of this initiative lies an ambitious three-year integrated program. It combines undergraduate education with structured preparation for competitive exams like the UPSC and MPSC—avenues that remain distant dreams for most students from tribal communities. In a context where tribal youth have an enrollment rate of just 18.9% in higher education, far below the national average of 28.4%, such targeted interventions could be pivotal in changing not just statistics but futures.

The centres will offer coaching for civil services, banking, police recruitment, and even defense services like the NDA and Navy. But this is more than just test prep—it's about placing ambition within reach, and bridging the gap between aspiration and access. These centres aim to create a holistic ecosystem where tribal students, often the first in their families to complete high school, can visualize—and pursue—a life of public service and leadership. Yet, a few important questions remain. How will these centres ensure that students from remote villages—often hours away from any educational infrastructure—can access these opportunities? Will the curriculum reflect the languages, identities, and lived realities of the students it serves, or will it replicate a one-size-fits-all model? How will the state measure success—by the number of graduates, or by the depth of transformation it facilitates in these communities?

What Role Can Digital Play?
This is where we, at Jeet Ki Aor, believe digital technologies must be seen not as add-ons but as foundational tools. If we are truly committed to equitable education, we must also be committed to reaching the last student in the last village.

Digital learning platforms, accessible via smartphones or community centers, can bridge the teacher-shortage gap. Recorded lectures, vernacular e-learning content, and real-time doubt-clearing sessions could ensure continuity even in geographically remote areas. Virtual mentorship programs—where tribal students connect with professionals who've walked similar paths—can foster confidence and build networks of support that go beyond the classroom. Importantly, a digital strategy also allows for flexibility: students juggling farm work, household duties, or family responsibilities can study on their own schedule. The right tools can make education truly inclusive—not just available to a few but accessible to all.

Towards a More Just Education Future
We see the tribal study centres not just as government projects, but as symbols of possibility. If done right, they can become powerful blueprints for decentralised, dignified, and community-rooted education. But they must resist the temptation to over-administer and under-listen. The voices of tribal students, educators, and parents must shape how these spaces evolve.

At JEET, we believe empowerment comes not from charity but from meaningful, participatory systems that acknowledge histories, uplift identities, and open doors. This is not just about bringing tribal youth into the mainstream—it's about reimagining the mainstream itself.

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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Carvaan 2025 Summer Camp – A Journey of Joyful Learning

Navnirmiti Eduquality Foundation is organizing Carvaan 2025 Summer Camp, a unique initiative designed to bring joyful and meaningful learning to children from underprivileged communities. With hands-on activities such as DIY science experiments, fun with maths, creative arts & crafts, and engaging sports sessions, the camp aims to make education exciting and accessible. Carvaan is their way of nurturing curiosity, creativity, and confidence among children while also building a strong foundation for lifelong learning.

This year, they are working to raise Rs. 2,00,000 to support 100 children through this vibrant summer experience. The camp also focuses on building a young, dynamic volunteer group, encouraging youth to take active roles in social impact. By supporting this initiative, you can help them create a platform for learning, growth, and joy. To participate or volunteer, kindly fill in your details here:

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