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LEAD GROUP

COVER STORY

Why Play-Based Learning Is The Best Way To Learn

BY DEEPIKA MOGILISHETTY

IN FOCUS

How Schools Can Successfully Instill Foundational Numeracy Skills in Students

BY DR. SWATI POPAT VATS

For further information, please write to us at **help@leadschool.in** or call us on our Customer Service Number: **+91-8682833333**

FROM THE FOUNDERS' DESK

Dear Reader,

Each day, we work with thousands of schools across India to transform student learning outcomes and operations.   As we meet school leaders, we are often asked about a one-stop source of information on all that is happening in the world of education, schooling and beyond.

And so, as we step into a new year filled with new beginnings, we bring to you the inaugural issue of The School Times by LEAD, India's leading magazine curated specifically for school owners, principals and teachers. Our vision is for The School Times to serve as a repository of knowledge, news, celebrations and peer learning. In this issue, we bring to you expert insights on the best Foundational Learning for your students, which serves as the basis of all future learning for a child. In addition, this edition will cover education trends; Artificial Intelligence in School Edtech; policy; classroom best practices and compelling case studies of Schools of the Future!

We hope you will not only read The School Times, but also share it within your network and provide feedback. Do ensure that your school is featured in the future editions by imple- menting great practices and delivering strong results. Let this be a collabora- tive space where we come together to express our views for the better- ment of education.

To our contributors, partners, and supporters, thank you. Your commitment to education and passion for lifelong knowl- edge-sharing have set the foundation for a dynamic and future- focused community.

Happy Learning,

Sumeet Mehta & Smita Deorah

Co-Founders, LEAD Group

CONTENT

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WHY PLAY-BASED LEARNING IS THE BEST WAY TO LEARN

DEEPIKA MOGILISHETTY
Chief of Policy and Partnerships EkStep Foundation

This article is meant for every caring adult, to give pause and help reflect. Why, you ask? As caring adults either as parents, teachers or school leaders we all need to find the time to pause and reflect on what learning and growth look like for every child. If you are looking for inspiration, think of your earliest childhood memories. You can also see the short 90-second Bachpan Manao film, to get you thinking.

Scan to watch the Bachpan Manao film

THINK ABOUT THIS ...

In an ever-changing world, asking ourselves questions like these will give us the way forward to create the environments and learning opportunities to further growth and learning for every child. Since 2020, there have been many dramatic developments that have affected the way we live, learn and grow.

Before 2020, you would not have imagined a world where children did not go to school for months together. The daily routine of waking up early and wearing a school uniform would come to a stop for months or even years. Covid changed everything - children all over the world did not go to school and were learning online.

01
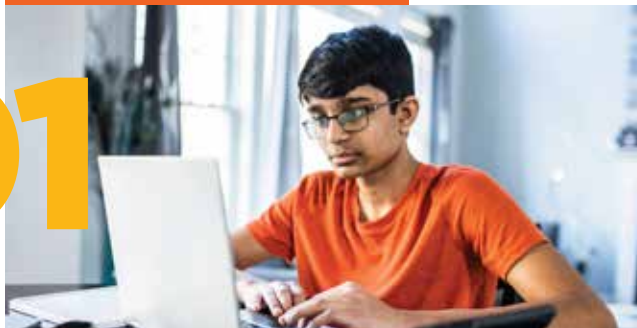
02

Before 2023 the words artificial intelligence, generative AI or chat gpt were not part of our everyday vocabulary. Now, you can type anything into a screen and it will provide answers in complete clear sentences.

Even 5-6 years ago if someone told you that you would not need to calculate how much change your vegetable cart vendor needs to return to you, you would not believe it. Now you simply use your phone to scan a code and pay the exact amount needed. You are no longer calculating change or money.

03

The question before us as caring adults - parents, teachers, and school leaders, is how we prepare our children for a future we cannot imagine. The answer lies in simpler things - building strong foundations and strengthening basics - nurturing innate curiosity, strengthening muscles to ask questions and explore and enabling the freedom to learn.

Enough scientific research exists that gives us guidance on how children learn and grow. Policies such as the education policy and the curriculum frameworks bring these to life by creating the guiding principles for education. The National Curriculum Framework(NCF) provides the guiding principles for early childhood education and school education. In this article, we focus on the NCF- Foundational Stage.

The National Curriculum Framework - Foundational Stage is a document with 357 pages. Understandably it is not something one can master in one reading, however, every teacher and educator must be well versed with it. NCF-FS articulates key ideas and principles that shape the philosophy of early childhood and the foundational stage of education in India, essentially for the 3-8-year-olds of our country.

Here are some important themes and principles from the NCF-FS. These principles lay emphasis on creating a positive & inclusive learning environment that cares for the holistic development of young children.

Holistic Development

"The goal of quality ECCE (Early Childhood Care and Education) is to nurture the child's physical, cognitive, socio-emotional, and cultural development."

Child-Centric Approach

"Children are at the center of all ECCE efforts, and the curriculum should acknowledge and build on their existing knowledge and experiences."

Play-Based Learning

"Play is the most effective medium for young children to express, explore, and understand their world. The curriculum should integrate play as a fundamental aspect of learning."

Joyful Learning

"ECCE curriculum should promote joyful and holistic early learning and development, focusing on the child's natural desire to explore, discover, and learn."

Inclusive Education

"ECCE programs should be inclusive and sensitive to the diverse needs of all children, ensuring that every child, regardless of background or ability, receives quality education."

Assessment for Learning

"Assessment in ECCE should be continuous and based on observation, focusing on the child's progress, growth and understanding, rather than on testing and formal examinations."

Flexible Curriculum

"ECCE curriculum should be flexible, allowing teachers to adapt to the unique needs and interests of individual children and providing opportunities for child-led learning."

Cultural Sensitivity

"The curriculum should be culturally and contextually relevant, recognizing and respecting the diversity of cultures and languages in the early childhood setting."

Parental Engagement

"Parents and families are important partners in the child's learning journey. The ECCE curriculum should involve parents & communities in the educational process."

This framework now needs to be understood, imbibed and implemented across all school and preschool systems in the country. Where do we begin? The first step, as a society begins with understanding the critical role of play in learning and allowing children the space to learn through play.

Scan & access the National Curriculum Framework - Foundational Stage.

To navigate through and ask questions about the NCF, please visit https://ncfguide.sunbird.org/#/ to explore a bot called the NCF-guide

Shifting mindset towards play: Why play is good for you?

PLAY LIGHTS UP THE BRAIN

Do you remember the advertisement where a child is playing in the mud and the tagline is "daag acche hain"? The purpose of that line was to open our minds to accepting a dirty shirt as being okay. It can be cleaned, and it's not a bad thing. As caring adults, giving permission to play and creating the atmosphere for play is critical for the growth of every child. Children play in many ways - free play, guided play and structured play. All of these are necessary for children. Let's shift our mindset towards play and celebrating learning through play by giving adults permission to play.

Playing creates the building blocks of a strong foundation for future skills and learning. For example, a child playing with blocks, dolls, cars and toys and making up stories, is making the building blocks in their mind to imagine and construct narratives and in the future, these building blocks will help this child in creative narratives and writing. Childhood is abundant with such opportunities for growth and learning, this abundance must be celebrated.

In this spirit, introducing Bachpan Manao Badhte Jao which is a societal mission that seeks to bring attention to the importance of learning opportunities in the early and foundational years. "Celebrate childhood and keep growing" is a rallying cry to every caring adult. Let us recognise the abundance of childhood - the innate curiosity and holistic development of every child. All living moments are learning moments. Across the country many communities, schools and even anganwadis have been engaged in community activities that celebrate childhood. A Bachpan Manao festival can bring families and children into the learning space to play and learn together. Read-aloud sessions, music and song and even conversations on parenting have been initiated. School leaders celebrate childhood and give the space for children and families to see the holistic growth of themselves and their children. For more on this initiative, visit www.bachpanmanao.org. As caring adults, if we were to allow ourselves the permission to recognise play as learning and celebrate childhood for all its innate opportunities for growth and development, it would foster an environment for learning. Play-based learning involves a wide range of activities that engage children in hands-on interactive experiences. These activities are designed to be enjoyable while fostering the development of various skills. Here are some examples of play-based learning activities that benefit children. While these activities are great for curating experiences for a child, we must not forget that allowing space and time for free play and exploration without adult intervention is equally important. Play does not equate to activity or sport, activities and sports can be playful.

Building with Blocks

Benefits: Enhances spatial awareness, fine motor skills, creativity and problem-solving.

Activity: Children can build structures, cities, or imaginative worlds using different types and sizes of blocks.

Pretend Play (Role-Playing)

Benefits: Develops social and emotional skills, creativity, language, and empathy.

Activity: Children can engage in pretend scenarios, such as playing house, doctor, or chef, encouraging imaginative thinking.

Sensory Play (Playdough, Sand, Water)

Benefits: Stimulates the senses, enhances fine motor skills, and encourages exploration.

Activity: Children can mould shapes with playdough, build sandcastles, or explore play with water containers and funnels.

Storytelling and Puppetry

Benefits: Boosts language development, creativity, and narrative skills.

Activity:Children can use puppets to act out stories or create their own imaginative tales, fostering language expression.

Art and Craft Activities

Benefits: Develops fine motor skills, creativity, self-expression, and coordination.

Activity: Children can engage in drawing, painting, cutting, and pasting to create unique artwork.

Nature Exploration

Benefits: Encourages curiosity, observation, and an appreciation for the environment.

Activity: Children can explore outdoor spaces, collect leaves, and rocks, or study plants, promoting a connection with nature.

Music and Movement

Benefits: Enhances coordination, rhythm, social skills, and emotional expression.

Activity: Children can dance, sing, or play simple musical instruments, fostering a love for music and movement.

Board Games and Puzzles

Benefits: Develops cognitive skills, problem-solving, turn-taking, and social interaction.

Activity: Children can play age-appropriate board games or solve puzzles that match their skill level.

Science Experiments

Benefits: Sparks curiosity, observation skills, and critical thinking.

Activity: Children can engage in simple science experiments, like mixing colours, exploring magnets, or observing changes in substances.

Outdoor Play and Physical Activities

Benefits: Promotes gross motor skills, physical fitness, social interaction, and teamwork.

Activity: Children can participate in games like tag, hide-and-seek, or play on swings and climbing structures.

Cooking and Baking

Benefits: Enhances math skills, and fine motor skills, and introduces concepts of measurement.

Activity: Children can help measure ingredients, mix, and observe changes while cooking simple recipes.

Storytime and Book Exploration

Benefits: Develops language skills, imagination, and a love for reading.

Activity: Children can explore books, listen to stories, and engage in discussions, fostering early literacy.

These play-based activities are designed to be adaptable to different age groups and developmental stages, providing children with opportunities for exploration, creativity and skill development in a joyful and engaging manner. In conclusion, play equals learning. Play is an inherent human instinct. Our education policy endorses it, and scientific research in many domains has provided evidence for it. We have to give ourselves cultural and societal license to create the environment for play for our youngest children. As Professor of Psychology Kathy Hirsh-Pasek rightly says "In a world where information is doubling every few years, we need critical thinkers, we need creative innovators and we need children who have the confidence to learn from failure and to persevere so that they create new things and I think Play, the sandbox, incorporates all of these." Therefore, for the sake of laying a strong foundation of learning for every child, opening our minds and hearts to celebrate and enable the abundance of childhood is the need of the hour. Bachpan Manao Badhte Jao!

Bachpan Manao Badhte Jao is a mission to celebrate the growth and learning opportunities for every child through joy, care and responsibility.
Visit www.bachpanmanao.org to learn more.

IN FOCUS

Building Foundational Numeracy Skills in School Classrooms

By Dr. Swati Popat Vats,
President, Early Childhood Association (ECA) & Association of Preparatory Research & Education (APER) President, Podar Education Network

Foundational Numeracy, a fundamental Mathematical skill acquired in the early years, plays a crucial role in academic, professional, and real-life success like managing finances, understanding measurements, shopping, problem solving, time management, etc.

However, foundational literacy tends to take precedence over numeracy in our society. Additionally, a prevalent misconception in many preschools is that a child who can write numbers comprehends them. Such notions contribute to Math becoming a weakness for many children or leading them to develop a dislike for the subject. Regrettably, I was one of those affected by this misconception!

In this article, I aim to highlight the equal significance of nurturing both foundational literacy and numeracy for a well-rounded education and holistic development. Achieving this balance is key. Therefore, in alignment with the National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy or NIPUN Bharat Initiative —an essential resource I recommend to all foundational years' teachers for implementing literacy and numeracy—, let's explore effective approaches to introduce crucial numeracy skills in early education using the 'ELPS' format.

EXPERIENCE

Experiencing numeracy concepts through tangible objects is crucial. For instance, provide the child with a basket full of apples and allow the child to explore it and grasp the look and feel of the apples. Then let them arrange them in a sequence without introducing the vocabulary immediately.

LANGUAGE

Spoken Language or Oral learning comes next, correlating numbers with words.Once the child comprehends numbers through concrete objects, they can better understand numeracy language. For example, use simple terms like "one," "two," and "three" in the same activity, allowing the child to grasp them at their own pace.

PICTURES

Transitioning to pictorial

Here are ten essential elements that contribute to the development of strong Foundational Numeracy skills within school settings.

SYMBOLS

At this stage, the transition to written symbols occurs after the child has a) experienced the concept, b) comprehended it orally, and c) represented it using pictures. Regrettably, many classrooms begin with this step, causing confusion for children. For instance, now it's appropriate to assist the child in writing numerals from "1 to 3" in a salt pit or sand tub, facilitating a smoother learning process.

01

Acknowledging the Significance of Foundational Numeracy

Early childhood educators hold a pivotal role in cultivating Foundational Numeracy skills among children which includes counting, comparison, sorting, measurement and pattern recognition. Integration of numeracy language within their teachings, like prompting with "Let's place two books on the table," is crucial

02

Establishing a Numeracy-Enriched Setting

Schools should prioritize fostering a numeracy-rich atmosphere within every activity in classrooms, incorporating tactile materials such as numeracy blocks and puzzles. This is particularly crucial in Indian school settings where emphasis often leans more towards literacy rather than numeracy.

03

Integrating Numeracy through Play

Play serves as a natural and engaging approach for young learners to grasp numerical concepts. Encouraging activities involving counting, sorting, or measuring within playful games aligns with how young minds predominantly absorb information through storytelling, games, play and rhymes.

Fun fact:
Play helps in development and strengthening of the right brain, which is also responsible for long term memory. Hence, even the National Curriculum Framework or the NCF, highlights the importance of toy pedagogy and story pedagogy.

04 Cultivating Conceptual Understanding

While rote memory and drilling hold some importance, not all numeracy concepts can be effectively taught through these methods. Hence, fostering conceptual learning is vital for a deeper understanding of foundational numeracy.

Before delving into intricate mathematical concepts like 2D shapes such as triangles, squares, rectangles, etc., it's vital to comprehend the significance of mastering pre-math skills like counting. Understanding counting holds a pivotal role when distinguishing between geometric shapes; for instance, a triangle comprises three sides while a square encompasses four. Therefore, the ability to count precedes the learning of 2D shapes. Thus, the sequential arrangement in Mathematics is paramount. As an educator, having a clear understanding of what to teach, when, and in what sequence holds great importance.

05
Diverse Teaching Approaches

Recognizing the diverse learning styles, early childhood educators should employ various teaching methods, encompassing hands-on activities, games, songs, and narratives, to cater to the individual needs of all learners.

06
Tailoring Learning Pace for Each Child

Acknowledging the varying learning speeds based on age and developmental stage, educators should offer personalized support and time to nurture each child's numeracy skills. Differentiated instruction and additional aid for struggling learners might be necessary.

07
Having Appropriate Responses to Child Interests

Engagement in learning amplifies when activities align with children's interests. Integrating these interests into numeracy lessons fosters a deeper understanding of numbers and mathematics.

08
Collaboration with Parents and Families

Involving parents in understanding the methodologies and rationale behind Foundational Numeracy education is pivotal. Encouraging their participation through play-dates, school visits, etc. can offer insight into how numeracy skills are taught.

09
Use Assessment for Instructional Clarity

Employing classroom observation and assessment assists educators in pinpointing numerical strengths and weaknesses, facilitating personalized instruction for every child's achievement. Clarify the purpose of classroom activities and set clear goals. Assessments play a crucial role in gauging a child's comprehension of concepts. If a child hasn't grasped a concept, revisiting the lesson until comprehension is achieved is crucial. Let assessments guide teaching, focusing on understanding rather than adhering strictly to timelines and workbooks.

10 Invest in teachers' continuous professional learning, development and growth

Given the evolving nature of early childhood education and Foundational Numeracy, educators should prioritize ongoing learning to stay abreast of the best practices, ensuring optimal learning experiences for their students.

### Let's address prevalent misconceptions in Foundational Numeracy Classrooms.

The first myth suggests that young children aren't ready for Mathematics, but the reality is quite the opposite—these children possess a natural curiosity about numbers and patterns in their everyday environment.

The second myth insinuates that Mathematics is exclusively for inherently gifted individuals, but the truth is that all children have the capacity to grasp Mathematical concepts.

Furthermore, the misconception that basic numbers and shapes suffice for young learners is misleading; in fact, these children are capable of comprehending intricate Mathematical ideas like patterns, measurement, and geometry.

Lastly, the notion that language and literacy overshadow Mathematics is inaccurate; in reality, language, literacy and Mathematics all play pivotal roles in shaping a child's success in life.

In summary, nurturing both numeracy and literacy is vital for overall growth, but misunderstandings often get in the way. Using the ELPS method and key elements like a numeracy-focused environment and varied teaching, we can build strong numeracy. Working with families and supporting teachers are crucial for effective math education. Let's break myths: Math is for everyone and plays a vital role in a child's success, just like language and literacy do.
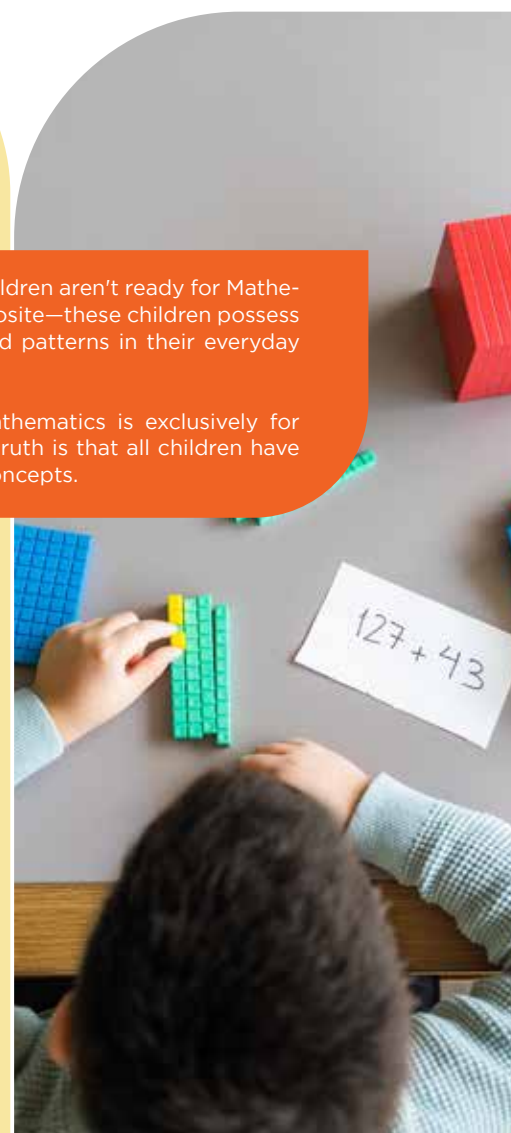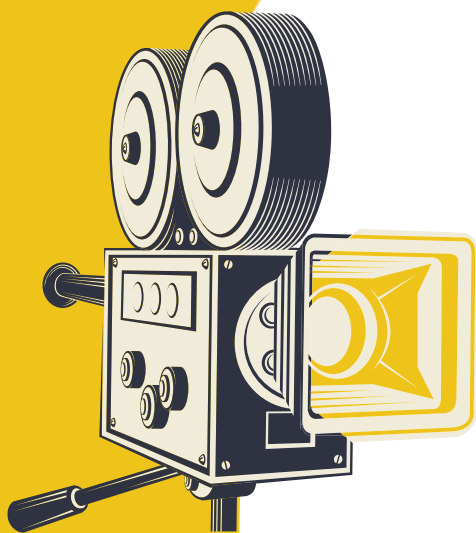
SCHOOL OF THE QUARTER

At the forefront of educational innovation, our featured 'School of the Quarter' is handpicked from schools across the country. Dive into their transformative story where they highlight innovative practices that have not only redefined education but also enriched the lives of its students.

Little Flower Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Tamil Nadu

A leader school in the small district of Sathyamangalam, Tamil Nadu, highly focused on technology & providing their students with the best of education. The school holds a prestigious position in the area & has had 0 students dropouts in the last 5 years, even during COVID.

Mr. S. Karthikeyan

Founder

Ym. PWA F.W. BASCO ERAIYANBU

Director

Ym.PWAF. K.N. CHANDRASEKARAN

Correspondent

Mr. S.J.HARI RAM CHANDHAR

Administrative Officer

Mrs. S.T.NIRMALA
M.A.,M.Com.B.Ed.,

PDCA - Principal

Our school was established with the sole purpose of providing quality education to the rural masses. It has been growing from strength to strength since 1984 and now occupies a place of pride in Sathyamangalam, Erode District Tamil Nadu. Coming from rural backgrounds, many of our students have risen to become successful professionals in various fields in India and abroad. Today, we feel proud when we see our students successful & their parents extremely happy.

School Name :
Little Flower Matriculation Higher Secondary School

Location:
Sathyamangalam, Erode, Tamil Nadu

Year of establishment :
1984

Size :
1520 Students and 86 Faculty Members

SCAN AND WATCH THEIR STORY

The Challenge

We wanted to provide good quality English education to students in our area which they were not able to access due to the high cost. We had a wonderful team of teachers and 80% of them are working with us for more than 5 - 6 years and some of them for decades but still we faced a lot of challenges

- Absence of a curriculum that worked well for rural students

- Lack of periodic academic training & individual guidance to the teachers

- Lack of teacher understanding of different learning styles and need for differentiated remedials

- High pressure on teachers to create & engage lesson plans, powerpoints, homework, grading assignments, and assessments.
It was time-consuming & hampered the time dedicated to personalized teaching

- Restricted exposure to only conventional methods of teaching

Vision for Change

- We decided to transform to a new learning method which is more experiential, interactive and in line with what students from metros are exposed to

- We wanted to shift to a style that was learner centered and not teacher centered

Transformation Initiatives:

We decided to adopt LEAD in the academic year 2018-19. Since then we have followed the LEAD Curriculum which has resolved the majority of our challenges that we were earlier facing. We still remember how remarkable it was when in 2018, Ms. Smita Deorah, Co-founder of LEAD gave the first training to our teachers.
In the earlier years, we faced some challenges in the implementation of the LEAD System along with some resistance from our parents. But the people from LEAD gave their support tremendously. They helped us in all aspects such as training, addressing feedback, resolving issues, providing technical support, loading content and instant doubt clarification through calls etc. This helped us gain the confidence of the parent community who now is a big supporter of this transformation. We undertook some initiatives which helped us implement the system successfully and take full advantage of it

Buy-in at the start

While we faced resistance at the start, we had detailed discussions with all the parents and teachers explaining the need of this change & the impact it will have. We also made it very clear that this is the new way of learning and it is here to stay. With this conviction, we were able to onboard all our existing parents and teachers

Following the processes diligently

We have gone out of our way to incorporate all the processes that LEAD had recommended in our day-to-day schedule/calendar. Our school strictly tracks initiatives like KURPC, RRR, OACs etc. and this is now a part of our regular functioning

Teacher Rating on Nucleus

Based on LEAD's suggestion, we had implemented a Teacher Performance Matrix which rates our teachers on a 5 point scale based on their KURPC Score, OAC Score, Tab Usage, CRL Casting etc. We have linked our teachers' appraisal with this score, which helped us follow the system properly. We have also, over time, let go of low performers as they were unfit for the technology we have adopted

Feedback from Parents

Since this was a new thing for everyone, our management was very closely connected with 100% of our parents right from the start. Parent feedback was continuously taken and very seriously implemented. This ensured that everybody was on the same page in terms of their child's future. Periodic parent meetings, therefore, are a very regular part of our school.

"For almost 18 years, it was largely a process of trial and error. Finally we are now satisfied with the methodology at LEAD. Their comprehensive understanding of parents, students, management and teacher's psychology has helped us implement this solution and see its impact in front of our eyes. They have systemised everything at our school."

W. Basco Erayianbu
Director

Results and Impact

We have seen a complete transformation in the way our students learn and teachers teach

Infrastructure improvements

- Our school never compromises on the quality of education. We have successfully transformed all our classrooms - From traditional blackboards and chalk to 100% technology enabled that is suitable for audio-visual learning.

  All our classrooms are powered with Smart board & Smart TVs.

Teacher led Improvements

- The language skills of our teachers significantly improved. Our teachers are now communicating in English at least 80% of the time in campus

- Their inputs to the students have become very valuable as they first learn themselves. Eg. Teacher Resources facilitate the teachers to know the exact pronunciation of certain words & give instructional guidance & demonstration to the students

- Their willingness to adapt to new technology has seen a major improvement. Our teachers are now open to learning new skills & upgrade themselves

- With the help of prepared plans & modules, teachers are now able to probe students to give answers based on the student's understanding & not just what is written in the books

- My teachers are also now capable of understanding what's right for their students & customizing the learning objectives based on the outcomes expected

Curriculum Changes

- Focus on individual development is outstanding. Students learn by viewing and hearing, which helps them communicate confidently

- Level-based ELGA approach helped us to identify the diversity in our students & segregate them according to their level. It ensures the students are actually learning what they are being taught

- Curriculum includes group practice, individual practice and projects rather than traditional instructional teaching

"With the help of LEAD's lesson plans, the workload of our school's teachers has reduced significantly which gives them time for other productive things"

S.T. Nirmala
Principal

SCAN AND WATCH THE COMPLETE STORY

Students learning outcomes and exposure

ACADEMIC PERFORMACE

Student results have improved significantly. In the year 23-24, our school has an average student score of 77% as compared to 68% last year. We are seeing this improvement year-on-year. The way in which lessons & concepts are taught builds conceptual understanding and application skills of the students. These skills have helped our students retain the concepts and also answer Higher Order Thinking Questions

CODING ABILITIES

Through specific coding programs, students become experts in coding and computational skills which helps them to create their own mobile apps and computer games. We are glad to say that at present our high school students are able to design a website and multi-media contents, something they would have never thought of.

LEADERSHIP SKILLS

We witnessed leadership skills of our students during the event Student Led Conference. The inner talents of our students were exposed & this helped us to develop a good rapport with our parents.

WILLINGNESS TO SHOWCASE TALENT

LEAD Championships is another platform where we feel very proud seeing our students perform so well. We saw a high participation with interest coming from the parents' side. Last year, our school had 3 finalists who went for the Finale in Hyderabad. This year 326 students participated & showcased their skills on a national platform like this.

LANGUAGE SKILLS & CONFIDENCE

Overall the students' language skills have significantly improved making them confident about themselves

We feel immense pride seeing the drastic change in students' learning, attitude & growth. The joy in their parents' eyes as they see their child's growth is unparalleled.
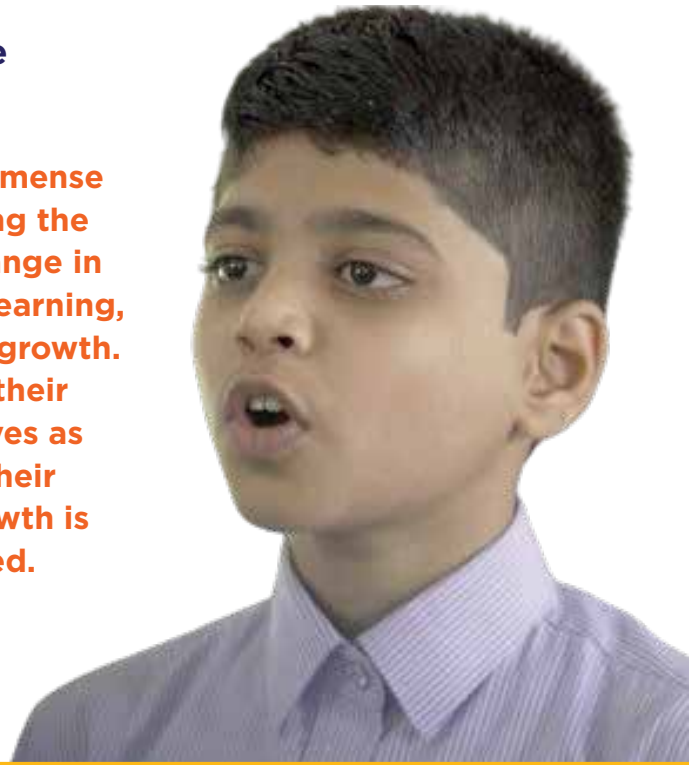
Average Student Score
77%

LEAD Championships Student Participation
326

Average Teacher Performance Score
3.6/5

"LEAD's practical curriculum has been a game-changer for my child. The approach of learning by doing has significantly improved my child's understanding of challenging concepts."

Yasmin Kalimulla
(Mother of Mohd. Faisal, Class 7 Student)

SCAN AND WATCH YASMIN'S COMPLETE STORY

Admissions

After the implementation of LEAD, we leveraged digital marketing to reach out to parents in the locality. As this was the first transformation in the locality, this attracted people & generated interest for admission. We now have 100% admissions in our school on the back of ELGA and the technology focus.

The strength of our school is our parents. We rely on their feedback and support. They are the real advertisement for the school.

Lessons learned from the transformation

In the initial stages when we moved to a 100% technology enabled integrated system, the parents were resistant. In those days, we made a huge effort in persuading them & making them understand the importance of this system & the positive impact it will have on their children. Our parents trusted us & here we are!

So a big lesson would be to ensure the parents are understanding the importance & the need of this system. Ultimately, they just want the best for their child just like we do!

Valuable insights to other schools

Our humble sharing to the newly ventured schools - Every change will create some impact. Don't expect the impact to happen overnight, be patient & it will give you a better result than you can ever think.

PREPARING STUDENTS FOR SUCCESS:
THE EVOLVING ROLE OF SCHOOLS

Vivek Varshney
Founder, Speed Labs Alumnus, IIT Kanpur

In the context of the shifting educational landscape influenced by the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which is steering towards a common entrance exam for all college admissions and placing lower importance on board exams, the role of schools has taken on a new dimension. Educational institutions are now tasked not only with imparting knowledge but also with preparing students for the challenges posed by these competitive entrance exams—a critical pathway to higher education and career success. This article delineates how starting Foundation-building early-on will help enhance the success rate of students by large:

01
Establishing a Robust Foundation Early-on to Enable Mastery and Prevent Stress

Moving beyond mere memorization, fostering "comprehension" is key. A clear grasp of concepts and fundamentals, starting from the early grades, not only fortifies a student's knowledge base but also cultivates critical thinking skills—a requisite for navigating the intricacies of competitive exams. Starting early provides students with more time to master concepts, preventing the overwhelming pressure associated with the extensive syllabus of 11th and 12th grades.

02
Familiarizing Students with Question Formats/Negative Marking/Time Management

Competitive exams often feature question types distinct from those encountered in regular assessments. Schools can bridge this gap by incorporating a diverse array of question formats into routine tests. Exposure to varied structures not only acquaints students with the nuances of different question types but also augments adaptability and problem-solving skills. Handling negative marking and learning time management is also crucial to crack these exams.

03 Cultivating Resilience & Perseverance

Encouraging healthy competition serves as a motivation for students to strive for excellence. It is imperative, however, to strike a balance by instilling values of collaboration & sportsmanship. Students should be taught how to handle setbacks, analyze their performance objectively, work on their areas of improvement and move ahead. Parallely, schools must address the stress associated with competitive exams, offering support mechanisms such as mindfulness practices, counseling services, and workshops, ensuring students can maintain mental composure for optimal performance.
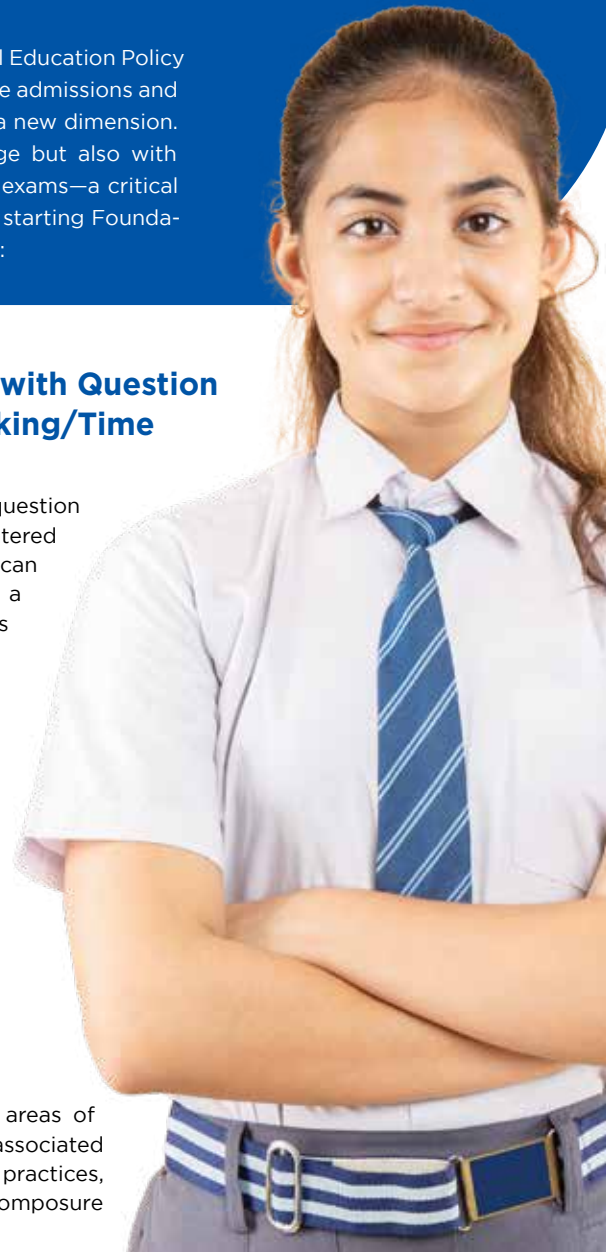
CONCLUSION

It is a positive sign that the National & State level school chains are already introducing Foundation programs. In the broader context, as students navigate the evolving landscape of education & the workforce, schools play a pivotal role in equipping them with the skills and mindset needed not only to clear competitive exams but to excel in various fields. By fostering a culture of innovation, adaptability, and interdisciplinary thinking, schools lay the foundation for a generation of individuals ready to make a meaningful impact on both local and global scales
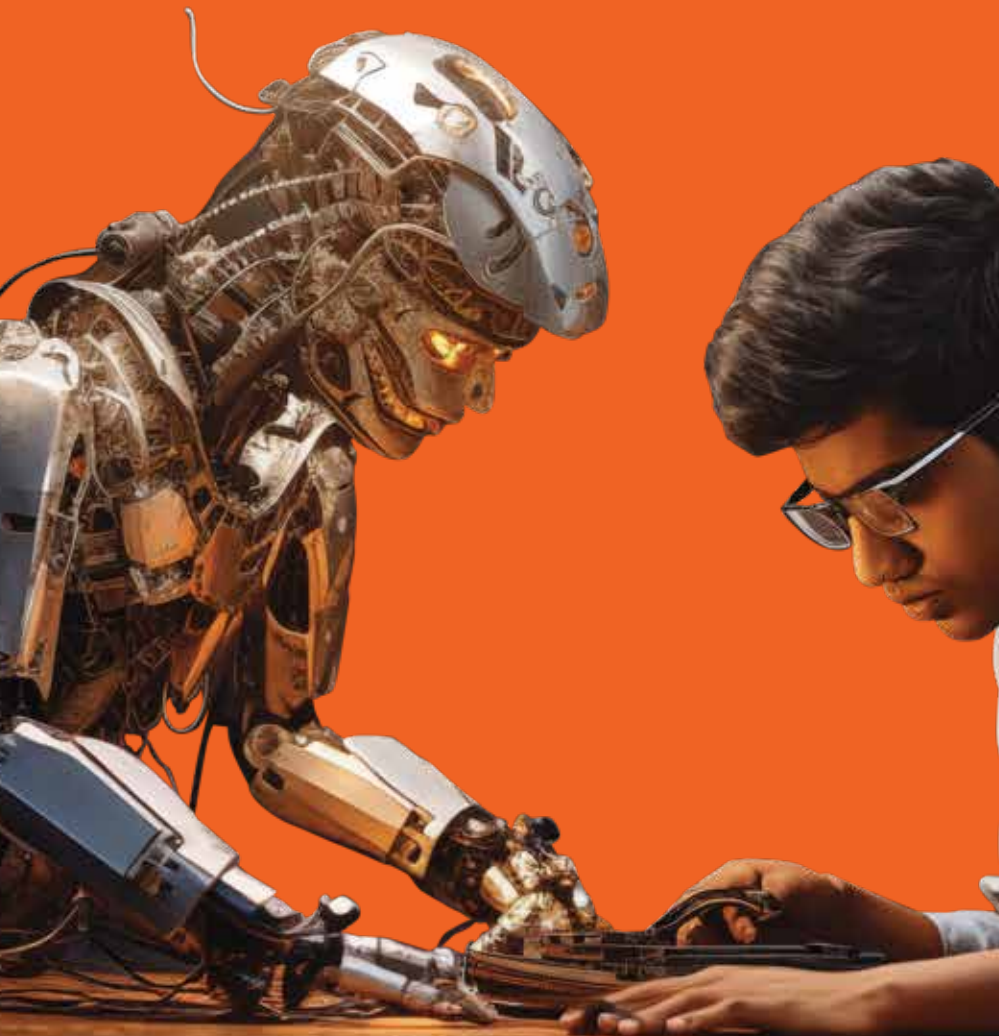
EMPOWERING TOMORROW'S INNOVATORS:

THE CRUCIAL ROLE OF INTRODUCING CODING, AI & ROBOTICS IN SCHOOLS

Anurag Gupta
CEO & Co-Founder, STEMROBO Technologies

As we navigate the 21st century, it becomes increasingly evident that technology is not just shaping the world; it is defining it. In this landscape of rapid change, our duty as educators is to equip the leaders of tomorrow with the tools they need to navigate the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. One such critical tool is the exposure to coding and robotics from a young age.

Closing the Urban-Rural Tech Divide

In an era where the digital divide is a global concern, it is imperative that we bridge the gap between urban and rural access to technology. Introducing the new-age tech curriculum is a step towards democratizing technology education. By providing students in smaller towns with the same opportunities as their urban counterparts, we are not only leveling the playing field but also unlocking hidden talents and potential.

Nurturing Problem Solvers

Introducing coding, AI and robotics at an early age serves as a catalyst, nurturing a generation of problem solvers. These skills are not merely about creating the next generation of software developers or engineers; they are about instilling a problem-solving mindset that is applicable across diverse fields.

Imagine a student from a small town developing an app that addresses a local challenge, or a robotics project that automates a process unique to their community. The potential for localized solutions to regional issues is immense. By integrating coding and robotics into the curriculum, we are not just teaching skills; we are fostering a spirit of innovation that can drive positive change at the grassroots level.

NEW-AGE LEARNING PROGRAMS TO MAKE YOUR STUDENTS SUCCEED IN LIFE
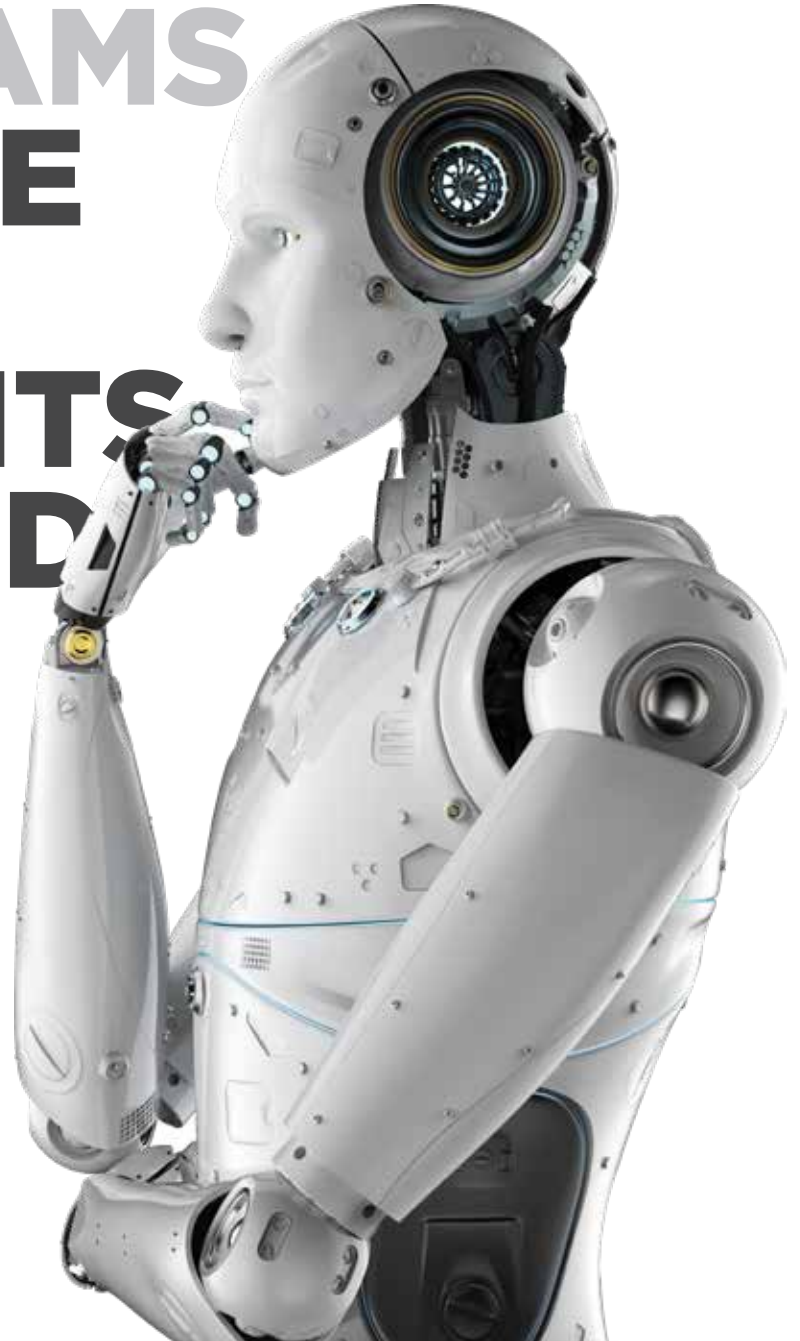
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Fostering Critical Thinking and Collaboration

Coding and robotics are not just about lines of code and mechanical movements; they are about fostering critical thinking and collaboration. These skills go beyond the boundaries of traditional subjects, encouraging students to approach problems analytically and work together to find innovative solutions. In a world that values interdisciplinary skills, coding and robotics act as a bridge, connecting concepts from science, mathematics, and even the arts.Imagine your classroom where students collaboratively work on a robotics project, combining their knowledge of physics, mathematics, and programming to bring their ideas to life. This collaborative approach not only enhances their understanding of individual subjects but also prepares them for the collaborative nature of the modern workplace. In conclusion, the importance of exposing students to coding, AI and robotics curriculum from a young age cannot be overstated. As educators and decision-makers, let us take the lead in shaping a future where every student, regardless of their geographical location, has the opportunity to code their dreams and build a robotic path to success.

Together, let us empower our students to become not just beneficiaries but architects of the future.

THE FUTURE IS BRIGHTER WITH ROOFTOP SOLAR!

> **Sumeet Mehta**
> CEO and Co-Founder
> LEAD Group

> **Moiz Saif**
> SVP, New Business
> LEAD Group

"Indore-based Class 9 student Abhay has started asking his parents to install rooftop solar at home and his father to switch to an electric bike. This after his school adopted rooftop solar for their electricity needs and Abhay developed a keen interest in renewable energy technology." The impact that implementing sustainability solutions in school can have on the young minds of the country is enormous!

India has ambitious targets for renewable energy, with plans to reach 450 GW by 2030 and achieve net zero emissions by 2070. With ~1.5 million schools across India, rooftop solar systems in school buildings represent a great opportunity to meet our country's COP 28 goal of reducing emissions by 45 percent before 2030. If all schools in India adopt solar then we can add 15 GW of solar energy which is 20% of current installed base!

How does solar work?

Across India, schools that are progressive and conscious of building a culture of Environmental Sustainability are installing rooftop solar systems, with significant benefits:

Reduced energy costs

Monthly electricity bills can be reduced by up to 50%, right from the first day of installation of solar panels
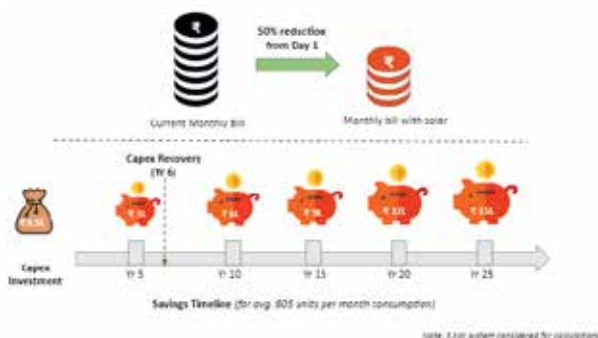
Long-term investment with attractive returns

Recovery of investment within five years, with potentially 4X return on investment & real-time solar solution performance monitoring

LEAD School, Akkalkot, has achieved savings of Rs. 1.8 lakhs per year on electricity costs since installation

Community leadership

The opportunity to stand out as a forward-thinking and environmentally conscious or 'green' School of the Future

Uninterrupted student learning

In classrooms, irrespective of power cuts or other emergencies

Moreover, Abhay's school has also woven in Sustainability Education as part of its rooftop solar program. Rooftop solar installations in schools can provide an excellent opportunity to educate students about renewable energy. It allows students to witness firsthand the benefits of sustainable practices while fostering a deep sense of environmental responsibility.

There are multiple ways for a school to do this:

01

A rooftop solar system in a school offers great STEM learning opportunities for students. Students can get to experience first-hand how solar technology works by assisting in the insta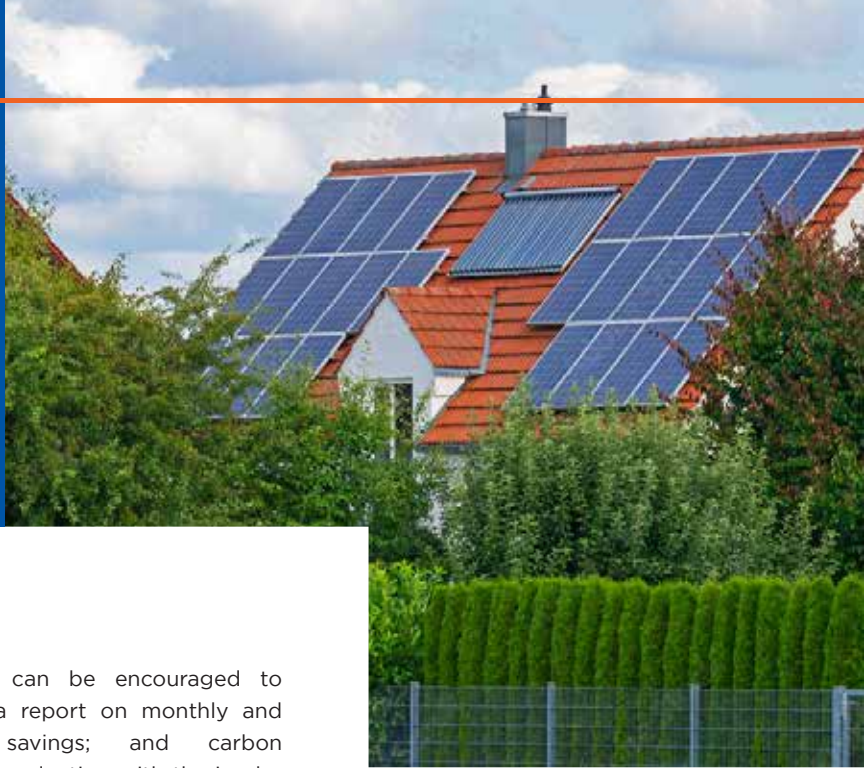llation process and seeing how their school generates its own power from the sun! Hands-on learning via a teacher-led demonstration can further spark keen interest in engineering or renewable energy technology.

02

Students can be encouraged to prepare a report on monthly and annual savings; and carbon emissions reduction with the implementation of the solar solution.

03

A miniature solar module DIY kit consisting of a small solar module, battery and a light (street lamp) can be kept in the school science lab for students to configure and learn by doing.

04

Student-led solar project demonstrations - Students can be guided to create and present their own solar energy related projects

For example:

Solar Street Light

Solar powered plant watering

Solar Cooker

To sum it up, the future is bright, and with the help of rooftop solar systems, Schools of the Future can illuminate the path towards sustainability education powered by solar technology!

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A GUIDE TO BOOSTING SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

> **Anupam Gurani**
> Chief Business & Marketing Officer,
> LEAD Group

One of the biggest challenges before any school in India today is ensuring growth via strong academic results and, consequently, attracting admissions.

Getting more students into your school isn't just about good grades – it's about understanding what parents really want for their kids and making your school the go-to choice. Parents invest a lot in their children's education for a good future. So, what exactly are parents looking for when they pick a school?

It's not just about books; it's about the school's story and what it offers. Parents want a school with a good reputation, known for helping students become confident and successful. They look for an environment where their kids can grow, not just in studies but in life. Schools using modern teaching methods like digital classrooms, creative teaching, and preparing kids for future jobs catch their eye. And, of course, parents want a school that's affordable, safe, and clean – a trustworthy partner in their child's education journey.

So, how can you make your school any parent's first choice in your area?

We often meet school owners who feel it is only possible to attract parents by spending huge budgets on marketing activities. Since most schools unfortunately don't have that kind of budget, they feel constrained. However, having spent years in the education space, we feel otherwise. There are many other opportunities that school leaders tend to ignore.

Leveraging Parents as The Biggest Marketing Medium

What role do existing parents play in growing your school?

Our research shows that parents mostly select schools for their children based on feedback from other parents. They find this source far more reliable than other advertising mediums. Existing parents are more likely to refer your school to their friends and family when they experience the learning first-hand. Therefore, it is critical that you establish a positive connection with your existing parents.

How can you engage parents positively?

A. Showcase learning in your school: To ensure you are connected to the parents, you should actively involve parents in school activities and keep them informed to build trust and satisfaction. Showcase how your school uses new-age learning techniques and methodologies to teach their child. You can also invite them to competitions, SLC, etc. so that they see their child getting the required exposure

B. Implementing a Parent Referral Program - encouraging parents of existing students to recommend the school to others - is an effective way of motivating them to spread positive word-of-mouth

Muzafar Jeelani
Head of Academic Operations,
Radiant Public School, Anantnag,
Kashmir

"

"It's critical to showcase a school's achievements & results to parents and that has worked really well for us. We use school buses as a medium to communicate about the Grade 10 Toppers along with other means. Additionally, every year we conduct a 3 day long exhibition with an open entry for all. Parents visit to attend the knowledge sessions and we share the school's and student's achievements with the audience. This establishes our credibility and creates the pull."

Additionally, we believe in staying very closely connected with our existing parent community. For each segment of classes we have a Principal who has a regular interaction with all the parents & takes constant feedback. This way we ensure we keep our parents satisfied which in turn builds a positive word of mouth in the region."

Appoint a Dedicated Admissions Counsellor

In most schools today, teachers double hat the responsibility of driving new admissions and hence are unable to do 100% justice to this. To improve admissions conversions, it's crucial to hire a dedicated Admissions Counsellor. A dedicated Admissions Counsellor can help create a positive connection with parents and address their concerns to ensure a personalized experience. Serving as the go-to person for information, these counsellors should represent the school's values and adapt their approach to meet each family's unique needs.

Deliver an unforgettable visit experience for a parent

Ensure your school showcases its unique pedagogy and curriculum. Tailor it to highlight key strengths and special programs, providing a firsthand look at what sets the school apart. Engage parents with interactive sessions, demonstrations and real-life examples that showcase how their child will be exposed to multi-modal learning. Emphasize the school's values, facilities and success stories to leave a lasting impression.

In a nutshell, making your school the top choice is not just about spending big on ads. but also about leveraging current parents as advocates and having the right resources to convert admissions By focusing on these, a school can become not just a school but a guide to a bright future for every child.

TECH IN EDUCATION

How Schools Of The Future Are Already Using AI To Boost Learning Outcomes

> **Ajay Kashyap**
> Chief Product Officer,
> LEAD Group

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is transforming Education in India.

AI has deep potential to make high quality education accessible to every child in school. From personalised learning paths to assessments and remedials, AI is transforming teaching-learning in schools, while benefiting students and teachers. The right use of AI in India's schools can help accelerate progress towards United Nations' SDG 4 of Quality Education.

There are numerous possibilities, with many already beginning to find application in Indian schools

Content and curriculum

AI has the potential to transform content and curriculum, making it more relevant and engaging for students. By analyzing vast amounts of data on student learning outcomes and interests, AI can recommend and generate content that is curriculum-aligned and resonates with learner needs. This adaptive content approach ensures that students stay motivated and connected with their studies, fostering a life-long love for learning.

AI-powered assessments

AI-powered assessments are powered by customizable inputs such as question type, composition and difficulty level, etc., with options for teachers to review and edit as required. With customisation for each class and school, it also does away with the menace of exam paper leaks that schools have to contend with. AI-powered assessments empower teachers to customize and administer assessments that suit her specific classroom needs, depending on the subject being taught; and student needs. High-quality questions are generated to match specific classroom learning requirements, while also saving teacher time and allowing her to focus on what matters most – students!

Customised, student-oriented learning

AI is helping teachers identify classroom-level student learning challenges and administer personalized remedials for each class to bring students up to speed. AI algorithms can also analyze individual student data, identifying unique learning styles & adapting instructional content accordingly. This can enable a customized educational experience for each student, addressing their specific strengths and weaknesses.

AI in special education

The integration of AI can be a game-changer for students with learning disabilities. AI-powered tools can identify specific challenges and adapt learning strategies to accommodate individual needs. For example, speech recognition technology can assist students with language difficulties, while AI-driven visual aids can enable comprehension for those with visual impairments.

AI to teach English

AI to teach English: Non-native English-speaking students struggle in comprehension across subjects at school. This can be addressed by teaching English as a skill, together with other children at similar skill levels. AI can be used to identify each student's current language proficiency levels and allocate the right learning program to bring the student to grade-level proficiency quickly.

Responsible AI in Education

While the benefits of incorporating AI into school education are substantial, it is also important to acknowledge & be prepared for potential challenges.

Benefits

Enhanced efficiency: AI streamlines administrative tasks, allowing educators to focus on teaching. This efficiency translates to a more effective use of time and resources.

Global learning standards: AI can facilitate the integration of global best practices in education, ensuring that each student receives the very best of education!

Other Considerations:

Data privacy and the potential for algorithmic bias must be addressed. It is imperative to implement adequate safeguards to maintain equity in education.

In conclusion, the era of AI is clearly upon India's schools; and schools across India are embracing this technological revolution with enthusiasm. White it holds immense potential to improve efficiency and boost learning outcomes, the power of AI must be harnessed responsibly, ensuring that it serves as a tool for teacher empowerment and classroom engagement. As we chart a course into the future, let us embrace the possibilities that AI brings to education while remaining vigilant in our commitment to providing a well-rounded and inclusive learning environment for every student.

EXPERT TIPS

How to become a Super Teacher in Coding and Computational Skills (CCS) and Artificial Intelligence

> **Dr. Shailaja Jayashankar,**
> Senior Curriculum Director, LEAD Group

The World Economic Forum predicts that the top emerging careers and job opportunities in India over the next five years will be in AI, Machine Learning and Data. Including Coding and Computational Thinking, Artificial Intelligence and Robotics in school curriculum is thus the need of the hour to ensure that students are skilled for jobs of the future. In fact, for many students, learning basic coding can be an empowering experience that teaches a wide range of skills: Creativity, Problem-solving, Collaboration and more.

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 also emphasizes the importance of teaching Coding and Computational Thinking as early as primary grades. India's schools therefore have a very important role to play in ensuring our youth are prepared for success in a technology-driven and connected world. If we do not immediately start including Coding and Computational Skills (CCS) in school curricula, we risk being left behind two to three generations as a nation!
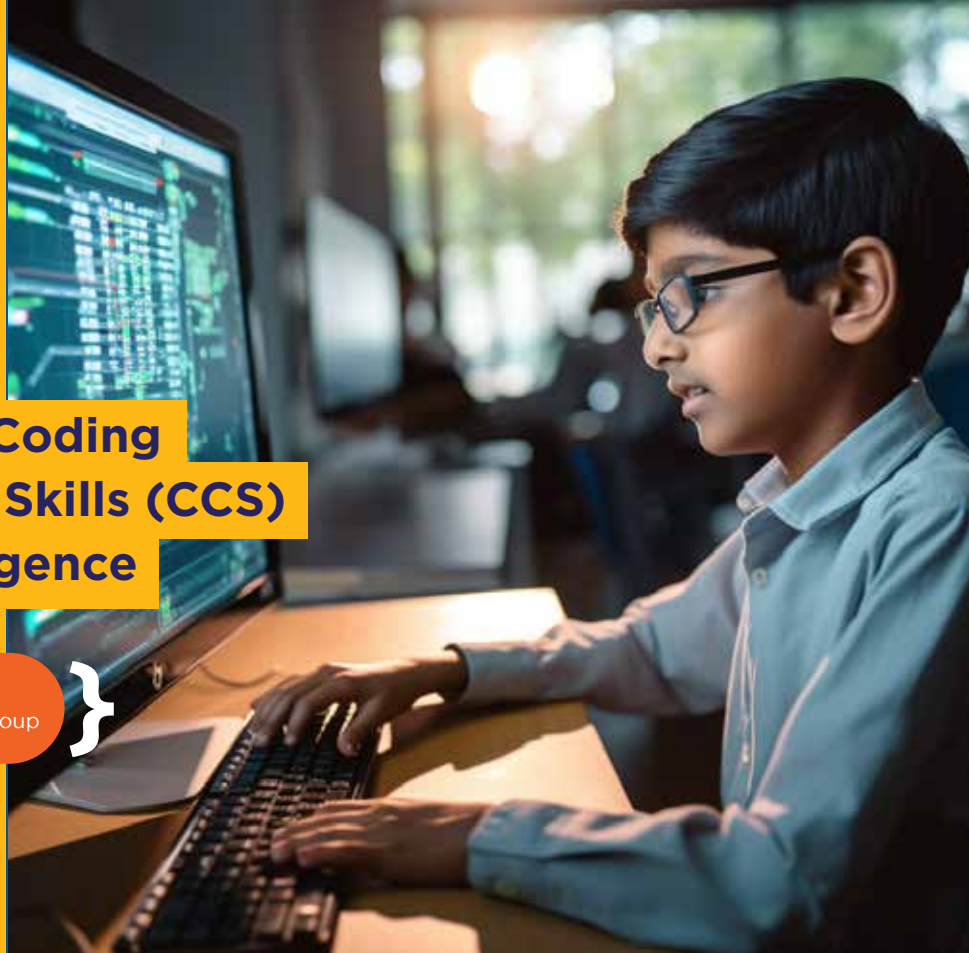
Coding and Computational Skills (CCS) – the reality of Indian schools today

While schools acknowledge the importance of coding, they often employ traditional teaching methods. Key gaps in current CCS education in schools include outdated software, theory-centric approach, inapplicable IT skills, reliance on or textbooks without practical app or game-building, and a shortage of well-qualified teachers. The result – students learn rote without understanding; are not able to apply their learnings to real life; and, most importantly, do not enjoy their learning!

In fact, one of the biggest challenges that schools face today the lack of skilled CCS teachers. CCS teachers, in turn, de with their own challenges like limited time and resources a lack of proper training in delivering a new CCS curriculum in t classroom. Many teachers or educators of today have had learn coding or programming anew as adults, since the subje did not exist when they were in school.

Teachers should first learn **block-based coding.** Teachers who are proficient in block-based coding are more confident using technology. This confidence can extend to other aspects of their teaching, by incorporating technology into various subjects and activities.

Here is how teachers can train themselves to excel in teaching Coding and Computational Skills (CCS) and Artificial Intelligence (AI):

Invest time in learning coding using programming tools such as **MIT Scratch, MIT App Inventor** and **Python** - these tools help teach programming concepts to children; build mobile applications; and carry out advanced programming tasks.

Teachers should become familiar with concepts like **Functions, Loops, Sequences, Conditionals, Algorithms** and **Variables.** These are the foundation of programming; and understanding them helps teachers to guide students in developing effective problem-solving skills, a crucial aspect of coding and programming.

Teachers should become well-versed in learning how to develop **interactive games, websites, mobile apps, Maths calculators, virtual tours** and other **educational apps.**

Taking up coding projects and AI applications around practical or real-life scenarios - this can significantly enhance teacher understanding and application of concepts in real-world scenarios.

In conclusion, both teachers and students should be creators of technology rather than mere consumers. This means that teachers must focus on teaching students how to apply CCS theory in real-life scenarios so that students can gain a deeper understanding of concepts and their applications.

In India, there isn't a well-defined curriculum for CCS in schools until Class 8; after that, it's offered as an elective. Interestingly, this mirrors the global trend. The CSTA (Computer Science Teachers Association) serves as an internationally recognized framework for teaching the subject from Classes 1 to 12. Schools can also refer to the CBSE Artificial Intelligence and Information Technology curriculum.

Let our nation's journey to technology leadership begin where it rightly should - in your school classrooms!

DID YOU KNOW?

'Apna Chandrayaan Programme' by the Ministry of Education, Government Of India

While rote memory and drilling hold some importance, not all numeracy concepts can be effectively taught through these methods. Hence, fostering conceptual learning is vital for a deeper understanding of foundational numeracy.

Before delving into intricate mathematical concepts like 2D shapes such as triangles, squares, rectangles, etc., it's vital to comprehend the significance of mastering pre-math skills like counting. Understanding counting holds a pivotal role when distinguishing between geometric shapes; for instance, a triangle comprises three sides while a square encompasses four. Therefore, the ability to count precedes the learning of 2D shapes. Thus, the sequential arrangement in Mathematics is paramount. As an educator, having a clear understanding of what to teach, when, and in what sequence holds great importance.

Jobs of the future: Data Science careers

'Big Data' refers to extremely large and complex sets of data that cannot be easily managed, processed, or analyzed with traditional data processing tools. A recent report indicates that there will be more than 3,38,000 'Big Data' jobs by 2028.

India is already recognised as a global powerhouse for Big Data analytics, and is expected to propel the industry from $5.7 billion in 2022 to $30.7 billion by 2027. During this time, India is poised to capture 32 per cent of the global analytics market, amplifying educational and employment prospects. Schools must therefore nurture data scientists of tomorrow by including the right Coding and Computational Skills curriculum today!

Anubhuti Curriculum to be implemented in schools

The Uttar Pradesh government has decided to implement the 'Anubhuti Curriculum', designed to instill values and foster character development in students of over 45000 government-run upper primary schools across the state. This first-of-its-kind initiative aligns with the norms outlined in the new National Education Policy (NEP) - 2020 and the National Curriculum Framework (NCF). By utilizing classroom teaching, motivational stories and questions, the 'Anubhuti Curriculum' aims to promote independent learning, and empower students to distinguish between right and wrong.

Classroom seating arrangement has a significant impact on student learning. Did you know that studies have shown that students in the front rows are typically more attentive than those in the back? Or that they are more likely to ask questions and actively participate? Whether in rows, pairs, semi-circles or U-shaped seating, each classroom style has its pros and cons. Click here to read more for which style is best for your school!

How does your seating arrangement affect learning for students?

CII–Deloitte Report on School Education emphasizes the role of teachers

A high drop-out rate at different stages of school education and the resulting low Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) at the upper primary and higher levels is the focus of a recently released report by CII and Deloitte. The report puts teachers at the center of quality education in schools and suggests a balanced approach that includes improving teacher recruitment processes; teacher training; creating a performance-oriented but more enabling working environment; involving teachers in design and implementation of educational reforms; and supporting teachers through technology by providing them tools to enable better teaching. The report has been conceptualised based on UDISE+ reports and the Performance Grading Index (PGI) reports by the Ministry of Education.

SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

Recognising best LEAD Partner schools across the country by

SHIKSHA AWARDS

SOUTH 1 ZONE

- Simphy Kumari
- BHARATIYA VIDYA BHAVAN'S PUBLIC SCHOOL
- Andhra Pradesh

- M. Siva Shankar Reddy
- NAGARJUNA MODEL SCHOOL -MAIN BRANCH
- Andhra Pradesh

- Shobha Reddy
- SRI KAKATIYA HIGH SCHOOL SAINIK NAGAR & LBS RD BRANCH
- Andhra Pradesh

SOUTH 2 ZONE

- Sr. Sudha Rajamanickam
- SHANTHI RANI MATRIC HR SEC SCHOOL - KALLAL
- Tamil Nadu

- Thirumurugan
- SARASWATHI BALA VIDYA MANDIR MATRIC SCHOOL
- Tamil Nadu

- Mrs Safa Sageer (Academic Coordinator)
- SIR SIYED ENGLISH SCHOOL
- Kerala

EAST ZONE

- Mrs. Rashmi Praveen Barnwal
- THE RAMESHWAR VALLEY SCHOOL
- Jharkhand

- Mr. Dilip Lama
- INNER HEART SECONDARY SCHOOL
- West Bengal

- Dr. Mukesh Kumar Roy
- SANSKAR GYANPEETH DHANBAD
- Jharkhand

NORTH ZONE

- Mr Rafiq Ahmad Dar
- AL-KHALIQ NATIONAL INNOVATIVE SCHOOL
- Jammu And Kashmir

- Mr Mangal Singh Kishanpuri
- ST SOLDIER ELITE CONVENT SCHOOL-JANDIALA GURU
- Punjab

- Mr Mir Waseem Hanief
- SOLACE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
- Jammu And Kashmir

WEST

- Mr.Vipul Jain
- VIDYODAYA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
- Madhya Pradesh

- Mrs. Pratiksha Soni
- SHREE T.R. PATEL PUBLIC SCHOOL DHANGAON KHANDWA
- Madhya Pradesh

- Ashwini Tiwari
- SARVODAY INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH SCHOOL
- Madhya Pradesh

Let's know the leaders of

AL-KHALIQ NATIONAL INNOVATIVE SCHOOL J&K

Mr. Rafiq Ahmad Dar
School Owner & Principal

Apart from Teaching, loves:
Reading, Writing, Playing football, Traveling and Cooking

Ms. Nargis
Academic Coordinator

Apart from Teaching, loves:
Reading & Cooking

01. What inspired you to establish AL KHALIQ SCHOOL ?

I was just 20 when I joined the teaching journey and I always felt I could do more. Combining my passion with over 25 years of experience, I established this school with the support of my family, to transform the way education is imagined in Pulwama District

02. Can you share your long-term vision for the school and how it has evolved over the years?

The name "Alkhaliq" itself signifies that we believe in innovation and creation of new ideas for new ages. And that is our vision - to provide an environment to young minds and give wings to their ideas

03. How would you describe your leadership style?

My leadership style would be very inclusive.

04. Can you share a specific milestone or moment that you are particularly proud of?

When I moved from teaching to administration, I faced many challenges like resistance to change, leading people older than you etc. Hence I trained myself & my mind to prove worthy of people's attention. I also modeled the teaching practices which I wanted people to adopt & held brainstorming sessions to build a shared vision which helped everyone to understand and buy-into the proposed change. With time, most people are on board now

05. What values or principles guide your decision-making as a school leader?

My belief is simple: A leader is one who makes more leaders. My strategy is simpler : Lead , follow or get out of the way.

06. How do you invest in the professional development and well-being of your teaching staff?

To be a changemaker , I ensure that I'm first fully equipped, in terms of domain knowledge, to lead the change. I also believe in identifying potential leaders who can lead, and giving them professional training to enable them to be comfortable in their new role. With constant support & focused training sessions, LEAD has made our task easier. Our teachers are upskilled & confident. In fact, Ms Nargis is a shining example of how a teacher can hone their leadership skills & go up the ladder

07. What valuable lessons have you learned from overcoming obstacles in your role?

The passion of moving beyond my comfort zone, of doing more helped me in accepting new challenges, thinking differently and taking the road less taken.

08. What do you consider the most significant achievements of AL-KHALIQ NATIONAL INNOVATIVE SCHOOL under your leadership?

The fact that we transformed all our teachers - From chalk and board teachers to the Educators of Today using the internet, smart classes, and modern tools.

09. What's your best memory of your school?

When my teacher told me when I was a student that One Day you will become a Teacher and impact thousands of lives!

10. 1 advice you follow that your teachers gave you?

No matter what the situation, NEVER GIVE UP!

11. What is the future you want for your school?

I want to give the world to my students before I give my students to the world

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

Recognising best teachers from LEAD Partner Schools across the country by

SHIKSHA AWARDS

👤 Teacher Name	🏫 School Name	📍 State
NORTH		
SAPNA DEWAN	Shri Harkishan Public High School	Punjab
SHAFIYA YOUSUF	Genesis Global Academy	Jammu And Kashmir
ANJUMAN ASHRAF	Green Valley Educational Institute	Jammu And Kashmir
TASI JAN	Green Valley Educational Institute	Jammu And Kashmir
NAHIDA MOHIUDDIN	Nadwa Public School	Jammu And Kashmir
AMIRA GULL	Nadwa Public School	Jammu And Kashmir
IQRA RAMZAN	Nadwa Public School	Jammu And Kashmir
RUKAYA YOUSUF	Peace School	Jammu And Kashmir
ASIYA JAN	Al-Khaliq National Innovative School	Jammu And Kashmir
NARGIS MUSHTAQ	Al-Khaliq National Innovative School	Jammu And Kashmir
SHAHIDA JAN	Al-Khaliq National Innovative School	Jammu And Kashmir
INAYATA BHAT	Genesis Global Academy	Jammu And Kashmir
AASEYA JAN	Green Valley Educational Institute	Jammu And Kashmir
WEST		
JAYASHREE TIWARI	Royal English School	Maharashtra
SUPRIYA SEQUEIRA	Royal English School	Maharashtra
SOUTH		
SHILPA P	Nagarjuna Model School -Main Branch	Andhra Pradesh
S. V. D. SUDHA	Nagarjuna Model School -Main Branch	Andhra Pradesh
AYESHA BEGUM SHAIK	Nagarjuna Model School	Andhra Pradesh
SHAIK SHAKIRA	Chaitanya Littles Talent School	Andhra Pradesh
LAKSHMI PACHIGOLLA	Little Paradise School- Tanuku	Andhra Pradesh
VOLLIMI DEEPTHI	Nagarjuna Model School -Main Branch	Andhra Pradesh
THASNEEM BANU SK	Nagarjuna Model School -Main Branch	Andhra Pradesh
SOWBHAGYA LAKSHMI G	Nagarjuna Model School -Main Branch	Andhra Pradesh
PRASANNA KUMARI K V L	Nagarjuna Model School -Main Branch	Andhra Pradesh
TULLIMALLI SARALA	Futurepath Em High School - New Deal	Andhra Pradesh
P SWATHI	Sri Srija Em High School Kurnool	Andhra Pradesh
RAJESWARI S	Bethany English Medium High School	Andhra Pradesh

👤 Teacher Name	🏫 School Name	📍 State
SOUTH		
SABEENA BEEGUM	Fathima Public School Punalur	Kerala
NITHIYA P	Saraswathi Bala Mandir Matriculation School	Tamil Nadu
VIDYA S	The Global Public School Manya	Kerala
AJITHA BEEVI	Nagore Crescent Mat Hr Sec School For Girls	Tamil Nadu
HASMATH PARVEEN	Nagore Crescent Mat Hr Sec School For Girls	Tamil Nadu
FATHIMA JULAIHA S	Nagore Crescent Mat Hr Sec School For Girls	Tamil Nadu
SURYA MAJU	Ag Public School Kadakkal - Kollam	Kerala
VASANTHA KUMAR J	Shanthi Rani Matric Hr Sec School - Kallal	Tamil Nadu
BALKEESFASEELATHUL JAMEELA	Nagore Crescent Mat Hr Sec School For Girls	Tamil Nadu
SAFFRIN FATHIMA	Nagore Crescent Mat Hr Sec School For Girls	Tamil Nadu

STUDENT CORNER

WALL OF FAME

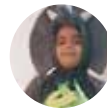**Celebrating excellent performances of students**

To nominate your students, scan the QR Code

👤 Shivangi Shah
Class 2 | Lil Champs
🏫 Samagra Abhyuday Public School
🏆 LEAD Championships

👤 Vidhi Desai
Class 1 | Lil Champs
🏫 Mother Care School, Gujarat
🏆 LEAD Championships

👤 Dhruvika Aaryana L
Class 5 | Eng Champs Jr
🏫 Bharatiya vidya bhavans public school, Andhra Pradesh
🏆 LEAD Championships

👤 Nida Dumba
Class 7 | Reading Champs Sr
🏫 Poornima International School, Raichur
🏆 LEAD Championships

👤 Karthika S B
Class 6 | Eng Champs Sr
🏫 Little Flower Matriculation Hr. Sec School, Tamil Nadu
🏆 LEAD Championships

👤 Aahana Ratheesh Pillai
Class 4 | Reading Champs Jr
🏫 Sri Vignesh Vidyalaya Sr. Sec School
🏆 LEAD Championships

👤 Sonal Kumari
Class 6 | Reading Champs Jr
🏫 International School Of Dumka, Dumka, Jharkhand
🏆 SLC

👤 Surbhi
Class 1 | Reading Champs Jr
🏫 Adarsh Punarwas School, Bhiwani, Haryana
🏆 SLC

👤 Hrivaan Kachhadiya
Class 3 | Reading Champs Jr
🏫 Kameshwar International School, Gandhinagar, Gujarat
🏆 SLC

👤 Maria Gorethi
Class 3 | Reading Champs Jr
🏫 High Range Public school, Oonukal, Kerala
🏆 SLC

👤 Leeza Ann Aneesh
Class 4 | Reading Champs Jr
🏫 McLeod's English School, Kerala
🏆 SLC

👤 Gehlot Ruhi Kishorkumar
Class 5 | Reading Champs Jr
🏫 Silver Bells English Medium School, Gujarat
🏆 SLC

👤 S.Roshini
Class 3 | Reading Champs Jr
🏫 Voc Matriculation HR Sec School, Paramakudi, Tamil Nadu
🏆 SLC

👤 E. Indu Seetala
Class 4 | Reading Champs Jr
🏫 Neo's Ideal School, Rajahmundry Andhra Pradesh
🏆 SLC

PLAY TIME

Challenges and Puzzles to tease your brain!

SUDOKU

Fill the remaining squares, using all the numbers 1–9 exactly once in each row, column & square such that no number repeats itself.
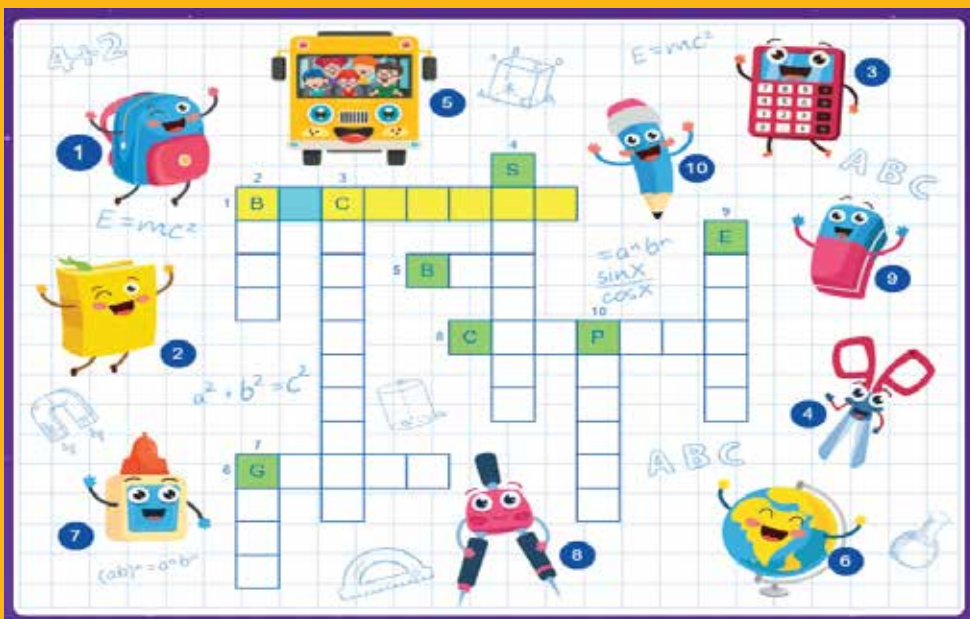
	8	9			5	1	4	
3			8	1	7			6
7	1		6		4	3	8	
	4	3	9					
9	7						1	4
					8	7	3	
	9	6	4		2		7	1
4			1	5	9			2
	2	1	7			4	9	

ANSWERS

CROSSWORD

Figure out the name of each picture shown below and then write the answer in the crossword grid of the corresponding number. For eg, if the picture has Number 1 written next to it, write the name of that picture in crossword grid 1. But don't forget - It has to be 8 letters as the grid of Number 1 has 8 boxes

Dr. Zubeda Hasnain

School Owner

Zanabia English Medium School, Baramati

Against societal norms, a woman from Baramati defied early marriage and limited education to pursue graduation at 40 and a PhD at 70. Fueled by resilience, she established a thriving playgroup that transformed into a successful school, breaking barriers for women's empowerment and education in her community.

> *High quality education is a right of every child. Nothing transforms and powers a society like education does.*

Firdous Ahmad

School Owner, a LEAD Partner School.

Sacred Heart School in Budgam District, Jammu & Kashmir

Amidst family hardships, lacking formal education, he transitioned from manual labor to network marketing, founding an institution to teach network marketing before establishing LEAD Partnered Sacred Heart School in J&K. Despite skepticism, his experiential knowledge led to a school that now empowers 150 students, driven by a vision to provide opportunities he never had.

> *My goal is to provide children with the opportunity to study and grow, to help them understand the true value of education, and to ensure they have access to opportunities that I never had.*

HUMANS OF LEAD

Humans of LEAD is a platform, featuring your inspiring and heartwarming stories of success and contributions. If you are a School Owner or a Teacher or a Parent or a Student who has an impactful story to tell, we are here to celebrate your stories.

Scan the code below to send us your story and get featured on Humans Of LEAD.

Bera Gowtham Kumar

Academic Coordinator

Sri Modamamba High School, Visakhapatnam

From growing up in a joint family of 40 under challenging circumstances, a passionate dancer found his calling in education. Joining his alma mater, he merged his love for teaching and dance, which won him accolades while also nurturing young minds. Today, his passion has enabled him to build a house with a floor that doubles up as his own dance academy.

> *Dance and education have given me everything - happiness, fulfillment and the ability to put food on the table. I want to touch the lives of young people through the medium of dance and encourage them to work towards fulfilling their life goals.*

Sadaf Yousuf

CCS, Current Affairs & English Teacher, and Academic Coordinator

Scholars' School, Natipora, Srinagar

A passionate advocate for women's empowerment in Kashmir, she transitioned from social work to teaching after the 2014 Kashmir floods, dedicating herself to democratizing education and empowering girls. Believing teaching is worship, she molds young minds, fostering confidence and growth, envisioning education as the tool for a transformative community revolution.

> *Teaching is an ibaadat (worship) for me. A teacher is an influencer. We possess the power and ability to shape the ideology, personality, and overall development of children, and by extension, the entire future of a nation.*

R. Bharadwaz

National Taekwondo Medalist and LEAD Student

Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan's, Visakhapatnam

At 15, R. Bharadwaz is already a National Taekwondo medalist who has participated in 17 matches and won six of them. In his words, Taekwondo has instilled in him a profound sense of discipline, values, and surprisingly, has also honed his communication skills. His biggest dream is to bring the gold medal home in the next national championships.

> *Taekwondo and national competitions did help me acquire new techniques and forms. But my most profound takeaway was the cultivation of mental resilience. I learned the significance of training one's mind to never yield, even in the face of injury. I realised that our hesitations and self-doubts often reside within our minds, and by strengthening our mental fortitude, our bodies learn how to stay strong.*

HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS QTR

JANUARY - MARCH 2024

LEAD Championships 2023 Finale

India's Biggest Student Championship's 2023 edition will be concluded. The finale will be held on 7th Jan, 2024 at Taj Yeshwantpur, Bengaluru. Finalists from all across the country will battle it out to win the title for this year's National Champion.

Jan 2024

Envision

The Q4 edition of the quarterly LIVE Webinar for all school leaders where our founder takes you through the key things to look out for. This will be followed by a knowledge session by an industry expert.

Jan 2024

LIVE Webinars for School Leaders on Grade 10 Boards

Watch out for LIVE webinars where experts guide the school leaders on how they can prepare the Grade 10 Students to Ace their Board Exams. We will cover time management tips for students as well as how can your teachers work towards improving Grade 10 outcomes of the schools.

Jan, 2024

#LEADTheWay Launch

Have a teacher who has a unique teaching style? Have interesting student practices that set your school apart? Have students whose performance you are very proud of?

We now have a platform where you can share your stories and #LEADTheWay in transforming India's education landscape. Share your stories with us at **marcomm@leadschool.in** today and get a chance to be featured on our social media handles.

Jan, 2024

Shiksha Awards 2023

India's Biggest School Reward Program, a one-of-a-kind initiative dedicated to recognising those exceptional schools and educators who have gone above and beyond to shape the future of our country will be concluded in January, 2024. Based on the leaderboard, top schools and teachers around the country will win the prestigious title of Best Schools and Best Teachers respectively. Keep watching out https://leadschool.in/shikshaawards/ for results

Feb, 2024

LEAD SOLAR

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