



# 8+ Years of Empowering Minds

In the heart of Assam, amidst serene landscapes and diverse communities, a revolution in education is quietly unfolding

3 STATES

55 SCHOOLS

854+ TEACHERS

12996+ STUDENTS

## AT A GLANCE

Our journey began in 2016, inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's Nai Talim—a philosophy that emphasises learning through hands-on experience, self-reliance, and community service. We aimed to create a new model of education that not only teaches but empowers.

We brought this vision to life with the opening of Akshar Forum, our model school in Assam. This school was established to serve children from some of the most underprivileged backgrounds, many of whom were forced to prioritise survival over education, working in hazardous conditions rather than attending school. We strive to transform these children's lives by providing them with an education that is practical, sustainable, and rooted in community values, helping them to break free from the cycle of poverty.

## CHALLENGES

Over the years, we've faced several challenges, particularly in ensuring that students have access to earning models that prevent them and their families from prioritizing immediate survival over education.

## SOLUTIONS

Our innovative "Learning and Earning" model allows students to earn while they learn. At Akshar Forum, students pay their fees with plastic waste, which is recycled into usable products—a step towards a cleaner environment. Older students tutor younger ones, care for pets, and participate in various school responsibilities to earn. We teach financial management by creating dummy bank accounts for students to manage under our guidance, helping them understand the value of money and plan for their future efficiently. Beyond academics, students engage in practical activities like carpentry, electronics repair, organic farming, and more, ensuring that learning is both real-world and holistic, nurturing mind, body, and soul.



## THE RISING CONCERN

The ASER Report 2022 reveals a rising concern regarding foundational literacy and numeracy in Indian government schools. The data shows that around 75% of Class V students cannot read basic English sentences. In mathematics, 78.4% of Class V, 72.6% of Class VI, 66% of Class VII, and 58.2% of Class VIII students lack fundamental division skills.

**The Need for Foundational Literacy & Numeracy (FLN):** These troubling statistics highlight the urgent need for interventions across upper primary and middle school grades to ensure foundational literacy and numeracy are established throughout the elementary stage.

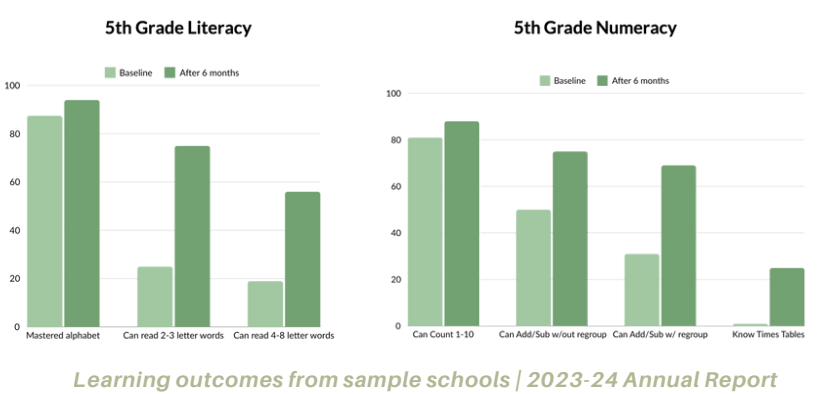
**75%** Lack in English

**68.8%** Lack in Mathematics

- Dec 2020, we started with 5 Govt. schools in partnership with Assam Govt according to the NEP 2020 (Samagra Siksha, Axom)

## PROJECT IMPACT - GOVT SCHOOLS

- In Jan 2021, MoU signed with Assam Govt. to implement the Akshar Education Model for five years.
- Focus on the Professional Development of Government Teachers and the combination of academics with practical vocational training.



## Children - The Agents of Change

Our vision is to spread this model - based on Gandhian Nai Talim and traditional Indian education values - all over the world. Children in need everywhere can **Be The Change.**

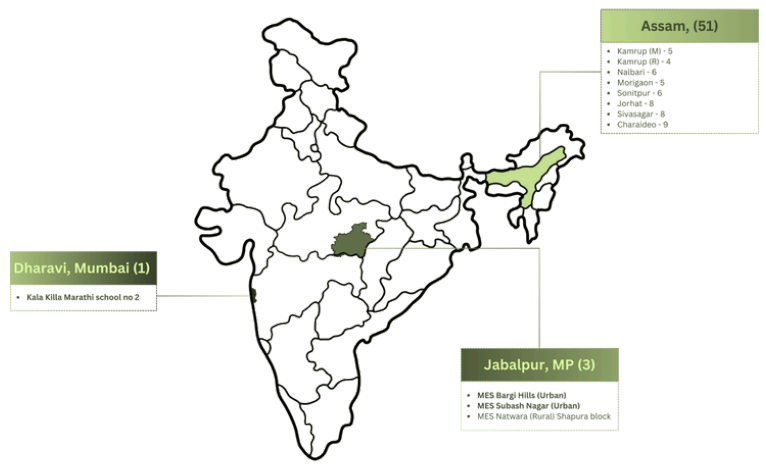
Teach them how to teach

Teach them how to learn

Teach them how to earn

Teach them how to care

## FROM LOCAL ROOTS TO WORLDWIDE RECOGNITION



We are dedicated to transforming lives through holistic education, expanding from Assam to Jabalpur, Dharavi, Mumbai (2 Schools on boarded & 3 Schools under discussion), and with promising discussions in Uttarakhand and Nepal. Our innovative model has garnered recognition from Niti Aayog, the UN, and the World Economic Forum, and was praised by Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Mann Ki Baat. In December 2023, the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting hailed our approach as "rewriting the rules of education," with Akshar Forum standing as a model nationwide. Our work has also been featured on History TV 18 & NDTV further amplifying our impact and reach.

Over the years, we've been truly grateful for the recognition and support from so many wonderful organisations.

Three years after Akshar Forum's establishment, news of the school reached global coverage

## Nurturing Minds with Holistic Education



2nd Floor, Swagata Envision, GS Road, Six Mile, Khanapara | Guwahati, Assam- 781022



www.aksharfoundation.org

@aksharfoundation

contact@aksharfoundation.org