UTTAR
PRADESH
ALfA
CASE STUDY
सब पढ़ें। सपने बुनें।

DEVI
SANSTHAN
Dignity Education
Vision International
Leave no one behind

ALfA
ACCELERATING
LEARNING
FOR ALL

DEAR POLICYMAKER

With profound respect and a shared vision for educational upliftment, I am eager to highlight that we can achieve the goals of NIPUN Bharat Mission within 2025, two years ahead of the 2026/27 deadline. This will help Uttar Pradesh lead India, and pave the way for a bright future for generations of children.

The matter deserves highest attention. Even after a mammoth effort in the last three years, just 24% of the schools of UP are NIPUN in the most recent NAT examination, whose results were announced in February 2024. We must do something different.

We would like to freely offer the groundbreaking pedagogy, Accelerating Learning for All (ALfA). This fast and holistic program allows children to become both literate and numerate in just 45 days, while integrating a holistic education of 21st-century skills such as collaboration, communication, critical thinking and creativity as per NEP2020.

The Ministry of Education invited us to take up Shamli District in August 2022. This led to an MOU for 15 districts of Uttar Pradesh in November 2022. Within a year of ALfA's launch, the program is being rolled out in stages across thousands of schools throughout the country.

The success is striking not only in third-party testing, but also in the recently-conducted NAT. Shamli was a low-performing district in 2022, but now has 36% of its schools NIPUN, substantially above the UP average of 24%. Meanwhile Hilauli, an aspirational block where ALfA was implemented in all 155 schools just since September 2023, has come first of Unnao's 17 blocks. In the four districts of UP where ALfA has been implemented – Lucknow, Unnao, Barabanki, and Shamli – 17% of schools were deemed NIPUN. Among ALfA schools in these districts, twice as many (35%) were NIPUN.

We offer our successful, free program for schools at the statewide level as part of the SCERT curriculum itself. Including the ALfA pedagogy as part of the curriculum will reduce printing costs by consolidating pages from existing books that are covered by ALfA, and enable NIPUN goals to be achieved this year itself.

Your decisive actions can forge a educational milestone by making UP NIPUN in 2025, becoming an example for the rest of India and the world.

Sunita Gandhi

Former Economist, The World Bank, USA
PhD (Physics), Cambridge University, UK
Founder & CEO, DEVI Sansthan
Dignity Education Vision International

NIPUN 2025

Uttar Pradesh can **become NIPUN in a year**, if we work together in mission mode, adopting proven and scalable pedagogies. ALfA is also ready to scale up across India and around the world.

From
Uttar Pradesh to
India to the
World
Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam

A ROADMAP TO NIPUN

2026-27 is approaching quickly, but are we on track to meet NIPUN Goals? This roadmap shows it is possible for Uttar Pradesh to achieve the NIPUN targets in 2025 itself, using a groundbreaking, research-backed fast and holistic pedagogy: Accelerating Learning for All.

Aug-Feb
Beyond NIPUN

Reading textbooks
Greater fluency
Deepening numeracy understanding
Excelling in NAT & other tests

③

Apr-July
Implementation

Distribute
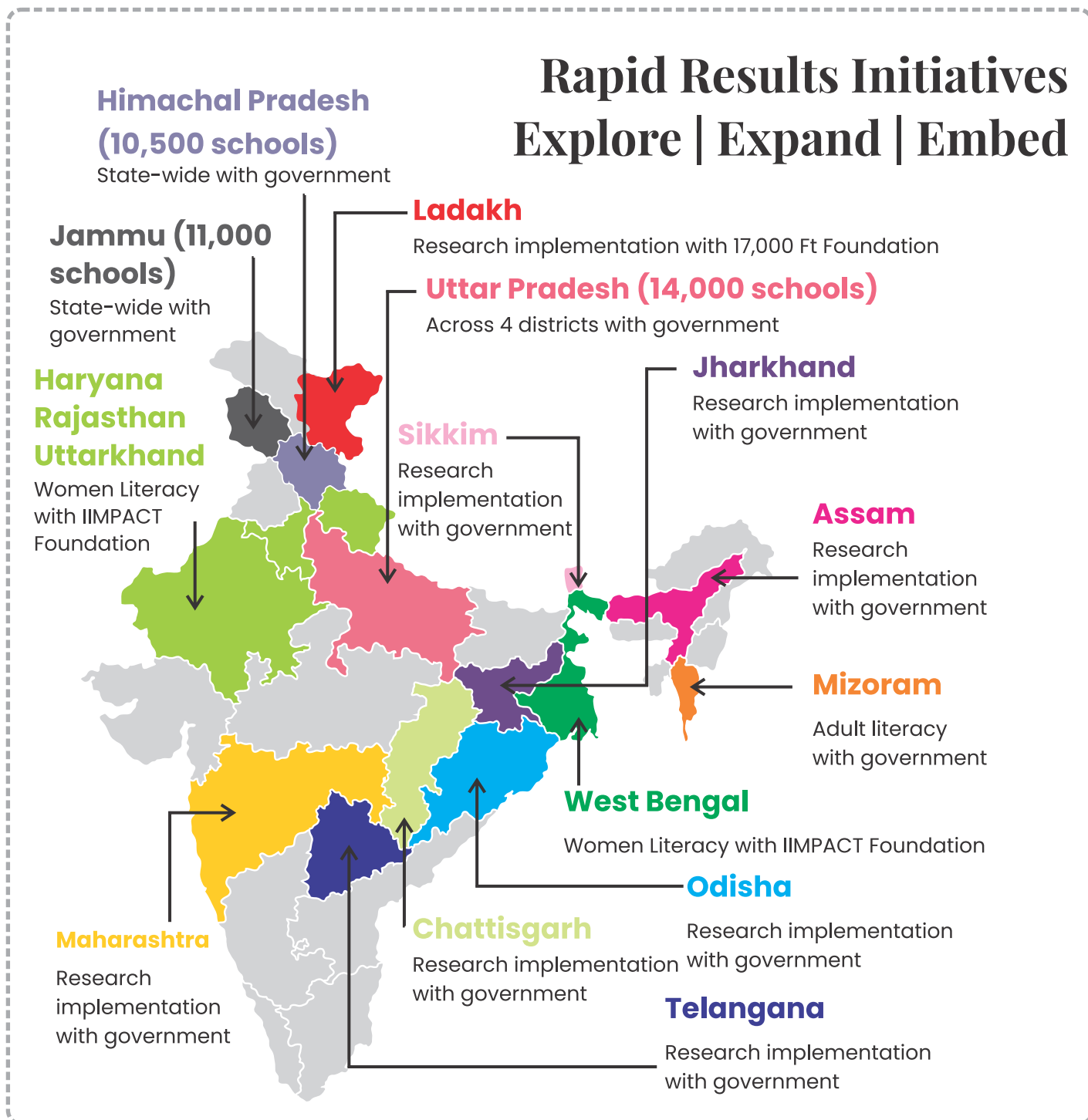Full mobilisation of government apparatus

②

Jan-March
Preparation
Discussion with key stakeholders, pringing ALfA supplements, planning Teacher training

①

NIPUN BHARAT

FROM 20 SCHOOLS TO 35,000

Since its inception in 2022, ALfA has exploded in schools and adult literacy programs around the country. ALfA has only just begun. Looking towards 2025, many other districts and states have expressed interest in starting or expanding ALfA programs.

DEVI Sansthan looks forward to working together with all stakeholders – parents, teachers, principals, educational officials – to ensure rapid progress toward the NIPUN goal of literacy for all. **Together, we can!**

Rapid Results Initiatives
Explore | Expand | Embed

Himachal Pradesh (10,500 schools)
State-wide with government

Jammu (11,000 schools)
State-wide with government

Haryana Rajasthan Uttarkhand
Women Literacy with IIMPACT Foundation

Ladakh
Research implementation with 17,000 Ft Foundation

Uttar Pradesh (14,000 schools)
Across 4 districts with government

Sikkim
Research implementation with government

Jharkhand
Research implementation with government

Assam
Research implementation with government

Mizoram
Adult literacy with government

West Bengal
Women Literacy with IIMPACT Foundation

Maharashtra
Research implementation with government

Chattisgarh
Research implementation with government

Odisha
Research implementation with government

Telangana
Research implementation with government

RESEARCH AT SCALE

ALfA implementation was conducted initially as randomised control trials, with schools randomly allocated to treatment and control groups. It is now being scaled up to district-wide implementation (for Grades 1-3).
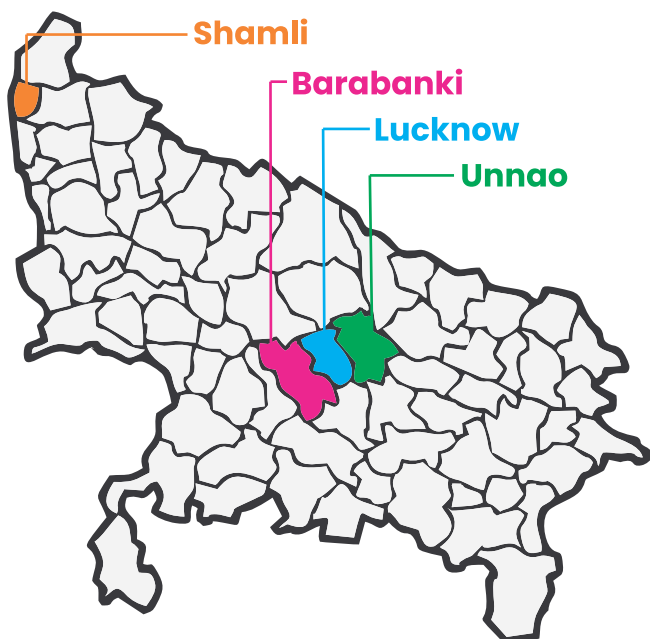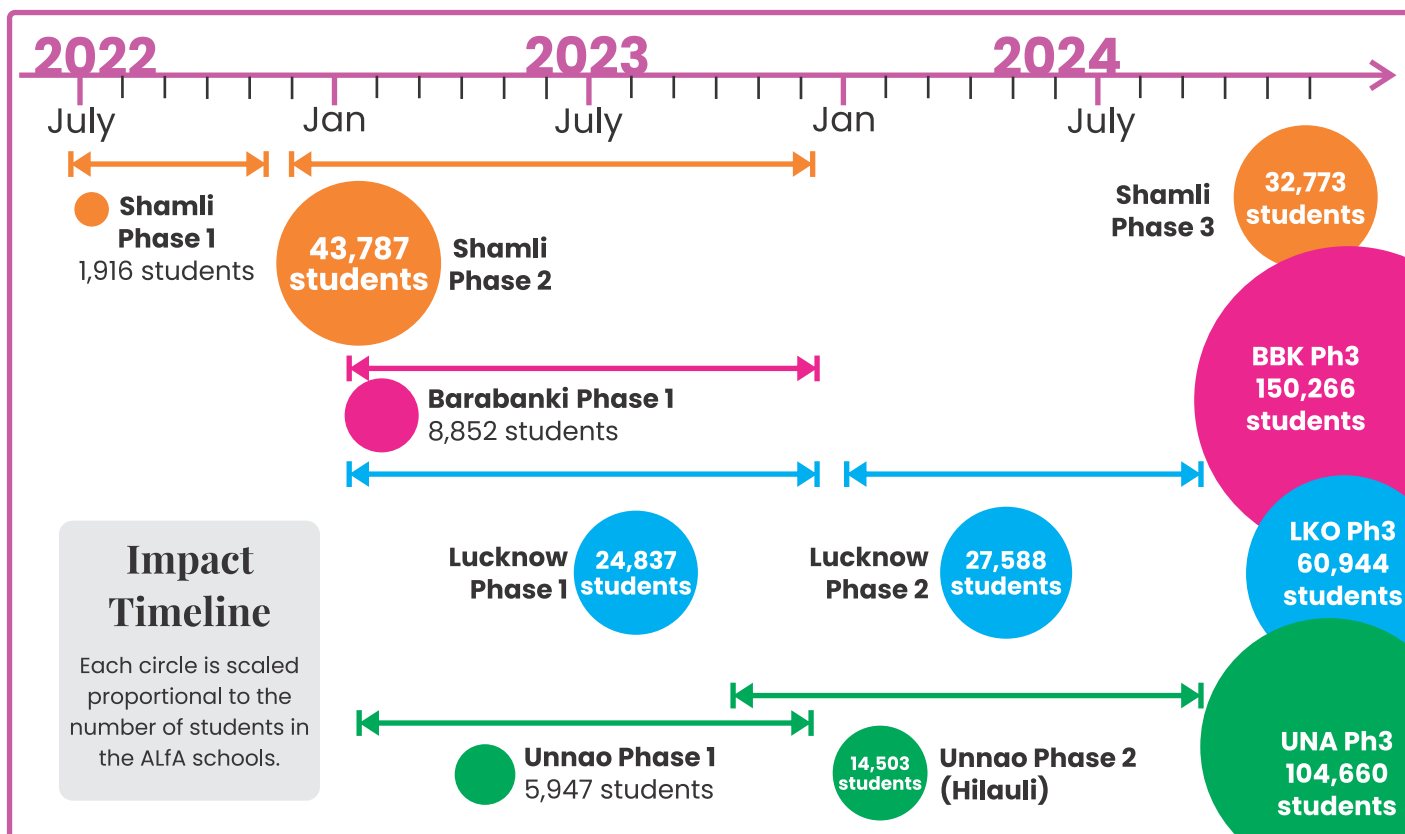
District	Schools		
	Treatment	Control	Total
Shamli Ph 1	10	10	20
Shamli Ph 2	200	70	270
Shamli Ph 3	596	NA	270
Barabanki	30	20	55
Barabanki Ph 3	2,636	NA	2,636
Lucknow Ph 1	110	60	170
Lucknow Ph 2	582	NA	582
Lucknow Ph 3	1,401	NA	1,401
Unnao Ph 1	30	20	55
Unnao Ph 2	155	NA	155
Unnao Ph 3	2,709	NA	2,709

7,342
Total Schools

348,694
Total Children (Gr 1-3)

As Of Phase 3

Shamli
Barabanki
Lucknow
Unnao

Impact Timeline

Each circle is scaled proportional to the number of students in the ALfA schools.

2022   2023   2024

July   Jan   July   Jan   July

Shamli Phase 1
1,916 students

43,787 students Shamli Phase 2

Shamli Phase 3 — **32,773 students**

Barabanki Phase 1
8,852 students

BBK Ph3 150,266 students

Lucknow Phase 1 **24,837 students**

Lucknow Phase 2 **27,588 students**

LKO Ph3 60,944 students

Unnao Phase 1
5,947 students

14,503 students **Unnao Phase 2 (Hilauli)**

UNA Ph3 104,660 students

RESULTS AT SCALE

Across the different districts, students showed dramatic improvement in learning levels, as measured by comprehensive & difficult third-party tests, which measure each competency specified in NIPUN Bharat and NAS.

	Maths	Hindi
Shamli 43,787 students	28% → 58%	40% → 60%
Lucknow 24,837 students	31% → 61%	36% → 66%
Barabanki 8,852 students	8% → 51%	15% → 60%
Hilauli (Unnao) 14,503 students	35% → 55%	46% → 69%
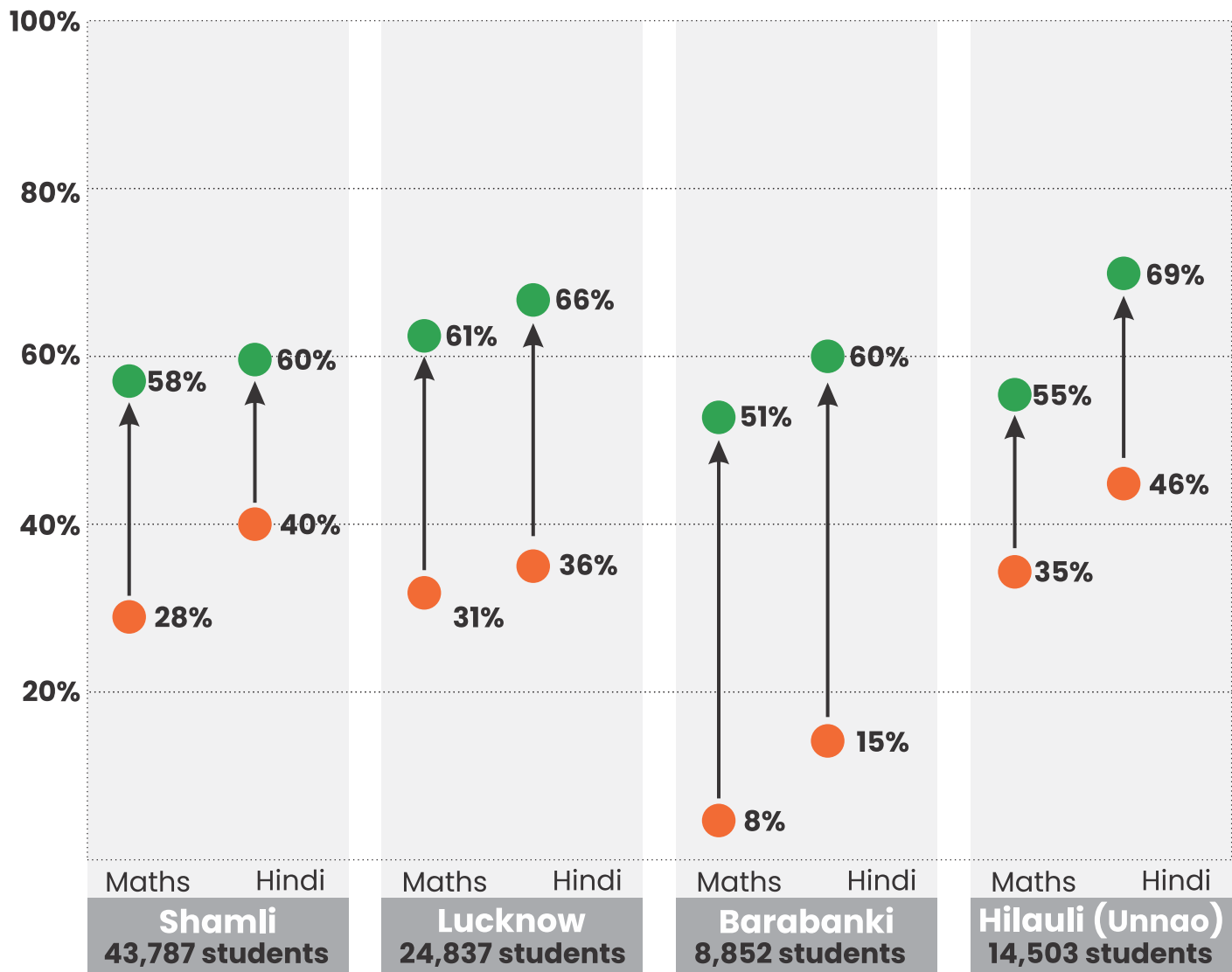
Note The orange circles show baseline test results, green circles show endline tests.

IMPLEMENTATION OPTIONS

We offer the ALfA pedagogy as a key tool in the effort to make India NIPUN. There are several key choices on the scale, modality and training.

Scale

State-Wide

Adopt across the entire state to make the state NIPUN in record time.

District or Block Level

Choose one or more entire districts (for instance, aspirational districts) to showcase rapid results.

Modality

Incorporate into existing curriculum

Merge ALfA materials with the existing textbooks. Reduce some pages to avoid duplication, keeping overall printing cost low.

Physical ALfA books

ALfA booklets are slim (Hindi: 44 pages, Numeracy: 28 pages). After the ALfA books, students move on to rapidly complete regular textbooks.

Training

Training Cascade

In-person training can be rolled out by a sequence of master trainers and trainers. A one-day workshop is sufficient to start using ALfA in the classroom.

Massive Open Online Training

Online training can be very effective if well-structured and highly interactive. Teachers can be reached directly through online training at massive scale.

TABLE OF **CONTENTS**

Endorsements

The ALfA pedagogy, and its impacts on learning, have been recognised by many eminent leaders – both politicians and pedagogues. It has also been explored in books published by Bloomsbury and by Harvard Graduate School of Education.

Children focus closely on the Hindi ALfA book, reading in pairs

THANK YOU FOR INSPIRING US

Rajnath Singh
Hon. Defense Minister, India
Former Minister of Education, UP

Yogi Adityanath
Hon. Chief Minister,
Uttar Pradesh

" Dr. Sunita Gandhi's 30 hour literacy and numeracy model is highly innovative, and highly scalable, that can benefit school children, out of school children and illiterate adults. "

" I am delighted that DEVI Sansthan is implementing its project in slums of Lucknow to enable foundational literacy and numeracy through their innovative toolkit. "

IAS Manoj Kumar Singh

Chief Secretary,
Uttar Pradesh

Sandeep Singh

Minister of State,
Basic Education, UP

ALfA has been endorsed by many international experts. Click or Scan the **QR code** to watch.

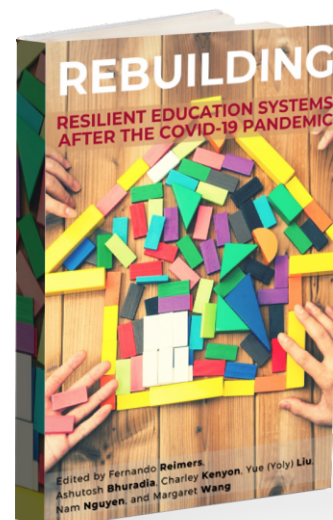Click or Scan the **QR code** to watch Shri Rajnath Singh discuss the ALfA program.

GLOBAL ENDORSEMENT
FROM HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Chapter 8 of 'Rebuilding Resilient Education Systems After the Covid-19 Pandemic', published in March 2023, documents the ALfA program in Shamli, and recommends its widespread adoption in UP.
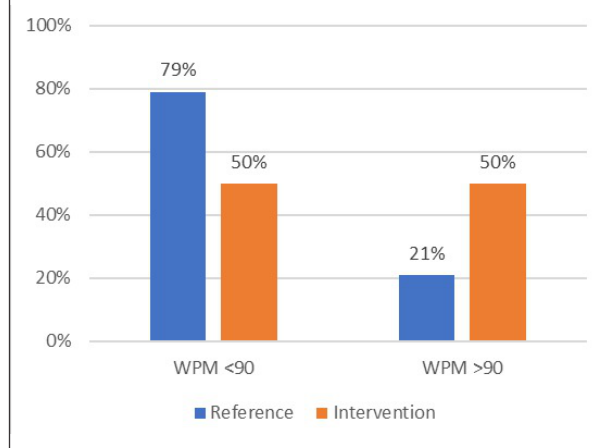
Click or scan QR to check out the book

By Prof. Fernando Reimers et al, Harvard Graduate School of Education

Grade 4&5, after just 40 days

> " Students in the intervention groups had **much higher oral reading fluency** than those in the reference group. For Grades 4-5, 50% of the intervention group students were able to read the passage at >90 words per minute compared to 20% of reference group students. "

> " The effect size* of the project was **0.23 for Grade 3** students and **0.89 for Grade 5**... the results suggest there is significant value in pursuing the ALFA model in other schools if implemented in a coherent, structured, and coordinated manner. "

*Effect size is a statistical measure of an intervention's impact. A business-as-usual school year in developing countries typically raises literacy levels by **0.15 to 0.21** standard deviations. This means that the ALfA 45-day intervention raised learning levels by the equivalent of **2-4 years worth of school.**

Reference: Evans, David K.; Yuan, Fei. 2019. Equivalent Years of Schooling: A Metric to Communicate Learning Gains in Concrete Terms. Policy Research Working Paper;No. 8752. World Bank, Washington, DC.

> "Accelerated Learning for All (ALfA), helps children quickly gain FLN competencies… students start with known words in the form of pictures, identify the sounds, and work backward to the letters."

> "We recommend the UP government incorporate the promising ALfA pedagogy developed by DEVI for the first 6 weeks to quickly establish a strong FLN foundation."

TESTIMONIALS

POLICYMAKERS

Alok Ranjan

Former Chief Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh

"I am very impressed with the toolkit developed by Dr. Sunita Gandhi, which takes **less time to make a person literate**."

Dinesh Sharma

Deputy Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh

"The 'Each One Teach At least One' campaign involving school children of 150 Lucknow schools, helped **make an estimated 2 lakh people literate**."

G B Patnaik

Former Chairman, India Literacy Board

"Global Dream Model can make it possible to **scale up literacy across the state** at zero to near zero additional costs per learner."

Anil Swarup

Former Education Secretary Government of India

"Dr Sunita Gandhi has developed **groundbreaking tools** that have potential to solve India's greatest education problem — FLN."

OFFICIALS

"The results are highly positive and exciting. **Children's attendance** has also improved."
Rahul Mishra, BSA

"This was a very easy technique. I think **this technique should be used everywhere** throughout India."
Alla Rakha, principal

TEACHERS

"This is an **excellent method**, in which children collaborate to derive the first sound from the name of a picture."
Hemlata Sahu

"The **training was highly effective**... all the activities were great. I especially enjoyed the division activity."
Baby Saini

"We got to **learn a lot new** in today's training: how to build a solid foundation for children's learning. There was a great exchange of ideas between the trainers and participants."
Arif Hasan

Scan the **QR code** to see a video of **Arvind Kumar Baliyan**, a Grade 2 Teacher from Shamli, discuss the program

BOOKS

Accelerating Learning for All
A Groundbreaking Pedagogy to Transform Education

Bloomsbury, January 2024

> *"All students should be able to learn to read quickly so that they can maximize their academic potential and ALfA does that."*
> Jon Corippo
> Founder of EduProtocols, USA

> *"This book provide some insightful and unique ideas about creating a pedagogy of possibility. It will undoubtedly create the conditions for a better world."*
> Sigamoney Naicker
> Professor, University of the Western Cape

Disruptive Literacy
A Roadmap for Urgent Global Action

Bloomsbury, August 2022

> *"A much-needed manifesto for achieving large scale transformation of the global literacy crisis."*
> Ernesto Schiefelbein
> Former Minister of Education, Chile

> *"A must read for policymakers and all those associated with the campaign against illiteracy."*
> Anil Swarup
> Former Secretary of Education, India

Just 45 Days?

Literacy normally takes three years – or more – to acquire. But with the ALfA pedagogy, it is possible in as little as three months. Read on to find out how this disruptive structured pedagogy works, and what makes it different from traditional books.

Children work in pairs, one reading the ALfA book while the other asks questions and listens, then swapping roles.

HOW IS ALfA SO FAST?
A COMPARE & CONTRAST

ALfA is a structured pedagogy, with modules custom-designed to facilitate paired and activity-based learning.

	ALfA	STANDARD TEXTBOOKS
Book length	**Slim & light** 72 pages total: 32 reading + 12 writing + 28 maths	**Bulky & repetitive** Often over 300 pages per grade per subject (Textbook + Workbook)
Learning methodology	**Student-led paired work** Experiential learning about 80% of the time.	**Teacher-led whole class** Experiential learning about 20% of the time.
Grouping strategy	**Random Pairing** No child feels that there are low expectations of them.	**Ability Grouping** Those in 'remedial' group lose self-esteem.
Timetabling	**Significant Flexibility** Students can progress through the books at their own pace.	**Detailed Prescriptions** Rigid, many are left behind the curriculum.
Type of questions	**Higher-order thinking** Students pose questions for each other, developing cognitive skills.	**Lower-order questions** Matching, true & false, fill in the blank style.
Numeracy methodology	**Simple TLMs for All** Ice-cream sticks & matchsticks are provided to enable all children to participate.	**Insufficient TLMs** Pictorial representation of activities in books, but without TLMs for everyone to participate.
Literacy methodology	**Known to Unknown** Sound is derived from a picture, which is associated with a letter Substantial reading practice for each matra. 9-10 letters introduced per page. Writing introduced after reading.	**Unknown to Known** 'A se Anaar'. One or at most two letters introduced per page Minimal reading practice for any given matra. Writing introduced simultaneously with reading.

HOW ALfA SAVES TIME
EVERY STEP OF THE WAY

ALfA saves both time and paper, by using a structured pedagogy which swiftly scaffolds from simple to complex topics. Children make a lot of questions for each other, rather than needing hundreds of pages of workbooks.

Grade 1

NIPUN Competency	ALfA Program	Traditional Program*
Counting to 20	**3 days** 1.5 pages | Module 1, 2 & 4	**36 days** 46 pages | Week 8-13
Read and write numbers up to 99	**2 days** 1 page | Module 10 & 46	**18 days** 21 pages | Week 14-16
Solve word problems involving single-digit addition and subtraction	**2 days** 1 page | Modules 13 & 14	**6 days** 7 pages | Week 18
Recognize and describe the properties of 3D shapes	**1 day** 1/2 page | Module 8	**6 days** 7 pages | Week 19
Use numbers and shapes in short poems and stories	**2 days** 1 page | Module 38, 42	Not covered

*Based on an analysis of Uttar Pradesh Government workbooks

Grade 2

NIPUN Competency	ALfA Program	Traditional Program*
Read and write numbers up to 999.	**3 days** 1.5 pages | Module 17-18, 46	**42 days** 49 pages | Week 4-10
Solve addition and subtraction problems (including word problems) with numbers up to 99	**2 days** 1 page | Module 15 & 16	**12 days** 14 pages | Week 15-16
Understand multiplication as repeated addition, and construct the 2, 3 and 4 times tables	**2 days** 1 page | Module 21, 44	**6 days** 7 pages | Week 17
Recognise and describe 2D shapes such as rectangle, triangle, square, circle etc	**1 day** 1/2 page | Module 7	**6 days** 7 pages | Week 19
Use prepositions such as near/far, inside/outside, high/low, left/right, front/back	**2 days** 1 page | Module 11, 31	**18 days** 21 pages | Week 1-3

Grade 3

NIPUN Competency	ALfA Program	Traditional Program*
Read and write numbers up to 9999	**2 days** 1 page | Module 18, 46	Only covered up to 999
Solve addition and subtraction problems (including word problems) with numbers up to 999	**2 days** 1 page | Module 19 & 20 Includes 4 digit numbers	**6 days** 7 pages | Week 21
Construct times tables form 2 to 10, and use division facts	**5 days** 2.5 pages | Module 21-24, 44	**12 days** 14 pages | Week 12-13
Notice, describe and construct simple patterns in numbers, events, and shapes	**1 day** 1/2 page | Module 6	**6 days** 7 pages | Week 20
Recognise and read dates off a calendar, be able to tell the time.	**2 days** 1 page | Module 27-28	Not covered

HOLISTIC EDUCATION
THROUGH ALfA

ALfA seamlessly integrates the skills and traits of a twenty-first century learner. These 8Cs cannot be taught from a textbook, but rather acquired while working with each other in the everyday context of a classroom. The paired setting creates a safe environment in which learners feel free to share and express.

**Creativity** expands by solving questions using hands-on materials

Critical thinking is built through making questions for each other.

Communication & collaboration skills flourish by working in pairs.

Citizenship & character grows by working with many different peers.

Climate consciousness developed through role plays & short stories.

Connectedness enhances social, emotional and mental well-being.

Communication
Critical Thinking
4C Skills
Creativity
Collaboration

Citizenship
Climate Consciousness
4C Traits
Connectedness
Character
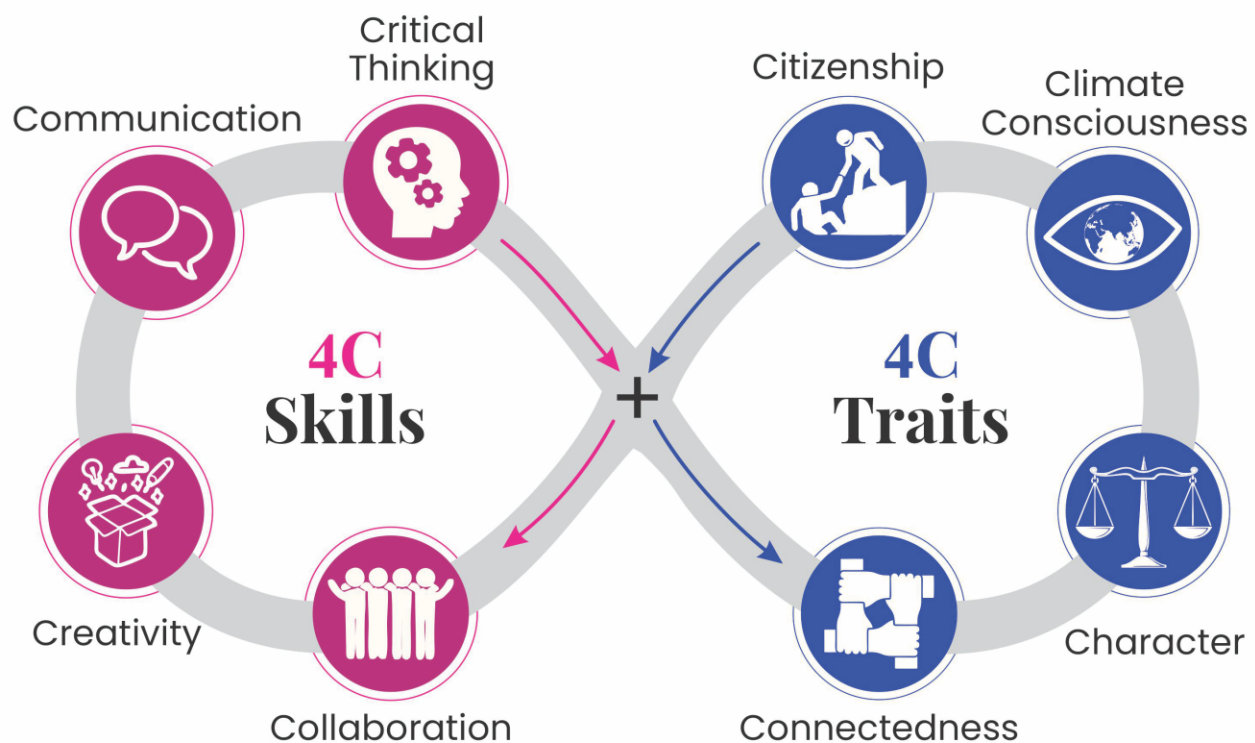
A LOW CARBON EDUCATION

Climate Footprint

ALfA booklets are thin and are shared between two children, drastically reducing the paper and carbon footprint.

Climate Consciousness

Children avoid plastic and learn to select and use sustainable materials like pebbles, shells and leaves for hands-on activities.

Climate Action

Climate action is integrated in activities. Learners enact roleplays and read stories that inspire climate action.

ALfA vs Traditional Classrooms

Traditional classroom	ALfA classroom
Transaction of learning is from **teacher to student**. Much **rote memorisation.**	Transaction of learning is from **student to student.** Learning is derived. No rote learning.
Children are **grouped by skill level**.	**Random pairing** ensures greater academic learning, a highly interactive environment, and development of **21st Century Skills**.
Students work in **whole class** or groups, sit in rows facing the teacher.	Students work **entirely in pairs**; they face each other. Pairs are changed everyday.
Knowledge is **abstract**, with sometimes hands-on activities.	Children learn primarily through **hands-on activities**; use simple materials like matchsticks and ice cream sticks to learn entire mathematics.
Textbooks and workbooks are **bulky**. Designed for teachers to teach from.	**Thin booklets**, short modules with teacher prompts, are designed for children to learn by themselves.

HOW IS THE AL*f*A CURRICULUM STRUCTURED DIFFERENTLY?
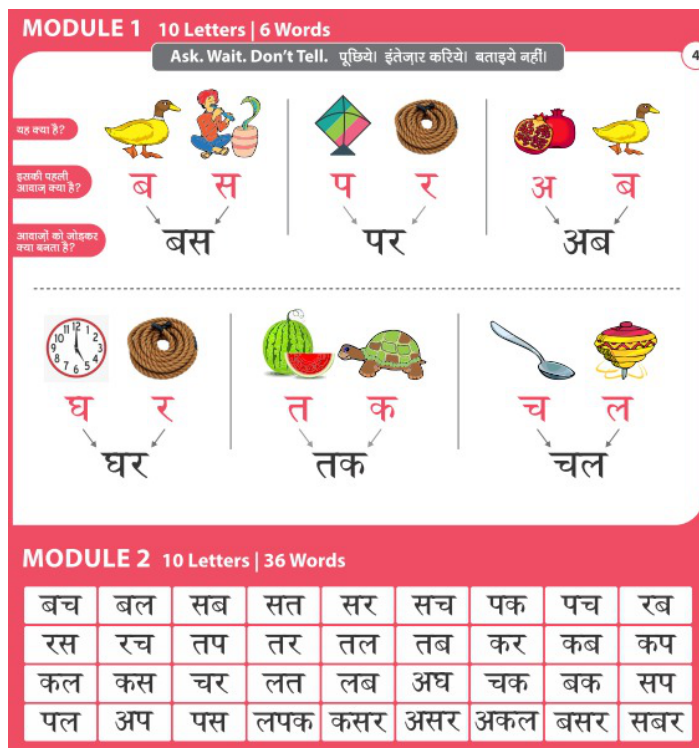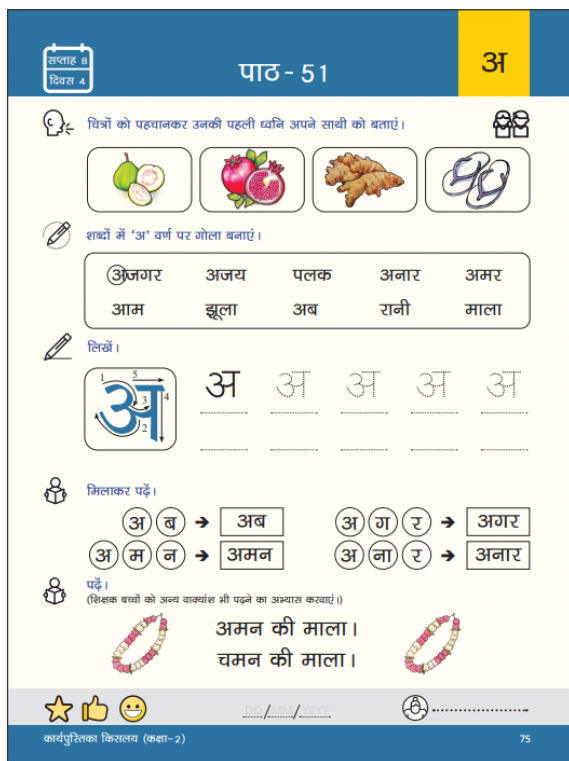
Feature	Traditional Literacy	ALfA Literacy
Introduction of letters	Multiple pictures per letter	Multiple pictures per letter10 letters introduced per page
Approach to learning	Writing and reading simultaneously	Picture to sound to letter
Starting point for reading	Single letter per page	Words from the very first lesson
Reading practice	Limited	Practice with new words made from same letters
Introduction of writing	After reading	Only after reading
Engagement in activities	Activities require little thought	Highly creative and engaging
Transaction of learning	Teacher to students	Child to child

Additional points:

- Traditional Books focus on gradual introduction to literacy concepts.
- ALfA Books emphasize active participation and peer learning.

① जोड़ करें-

| 28 +11 | 55 +25 | 82 +17 | 48 +29 |

| 35 +16 | 63 +28 | 65 +27 | 35 +52 |

② हल करें-

65 + 23 = ☐

53 + 27 = ☐

72 + 13 = ☐

78 + 15 = ☐

58 + 23 = ☐

35 + 47 = ☐

③ मिलान करें-

62 + 18	86
55 + 23	47
57 + 29	63
18 + 31	80
32 + 15	78
27 + 36	49

बच्चों को हो रही कठिनाइयों को समझें और योजना के अनुसार रेमीडीयल कार्य करें।

☆ 👍 😊   DD / MM / YYYY

कार्यपुस्तिका गिनतारा–2   119

मॉड्यूल 11: हम 1 और 2 अंकीय संख्याओं को घटा सकते हैं। Level A

मेरे पास 13 संतरे थे। मैंने अपने दोस्त को 5 संतरे दे दिए। मेरे पास अब कितने संतरे बचे हैं?

आलिया के पास ₹52 थे। उसने ₹16 खर्च कर दिये। अब आलिया के पास कुल कितने रुपए शेष हैं?

13   13 – 5

13 से निकले 5 बचे 8

13 – 5 = 8

दहाई इकाई

3   6

30 + 6

द० इ०

5 2 – 16 = 36

संकेत : जोड़ में बैठ कर

आइसक्रीम स्टिक और माचिस की तीलियों से पहली संख्या निकालें, फिर दूसरी संख्या को उसमें से घटाएं। माचिस की तीलियां कम पड़ने पर एक आइसक्रीम स्टिक को संख्या बैंक में रख कर उसके बदले दस माचिस की तीलियाँ ले लें, फिर घटाएं।

मॉड्यूल 12ः हम 3 अंकीय संख्याओं को घटा सकते हैं। Level B

राधा के बैंक खाते में ₹541 हैं। वह ₹279 निकाल लेती है। उसके खाते में अब कुल कितने रुपए शेष बचे हैं?

सैकड़ा   दहाई   इकाई

2   6   2

200 + 60 + 2

सौ० द० इ०

5 4 1 – 2 7 9 = 2 6 2

संकेत : जोड़ में बैठ कर

दिए गए प्रश्न हल करें। एक–दूसरे के लिए तीलियों और स्टिक्स के साथ अन्य प्रश्न बनाएं, फिर कॉपी में हल करें। कॉपी में एक दूसरे के लिए नए नए प्रश्न बनाये और तीलियों और स्टिक्स के साथ हल करें।

ALfA Accelerating Learning for All | NUMERACY BOOK

DEVI SANSTHAN Dignity Education Vision International | LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

Feature	Traditional Math	ALfA Math
Activities	Limited	Dialogue format for peer learning
Hands-on materials	Insufficient TLMs for everyone	Pictorial depiction provided
Question style	Repetitive questions	Few examples, children generate additional questions
Creativity	Little scope	Simple prompts guide creativity

Additional points:

- Traditional Math may face challenges with access to hands-on materials for all students.
- ALfA Math fosters peer interaction and encourages students to generate their own questions, enhancing engagement and critical thinking.

Third–Party Evidence

ALfA is much more than just an educational theory, it has shown **remarkable results** in the real world. This section shares the results from ALfA implementation in **four districts of Uttar Pradesh** – Shamli, Lucknow, Barabanki and Unnao. Both Third Party testing and the government NIPUN Achievement Test showcased impressive learning improvements.
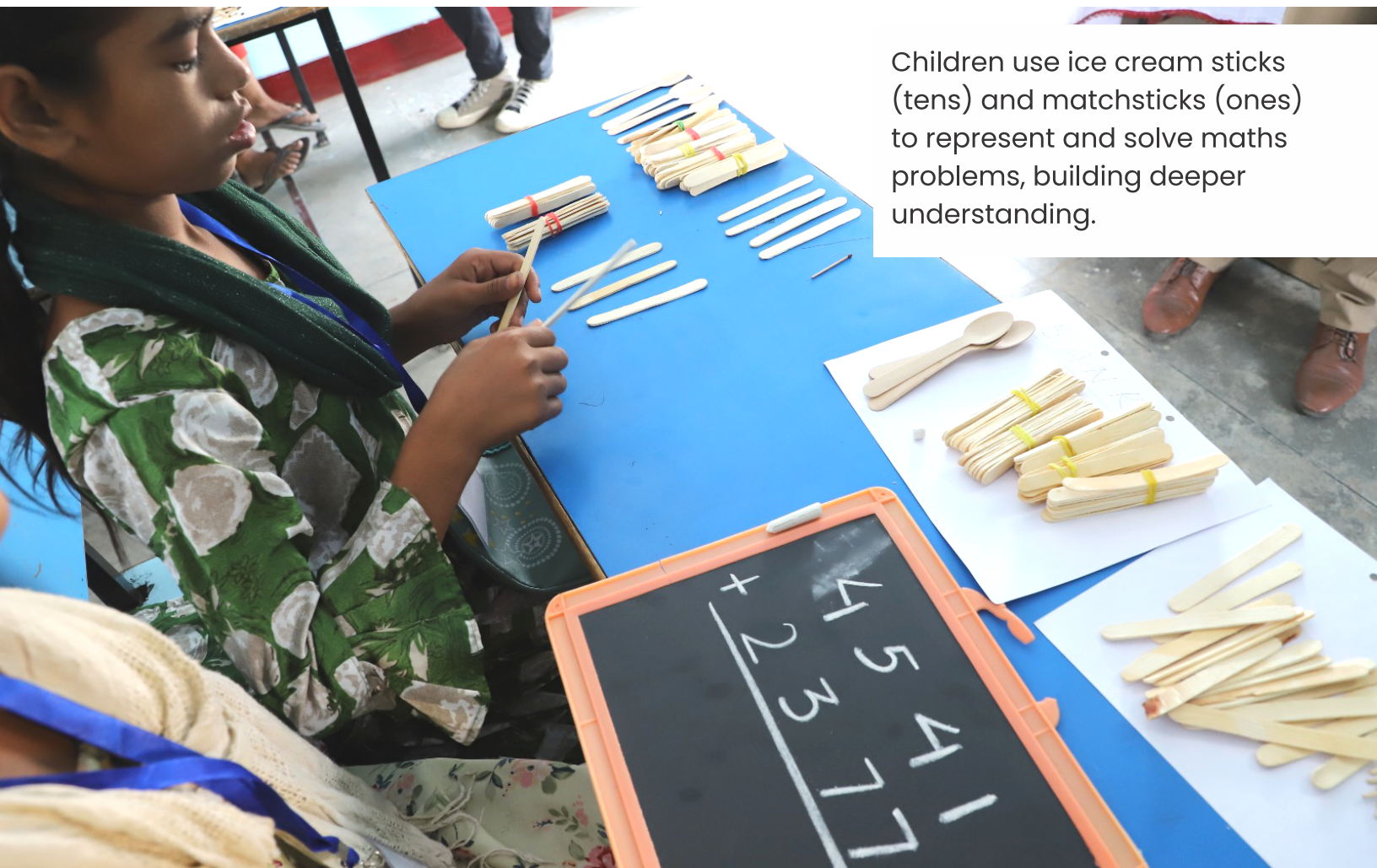
Children use ice cream sticks (tens) and matchsticks (ones) to represent and solve maths problems, building deeper understanding.

ALfA: Comparison with Other Pedagogies

"One of the challenges facing many teachers is the extreme diversity of learning levels. Teaching at the Right Level (TaRL) solves this problem by grouping students by ability, whereas ALfA transforms the mixed learning levels from a challenge to a strength through paired learning.

While ALfA is newer and still emerging compared to established programs such as TaRL and Structured Pedagogy, its ability to deliver swift learning gains positions it as a promising strategy for achieving universal literacy and numeracy."

- Aïcha Bah Diallo
Former Minister of Education, Guinea

Benefit: Cost Ratio of FLN Pedagogies

TaRL without Technology	48	
TaRL with Technology	65	
Structured Pedagogy	105	
ALfA	720	
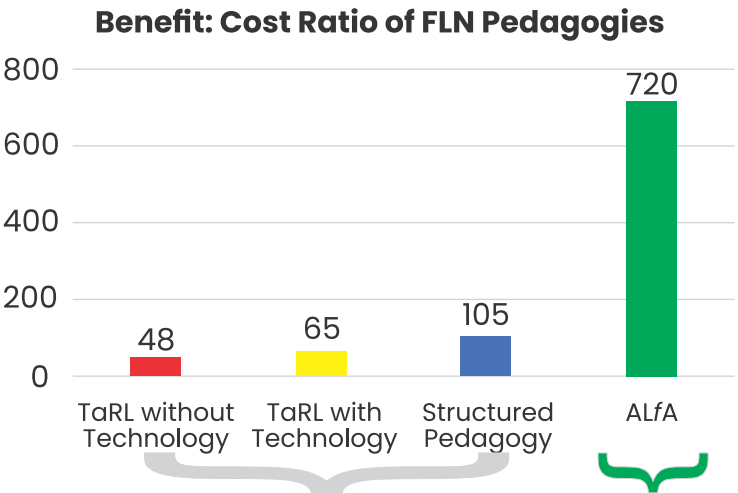
Source: Copenhagen Consensus, 2023. Halftime to SDGs Best Investment Paper: Education.

Source: Weighted average from implementations. $4 per child, effect size of 0.48 (HGSE and others).

Table: Comparison of popular, evidence-based FLN pedagogies

Feature	Structured Pedagogy	TaRL	ALfA
Core Approach	Standardized lesson plans and scripted teaching.	Grouping students by ability level and targeting instruction accordingly.	A process-led structure that scaffolds learning through paired activities.
Holistic & Social Development	Focused primarily on **academic content delivery** rather than holistic development.	Ability-based grouping can unintentionally lead to a fixed mindset, and may become **socially divisive**.	Develops **21st-century skills** such as collaboration, citizenship, equity & inclusion through random paired learning.
Speed & Efficacy	**Effect Size: 0.13** (Generally 3-year implementations)	**Effect Sizes: 0.08-0.7** (50 days, combination of studies 2005-2014)	**Effect Sizes: 0.23-0.89** (India, Maldives: 45 days, 2022-23)
Cost	**$8 per child** Detailed scripting and material requirements.	**$20-$27 per child** Resources vary by implementation. More significant training required.	**$4 per child** Leverages local resources and requires minimal training time.

References

Dweck, Carol. 2007. Mindset: The New Psychology of Success.

Kalra, Aparna. 2024. How Rich Donors have Caused More Harm than Good to India's Education. The Wire. https://thewire.in/education/how-rich-donors-have-caused-more-harm-than-good-to-indias-education

Copenhagen Consensus. 2023. Halftime to SDGs. Best Investment Paper: Education. https://copenhagenconsensus.com/publication/halftime-sdgs-education

Teaching at the Right Level: Summary of Interventions. https://assets-global.website-files.com/61366d43ebd6df56d9b67a11/6174939ed355d9ec8ce755e2_Teaching%20at%20the%20Right%20Level%20Summary%20of%20Interventions.pdf
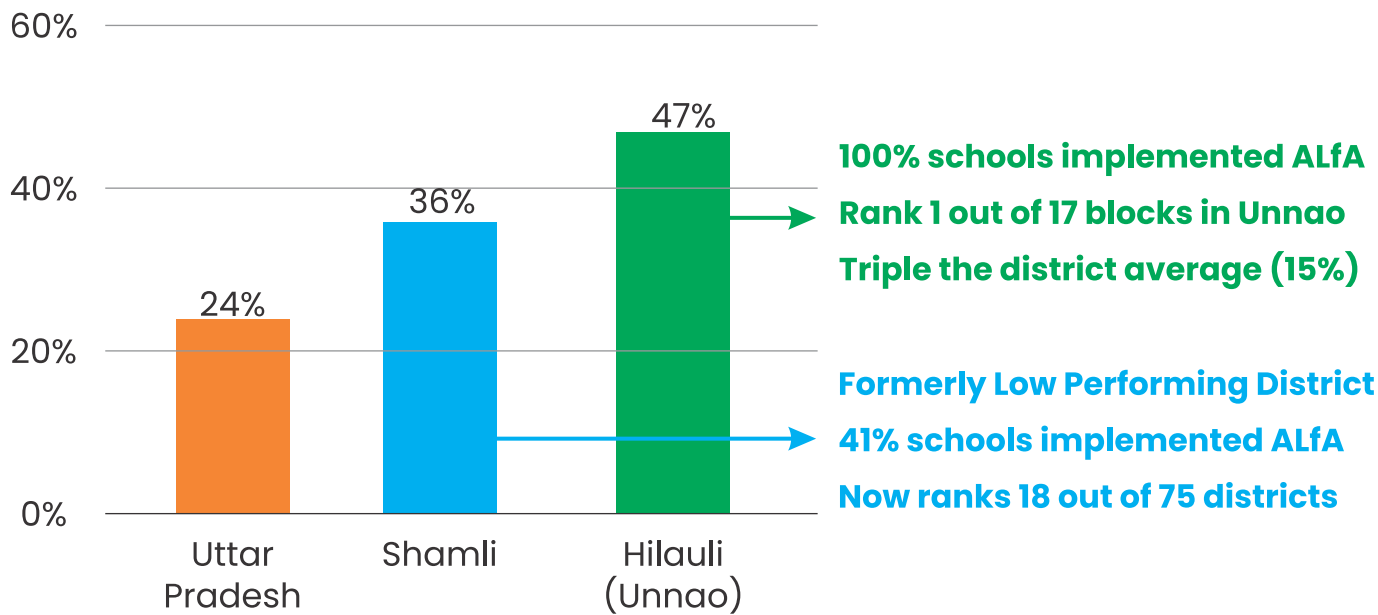
Click/Scan QR for more details & further references

NIPUN ASSESSMENT TEST

The NIPUN Assessment Test was conducted in schools across Uttar Pradesh in late 2023, and results were released in February 2024. District-wise analysis showed a strong correlation between the proportion of schools taking up ALfA in a particular district, and its scores on the NAT, as shown in the figure below.

Results in NAT After Just 45 Days of ALfA

100% schools implemented ALfA

Rank 1 out of 17 blocks in Unnao

Triple the district average (15%)

Formerly Low Performing District

41% schools implemented ALfA

Now ranks 18 out of 75 districts

Results in NAT: Comparison of ALfA schools with overall averages

		Schools Tested	# Schools NIPUN	% Schools NIPUN		
UP Overall Schools Tested		68,352	16,169	24%		
4 districts (Lucknow, Shamli, Unnao, Barabanki)	Schools Tested	3,682	638	17%	**2x** Impact	
	ALfA Schools Tested	344	120	35%		
1 District (Hilauli Block versus Unnao averages)	Schools Tested	1,322	193	15%	**3x** Impact	
	ALfA Schools Tested	85	40	47%		

Click/Scan QR to check out the UP NAT data yourself

Click/Scan QR to watch a video on ALfA in Hilauli and Shamli

HILAULI ASPIRATIONAL BLOCK TO NUMBER 1
UNNAO BSA LETTER

प्रेषक

जिला बेसिक शिक्षा अधिकारी
उन्नाव।

सेवा में

डॉ सुनीता गांधी
संस्थापिका
देवी संस्थान, लखनऊ

पत्रांक 33645

दि0 22-2-24

विषयः हिलौली ब्लॉक के प्राइमरी स्कूलों में **ALFA** पद्धति का प्रयोग

महोदया,

हमें आपको यह सूचित करते हुए अत्यंत खुशी हो रही है कि **ALFA** पद्धति, जिसका अनुसंधान आपने किया है, हिलौली ब्लॉक के 155 स्कूलों में वर्ष 2023–24 के शैक्षिक सत्र में सितम्बर माह से लागू किया गया है बहुत कम कार्य दिवसों के समय में बच्चों के शैक्षिक स्तर में काफी सुधार दिखा है ।

विभागीय निर्देशानुसार बच्चों के शैक्षिक दक्षता जांचने के लिए एक मूल्यांकन किया था इस मूल्यांकन में हिलौली विकास खण्ड में न्यूनतम स्तर था, वर्तमान मूल्यांकन में शैक्षिक स्तर पर निपुण पाया गया और उन्नाव जिले में प्रथम स्थान पर आया है।

आपकी **ALfA** पद्धति, प्रयास और सहयोग को हिलौली ब्लॉक को निपुण बनाने में हम आपके काम की प्रशंसा और सराहना करते हैं ।

हम आशा करते हैं कि आप शिक्षा क्षेत्र में इसी प्रकार आप शिक्षा आपका सहयोग प्राप्त होता रहेगा ।

धन्यवाद ।

(संगीता सिंह)
जिला बेसिक शिक्षा अधिकारी
उन्नाव।

> "I am delighted to inform you that the ALfA pedagogy has been implemented in the 155 schools of Hilauli block since September 2023. There has been a substantial improvement in children's learning levels, in very little time.
> In the assessments conducted by the Department of Education, Hilauli, which was at the lowest level, has now come first in Unnao district. The ALfA pedagogy has helped Hilauli become NIPUN; for this I praise and recommend your work. I hope that you continue assisting in the educational field going forwards."
> **Sangeeta Singh, Unnao BSA**

NEWSPAPER CLIPPING

निपुण भारत मिशन में हिलौली प्रथम, पुरवा दूसरे और हसनगंज तीसरे स्थान पर

जागरण संवाददाता, उन्नाव: सरकार साक्षरता में वृद्धि के लिए लगातार प्रयास कर रही है। देश का हर बच्चा शिक्षित हो और अभिभावक शिक्षा कार्यक्रम से जुड़े रहे। इसके लिए भारत सरकार द्वारा निपुण भारत मिशन की शुरुआत की गई है। जिसका उद्देश्य तीसरी कक्षा तक के बच्चों में आधारभूत साक्षरता और संख्यात्मकता ज्ञान को बढ़ावा देना है। निपुण भारत मिशन लक्ष्यों की प्राप्ति के लिए सभी ब्लाकों की कंपोजिट रैंकिंग सूची शासन द्वारा जारी की गई। जिसमें सभी पैरामीटर्स में विकासखंड हिलौली प्रथम, पुरवा द्वितीय और हसनगंज तीसरे स्थान पर रहा।

निपुण भारत रैंकिंग में जिले के अंदर चौथे स्थान पर नवाबगंज ब्लाक रहा। जबकि, असोहा, बिछिया, सिकंदरपुर कर्ण, मियागंज व सफीपुर की रैंक औसत रही। वहीं जिन ब्लाकों में रैंक फिसड्डी रही। उनमें सबसे नीचे नगर क्षेत्र इसके बाद सुमेरपुर, फतेहपुर,

- नगर क्षेत्र, सुमेरपुर व फतेहपुर चौरासी रहा फिसड्डी
- अन्य 10 ब्लाक निपुण रैंकिंग में रहे औसत

सिकंदरपुर सरोसी, बीघापुर, बांगरमऊ, गंजमुरादाबाद, औरास ब्लाक रहे।

हसनगंज ब्लाक के शिक्षक रवींद्र सिंह, सशांक सिंह, एआरपी शैलेंद्र सिंह, मोहदीनपुर प्राथमिक विद्यालय की प्रधान शिक्षिका प्रीती वर्मा, भांभाऊ की ज्योति वर्मा, नमिता सिंह, सूर्यकांत सिंह, अनुपमा जयसवाल, दीपक कुशवाहा आदि ने हर्ष व्यक्त कर बीईओ को बधाई दी। बीएसए संगीता सिंह ने बताया कि शासन द्वारा सूची जारी की गई हैं। जिसमें हिलौली, पुरवा व हसनगंज ने बेहतर रैंक पाई है। यह संबंधित ब्लाक की पूरी टीम द्वारा ईमानदारी से काम करने का परिणाम हैं।

| ब्लाकों की रैंक प्रतिशत के हिसाब से	
1-हिलौली	40
2.पुरवा	32
3.हसनगंज	20
4.नवाबगंज	16
5.असोहा	11
6.बिछिया	11
7.सिकन्दरपुर कर्ण	11
8.मियागंज	10
9.सफीपुर	10
10.औरास	09
11.गंजमुरादाबाद	09
12.बांगरमऊ	04
13.बीघापुर	04
14.सिकन्दरपुर सरोसी	04
15.फतेहपुर 84	01
16.सुमेरपुर	01
17.नगर क्षेत्र	0
जिले में कुल निपुण स्कूल 193	

In a government test conducted in November 2023 (partway through the ALfA implementation), Hilauli topped the ranking among Unnao's 17 blocks. 85 of Hilauli's schools were tested, out of which 40 were deemed to be 'NIPUN schools'.* This translates to 47% of Hilauli's schools being NIPUN, over triple the rate for Unnao overall (15%) and double the state average (24%).

A 'NIPUN school' is defined as one in which 80% or more of sampled students passed the basic literacy assessment in each of Grade 1, 2 and 3.

BLOCK PILOT HILAULI
155 SCHOOLS 14,503 STUDENTS

Following the impressive results in other districts, the Block Education Officer of Hilauli (Unnao district) requested ALfA implementation in all the schools of his block. The ALfA program's success in doubling the test scores of an NAT-style assessment between October and December 2023 showed that it is possible to achieve dramatic results in record time. Students showed huge improvements across different grade levels, in both Hindi and Maths.

	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
Baseline	32%	31%	26%	28%	28%
Endline	81%	74%	70%	75%	69%
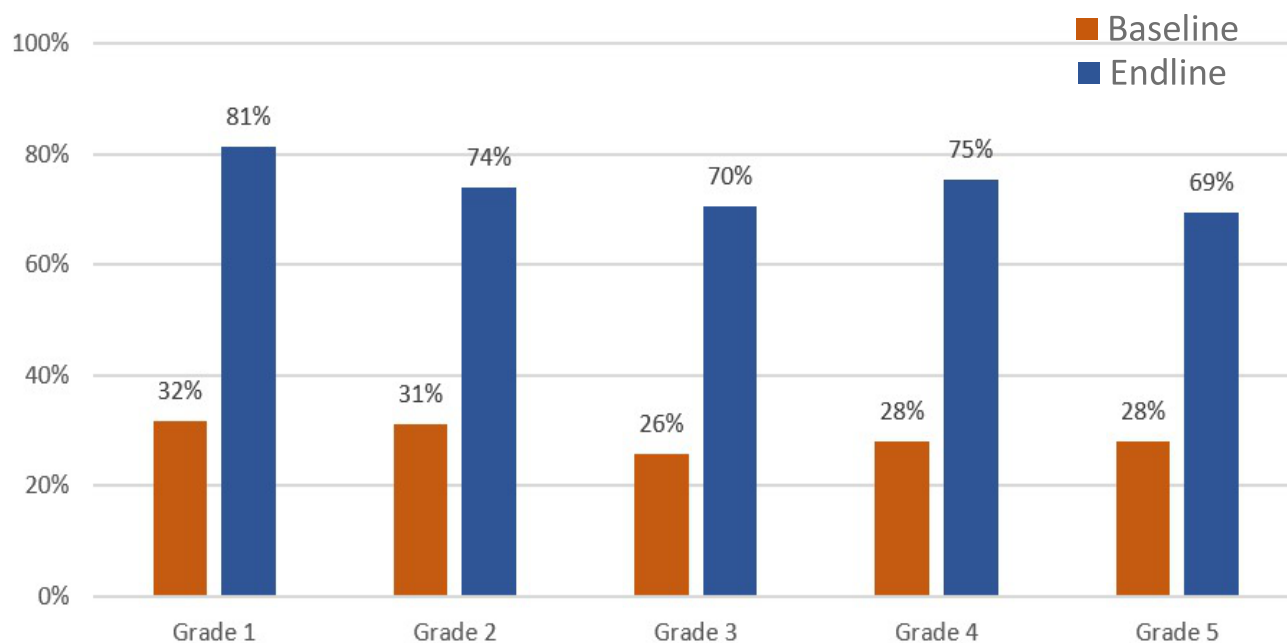
**Testing was conducted in randomly selected 42 out of 155 Schools.
Baseline: Oct 2023; Endline: Dec 2023**

DISTRICT PILOTS LUCKNOW & BARABANKI
140 SCHOOLS 33,689 STUDENTS

The results from Lucknow and Barabanki showcased a rate of improvement in the ALfA classes more than double that of the reference group schools over the course of 2023. Results were particularly impressive for Hindi. All results shown here are for Grade 3, as it was not possible to track the same cohort of Grade 5 students who graduated at the end of the academic year and moved into upper primary school.

Effect Sizes

Hindi
Maths

Barabanki: Hindi 0.46, Maths 0.31
Lucknow: Hindi 1.28, Maths 0.68
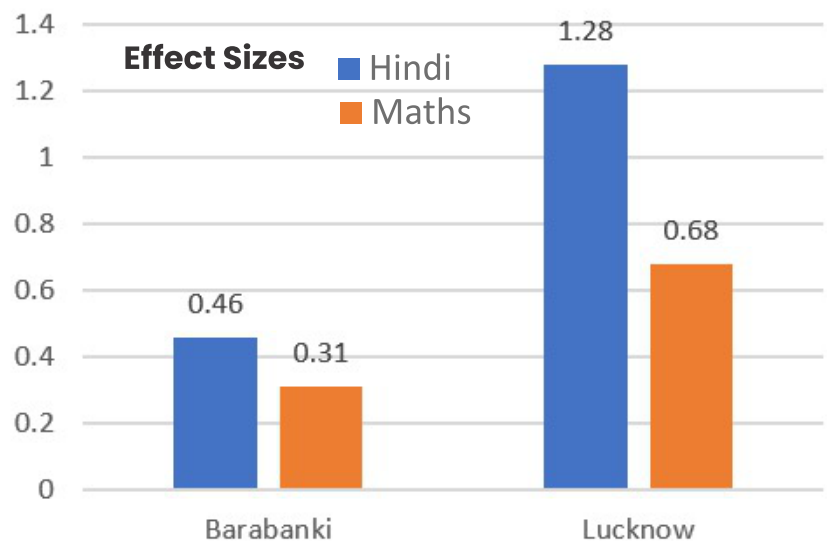
*Effect size is a statistical measure of an intervention's impact. A typical year of schooling in a developing country lifts children's literacy levels by 0.15-0.21 units of this metric.

Lucknow

Hindi
Reference: Baseline 52%, Endline 54%
Intervention: Baseline 36%, Endline 66%

Maths
Reference: Baseline 37%, Endline 52%
Intervention: Baseline 31%, Endline 61%

■ Baseline
■ Endline

110 Implementation Schools. Baseline: Jan 2022; Endline: Dec 2023

Barabanki

Hindi
Reference: Baseline 38%, Endline 59%
Intervention: Baseline 15%, Endline 60%

Maths
Reference: Baseline 15%, Endline 48%
Intervention: Baseline 8%, Endline 51%

■ Baseline
■ Endline

30 Implementation Schools. Baseline: Jan 2022; Endline: Dec 2023

LEARNING OUTCOMES

The initial comparative analysis of 10 implementation and 10 reference schools in Shamli showed an effect size of 0.51 for Grade 3 and a whopping 0.70 for Grade 5.

Table: Results from Shamli Phase 1 (10 schools; July 2022 - March 2023)

	Intervention			Reference			Comparison		
	Baseline	Endline	Difference	Baseline	Endline	Difference	Dif in Dif	Learning rate improvement	Effect Size
Gr 3 Hindi	25	68	43	10	50	40	3	7%	**0.11**
Gr 3 Maths	11	70	59	9	43	34	24	71%	**0.92**
Gr 5 Hindi	33	54	21	29	37	8	13	154%	**0.53**
Gr 5 Maths	18	55	36	16	27	11	26	243%	**0.88**
Average	**22**	**62**	**40**	**16**	**39**	**23**	**17**	**118%**	**0.61**

In Phase 2, the larger scale implementation, the effect sizes were not as large as the implementation has been running for only a few months. Despite this, across both Grade 3 and Grade 5, in both Hindi and Maths, intervention group students showed substantially greater test score gains than intervention group schools. ALfA students on average had rates of learning 1.5 times greater than students in non-ALfA schools. The results are shown in Table 6 below and represented graphically.

Table: Results from Shamli Phase 2 (200 Schools; Nov 2022 – March 2023)

	Intervention			Reference			Comparison		
	Baseline	Endline	Difference	Baseline	Endline	Difference	Dif in Dif	Learning rate improvement	Effect Size
Gr 3 Hindi	40%	65%	25%	34%	51%	17%	8%	44%	**0.26**
Gr 3 Maths	29%	61%	31%	22%	44%	22%	9%	42%	**0.29**
Gr 5 Hindi	39%	55%	16%	40%	48%	8%	8%	87%	**0.33**
Gr 5 Maths	26%	54%	27%	24%	45%	20%	7%	34%	**0.24**
Average	**34%**	**59%**	**25%**	**30%**	**47%**	**17%**	**8%**	**52%**	**0.28**

> **NOTE**
>
> Though schools were randomly selected, the treatment group students generally scored better than the control group in the pre-test. This is likely because there was a gap of several weeks between training teachers & giving the ALfA materials, and the testing. It seems that children in implementation group schools made some progress in even these few weeks.
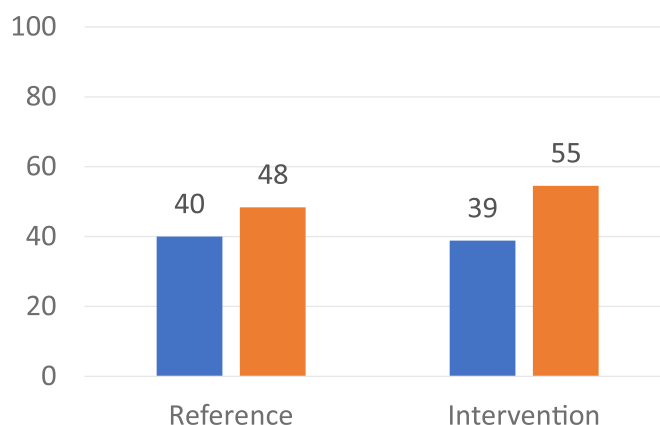
DISTRICT PILOT SHAMLI
210 SCHOOLS 43,787 STUDENTS

ALfA students' rate of learning was over 1.5x greater compared to students in non-ALfA schools, with similar gains across different grade levels and subjects.
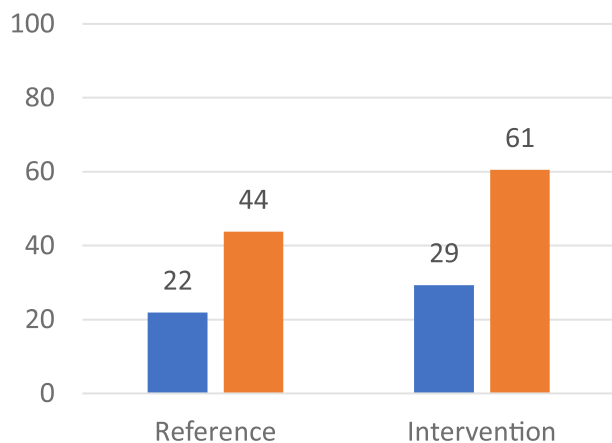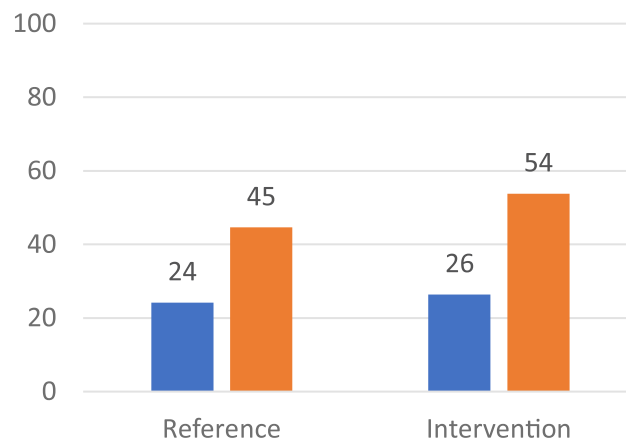
Grade 3 Hindi

	Reference		Intervention	
	Baseline	Endline	Baseline	Endline
Value	34	51	40	65

Grade 5 Hindi

	Reference		Intervention	
	Baseline	Endline	Baseline	Endline
Value	40	48	39	55

Grade 3 Maths

	Reference		Intervention	
	Baseline	Endline	Baseline	Endline
Value	22	44	29	61

Grade 5 Maths

	Reference		Intervention	
	Baseline	Endline	Baseline	Endline
Value	24	45	26	54
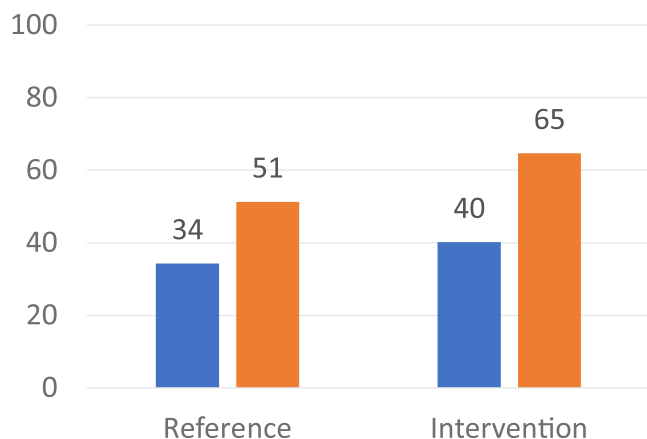
■ Baseline
■ Endline

Testing was conducted in randomly selected 40 out of 200 Schools. Test scores are in percent. Baseline: Nov 2022; Endline: March 2023

LEARNING OUTCOMES
SHAMLI, NUMERACY

Grade 1, Dakshata 3 Adding and subtracting numbers up to 99.

प्र13.   सोहन ने बाजार में 15 किलो आलू ,
7 किलो प्याज और 3 किलो तरोई खरीदी।
उसने कुल कितने किलो सब्जी खरीदी?

- (A) पता नही
- (B) 26 किलो
- (C) 28 किलो
- (D) 27 किलो
- (E) 25 किलो
- (F) 15 किलो
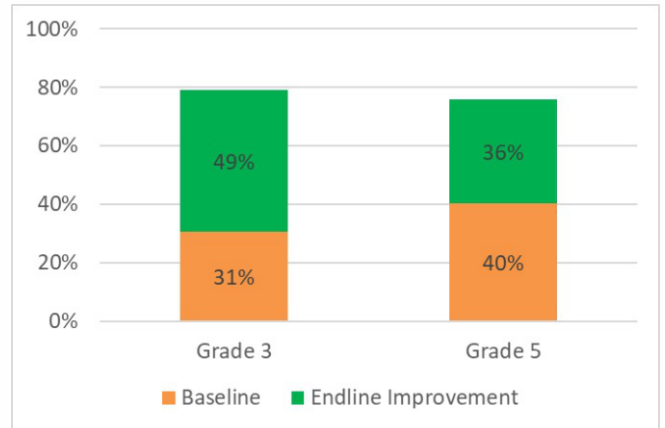
Grade 2, Dakshata 1 Reading, writing and understanding numbers up to 999.

प्र19. 232 संख्या का मान शब्दों में लिखे।

- (A) पता नही
- (B) दो सौ बत्तीस
- (C) दो सौ सत्ताइस
- (D) दो सौ पैंतीस
- (E) दो सौ सैंतीस
- (F) दो सौ तीस
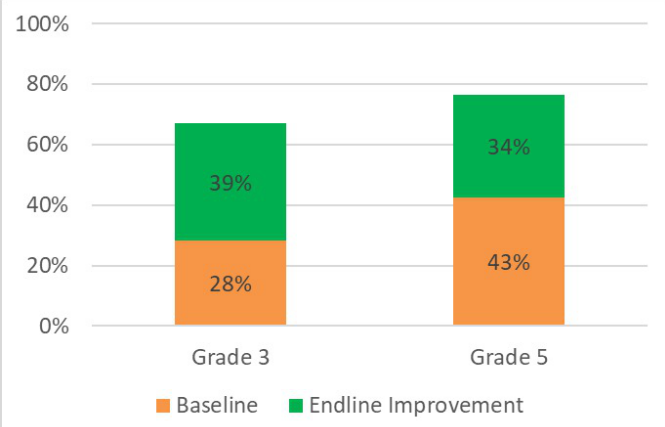
Grade 1, Dakshata 2 Understanding and representing sequences & patterns.

प्र12.   खाली वर्गों में उचित संख्या भरें।

| | | 95 | | 97 |
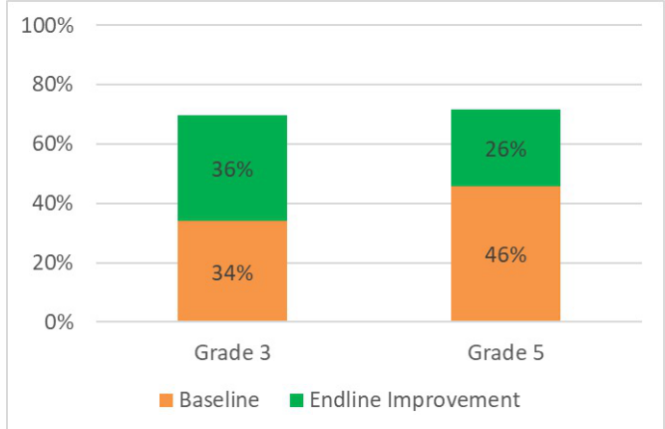
- (A) पता नही
- (B) 93, 94, 96
- (C) 92, 94, 98
- (D) 92, 93, 98
- (E) 91, 92, 93
- (F) 92, 93, 96

Grade 2, Dakshata 4 Reading an unseen passage and answering comprehension questions.

प्र8. पक्षी क्या–क्या करते हैं? इसमें कौन सा उत्तर गलत है।
- (A) पता नही
- (B) ऊँची उड़ान भरते हैं
- (C) खूबसूरत घोंसले बनाते हैं
- (D) अण्डे देते हैं
- (E) मनुष्यों से बातें करते हैं
- (F) चूज़ो की देखभाल करते हैं
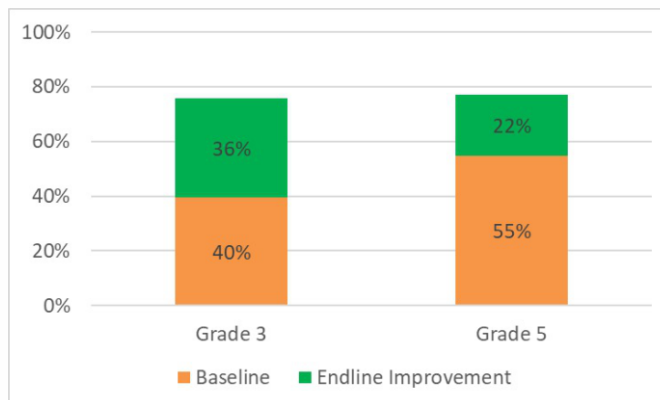
Grade 1, Dakshata 8 Basic understanding of grammar and syntax.

प्र5. जो अलग है उसे चुनिए।
- (A) पता नहीं
- (B) जा रहा है।
- (C) नाच रहा है।
- (D) खा रहा है।
- (E) चढ़ रहा है।
- (F) लाल गुलाब है।
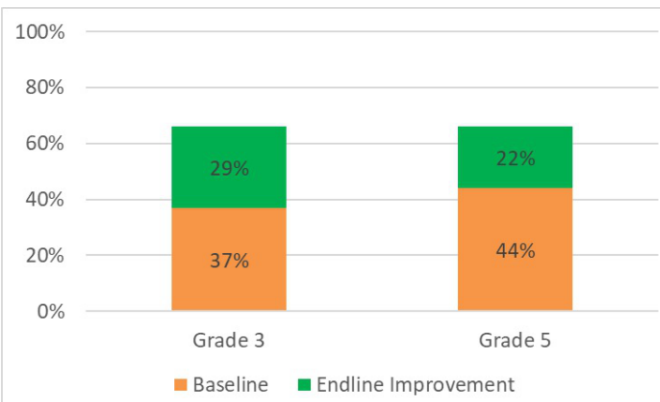
Grade 1, Dakshata 2 Ability to form gramatically correct sentences.

प्र3. तुम्हें कौन सा बैग चाहिए। नीला ___ लाल
- (A) पता नहीं
- (B) या
- (C) व
- (D) लेकिन
- (E) किन्तु
- (F) क्योंकि
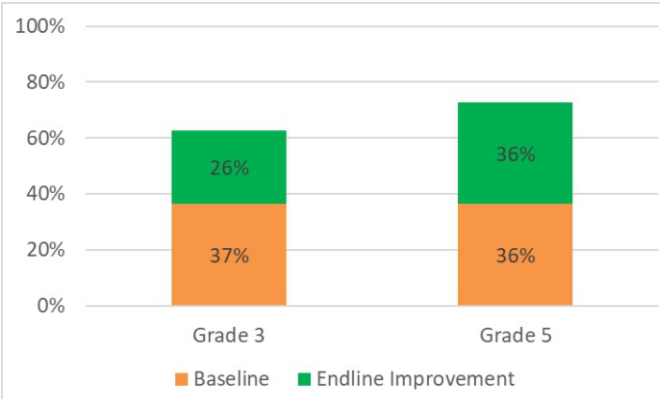
Teacher Empowerment

ALfA combines its unique pedagogy with powerful teacher training tools. It offers a coherent package, with pedagogy, learning materials, teacher training and resources working hand–in–hand to lighten educators' load. ALfA assessments enable teachers and policymakers alike to precisely diagnose and swiftly address learning gaps in specific competencies.

Children read the Hindi ALfA book together, with the teacher watching on as a support

A STRUCTURED PEDAGOGY

Accelerating Learning for All (ALfA) is a groundbreaking structured pedagogy, designed to enable children to gain foundational literacy and numeracy skills in as little as 45 days. What makes ALfA so effective? It is the combination of learning materials, pedagogy, curriculum and teacher training.

PAIRED LEARNING

The transaction of learning is not from teacher to student, but rather between two children.

CURRICULUM

Books are simple, modular, and highly visual, enabling children to learn independently.

PEDAGOGY

Children work from known to unknown: rather than 'a se anaar', they derive the first sound from a picture.

HOLISTIC EDUCATION

ALfA doesn't just develop children's academic abilities; it fosters 21st century skills including creativity, critical thinking and collaboration.

TEACHER TRAINING AT SCALE

Data Highlights MASSIVE OPEN ONLINE TRAINING (March 2023)

| **66**	**93%**	**97%**	**99%**
countries with representatives from all 6 continents participated	of participants found the online format of the training to be **effective**	of participants **passed the quiz** & were shared free access to ALfA materials	of teachers said they had **new take-away points** from the training

Several audience polls were used in the Hindi sessions of the MOOT to gauge participants' attitude. The results, which were overwhelmingly positive, are shown below.
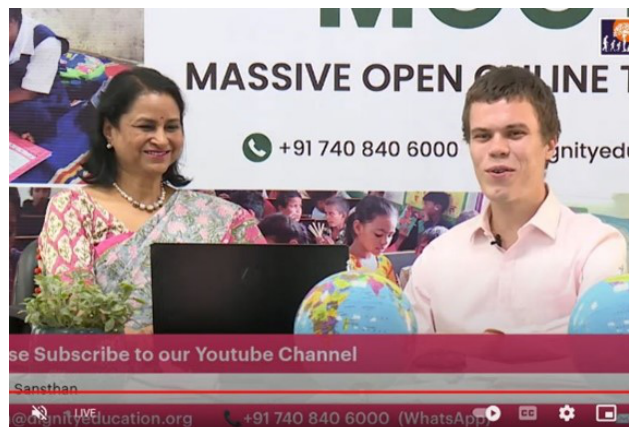
How did you find **today's training?**

3% 0%
22%
73%

■ Excellent ■ Quite Good
■ Ok ■ Nothing new
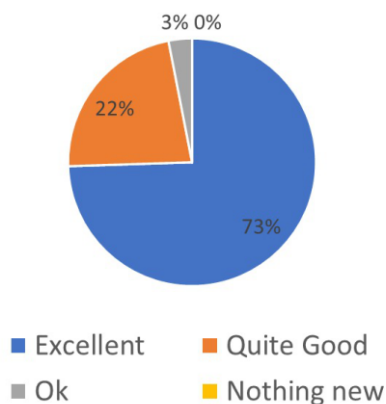
Do you want to adopt the **ALfA pedagogy** and processes in your classes?

0%
10%
90%

■ Yes ■ Maybe ■ No
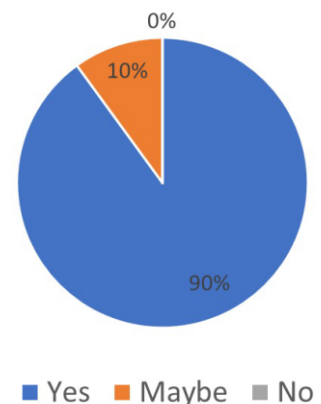
Do you want to adopt **paired learning** in your classes?

0%
100%

■ Yes ■ Maybe ■ No
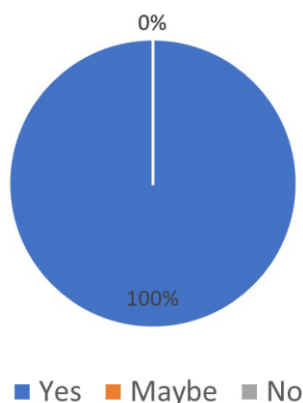
Has the **online format** of this MOOT been effective for you?

2%
5%
93%

■ Yes ■ Maybe ■ No
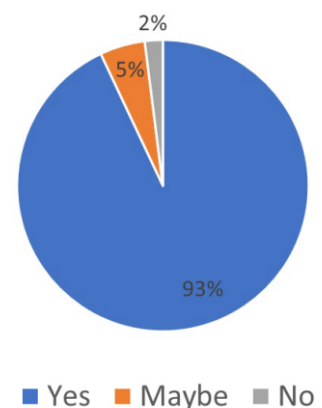
VIDEO EVIDENCE

to watch a video of Shamli students performing **above Grade Level** after 45 days of ALfA implementation.

to hear the **testimonies of Unnao teachers** implementing the ALfA program.

to view a **news report by the Print** on ALfA implementation in Shamli.

to see the difference ALfA is making in **government schools of Lucknow**.

How were these videos made?

WhatsApp groups were set up for different blocks/districts. Teachers were encouraged to post their photos, videos and any questions in the WhatsApp groups, much of the footage in this video was shared by classroom teachers.

to listen to teachers' reviews about the **literacy program in Barabanki.**

TECH-ENABLED RESEARCH

A multiple-choice question paper was designed based on the NIPUN Bharat Competencies (for Balvatika to Grade 3) and the National Achievement Survey (for Grade 5), in consultation with DIET. The paper was divided into three sections based on the Grade level of the NIPUN competency being tested by each question.

Balvatika and Grade 1 students did only Section A, which was age appropriate. Grade 2 & 3 students did Section B (age appropriate) but also Section A. Grade 4 & 5 students did all three sections, as shown in the diagram below. This unique design enables cross-grade comparisons of children's learning.

Section A					
		Section B			
				Section C	
Balvatika	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5

Assessment was invigilated by a third party (college students), after receiving a training from the DEVI team. The surveyors requested teachers requested to remain outside the classroom during the tests, to minimise the possibility of cheating.

Instant, Detailed Competency-Wise Feedback with Pragati App

STEP 1
Children sit test

STEP 2
Answers filled on OMR sheet by surveyors

STEP 3
OMR sheet scanned & uploaded using DEVI's Pragati App

ASSESSMENT DESIGN

A multiple-choice question paper was designed based on the NIPUN Bharat Competencies and the National Achievement Survey, in consultation with DIET. This paper, consisting of approximately 40 questions, was split into 4 parts to reduce the scope for cheating, reduce the time requirement and still ensure representative coverage of key competencies. These were labelled 'Paper A', 'Paper B', etc. A quarter of children in each class were given Paper A, another quarter Paper B, and so on.

ODIA

Pragati Post-Test
ODIA ଓଡ଼ିଆ
SECTION A+B+C
SURVEY CODE ▶

SECTION A

ନାମ | ଶ୍ରେଣୀ
ବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ

ଶ୍ରେଣୀ ୧ ଦକ୍ଷତା ୧ — ପ୍ର୧. 'ପ' ଅକ୍ଷର ପାର୍ଇଁ ଠିକ୍‌ଣିତ୍ର ବାଛ ।
ପ — A. B. C. D. E.

ଶ୍ରେଣୀ ୧ ଦକ୍ଷତା ୧ — ପ୍ର୨. 'ଆ' ଅକ୍ଷରରୁ ଆରମ୍ଭ ହେଉଥିବା ଛବି ବାଛ ।
ଆ — A. B. C. D. E.

ଶ୍ରେଣୀ ୧ ଦକ୍ଷତା ୧ — ପ୍ର୩. 'ଦି' ଅକ୍ଷରରୁ ଆରମ୍ଭ ହେଉଥିବା ଛବି ବାଛ ।
ଦି — A. B. C. D. E.

ଶ୍ରେଣୀ ୧ ଦକ୍ଷତା ୧ — ପ୍ର୪. ଛବି ଦେଖି ଶବ୍ଦ ବାଛ ।
A. କମଳ   C. ଜଉର   E. କପଟ
B. କଲମ   D. କଳସ

HINDI

Pragati Pre-Test
HINDI हिन्दी
SECTION A
SURVEY CODE ▶ 0 0 5 3 3 8

नाम | कक्षा
विद्यालय

कक्षा 1 दक्षता 1 — प्र1. अक्षर के लिए सही चित्र चुनिये ।
प — A. B. C. D. E.

कक्षा 1 दक्षता 1 — प्र2. अक्षर के लिए सही चित्र चुनिये ।
आ — A. B. C. D. E.

कक्षा 1 दक्षता 1 — प्र3. अक्षर के लिए सही चित्र चुनिये ।
दि — A. B. C. D. E.

कक्षा 1 दक्षता 1 — प्र4. चित्र के लिए सही शब्द चुनिये ।
A. कमल   B. कलम   C. कमर
D. कलश   E. कपट

लड़की लड़का से _ _ _ _ _ _ _ हैं ।
○ पता नहीं   ○ छोटी
○ लम्बी   ○ भारी
○ मोटी

MATHS

Pragati Pre-Test
MATHEMATICS गणित
SECTION A
SURVEY CODE ▶ 0 0 0 0 0 6

बालवाटिका दक्षता 1 — प्र1. तारों को गिन कर सही संख्या लिखें ।
A. 5   B. 7   C. 8
D. 9   E. 6   F. पता नही

बालवाटिका दक्षता 2 — प्र2. रिक्त खानों को उचित संख्या से भरें ।
6 _ _ 9 10
A. 7, 8   B. 8, 9   C. 5, 6
D. 5, 7   E. 2, 3   F. पता नही

बालवाटिका दक्षता 3 — प्र3. ज्यादा सेब समूह वाले बक्सें को चिन्हित करें ।
A.   B.   C.
D.   E. पता नही

बालवाटिका दक्षता 4 — प्र4. दिए गए पैटर्न क्रम को पूरा करते हुए अगली तीन आकृतियाँ बनायें ।
A.   B.   C.
D.   E.   F. पता नही

बालवाटिका दक्षता 4 — प्र5. दी गई संख्याओं को छोटे से बड़े के क्रम में रखें ।
3, 4, 2, 1, 5
A. 1, 3, 2, 4, 5   B. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5   C. 1, 2, 4, 3, 5
D. 4, 5, 3, 1, 2   E. 5, 4, 3, 2, 1   F. पता नही

राणा को स्कूल से घर पहुँचने में 10 मिनट लगता हैं । सबा को राणा से 6 मिनट अधिक लगता हैं । सबा को घर पहुँचने में कितना समय लगता हैं ?
○ पता नहीं   ○ 6 मिनट
○ 12 मिनट   ○ 16 मिनट
○ 4 मिनट

UNLEASHING ED-TECH

SBI Foundation has partnered with DEVI Sansthan with a view to help 10,000 illiterate adults (15-60 years old) and out-of-school children (6-14 years) become foundationally literate in Hindi using a Web-Based Literacy Project initiative.

In a 2023 agreement with the **Department of Secondary Schools** in Uttar Pradesh, up to 5 million student volunteers are set to use the Literacy Now App to teach illiterate relatives and neighbours.
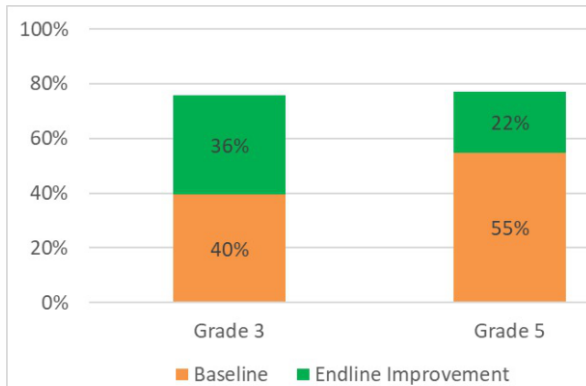
COMPETENCY–WISE ANALYSIS

The endline test given is scientifically similar to the baseline (though not identical), allowing a genuine measurement of progress. The Pragati App generates a detailed personalized report card at multiple levels (child, class, school, district) which shows with a colour code which topics have been mastered and which need more work. Pragati report cards enable children to focus on their progress over time rather than comparing against others.

Grade 2, Dakshata 4 Answering comprehension questions from unseen passage.

HINDI

प्र8. पक्षी क्या—क्या करते हैं? इसमें कौन सा उत्तर गलत है।

(A) पता नहीं

(B) ऊँची उड़ान भरते हैं

(C) खूबसूरत घोंसले बनाते हैं

(D) अण्डे देते हैं

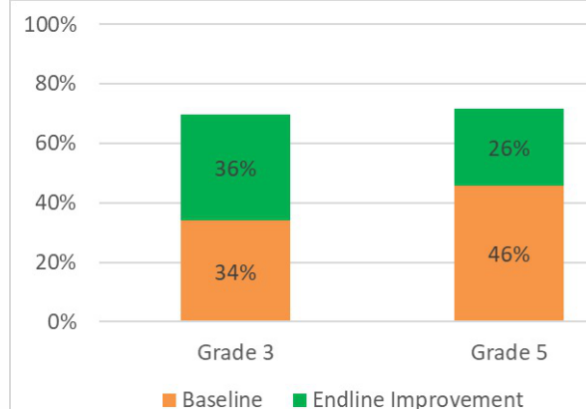(E) मनुष्यों से बातें करते हैं

(F) चूज़ों की देखभाल करते हैं

Grade 3: Baseline 40%, Endline Improvement 36%
Grade 5: Baseline 55%, Endline Improvement 22%
Legend: Baseline, Endline Improvement

Grade 1, Dakshata 2 Understanding and representing sequences & patterns.

MATHS

प्र12. खाली वर्गों में उचित संख्या भरें।

| | | 95 | | 97 |

(A) पता नही   (D) 92, 93, 98

(B) 93, 94, 96   (E) 91, 92, 93

(C) 92, 94, 98   (F) 92, 93, 96

Grade 3: Baseline 34%, Endline Improvement 36%
Grade 5: Baseline 46%, Endline Improvement 26%
Legend: Baseline, Endline Improvement

Graphs show the baseline and level of progress on specific competencies in Shamli Phase 2 Implementation (200 schools, 45 days)

Our Credentials

The AL*f*A program was launched only recently, in 2022. But DEVI Sansthan has a long history of educational innovations, leading to recognition and support from many leaders and international experts.

Dr Sunita Gandhi meeting with Anita Karwal, Secretary, Ministry of Education in 2022. Smt Karwal requested ALfA implementation in two low-performing districts: Shamli (UP) and Sambalpur (Odisha).

SCALING PLANS

ALfA has grown exponentially since its 2022 launch, and is garnering atterntion from national and international leaders.

> " Dr. Sunita Gandhi's 30 hour literacy and numeracy model is highly innovative and scalable. "
>
> **Rajnath Singh**
> Former Minister of Education, UP

2022

Research pilots in two low-performing districts (Shamli, UP & Sambalpur, Odisha) at request of Ministry of Education's Anita Karwal.

10 treatment & 10 control schools in each district.

2023

Shamli implementation covered in a chapter by Harvard professor Fernando Reimers; is scaled up to 210 schools. Implementation scales up in Uttar Pradesh's Lucknow, Unnao, Barabanki districts. Hilauli block of Unnao implements ALfA across all its 155 schools, later tops NAT. MOU signed with Himachal Pradesh government.
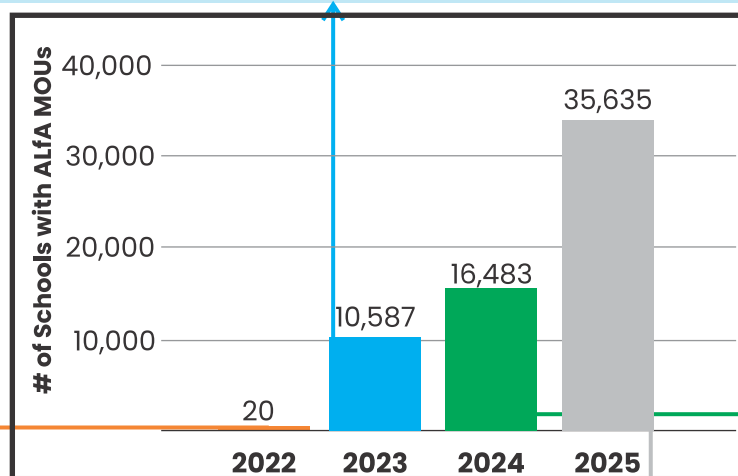
2024

Scale up to district level in Lucknow, Unnao, Barabanki and Shamli, with online teacher training.

Implementation in whole district of Solan, Himachal Pradesh.
ALfA pilots internationally in Maldives & Peru.

# of Schools with AlfA MOUs

| Year	# of Schools
2022	20
2023	10,587
2024	16,483
2025	35,635

2025 (so far)

MOUs in place to scale ALfA to over 35,000 schools across Himachal Pradesh, Jammu, and Uttar Pradesh. Rapid Results Initiatives to explore ALfA in 10+ other states & UTs

Click/Scan
to Read Agreement with Uttar Pradesh Govt
1 year MOU dated 25 September 2024
Grade 1-5 across all ~7,000 schools of 4 districts: Lucknow, Unnao, Barabanki, Shamli
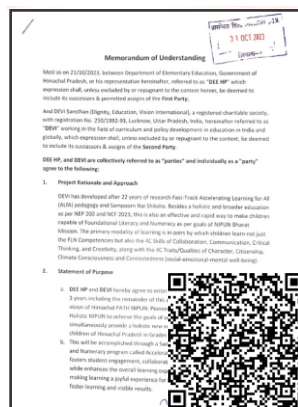
Click/Scan
to Read Agreement with Himachal Pradesh Govt
3 year MOU dated 21 October 2023
Grade 1-5 across all ~10,000 schools of the state

GLOBAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Asia

- **Dr Phalthy Hap**
  Vice Rector, Royal University of Law, Cambodia
- **Justice Karybek Astanbekovich Duisheev**
  Vice-Chairman Constitutional Court, Krygyz Republic
- **Rana Dajani**
  President, We Love Reading, Jordan
- **Ravi Sreedharan**
  Founder & President, Indian School of Development Management, India
- **Robert Thorn**
  Director, Developing Real Learners, Turkey

Europe

- **Inger-Mette Stenseth**
  Founder, World Climate School, Norway
- **Sigbjorn Dugal**
  Founder, Pickatale, Norway
- **Nicolas Gravel**
  Professor of Economics, Aix-Marseille University, France
- **Richard Nilsson**
  President, Adventure of Humanity, Sweden/France
- **David Bovill**
  Partnerships Manager, DEIP, UK
- **Girish Menon**
  CEO, STIR Education, UK
- **Pakalitha Bethwel Mosisilil**
  Director (Honoris Causa), Hungary
- **Jutice Dr Francesco Buffa**
  Judge Supreme Court, Italy
- **Ms Novak Katalin**
  Former President, Hungary

Aïcha Bah Diallo
Former Education Minister, Guinea

Dr Abdullah Rashid Ahmed
Former Minister of State for Education, Maldives

Africa

- **Aïcha Bah Diallo**
  Former Education Minister, Guinea
  Founder, Forum of African Women Educationists
- **Peter Kwasi Kodjie**
  Secretary-General All Africa Student's Union, Ghana
- **Samuel Sasu Adonteng**
  Programme Officer, All Africa Students Union, Ghana
- **Rebecca Doreen**
  Founding Director, Vadiwa Trust Organization, Zimbabwe
- **Sigamoney Naicker**
  Professor, University of the Western Cape, South Africa
- **Mumba Malila**
  Chief Justice of Zambia
- **Justice Luke Malaba**
  Chief Justice of Zimbabwe
- **Diallo Mumadou Bathia**
  President, Council Mauritania
- **Justice Andre Safela Leno**
  President, Third Civil Commercial and Social Chamber, Supreme Court, Guinea
- **Justice Joseph Aseh Malegho**
  Secretary General, Constitutional Council, Cameroon
- **Zahiri Ziki Sebastien**
  Magistrate, Cote D'Ivoire
- **Justice Khamis Ramadhani**
  Chief Justice, High Court of Zanzibar, Tanzania
- **Justice Afiavi Solange Mehou**
  Judge, High Court of Justice, Benin
- **Hassane Diallo**
  Secretary, General Court, Guinea
- **Mohammed Suleiman Qmar**
  Chief Justice of Zanzibar, Tanzania
- **Justice Hortense Ubisse**
  Presiding Judge, Namaacha, Mozambique
- **Justice Prof Aaron Logmo Mbelek**
  Judge, Constitutional Council, Cameroon
- **Felix Sabi-kanni N Pocha**
  Chief of Staff, High Court, Benin

North America

- **Alesha Anderson**
  Senior Program Officer, Pro-Literacy Worldwide, USA
- **Alexandre Romanovsky**
  Advisor to Companies Dedicated to the United Nations, USA
- **Bill Graham**
  Vice Chair, NGO Committee for Education, Learning & Literacy at the United Nations in New York, USA
- **Cindy Charles**
  Founder & CEO, Kupanda Sisters Inc., Guyana
- **David J. Rosen**
  Director, Adult Literacy Resource Institute, UMass, USA
- **Fred Mednick**
  Founder, Teachers Without Borders, USA
- **Gail Davvis-Carter**
  UN ECOSOC Representative, UN Partner, USA
- **Joanne Telser-Frere**
  Director, Program Director, Literacy Chicago, USA
- **Jon M Corippo**
  Author, Eduprotocols, USA
- **Kyle Zimmer**
  President, CEO and Co-founder of First Book, USA
- **Mary McCool Berry**
  Founder, Read Keys, USA
- **Michael Matos**
  Education Technology Director, ScaleLIT, USA
- **Peter Campling**
  Global Programmes Director, USA
- **Richard Allen**
  Director of Partnerships, VOYCE, USA
- **Stephen Peters**
  President, The Peters Group, USA

- **Rodney Williams**
  Govener General, Antigua & Barbuda
- **Justice Beatriz Paniague Castro**
  National Chief Prosecutor, Costa Rica
- **Justice Christain Corrales Lugo**
  Judge Posocis Criminal Court of Justice, Costa Rica

South America

- **Ernesto Schiefelbein**
  Chilean Pedagogue, Professor, Economist & Politician, Chile
- **Sylvia Guimarães**
  Co-founder & President, Vaga Lume, Brazil
- **Vicky Colbert**
  Founder & Director, Fundación Escuela Nueva and Former Minister of Education, Colombia
- **Justice Maria Fennanda Gallardo Munoz**
  Jueze De Garantias Penales, Ecuador
- **Ana Maria Teofila Cubas Longe**
  Former Senior Persecutor, San Juan De Lurigancho, Peru
- **Mirtha Chenguayen Guevera**
  Provincial Prosecutor, Criminal 3rd Office, Peru
- **Carmen Luz Cruz Galvez**
  Systems Analyst National Tax Superintendence, Peru
- **Justice Priscilla Chandra Hanif**
  Judge Supreme Court, Guyana

> **Along with international educationists, the Global Council of Sages includes many Justices who have witnessed ALfA during their stays at CMS, Lucknow, for the Conferences of Chief Justices of the World.**

International Impact

ALƒA is changing lives far beyond India, in contexts as diverse as the remote Peruvian Amazon and the suburbs of Chicago, USA. Available in 30+ languages, this low-cost, high-efficacy program is ready to scale up further in the effort to bring literacy for all.
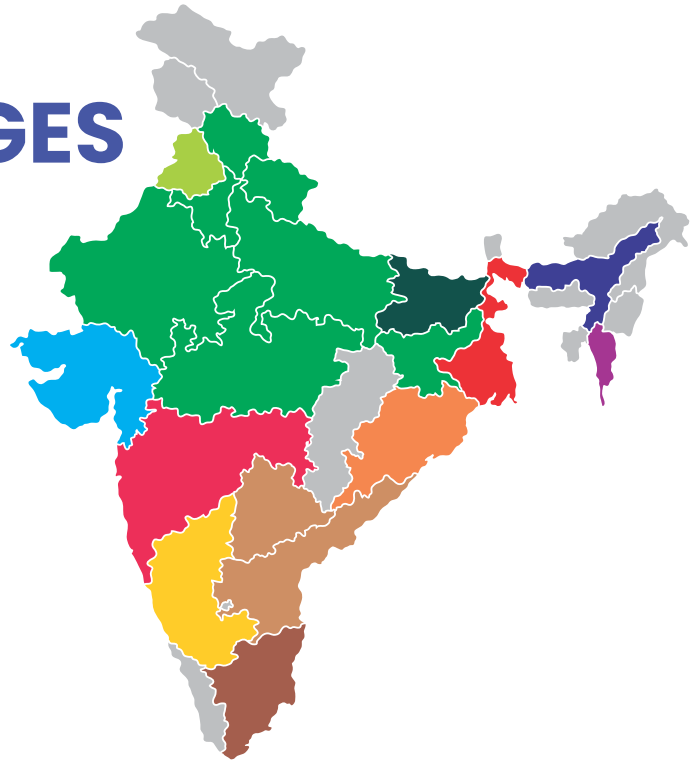
A group of teachers in Malaysia enjoy the ALfA numeracy training
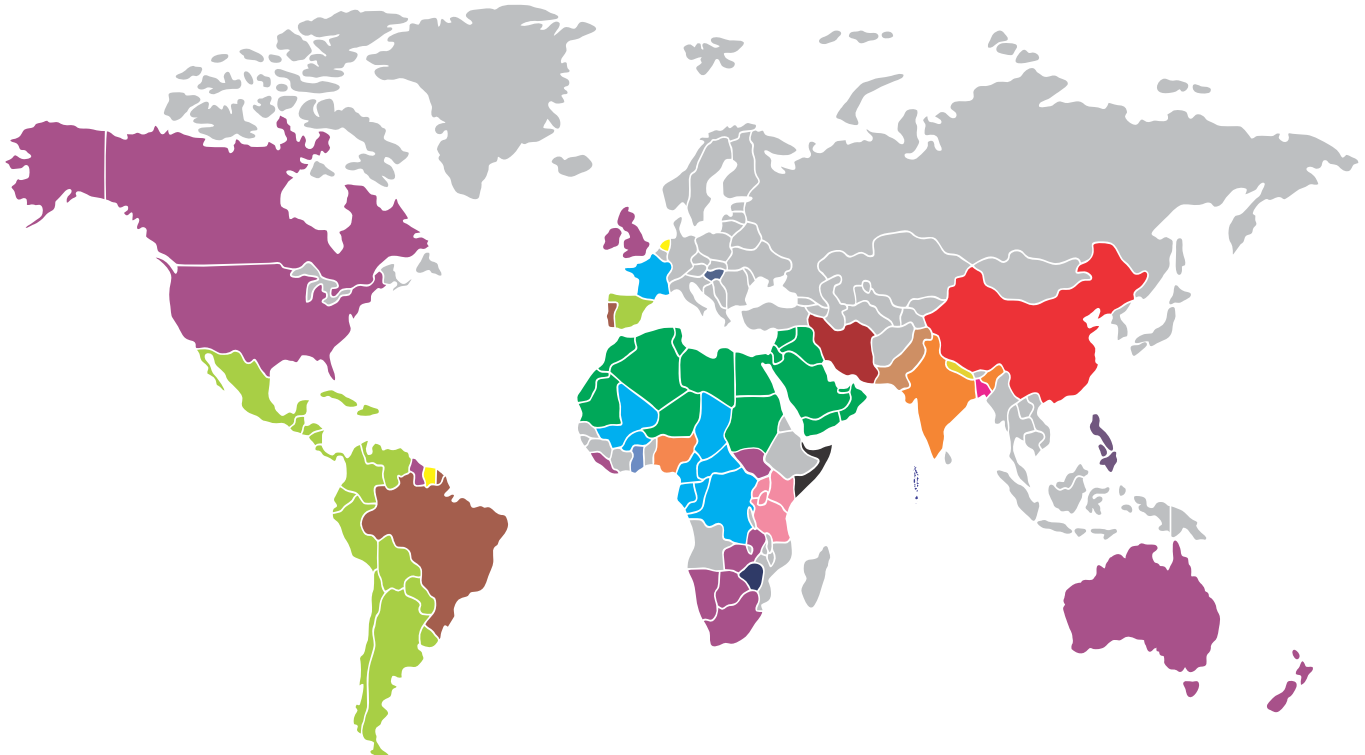
ALfA TOOLKITS
INDIAN LANGUAGES

- Assamese
- Bangla
- Gujarati
- Hindi
- Kannada
- Konkani*
- Maithili
- Marathi
- Mizo
- Odia
- Punjabi
- Tamil
- Telugu

* in process

ALfA TOOLKITS
INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGES

- Arabic
- Bangla
- Dhivehi
- Dutch
- English
- Filipino
- French
- Mandarin
- Nepali
- Persian
- Portuguese*
- Serbian
- Shona
- Spanish
- Swahili
- Twi
- Urdu
- Yoruba
- Somalian*

* in development

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS

Quizizz, International
Massive Open Online Trainings partnership

Teachers Without Borders
Toolkit Replication partnership

World Climate School, Norway
Knowledge & Training

Literacy Chicago, USA
Adult Literacy program

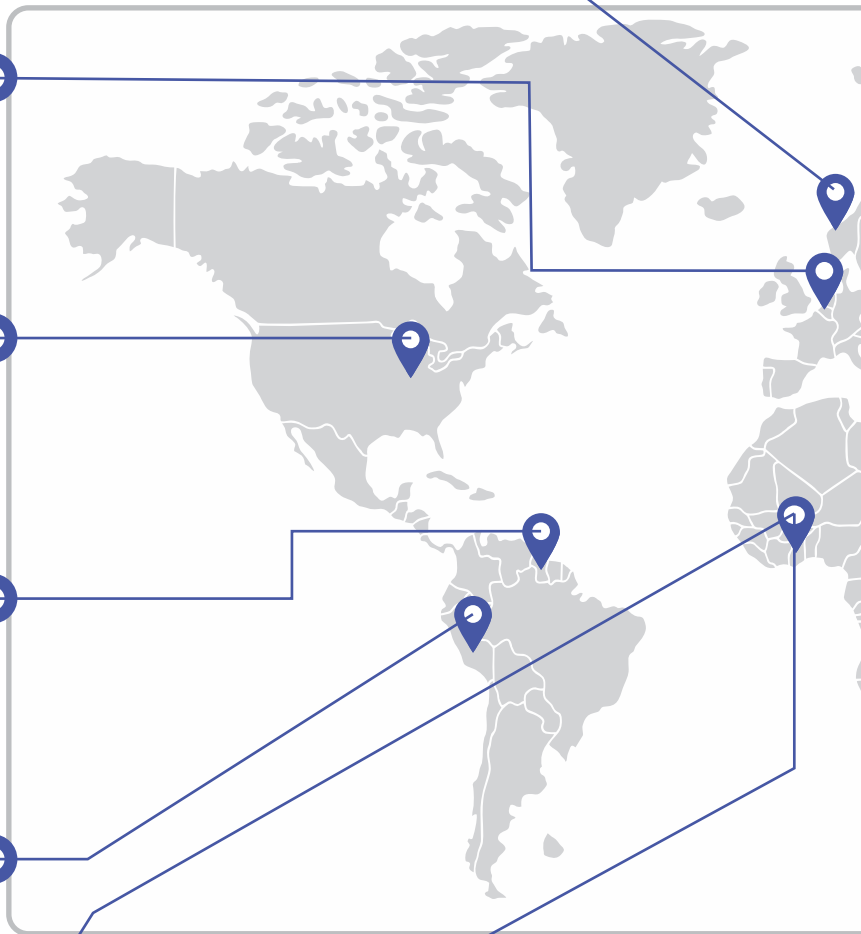**Kupanda Sisters, Guyana**
Single school pilot

Arca Beta, Peru
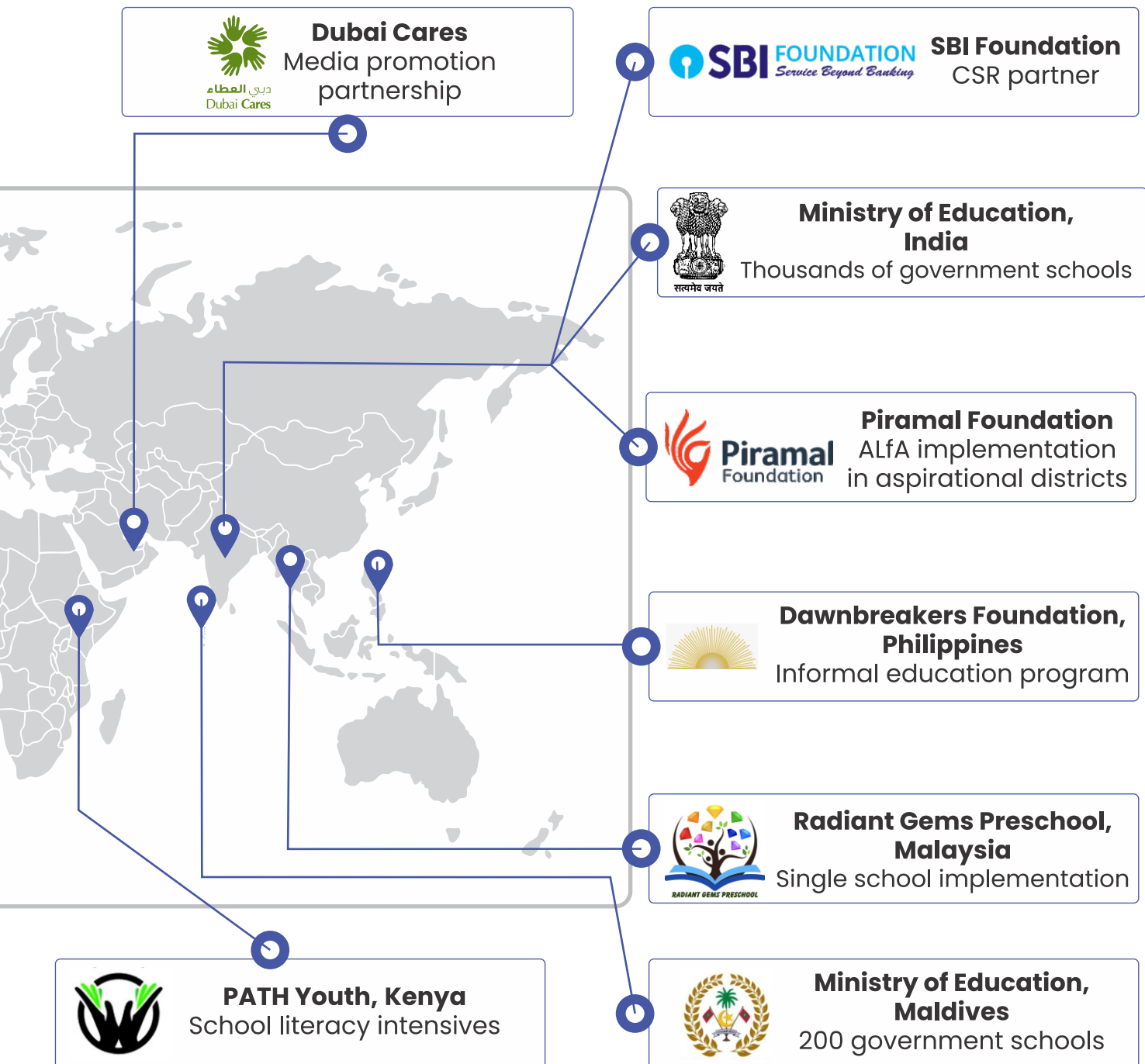Pilot in a school in Amazon

All Africa Students Union
Knowledge & training partnership

Forum for African Women Educationists
Knowledge & training partnership

DEVI Sansthan is collaborating with numerous schools, NGOs and governments around the world in the effort to bring higher quality education for all, with a special focus on disadvantaged groups. From Peru to Chicago, from Maldives to Kenya, ALfA is showcasing impressive results.
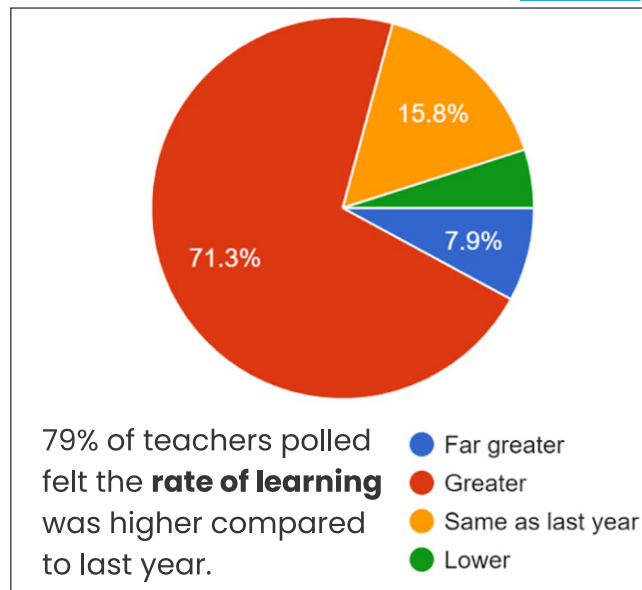
Dubai Cares
Media promotion partnership

SBI Foundation
CSR partner

Ministry of Education, India
Thousands of government schools

Piramal Foundation
ALfA implementation in aspirational districts

Dawnbreakers Foundation, Philippines
Informal education program

Radiant Gems Preschool, Malaysia
Single school implementation

PATH Youth, Kenya
School literacy intensives

Ministry of Education, Maldives
200 government schools

MALDIVES NATIONAL CASE STUDY
SUPPORTED BY UNICEF

The Ministry of Education engaged DEVI Sansthan to undertake an ALfA pilot across the whole country's **200+ schools**. In the first phase of the implementation, 13 schools are implementing ALfA while 5 are serving as a reference.

From September to December 2023, test scores in ALfA schools improved 7 percentage points in English and 11 percentage points in Maths – nearly **double the rate** of improvement compared to reference group schools.

79% of teachers polled felt the **rate of learning** was higher compared to last year.

- 15.8% Same as last year
- 7.9% Far greater
- 71.3% Greater

Legend:
- Far greater
- Greater
- Same as last year
- Lower

Teachers' Testimonies

> *I believe in fostering independent learning and problem-solving, promoting peer collaboration and incorporating reflection opportunities. These strategies empower children to take ownership of their learning journey.*
>
> **– Aysharth Sumaa**

> *In my opinion, ALfA is a great opportunity for students to learn together in a collaborative, friendly environment. Students work together to complete the tasks and modules, as a result, they are very well connected with each other.*
>
> **– Hawwa Lamsha**

> *In my class there was one boy with ADHD. He knew how to read but had difficulty sitting still and doing his work. However, the hands-on activities we carried out in ALfA with paired work helped him improve. He loved doing those activities with his friends.*
>
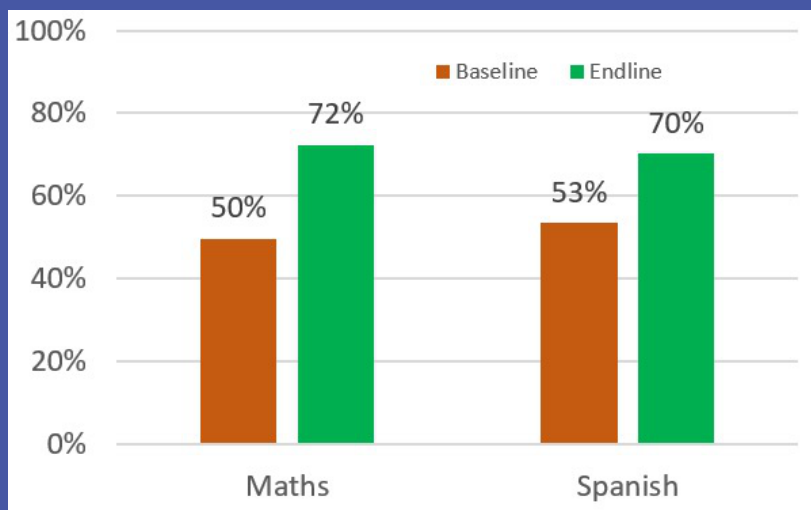> **– Mariyam Zuha**

PERU ALfA IN THE AMAZON

In collaboration with Arca Beta NGO, we are piloting ALfA in a school in the remote Amazon. Results are impressive, and discussions are now underway with government for scaling up.

Click or Scan the **QR code** to read a case study from **Peru**

> "When the students came first, they wrote scribbles; they didn't know how to read. The students began to pronounce the images and words from the communication book. They worked in pairs. They began to form simple words, then more complex words and small sentences. Now, 80% of the students are reading. It is engaging and exciting for the students. Thank you so much. "
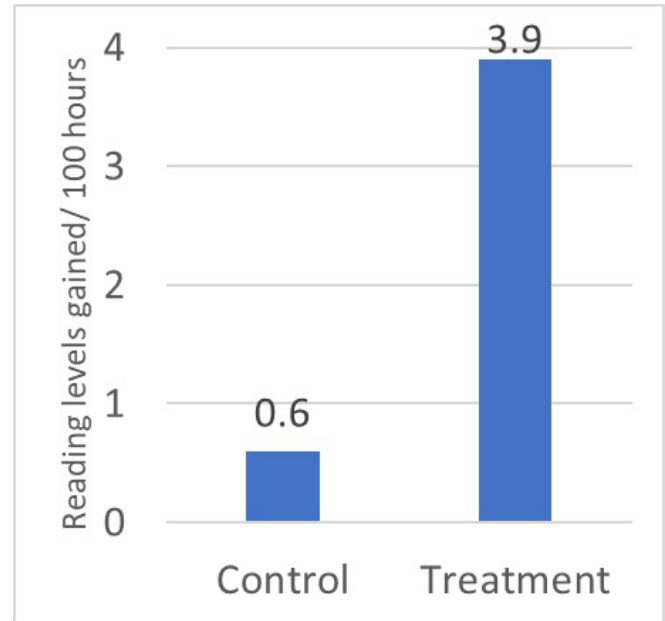
Sheila, Grade 1A Teacher, Sachachorro school, Iquitos, Peru

Test scores in Sachachorro school, before and after 45 day ALfA implementation

USA NO AGE LIMIT FOR EDUCATION

We are working together with Literacy Chicago, who are using the ALfA toolkit to teach adults how to read, write and do basic arithmetic.

Reading Level improvement in ALfA learners was much greater than non-ALfA learners

Click or Scan the **QR code** to watch a video of the first

ALfA learner in Literacy Chicago

Click or Scan the **QR code**

to see how Literacy Chicago is implementing ALfA

> "   This program is fun to teach, easy for students to follow, and creates community and quick, efficient learning. The organisation of the lessons and plans is clear and supportive. I recommend it."

Alexandra Murman, Volunteer, Literacy Chicago

> "A positive aspect of the ALfA reading program is that students can work at their own pace. Some students may go through the first five lessons quickly; others may need to work on them slowly, repeating some over and over. Everyone makes progress, and the beauty of the faces on those who achieve even a little success is inspiring.

Marcia Banzuly, Volunteer, Literacy Chicago

Learners' Perspectives

"It helps me spell. I can focus better and am learning to recognise the sounds." **– Osman**

"Now I can pace myself. You learn the sounds and break down the words to sound them out, it is easier to read." **– Linnea**

"I am making progress learning the sounds of the letters. It is helping me to know the meanings of the words I am reading." **– Dahla**

KENYA FLN INTENSIVE

We are collaborating with Path Youth NGO, who used ALfA materials to run a literacy & numeracy bootcamp for children from the slums of Mombassa.

> During the literacy and numeracy initiative, we observed that students exposed to this pedagogy at devi sansthan consistently demonstrate increased enthusiasm for learning, improved academic performance, and enhanced problem-solving skills. The positive outcomes reflect not only in academic achievements but also inThe development of essential life skills that prepare students for future challenges.
>
> **Salim Ali Mazang'ang'a**
> **Director, Path Youth Organization**

Outcomes

1. **Improved Skills** Improved reading and math skills for 102 children who participated in the bootcamp, as measured by standardized assessments.
2. **Increased confidence** and motivation for learning among children who participated in the bootcamp.
3. **Enhanced teacher capacity** and quality of instruction in literacy and numeracy.
4. **Strengthened community involvement** and support for children's literacy and numeracy development, as the volunteer teachers were community members.

Click or Scan the
QR code to read a letter from PathYouth
director endorsing the ALfA pedagogy

Learners' Testimonies

> I am very grateful to be part of this literacy and numeracy bootcamp. I have learned a lot, and now I have more confidence in reading and counting. Thank you for providing this opportunity to improve our education.

> This bootcamp has completely changed my life. I had significant difficulties with reading and counting, but now I can say I have gained enough skills to overcome those challenges. I thank all the teachers for their dedication.

> The literacy and numeracy bootcamp has made a significant difference in my life. I was very worried about my learning abilities, but now I can proudly celebrate my achievements. Thank you for providing this essential service.

MALAYSIA TRAINING REIMAGINED

Teachers, principals & government officials gathered together from eight different countries to join an interactive workshop on the ALfA pedagogy, sowing the seeds for ALfA to bloom in South-East Asia. In Malaysia, we began an ALfA pilot in collaboration with Radiant Gems Preschool.

Click or Scan the **QR code** to watch **Dr. Gandhi conduct a training in Malaysia.**

PHILIPPINES A NEW DAWN

Having partnered with Dawnbreakers Foundation to replicate the material in Filipino, they are now using it to teach in a remote area of Mindoro.

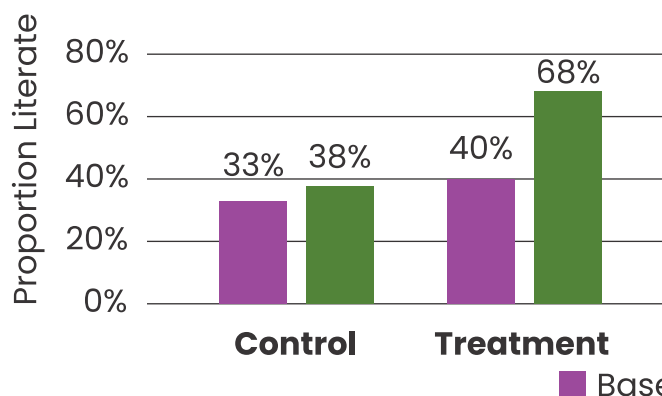Read our report on International ALfA partners
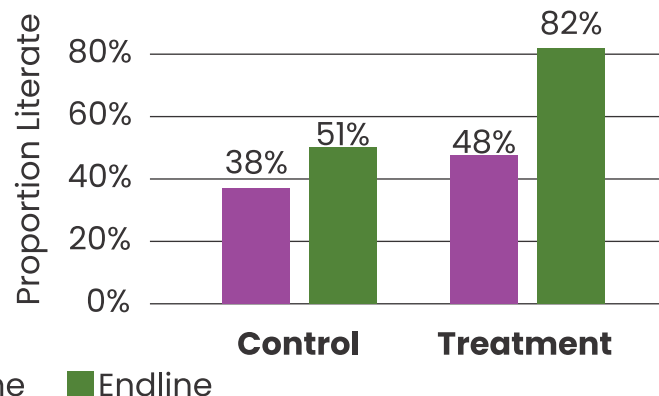
GHANA TRIPLE THE LEARNING

Implementation in 6 schools with 3 as control, in collaboration with Olinga Foundation. The treatment group saw 3x - 5x greater rates of learning.

Grade 5 Test Scores

Proportion Literate

Control: Baseline 33%, Endline 38%
Treatment: Baseline 40%, Endline 68%

Grade 6 Test Scores

Proportion Literate

Control: Baseline 38%, Endline 51%
Treatment: Baseline 48%, Endline 82%

Legend: ■ Baseline ■ Endline

Every word read
is a step towards
a brighter future

**Together, we can make Uttar Pradesh Literate in 2025
and an example for India and the rest of the world.**

DEVI SANSTHAN
Dignity Education
Vision International
Leave no one behind

ALfA ACCELERATING LEARNING FOR ALL

FAST-TRACKING FOUNDATIONAL LITERACY & NUMERACY

DEVI Sansthan (Dignity Education Vision International) is an NGO with a big vision: to help India and the world achieve universal Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN). DEVI Sansthan is pioneering transformative pedagogies, empowering teachers, and leveraging policy change to enable rapid gains towards literacy for all.

+91 740 840 6000   info@dignityeducation.org   dignityeducation.org