

10XGOOD

**FAST-TRACKING MOTHER
TONGUE LITERACY:
DEVI SANSTHAN'S BOLD RESPONSE
TO THE AGE OF AI & CLIMATE CHANGE**
-PG 06

**CHANGING LIVES:
HDFC BANK'S
PARVARTAN REVOLUTION**
-PG 50



10XGOOD

10XGOOD: AMPLIFYING SDGS BY LEVERAGING LITERACY

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Editorial

10XGood
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Dear Readers,

Welcome to the inaugural issue of 10XGood, a unique initiative from DEVI Sansthan (Dignity, Education, Vision International) in media partnership with The Good Sight.

Our primary focus is on literacy for climate change, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - two interconnected elements vital to the sustainability and prosperity of our shared global community.

Our aim with 10XGood is simple: we want to share stories, ideas, and strategies that fuel the collective quest for a better world. We are proud to launch this magazine to facilitate engagements that catalyze tenfold growth in goodness across the world.

As an organization, DEVI Sansthan has been deeply committed to promoting dignity and education and fostering a global vision. This magazine is an extension of these commitments. We believe in the transformative power of literacy, which goes far beyond basic reading and writing skills. Literacy is the bridge that connects individuals with opportunities, societies with prosperity, and economies with sustainable growth.

The importance of literacy cannot be overstated in our path towards the SDGs. Each of the 17 goals, from eradicating poverty to ensuring gender equality, from creating sustainable cities to fostering innovation, is intrinsically linked with education and literacy.

In each edition of 10XGood, we will spotlight projects, initiatives, and people working tirelessly towards improving literacy rates and advancing SDGs. We will provide a platform for sharing insights, challenging ideas, and sparking conversations that matter. We will strive to inspire, inform, and involve you in this exciting journey towards a world that is not just twice, but ten times better.

The potential for change is vast, and the rewards are significant. Every step taken, every individual empowered, and every goal reached is a step towards that tenfold growth in goodness.

Together, we can be catalysts for change. Together, we can drive forward progress on literacy and SDGs. And together, we can achieve 10XGood.



Editor

Dr. Sunita Gandhi

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Fast-Tracking Mother-tongue Literacy in the Age of AI & Climate Change

- By Dr. Sunita Gandhi

Accelerating foundational literacy in the age of AI and climate change is vital for empowering individuals and communities to address urgent challenges

In the age of AI and climate change, the need for fast-tracking foundational literacy becomes even more crucial. Climate change poses unprecedented challenges that require informed and engaged individuals to drive sustainable solutions. Foundational

literacy equips people with the knowledge and critical thinking skills necessary to understand the consequences of climate change, protect their families and communities from the consequences of climate change, and actively participate in climate action initiatives.



Literacy is at the heart of all SDGs and climate action. It is one action that can bridge the digital divide in the age of AI. Mother-tongue literacy need not take years as it has taken in the past. New methods and a vastly more transformative pedagogy are capable of filling the literacy gap within weeks.

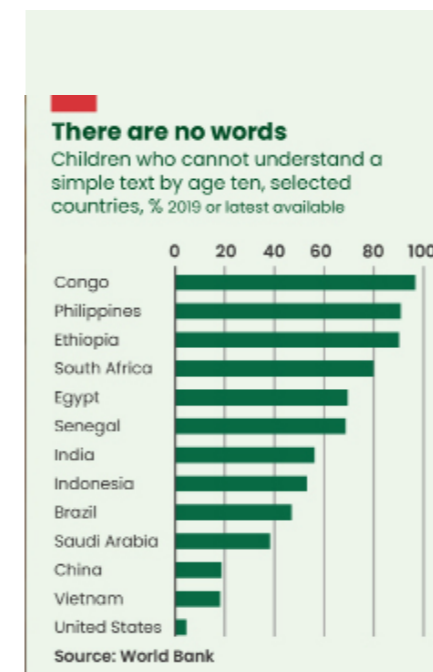
Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) stands at the core of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It is an essential skill that empowers individuals to actively participate in various domains of life, such as education, employment, health, gender equality, and poverty reduction.

The COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated the already huge literacy challenge. Disturbingly, in many countries like the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Philippines, 90% of 10-year-olds cannot read a simple text with comprehension. Only 30% of 10-year-olds can read (UNICEF). The recovery from this setback is a critical priority, then going beyond pre-Covid levels of literacy to attaining universal literacy as fast as possible.

Failure to bridge the gap between the illiterate and the literate will widen the divide even further, creating a stark contrast between those who can leverage AI and those left behind. Moreover, the historical significance of literacy is underscored by its impressive return on investment (ROI), estimated at seven times the initial investment. The costs of slow progress of literacy are colossal, and unimaginable.



ALfA emphasizes learning in pairs.



The literacy gap is stark and real.

The urgency for global literacy has never been greater, reminiscent of the time when people had to adapt to the newly industrializing world during the Industrial Revolution. To address this challenge, policymakers, educators, and stakeholders must prioritize foundational literacy to unlock its transformative potential.

By equipping individuals with the ability to read, write, and comprehend, foundational literacy lays the groundwork for their active engagement in addressing the global challenges outlined in the SDGs.

One system that exemplifies the efficacy of evidence-based approaches is ALfA (Accelerating Learning for All). The pedagogy encourages learners to discover facts independently, using their visual understanding of the environment and cognitive connections to scaffold learning from simple to complex. ALfA emphasizes learning in pairs and organizes learning experiences from known to unknown, collaborate, exchange knowledge, and co-create their learning. By doing so, it fast-tracks learning. It further fosters inclusive societies, empowers individuals, and helps build a future focused on the collective good.



A revolutionary new approach is engaging children and giving them the agency to learn by working with each other in pairs. Learning is exploding along with climate consciousness, citizenship, character and connectedness (social-emotional-mental well-being).

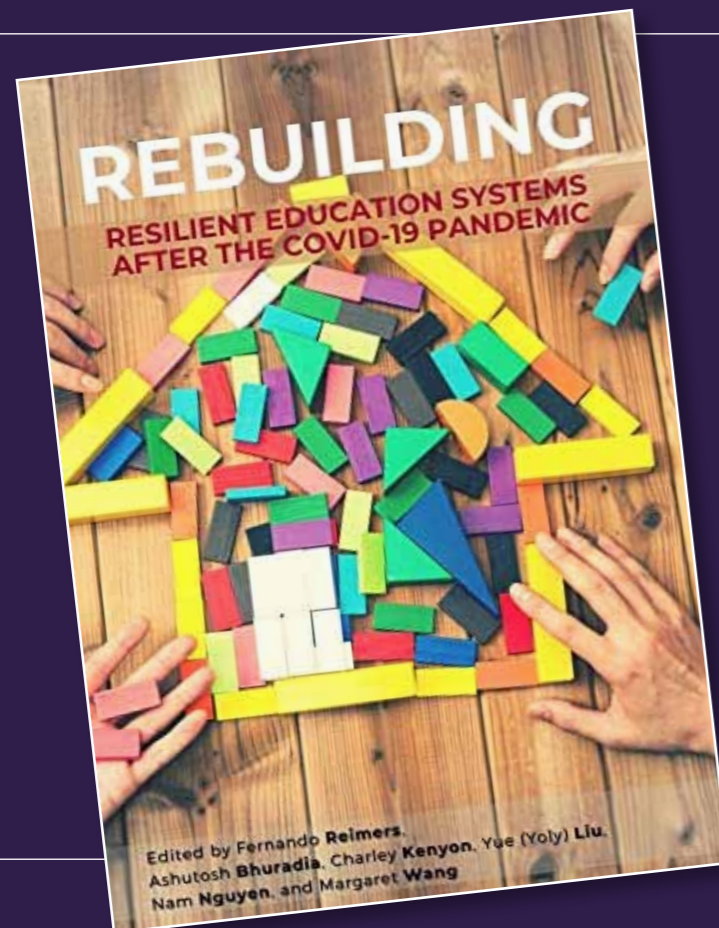
The disruptive pedagogy of ALfA revolutionizes the process of learning by employing innovative techniques and materials. The study materials used in ALfA consist of simple prompts with visuals that encourage action between two children working

as a pair. Instead of relying on extensive textbooks and workbooks, ALfA utilizes thin booklets comprising only 15 to 20 pages per child, significantly reducing the volume of materials. This streamlined approach enables children to learn both reading

and writing skills, starting from zero knowledge of letters and progressing to Grade 3 proficiency in just 30-45 days. Similarly, a few additional pages per child are sufficient to achieve Grade 3 proficiency in numeracy.



MOTHER TONGUE LITERACY: 30-45 days is all it takes using ALfA Way App beginning to be adopted worldwide in different nations.



The ALfA revolution has been documented in Chapters 8 and 10 by Harvard Graduate School of Education in a recent book: Rebuilding Resilient Education Systems After the COVID-19 Pandemic.



<https://www.amazon.com/Rebuilding-Resilient-Education-COVID-19-Pandemic-ebook/dp/B0BXH9T5TS>



MOTHER TONGUE LITERACY: 30-45 days is all it takes using ALfA 40-page booklet for Literacy (Reading & Writing) and 20-page booklet to take a child from ground zero to Grade 3 level in foundational skills of literacy and numeracy using a vastly disruptive pedagogy of ALfA. Further, the booklets are shared by two children working in a pair for one period per subject for just 30 to 45 school days to master the FLN skills and go beyond the class / grade requirements. The materials used for learning develop environmental consciousness. Once the children have learned the skill to read, they read stories and roleplays on climate action and citizenship.



Roleplays and stories not only reinforce reading with fluency and understanding, they also build climate consciousness and climate action. Roleplays are designed to develop citizenship, social-emotional-mental well-being and character.

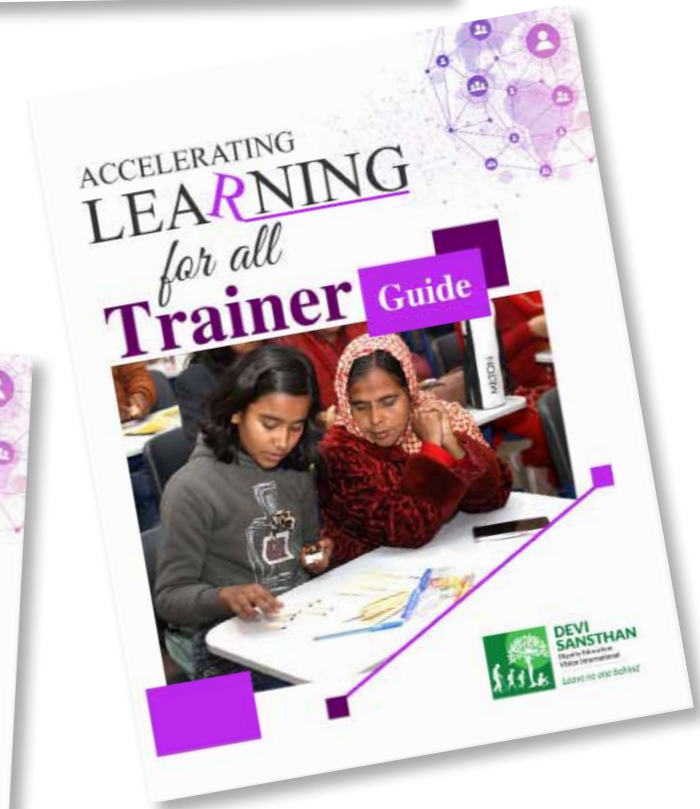
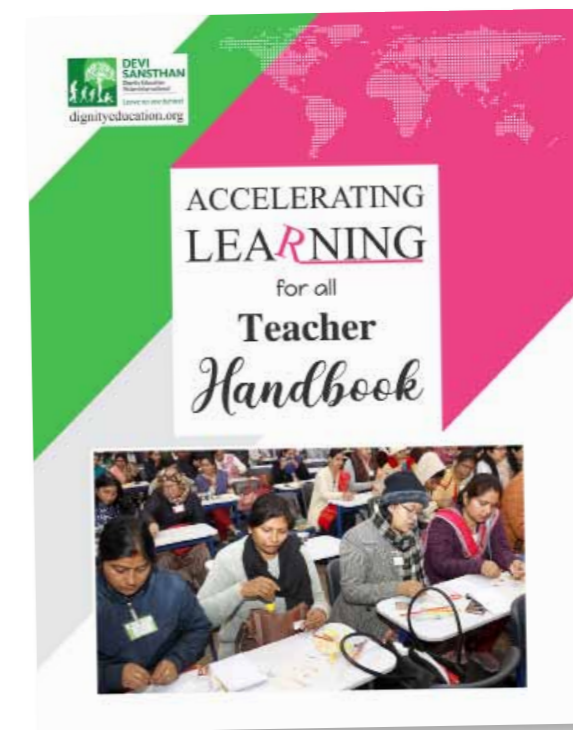
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Low-to-no cost Mother Tongue Fast-Track Literacy is presently available in 30 languages (15 Indian and 15 international).

ALfA in 30+ Languages

FRENCH	FLN FLN FLN	KISWAHILI	FLN FLN FLN
GLOBAL GLOBAL GLOBAL	GLOBAL GLOBAL GLOBAL	GLOBAL GLOBAL GLOBAL	GLOBAL GLOBAL GLOBAL
EXISTING LANGUAGES			
Arabic	Serbian	Shona	Marathi
Bangladeshi	Spanish	Assamese	Mizo
Dhivehi*	Swahili	Bengali	Odia
Dutch	Somalian*	Gujarati	Punjabi
English	Twi (akan kasa)	Hindi	Tamil
Filipino	Yoruba	Kannada	Telugu
French	Portuguese*	Korikani*	Urdu
Nepalese	Persian*	Malhill	* In process
OTHER LANGUAGES			
GOAL 100 languages by March 2024		Help us replicate the ALfA Toolkits in your own language (not included above). It takes just one month on part-time basis.	

ALfA's reach is extensive, as it is available in 30 languages, with more being added continuously. Alongside its primary focus on literacy, ALfA integrates climate consciousness into its learning design. Once learners acquire the skill to read, which typically takes just four weeks with ALfA, they engage with storybooks on climate change and participate in roleplays centered around citizenship, connectedness (social-emotional-mental well-being), and character development. This holistic approach ensures that learners become well-rounded individuals who are equipped to tackle the challenges of the current era in a more effective and informed manner. ALfA's pedagogy not only facilitates skill acquisition but also nurtures a sense of responsibility and empowerment in learners, preparing them to make climate-conscious choices and contribute positively to their communities.



Training of teachers and trainers through Massive Open Online Training has been a breakthrough leveraging the power of technology to reach to far corners of the world. The first MOOT in March 2023 attracted participation from 53 countries and 26 states and union territories of India.

ALfA literacy education extends beyond reading and writing skills. It encompasses climate action, citizenship, character development, and connectedness (social-emotional-mental well-being). By integrating these elements into literacy programs, we can empower learners to actively engage with global challenges, develop a sense of responsibility towards their communities, foster positive

values and ethical behavior, and cultivate meaningful connections with others. By emphasizing learning in pairs, ALfA cultivates a sense of agency and ownership of one's learning creating a collaborative learning environment that promotes knowledge sharing, community engagement, and collective problem-solving.

ALfA (Accelerating Learning for All) is a groundbreaking

educational system that not only addresses foundational literacy but also integrates climate change education seamlessly. ALfA recognizes the interconnectedness between literacy, climate change, and sustainable development. By going beyond foundational skills and addressing multiple competencies, we can narrow the gap between the illiterate and the literate in this age of AI.

As the world becomes increasingly reliant on AI, the speed at which we achieve global literacy has become of utmost importance. Fast-tracking foundational literacy in the age of AI and climate change is a crucial step towards empowering individuals and communities to address the pressing challenges of our time. Through innovative approaches like ALfA, which seamlessly integrates climate change education into the curriculum, learners not only acquire essential literacy skills but also develop environmental stewardship. By equipping future generations with this knowledge and empowering them to take action, we can build a more resilient, climate-conscious, and sustainable future for all.



Children taking charge of their own learning by using a known-to-unknown pedagogy that is speeding up learning for all children including the special needs children. It is an inclusive education the world needs today.



Besides the competencies of reading, writing and arithmetic, the children are learning communication, critical thinking and creativity. Beyond collaboration, they are learning connectedness that develops their social-emotional-mental well-being.

In conclusion, the speed at which we achieve global literacy has become of utmost importance in this age of AI. A paradigm shift in education is necessary, one that ensures equitable access to quality education for all. Only then can we bridge the gap, empower learners, and create a more inclusive society that is not left behind.

From Cannes to COP 28 to the next TES, these reports are the basis of policy dialogue and urgently needed actions. They point out the road maps to reach foundational literacy and numeracy in record time. Speed is of the essence and systemic systemwide change is the need of the hour.

Dr. Sunita Gandhi, CEO of DEVI Sansthan (Dignity Education Vision International), is a distinguished professional with a background as a former economist at the World Bank and a PhD in Physics from Cambridge University. She also serves as the Director of Academics at City Montessori School (CMS), the world's largest school.



10X LITERACY

Uniting Climate Action &
SDGs for Sustainable Change

20 to 22 JULY, 2023

- 10X Pedagogy
- 10X Policy
- 10X People's Movement

You are INVITED

Join us at the Synergy Summit 2.0 on "10X Literacy: Uniting Climate Action and Sustainable Development." This event brings together passionate individuals and organizations committed to addressing the SDGs, focusing on the twin emergencies of literacy and climate change.

Literacy is a powerful catalyst for positive change, empowering individuals and communities to create a sustainable future. It plays a crucial role in eradicating poverty, improving health outcomes, promoting gender equality, and unlocking economic opportunities. Together, let's tackle the challenge of low literacy rates and climate change, and explore innovative approaches to accelerate progress of the SDGs.

Register now for the Synergy Summit 2.0. Join us in shaping a future that is ten times brighter.

*"Alone, we can do so little;
together, we can do so much."
- Helen Keller*

Pictures and images are from last year's Synergy Summit 1.0 on the theme: A Paradigm Shift in FLN, 11-12 July, India International Centre, New Delhi.



Dr. Sunita Gandhi

Convenor
CEO, DEVI Sansthan
Former Economist
The World Bank, USA
Ph.D., Physics
Cambridge University, UK

THEME 1

10X Pedagogy



Discover groundbreaking pedagogical approaches that accelerate literacy. Explore success stories, innovative methods, and ideas for achieving 10X literacy. Experience a compelling case study on ALfA (Accelerating Learning for All), showcasing the potential for widespread transformation.

THEME 2

10X Policy



Understand the pivotal role of policy in supporting effective pedagogy and maximizing its impact on literacy. Learn how strategic policies can create an enabling environment for transformative literacy initiatives, driving sustainable change.

THEME 3

10X Peoples Movement



Gain valuable insights from global mass movements and witness the transformative power of collective action. Uncover the key leadership strategies and actionable steps that governments must undertake to propel time-bound, focused mass movements for swift advancements in universal literacy and 10X climate change.

Be a CATALYST

Be at Synergy Summit 2.0



Register Now

Secure your spot and be part of a transformative journey at Synergy Summit 2.0. Together, let's engage in strategic discussions, forge alliances, and explore opportunities to drive impactful change.

International Participants

International participants may attend online. Link will be provided after registration.



REGISTER NOW

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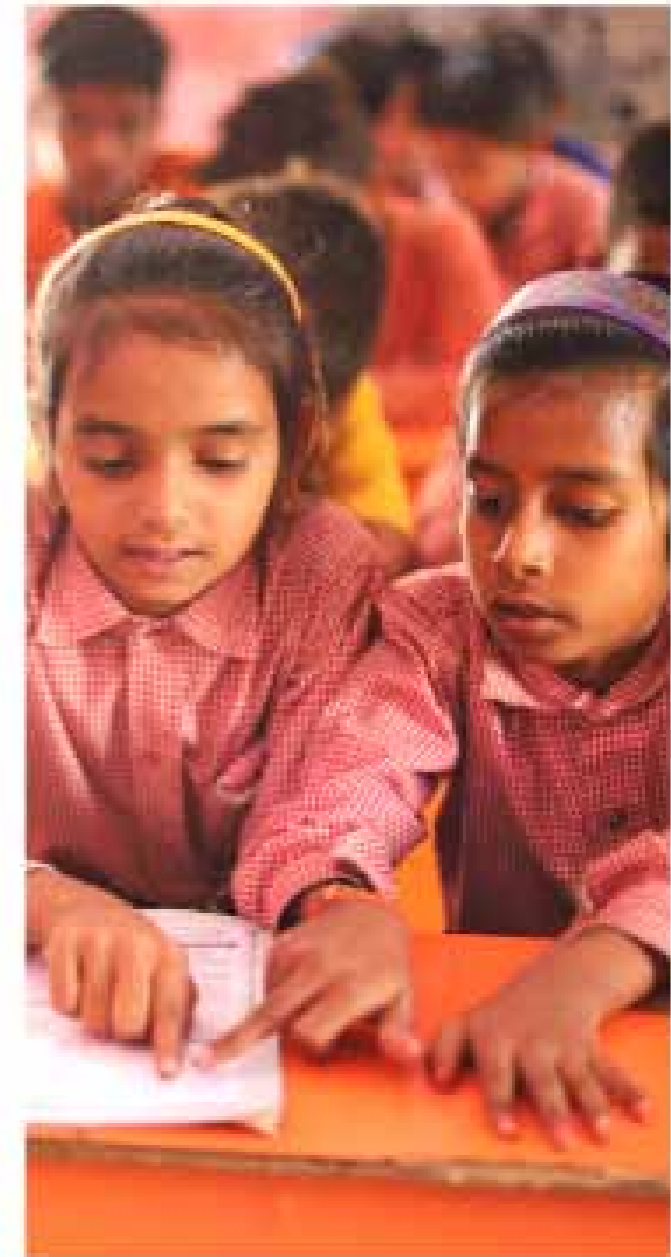
✉ summit@dignityeducation.org
🌐 dignityeducation.org/synergysummit



Accelerating Learning for All

At the heart of DEVI Sansthan's transformative approach is Accelerating Learning for All (ALFA), a revolutionary program available in 30 languages worldwide. ALFA bypasses the traditional alphabet-based learning approach, utilizing the power of paired learning to fast-track Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) in just 45 days. Since its launch in 2022, ALFA has grown swiftly, expanding from twenty schools in two districts to hundreds of schools across five districts. It is now slated for further expansion, including nationwide adoption in the Maldives.

ALFA goes beyond basic literacy, incorporating global citizenship, social-emotional-mental well-being, character development, climate consciousness, and essential skills such as collaboration, communication, creativity, and critical thinking. It employs storytelling and role plays to teach climate change knowledge, inspiring students to become climate activists while minimizing environmental impact through low-carbon footprint materials.



Introducing DEVI SANSTHAN

DEVI Sansthan is a global non-profit organization at the forefront of spearheading educational transformation. With a vision of achieving universal literacy, DEVI Sansthan researches and implements techniques that are swift, scalable, and replicable, leading to significant and rapid change. The organization's approach goes beyond literacy, integrating global citizenship skills, social-emotional-mental well-being, and climate change education.

DEVI Sansthan's inclusive approach ensures quality education is accessible to all, irrespective of socio-economic background. It aligns with India's NIPUN (National Initiative for Proficiency in reading with Understanding and Numeracy) Bharat Mission in government schools, working towards achieving Universal FLN in primary education in India ahead of the target set for 2026/27.

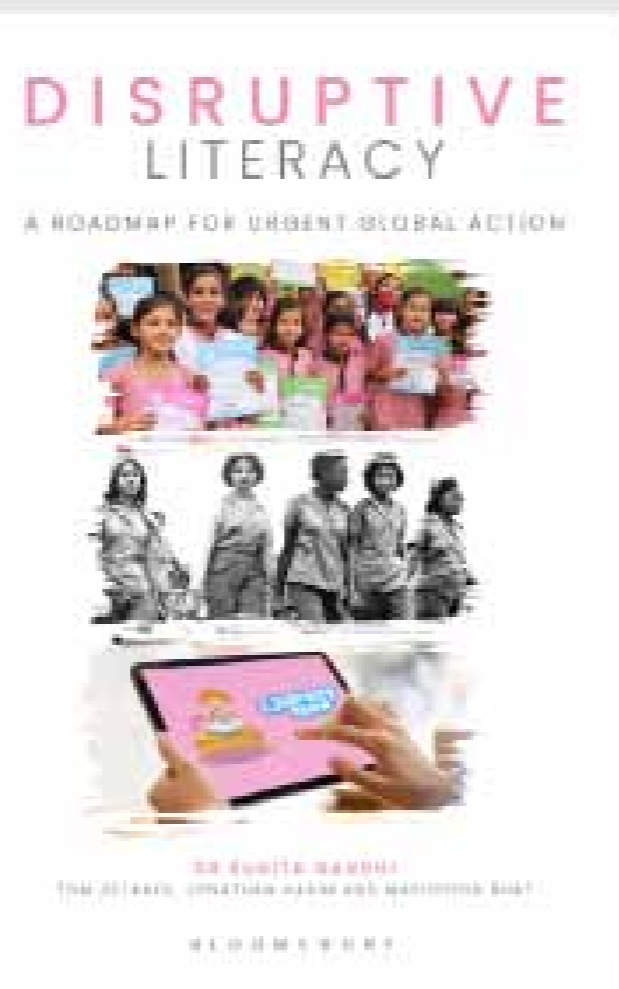
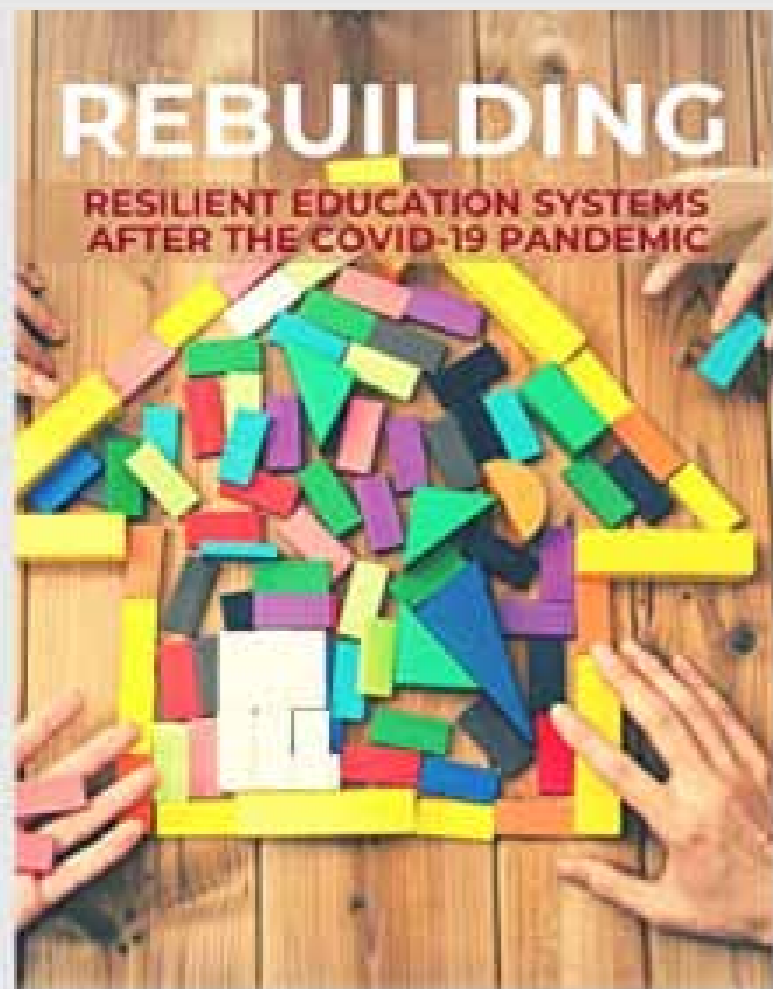


Impacts & Recognition

One notable achievement of DEVI Sansthan has been the large-scale survey conducted in the Lucknow district in 2015, which assessed the literacy levels of 1.5 million individuals. The results were published in esteemed journals, such as the Economic & Political Weekly of India and the Journal of New Economics at Glasgow University, UK. This research has been recognized globally and was even presented during COP26 by DEVI Sansthan's founder, Dr. Sunita Gandhi.

Dr. Gandhi's influential book, "Disruptive Literacy: A Roadmap for Urgent Global Action," draws insights from people's movements worldwide and advocates for mass mobilization as an effective strategy to improve literacy among adults and out-of-school children. DEVI Sansthan has also been implementing the Each One Teach One campaign since 2014, leveraging the efforts of 500,000 adolescent student volunteers.

The ALFA approach has gained support of leaders in India such as Rajnath Singh (Defence Minister), Yogi Adityanath (UP Chief Minister) and Anita Karwal (Former Secretary, Ministry of Education). It has also received extensive national and international press coverage, and was recently featured in a book by the Harvard Graduate School of Education.



ALFA in

Peru



Guyana



USA



Maldives



ALfA in

Sambalpur, Odisha



Lucknow, UP



Unnao, UP



Shamli, UP



In Barabanki, UP



Partnering for Change

DEVI Sansthan facilitates forums that bring together policy makers, educational thinkers, and practitioners to exchange ideas and collaborate. For instance, the Disruptive Talks for Literacy have featured over 180 speakers from 22 countries – including Robert Jenkins, UNICEF head of education & adolescent development, and Vicky Colbert, former Colombian education minister. There are many networking opportunities and cross-fertilisation of ideas and best practices at in-person events such as the EdLeadership Conference and Synergy Summit, as well as online meetings like the Policymakers Conclave.

DEVI Sansthan serves as a knowledge partner for numerous national and international NGOs, implementing community-based interventions to enhance Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) for children and illiterate adult women. The organization collaborates with diverse stakeholders, including Literacy Chicago in the USA, the Forum for African Women Educationists, Arca Beta in Peru, and the All-Africa Students Union, among others, to implement literacy programs worldwide. DEVI Sansthan's collaboration with these stakeholders underscores its commitment to making a global impact on education.



By driving educational transformation and prioritizing universal literacy, DEVI Sansthan is paving the way for a brighter future. Through its research-backed techniques, global collaborations, and innovative ALfA program, the organization is equipping individuals with the necessary skills and knowledge to thrive in a rapidly changing world. DEVI Sansthan's holistic approach, integrating literacy, global citizenship, and well-being, ensures that education goes beyond traditional boundaries, empowering learners to become active participants in shaping a better society.



Alfa Accelerating Learning for All

High Five!

Teachers congratulate each other on solving a maths question using hands-on materials during a training



Scan QR Code
Alfa: A Compendium

10XGOOD

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Editorial

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FROM INSIGHTS TO IMPACT: JOIN THE JOURNEY TOWARDS CHANGE

Dear Readers,

Welcome to another inspiring issue of the 10X Good Magazine, your go-to source for innovative perspectives, audacious ideas, and potent interventions in the realm of social good. We guide you through a diverse set of narratives, interlacing thought leadership with pioneering actions, to showcase change at the frontiers of social impact.

In this edition, we spotlight the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), exploring their role in creating an equitable, inclusive, and sustainable world. Our features encompass youth mobilization, literacy & education, community partnerships, environment, livelihoods, solar energy, water, and more - all vital for human progress.

Our cover story focuses on literacy, the linchpin of individual empowerment and economic growth, holds a central position in our discussions. We unravel new perspectives that compel us to rethink the way we approach literacy education. Traditional pedagogies, often insular and protracted, have proven insufficient to address global literacy disparities rapidly. Our exploration of innovative methodologies promises to shed light on the urgency of a pedagogical revolution, with stories from across the globe underscoring the transformative power of change.

The beauty of the 10X Good Magazine lies not just in its diverse content but in its commitment to stir dialogue and inspire action. As you immerse yourself in the diverse narratives within these pages, we encourage you to engage with the ideas, ponder the insights, and join the conversations about these critical issues.

Each article is a catalyst for change, each idea a seed for transformation. We hope that our stories will inspire you to view the world from different perspectives and instigate you to become a part of the solutions in your unique ways.

Remember, the 10X Good Magazine isn't just about reporting change; it's about fueling it. We urge you to dive in, engage, debate, and be a part of our mission to make the world ten times better, one issue, one idea, and one action at a time.

Here's to a shared journey towards impact.

Editor

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Founder-CEO, DEVI Sansthan
Former Economist, The World Bank, USA
Ph.D., Physics, Cambridge University, UK
Chief Advisor, Academics, City Montessori School, Lucknow, World's Largest School (a Guinness World Record)



45-Day Literacy Revolution:

The Dramatic Impact of an Unconventional Pedagogy

This write-up investigates ALfA (Accelerated Learning for All), a groundbreaking literacy education method, contrasts it with traditional techniques, and emphasizes its capacity to enhance literacy results swiftly and efficiently

“Improving literacy rates is a critical step in reducing poverty and promoting economic growth. One extra year of schooling can increase an individual’s earning power by 10% on average.”

– The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD; 2019)

“Literacy is a key factor in achieving economic and social development, as it is associated with higher earnings and better employment opportunities. Literacy also has a positive impact on health and social participation, as well as on women’s empowerment and gender equality.”

– UNESCO

“The return on investment for every dollar spent on a girl’s education can be as high as \$10 in some developing countries.”

– United Nations Population Fund

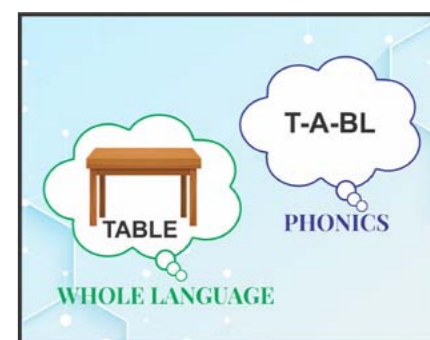


Return on investment in literacy, especially on literacy of women are the highest of any other development goal. They have also an intergenerational impact. When children learn to read, they are more able to continue with their education. This impacts their entire lives. It is quick and easy to teach with new groundbreaking methods.

If children can’t read now, they’re risking a future trapped in lifelong poverty. Literacy education plays a vital role in empowering individuals. While the pedagogy used to teach reading is crucial for quick improvements in literacy in India and globally, most literacy programs neglect to evaluate it. Prevailing reading programs often follow traditional approaches, such as the whole language, phonics, or balanced phonics that take three years or more to make a child literate.

Understanding Traditional Approaches to Reading Development

Phonics or Whole Language?
A Balanced Approach?



Whole Language Approach:

The whole language approach focuses on the meaning of the text and emphasizes reading for comprehension rather than decoding individual words. We all most likely learned to read this way. In India, and worldwide, this is the pre-dominant way children learn to read.

Phonics Approach:

The phonics approach emphasizes the relationship between letters and sounds, helping children decode and read words accurately. In a phonics-based reading program, students learn letter-sound correspondences. Teachers may use phonics games, flashcards, and word-building activities to reinforce the understanding of letter-sound relationships. Students practice

blending sounds to read words and sentences.

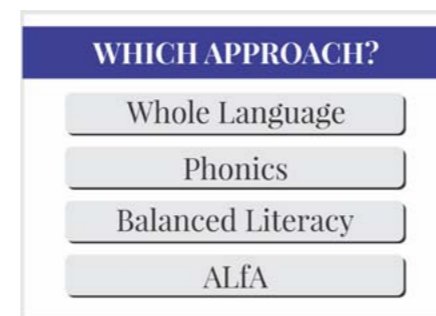
Balanced Phonics Approach:

The balanced phonics approach combines elements of both whole language and phonics, integrating sight words, context, and phonetic principles.

There are proponents and critics of both of these traditional methods that often result in prolonged learning periods, with children taking several years to develop reading proficiency. In many cases, students struggle with basic reading skills even after three to five years of instruction, leading to low reading comprehension and meaning-making abilities.

The Reading Wars Debate: The

“reading wars” debate refers to the ongoing discussion and disagreement among educators and researchers regarding the most effective approach to teaching reading. Proponents of the whole language approach argue for the importance of meaning-making and context, while proponents of phonics advocate for explicit instruction in letter-sound correspondences. The debate has shaped the landscape of literacy education for decades.



A fresh methodology is demonstrating remarkable speed and effectiveness. This approach empowers both children and adults to attain reading proficiency in just 45 instructional days. The roots of this program lie in eight years of diligent research conducted in

the slums and villages of Lucknow. Launched in 2022, the program is currently operational in two dozen districts across India. Its success has led to its adoption by a whole nation, the Maldives, with 12 more countries poised to implement it. This does beg the question - how

can foundational literacy be acquired in just 45 instructional days? Seeing is believing. There is growing evidence of the same including from Harvard Graduate School of Education.

The ALfA Method: Accelerating Learning for All



ALfA—A New Disruptive Approach



“ALfA, Accelerating Learning for All, is an engaging and effective process of learning in pairs. It is child-led and child-centric. Teacher is a galvanizer who provides triggers for children’s learning. These are provided in the ALfA Toolkits which consist of very thin booklets, acting as triggers for children’s expanded learning.”

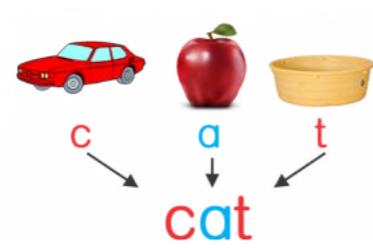
“Children take turns to decode first sounds from ‘known’ pictures from their environment, then blend two or more sounds to make words on their own from the beginning. They do not need to learn letters first (this alone saves 1 to 2 years). Children create and co-create questions for each other and take responsibility for their peers’ learning. Peers are allocated randomly and changed frequently so that all children learn to work with the entire class.”

Contrasting ALfA with Traditional Approaches:

ALfA presents a distinct departure from traditional methods. It eliminates rote learning and the strict alphabetical order of letters found in whole language and phonics approaches. It also avoids overemphasis on letter-sound associations that define phonics instruction. By departing from these traditional approaches, ALfA opens new possibilities for accelerating learning of reading.

Early Decoding and Blending: In the ALfA method, early decoding and blending of sounds is prioritized. However, these sounds are not derived from individual letters, but rather from familiar words, accompanied by illustrative pictures.

ALfA flips the conventional teaching approach, starting not with unknown letters or sounds but with



familiar visual cues from a child's environment. For example, a child familiar with the English language will recognize a picture of a car and can decode the first sound "ka or /c/" in "car." This approach facilitates rapid progress in decoding and blending sounds to form words. Children can go from "car" /c/, "apple" /a/, "top" /t/ to make the word "cat" on their own on the very first day. This kind of learning sticks and is rarely forgotten. In ten days, they not only master the letters but also read over 500 words. This is not only possible, it is taking place in schools implementing ALfA across geographies.

Known Pictures as a Starting Point:

ALfA starts with known pictures from the environment of the child. Children connect known pictures, not abstract letters, to their corresponding first sounds.

Using Cognitive Abilities: ALfA uses children's cognitive abilities to derive first sounds from known pictures and blend them to form words on their own. This self-directed learning approach fosters autonomy and allows children to take ownership of their learning.

Paired Learning and Error Control: ALfA employs a paired learning model which helps in error detection and correction, improving learning retention and comprehension. Paired learning also enhances students' communication and critical thinking skills.

Rapid Progress and Time Efficiency: ALfA facilitates rapid progress. Children can read their own textbooks, storybooks and newspapers within 30-45 days, significantly reducing the learning time compared to traditional approaches.



The process is interactive, engaging, and joyful. Learning is accelerated as the transaction utilizes the time well, instead of dead spaces created in traditional teaching by children waiting for the next instruction from the teacher. After a demonstration by the teacher in pair with one student, and another demonstration by two children in the front, all pairs in the class know exactly what their task is.

Children learn from apps as and when available. No printed materials are needed where there is a digital screen or projector. With 10x less paper, 10x faster method, and no printed material where possible, ALfA is also an education for climate change.

Traditional Writing Approaches versus ALfA Writing Approaches

Traditional Writing Approaches: Traditional writing approaches often follow a step-by-step progression, starting with letter formation and handwriting practice. Students learn to write by copying and tracing letters and words, gradually progressing to forming simple sentences and paragraphs.

Incorporating Language Skills: ALfA also emphasizes legible handwriting and correct letter formation but integrates writing with the development of language

skills. Students are encouraged to use their growing vocabulary and comprehension abilities to construct meaningful written texts from the beginning. Students are provided with opportunities to express their thoughts, ideas, and experiences through writing, promoting both language development and creative expression.

Collaborative Writing: ALfA emphasizes collaborative writing activities where students work together in pairs to generate ideas,



provide feedback, and revise their written work. This collaborative approach promotes peer interaction, critical thinking, and the development of writing skills through shared experiences. It fosters communication and expression leading to a holistic approach to writing.

The Pedagogy of the Future:



“Children as young as 6 are able to take turns to read. They are able to learn in pairs and enjoy doing so. Learning is way more permanent.”

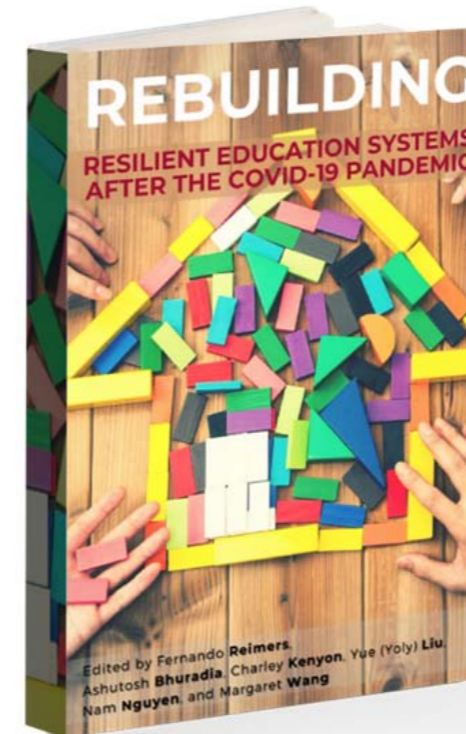


ALfA's time efficiency is a result of its focus on early decoding, blending, self-discovery, collaborative learning, and error control. ALfA represents a disruptive pedagogy that challenges the traditional notions of teaching reading. With its emphasis on early decoding, blending, independent learning, and time efficiency, ALfA offers a promising pathway to revolutionize literacy education urgently needed today.

Conclusion

Traditional approaches to teaching reading, such as whole language, phonics, and balanced phonics, have shaped literacy education over the years. However, the ALfA approach stands out as a unique and promising alternative. By focusing on early decoding, blending, independent learning, collaborative error control, and time efficiency, ALfA accelerates reading proficiency and transforms the way children acquire literacy skills. As educational research and implementation continue to explore the effectiveness of ALfA, it has the potential to redefine the future of literacy education worldwide.

HARVARD ALfA CASE STUDY



HARVARD
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EVIDENCE FOR ALfA: Accelerating Learning for All
Rebuilding Resilient Education Systems After the COVID-19 Pandemic

by Prof. Fernando Reimers et al, Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE)

Harvard Graduate School of Education, USA

“Accelerated Learning for All (ALfA), helps children quickly gain FLN competencies. The pedagogical approach works as follows: students start with known words in the form of pictures, identify the sounds, and work backward to the letters.”

“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.”

“We recommend the UP government (1) incorporate the promising ALfA pedagogy developed by DEVI for the first 6 weeks to quickly establish a strong FLN foundation, (2) after the ALfA program, shift to the curriculum.”

Quotes above are from Chapter 8: Policy Pathways for Improving Foundational Literacy and Numeracy in Uttar Pradesh, India

Chapters 8 documents the ALfA program and its results from a Randomized Control Trial conducted in the Shamli district of Uttar Pradesh, that demonstrate a significant effect size of 0.23 for Grade 3 and 0.89 for Grade 5.

In 2022, DEVI Sansthan, at invitation of the Secretary, MOE, India, started implementing ALfA in the Low Performing Districts (LPDs) of Shamli in Uttar Pradesh and Sambalpur in Odisha. The project's success led to its expansion from one district to 15 districts of UP, and adoption by Maldives at the nationwide level, as discussed in Chapter 10 of this book. Several other governments have expressed interest in the program.



“ I did it ,”

a young child expresses her joy during a summer holiday literacy intensive



Scan QR Code
Alfa: A Compendium



“ You’re funny ,”

a young child expresses her joy during a summer holiday literacy intensive



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“You’re funny”

a young child expresses her joy during a summer holiday literacy intensive



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INNOVATIVE STIRRINGS: NUDGING THE SLUMBERING TIDES OF CHANGE

Dear Readers,

As we embark upon another riveting edition of the 10X Good magazine, we find ourselves drawn to a topic of utmost significance – an exploration into the realm of “Unrealized Innovations: The Dormant Seeds of Progress.” Our world, as we know it, is teeming with potential, yet there exist countless uncharted avenues of innovation that remain unexplored, untapped, and unfortunately, unrealized.

The history of human progress is replete with instances where groundbreaking ideas were overshadowed by the status quo, allowing comfort zones to hinder the march of progress. Imagine if Leonardo da Vinci’s sketches and concepts for flying machines had been nurtured and realized during his time, or if Nikola Tesla’s visionary plans for wireless energy transmission had taken root. The world we inhabit today could have been an entirely different landscape.

It is with this in mind that we seek to rekindle the spirit of exploration and discovery. From healthcare to education, renewable energy to urban planning, our society stands at the threshold of transformative change – if only we have the courage to propel the seeds of innovation from dormancy to actuality.

In this issue, we have meticulously curated a collection of thought-provoking articles that envision an alternative reality, where unrealized innovations have been brought to life. It is our collective responsibility to nurture the sparks of innovation that lay dormant within our society, for in doing so, we pave the way for progress that extends far beyond the limits of imagination.

As we turn the pages of this month’s issue, let us remember that the journey from innovation to realization is a path laden with challenges. By igniting discussions and sparking ideas, we can propel these dormant innovations from the recesses of our minds into the forefront of our society.

Here’s to embracing the spirit of exploration and channeling our energies toward awakening the dormant innovations that hold the promise of a ten times brighter tomorrow.

Wishing you all an inspired and thought-provoking read.

Editor

Dr. Sunita Gandhi

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FAST-FORWARD NIPUN BHARAT: DEVI SANSTHAN'S UNCONVENTIONAL BOLD NEW EDUCATION FOR FLN

ALfA isn't merely an education program; it's a call to action, compelling us to question our long-standing assumptions about what is achievable in the educational landscape

- By Milita Halder

Change is often met with resistance, a natural reaction to stepping into the unknown. Yet, history has shown that embracing the seemingly impossible can lead to transformative shifts. One such example is ALfA (Accelerated Learning for All). ALfA holds the power to revolutionize education and address India's greatest need in education: Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN).

Breaking the Mould: Paradigm Shifts That Reshaped History

Throughout history, there have been pivotal moments that reshaped the world by challenging conventional thinking. Consider the once-unthinkable idea of flying – the Wright brothers dared to defy gravity, and their invention transformed the way we traverse the skies.

The automobile was initially deemed impractical and incapable of replacing horse-drawn carriages. Electricity faced doubt and was met with fears of danger. From the civil rights movement to the digital revolution, bold changes have often led to advancements that were previously unimaginable. In science, shifts in paradigms met with initial skepticism but eventually expanded our understanding of the universe.



Navigating Change Amidst Expert Resistance

Throughout the annals of time, history is peppered with instances where innovative ideas were met with skepticism, especially from those comfortable with the status quo, that upend established norms, expectations, as they threaten to disrupt the known order of things.

Yet, the potential for transformative shifts should not be underestimated. Those willing to take the risks associated with embracing new paradigms often find themselves at the forefront of progress, shaping the future in ways that could not have been anticipated.

Challenging the Status Quo: ALfA's 45-Day FLN as a Modern Manifestation of Transformative Education

ALfA stands as a modern-day embodiment of such transformative thinking, daring us to reimagine education in ways we never thought possible, such as 45-day FLN, which most policymakers

and experts deny initially at the face value, citing it is impossible, or suggesting it is only teaching meaningless reading, or limited in its implications. New cannot be measured by the old standards. The transformative outcomes generated by ALfA tell a different story—one of empowerment, self-confidence, and most critically, of breaking down long-accepted barriers to educational achievement.

ALfA isn't merely an education program;



Students in Maldives and Kenya working in pairs using the ALfA transformative pedagogy of education by Dr. Sunita Gandhi, Founder, DEVI Sansthan. Regardless of where it is being implemented, the ALfA pedagogy is a powerful way to engage children, and to bring out the best in each one of them. It is also many times faster to teach the foundational skills with ALfA than with the best of existing systems of education.

What was once seen as radical or even heretical became foundational knowledge. These innovations revolutionized our world.

History is rife with examples of how embracing change—often change that seemed highly improbable at the time—has led to transformative shifts.

it's a call to action, compelling us to question our long-standing assumptions about what is achievable in the educational landscape. By pushing the boundaries of conventional wisdom, ALfA is echoing other transformative movements in history that also faced initial resistance, from advances in science and technology to pivotal social movements. It's not just about teaching children to read and do math more quickly; it's about opening up a realm of possibilities for how we conceive of education itself.



ALfA's Unprecedented Rise

The story of ALfA is a story of remarkable growth. In less than a year, ALfA has made its mark in over 600 government schools in India. It has grown across many nations including Kenya, Ghana, Nigeria, Peru, the Philippines, the Maldives, and the United States, all since the fall of 2022. Its audacious goal of instilling foundational literacy and numeracy skills within just 45 days, or even a condensed 20-day intensive period, may seem ambitious, but the tangible outcomes speak volumes. As results come so quickly, it is possible to showcase success almost immediately. RCT data, reported by Harvard Graduate School of Education, USA, shows effect sizes of 0.23 for Grade 3



At a recent experiment to fast-track ALfA FLN, we discovered children can learn many times faster than our current education acknowledges or provides for with age / grade considerations, and timetables that limit learning potential, pointing to the need for a paradigm shift in our thinking about human potential and about education.

and 0.89 for Grade 5 after just 40 days of implementation in Shamli,

Uttar Pradesh between August and October, 2022.

ALfA's Accelerated Path to Literacy and Empowerment

In the realm of education, ALfA is proving to be a seismic force that's shattering conventional boundaries. Traditional metrics of what a second-grade student can master are being remarkably redefined within this innovative program.

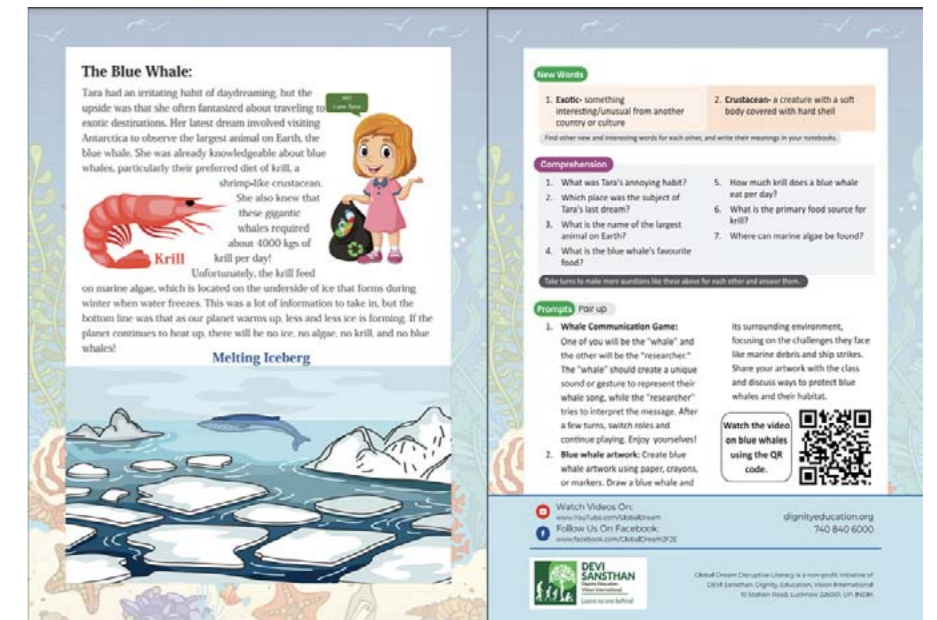
ALfA's impact extends far beyond classroom walls. Students who engage with ALfA undergo a transformative journey.

On the literacy side, the children begin by decoding and blending sounds to form words—a foundational skill in literacy. However, the remarkable facet of this learning journey is the pace. Students transition from deciphering to reading hundreds

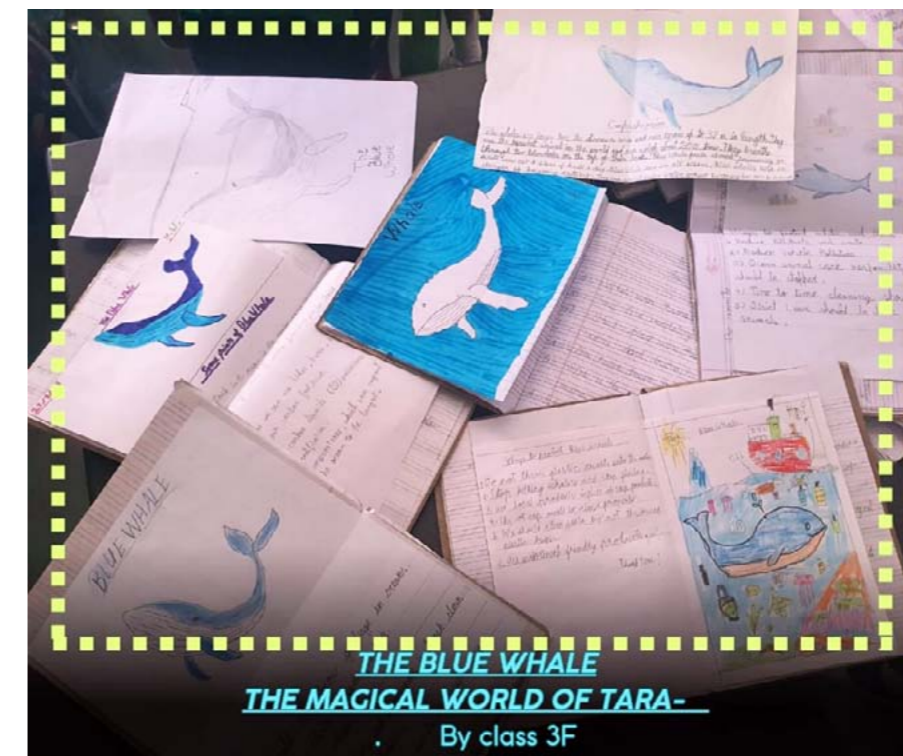


Children of Grades 1 to 5 become proficient in reading with understanding. Here, Grade 2 children are reading a newspaper article in the ALfA book. They make questions for each other, thereby consolidating learning.

of words meaningfully in a mere ten days—a rate of progress that would traditionally require months or even years to attain. These children continue to cultivate reading fluency and amass a rich vocabulary within just a few weeks, casting aside the slow and laborious steps often associated with early literacy development. They go beyond grade level competencies within forty-five school days, versus three years on average.



ALfA program reduces carbon footprint with its very thin booklets, Ed-Tech solutions, and paired work in which half the printed thin booklets are used between two children working as a pair. It consciously integrates climate education within the program, including the reading of stories of climate change. This in turn children read and comprehend. They perform activities that provide a deeper understanding, for example, one child becomes a researcher and the other the whale in a joyous exploration.



In the subject of mathematics, ALfA is doing something truly extraordinary. For most educational programs, second-grade mathematics might involve simple addition and subtraction. But in the ALfA classroom, second-graders are tackling mathematical tasks that are far more advanced. From four-digit addition with carryover to complex subtraction with borrowing, these students are working on problems that often aren't introduced until later grade levels. But what sets ALfA apart isn't just the complexity of the problems—it's the depth of understanding that the students achieve.

Comprehension: The Blue Whale

Class: 3F

Teacher Galvanizer: Moushumi Sen Gupta

4C Skills: Communication, Collaboration, Critical Thinking, Creativity

4C Traits: Character, Climate Consciousness, Citizenship, Connectedness (Social-Emotional-Mental Well-Being)



Little children of government schools are able to make very large numbers and learn to do all the four operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division in a matter of days. Here, two girls of Class 1 are adding numbers in hundreds, such as 330 with 132.



Teachers are empowered in paired learning methods by learning in pairs themselves. Everyone goes back fully charged and motivated to give this a go in their own classes. Both their belief in the new system and their children grows enormously. They begin to believe it will be possible to make their children FLN capable within days, not months. This is a major transition in thinking. In the opinion surveys at the beginning, they are not sure at all this will work and that too within 45 days.



The children not only make shapes and sequences, the program harnesses far greater creativity.



Two children working in a pair share one booklet. After a teacher-student and student-student demos, the children know exactly what their task is. Children make questions for each other and solve them more easily this way, like subtract 239 from 331 which requires borrowing twice, for example. It is a busy and productive classroom.



Making large numbers and adding them with carry over comes easy this way. More time on task means greater learning. Correction by a peer is more powerful than correction by the teacher.

What's particularly remarkable about ALfA's approach is that these young learners aren't just calculating answers; they're understanding the 'why' and the 'how' behind the numbers. After solving these advanced problems, students can articulate the process they used, and they can explain their reasoning using concrete objects or numerical proofs. Whether it's carrying over in addition or understanding why we borrow in subtraction, these children aren't just performing rote calculations. They're engaging in a profound level of mathematical reasoning.

This ability to articulate mathematical concepts goes beyond mere skill acquisition; it is a powerful indicator of deep, conceptual understanding. In this way, ALfA is revolutionizing not just what we teach in the realm of early math education but how we assess what meaningful learning really is. It's challenging long-standing educational norms that often prioritize rote memorization over genuine understanding.

A Dawn for Education: ALfA's Audacious Vision for Transformative Learning

ALfA's approach is pioneering a new pedagogical frontier, not only expanding the boundaries of what we believe children are capable of but also redefining the markers of successful education. Students in the program are learning with an understanding and depth that shatters the traditional expectations for their age group.

In this context, ALfA is not merely an educational program; it's a paradigm shift. Just as other significant advancements have historically

pushed society into new eras of understanding and capability, ALfA's approach to mathematics is setting a transformative precedent that could very well influence educational philosophies for generations to come. This is not just acceleration for the sake of speed; it's a fundamental reshaping of what educational achievement can look like at this age. ALfA's impact is not confined to the parameters of a traditional classroom; it emanates outwards, redefining not just how we educate but also how we envision the pace and scope of learning. Students embarking on the ALfA journey experience a radical transformation that shatters conventional timelines and expectations around literacy acquisition.

The Imperative for Change: Why ALfA Matters

ALfA's innovative approach demonstrates that the barriers to literacy and educational advancement are not insurmountable walls but rather hurdles that can be cleared with a new, effective pedagogy. In defying conventional timetables for learning, ALfA does more than fast-track literacy; it empowers students, instills a newfound sense of self-confidence, and opens doors to opportunities that extend far beyond the classroom.

By compressing what is traditionally a years-long journey into a matter of days and weeks, ALfA not only challenges the status quo but also poses a powerful question: *What if the 'impossible' educational milestones are merely milestones waiting for the right approach to make them possible?* Like the advent of electricity or the

breakthroughs in civil rights, ALfA is poised to become a cornerstone in a new, transformative chapter in education.

Shaping Tomorrow, Empowering the Future

One of ALfA's distinctive features is the paired learning approach, where students work collaboratively to enhance their skills. This dynamic process not only accelerates learning but also nurtures the 4C skills of Collaboration, Communication, Creativity, and Critical Thinking. Furthermore, ALfA's holistic approach fosters the development of the 4C Traits – Character, Climate Consciousness, Connectedness (Social-Emotional-Mental Well-being), and Citizenship – attributes crucial for success in today's rapidly evolving world.



Class 1 students are using big leaves to designate Hundreds (100), flowers for Tens (10) and smaller leaves for Ones (1). The number they have made is 122. Such practice ensures creativity, resourcefulness, climate consciousness, and number sense which is better nurtured when it is learned by themselves. By working in pairs, they have a deeper and more joyful experience, and they provide each other the control of error.

Traditional education was not designed to deliver on these skills and traits. It was crafted for a different era, and even with the best add-ons and modifications, its ability to meet today's needs is marginal at best. While we engage in debates over whose program is superior, we overlook the fundamental question: What truly works and brings about evidence-backed results?

In essence, ALfA is not just a pedagogical approach; it is an educational revolution akin to other transformative moments in history. Like the advent of the automobile or the rise of the digital age, ALfA is set to become a cornerstone in education's next transformative chapter. As it gains traction, one conclusion becomes increasingly clear: the future of education lies not in preserving the status quo but in embracing innovative initiatives like ALfA that have the power to redefine what is possible.

A Call for Transformational Change

ALfA is more than a groundbreaking educational program; it's a call to action, a challenging of established norms, and a leap of faith into the realm of the seemingly impossible. Critics may deem it a radical departure from tried methods, but what is radicality if not the harbinger of revolution?

In a world yearning for transformative shifts, ALfA seeks to be the catalyst, much like electricity or the civil rights movement, changing not just our classrooms, but the very fabric of our societies. As we stand on the

The Lonely Bear

Characters: Ben the Bear, Maya the Monkey

Ben: (sighs) I feel lonely today.
 Maya: Aw, Ben. What's going on?
 Ben: I don't have any friends to play with.
 Maya: I can be your friend, Ben. And maybe we can make more friends together.
 Ben: (smiles) That would be great, Maya. Thank you for being my friend.
 Maya: Of course, Ben. Everyone deserves to have a friend. Let's go play!

Prompts

- Pair up or use your puppets. Take turns to read the above role-play with expression & intonation.
- Take turns to ask each other questions including these below:
 - Why is Ben feeling lonely?
 - What does Maya offer to do for Ben?
- Take turns giving compliments to your partner, such as "I like your smile" or "You're really good at drawing." Write down the compliment that your partner gives you in very simple words in your notebook. These are your strengths! This activity promotes positivity and helps build self-esteem and confidence in both partners. It also helps to create a friendly and supportive environment where everyone feels appreciated and valued.

Social-Emotional Mental Well-Being is enhanced in the ALfA classroom in multiple ways including through roleplays and kinesthetic activities.

cusps of this new era, the challenge is not just in embracing ALfA, but in recognizing it as the dawn of a new chapter in education—a chapter that promises to be as groundbreaking as it is enriching.

Thus, ALfA doesn't just aim to be another footnote in the annals of educational initiatives; it aspires to be a headline, a turning point, a seismic event that marks the dawning of a new educational landscape. Like many innovations that have shaped our history, the promise of ALfA lies in its audacity to challenge the status quo and its potential to propel us into an educational renaissance that we

are only beginning to comprehend.

An Education That Can Save Humanity

The urgency is clear. Millions of children remain underserved by traditional education, while we engage in bureaucratic debates. ALfA offers a fresh perspective, a chance to reframe the conversation, and to focus on the "what" rather than the "whose." It's time to shed the shackles of the past and embrace the future of education.

ALfA is more than a groundbreaking educational program; it's a call to action, a challenging of established

norms, and a leap of faith into the realm of the seemingly impossible. Critics may deem it a radical departure from tried methods, but what is radicality if not the harbinger of revolution?

ALfA's journey is a clarion call for transformational policies. The evidence is compelling; the results are tangible. It's time to set aside reservations and quibbles, to take a

chance on an approach that defies convention. Let's relook at ALfA with fresh eyes and explore the endless possibilities it presents.

As we stand on the precipice of change, let's remember that history favors the bold – those who dare to challenge the status quo and redefine the norm. ALfA beckons us to rethink education, to empower students with skills and traits that will shape their

futures, and build the foundation of a more humane world as well.

The path forward is clear. The question is, are we ready to embrace it? The answer lies in our willingness to embrace the unthinkable and usher in an era of education that's unprecedented, audacious, and transformative.

The future of education is waiting. It's time to make the leap.

Innovation's Dance

Innovation's dance, a waltz so bright,
 Yet skeptics linger in doubtful light,
 They scoff and frown at the daring new,
 For the uncharted path, they cannot construe.

Electric dreams sparked fiery ire,
 Edison's bulb faced skeptic choir,
 "No candle's glow, it's doomed to fail!"
 Yet darkness fled, innovation set sail.

A flying dream? The Wrights conceived,
 "Heavier than air, it won't achieve!"
 Yet skies were conquered, planes took flight,
 Innovation soared to the sun's height.

Mobile marvel, in hand we hold,
 Once dismissed, now life's stronghold,
 "Wireless talk?" Skeptics did jest,
 Yet innovation's stride proved them wrong, the best.

From horse-drawn days to engines new,
 Automobiles, a paradigm askew,
 Skeptics grumbled, "A noisy fuss!"
 But highways hum, with progress robust.

Now, enter ALfA, turning the page,
 Literacy's journey, a rapid-paced stage,
 "Doubters, beware!" ALfA's voice sings,
 In just 45 days, the impossible springs.

In classrooms quiet, where doubt once grew,
 ALfA's brilliance, like morning dew,

For skeptics turned believers, no room for doubt,
 ALfA's innovation shines, lighting the route.

So, doubters, learn from history's past,
 Innovation's journey, bold and fast,
 With ALfA's magic, the world's set free,
 In literacy and numeracy, a swift victory.



DEVI Santhan is looking for those who wish to break the old moulds and create new possibilities for the children: You are invited.



Milita Halder serves as a Master Trainer at DEVI Santhan and can be contacted via email at milita@dignityeducation.org or by phone at +91 740 840 6000. For further details, please visit www.dignityeducation.org.

14th Ed Leadership International Roundtable

Educationists
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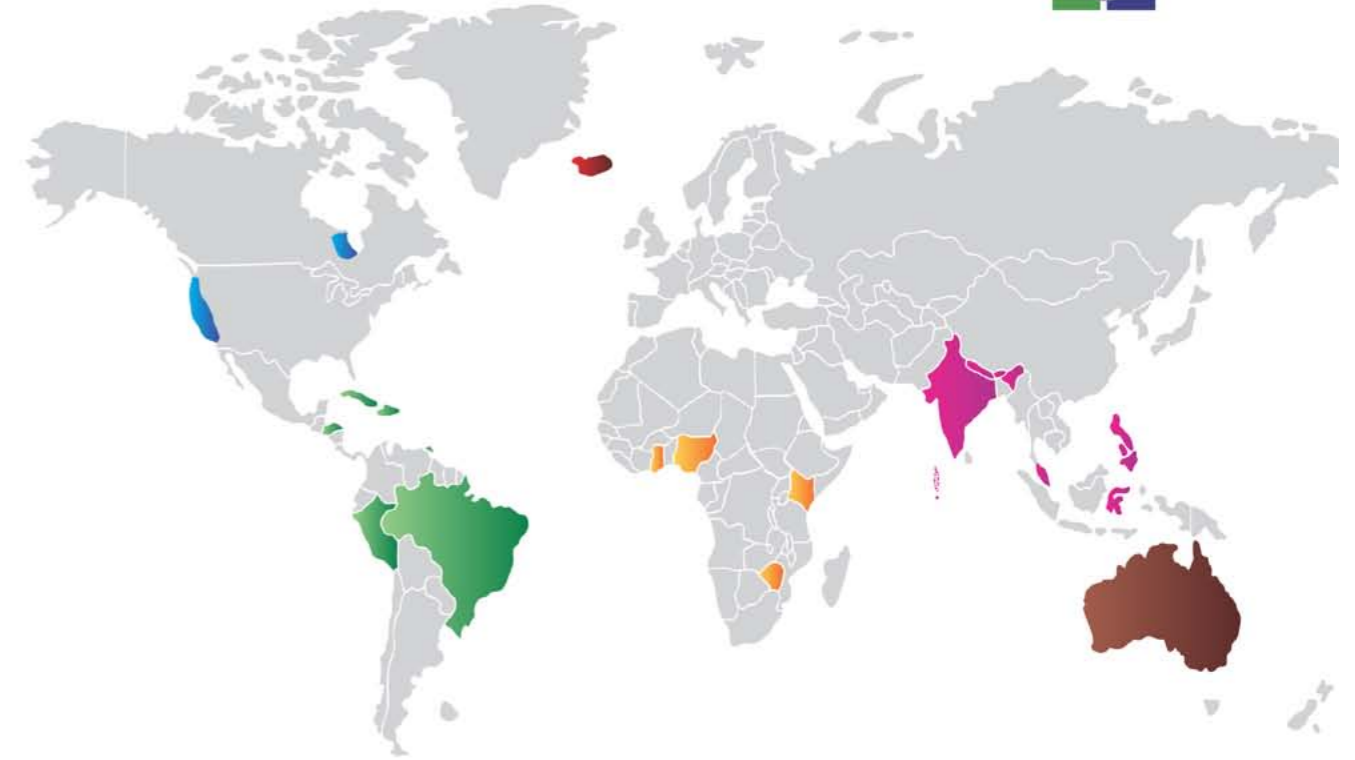
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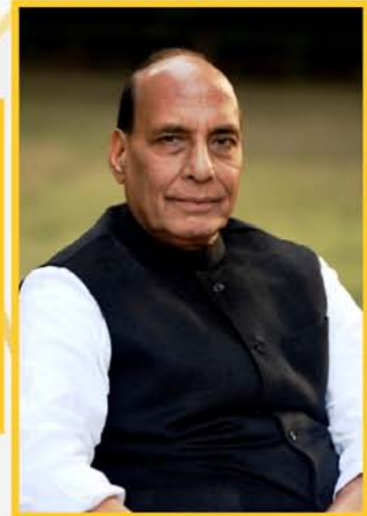
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Dear Leader of Change

We cordially invite you to join our quest to achieve full literacy in India. Synergy 2.0 aims to serve as an unparalleled platform to catalyze action focused on SDG4, advocating universal literacy. By participating, you'll be part of a collective endeavor where we learn from one another and exponentially amplify our existing initiatives aimed at Foundational Literacy & Numeracy (FLN) for all children under 10, as well as illiterate adults. Your involvement is crucial to the success of the esteemed NIPUN mission.

Your participation will undeniably enrich the conversation, helping all stakeholders to align more effectively with the mission's goals and the vision of a completely literate India.

Please confirm your attendance by completing the registration form below.



Dr. Sunita Gandhi

Convenor, Synergy Summit
CEO, DEVI Sansthan
Former Economist
The World Bank, USA
Ph.D., Physics
Cambridge University, UK





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Dr Abdulla Rasheed Ahmed
Minister of State for Education, Maldives



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Math suddenly became exciting

Zoha Khalid,

a 9-year-old girl, embarked on a new bridge of life when her father decided to send her to school every day, witnessing her newfound passion and progress in maths, a subject that once intimidated her. It was at her school that she was introduced to the ALfA way of learning.



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CATALYSTS OF TOMORROW: CHANNELING INNOVATION FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Dear Readers,

As the pages of this edition of the 10X Good magazine unfold, we stand at a pivotal moment in history—a juncture that intensifies the call for innovative solutions. Our previous editions drew us into contemplation over unrealized potential, but today, we center our thoughts on the tangible milestones we must achieve for our shared future.

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) put forth by the United Nations are both a blueprint and a challenge. They represent the myriad intricacies of global obstacles. Among them, SDG 4, emphasizing quality education, strikes a particularly poignant chord. The objective to ensure that 70% of the world's 10-year-olds are literate is not just an educational goal—it's a foundational pillar for every other ambition we hope to realize. Literacy paves the way for informed societies, prosperous economies, and empowered individuals. Without it, the path to sustainability becomes even more arduous.

The ticking clock reminds us that the luxury of time is not on our side. Our emphasis must not only be on innovation, but on rapid, strategic innovation that keeps these pressing objectives at the forefront. The consequences of delay could jeopardize the very fabric of our interconnected global community.

In this edition, we spotlight the symbiosis between innovation and the SDGs, with a special emphasis on the transformative power of literacy and education. From pioneering educational technologies to grassroots movements reshaping learning landscapes, we journey through the inspirations making real-world impacts.

The road ahead is riddled with challenges, yet each obstacle presents an opportunity to reinvent, redefine, and rejuvenate. Through these pages, we implore every innovator, thinker, and visionary to magnify their efforts, especially in the realm of literacy and education, which underpins all other pursuits.

To purposeful innovation and enduring solutions that amplify the good tenfold for a future that leaves no one behind.



Editor

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Ph.D., Physics, Cambridge University, UK
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Fulfilling SDG4 with ALfA

By combining pedagogical expertise with technological innovations, ALfA—Accelerating Learning for All accelerates the process of learning, ensuring that the world’s children not only learn but do so at a pace that aligns with the urgencies of our times

In the ever-evolving landscape of global development, education stands as the bedrock of progress, the keystone that supports a structure of equality, empowerment, and enlightenment. With the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 at the heart of global educational objectives, the focus is clear: ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. Yet, as imperative as this goal is, its realization requires innovations that aren’t just transformative but are also agile and adaptive.

Literacy is not just a foundational skill—it’s the lifeblood of sustainable development. As we grapple with the challenges of the modern world, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide a roadmap to a

better future. Yet, at the core of these 17 global goals lies one crucial enabler: literacy. It’s an action with unparalleled return on investment. Whether it’s gender equality, reduced inequalities, good health, or quality education, the ability to read and understand sits at the heart of every single SDG.

And this connection extends to even seemingly unrelated SDGs. Consider SDG13, which targets climate action. An informed populace, equipped with literacy skills, is better positioned to understand and act upon the complexities of climate change. They can read, comprehend, and contribute to environmental solutions. In essence, literacy amplifies the efforts to combat climate challenges.

The Power of Literacy

Reading and writing are superpowers. They help people communicate, find jobs, and learn about the world. Numeracy, the ability to understand and work with numbers, is equally powerful. It’s a key skill for everyday tasks like shopping or banking. These skills have ripple effects that impact various facets of development.

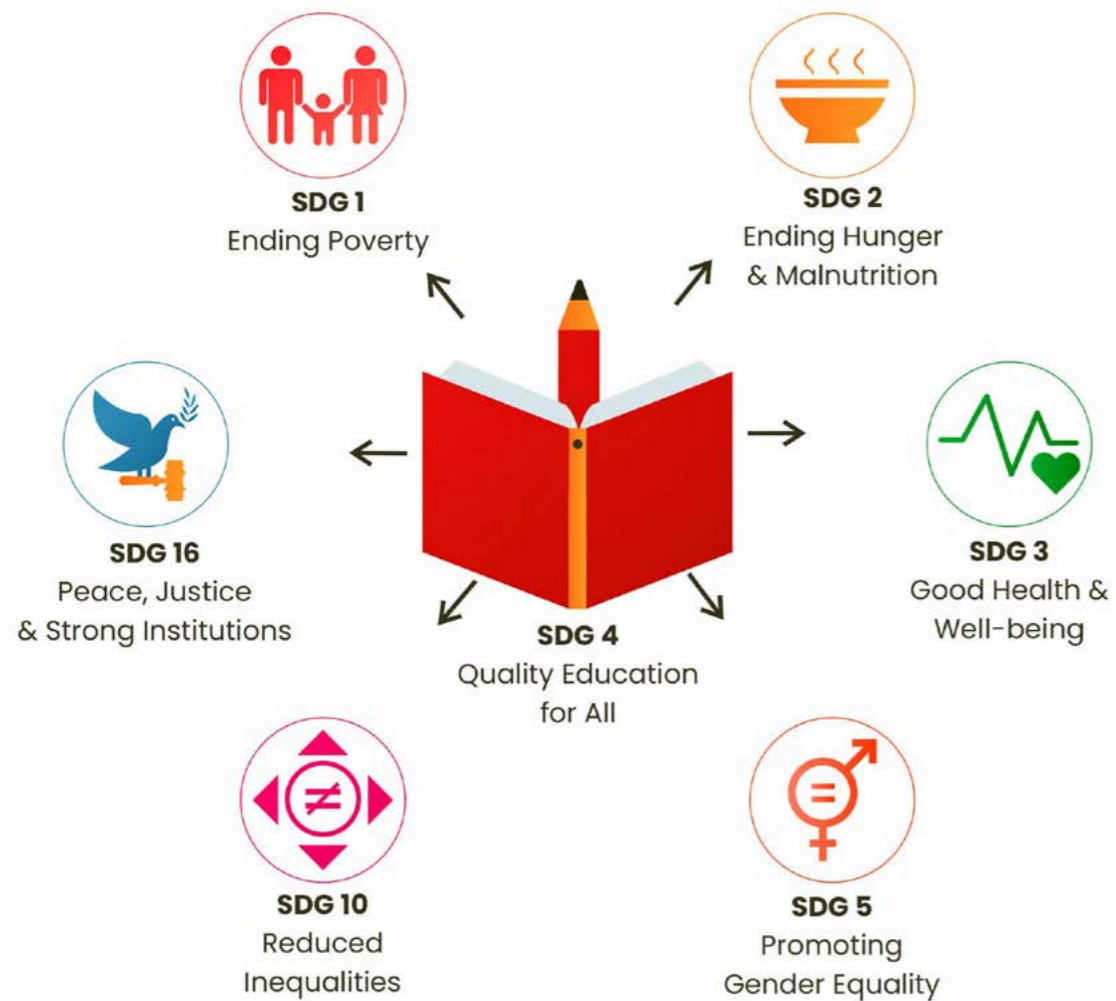
Research supports this. A study by the World Bank states that every year of schooling increases a person’s earnings by 10%. And, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) points out that literacy can boost a country’s economic growth. By investing in foundational literacy and numeracy, we invest in a brighter, more prosperous future for all.



A globe surrounded by books, with symbols of various SDGs hovering around it, emphasizing the interconnectedness of literacy and global goals.

The challenge before us is daunting. UNESCO paints a concerning picture: 70% of the world’s 10-year-olds cannot read with comprehension. The task might seem insurmountable, but there are solutions on the horizon, and the challenges we perceive can be converted into opportunities.

It questions the norms: if the problem is so vast and critical, why aren’t we addressing it with the urgency it deserves?



Infographics showcasing the domino effect of education on various SDGs.

The Necessity of Acceleration in Education

Despite the vast resources invested in education, millions remain illiterate. Enter ALfA—Accelerating Learning for All—a program designed to rapidly progress toward fulfilling SDG4. By combining pedagogical expertise with technological innovations, ALfA accelerates the process of learning, ensuring that the world’s children not only learn but do so at a pace that aligns with the urgencies of our times. The success of ALfA isn’t just in its immediate educational outcomes. A literate, educated individual is more equipped to contribute to society, leading to positive outcomes in health, economic growth, gender equality, and more. Thus, by accelerating learning for all, ALfA indirectly propels progress towards multiple SDGs, truly multiplying the good.

child possesses enormous capacity to learn which is often untapped. Technology can be leveraged to further multiply the impact.

What makes ALfA stand apart is its razor-sharp focus on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy.



A child interacting with a tablet, engaging with an educational application tailored to her learning style.

At the heart of ALfA is the recognition that every



A diverse classroom of children, with hands raised, eager to answer a question, depicting an empowered learning environment.

A child deep in thought, with images of books, numbers, and a bright future swirling around them.

Read more on:
<https://www.educationworld.in/from-adversity-to-excellence-slum-children-in-lucknow-conquer-reading-and-math-using-alfa-technique/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mmk7dCi0i0s>



A Call to Action: Realizing the NIPUN Bharat Goals with ALfA

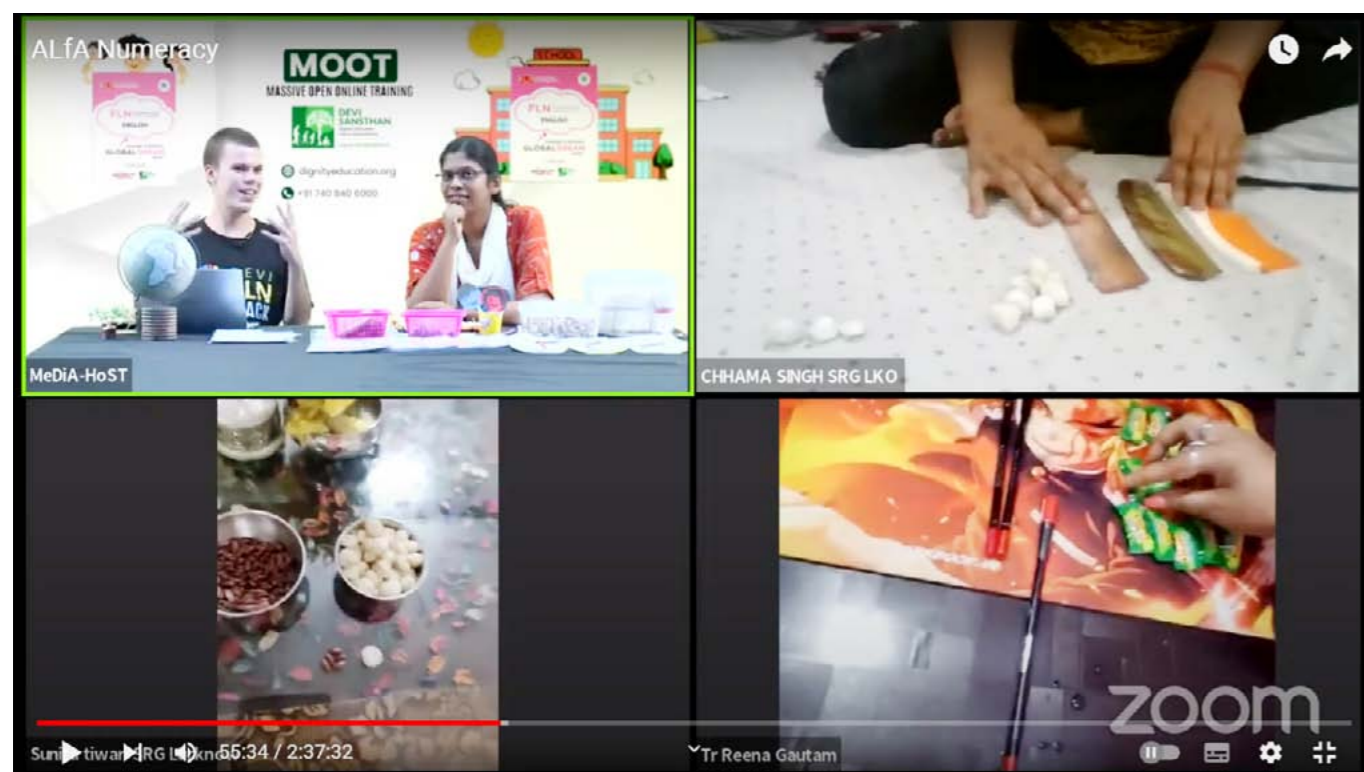
Imagine a world where the gift of literacy is spread within just 45 days. Imagine not having to wait for years and decades, but merely weeks and months to realize our educational goals. This vision can become a reality, but only if we act swiftly and decisively.

Enter ALfA (Accelerating Learning for All) by DEVI Sansthan. A program devised after 22 long years of meticulous research and backed by the Harvard Graduate School of Education. ALfA's 45-day literacy program is not just another educational initiative; it's a transformative experience with the potential to reshape India's educational landscape, setting the nation on a trajectory towards achieving the SDGs.

What makes ALfA stand apart is its razor-sharp focus on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy. It questions the norms: if the problem is so vast and critical, why aren't we addressing it with the urgency it deserves?

MOOT: The Beacon of Rapid Literacy & Numeracy

One revolutionary way to impart foundational literacy to the world is through Massive Open Online Training (MOOT) provided by DEVI Sansthan. Already, individuals from 66 countries have embraced this initiative. Leveraging technology, especially in the training of teachers, is the bridge that connects educators worldwide. MOOT offers a robust platform for districts, states, and entire nations, ensuring every teacher possesses the tools to instill foundational literacy and numeracy effectively.

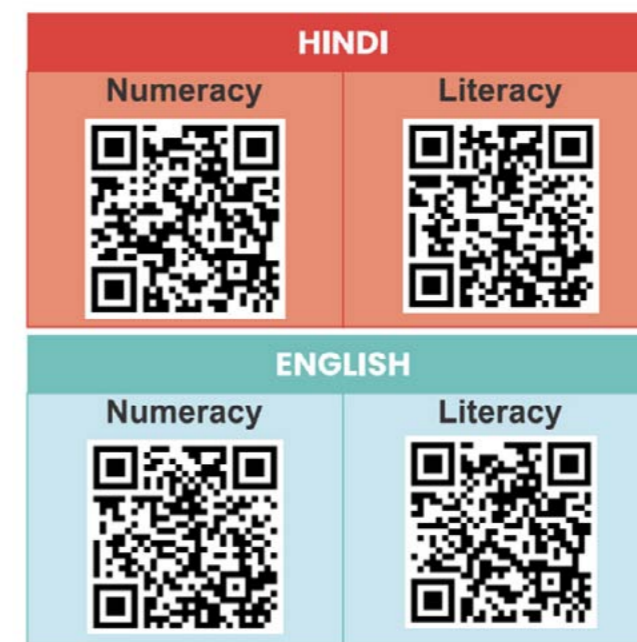


A diverse group of educators engaging with the MOOT platform on various devices.

How MOOT Empowers Educators

It's astonishing to think that just three hours can radically shift the trajectory of education. But with MOOT, this is a tangible reality. This intensive training session, lasting a mere three hours, is designed to be comprehensive yet easily digestible. It introduces educators to the core principles of ALfA, arming them with practical strategies and techniques to bring about rapid literacy and numeracy in their classrooms.

Through MOOT, teachers access a treasure trove of resources, methodologies, and real-world case studies. The beauty of MOOT lies in its scalability. Whether it's a single teacher in a remote village or a cohort of educators in a bustling city, the training is accessible and relevant.



Scan the QR codes to watch recordings of the MOOT Sessions.

MOOT PARTICIPATION & EFFECTIVENESS

30,746

YouTube Views across 22 sessions

66

countries with representatives from all 6 continents participated

28

states of India participated

72%

of participants expressed interest in becoming an ALfA trainer

86%

of participants said they would 'definitely' use ALfA in their class

93%

of participants found the online format of the training to be effective

95%

of participants wanted access to ALfA materials

97%

of participants passed the quiz & were shared free access to ALfA materials

99%

of teachers said they had new take-away points from the training

Moot Report.

The Path Forward

1. Embrace Proven Pedagogy

It's time to adopt strategies that have proven to accelerate learning. ALfA, with its evidence-backed methodology, is a beacon in this journey.

2. Empower the Educators

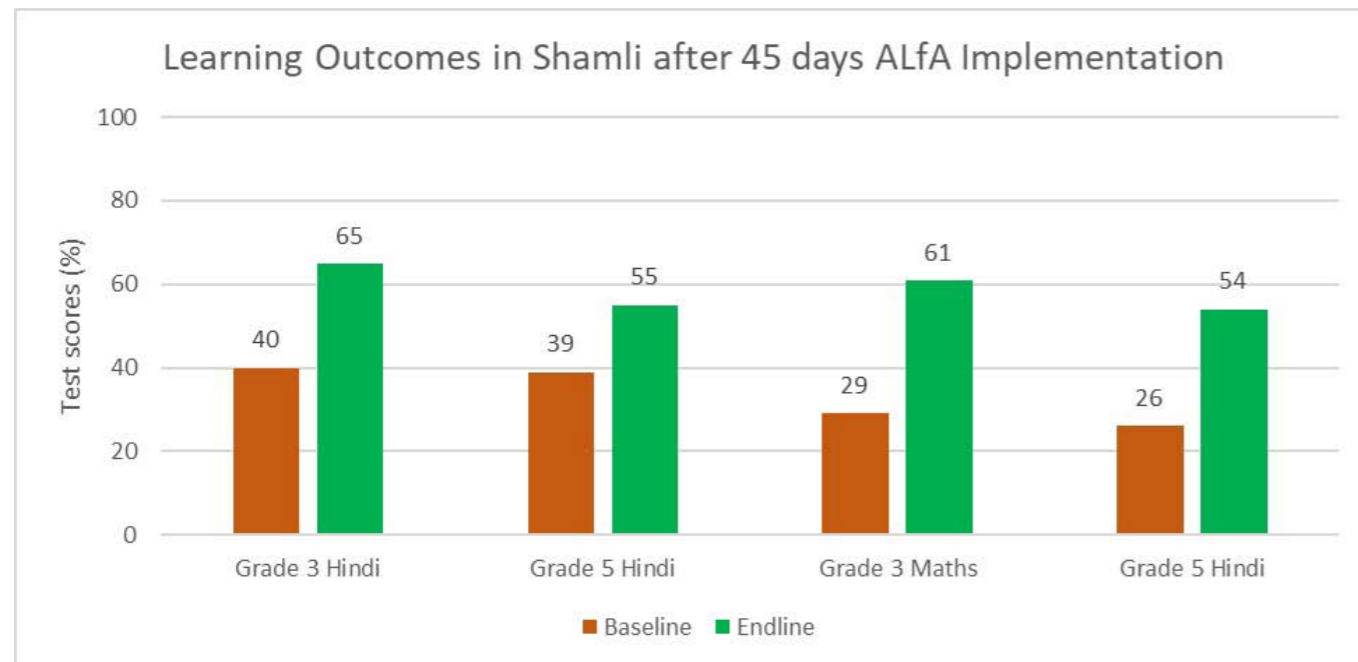
A 3-hour MOOT is all it takes to equip our teachers with the necessary tools and knowledge to harness the power of ALfA.

3. Utilize Ready Resources

Governments and agencies can access a wealth of online materials, or even procure printed resources tailored to their specific needs.

4. Assess and Integrate

After the 45-day cycle, measure the outcomes. The results will not only validate the approach but can be integrated into larger education frameworks for wider impact.

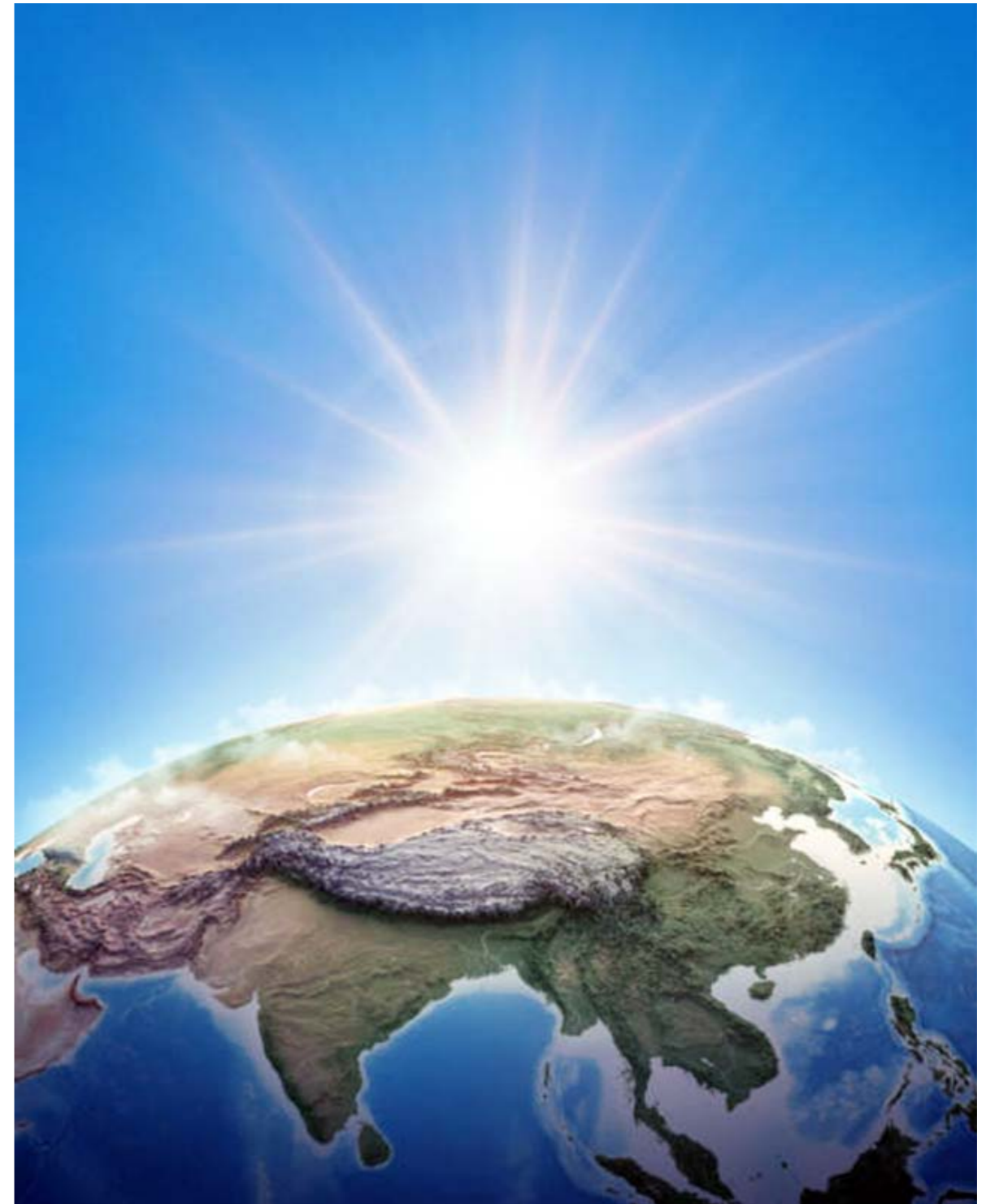


Graphs and charts showcasing the leap in literacy rates post-ALfA implementation.

An Invitation to Partner: Realizing NIPUN Bharat Before 2026/27

The stakes have never been higher. To all donor agencies, government bodies, and CSR initiatives: the time for action is now. We have the tools, the methods, and the passion.

Let's join hands to ensure India achieves the NIPUN Bharat goals ahead of time. With ALfA and its rapid pedagogical methods, a literate India isn't just a possibility; it's a guarantee.



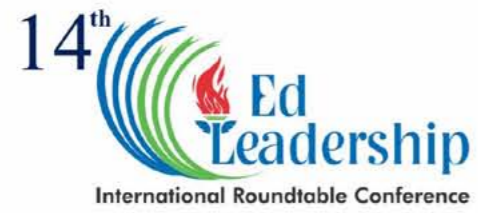
A rising sun over the Indian subcontinent symbolizes hope, growth, and the dawn of a literate nation.

Conclusion: The Vision of a 10X Better Tomorrow

In the mission to achieve SDG4 rapidly, ALfA emerges as a beacon of hope, embodying the spirit of "10X Good". It serves as a testament to what can be achieved when innovation aligns with purpose. As we look ahead, the vision is clear: a world where every child has access to quality education, and learning is not just a right but a joyful, empowering journey.



Yusra Fatima, Program Manager, DEVI Sansthan
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Dear Readers,

In this edition of 10X Good magazine, we stand at the precipice of a new era in education. Drawing from our past insights into potential and innovation, we now focus squarely on the transformative steps necessary to educate the next generation of learners.

Quality education, as outlined in SDG 4 by the United Nations, is more than a goal—it's the bedrock of a thriving society and a sustainable future. Achieving literacy for every child is not merely educational achievement; it is the key to unlocking a world of possibilities for every aspect of human development.

As time marches on, the imperative for swift and decisive action in revolutionizing education systems has never been clearer. This issue is dedicated to the intersections of innovation and education, exploring how new methodologies and technologies are making impactful strides towards engaging and empowering students worldwide.

Faced with obstacles, we see boundless opportunities to innovate, redefine, and invigorate the educational sphere. We call upon our community of visionaries, educators, and forward-thinkers to amplify their efforts in shaping an education system that is equitable, dynamic, and prepared for the challenges of tomorrow.

Let's commit to pioneering educational initiatives that amplify our collective good, paving the way for a future where every learner has the tools to succeed.

Editor

Dr. Sunita Gandhi

Founder-CEO, DEVI Sansthan
Former Economist, The World Bank, USA
Ph.D., Physics, Cambridge University, UK
Chief Advisor, Academics, City Montessori School, Lucknow, World's Largest School (a Guinness World Record)



Math suddenly became exciting

Zoha Khalid,

a 9-year-old girl, embarked on a new bridge of life when her father decided to send her to school every day, witnessing her newfound passion and progress in maths, a subject that once intimidated her. It was at her school that she was introduced to the ALfA way of learning.



TRANSFORMING EDUCATION

FOR 21ST CENTURY LEARNERS

ALfA Pedagogy offers compelling benefits, fostering curiosity, inquiry-based learning, and emotional intelligence, enhancing interpersonal relationships and nurturing young minds effectively.

In a traditional classroom the omnipresent chalk and blackboard were essential tools, with teachers, a central figure, commanding respect and authority, imparting knowledge. In this setting, more than often students and teachers engaged in one way communication. Information was pushed and was expected to be learnt by heart to be in teachers' good books. This method may have its merits but the results are glaring. More than 50% of primary students did not develop basic reading and numeracy skills.



Breaking Free of the Traditional Ways

Learning comes with courage and only now have we mustered the strength to do away with the old and embrace the new. Prominent educationists did illuminate the path as a new pedagogy was devised that catered to 21st century learning needs, called ALfA- Accelerated Learning for All.

Maria Montessori ideology of child-centered learning and hands-on experiences resonates deeply with this new transformative pedagogy. Her ideas of self-directed education and the importance of the prepared environment have influenced ALfA's commitment in shaping learning experiences and to fostering independent and holistic learning.

Teacher is now a facilitator while learners have become researchers. Rote learning, that was embedded in extrinsic learning, has given way to intrinsic learning. The ALfA method ensures that learners of various backgrounds and abilities progress at an optimal pace. Ultimately promoting equal axis to quality education. Gone are the days of memorisation over understanding. Today students have the toolkit and resources under ALfA to empower them to learn real world skills and present their views on a given topic. Identifying additional learning opportunity beyond the four walls helps student to engage meaningfully in real life. The integration of real-world contexts aligns seamlessly with Dewey's educational philosophy, enriching the ALfA approach.

Furthermore, Lev Vygotsky's sociocultural theory has

left an indelible mark on ALfA Pedagogy, emphasizing the significance of social interaction and collaborative learning. This influence is evident with Flexible Pairing which creates conducive learning environment where even the passive learners are seen engaged. Group activities and peer-to-peer engagement act as catalysts for cognitive development. Paired learning is not restricted to a few activities rather it is a foundation of ALfA pedagogy which enables students to collaborate to know their hidden potentials and further strengthen their skills. There is a consistent growth and progress observed in all students.

With time students exhibit analytical skills as they have been framing a variety of questions for each other. Students also demonstrate creativity in all their work. Hence, ALfA can be understood as an educational paradigm that empowers learners and transcends traditional boundaries, fostering a dynamic and engaging learning environment.

Teachers becoming a facilitator and students working in pair sounds wonderful in theory but with class strength of nearly 50 students with each student having different learning style, renders the task herculean. Multiple training and demonstration sessions were held for teachers along with parent orientation. They had to unlearn and relearn the new pedagogy in order to help students. Significant transformation and transition processes were kept in place to constantly guide in the right direction.

The shift aimed not only to enhance child-centric



learning but also to instill a sense of ownership in students regarding their education. The strategic focus on ALfA underscored the importance of developing 4C skills and traits – critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity.

Students Taking Ownership of their Own Learning

Teachers did grapple with finding the right balance between guiding students and allowing them to take ownership of their learning. Overcoming the instinct to intervene excessively during the learning process posed a notable challenge. The ongoing support enabled educators to develop the confidence needed to successfully implement ALfA strategies in the classroom. Further, addressing the diverse needs and learning styles of each child within the ALfA framework required creative solutions to maintain a high level of involvement. The challenges faced by both teachers

and parents were met with targeted solutions, emphasizing training, ongoing support, and transparent communication.

Weekly surprise assessment provides students with the opportunity to reflect and rectify. Teachers are able to timely intervene to provide the support required for learning to take place. Constant feedback through MCQ, Signals help both teachers and students to track their progress. As a result, the report card is not mere reflection of a student's power of memory but road map of his educational endeavour.

From inquiry-based learning, fostering a sense of curiosity and a proactive approach to seeking knowledge, to Emotional intelligence, promoting better interpersonal relationships. ALfA Pedagogy offers several key benefits that make it a compelling choice for nurturing young minds.



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