

ALFA Implementation in Balrampur

ALFA pilot in Sridatganj shows strong gains and movement out of below-basic levels

Executive Summary

The Balrampur ALFA pilot introduced a paired and activity-based FLN approach in selected government schools in Sridatganj block. The MoU between DEVI Sansthan and BSA Balrampur was signed on 1 July 2025, followed by teacher training, baseline assessment, implementation and midline assessment.

The school-selection process was designed to be transparent and unbiased: the BEO used a lottery-based method to randomly draw eight schools, with four assigned as intervention schools and four as comparison schools.

Treatment schools improved across Grades 1, 2 and 3. The largest treatment gain was in Grade 2, rising from 23% to 59%, while Grade 1 rose from 23% to 49% and Grade 3 rose from 40% to 65%. Tertile data show substantial movement of ALFA children out of the below-basic band in literacy.

Pilot design	Coverage	Decision point
4 ALFA schools + 4 comparison schools	Sridatganj Block; Grades 1, 2 and 3	Scale-up to whole district from March onwards

We acknowledge BSA Balrampur Shri Shubham Shukla, BEO Shri Ramesh Chandra Maurya, ARPs, head teachers and teachers for supporting school selection, training, implementation and assessment.



District engagement / MoU

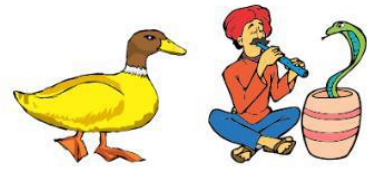
ALfA Implementation in Balrampur

1. Background on ALfA

Accelerating Learning for All (ALfA) is a hands-on, activity-based, child-led pedagogy built around daily paired learning. In literacy, children move from familiar pictures to sounds, blending, reading and writing. In numeracy, they move from kinaesthetic experience to concrete materials and then to abstract symbols.

The approach is distinctive because pairs are not passive seating arrangements. Children ask questions, check answers, explain to one another and practise repeatedly. This makes the classroom more participatory and reduces dependence on teacher lecture.

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इसकी पहली आवाज़ क्या है?

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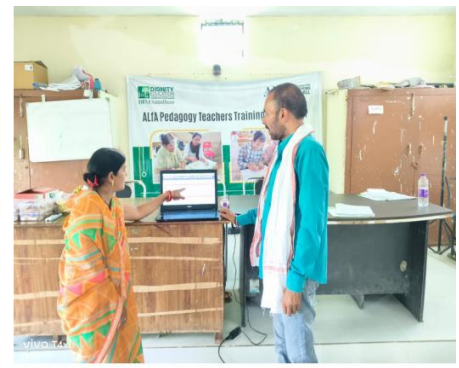
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2. Pilot Design and Timeframe

Date	Milestone
1 July 2025	MoU between DEVI Sansthan and BSA Balrampur
10-11 July 2025	Teacher training conducted at BRC Sridatganj
12 July 2025	Baseline assessment conducted
16 July 2025	ALfA implementation started
1-15 January 2026	Winter holidays
27-28 February 2026	Midline assessment conducted
March onwards	Scale-up to whole district

3. Methods and Implementation Process

Balrampur's pilot began with a lottery-based school draw led by the Block Education Officer. Treatment-school teachers received a highly participatory two-day training and used ALfA booklets, puppets, concrete materials and pair-work routines. Classroom observations and teacher interactions were used to strengthen fidelity and shift instruction toward activity-based FLN learning.



ALfA Implementation in Balrampur

4. Results and Interpretation

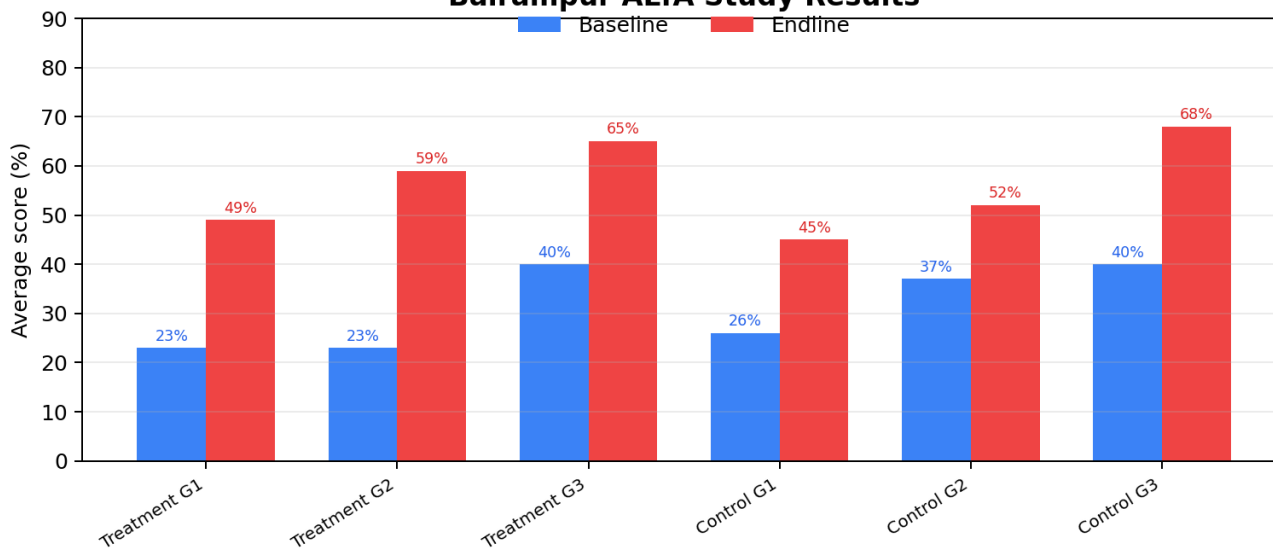
Key result patterns

- Treatment Grade 1 rose from 23% to 49%, a 26-point gain.
- Treatment Grade 2 rose from 23% to 59%, a 36-point gain.
- Treatment Grade 3 rose from 40% to 65%, a 25-point gain

Control schools also improved, but generally by a smaller amount



Balrampur ALfA Study Results



The Balrampur data show strong progress in ALfA schools and useful system-wide momentum. The tertile results are especially important: in literacy, ALfA below-basic shares fell sharply while proficiency shares rose. This suggests that ALfA did not only raise averages; it also helped many children cross foundational thresholds.

Group/Grade	Baseline	Endline	Change
Treatment G1	23.0%	49.0%	+26.0 pp
Treatment G2	23.0%	59.0%	+36.0 pp
Treatment G3	40.0%	65.0%	+25.0 pp
Control G1	26.0%	45.0%	+19.0 pp
Control G2	37.0%	52.0%	+15.0 pp
Control G3	40.0%	68.0%	+28.0 pp

ALfA Implementation in Balrampur

5. What the Evidence Suggests

Tertile movement

ALfA below-basic share fell from 67% to 25% in Grade 1 literacy, 64% to 10% in Grade 2 literacy, and 30% to 2% in Grade 3 literacy.

ALfA proficiency rose from 4% to 40% in Grade 1 literacy, 0% to 72% in Grade 2 literacy, and 13% to 55% in Grade 3 literacy.

Conclusion

The Balrampur pilot shows strong treatment gains and meaningful reduction of below-basic literacy levels. The lottery-based school selection, participatory teacher training and classroom-observation cycle provide a strong operational model for expansion.



Assessment