

FLN WHAT WORKS



HIMACHAL
PRADESH



DEVI Sansthan

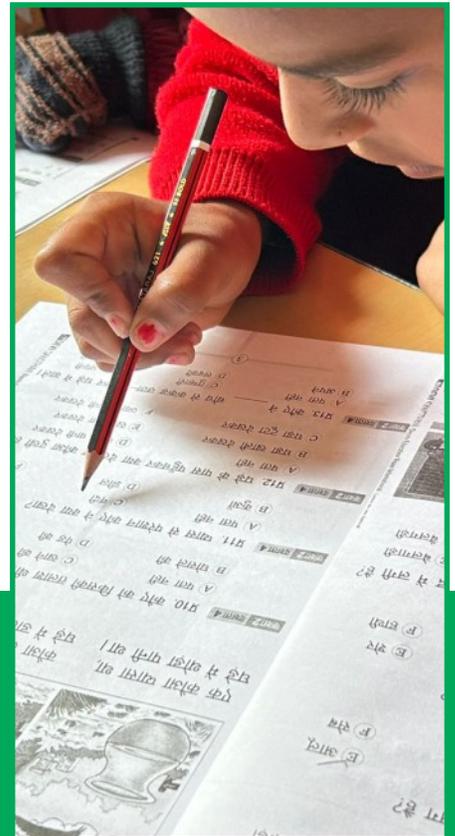
ALFA IMPACT REPORT



SWIFT



SCALABLE



SUSTAINABLE

ALfA | Fast & Holistic FLN | Literacy Accelerating Learning *for All*

- ALfA is an FLN accelerator that delivers measurable gains in weeks through paired learning and rapid routines that build joy, 21st-century skills, and equity. Learning is sustained year-long through prescribed textbooks. It supports NEP 2020's vision of holistic education.
- ALfA Literacy builds strong reading and writing foundations through daily phonics, fluency, comprehension, vocabulary, and structured writing.

<p>Scope Grades 1-3 Grades 1-5 Balvatika Grades 6-8 Girls & Adult Learners</p>	<p>Process Joyful, student-led known → unknown concrete → abstract Reading: decoding → blending reading fluency → comprehension Mathematics: number sense → concepts → confidence</p>	<p>45-working day + Textbooks 1 period/day per subject for ALfA Books & MAT Process (Model, Activate in Pairs, Transfer) Take turns to engage with prescribed textbooks using MAT Process to move at 2× the usual pace.</p>
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Literacy Paired Learning Routines

Children take turns to derive first sounds from known pictures (not unknown letters and their sounds). They blend these sounds to read meaningful words from the beginning | **saves a year+** | moves children quickly towards reading fluency & comprehension. Working in pairs makes learning engaging. All children get busy and learn more in less time.

Available in 15 Indian languages, 33 worldwide | Easily replicable



[Click Here](#)

Scan QR for
teacher
testimonies
on ALfA

Picture → Sound → Word (Decoding & Blending)

English



One child asks, the other answers.

Child 1: "What is this?" → Child 2: "car"

Child 1: "What is its first sound?" → Child 2: "/c/"

Repeat for the next pictures apple /a/ & tie /t/

Child 1: "What's the new word?" Child 2: "/c/ + /a/ + /t/ → cat" (meaningful)

Swap Roles ↻ → New Pics → Repeat Routine.

Hindi



Child 1: "यह क्या है?" → Child 2: "बतख"

Child 1: "इसकी पहली आवाज़ क्या है?" → Child 2: "/ब/"

Repeat for the next picture, /सपेरा/ → /स/

Child 1: "नया शब्द क्या बना?" Child 2: "/ब/ + /स/ → बस" (bus-meaningful)

Swap Roles ↻ → New Pics → Repeat Routine.

ALfA | Fast & Holistic FLN | Numeracy Accelerating Learning *for* All

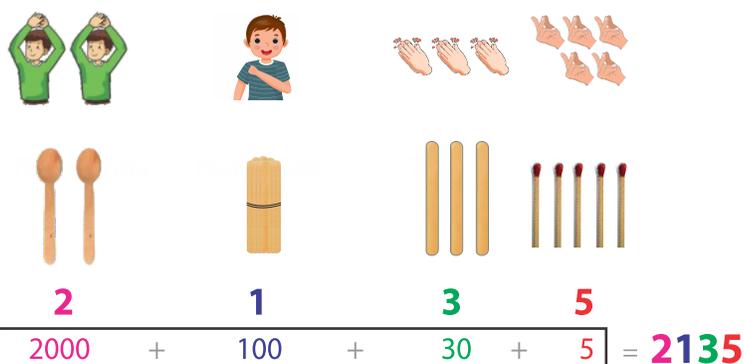
- ALfA Numeracy builds strong foundations through paired learning routines that scaffold from concrete-to-abstract, known-to-unknown.
- Paired transaction of learning is enabled through a **MAT Process**:
 1. **Model** (teacher-child / child-child demos)
 2. **Activate** (entire class works in pairs)
 3. **Transfer** (children practice, create questions for each other; take turns answering, and continue at home).
- Children learn turn-taking, communication, collaboration, problem-solving (critical thinking) and creativity as suggested in NEP 2020.



Click Here

Click or Scan QR to check out the ALfA Toolkits

Numeracy Paired Learning Routines



- Talk aloud • Peer-check • Correct
- Make new questions for each other
 - Level up (learning transfer)
 - Using sustainable material.

Kinesthetic → Concrete → Abstract

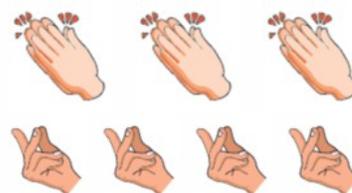
Routine A: Kinesthetic

Child 1: Makes 3 claps + 4 snaps (3 tens + 4 ones)

Child 2: Says, "Thirty-four!"

Child 1: Gives Hi-five to Partner 2; or says, "Try again."

Invert roles. Make new numbers for each other to solve.



Routine B: Concrete

Show with concrete objects (sticks/leaves).

Partner checks. Gives Hi-five! Inverts roles.



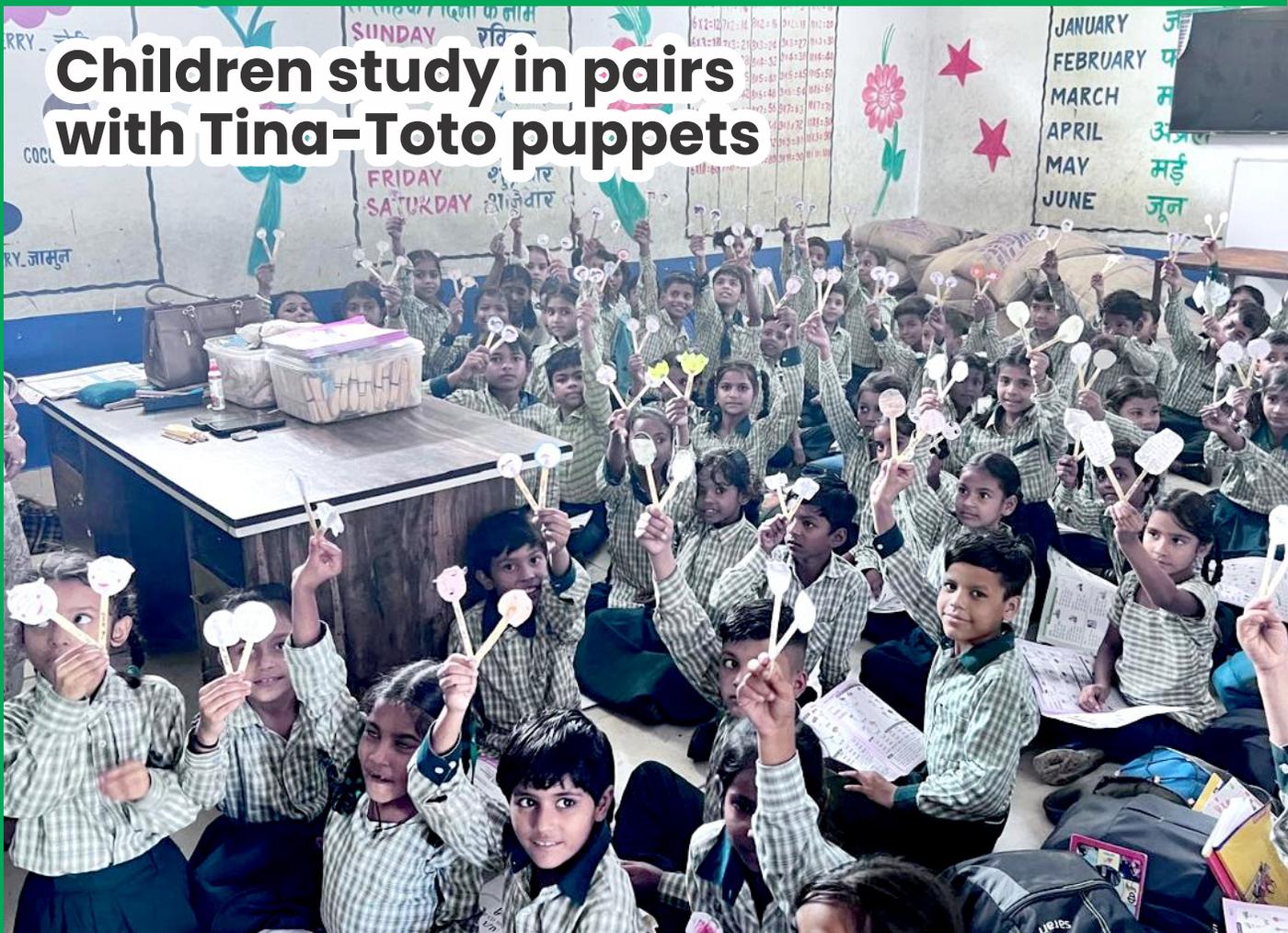
Routine C: Abstract

Show the numbers formed in digits.

Partner checks. Gives Hi-five! Inverts roles.

34

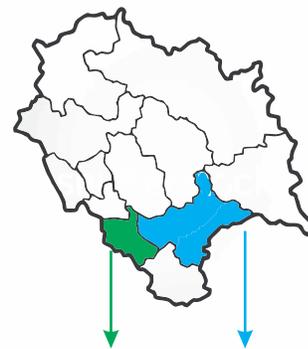
Himachal Pradesh



Children study in pairs with Tina-Toto puppets

Massive gains in PRS 2024

Himachal Pradesh made the largest gains of any state between NAS 2021 and Parakh 2024, with a 16 percentage point improvement in language (60% to 76%) and a massive 19 pp jump in maths (53% to 72%). Within this success story, Solan achieved an even higher jump of 18 pp in language and 23 pp in maths. ALfA had been implemented in Solan since the end of 2023.



District Solan

7 blocks
470 schools
23,429 students

District Shimla

2 blocks
119 schools
1,553 students

9 blocks (whole dist.)
755 schools
31,599 students

Phase 1
Phase 2

6 blocks
462 schools
10,550 students

Total schools: 1,217

Total students: 42,149

THE ALFA JOURNEY HIMACHAL PRADESH

OCT
2023

MOU Signed with Director of Elementary Education

NOV
2023

Teacher training for 1,033 teachers in 7 blocks of Solan district.

DEC
2023

Baseline test in 89 randomly selected schools from the 7 blocks of Solan

DEC
2023

ALFA implementation begins in 476 schools of Solan, covering over 23,000 schools

FEB
2024

Progress measurement in same 89 schools shows strong growth

DEC
2024

Program expands to cover all blocks of Solan and 4 blocks of Shimla, another round of testing

MAY
2025

Online refresher training for teachers

JUNE
2025

Baseline assessment in 12 randomly selected winter-closing schools

NOV
2025

Endline assessment in same 12 schools + 6 more; shows impressive improvements

FEB
2026

ALFA proposed to be scaled up across state through online training and provision of e-materials



In-person training



Online hands-on training



Assessment



Program implementation

STRONG SUPPORT FROM LEADERSHIP



“ 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. ”

Shri Rajnath Singh
Hon. Defense Minister, India



[Click Here](#)

Scan QR for recent speech on ALfA

“ ALfA has already produced excellent results in the far-flung blocks of Solan and Shimla. I’m fully confident that it will keep improving children’s learning levels as it spreads. ”

Shri Rohit Thakur

Hon Education Minister, HP



[Click Here](#)

Scan QR for the whole speech



“ We have to think out of the box. ALfA pedagogy - with its emphasis on paired and play-based learning, captivates children. This is the type of innovation that will help our children. ”

Shri Ashish Kohli

Director of Elementary Education, HP



[Click Here](#)

Scan QR for the whole speech



“ Children learn best when they’re learning with joy. I’m excited by the ALfA pedagogy, it is enabling our teachers to do wonders and close the learning gap. ”

Smt Manjula Devi

FLN Coordinator, HP



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Scan QR for the whole speech

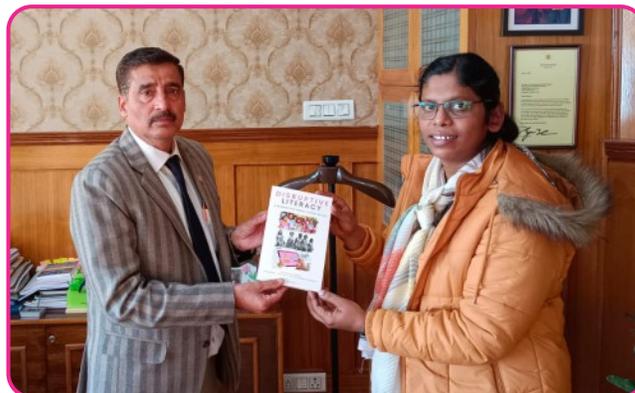


MANJULA DEVI
FLN NIPUN Coordinator, HP

EDUCATION LEADERS HIMACHAL PRADESH



Sh. Rakesh Kanwar,
Secretary Education



Sh. Rajesh Sharma, SPD



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**Teacher &
Parent
Testimonies**



Dr Hemant Kumar,
SCERT Principal



[Click Here](#)

**Classroom
Footage
Repository**

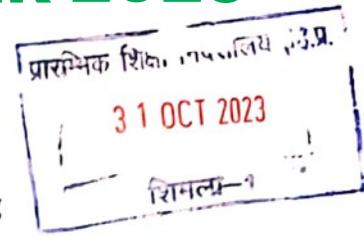


Sh. Abhishek Verma, ADC Shimla



Shri Ajay Kumar Yadav, ADC Solan

STATEWIDE MOU OCTOBER 2023



Memorandum of Understanding

MoU as on 21/10/2023, between Department of Elementary Education, Government of Himachal Pradesh, or his representative hereinafter, referred to as "DEE HP" which expression shall, unless excluded by or repugnant to the context herein, be deemed to include its successors & permitted assigns of the **First Party**;

And DEVI Sansthan (Dignity, Education, Vision International), a registered charitable society, with registration No. 250/1992-93, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India, hereinafter referred to as "DEVI" working in the field of curriculum and policy development in education in India and globally, which expression shall, unless excluded by or repugnant to the context, be deemed to include its successors & assigns of the **Second Party**.

DEE HP, and DEVI are collectively referred to as "parties" and individually as a "party" agree to the following:

1. Project Rationale and Approach

DEVI has developed after 22 years of research Fast-Track Accelerating Learning for All (ALFA) pedagogy and Sampooran Nai Shiksha. Besides a holistic and broader education as per NEP 200 and NCF 2023, this is also an effective and rapid way to make children capable of Foundational Literacy and Numeracy as per goals of NIPUN Bharat Mission. The primary modality of learning is in pairs by which children learn not just the FLN Competencies but also the 4C Skills of Collaboration, Communication, Critical Thinking, and Creativity, along with the 4C Traits/Qualities of Character, Citizenship, Climate Consciousness and Connectedness (social-emotional-mental well-being).

2. Statement of Purpose

- a. DEE HP and DEVI hereby agree to enter into a non-financial MoU for a period of 3 years including the remainder of this academic year 2022-23, to implement the vision of Himachal PATH NIPUN: Pioneering Academic Transformative and Holistic NIPUN to achieve the goals of universal NIPUN Bharat Mission and to simultaneously provide a holistic new education (Sampooran Nai Shiksha) for the children of Himachal Pradesh in Grades 1 through 5.
 - b. This will be accomplished through a Swift and Measurable Foundational Literacy and Numeracy program called Accelerating Learning for All (ALFA) by DEVI that fosters student engagement, collaboration, critical thinking, and other traits
- ...es the overall learning experience by reducing teacher burden while
...ng a joyful experience for both the children and the teacher, with
... and visible results.



[Click Here](#)

Read full
MOU

POLICY + PEDAGOGY: SOLAN DISTRICT

Under the Government of Himachal Pradesh’s strong FLN push, the state recorded among India’s largest gains from NAS 2021 to PARAKH/PRS 2024: +16 pp in Grade 3 Language and +19 pp in Math. Within this statewide improvement, Solan stood out with **+18 pp (Language) and +23 pp (Math)** – the **4th and 3rd largest gains** in the state (table below). ALfA has been implemented across all 9 blocks of Solan since 2024 as part of the government’s broader effort. DEVI has worked with the HP government for 2.5 years, including hosting multiple delegations in Lucknow to observe implementation firsthand.

NAS 2021 and PRS 2024 Results for Grade 3 Language & Maths

Sources: Click/ Scan QR



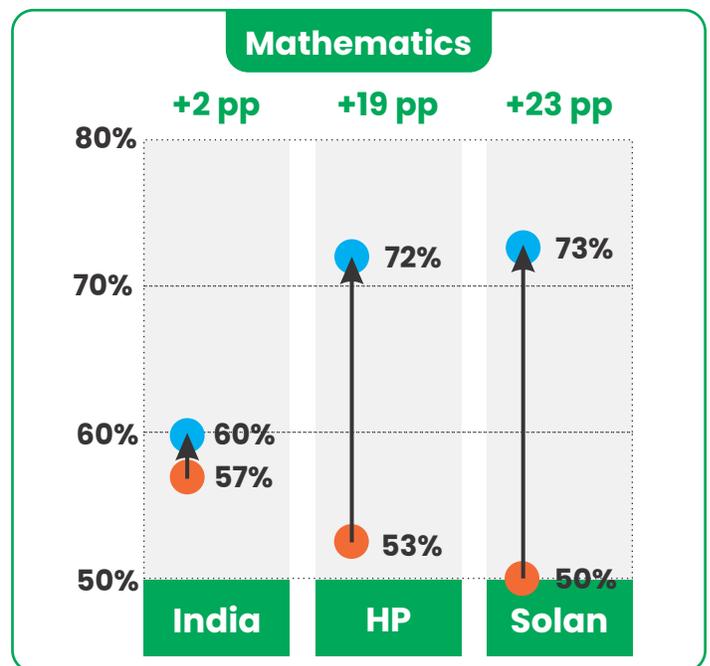
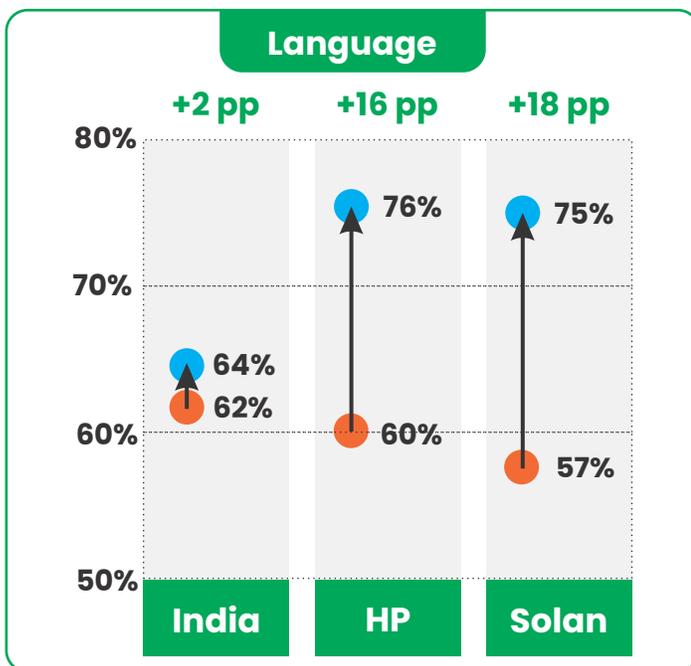
NAS 2021

[Click Here](#)



PRS 2024

[Click Here](#)

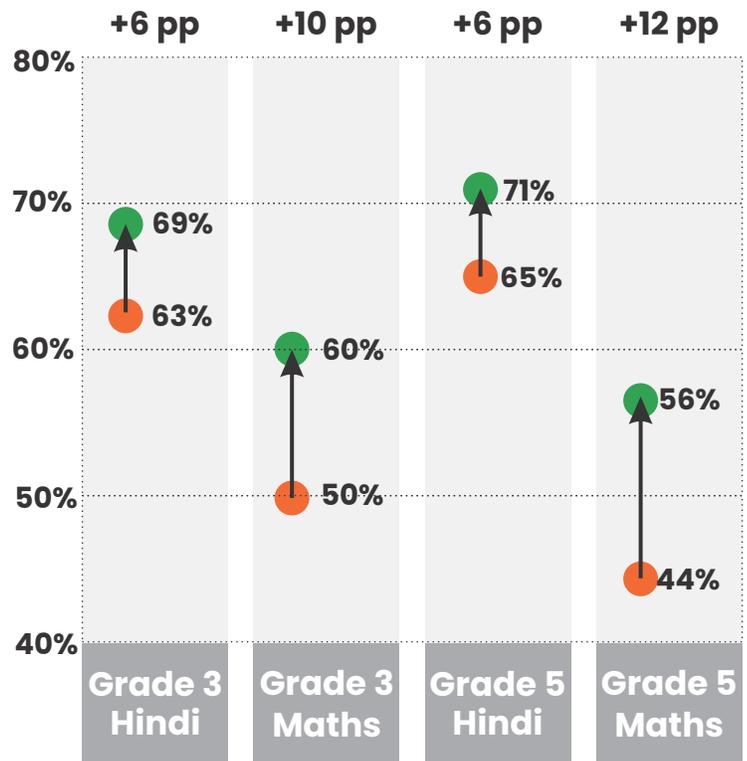


District	Grade 3 Language		
	NAS 2021	PRS 2024	Gain
Hamirpur	50%	80%	30%
Chamba	51%	76%	25%
Kinnaur	56%	76%	20%
Solan	57%	75%	18%
Kangra	59%	77%	18%
Sirmaur	62%	79%	17%
Lahul & Spiti	62%	78%	16%
Kullu	63%	77%	14%
Una	62%	76%	14%
Bilaspur	65%	75%	10%
Shimla	66%	76%	10%
Mandi	63%	72%	9%

District	Grade 3 Maths		
	NAS 2021	PRS 2024	Gain
Hamirpur	45%	77%	32%
Chamba	45%	73%	28%
Solan	50%	73%	23%
Kinnaur	48%	70%	22%
Lahul & Spiti	52%	74%	22%
Sirmaur	55%	75%	20%
Kangra	55%	73%	18%
Kullu	55%	71%	16%
Una	57%	73%	16%
Shimla	54%	69%	15%
Bilaspur	55%	69%	14%
Mandi	55%	66%	11%

PHASE 1 RESULTS SOLAN (HP)

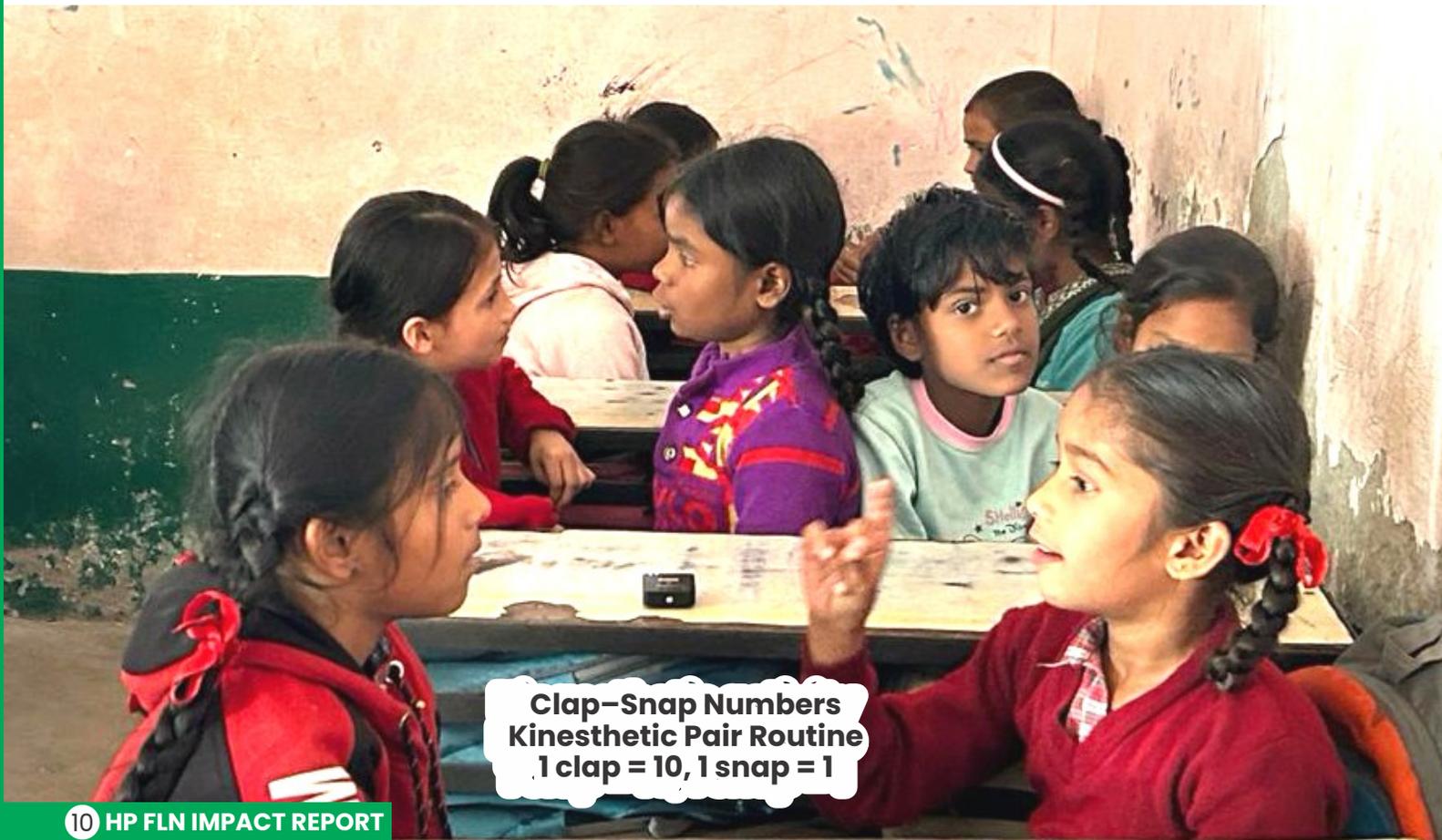
Of the 476 schools implementing AlfA, 89 were selected using a random number generator, then tested using a tool that measured children's achievement of NIPUN Bharat competencies. The assessment was conducted under the purview of DIET, by trained DIET students. Students' test scores increased by between 6 and 12 percentage points after just over 30 implementation days. In general, students' baseline scores were lower in maths compared to Hindi, but they also showed more dramatic numeracy improvements.



[Click Here](#)

Click or Scan the QR to read more reports from other geographies.

Baseline: December 2023
Endline: February 2024



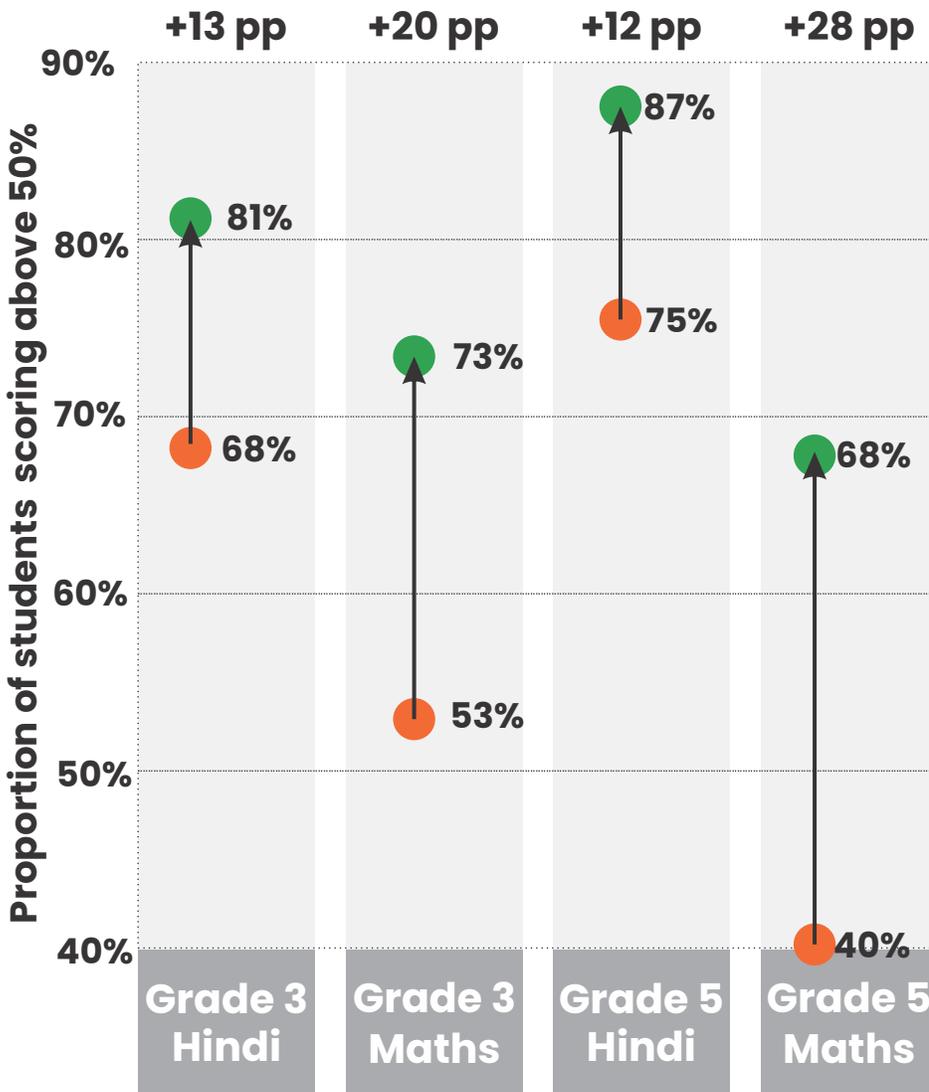
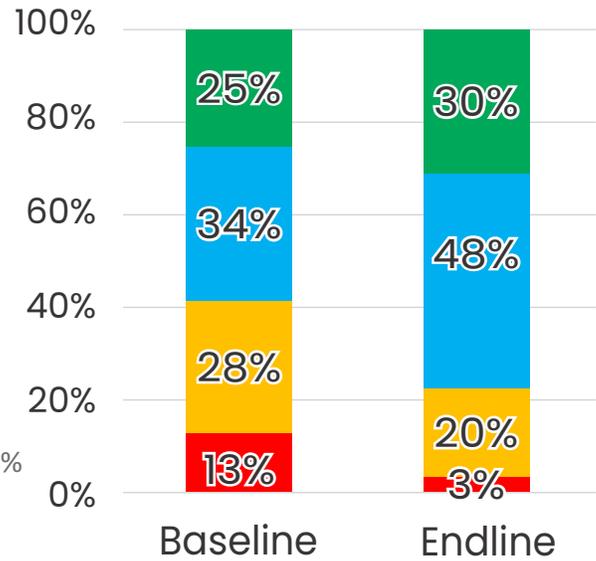
Clap-Snap Numbers
Kinesthetic Pair Routine
 1 clap = 10, 1 snap = 1

PROFICIENCY LEVEL ANALYSIS

The strongest progress was observed among the students most at risk of being left behind: 13% of students scored less than 25% on the baseline assessment; two months later, this figure was down to 3%. At the higher end of the spectrum, the proportion scoring above 75% rose from 25% to 30%.

Graph shows proportion of students by different test score quartiles at baseline and endline.

- Highly Proficient 75-100%
- Foundationally Proficient 50-75%
- Below proficient 25-50%
- Very low proficiency 0-25%



The proportion of children scoring at least 50% grew from 68% to 81% in Grade 3 Hindi and 75% to 87% in Grade 5 Hindi: +13 percentage point and +12 percentage point growth, respectively. The gains in mathematics were even larger: +20 pp (Grade 3) and +28 pp (Grade 5), indicating a significant proportion of students crossing a competency threshold.

Baseline: December 2023

Endline: February 2024



[Click Here](#)

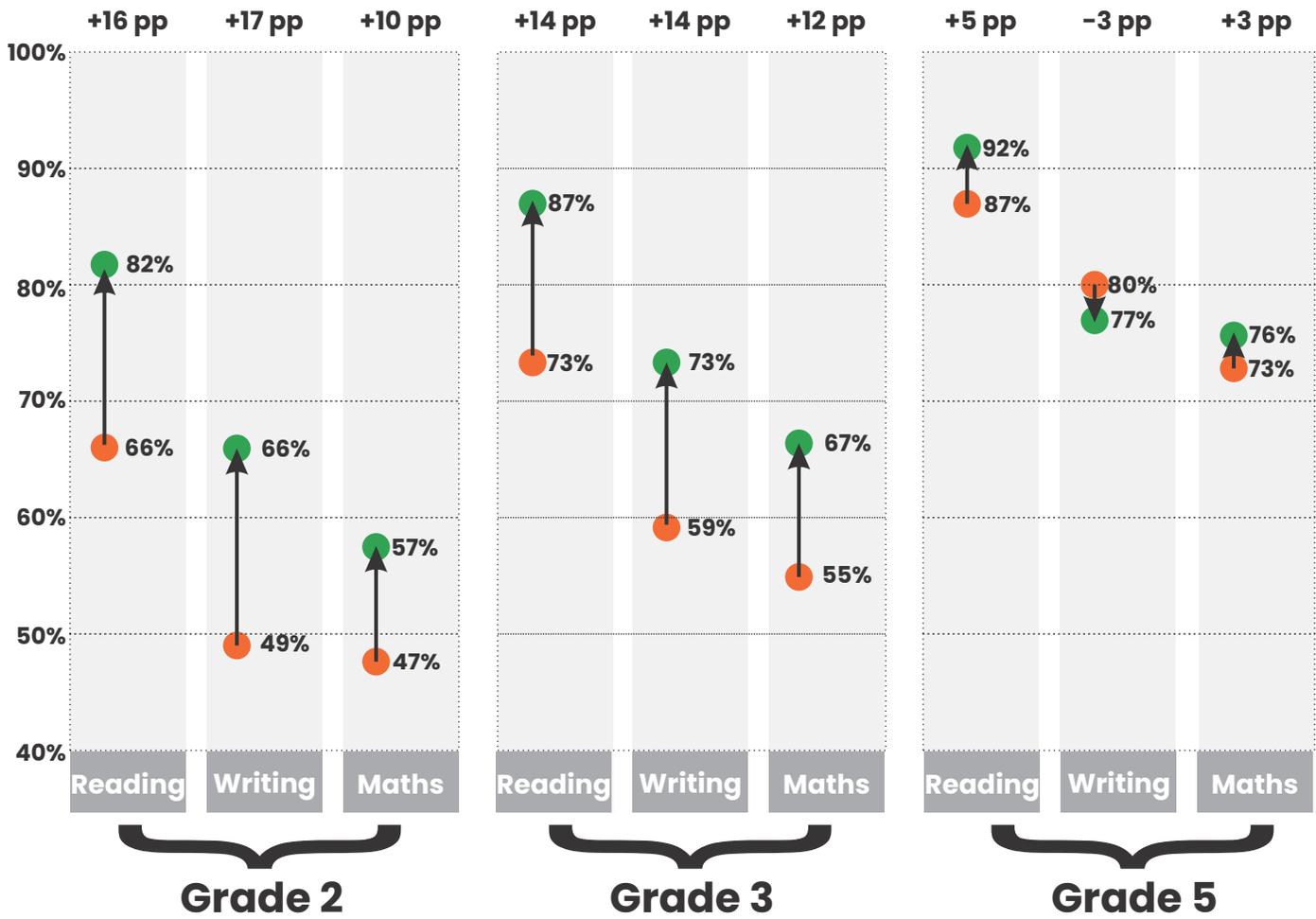
Click or Scan QR to check out the Alfa Toolkits

PHASE 2 RESULTS

In 2025 implementation expanded to the whole of Solan district and 6 blocks of Shimla.

All grades made substantial progress in Hindi reading: an average of 12 percentage points. Similarly writing gained 10 percentage points (pp), and arithmetic 8 percentage points (pp).

Generally the younger grades made the biggest jump, with Grade 2 improving by 14pp and Grade 3 by 13 pp.



Tests were conducted in 2 randomly selected schools per block, under the purview of DIET.

- Baseline (May 2025)
- Endline (Nov 2025)

Scan QR for full results

[Click Here](#)



PROFICIENCY LEVEL ANALYSIS

The tercile analysis shows a dramatic improvement in the learning levels, particularly in Grade 2 & 3 (Grade 5's learning levels were already relatively high in baseline).

The proportion of Grade 2 students scoring above 67% increased from 22% to 56%. Grade 3 students in this 'high proficiency' category increased from 45% to 69%.

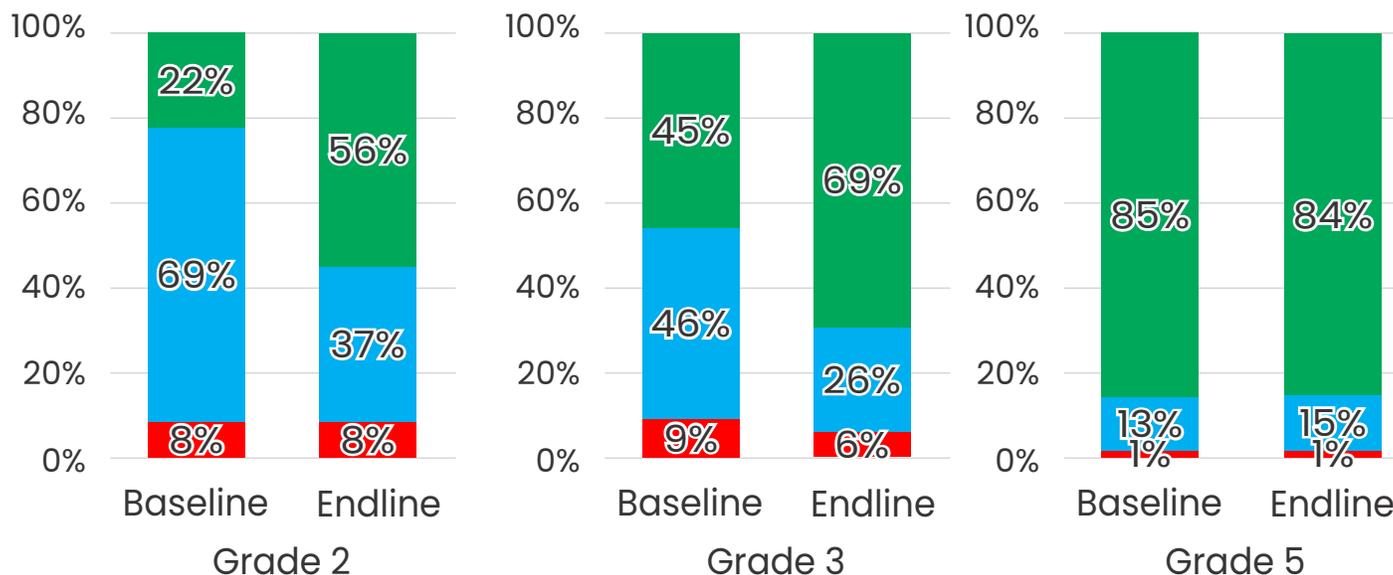


Scan QR to hear a teacher's testimony

[Click Here](#)

Graph: Student Proficiency levels, baseline to endline

- High Proficiency 67-100%
- Basic Proficiency 33-67%
- Very low proficiency 0-33%



Using Tina-Toto Puppets Makes Learning Joyful & Interactive

COMPETENCY ANALYSIS HINDI

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.

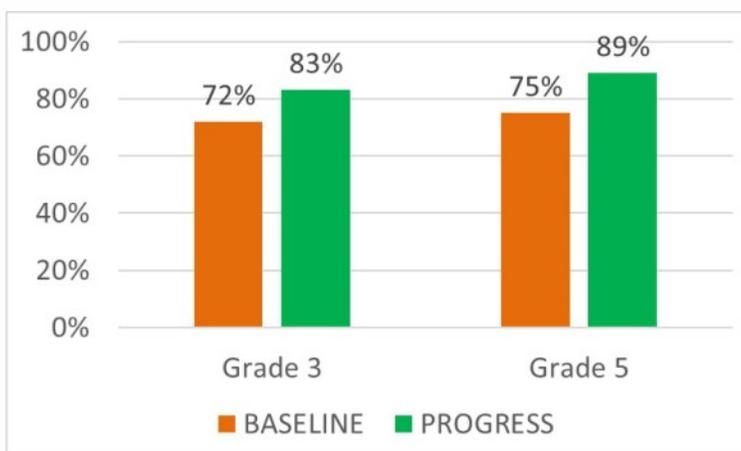


Graphs show the baseline and level of progress on specific competencies.

Grade 1, Dakshata 3 Completing the sentence.

okD, i jk d hft , A
शिक्षक _____ रहे हैं ।

- (A) पता नहीं
- (B) नाच
- (C) पढ़ा
- (D) रो
- (E) सो
- (F) गा

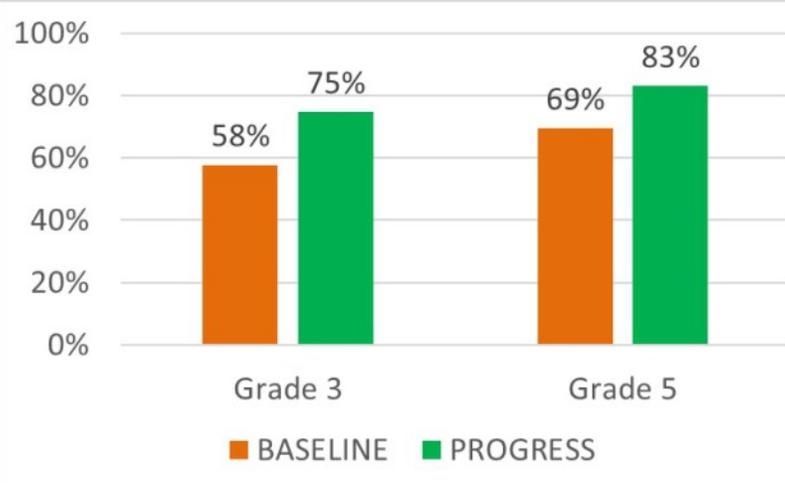


Grade 3, Dakshata 2 Answering on the basis of a picture.

यह दृश्य कहाँ का है?



- (A) पता नहीं
- (B) गाँव का
- (C) शहर का
- (D) बाज़ार का
- (E) विदेश का
- (F) नगर का

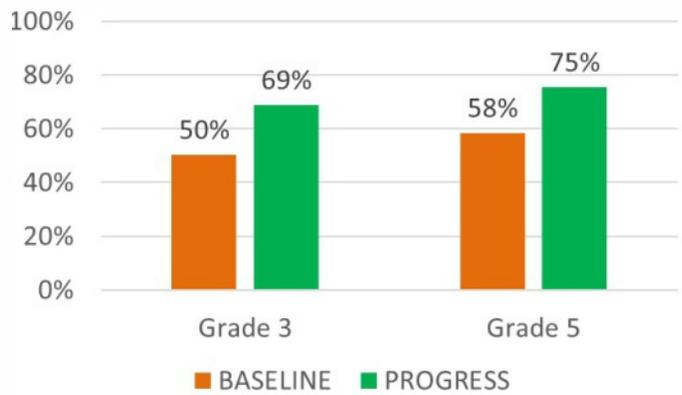


COMPETENCY ANALYSIS MATHS

Grade 1, Dakshata 4 Understanding 3D shapes.

दी गयी त्रि-आयामी (3D) आकृति में किनारों की संख्या लिखिए।

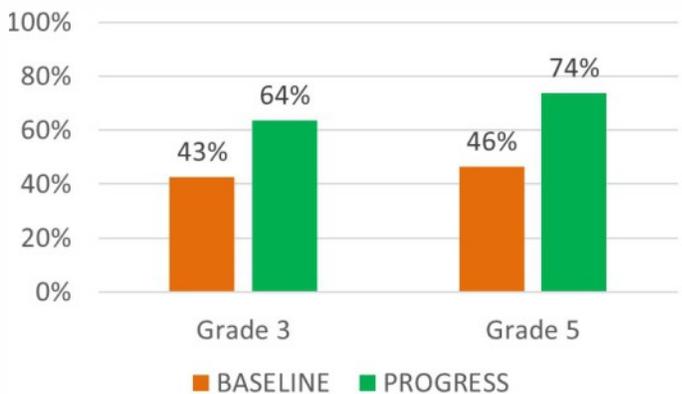
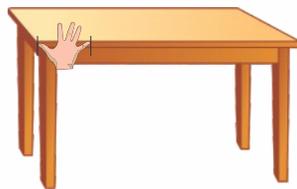
- (A) पता नहीं
- (B) 12
- (C) 8
- (D) 6
- (E) 5
- (F) 4



Grade 2, Dakshata 4 Using non-metric measurements.

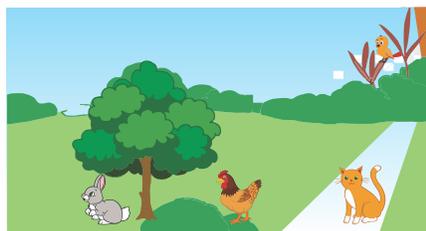
चित्र में मेज की लम्बाई दिए गए हाथ के बालिस्त से नाप कर बताएं।

- (A) पता नहीं
- (B) 5 बालिस्त
- (C) 2 बालिस्त
- (D) 3 बालिस्त
- (E) 7 बालिस्त
- (F) 1 बालिस्त

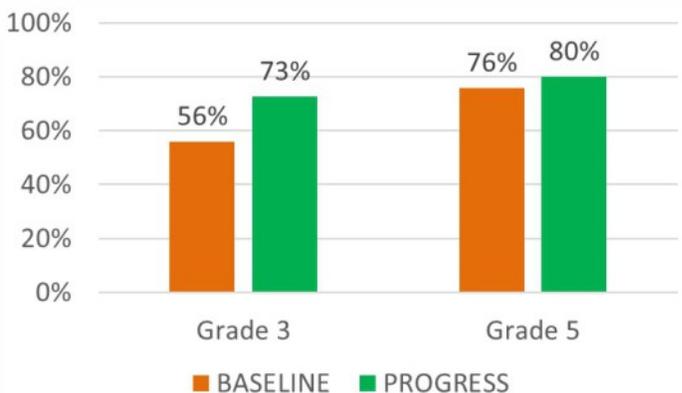


Grade 2, Dakshata 6 Understanding near and far.

चित्र में पेड़ के सबसे पास कौन हैं?



- (A) पता नहीं
- (B) बिल्ली
- (C) मुर्गी
- (D) चिड़िया
- (E) बिल्ली और मुर्गी
- (F) खरगोश



FAST + HOLISTIC NEP 2020 IN ACTION

Key Insight: When pedagogy is shifted from being primarily teacher-led to being driven by child-to-child interaction, learning becomes faster, fairer, and more durable for every learner.

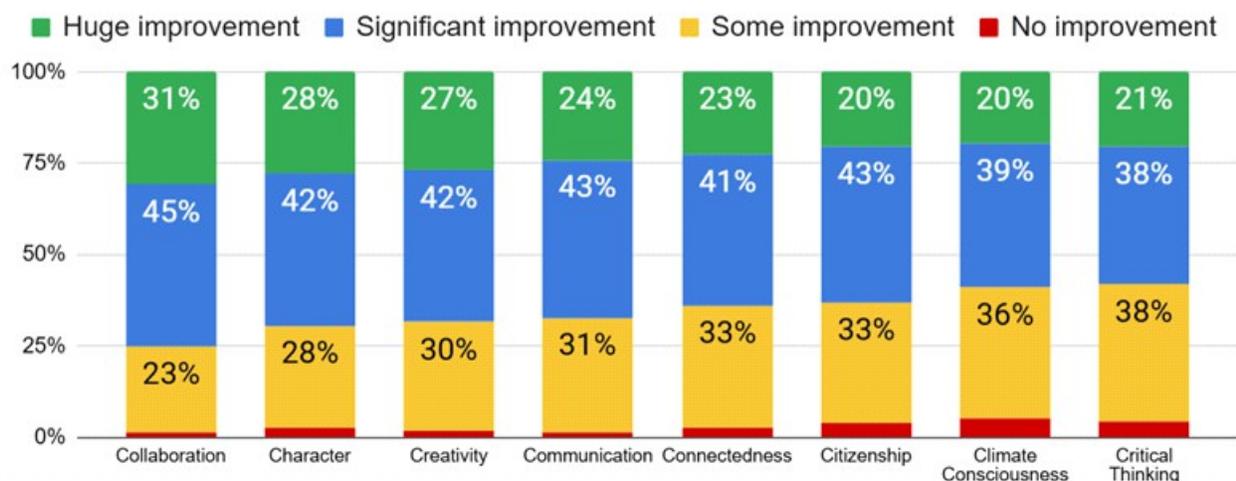
Equity at scale: Peer learning strengthens holistic development by building 21st-century skills and SEL every day.

The chart below shows gains in communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity according to a teacher opinion survey.



Teacher Opinion survey of 1,592 teachers (primarily Shimla & Solan)

Has ALfA paired learning made any difference to students' 21st century skills?



Teacher Motivation & Well-Being

“ With ALfA, I feel much more positive and confident. Children learn faster, enjoy the activities, and show real understanding. The appreciation from parents has also boosted my motivation and overall well-being.

Deepika Moolchandani, Teacher



Scan QR for full results of survey

[Click Here](#)



TESTIMONIALS

TEACHERS' FEEDBACK

“

This is an **excellent method**. When children use concrete objects, the **learning sticks in their brain**. Children who were being bored by the traditional method are **enjoying learning with ALfA**.

Veena Gupta

*Principal, PS Ramshehar 1
(Ramshehar block)*

”

“

ALfA is an **innovative methodology** that uses cognitive mind connections and self-led peer work to make learning accelerated. The methodology helps make the classroom environment fearless and the students are motivating each other.

Neelam

*Grade 4 Teacher & Principal,
PS Juddi Kalan (Ramshehar block)*

”

“

ALfA is giving many children an opportunity to learn. It is proving very interesting for them, and they are making swift progress. I hope this methodology is used by more schools.

Rajesh Sharma

*Grade 4-5 Teacher & Principal
PS Bawasni (Ramshehar block)*

”

“

I have taught using the ALfA pedagogy for 40 days. It is an incredibly effective method, a very new way to teach. It helps children understand difficult concepts in a simple way, and ensures they remember it for life.

Meena Devi

*Grade 2 Teacher,
PS Chandi (Arki block)*

”

“

The ALfA training was extremely helpful for us as teachers. Children are now learning maths using clapping and snapping, ice-cream sticks and matchsticks. Children are learning swiftly and easily. It is useful and interesting for all of them.

Ritu Dhawan

*Grade 3 Teacher & Principal
PS Katha (Arki block)*

”

“

The ALfA methodology emphasizes children asking and answering their own questions. Children are understanding more deeply. All the maths operations have become easier.

Lata Thakur

*Grade 5 Teacher,
CPS Domehar (Arki block)*

”

DIRECTOR OF SCHOOL EDUCATION RECOMMENDATION LETTER

Government of Himachal Pradesh
Directorate of School Education
Himachal Pradesh

Subject: Endorsement of Dignity Education Vision International's (DEVI Sansthan) FLN work in Himachal Pradesh

This is to certify that Dignity Education Vision International (DEVI Sansthan) has been actively engaged in supporting educational initiatives in collaboration with government educational institutions and district-level academic bodies in Himachal Pradesh.

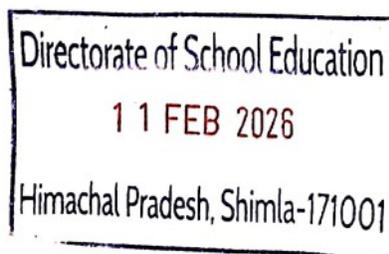
Based on the feedback and appreciation received from District Institute of Education and Training (DIET), Solan and the District Administrations of Solan and Shimla, it is observed that DEVI Sansthan has made meaningful and measurable contributions towards academic enrichment, teacher support, and student-centric learning interventions. The organisation has demonstrated a professional, transparent, and outcome-oriented approach while working in coordination with government stakeholders.

The initiatives undertaken by DEVI Sansthan - particularly their flagship Accelerating Learning for All (ALfA) program - have positively contributed to strengthening foundational learning and language development, supporting teacher capacity building and academic planning, enhancing student engagement through structured and inclusive educational practices, and maintaining effective coordination with district and institutional authorities.

ALfA has proved highly useful in boosting the literacy and numeracy levels of primary students. Its paired learning and hands-on activities have also helped build 21st-century skills like critical thinking and creativity. The ALfA program has been implemented across the whole of the Solan district, which may have contributed to its excellent improvement in PRS 2024, and has been implemented in 6 blocks of Shimla.

In view of the above, Dignity Education Vision International (DEVI Sansthan) is hereby endorsed as a credible and capable organisation for undertaking educational programs, academic support initiatives, and collaborative projects with government and allied institutions.

This endorsement is issued in the public interest.




Director of School Education
Himachal Pradesh

DIET PRINCIPAL ENDORSEMENT

Dr. Shiv Kumar Sharma
Principal DIET-Cum-DPO ISSE
District Solan (H.P.)



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DISTRICT INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION & TRAINING Solan, District Solan (H.P.)

Ref. No. EDN-SLN-DIET-MISC-5794

Dated 05-03-2024

Appreciation for the Successful Implementation of ALFA PATH Program in Solan District, H.P.

I am writing to express my heartfelt appreciation for the collaborative efforts and remarkable achievements stemming from the implementation of the ALFA PATH (Pioneering Academic Transformation and Holistic FLN Program) in District Solan, Himachal Pradesh. It is with great pride that I share that Solan district stands as the pioneering force in implementing the ALFA PATH program, thanks to the MOU signed by you and DEVI Sansthan, Lucknow, U.P. Despite the program's late initiation in the academic year, the progress witnessed in such a short span is truly commendable.

The training initiative for 1033 teachers across 496 government schools, with a focus on Grades 1-5, marked the beginning of this transformative journey. The guidance provided by DEVI Sansthan's trainers has been instrumental in laying the foundation for success. The Baseline Assessment conducted in December and the subsequent Progress Assessment in February at a random selection of schools have proven to be crucial milestones. Despite facing challenges such as the winter break and a tight timeline, the survey results are nothing short of remarkable. In just 32 working days, we witnessed unprecedented improvements in foundational learning and numeracy (FLN) skills among the children. The unique pedagogy of ALFA (Accelerating Learning for All), crafted through years of research by Dr. Sunita Gandhi, has been the driving force behind this transformation. Its innovative approach has played a pivotal role in achieving the outstanding results we celebrate today.

I commend DIET Solan's leadership in ensuring effective testing, transparency, and accountability during the ALFA PATH program. Your crucial role in navigating challenges has led to the success story in Solan, showcasing positive educational outcomes. This initiative holds great potential for benefiting all children in Himachal Pradesh, as confirmed by our evaluation aligning with NIPUN Bharat. I extend sincere appreciation for the collective effort, and I eagerly anticipate the continued positive impact of ALFA PATH on the educational landscape in Himachal Pradesh.

With warm regards,

(Dr Shiv Kumar Sharma)
District Project Officer (SS)-cum-Principal
DIET Solan, H.P.

District Project Officer
ISSE-cum-Principal DIET,
District Solan (H.P.)



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

From 20 to 60,000 schools in 3.5 years

ALFA GROWTH ACROSS INDIA



**Launch in 2022 with
Secretary MOE, India**

From Low-Performing District to Rank 2 in UP

In 2022, IAS Anita Karwal, then Secretary, Ministry of Education, entrusted DEVI Sansthan to implement its ALfA (Accelerating Learning for All) pedagogy for Shamli, Uttar Pradesh, then a low-performing district of India (NAS 2017).

PRS 2024 Grade 3 shows impressive learning gains:

Language: 65% (NAS 2021) → 79% (PRS 2024) → +14 pp

Maths: 59% (NAS 2021) → 76% (PRS 2024) → +17 pp

This took Shamli to **Rank 2 of 75 districts of UP**.

In just 3.5 years since launch, ALfA has spread widely, with MOUs for over **60,000 schools** including 9 districts of UP, and the **entire states** of Himachal, Uttarkhand, and Jammu & Kashmir.

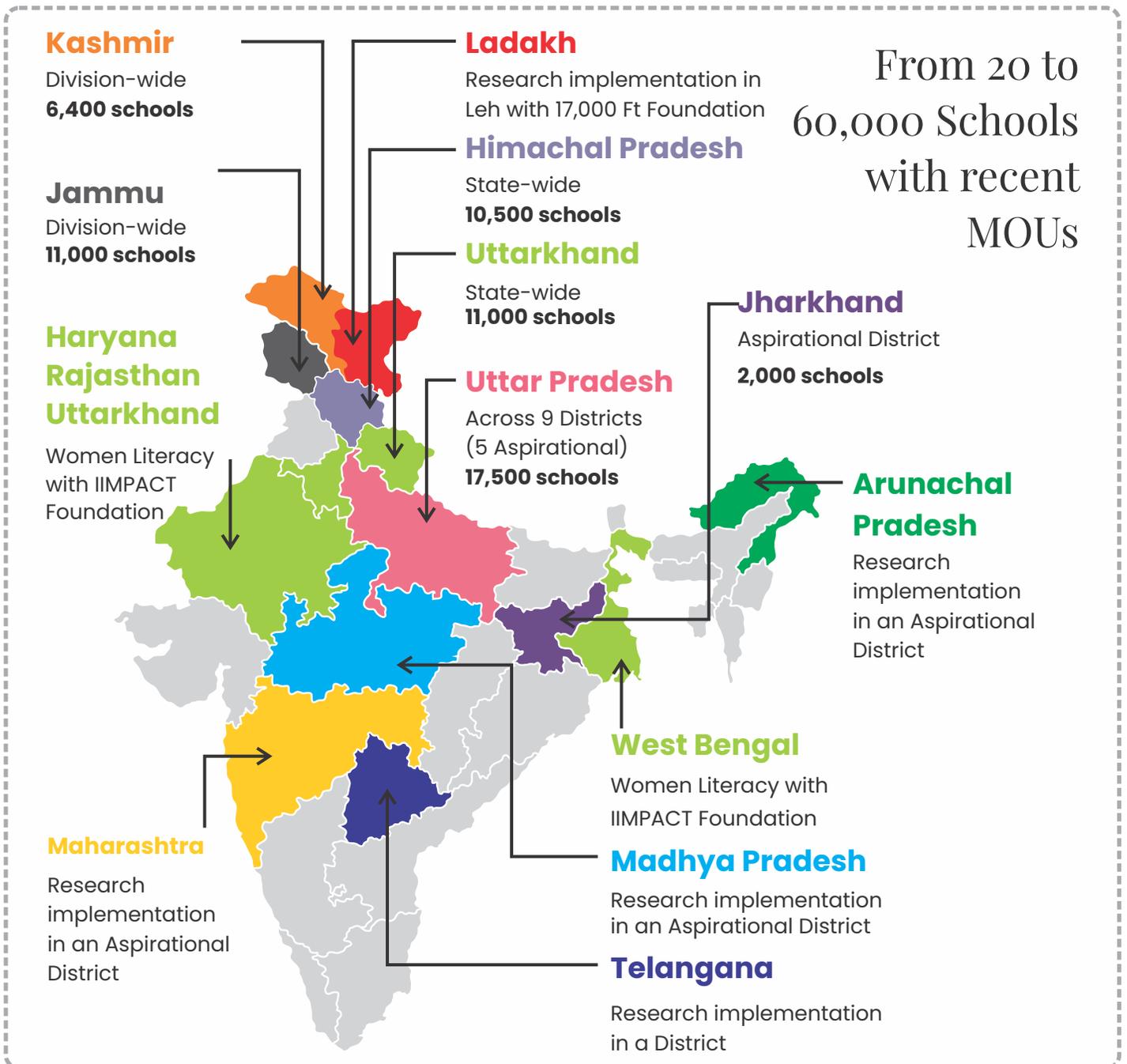
NATIONAL EXPANSION

Since 2022, ALfA has scaled rapidly across schools and women/adult literacy programmes nationwide. In January 2026, MoUs doubled—reaching 60,000 schools—with additional research pilots underway. DEVI is also partnering with NGOs and CSR foundations to accelerate literacy at scale, and we are seeking catalytic approaches and new partners to meet these growing commitments.



Children develop number sense with concrete objects

From 20 to
60,000 Schools
with recent
MOUs



POLICY + PEDAGOGY ACCELERATES FLN FASTER

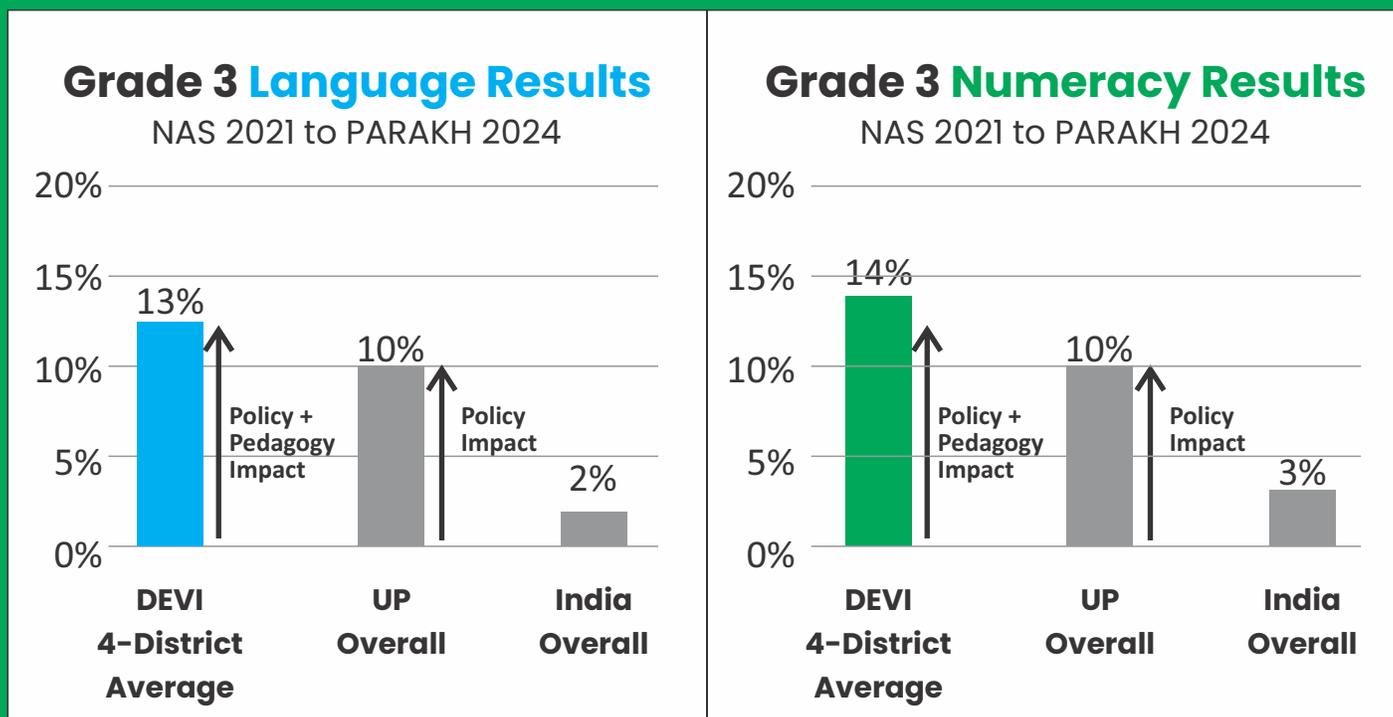
Under strong post-Covid leadership and progressive policies, the UP Government delivered a +10/+10 pp statewide gain and lifted UP to Rank 7 in India in PARAKH 2024 (Grade 3 language & maths).

The government further created an **enabling environment for NGOs**, including DEVI to implement its ALFA pedagogical intervention which delivered sharper acceleration: +13/+14 pp across four ALFA districts.

With ALFA now in 9 districts (17,500 schools) and a proposed statewide FLN supplement for 6 million learners, the message is clear: **policy sets the base; pedagogy speeds the gains.**



Grade 3 Learning Gain Between NAS 2021 & PRS 2024



Key

- Literacy Gain
- Numeracy Gain

Sources: Click/Scan QR



NAS
2021

[Click Here](#)



Parakh
2024

[Click Here](#)



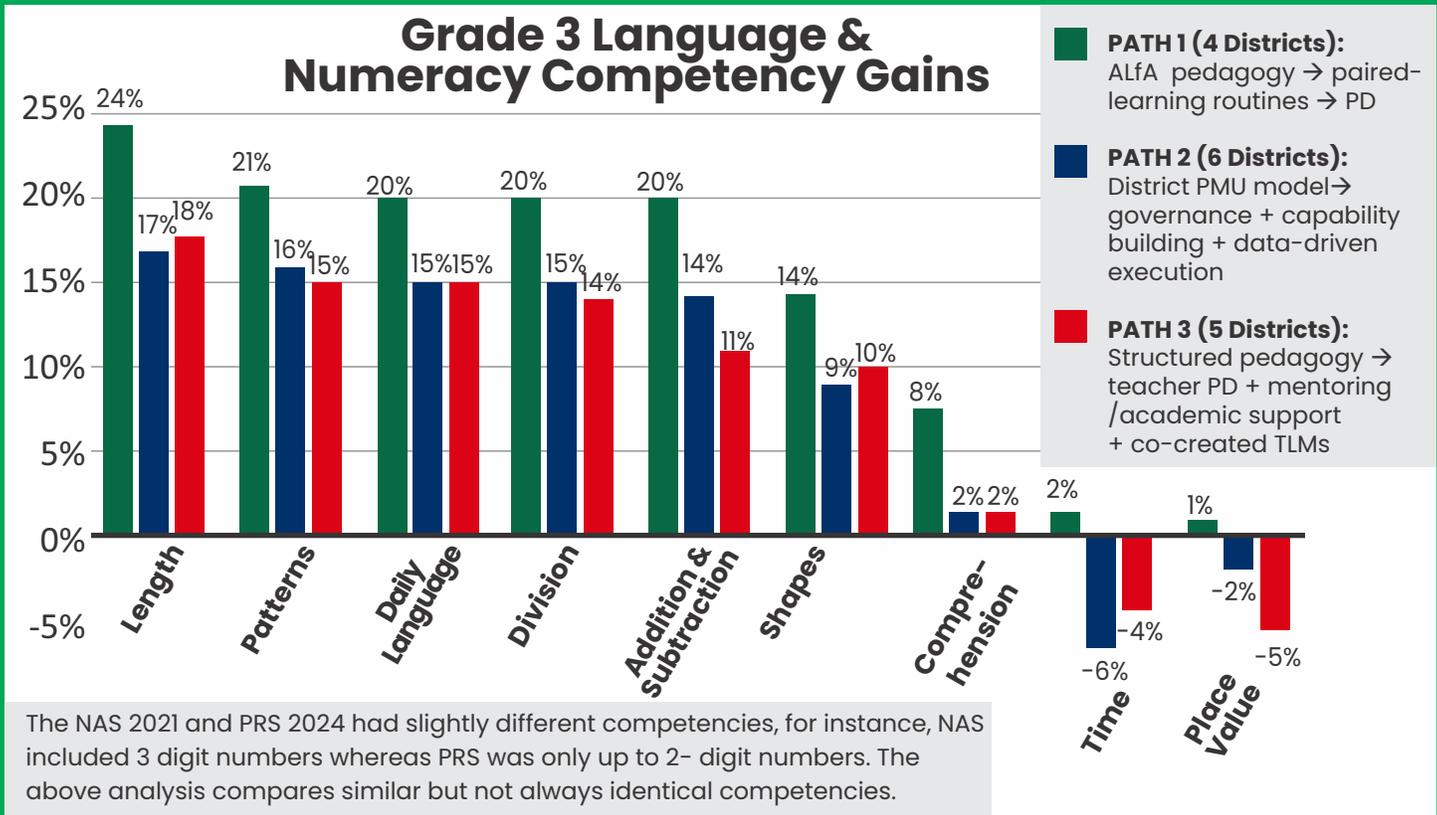
For more details,
read the ALIGN
FLN report

[Click Here](#)

NAS: National Achievement Survey
PRS: PARAKH Rashtriya Sarvekshan

FROM POLICY TO CLASSROOM

Competency-wise analysis of three major pathways to FLN in UP's 15 districts shows ALfA classroom based intervention in 4 districts achieved **the largest gains in all of the competencies**, between NAS 2021 and PRS 2024. Other pathways also included statewide support besides their work in the select districts.



NAS 2021		PRS 2024	
M312	Estimates and measures length and distance using standard units like centimetres or meters & identifies relationships	C-8.9	Select appropriate tools and units to perform simple measurements of length , weight, and volume of objects in their immediate environment.
M318	Extends patterns in simple shapes and numbers	C-8.2	Identifies and extends simple patterns in their surroundings, shapes, and numbers.
L312	Reads printed scripts on the classroom walls : poems, posters, charts etc.	C-9.7	Knows and uses enough words to carry out day-to-day interactions effectively and can guess the meaning of new words by using existing vocabulary
M306	Explains the meaning of division facts by equal grouping/sharing and finds it by repeated subtraction	C-8.7	Recognises multiplication as repeated addition and division as equal sharing
M303	Solves simple daily life problems using addition and subtraction of three-digit numbers with and without regrouping	C-8.6	Performs addition and subtraction of 2-digit numbers fluently using flexible strategies of composition and decomposition of both numerical and word problems
M309	Identifies and makes 2D- shapes by paper folding. paper cutting on the dot grid, using straight lines etc.	C-8.8	Recognises, makes, and classifies basic geometric shapes and their observable properties, and understands and explains the relative relation of objects in space
L304	Reads small texts with comprehension , i.e., identifies main ideas, details, sequence and draws conclusions	C-10.5	Reads short stories and comprehends their meaning – by identifying characters, storyline and what the author wants to say – on their own
M302	Compares numbers up to 999 based on their place values	C-8.5	Recognises and uses numerals to represent quantities up to 99 with the understanding of decimal place value system
M317	Reads the time correctly to the hour using a clock/watch	C-8.10	Performs simple measurements of time in minutes, hours, day, weeks and months

FLN at Speed What Works

PATH to Fast FLN = Policy × Pedagogy

When strong policy is topped by the ALfA pedagogy, gains accelerate fast.

Comparing Grade 3 outcomes in NAS 2021 and PRS 2024, Himachal Pradesh recorded +16 pp (language) and +19 pp (numeracy). Even within this success story, Solan district stands out with **+18 pp language gains** and **+23 pp numeracy gains**. Solan had been implementing ALfA pedagogy since the end of 2023.

A shorthand interpretation: HP's progressive policy built the baseline, the "highway", while pedagogy added an extra acceleration in ALfA-implementing districts.

Given the strength of results and evidence at scale, we suggest moving directly to rollout of the ALfA supplement as an FLN booster where State governments see its value—**government orders are needed now.**

India has made extraordinary progress. NIPUN goals are still within reach in the mission's final year, if we align what leaders prioritise through policy (the highway) with what schools do daily through pedagogy (the vehicle).

It is clear, some vehicles move far faster.

ALfA: Accelerating Learning for All

ALfA is a high-speed FLN pedagogical intervention in which learning moves from known-to-unknown, and children work in pairs. This ensures every child remains active, every minute, leading to rapid gains in learning.

Teachers find it easy to implement. Children enjoy learning with each other, in turn leading to better attendance.

ALfA combines:

- **Paired learning + joyful routines** (every child active, every minute).
- **Known → unknown sequencing** in literacy: picture → sounds (letters) → meaningful words & sentences.
- **Kinesthetic → concrete → abstract sequencing** in numeracy (number sense → operations → mastery).
- **A short, intensive cycle** (45-working days) to establish FLN foundations.

ALfA is exceptionally low-cost and quick to implement:

Language: Thin 30 to 40 page booklets are shared as one copy among two children working in a pair.

Numeracy: A teacher guide plus simple hands-on materials (sticks/beans, or local substitutes) are provided or arranged locally (recycled, reused, sustainable).



NIPUN Last Mile 3 Asks

This is the **final year** of NIPUN Bharat—and FLN targets are still achievable: declare FLN an emergency, run a time-bound mission, and use disruptive pedagogy to drive forwards.

In Uttar Pradesh, **ALfA disruptive FLN pedagogy moved quickly** from pilot to scale after COVID because the DGSE chose to pilot it and backed it without overlapping other FLN approaches—rare, senior-level support to try a new pedagogy, grounded in two decades of research by DEVI Sansthan.

The pilot evidence was validated by Harvard. ALfA grew from a small pilot to now have MOUs for implementation in over **60,000 government schools** across multiple States/UTs, including state-wide in Himachal Pradesh.

PRS/PARAKH 2024 captured ALfA's gains at scale in both UP and HP

Two clear implementation choices other states can replicate:

- (1) **create policy space for innovation**—formally permit a proven “booster” like ALfA as a time-bound FLN supplement alongside existing systems (not as another pilot on the side);
- (2) run a **focused 45-working-day cycle**, followed by evidence & checks.



3 Asks:

What we need from the State

1. Approve ALfA-FLN as a state programme for a 45-working-day emergency cycle at the start of the academic year (or soon thereafter).

2. Print and distribute the ALfA booklets free of cost (DEVI via CSR support, or transfer printing rights to the Government through MoU).

3. Endorse mass training in ALfA accelerated teaching methods for teachers, middle-level leaders, and school heads through online, offline, and cascade modalities.

Why this matters now

NEP 2020 and NIPUN Bharat set a 2026–27 deadline for universal FLN, but progress is uneven—**making this a time-sensitive opportunity to accelerate learning.**

What earlier took 3+ years can now be achieved through ALfA in 45 working days.

Recommendation to States:

Learn from the pages of HP and other states that have signed up to adopt ALfA fast & holistic classroom practice, so that the last stretch of the mission produces the biggest possible learning jump, quickly and equitably.

www.dignityeducation.org/gov

[Click or Scan QR to hear Hon. Defence Minister's views on ALfA pedagogy](#)



POLICY x PEDAGOGY

→ Yields Strongest FLN



POLICY Levers build the road. PEDAGOGY Levers improve learning.
ALfA DISRUPTIVE PEDAGOGY improves learning gains faster, at lower costs.

POLICY: 5 Levers

Learning from high-performing States/UTs

Priority Make FLN #1 goal, with most time & attention

People Lead in a mission-mode, with clear ownership

Plans Targets, sequencing, timetables & resources

Process System-wide coaching, materials, practice (such as Q-banks)

Proof Dashboards, real-time assessment data, reviews, course-correction, accountability



PEDAGOGY: 5 Levers

ALfA | Accelerating Learning for All

Preparation Leaders (middle-level) and teachers trained in new methods + ALfA paired routines

Prompts Embedded teacher guidance + cues in books

Pairing Children learn in pairs, with role-rotation

Practice Small, daily, high-frequency practice in-class that stretches at home

Proof Frequent feedback + instant correction + assessment data + accountability

LEARNING FROM UTTAR PRADESH

Impact of **Policy** X Impact of **Pedagogy**

UP Systemwide
+10 pp Language
+10 pp Mathematics
(NAS 2021 → PRS 2024)

Remarkable one-cycle progress associated with UP government's policy measures for Grade 3.

ALfA 4 Districts-wide
+13 pp Language
+14 pp Mathematics
(NAS 2021 → PRS 2024)

7500 schools, 510,000 children
 Indicative of pedagogy-driven acceleration at scale (30-40% higher than UP average for G3).

ALfA Shamli RCT

HGSE Validated RCT (Shamli)
 Effect sizes after just 40 days

0.23 / 0.89 (Grade 3 / 5)

Double Reading Fluency

Shamli rose from low-performing to Rank 2 of 75 Districts (PRS 2024)

REPORTS & EVIDENCE

India

[UP Systemwide / ALfA Gains \(NAS 2021→PRS 2024\)](#)

[Harvard GSE 40-Day RCT \(Shamli, India, 2022\):](#)

+0.23 SD (Grade 3), +0.89 SD (Grade 5)

Other learning gains in [Arunachal Pradesh](#), [Himachal Pradesh](#), [Jharkhand](#), [Maharashtra](#).

[Reach](#): Grown from 20 to recent agreements for 60k+ schools pan India.

International

[Peru](#): 50→72 Math, 53→70 Spanish

[Ghana](#): 0.30-0.90 SD literacy gains;

strong numeracy gains; 3x learning vs comparison schools after 55 days.

[Maldives](#): Double the learning gains

in ALfA compared to non-ALfA schools

[Replication](#): ALfA Toolkits adapted in 33 International languages (15 Indian).



Click Here

Scan QR Code
 → PRS/NAS data, case studies, ALfA reports, presentations, videos, more.

GLOBAL VALIDATION

FROM HARVARD UNIVERSITY

HGSE Book, 'Rebuilding Resilient Education Systems After the Covid-19 Pandemic', Chapter 8 documents the learning gains from the ALfA program in Shamli, and recommends its widespread adoption by UP government.

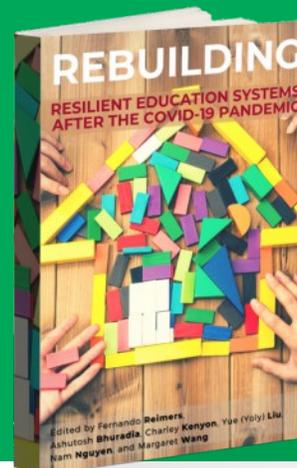
“
The effect size of the project was **0.23 for Grade 3** students and **0.89 for Grade 5**... the results suggest there is significant value in pursuing the ALfA model in other schools if implemented in a coherent, structured, and coordinated manner.”

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

[Click Here](#)



Click or scan QR to check out the book



by Prof. Fernando Reimers et al
Harvard Graduate School of Education

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.



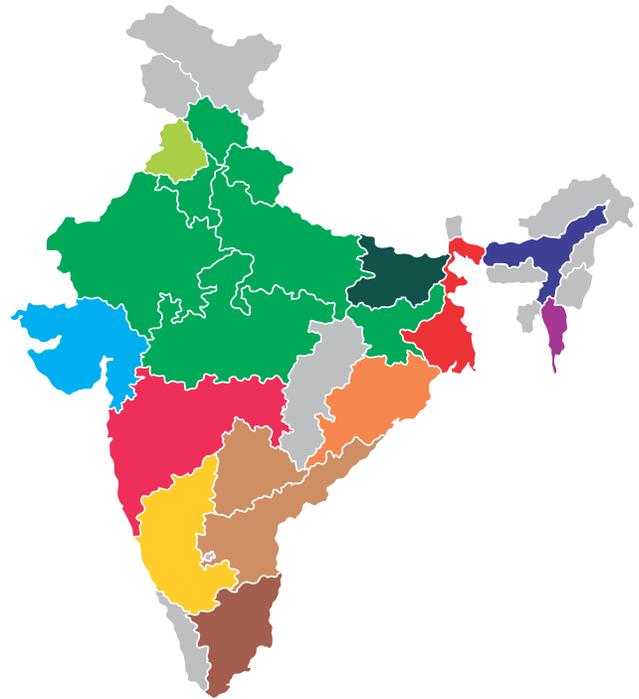
Children taking turns to read with Tina-Toto puppets

ALFA TOOLKITS IN 33 LANGUAGES

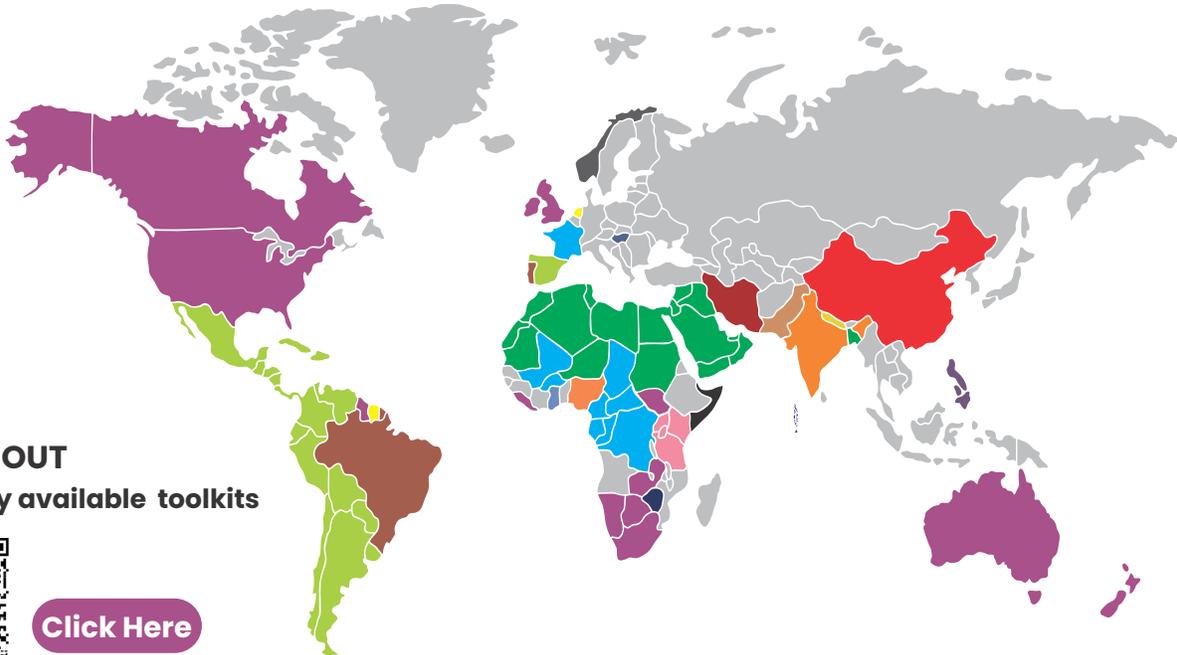
Accelerating Learning for All is now available in 33 languages, helping ensure that high-quality pedagogy is accessible to diverse communities and learners worldwide, supporting equitable education for all.

INDIAN LANGUAGES

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



INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGES



CHECK OUT
the freely available toolkits



[Click Here](#)

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

GLOBAL CASE STUDIES

The ALfA approach is being implemented as research pilots and implementations in several countries, from the Amazon rainforest to downtown Chicago, with support from governments and NGOs. These partnerships demonstrate the potential for scalable, locally-driven impact in education, in a south-to-south exchange.



[Click Here](#)

Click/Scan QR for more results



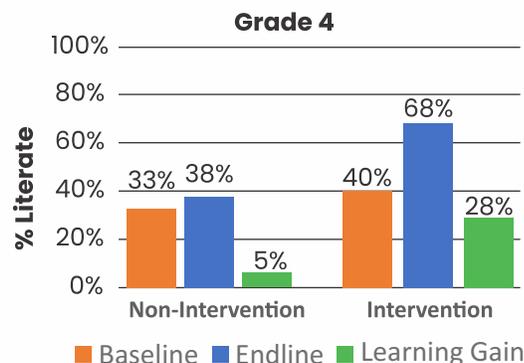
The Olinga Foundation
For Human Development

GHANA
Olinga
Foundation

The program has concluded two research implementations in Ayensuano District. Another one has begun in January 2026.

Click/Scan QR for case study

[Click Here](#)

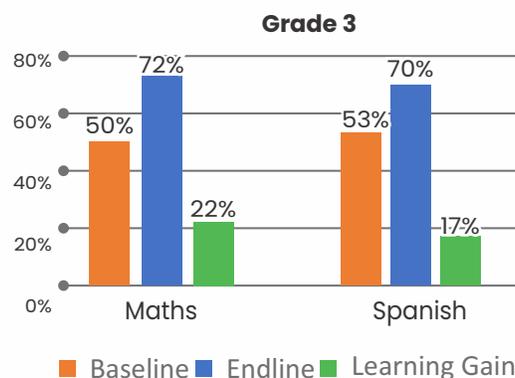


PERU
ArcaBeta
NGO

The pilot shows promise in the remote Maynas District, with potential for broader adoption.

Click/Scan QR for case study

[Click Here](#)



MALDIVES
Ministry of
Education /
UNICEF

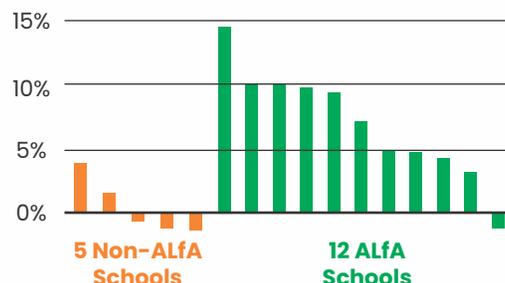
A large delegation to India from Maldives convinced the government to pilot ALfA with support from UNICEF with significant results.

Click/Scan QR for case study

[Click Here](#)



Improvement in English Test Scores, Grade 3



RESEARCH ADULT LITERACY

- DEVI's adult literacy efforts began in 2015 with the Global Dream Campaign for Literacy, starting with a **survey of 1.06 million adults in Lucknow**. Findings showed that age, caste, and geography significantly affect literacy rates.
- DEVI then partnered with Karouni village in Sarojini Nagar, where 22 women led a **community-driven literacy initiative**, empowering 800 women over two years. This success was widely covered in media.
- DEVI ran a program where students from grades 6–12 across India tutored adult learners. **The Literacy NOW app, supported by SBI Foundation**, further boosted these efforts and was adopted by Literacy Chicago in the US.
- DEVI also partnered with the Mizoram government in 5 districts, HCL Foundation in Hardoi, and Impact Foundation, empowering 19,000 women with literacy (see results on next page).



[Click Here](#)

Key Policy Insights

Women's Leadership Drives Success:

Community-based programs are more effective when women lead, as demonstrated in Karouni village with 800 women empowered.

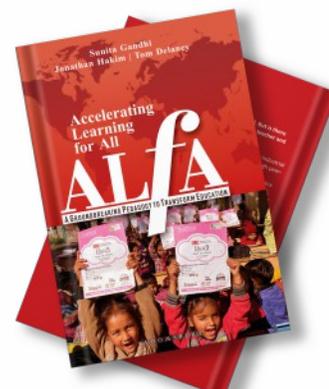
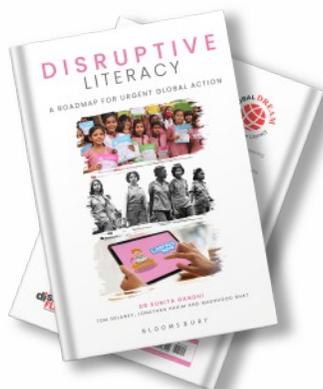
Volunteering Over Wages: The Karouni women worked voluntarily, showing that community-driven efforts often outperform paid work.

Global Lessons for Local Success: DEVI's Disruptive Literacy (2022, Bloomsbury) shares insights from global literacy movements to guide effective strategies.

Engaging Youth Benefits All: Children and young adults teaching

adults creates mutual benefit, and should be part of school curricula to promote lifelong learning.

A People's Movement is Key: A grassroots movement, as seen in Ernakulum, ensures sustainable adult literacy and should be prioritized in policy.



CASE STUDY

MOTHER LITERACY PROGRAM

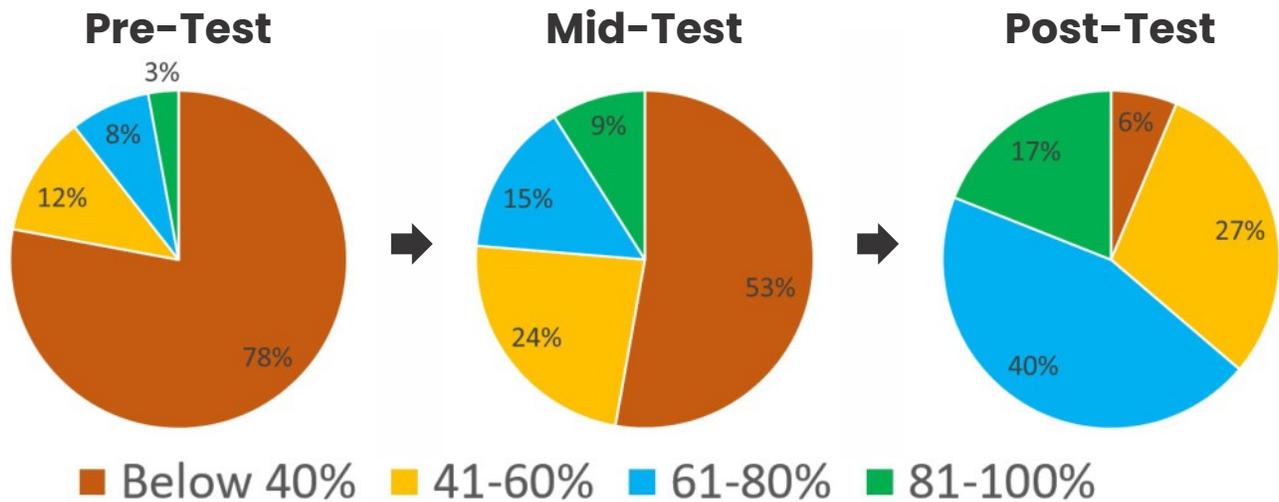
In collaboration with Impact, the program aimed to enhance literacy levels among mothers through focused interventions, driving notable improvements in their literacy and numeracy progress.

SCALE

10,000+ Learners across 5 states:
West Bengal, Rajasthan, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarkhand

IMPACT

78% of learners scored less than 40% on the pre-test. By the time of the post test, it was **only 6%**!
Those scoring above **80% grew more than 5x from 3% to 17%**.



Proportion of learners by different test score bins over the course of the program.



Women learn to write

Alfa: COMPARISON WITH OTHER PEDAGOGIES

The World Bank Global Education Expert Advisory Panel found that Teaching at the Right Level (TaRL) and Structured Pedagogy are two of the best buys in education. Alfa is proving even more cost-effective.

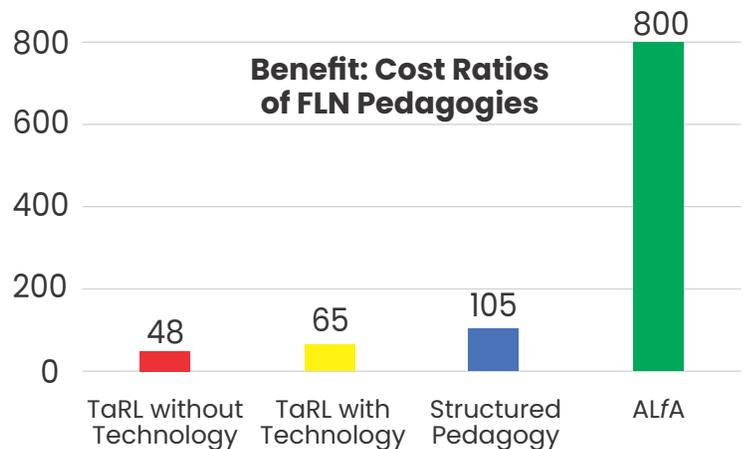
“While Alfa is newer and still emerging compared to established programs such as TaRL and Structured Pedagogy, its ability to deliver swift learning gains positions it as a promising strategy for achieving universal literacy and numeracy.”

- **Aïcha Bah Diallo**
Former Minister of Education, Guinea

“Manish Kumar’s research found that physical separation changed the identity of students. They began calling their classmates not by their names but by the group name, and even refused to play with the group perceived as weak in ability. “You don’t know anything, that’s why you are in Vishwas (lower-ability group),” a student reported being told.”

- **excerpt from ‘How Rich Donors Have Caused More Harm than Good to India’s Education**

Kalra Aparna, The Wire



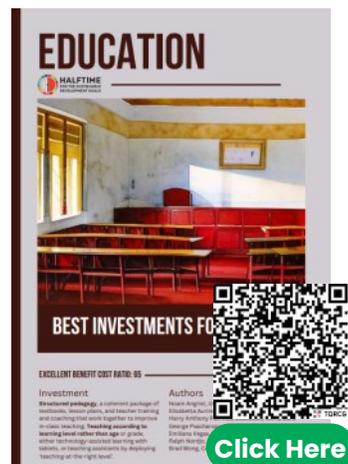
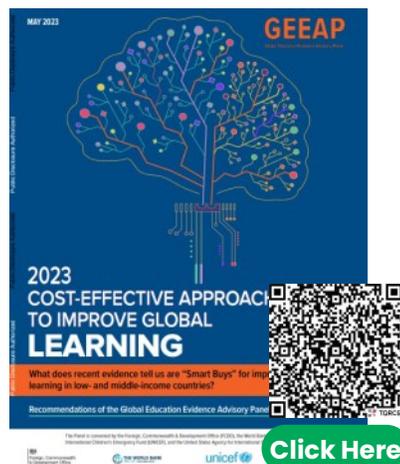
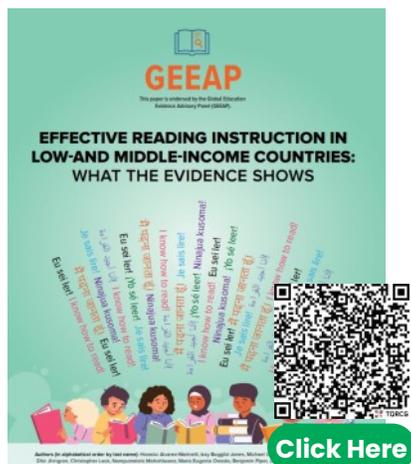
Source: Copenhagen Consensus, 2023. Halftime to SDGs Best Investment Paper: Education.

Source: Weighted average from implementations. \$2-\$4 per child, effect size of 0.52 (HGSE and others).

“I think we’ve been too quick to blame all these other reasons for why kids aren’t reading. It does correlate with things like poverty and circumstances in kids’ homes, but for some reason we haven’t looked at instruction.”

- **Emliy Hanford**
Education Research & Author

References



Click/Scan QR for more details & further references



[Click Here](#)

ALFA: COMPARISON WITH OTHER PEDAGOGIES

STRUCTURED PEDAGOGY

Pedagogical approach: Standardised lesson plans and often scripted teaching to drive consistency.

Teacher role: Can mean strict adherence and reduced professional autonomy.

Speed: Typically needs longer-term implementation (not a “rapid burst” model).

Effect size: Approx 0.13

Cost per child: ~\$8/child (materials + scripting requirements).

Strategic link: Often embeds Science of Reading principles through teacher guides and coaching.

TEACHING AT THE RIGHT LEVEL (TaRL)

Pedagogical approach: Assess group by level -> teach targeted core skills -> address multi-level classrooms.

Teacher role: Teachers manage multiple learning groups simultaneously.

Speed: Evidence includes ~50-day implementations; this earlier community model is no longer active.

Effect size: 0.15-0.28

Cost per child: ~\$20-\$27/child (often higher training/support inputs).

Equity/social risk: Ability grouping may trigger fixed mindset and become socially divisive.

SOR/EXPLICIT INSTRUCTION

Pedagogical approach: Science of Reading prioritises explicit, systematic instruction in the building blocks of reading—especially phonics—within a coherent skill pathway.

Teacher role: Many large-scale literacy programmes pair phonics-based curricula with training/coaching and levelled materials.

Speed: Can show strong gains within an academic year when well-implemented at scale, but varies by programme design.

Effect size / cost per child: Depends on the delivery model.

ACCELERATING LEARNING for ALL (ALFA)

Pedagogical approach:

Random paired learning + holistic, process-led structure with scaffolded self-learning.

Teacher role: Lightens teacher load because learners support/check each other in pairs.

Speed: Designed to build foundational literacy/numeracy in ~45 days.

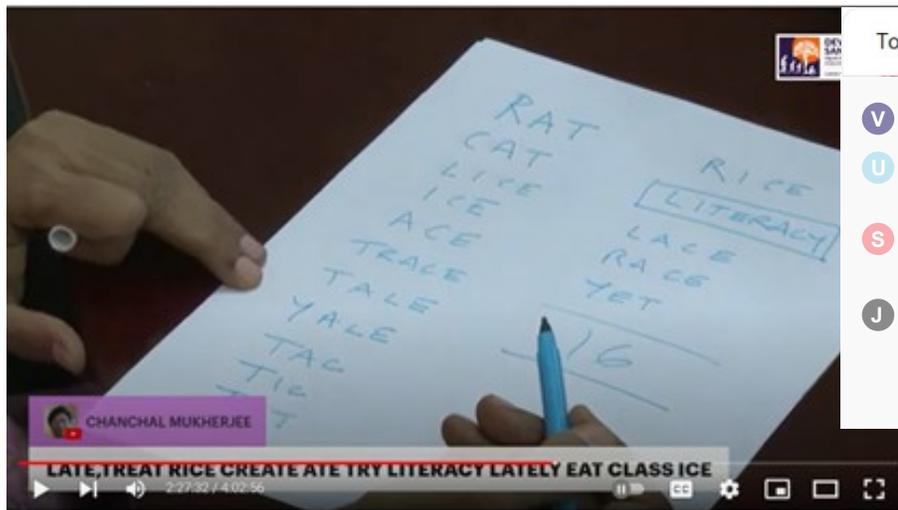
Effect size: 0.23-0.89 (India, ~40 days); weighted average 0.39-0.58.

Cost per child: ~\$4/child (leverages local resources; minimal training time).

TEACHER TRAINING AT SCALE

MASSIVE OPEN ONLINE TRAINING

(60K+ VIEWS | 66 COUNTRIES PARTICIPATED)



Top chat replay ▾

- V Nimmi Shukla 16 words
- U Usha Rajesh Sharma 28
- S Saimon's reality, literacy: 23
- J Jagjeet Kaur fascinating activity



[Click Here](#)

Click/Scan QR
to experience
the MOOT yourself

How many words can you find? Activity

Several audience polls were used in the MOOT to gauge participants' attitude. The results were overwhelmingly positive, indicating a high level of engagement.

IN-PERSON TEACHER EMPOWERMENT

Over the past three years, DEVI has trained and empowered over 10,000 teachers, principals and government officials. Participants build deep practical understanding of the ALfA pedagogy through:

- ✓ Role-plays & Hands-on activities
- ✓ Paired learning practice
- ✓ Classroom videos
- ✓ Quizzes and Q&A

As well as training, our field staff regularly visit schools for supportive supervision, and sit in government meetings at block and district levels, liaise with govt officials, etc.

Question	Results
How did you find today's training?	Excellent 73% Quite good 22% Ok 3% Nothing new 0%
Do you want to adopt the ALfA pedagogy and processes in your classes?	Yes 90% Maybe 10% No 0%
Do you want to adopt paired learning in your classes?	Yes 100% Maybe 0% No 0%
Has the online format of this MOOT been effective for you?	Yes 93% Somewhat 5% No 1%



Solan teachers enjoy hands-on maths activities as part of their training.



[Click Here](#)

Click/Scan QR
to experience
an ALfA training



[Click Here](#)

Click/Scan QR
to watch our
training playlist

BOOKS BY DEVI

ALfA: 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

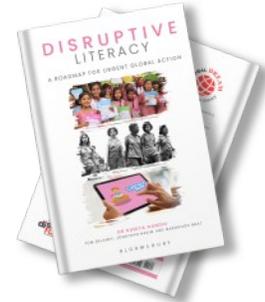
Professor, University of the Western Cape, SA



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



PARTNERS IN CHANGE

We greatly appreciate partnership with organisations who have trusted in the power of a disruptive pedagogy and given it their support.



Literacy Chicago, USA
Adult Literacy program



Kepler School, USA
Research Implementation



Kupanda Sisters, Guyana
Single school pilot



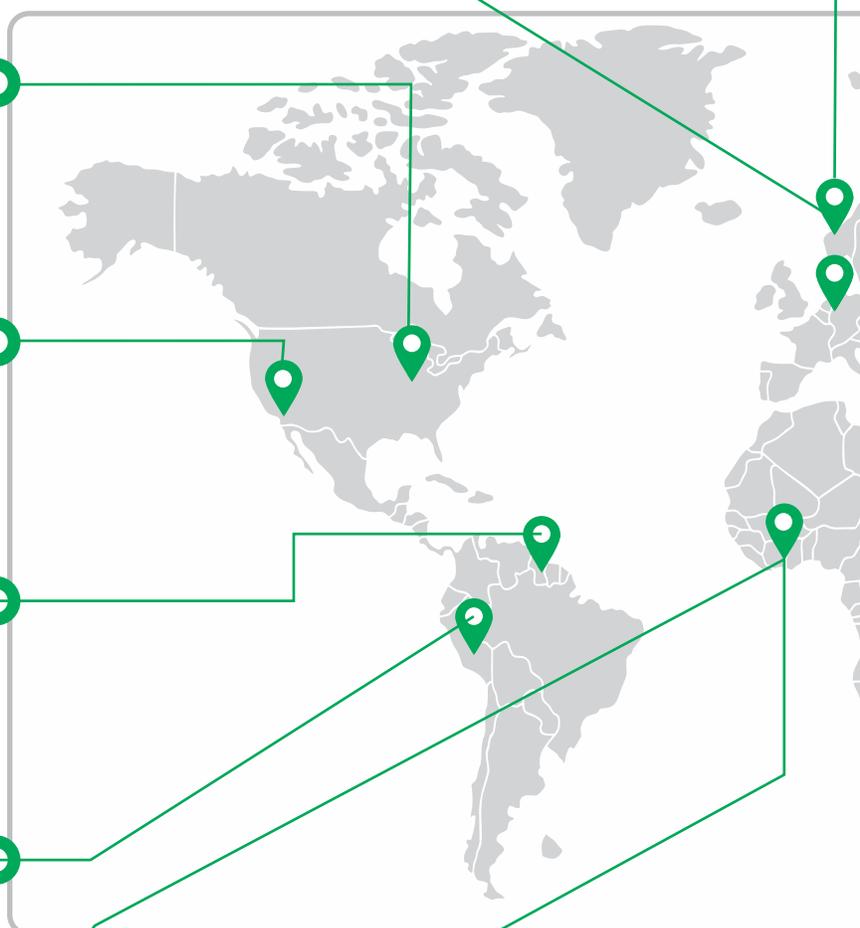
Arca Beta, Peru
Pilot in a school in Amazon



All Africa Students Union
Knowledge & training partnership

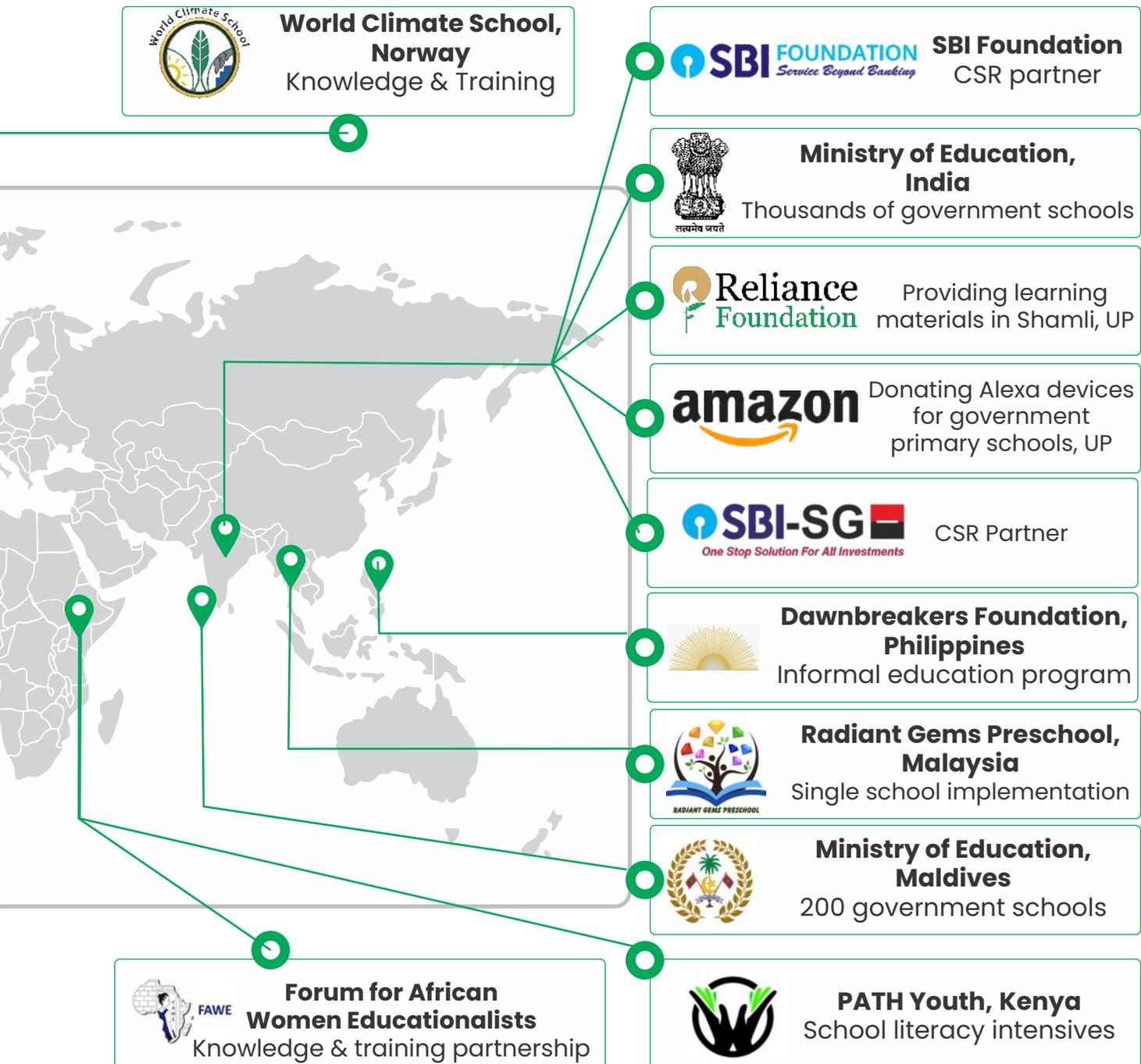


Teachers Without Borders
Toolkit Replication partnership



Olinga Foundation
Research implementation in 15 government schools

PARTNERS IN CHANGE



ONE TARA FREE SCHOOL

- One Tara School is a free, alternative school for out-of-school children and illiterate adults, based on the belief that if they can't go to school, the school should come to them.
- The One Tara initiative empowers individuals to start informal education centers, offering quality education and extra support to underserved communities.
- The goal is to inspire a love of learning, support children through their education journey, and teach adults foundational skills.
- DEVI invites individuals, families, and NGOs to open free schools in memory of loved ones, honoring them through education—a “star above supporting a star on earth.”
- DEVI provides full know-how, support, including training, study materials, and assessments, at low cost to volunteers who offer free education in both formal and informal settings.

Learning Materials



E-Learning materials



Physical & E-Assessments



Online / In-Person Training



THE ALFA JOURNEY

Research on FLN;
Campaigns for Literacy.
Grassroots literacy work
in slums & villages.
Women & Adult Literacy
& Out-of-School Children.
Research continued
for school-based model.

ALFA expands to
pilots in 4 districts of UP
(Barabanki, Lucknow,
Shamli, Unnao).
Hosted **MOOT: (Massive
Open Online Training)**.
Partnership with **Ministry
of Education, Maldives**.
Implementation begins
in Himachal Pradesh
(state-wide MOU).

ALFA **research
implementations**
in Arunachal Pradesh,
Jharkhand, Maharashtra,
Telangana; Ghana, Peru
show strong results.
Statewide MOU for J&K
takes the total to 35,000+
schools.

1992-
2013

**22 years of broader
education research**
in India, Iceland, UK, The
Czech Republic.

2014-
2021

Accelerating Learning for All
(ALFA) launched **in
government schools:**
20-school RCT in Shamli, UP
and Sambalpur, Odisha.
Published '**Disruptive
Literacy**' (Bloomsbury).

2022

2023

ALFA expands to **full district
level implementation**
in Barabanki, Lucknow,
Shamli & Unnao.
Implementation in HP
expands to **whole of Solan
district** and 6 blocks of
Shimla.

2024

PRS results show strong
gains for ALFA-implementing
districts in UP and HP.

2025

2026

MOUs signed in January to
expand to **9 full districts** of
UP, & **entire Uttarakhand
and Ranchi**, expands to
60,000+ schools.



ALFA: Fast & Holistic FLN Today

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 pedagogy, empowering teachers, and leveraging policy change to enable rapid gains towards literacy for all.

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