

Project Report: Shiksha Ki Ek Kiran

Project Title: Shiksha Ki Ek Kiran – Open Learning Centre for Non-Formal Education

Location: Ashoka Park, Sarai Kale Khan, Ashram

Collaborator: Well Being Foundation

Project Duration: Initiated post-COVID-19 lockdown, ongoing

## Introduction

Shiksha Ki Ek Kiran is an open learning center established to provide accessible education and support for children and young adults from underprivileged backgrounds. Initiated in collaboration with the Well Being Foundation, this project was launched in response to the educational challenges amplified by the COVID-19 lockdowns. It aims to bridge learning gaps by focusing on non-formal education, basic spoken English, and holistic development, impacting over 300 students to date.

## Objectives

The primary objectives of Shiksha Ki Ek Kiran are as follows:

1. To offer non-formal educational support to students affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and to help them regain academic progress.
2. To develop basic spoken English skills, empowering students with practical communication skills essential for personal and academic growth.
3. To introduce students to yoga and wellness practices, encouraging physical and mental well-being.
4. To cultivate creativity and self-expression through arts sessions, providing a balanced and inclusive educational experience.

## Key Activities and Sessions

### 1. Non-Formal Education and Basic Spoken English:

- Classes focused on foundational subjects and language skills to support students' academic progress.
- Abhinav Pandey conducted online classes and led spoken English sessions to ensure students had access to learning despite restrictions.

### 2. Yoga Sessions:

- Organized by university students from Delhi University, these sessions provided students with physical activity and mindfulness techniques.
- Yoga practices were introduced to promote mental clarity, concentration, and physical health, which were particularly beneficial during the uncertainties of the pandemic.

### 3. Arts Sessions:

- Arts sessions were led by Moksh, who encouraged students to explore their creativity through painting, drawing, and other visual arts.

- These sessions allowed students to express themselves freely, which played a vital role in their emotional and creative development.

### Impact and Achievements

1. Educational Reach: Over 300 students have benefited from Shiksha Ki Ek Kiran, gaining educational support and language skills critical to their development. The project has enabled students to overcome learning disruptions caused by the pandemic, re-engaging them in a supportive educational environment.

2. Enhanced Communication Skills: Basic spoken English classes have empowered students to communicate more confidently, a skill that is valuable for both academic and future employment opportunities. The focus on spoken English has been particularly impactful for students who lacked regular access to language learning resources.

3. Wellness and Physical Fitness: The introduction of yoga has not only supported students' physical well-being but has also helped to cultivate self-discipline, resilience, and mental balance, attributes that have aided them in adapting to post-lockdown challenges.

4. Creative Expression: Arts sessions fostered emotional healing and self-expression, allowing students to explore their interests and showcase their creativity. Moksh's guidance enabled students to connect with their artistic side, enriching their learning experience.

5. Community and Volunteer Engagement: Volunteers from Delhi University and other institutions participated actively, creating a sense of community and shared responsibility. Their involvement contributed to a supportive and inclusive learning atmosphere.

### Challenges and Solutions

- Digital Divide: Access to online resources was initially limited for some students. To address this, the project facilitated offline learning materials and conducted classes in small, accessible groups when online participation was not feasible.

- Resource Constraints: With limited access to educational materials and teaching aids, Shiksha Ki Ek Kiran relied heavily on donations and collaborative efforts with the Well Being Foundation to provide essential learning tools.

- Health and Safety Concerns: Given the pandemic context, safety protocols were strictly maintained during in-person sessions, ensuring a safe learning environment.

### Conclusion and Future Scope

Shiksha Ki Ek Kiran has made a lasting impact on the lives of students in Ashoka Park, Sarai Kale Khan, and Ashram by offering a holistic, inclusive approach to learning. Through non-formal education, spoken English, and a variety of wellness and creative activities, the project has empowered students to resume their educational journey with renewed confidence.

Moving forward, the project aims to expand its reach to additional communities, incorporating more subjects and learning modules. The collaboration with the Well Being

Foundation remains vital, and the project seeks to attract more volunteers and donors to broaden its impact, ensuring that education and holistic development remain accessible to every student in need.