



REACH EDUCATION ACTION PROGRAMME



www.reapchild.org



Together
We Educate and Empower

REAP: A Journey of Empowerment and Hope

Education transforms lives, and together, we have made this transformation possible.

For 25 years, REAP has empowered thousands of children, women, and marginalized communities across Mumbai and beyond, staying true to our vision of providing quality education to those most in need.

As we celebrate this milestone, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to our donors, partners, dedicated team, teachers, and local communities—the heart of our mission. Your unwavering support has made this impact possible, and we look forward to continuing this journey together.

**With gratitude,
Joy Fernandes**





Introduction

"Where the poor are, there we should be."

Fr. Trevor Miranda, S.J. (Founder, REAP)

Our Vision:

A world where education empowers individuals with freedom, justice, dignity, and self-respect.

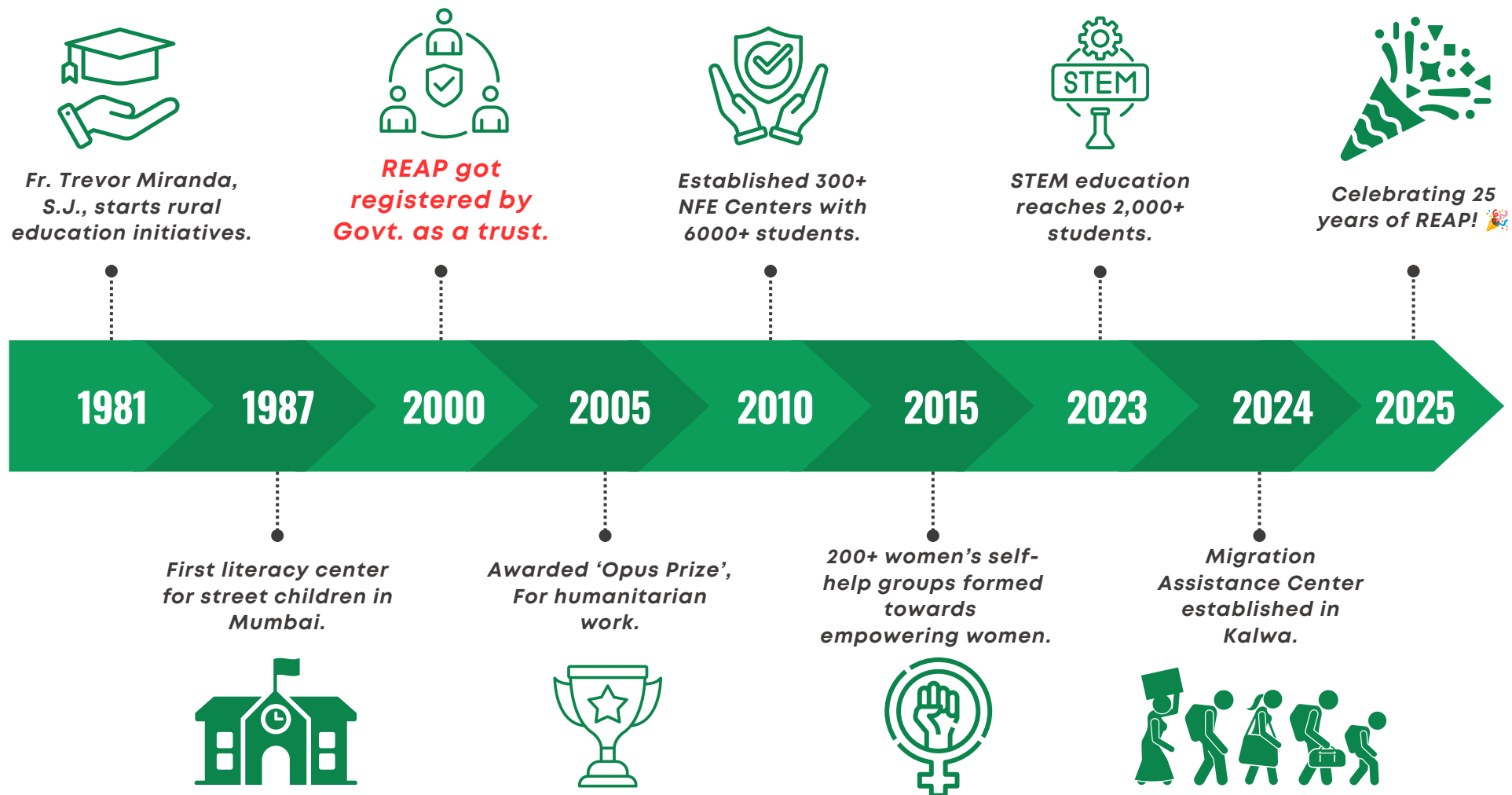
Our Mission:

To create an education movement that transforms the lives of marginalized children by imparting quality education and STEM learning; and empower the youth with employable skills and community by accessing their rights and entitlements.



Milestones

25 Years of Transformation Journey (2000–2025)



Chapter 1



"Every child deserves the light of education, no matter how dark their circumstances."

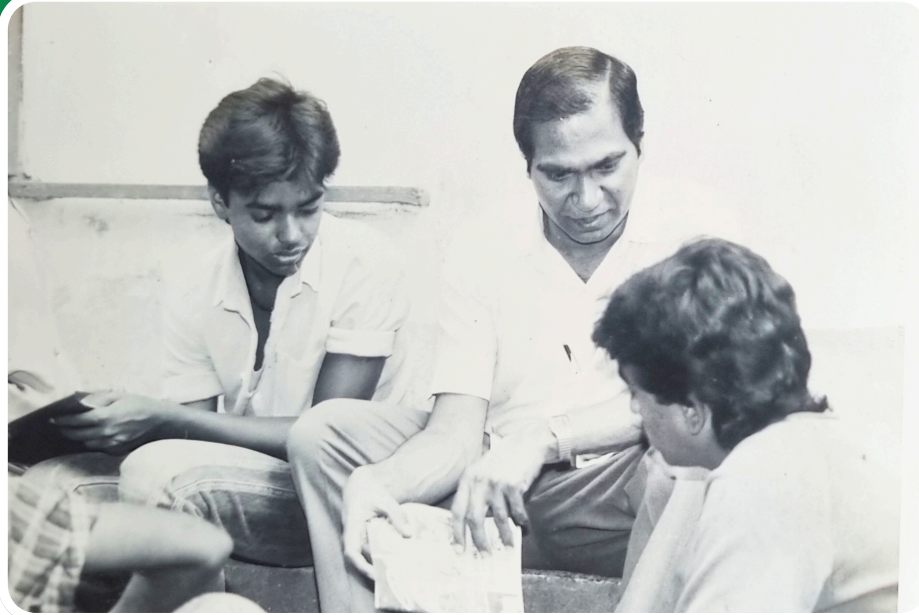
– Fr. Trevor Miranda, S.J.

Planting the Seeds of Change

The Spark of an Idea

- In 1981, a young Jesuit priest, Fr. Trevor Miranda, S.J., began a project initiative called the Rural Education Action Programme.
- The initial focus was on combating illiteracy among tribal children in boarding schools like Ambatha.
- The driving vision: "Every child in school, no child working, and every child learning well."
- The program started small, focusing on tribal children in remote areas, but quickly gained support from well-wishers in Mumbai and other Jesuit institutions.





The First Steps – Churchgate and Beyond

REAP was first to join the global movement on child rights with the historic adoption of the “Convention on the Rights of the child” by the UN General Assembly on 20th November 1989.

- REAP established the first literacy center in 1987 at St. Xavier’s Boys Academy, Churchgate, Mumbai.
- The story of the six shoeshine boys from Churchgate railway station and Azad Maidan became REAP’s first learners.
- The mission expanded to 15 literacy centers by 1990, focusing on street children and slum children along the Andheri highway and Marol pipelines.

Chapter 2

Becoming a Movement (2000–2010)

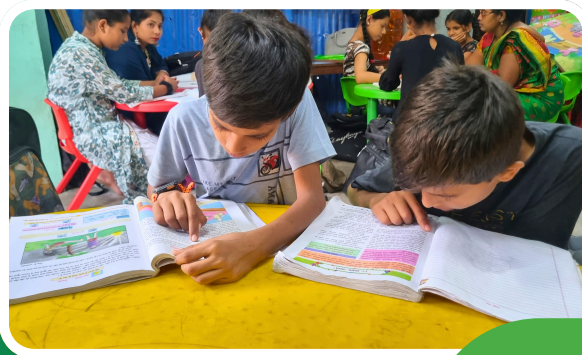
The Formalization of REAP Trust, as a legal entity

- In 2000, REAP was formally registered as a trust, paving the way for a structured and scalable movement.
- In next 10-years, REAP established 300+ learning centers, reached to 6000 children every year.
- Programs like the Tribal Girls' Boarding, Migration Boarding, and the School for Rag-Pickers addressed unique challenges faced by marginalized communities.



The Driving Philosophy – The Three R's and Three P's

- REAP's core philosophy: The Three R's (Reading, Writing, Arithmetic) leading to the Three P's (Preparation for Learning, Preparation for Change, Preparation for Employment).
- This philosophy guided REAP's early programs and shaped its approach on education.
- The emphasis continued on social transformation through literacy, empowerment, and community development.



**Three R's
Reading,
Writing,
Arithmetic**

**The Three R's
and Three P's**



**Three P's
Preparation for Learning,
Preparation for Change,
Preparation for Employment**

Laying the Groundwork: Early Initiatives in Education

- The Non-Formal Education (NFE) Centers were established to make primary education accessible to marginalized children, including street children, rag-pickers, and child laborers.
- Bridge courses helped transition out-of-school children into formal education, in collaboration with local municipal schools.
- REAP's accreditation with the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) enabled certification of students studying in our Learning Centers, helped them for enrollment in higher education and try for jobs.



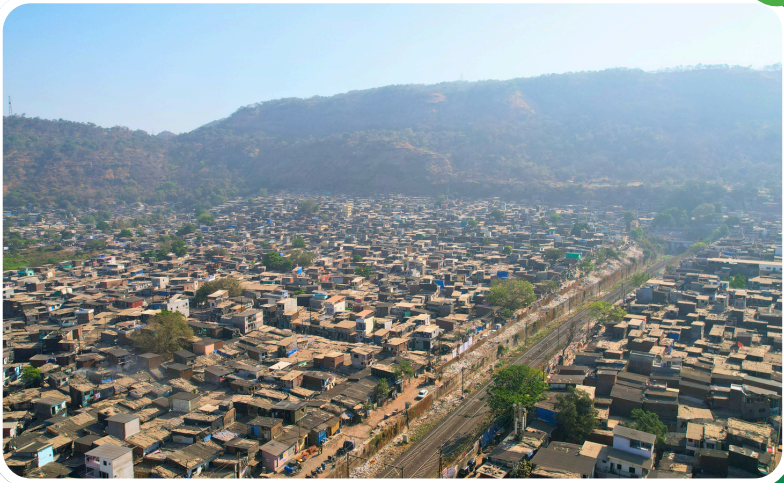
Operation Blackboard – Scaling Up

- Implemented a Non-Formal Education (NFE) program under the government's Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Scheme, helping about 5500 children transition to formal education.
- The focus remained on marginalized groups, including street children, slum dwellers, rag-pickers, and tribal children.
- Established the 'Bandra Boarding', a pilot project for children from Kalwa slums.



Chapter 3

Expanding Access to Quality Education (2011–2020)



- The Govt. of India enacted the RTE Act (2009-10), ensuring free and compulsory education for children aged 6-14.
- REAP shifted focus to quality learning, enrollment drives, and supporting rural government schools.
- Introduced preschool programs (Balwadis, Kilbils, English Nursery) for children aged 0-6, not covered under RTE.
- Strengthened after-school supplementary education.
- Partnered with Zilla Parishad schools to enhance teaching- learning and student retention.
- Facilitated RTE implementation through awareness programs and community mobilization.
- Operates 300+ Supplementary Education Centers, impacting 6,000+ children annually, earning the title of "Footpath University" for marginalized children.



Loyola E-Learning Action Program (LEAP)

- The launch of LEAP in 2013, bringing computer-aided learning to slums and villages.
- The development of e-learning modules in English and Math for students in Standards V and VI.
- The establishment of Computer Labs in Zilla Parishad schools to encourage digital literacy.



Teacher Training Improvement in Pedagogy

- The establishment of REAP's Teacher Training Centre to build the knowledge and skills of grassroots, community teachers.
- The six-month Balwadi Teacher Training Course, transforming women into confident educators.
- The development of teaching materials like the Balwadi Handbook, REAP Song Books, and Anandai Shikshan for women's training.



Women's Empowerment The Heart of Change



- Women were central in REAP's work in the slums and rural communities for children's education and development;
- REAP decided to promote Women's Self-Help Groups, developed women's leadership as well as mutual savings and credit programmes;
- 200+ Self-Help Groups (SHGs) were established to empower women through adult literacy, legal aid, and micro-credit programs.
- Sakhi Centres offered skill training in tailoring, nursing, mehendi, rangoli, and beauty care across multiple locations.

Chapter 4



Innovations and Future Vision (2021-2025)



Transforming Education Through STEM Innovation

- The National Education Policy 2020 emphasized STEM education to equip children with industry-relevant skills. REAP introduced STEM learning to foster creativity, problem-solving, teamwork, and ecological awareness among students.
- The STEM Learning and Research Center (SLRC) has expanded hands-on STEM education in 15+ schools, benefiting 2,000 students through interactive experiments and digital tools. The STEM Udaan program has impacted 900+ slum children, introducing them to robotics, scientific curiosity, and ensuring greater participation of girls in STEM fields.
- By integrating innovative learning methods, REAP is empowering children with 21st-century skills, preparing them for a brighter future.

Building Brighter Futures

- The UN SDGs (Sustainable Development Goal's) and National Education Policy 2020 emphasize quality education for all children. Covid-19 disrupted learning for slum children, especially migrants. REAP responded with focused interventions, bridging learning gaps and ensuring improved academic outcomes.
- **Foundational Learning:** Strengthening the educational base of 1,500+ students (Std. 1–10) through interactive and digital tools.
- **Early Childhood Education (ECE):** Providing structured, play-based learning for 1,000+ children (ages 3–6).
- **Digital & Communication Skills:** Training 250+ students in computer skills and spoken English.
- "At REAP, education goes beyond classrooms—it builds strong foundations and opens doors to opportunities."



Migration Assistance Center

- In July 2024, REAP established the Migration Assistance Center in Kalwa to support migrant families.
- Assists migrants in obtaining E-Shram and ABHA cards, Ayushman Bharat insurance, and other government schemes.
- Provides legal aid, counseling, and vocational training to improve their quality of life.



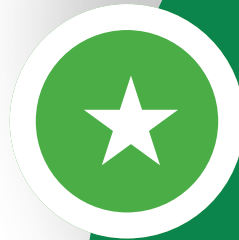
Awards & Recognitions



Opus Prize 2005 – For humanitarian work, Marquette University, U.S.



Press Council of India – For contributions to mass literacy.



Christian Chamber of Commerce – Excellence in Social Work award.



Smt. Sushila Makse Foundation – Best Social Work Organization.



Community Honors – Various grassroots awards.

The Unsung Heroes: Our Staff and Supporters

Voices of Change

Behind every REAP success story are dedicated teachers, community workers, and volunteers who tirelessly work to ensure that education reaches every doorstep. We also acknowledge the support of institutions, donors, and well-wishers who have walked this journey with us.



Nitin Gupta

"I love studying at the REAP Learning Center. STEM sessions made science fun and sparked my curiosity. Now, I enjoy learning and dream of becoming a scientist."

— A student studying at REAP Center



Vaijanta Dhadve

"I feel proud to be part of REAP's mission, helping underprivileged children access quality education. Through my role, I ensure the smooth implementation of programs, making a positive difference in their lives."

— A REAP Project Team Member



Poonam Pandey

"Teaching at REAP has been the most fulfilling experience of my life. I have seen children who once had no future now excelling in school."

— A REAP Teacher

Education Transforms Lives. Be a Part of the Change.

*Every contribution helps
transform a life.*



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