



ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24



**STEM
LEARNING**



FOUNDATIONAL LEARNING (NURSERY)



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TRANSFORMING EDUCATION AND LIVES IN KALWA SLUMS

FROM DIRECTOR'S DESK



**JOY
FERNANDIS**

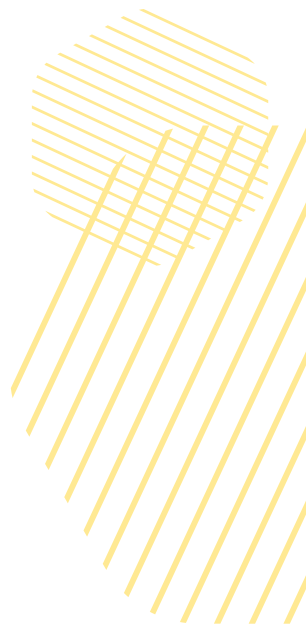
Director, REAP NGO

Dear Friends and Well Wishers!

We are proud to celebrate **25 years** of service by REAP to the most disadvantaged children, poor and vulnerable sections of society. REAP received very good recognition and global awards for its contribution in the field of education and child rights.

The devastation caused by the COVID pandemic, the disadvantaged children became highly vulnerable and were significantly impacted by the pandemic. Hence, apart from focusing on quality education, we also strive to bring change to the social and emotional trauma encountered by the children during the pandemic.

We are implementing an unique programme called 'EcoSTEM' to equip the children with new knowledge and skills to make them 21st Century industry ready as well as develop passion for science and technology to build their futures in that line. Children are highly excited after attending some of our programmes. We received a lot of appreciations and testimonies from the Schools and Parents for our programmes.



REAP is becoming a specialized Institution on STEM learning. We have set up a unit called 'STEM Learning and Research Centre (SLRC)' to conduct R&D and develop new methods and ways of teaching STEM, especially difficult subjects through a lot of games and fun.

Apart from conducting trainings for children of Kalwa slums, we have conducted trainings in many schools across Mumbai and expanding to other parts of Maharashtra. We are receiving more and more requests from schools and educational institutions for collaboration on STEM learning.

Our core programme has been 'Foundational Learning'. Globally, there is a deep learning crisis. After Right to Education (RTE) Act has been implemented in India in 2010, there is tremendous increment in school enrollment, but actual learning has not improved. Covid affected adversely to the learning improvement that was taking place. According to State of Learning Poverty Report by World Bank, 2022, **"the share of 10-year-old children who cannot read and understand a simple text— has increased from 57 to 70 percent in low- and middle-income countries between 2019 and 2022"**. According to UN Sustainable Development Goal 4.1.1 target, **each country has a commitment to reduce the share of children unable to read and understand a simple text by age ten, by half, by 2030**. We are part of this global movement to reduce learning poverty.

For us, education is empowerment and a powerful tool to bring social transformation. We are committed to providing access to quality education to the most deprived children living in the slums and other backward areas.

We would like to thank our donors and partners in India and around the globe for your generous support to bring transformation and make positive impact on lives of children and their families.

Joy Fernandes, S.J.
Director, REAP



KALWA SLUMS OUR MAIN FOCUS AREA

Kalwa Slums: Mini-Dharavi

REAP is working in Kalwa slums of Thane district under Mumbai Metropolitan Region of Maharashtra in India. Kalwa Slums, known as mini-Dharavi (Dharavi is Asia's largest slum located in Mumbai) are highly overcrowded and families live in small spaces in unhygienic conditions. The families are migrants are mainly from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rural Maharashtra and other places in India who come to these places in search of employment. They live here and access various employment opportunities in the city.



THAKURPADA HABITATION IN KALWA EAST



VISION AND MISSION OF REAP

OUR VISION:

Empowering the underprivileged through literacy and quality education for a new world of freedom, justice, dignity and self-respect through a rights-based approach.

OUR MISSION:

REAP's mission is to create an education movement that liberates and empowers lives among the poorest and most disadvantaged children and youth, particularly in slums, tribal and rural areas.

Our education interventions facilitate acquisition of knowledge and skills by children that make them employable, productive and useful citizens in society.

An important part of our education intervention is to promote STEM learning (i.e. Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) to develop a passion among the students and youth to become innovative problem solvers and champions of sustainability.

ABOUT REAP

REAP was established in 1998 and got registered in the year 2000. It has been working for last 25 years in slum areas of Mumbai city, Kalwa-Thane slums, remote tribal and rural villages up to Khardi and Shahpur in Thane district, with a strong focus on delivering quality education to marginalized and underprivileged children with special focus on girls.

REAP was conceived by Bombay Jesuit's as a mission to educate the poor and disadvantaged children, especially the street children, child laborers, rag pickers, children living in railway platforms, homeless children and trafficked children who are most vulnerable, abused, denied childhood and face violation of child rights as per the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), 1989.

REAP was recognized for its service and received several awards. Below are the images of the receipt of the OPUS PRIZE from Marquette University, USA.

REAP thanks our esteemed supporters around the globe, for your invaluable contributions towards our mission of transforming lives of the disadvantaged.





MAIN FOCUS GROUPS

REAP works mainly for disadvantaged children living in the slums, tribal and rural areas of Thane district in Maharashtra state of India. Currently, the slum children of Kalwa East and West are our main priority. The slums are inhabited by migrants mainly from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, rural Maharashtra and other parts of India who come here in search of employment and livelihood.

The Kalwa slums have a population of more than 10,00,00 having a child population over 2,00,000, are deprived of access to quality education and hence are focused by us.

The high priority groups are the followings:

THE HIGH PRIORITY GROUPS ARE THE FOLLOWINGS:

- * Children between 3 to 18 years of age, both of pre-school and school going children;
- * Children belonging to dalit, tribal and minorities;
- * Girl's from all disadvantaged communities;

Girl's participation and gender equality gets high importance in our programmes.



OUR PROGRAMMES IMPLEMENTED IN 2023-24

FOUNDATIONAL LEARNING

Foundational learning – why is it important?

Nearly six-out-of-ten children globally are estimated to be affected by learning poverty, meaning they are unable to read and understand a simple text by the age of ten (i.e. Grade-5). This learning crisis has been exacerbated by the Covid 19 pandemic.

THE CHALLENGE

The early years in a child's life, from prenatal stages through age 8, are the most important time for supporting holistic development and preparing the child for future success in life.

Foundational learning provides the building blocks for all other learning, knowledge, and higher order skills that children and youth need to attain through education. Foundational learning is critical to enable all children to reach their full potential and participate in society.

The Commitment to Action is one of seven global initiatives launched at the UN Secretary-General's Transforming Education Summit (TES), held in September 2022. Members of the global education community and other partners, including civil society and youth organizations, are invited to endorse the Commitment to Action.

REAP is committed to this cause since its inception. It is carrying out programmes to achieve this goal in a time bound manner.

Earlier, REAP Pre-Schooling has 3 types of classes such as Balwadi (Marathi Medium), Kilbil (Urdhu-Hindi) and Nursery (English). However, keeping the changing interest and needs of the community, we focused only on English Nursery from 2023.



OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

INCREASING ACCESS OF DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN AND GIRLS TO FOUNDATIONAL LEARNING

Increased Access to Quality and Inclusive Early Childhood Care and Development Centres for 3-6 Aged Children in Shivaji Nagar, Waghoba Nagar, Thakurpada, Jai Bhim Nagar and Bhaskar Nagar in Kalwa East and West.

We surveyed more than 3500 Households in 10 Bastis and mobilized about 1000 children and enrolled them into our Foundation Learning Centers.



Households

3500



Bastis/ Community

10



Children enrolled them into our Foundation Learning Centers.

1000



ESTABLISHMENT OF NURSERY, JR KG AND SR. KG CLASSES

It is always a tough challenge to find a suitable place in any bastis to set up a learning Centre for the children. Generally, all houses are very small in nature. However, we aim to provide best possible learning facilities and environment to these children, so that they find a better home at these places.

We identified 10 such good premises and hired them on long term lease basis, renovated these places, improved the learning environment and made it attractive for children to come and play, have fun and learn.

Our target is to set up 20 such centres for children aged 3-6 with improved structural conditions to ensure their safety and protection for learners including those with physical impairments.





RECRUITMENT AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING TO COMMUNITY TEACHERS



STEM LEARNING CENTERS

FOCUS: CLASS 1 TO 8
MEDIUM: HINDI, MARATHI AND ENGLISH

We are committed to improve the learning levels all children, especially the most marginalized to develop foundational learning to realize their full potential.

Ensuring foundational learning for all children will help towards productive citizenship, sustainable development, inclusive growth, gender equality, national cohesion, peace and prosperity, and supports progress on all other Sustainable Development Goals.

REAP has set up 20 such classes in Kalwa East and West during 2023-24. We have enrolled 624 children to such classes especially those children who are either not attending schools, drop out children and children who have learning disability.



STEM CENTRE AT JAI BHIM NAGAR-1



STEM CENTRE AT SHIVAJI NAGAR



STEM CENTRE AT THAKUR PADA



STEM CENTRE AT BHASKAR NAGAR

SETTING OF READING LIBRARY IN CENTRES

The children do not have access to any library for books to develop a reading habit and access new knowledge and get inspired by big personalities.

We are creating a movement for story reading and storytelling by our teachers and volunteers in all our Centres.

For this mission, we thank **Ratna Nidhi Charitable Trust** which donated books to four of our Centres.



We had also approached the **Bookwalla** and express our thanks to them for donating books under the programme 'The Giving Tree Library' to another four of our Centres.



DRAWING COMPETITION IMAGES

To promote creativity among children and improve their drawing skills, we organized a drawing competition in all the Centres. More than 300 children participated in these competitions and many children had made beautiful drawings. We gave prizes to best drawings in all the Centres.



STEM LEARNING- PROJECT UDAAN

REAP works to equip young learners from grade-1 onwards to access knowledge and skills on STEM subjects (i.e. Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) relevant to 21 st century industry needs. STEM makes it simpler for students to understand complex concepts given in their syllabus through hands on activities and experiential learning. Children enjoy learning with fun, creativity, critical thinking, and group work; acquire problem solving skills by attempting to solve real life problems. Design thinking is the core of our STEM learning process.

The new National Education Policy, 2020 and Curriculum Framework, 2023 has given special emphasis on STEM learn. Globally, STEM learning has become an integral part of the education system. In India, some of our best schools in private sector are yet to fully integrate it into their teaching and learning. The Government schools are yet to come up with such plans on STEM training.

Understanding its importance and need for STEM learning for the disadvantaged children, children with disability and girls, REAP developed its STEM Learning programme.

OUR STEM VISION

Our STEM vision is to nurture future scientists and technocrats to solve emerging societal challenges by use of innovative learning products of REAP EcoSTEM Programme along with robotic applications, AI, Coding as special training programmes.

We develop the students and youth to become innovative problem solvers and champions of sustainability.



STEM LEARNING AND RESEARCH CENTRE (SLRC)

REAP established a specialized unit called STEM Learning & Research Centre (SLRC) to conduct research, develop learning equipment, develop syllabus and conduct regular trainings.

SLRC is working on innovations on STEM education keeping in view the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) as the core objective.

It is collaborating with Xavier Institute of Engineering (XIE), Mahim, Mumbai for R&D. SLRC provides a transformative educational experience, fostering curiosity and promoting experiential learning.

Through hands-on projects and innovative resources, students develop critical thinking skills, creativity, and a deep understanding of STEM concepts. Our approach extends beyond the conventional classroom, emphasizing environmental sustainability and ethical STEM practices.

ECOSTEM PERSPECTIVE:

REAP is transforming its STEM training into EcoSTEM having an ecology and sustainability perspective to the whole learning of science, technology and engineering.

OUR GOALS

Our mission is to impart STEM learning access to 1,00,000 children in next 10-years and thereby contributing towards social transformation and nation building.

STRATEGY

Towards realization of the vision and mission, REAP shall work to build adequate number of Trainers, Training equipment, training materials, and collaboration and partnership with organizations working in the education sector to scale up the programme and benefit a larger number of children.



ECOSTEM SCHOOL CAMPAIGN



SLRC has designed several short and long courses to meet varied STEM learning needs of children studying in different grades.



COMPUTER TRAINING AND IT SKILLS FOR STUDENTS AND YOUTH

In the age of science and technology it is important to develop technology expertise, to succeed in formal education and beyond. For this purpose, we started computer training in five of our STEM Learning Centres to provide them the knowledge of computer fundamentals. We conduct two hours of computer classes in a week for all the students enrolled in our Centres. They get a lot of time to practice in computers and start using it for their studies.

The computer education programme covers their functions, operations, and related software programs. Computer education is essential for school children as it gives them the skills they need to think critically and solve problems as well as preparing them for a digital future.

Images of Computer Training to STEM Centre students at

-Shivaji Nagar,

-Bhaskar Nagar and

-Thakurpada.

About 250 Children are getting regular training on computer fundamentals in these Centres.



BASIC COMPUTER COURSE

We introduced a 2-months 'Basic Computer Course' having 2-hours class every day in 3-our Centres i.e. Shivaji Nagar, Bhaskar Nagar and Waghoba Nagar.

Basic computer course covers the most common usages of a computer, understanding the basic notions of computer manipulation; managing computer files, word processing, typing, using spreadsheets and databases (Excel); creating presentations (PPT); finding information and communicating (Internet and e-mail).

About 105 students got enrolled in the basic computer course, out of which 78 students completed the course successfully and were awarded certificates. The interest and performance of the students was found be quite good.



TATA MUMBAI MARATHON (TMM)



On 21 JANUARY 2024, REAP NGO proudly participated in the TATA Mumbai Marathon 2024, joining thousands of enthusiastic runners to spread awareness about child education and our impactful programs. Our team, comprising dedicated staff and volunteers, ran to highlight the importance of education and promote our initiatives such as the Little Angels English Nursery and EcoSTEM.

THANK YOU

