

IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT

The School Project

01

Project Details

Project Number:	10299
Project title:	The School Project
Project duration:	Jun 2020 – Aug 2021
Approved Budget:	Rs. 115 lakhs
Major Stakeholders:	Students and Teachers
Location:	Pune, Maharashtra
Implementation Agency:	The Akanksha Foundation
Assessment Agency:	CSRBOX

The Right to Education guarantees free and quality education to all children aged between 6 and 14, and additionally, incentives like Mid-Day Meal, scholarships and even reservations in private schools are designed to encourage maximum enrolment of students from underprivileged backgrounds.¹ A growing number of parents are choosing to send their children to English-medium private schools, while government school enrolment has been declining for several years. The Akanksha Foundation (TAF) addresses the lack of public English-medium schools in underprivileged areas that offer high-quality instruction.

Bajaj Finance Ltd. partnered with TAF to support project interventions of 'The School Project' at Pujya Kasturba Gandhi English Medium School (PKGEMS) in Koregaon Park, Pune. The sudden shift to online learning has presented numerous challenges for students, including difficulties understanding concepts, maintaining engagement, and managing increased workloads. Students joined school right from their homes because, at Akanksha, #HarGharEkSchool became the new normal. In response to these challenges, teachers had implemented various successful strategies to support students and enhance their learning experience.



02 Key Activities

Progressive Pedagogy	PKGEMS set rigorous learning standards to maximise student potential. The multidisciplinary curriculum was reflected in the daily timetable with subjects ranging from arts and music, experiential learning in Science to circle time, Physical Education (PE) & Sports to even Library/Reading. An inter-NGO competition is held annually for students to showcase their skills.
Student Voice and Well-Being	Socio Emotional and Ethical (SEE) learning is practiced as part of their daily timetable. SEE is a creative and pragmatic learning tool aimed at providing socio-emotional support while honing fundamental development skills developed by Emory University in partnership with the Dalai Lama Trust.
Parent Community and Engagement	Parents actively engage in the process of their child's development by being a part of School Management Committee, parent literacy classes, parent volunteerism and community-wide efforts to address key issues such as women's empowerment, substance abuse, physical violence and others. Multiple awareness sessions and parent meetings were held to educate on above issues and its consequences. Outside the classroom, community initiatives are guided by social workers and counsellors who have formed strong ties with students' families and the local community.
Developing Excellent Educators	Continuous trainings for teachers by the central experts and school leaders with regards to curriculum, technology, subject/grade cluster and socio-emotional ethical learning.

03 Key Impact

The impact assessment is based on the IRECS framework, with a focus on **five key** components:

Inclusiveness

The extent to which communities equitably access the benefits of assets created and services delivered.

- Nearly equal distribution of male and female students, **57%** and **43%** respectively
- Majority of the students fall under the appropriate age group as per National Education Policy criteria

Relevance

The extent to which the project is geared to respond to the 'felt' needs of the communities, key project beneficiaries and other stakeholders.

- **39%** of the student's fathers are employed into private jobs earning a fixed monthly income like driver, cleaner, technician
- **61%** of the student's mothers are working as a homemaker
- **38%** of fathers and **27%** of mothers have completed their education only till grade 10

Expectations

Extent of intended and unintended (benefits), socio-economic, and cultural changes have accrued for beneficiaries

78%

of the students have been studying in the school since Kindergarten

64%

of students enjoyed online teaching as dedicated tablets were provided

73%

of students have been curious and asked questions in the online class

65%

of the students aspire to pursue commerce and science after 10th

Convergence

Judging the degree of convergence with government partners and the degree of stakeholder buy-in achieved

- The Akanksha Foundation is the implementing partner responsible for school development review and program support
- Pune Municipal Corporation provided support with Infrastructure

Service Delivery

The extent to which cost-efficient and time-efficient methods and processes were used to achieve results.

- **88%** of beneficiaries are willing to continue their education at the same school
 - Majority of the students have shown a high level of satisfaction and positive experiences with teachers' support
-