

ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22



The launch of an education revolution

Akshar's NEP model radically improves the performance of government schools. By implementing the Akshar NEP Model in 100 government schools, we can transform the schools in the district, build a framework for state-wide adoption, and launch a global education revolution that channels India's new National Education Policy of 2020.

In December 2021, Akshar commenced reform of the first government school in Guwahati, Phaguna Rabha High School. Akshar's team is working with teachers and students from Class 1 to 8 and has successfully implemented a peer coaching center, tablet classes and digital classroom powered by a solar plant, vocational training in carpentry, electrician, farming/gardening, office assistant, tailoring, as well as recycling and a "plastic school fees" policy.

March 2022



**Akshar Forum
Model School**

- **110 Students**
- **100% Graduation Rate (Class 10)**
- **89.5% Attendance**



**Phaguna Rabha
Government High School**

- **Class 1-8 intervention**
- **215 Students**
- **64.2% Attendance**

2023



The Akshar NEP Model will be implemented in 4 more government schools in Guwahati

- **Approx. 1000 students**

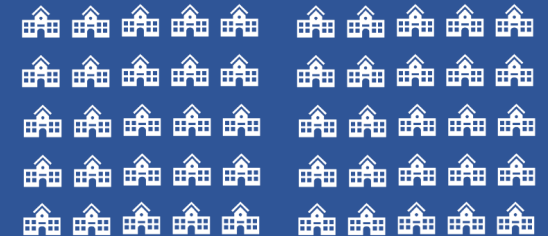
2024



Expanding to a total of 25 schools in 2024.

- **Approx. 5000 students**
- **Commence Akshar Administrative Fellowship to begin district-level transformation.**

2026



By 2026, 100 government schools.

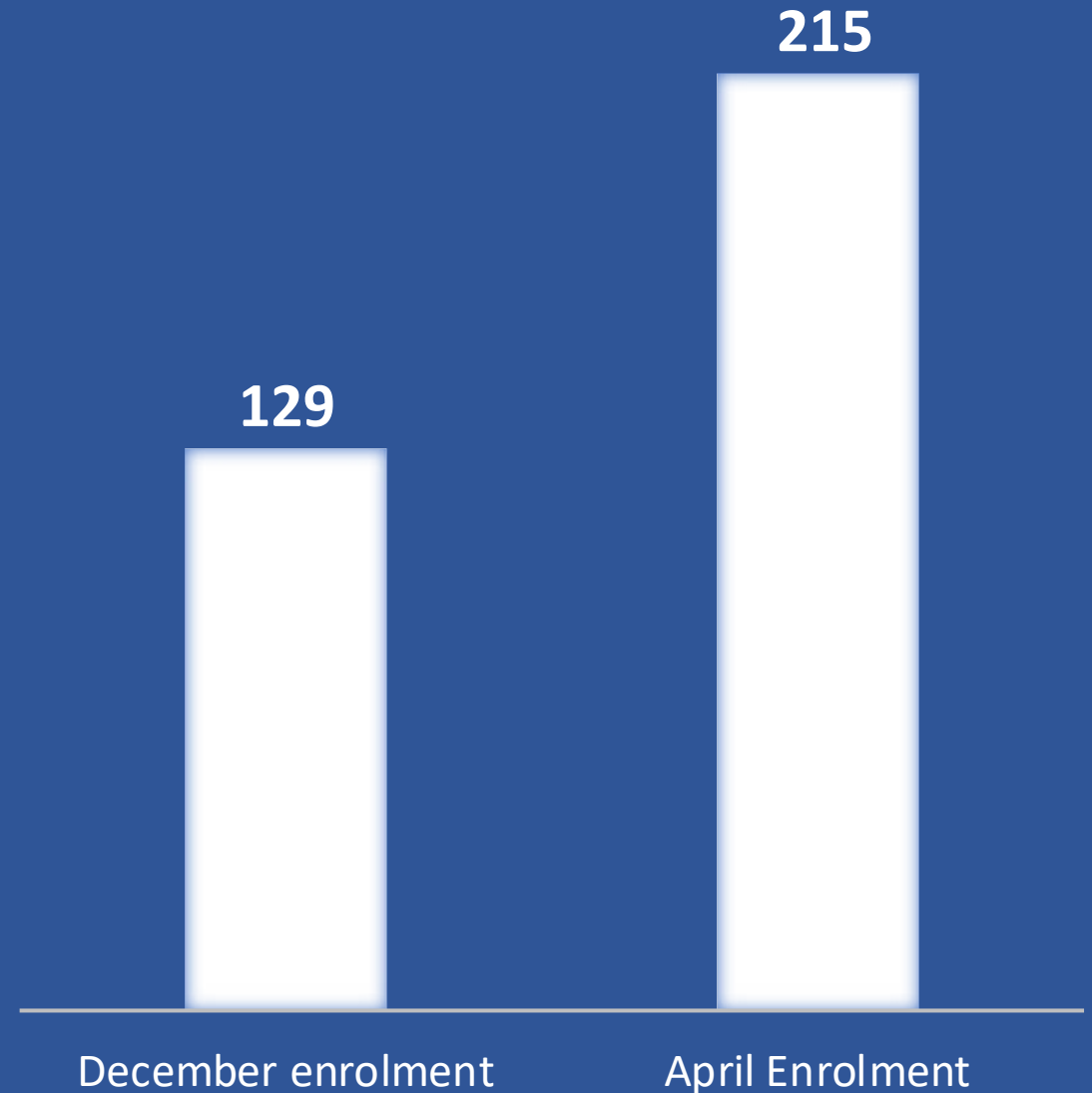
- **Approx. 20,000 students**
- **Expand Akshar Admin Fellowship to begin state-level transformation of 40,000 schools**

Phaguna Rabha High School

Class 1-10 Assamese-medium
government school in Guwahati



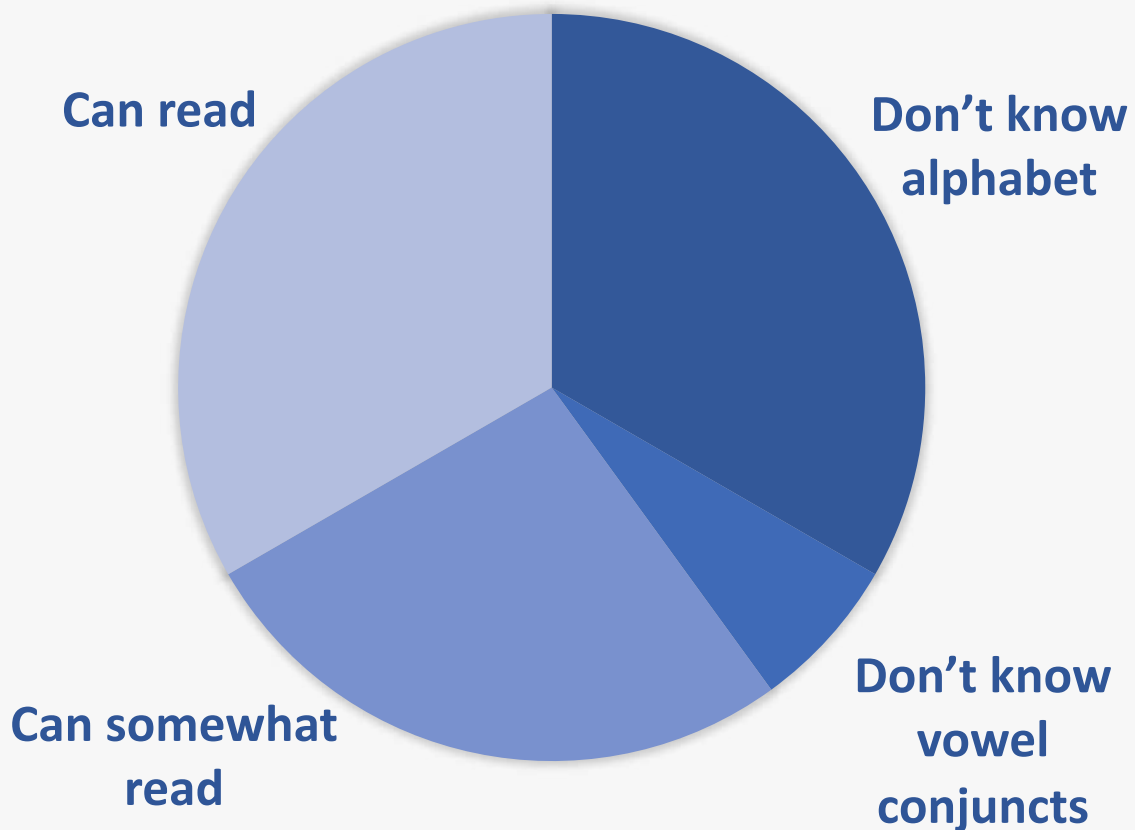
In 4 months – effectively only 2 months of classes due to lockdown – enrolment has increased by two-thirds, attendance is increasing, learning outcomes are improving, and teachers and school leaders are adopting the Akshar Education Model.



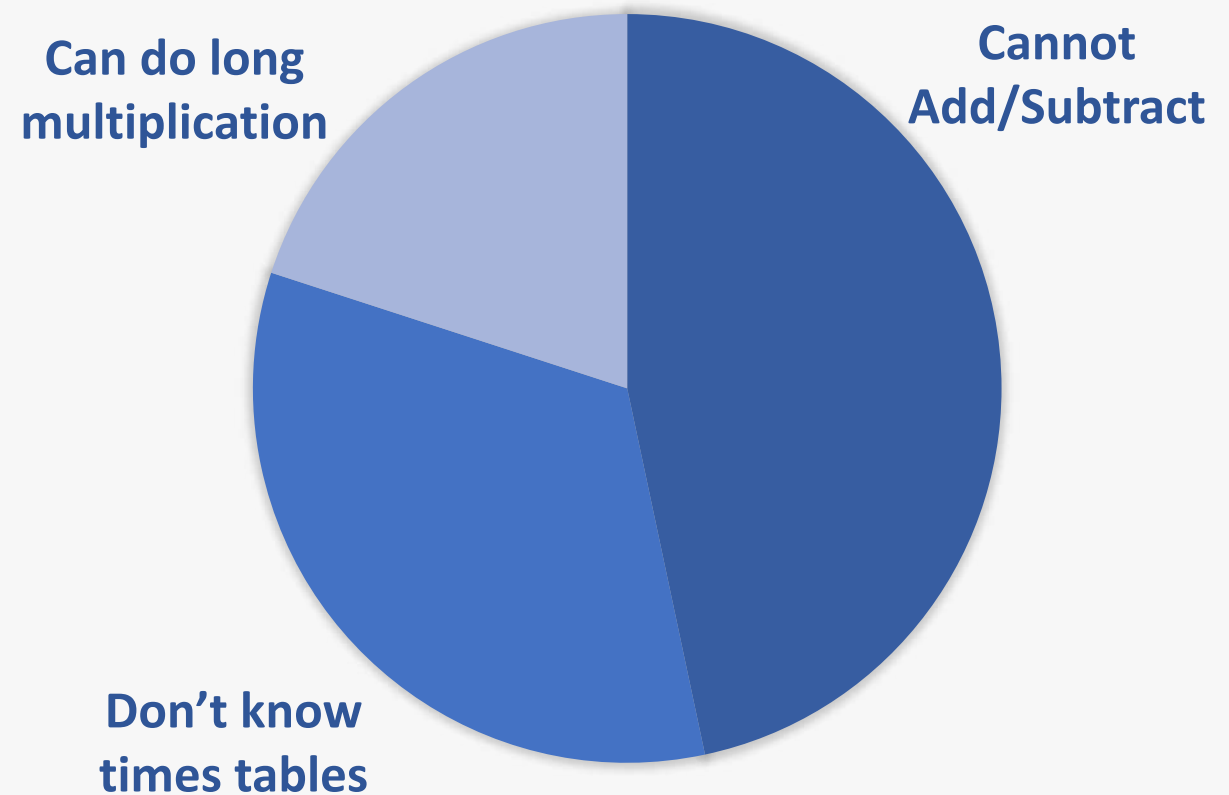


After individual baseline assessments of all students, it was evident students were far behind their grade levels. These deficiencies are typical in public schools, lead to high dropout rates, and are the reason only the most deprived families send their children to government schools. Even government schoolteachers send their own children to private schools.

Class 6 Assamese Language Assessment



Class 6 Mathematics Assessment



**Here's how the Akshar Education
Model can fix this**

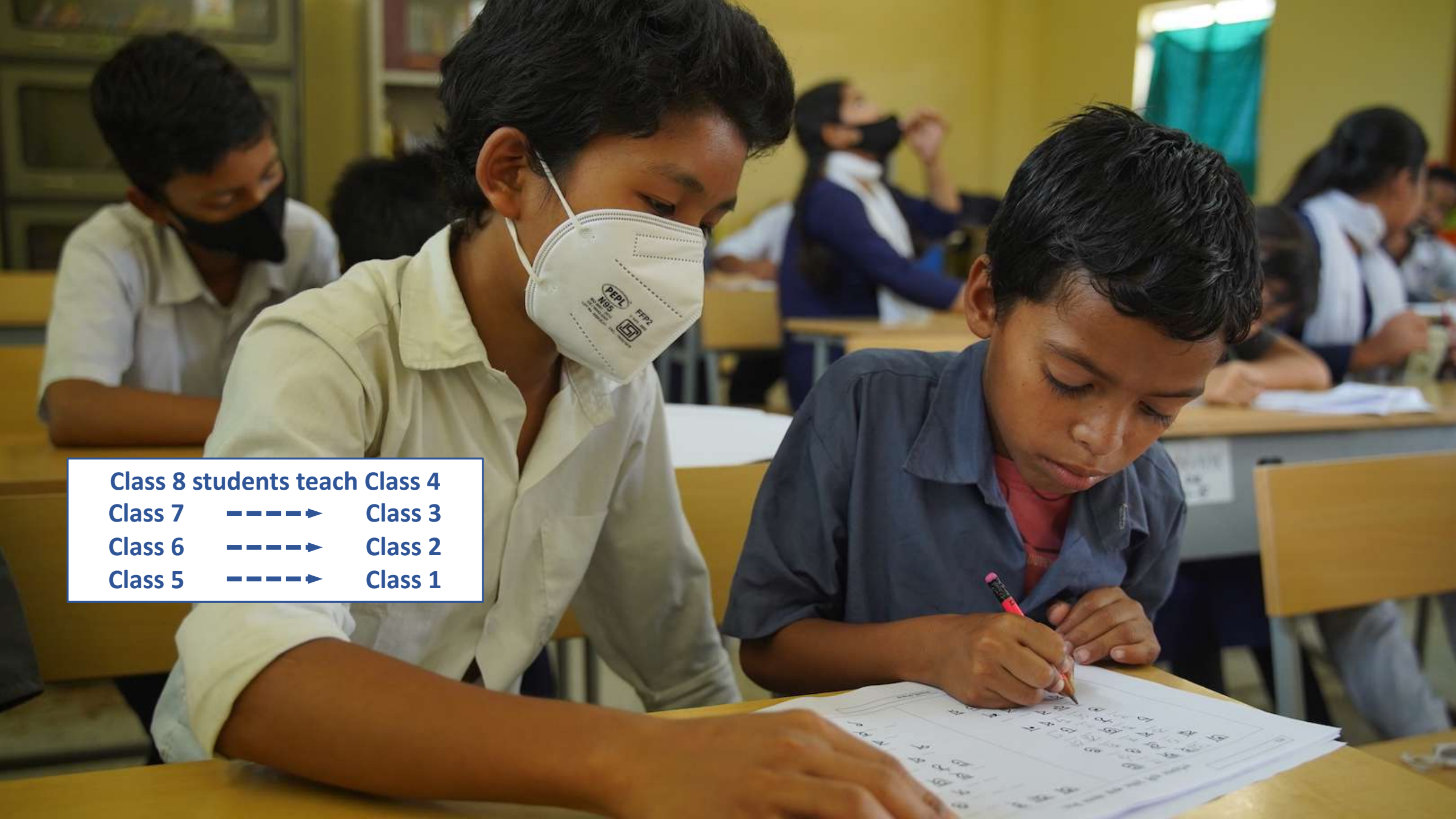
Teach them how to teach

Younger students
receive daily one-
on-one tutoring
from older students



Middle school students are paired one-on-one with primary students for daily tutoring sessions.

Older students are rewarded with points which they can redeem for items, as if it were currency. They gain confidence, leadership and communication skills, and improve their own academic outcomes, while younger students benefit greatly from having daily tutoring sessions.



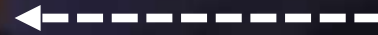
Class 8 students teach	Class 4
Class 7	-----> Class 3
Class 6	-----> Class 2
Class 5	-----> Class 1

Learning outcomes
improve when students'
errors are pointed out
and corrected



Teach them how to learn

Maximize student engagement with tablets and digital classroom



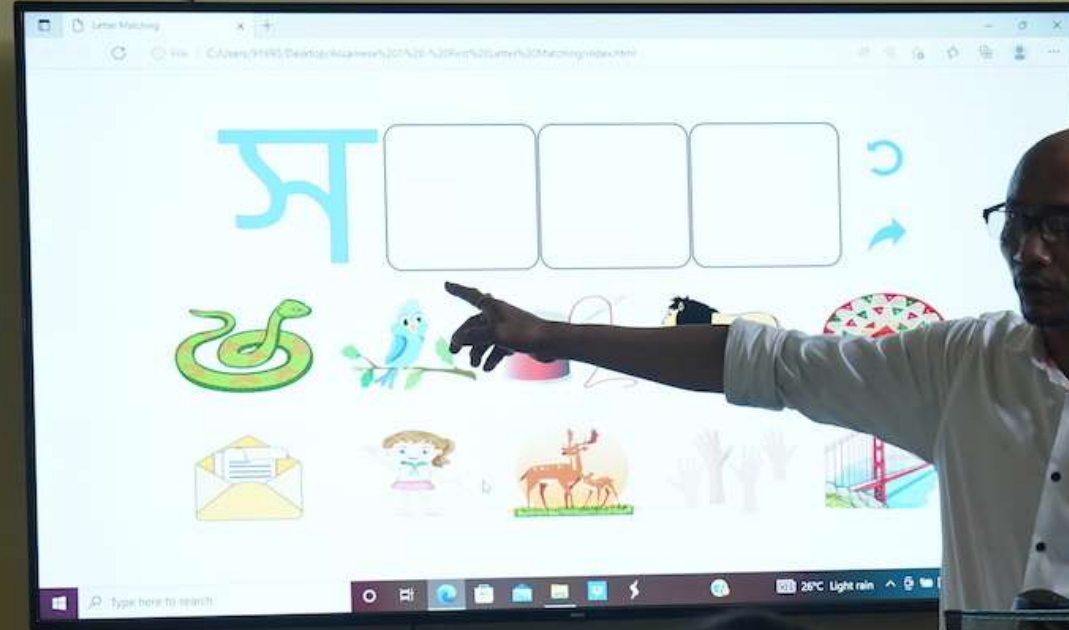
With the Akshar Kolibri App,

students access personalized content for foundational literacy and numeracy, as well as content from their state-mandated curriculum (SEBA Board). Each student sees content customized to their own needs. The Akshar App also offers a similar system to online banking, to track the wages of students for teaching, building, gardening, recycling or printing worksheets. Students also have 1-2 periods per day in the digital classroom.

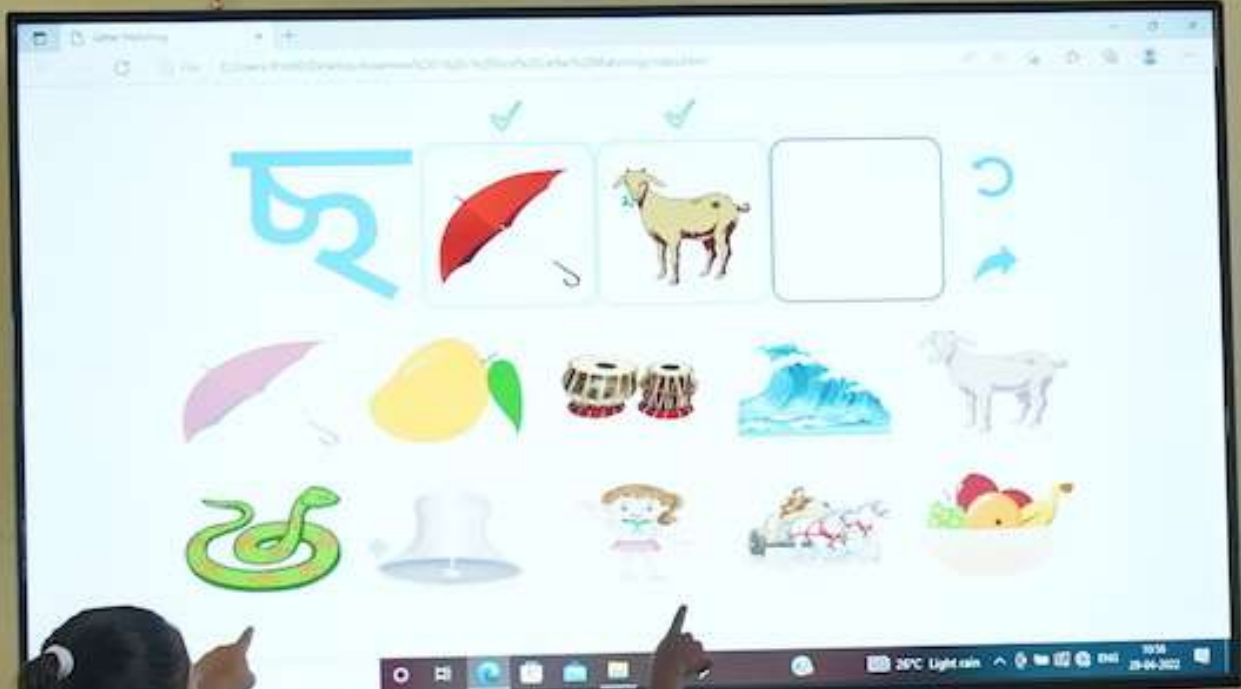
Each student uses tablets and smart class for 1-3 periods daily. Tablets have personal accounts for each child, for student-centered learning based on each student's individual needs



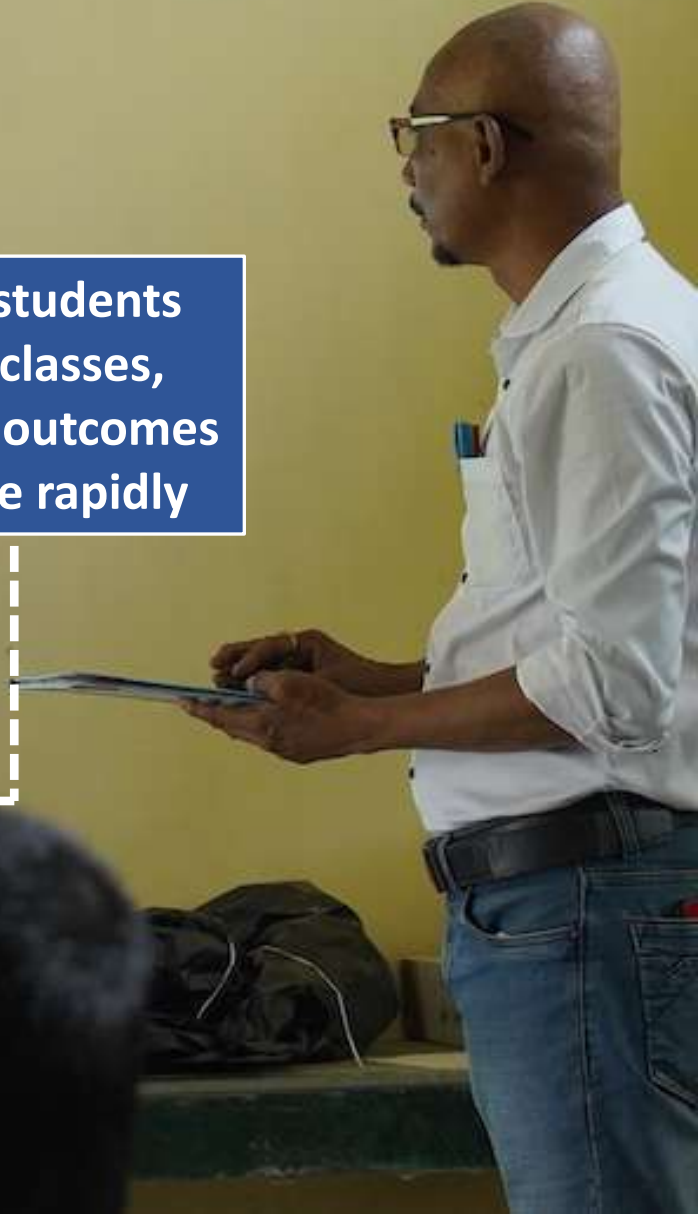
Weekly assessments reveal which students need to learn the alphabet. Regardless of age, level 1 students practice with worksheets and games on tablets and smart class, until they learn the alphabet



Government teachers are trained by Akshar in use of smart class



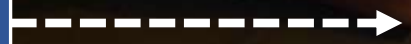
When students enjoy classes, learning outcomes improve rapidly



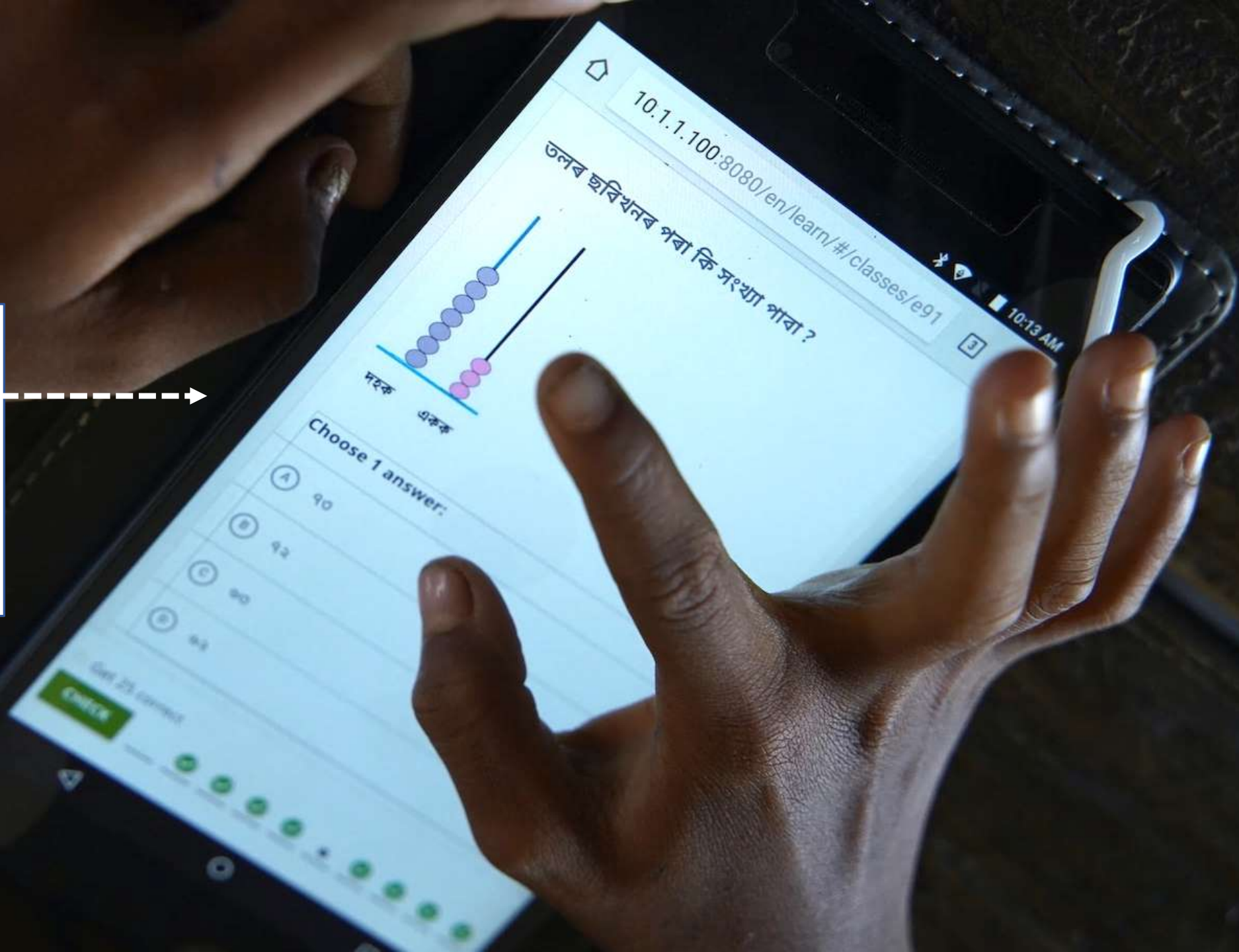
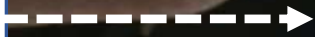
Students promoted to level 2 practice spelling words with 2-3 letters



In levels 3 and 4, students learn longer words and sentences. After they gain basic literacy, they resume their normal coursework at grade level



The same approach used for Foundational Literacy is also used for Foundational Numeracy: Identify their skill levels, then provide individualized content



Government teachers are trained by Akshar in using tablets for classes



The Akshar app gives students instantaneous feedback, greatly reducing the burden on teachers

The screenshot displays the Akshar app interface. At the top, it shows the time 10:31 AM. The main content area features a subtraction problem in Hindi: "বিয়োগ 0-500 করুন / Subtraction 0-100 (some regrouping) (পাঠ ৭/Ch 7)". Below this, there is a math problem:
$$\begin{array}{r} 44 \\ -28 \\ \hline \end{array}$$
 followed by the instruction "Choose 1 answer:". Four multiple-choice options are listed: (A) 56, (B) 80, (C) 02, and (D) 05. A green "CHECK" button is visible at the bottom left. At the bottom of the screen, there is a section titled "Next in lesson" with a progress bar consisting of 15 green circles, indicating that the user has completed 14 out of 15 items. A small "License: Public domain" notice is also present.

95% 2:11 PM

Search for transactions..

Txn ID	Date	Type	Amount	Reason	Teacher	Status
413	2022-04-29	CREDIT	90	Office Assistant	Munmi Talukdar	CREATED
409	2022-04-23	CREDIT	5	Teaching	Tazir Hussain	COACH_DI
408	2022-04-23	CREDIT	2	Teaching	Arpan Teron	DENIED
407	2022-04-23	CREDIT	130	Office Assistant	Munmi Talukdar	COMPLETI
406	2022-04-23	DEBIT	239	Cash Withdrawal	Munmi Talukdar	COMPLETI
262	2022-03-31	CREDIT	6	Teaching	Munmi Talukdar	COMPLETI
229	2022-03-30	CREDIT	4	Teaching	Munmi Talukdar	COMPLETI
159	2022-03-26	CREDIT	7	Miscellaneous	Munmi Talukdar	COMPLETI
114	2022-03-24	CREDIT	52	Teaching	Munmi Talukdar	COMPLETI
96	2022-03-22	CREDIT	74	Teaching	Munmi Talukdar	COMPLETI

1 - 10 of 12

Handwritten: name: Sohail Alom

Details:	Student(s)	Amount
Office work	Sohail Alom	30 Rupee
)	<i>Paid</i>	35 Munmi
)		30 Rupee
)		35 Munmi
)		35 Munmi
)		30 Rupee
		25 M.T

Students record their "earnings" with the Akshar App. They learn financial management and online banking skills

Teach them how to earn



Most government school students are the children of manual laborers and housekeepers. By preparing them for a skilled profession, we can teach students how to secure a livelihood. Student train in carpentry, tailoring, electrician, farming and gardening, recycling, and office assistant. They will receive certificates from the government to further their pursuit of higher technical training. By “Earning and Learning” underprivileged students earn enough in school to stay in school, rather than dropping out to work.

Students receive vocational training in multiple trades. In the future, advanced students will earn by making school uniforms



Office Assistant
Students earn and learn by printing
class worksheets after school



HAR
2



Students earn and learn by growing fruits and vegetables for school meals

Teach them responsibility



Parents send clean, dry plastic waste from their homes.

If they don't bring plastic, then students get a 10 minutes penalty during daily tablet classes where they are given worksheets instead. Compliance is approaching 100%. This policy teaches students responsibility and stewardship over their local environments.

Well-behaved students get paid to create eco-bricks on a voluntary basis for 1-2 hours per week. Students learn construction techniques while using the plastic waste to build structures.





This bench contains thousands of compressed plastic packets





“Married life was not smooth at all. He used to drink a lot from the start, but I tolerated it, thinking about my two kids. Later, I lost my patience when he started using weapons like knives, axe or fire wood to beat me and my kids. I got scared that if this continues I will lose my kids by his hands. The torture went from beating to not allowing the kids to study, throwing school bags and books, preventing us from eating, sleeping or even using the washroom. There were times when Priya used to ask me if we will be able to sleep at night peacefully. I was left with no option and had to let the people around me know about the situation and this violence for our safety. But this provoked him more, and the torture increased. That’s when I was advised to seek legal help, but before that I wanted to see if my husband could change for the good. When I told him about this, he left me and the kids and went to his village. When he came back, he took everything from us, even the spoons. That is when I moved near this school; my son had his class 7 test as well during that time. I started working hard (housekeeping), sometimes until 10pm to feed my kids. I wanted to make sure my kids are educated at any cost.”

- Priya’s mother



Name: Priya

Age: 12

Grade: Class 6

Assamese level: 6 (can read)

English Level: 4 (learning to read/write sentences)

Math level: 5 (learning long multi/division, recently promoted)

Career goal: Air Force Pilot

Chosen vocational subjects: Carpentry, Tailoring, Office assistant

Hobbies: Singing, painting

“I like (Akshar) a lot. I am able to learn and I am able to teach. I can teach the alphabet and counting to kids in Class 1, 2 and 3... I didn’t learn everything in primary school very well, so when I started middle school, it was very hard. The things that I couldn’t do before are easy for me now... I’m learning some tailoring, computers, carpentry, and I’m even starting landscaping... I like the tablets a lot. I have learned many new things on them. I have studied here since Class 1, and we never had (tablets) before.”

- Priya

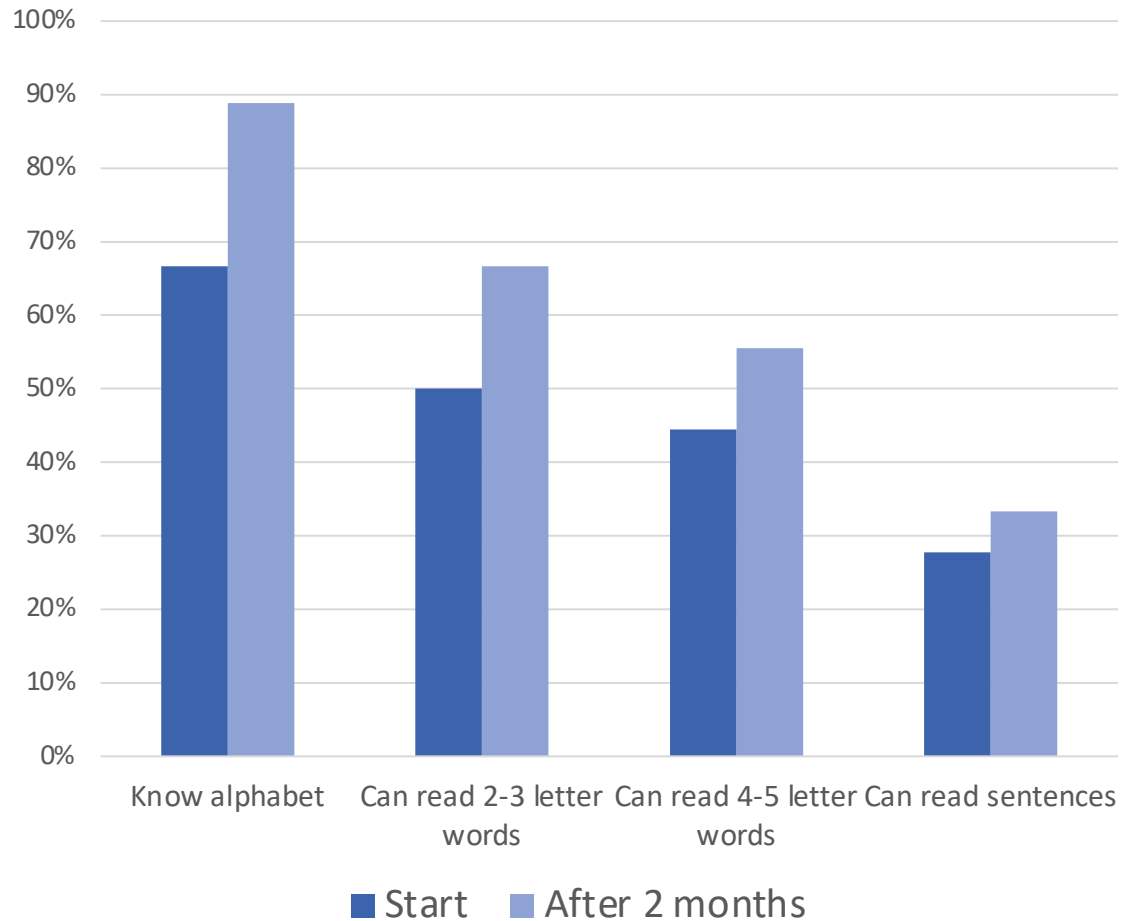
9:00-9:15	Assembly
9:15-10:00	Maths Level 5 with Tablets
10:00-10:40	English (grade level)
10:40-11:20	Science
11:20-12:00	Assamese (grade level)
12:00-12:30	Free Lunch provided by Gov’t
12:30-13:00	Tutoring Center – teaching literacy to Class 3 student
13:00-13:30	Hindi
13:30-14:00	Social Science
14:00-14:10	Snack break
14:10-15:30	Mon: Tailoring Tues: Recycling Wed: Carpentry Thurs: Office Assistant Fri: Office Assistant



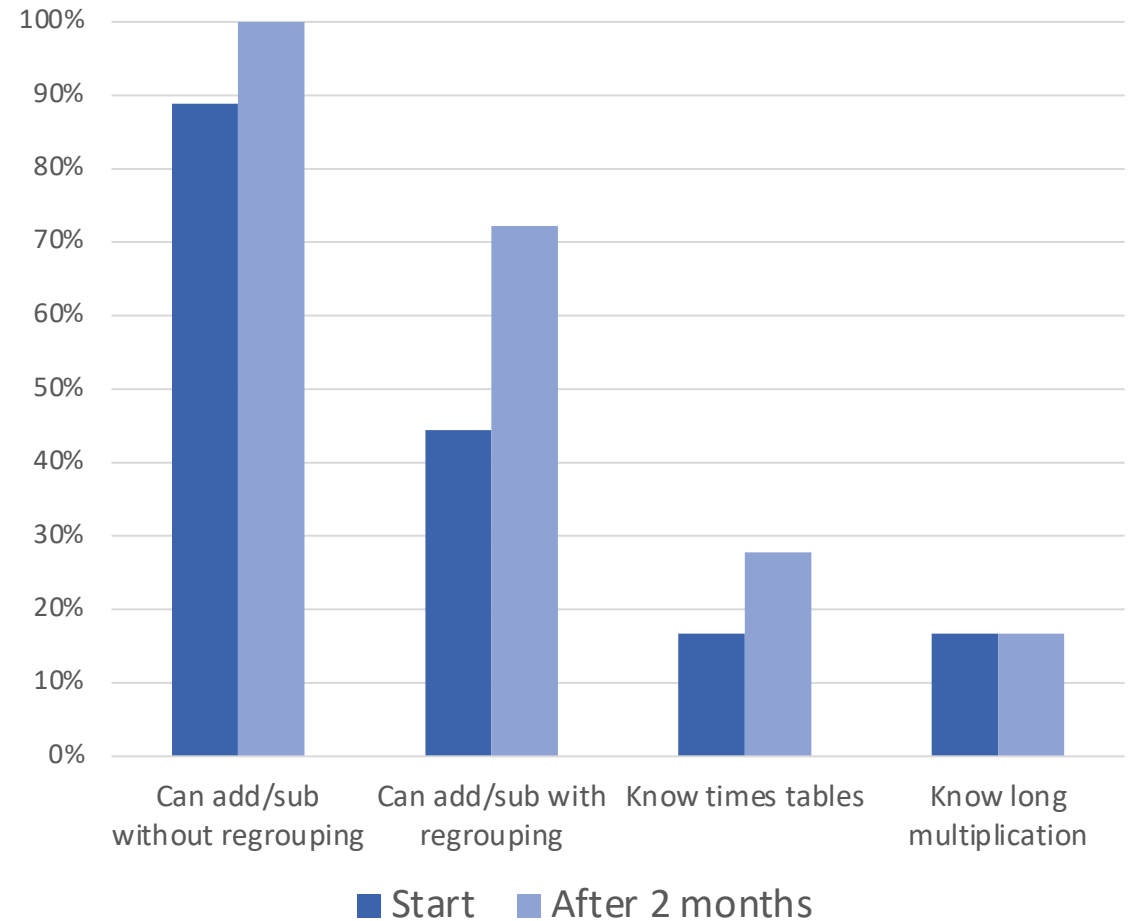


With these techniques, learning outcomes are starting to rise within 2 months of classes.

Class 6 Assamese Language Progress

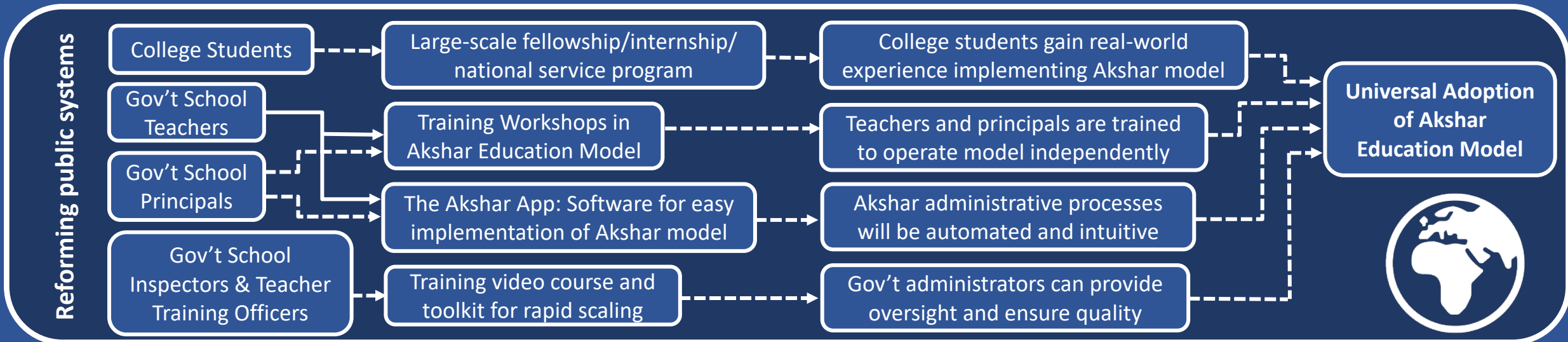
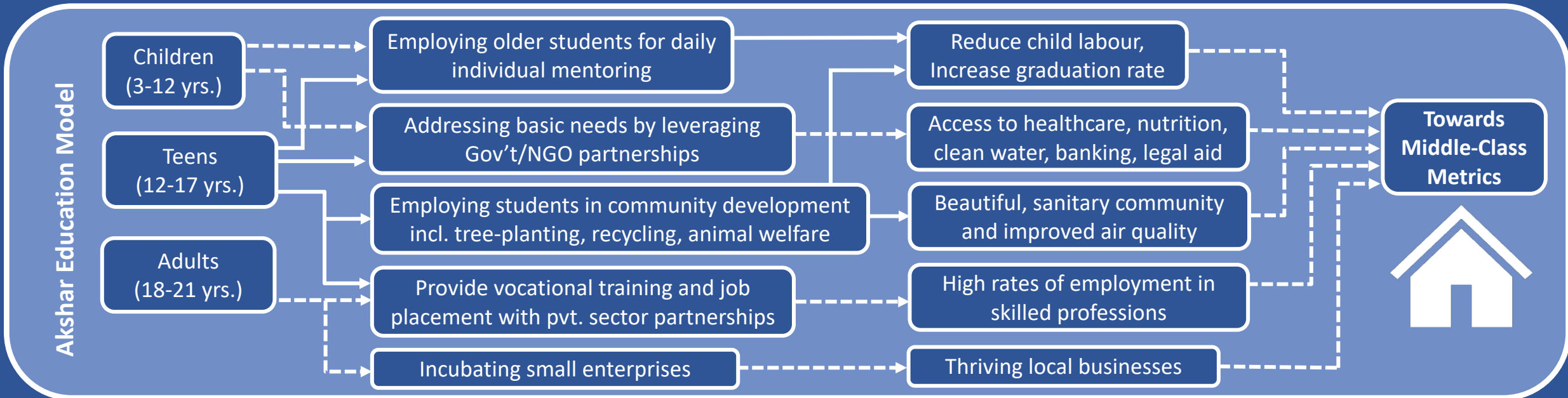


Class 6 Math Progress





A scalable model for social mobility



In the News

The Akshar Model at Phaguna Rabha



TV Segment

Article



TV Segment



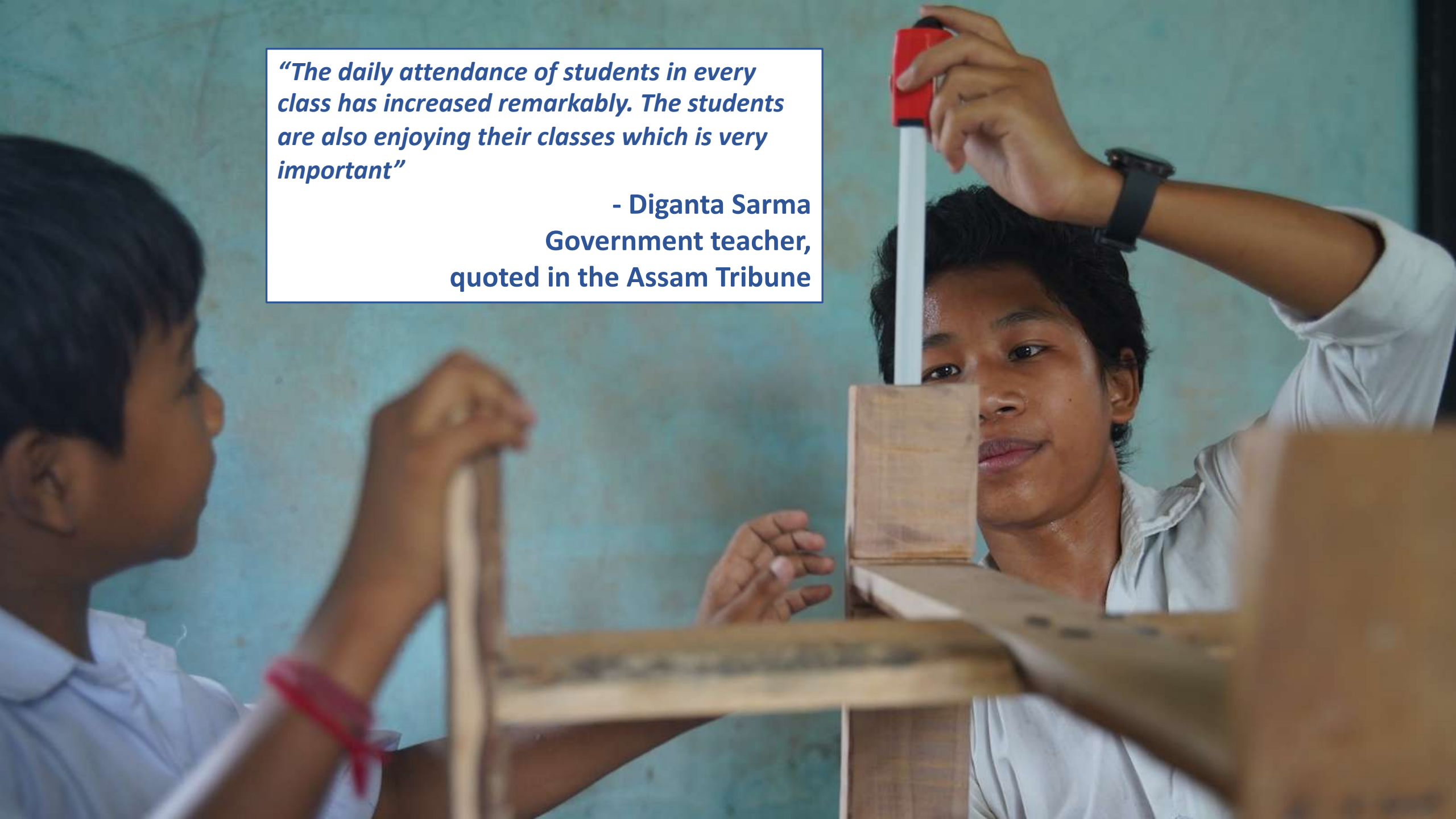
“The result is clear: enrolment has increased, social participation has increased. This means that the future of the government schools of Assam is not bleak as people think.”

**- Prasanna Bora
Inspector of Schools for Kamrup Metro District,
Government of Assam, quoted on News 18**



“The daily attendance of students in every class has increased remarkably. The students are also enjoying their classes which is very important”

**- Diganta Sarma
Government teacher,
quoted in the Assam Tribune**





“We do our maths and Assamese classes on our tablet that our teacher provides us every day. I love doing my classes on the tablet and more so the maths class. Earlier I had problems understanding the questions, but now on the tablet attending the digital class has become easy and fun. Not only maths, my Assamese too has improved. I bring waste plastic bottles, and bags from my home and neighbourhood to the school to get my tablet and do my digital classes”




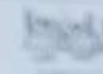











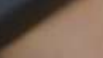





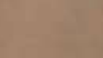




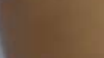

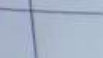






- Sabita Boro

Student in Class 8, Quoted on News18





স্বপ্নিলালক হাই স্কুলের অতিরিক্ত আবেদনের সম্পূর্ণ ক্রম।

 ক ক ক	 ঘ ঘ ঘ	 ঙ ঙ ঙ	 চ চ চ	 ছ ছ ছ	 জ জ জ
 ট ট ট	 ঠ ঠ ঠ	 ড ড ড	 ণ ণ ণ	 ত ত ত	 থ থ থ
 দ দ দ	 ধ ধ ধ	 ন ন ন	 প প প	 ফ ফ ফ	 ব ব ব
 ক ক ক	 খ খ খ	 গ গ গ	 ঘ ঘ ঘ	 ঙ ঙ ঙ	 চ চ চ
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 ত ত ত	 থ থ থ	 দ দ দ	 ধ ধ ধ	 ন ন ন	 প প প

An aerial photograph of the Akshar Forum Model School. The school consists of several traditional huts with thatched roofs, surrounded by a dense grove of tall palm trees. In the background, there are lush green hills under a clear sky. A group of people in red and white uniforms is gathered near one of the huts.

Akshar Forum Model School

Est. 2016 in Guwahati, Assam

110 Students

100% Graduation Rate



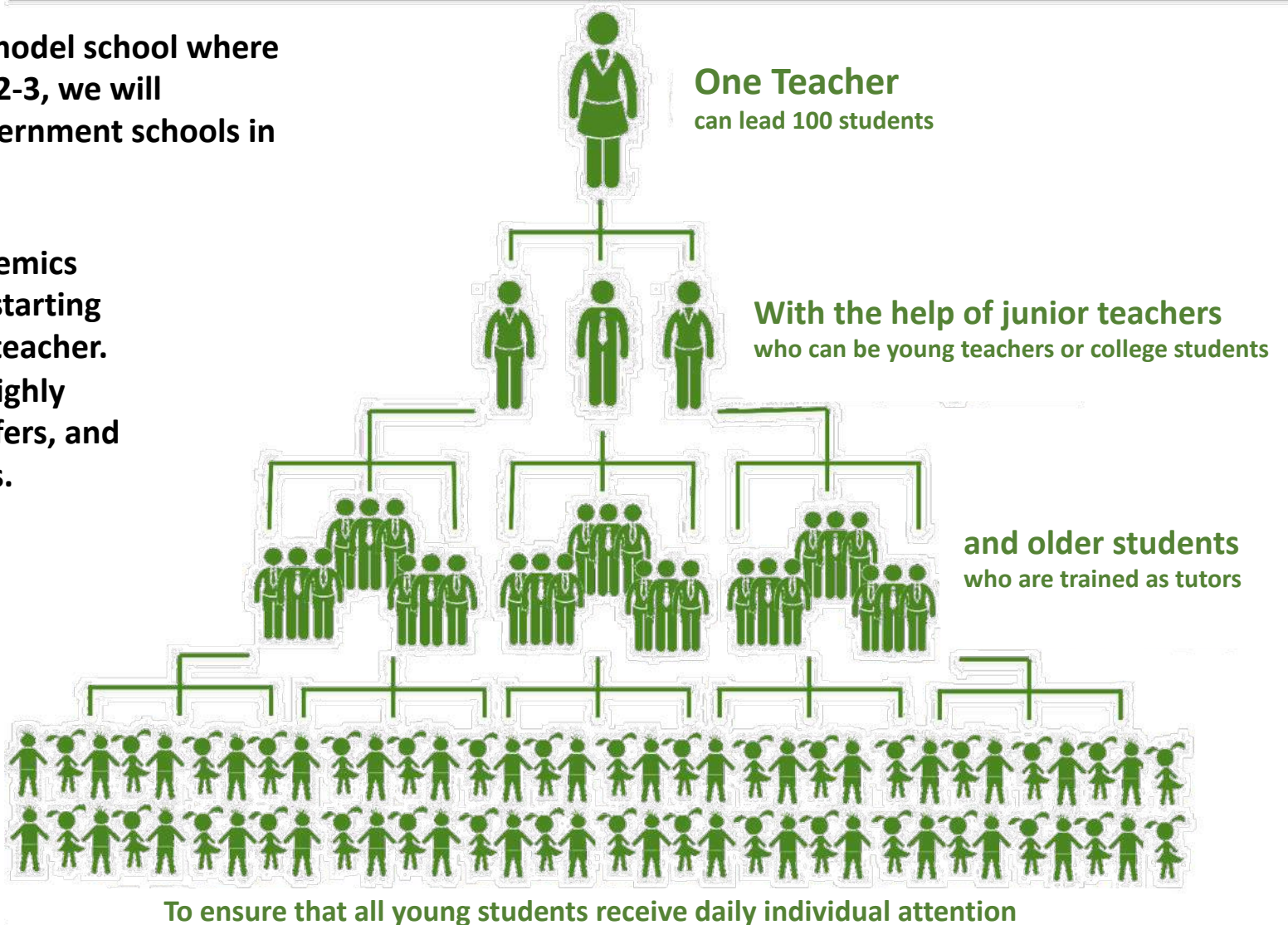
Ceiling fan repair in
Electrician training

A model school for training public school teachers

Akshar Forum is the experimental 100-student model school where we develop the Akshar Education Model. In 2022-3, we will implement the Akshar Education model in 5 government schools in Guwahati, scaling up to 100 schools by 2025.

In the Akshar Education Model, traditional academics are balanced with practical vocational training, starting with training and employing every student as a teacher. Employing students allows for smaller classes, highly disciplined students who behave like fellow staffers, and imparting essential skills to the student-teachers.

After school, students work in various social enterprises, gaining valuable skills and serving the school and community. The solar plant was installed by students, the landscaping by students, and when a donor wanted to buy classroom furniture, the students in the Carpentry workshop built furniture for their own school – earning skills and income in the process.





**Older students teach younger students
in outdoor classes to curb the spread of COVID-19**

A photograph showing three students in a rural, outdoor setting. They are wearing face masks and are focused on using tablets. The student in the foreground is wearing a blue and white patterned shirt and a light blue mask. The student in the middle is wearing a green shirt and a grey mask. The student in the background is wearing a light blue shirt and a light blue mask. They are sitting at a wooden table. The background shows lush green trees and a thatched roof structure. The text "Students learn on tablets with offline version of Khan Academy" is overlaid on the image in white font.

Students learn on tablets
with offline version of Khan Academy

A student's journey



Name: Gyandeep

Age: 17

English Level: 9

Math level: 8

Teaching ability: 7/8

Interests: Football, music, dance

2015

Age 11, Dropped out of primary school after 4th grade, working in a sand quarry. Smoker, drinker, prone to violence.

2016

Age 12, Enrolled in Akshar Forum. Started learning ABCs and simple addition/subtraction.

After a few months, he learned the alphabet, basic numeracy, and started one-on-one tutoring with preschool children, helping them trace and name letters and numbers, earning 10 rupees per hour. Violence and antisocial behaviour stopped. He starts gaining nearly 2 grade levels per year.

2020

Age 16, starts preparing for 10th grade English certification. Captain of the football team. Teaches 3-4 children everyday. Works after school coaching young footballers, caring for dogs, collecting plastic from nearby homes and printing worksheets in school office. Trains and works in Carpentry, Electrician, Landscaping.

7:30-8:00	Free Breakfast (for students who reside at school)
8:00-8:30	Teaching: Level 3 Students
8:30-9:00	English: Cambridge 7
9:00-9:30	English: NIOS 10
9:30-10:00	Teaching: One-on-one mentoring session
10:00-10:30	Teaching: One-on-one mentoring session
10:30-11:00	Free morning snack
11:00-11:30	Math
11:30-12:00	Math (Nalanda tablets)
12:00-12:30	Cambridge Science 5
12:30-1:00	Smart Class: Social Studies
1:00-2:00	Free Lunch
2:00-5:00	(Mon, Wed) Football coaching (Tue, Thurs) Office Printing & Plastic Collection. (Fri) Landscaping



Teacher



Office Assistant



**Solar Technician/
Electrician**



**Animal Shelter
Technician**

The Akshar model around the world

Three years after the establishment of Akshar Forum, news of the school spread globally, with coverage in virtually every country. Click on the logos below to read the articles.













Carpentry students proudly present new table made from scrap wood



Akshar Board of Directors

CEO



Prof. Alaka Sarma
Pro-Vice-Chancellor, USTM
Former MLA from Nalbari

COO



Parmita Sarma
Graduate, TISS Guwahati
Principal, Akshar Forum

CTO



Mazin Mukhtar
ARC, Oakland, California
Alum, Univ. of Maryland

Advisory Board



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Founder, Motivation for Excellence
Former MD, Orbit Exports Ltd.



Dr. Holly Shaw
Professor, Adelphi University, NY
Fmr Dir., UN DPI Exec. Committee



Chetna Sinha
Founder, Mann Deshi
Co-Chair, World Economic Forum '18

AKSHAR FOUNDATION
18, Basisthapur Bye lane -3, Beltola Road, Guwahati-781028
Guwahati (Assam)

Receipt & Payment A/C For The Year Ended 31st March 2022					
RECEIPTS	Amount (Rs)	Amount (Rs)	PAYMENT	Amount (Rs)	Amount (Rs)
To, Opening Balance			By, Revenue Expenditure		
Cash in Hand	100.00		Animal Shelter	80538.00	
Cash at Bank	43,45,179.00	43,45,279.00	Bank Charges	3287.00	
To, Donation Received		2,26,38,197.00	Carpentry Expenses	23005.00	
To, Interest Income		4,75,551.00	Childrens Day Expenses	18711.00	
To, Current Assets			Consultation Services	38822.00	
IT Refund		4,952.00	Content Development	348364.00	
Advances Recovered		27,046.00	Covid-19 Response	37865.00	
			Cycle & cycling equipments	10528.00	
			Electricity Expenses	38338.00	
			Expenses on Bathroom (NRL)	659832.00	
			Farming and Landscaping	128085.00	
			Festival Expenses	2070.00	
			Health Care	7405.00	
			Hostel Expenses	146804.00	
			Insurance Expenses	39963.00	
			IT Expenses	31717.00	
			Job Listing	2513.00	
			NIOS Registration	9200.00	
			Office Expenses	3873.00	
			Payment Gateway	4999.00	
			PG Rent	54000.00	
			Postage & Courier Charges	1149.00	
			Printing & Stationary	72109.00	
			Recycling Centre	35247.00	
			Repairs & Maintenance	227935.00	
			Salary	1533100.00	
			Saraswati Puja Expenses	8330.00	
			Sports Expenses	10500.00	
			Sterilization	11500.00	
			Student Incentives	196432.00	
			Student Travelling Expenses	73737.00	
			Telephone & Internet Expenses	38453.00	
			Training expenses	31690.00	
			Travelling Allowances	10100.00	
			Uniforms	53187.00	
			Vehicle Running & Maintenance	78273.00	40,71,661.00
			By, Assam Govt School Project	3552401.00	35,52,401.00
			By, Capital Expenditure		
			Solar Panel	4,88,100.00	
			Office Boundary wall	1,29,996.00	
			WIP	4,03,911.00	10,22,007.00
			By, Loan Repayment to Alaka Sharma		5,00,000.00
			By, TDS		43,754.00
			By, Fixed Deposit		84,10,222.00
			By, Closing Balance		
			Cash in Hand	1,964.00	
			Cash at Bank	98,89,016.00	98,90,980.00
		2,74,91,025.00			2,74,91,025.00

For, Akshar Foundation

S Alaka

Managing Trustee

DATE: 27/09/2022



For, N C Karnany & Co
Chartered Accountants
FRN: 305103E

Himanshu Agarwal

CA Himanshu Agarwal
Partner

AKSHAR FOUNDATION

18, Basisthapur Bye lane -3, Beltola Road, Guwahati-781028
Guwahati (Assam)

Income & Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st March, 2022					
Expenditure	Amount (Rs)	Amount (Rs)	Income	Amount (Rs)	Amount (Rs)
To, Animal Shelter		80,538.00	By, Donation and Contributions		2,26,38,197.00
To, Bank Charges		3,287.00			
To, Carpentry Expenses		23,005.00			
To, Childrens Day Expenses		18,711.00			
To, Consultation Services		38,822.00	By, Interest Income		4,75,551.00
To, Content Development		3,48,364.00			
To, Covid-19 Response		37,865.00			
To, Cycle & cycling equipments		10,528.00			
To, Electricity Expenses		38,338.00			
To, Expenses on Bathroom (NRL)		6,59,832.00			
To, Farming and Landscaping		1,28,085.00			
To, Festival Expenses		2,070.00			
To, Health Care		7,405.00			
To, Hostel Expenses		1,46,804.00			
To, Insurance Expenses		39,963.00			
To, IT Expenses		31,717.00			
To, Job Listing		2,513.00			
To, NIOS Registration		9,200.00			
To, Office Expenses		3,873.00			
To, Payment Gateway		4,999.00			
To, PG Rent		54,000.00			
To, Postage & Courier Charges		1,149.00			
To, Printing & Stationary		72,109.00			
To, Recycling Centre		35,247.00			
To, Repairs & Maintenance		2,27,935.00			
To, Salary		15,33,100.00			
To, Saraswati Puja Expenses		8,330.00			
To, Sports Expenses		10,500.00			
To, Sterilization		11,500.00			
To, Student Incentives		1,96,432.00			
To, Student Travelling Expenses		73,737.00			
To, Telephone & Internet Expenses		38,453.00			
To, Training expenses		31,690.00			
To, Travelling Allowances		10,100.00			
To, Uniforms		53,187.00			
To, Vehicle Running & Maintenance		78,273.00			
To, Depreciation		5,55,890.00			
To, Assam Govt School Project		35,52,401.00			
By, Excess of Income over Expenses		1,49,33,796.00			
		2,31,13,748.00			2,31,13,748.00

For, Akshar Foundation

D Alaka
Managing Trustee



DATE: 27/09/2022
Place: Guwahati

For, N C Karnany & Co
Chartered Accountants
FRN: 305103E



Himanshu Agarwal
CA Himanshu Agarwal
Partner
M No: 305050

AKSHAR FOUNDATION

18, Basisthapur Bye lane -3, Beltola Road, Guwahati-781028
Guwahati (Assam)

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH 2022

LIABILITIES	Amount (Rs)	Amount (Rs)	ASSETS	Amount (Rs)	Amount (Rs)
Capital Fund			Fixed Assets		
Opening Balance	77,86,284.00		As per Schedule 1		46,11,213.00
Add: Net Surplus	1,49,33,796.00	2,27,20,080.00	Capital work in Progress		4,03,911.00
Loans(Liabilities)			Current Assets		
Unsecured Loans		6,40,000.00	Deposits		84,10,222.00
			TDS		43,754.00
			Cash at Bank		
			FCRA (0195)	8941.00	
			ICICI Bank (198905000217)	100000.00	
			ICICI Bank (2093)	9560709.00	
			SBI (FCRA 3233)	219366.00	
			Cash in hand	1964.00	98,90,980.00
		2,33,60,080.00			2,33,60,080.00

For, Akshar Foundation

Salaka

 Managing Trustee

DATE: 27/09/2022

Place: Guwahati

For, N C Karnany & Co

Chartered Accountants

FRN: 305103E



Himanshu Agarwal

CA Himanshu Agarwal

Partner

M No: 305050

