

Quarterly Newsletter

July-September 2022



Monkey Sports

Message from our Founder



Nice to be sharing the newsletter after such a long time. Last year, I **completed a one-year fellowship with Azim Premji Foundation**. During the fellowship, I was immersed in teaching and understanding the public education system in India. I taught English, and Maths and conducted sports sessions for Grade 3,4,5 children for one year. I got an opportunity to **learn different school processes such as mid-day meals, school management committees**, assessments, teacher training etc. The experience helped me to realize how government school works and what are the challenges faced by teachers, children and other school stakeholders.

One major understanding for me was how primary school children are not able to read and write. **80-90% of children from grade 5 are not able to read Simple Hindi text** and 90% of children from Grade 5 not able to solve grade 2 Math problems. It is a shocking revelation making me realize the unequal level of play for children going to a government school. If children lag in these Fundamental Literacy and Numeracy skills (FLN), the scope for them to get a good education becomes very less. Slowly, children stop liking the school and drop out by the time they reach ninth grade.

Looking at the challenges, Monkey Sports is focusing on how children can achieve FLN skills. While there are several reasons why this happens, the approach of Monkey Sports to solve the problem is by focusing on what we do best i.e well-being and social-emotional learning (SEL) of children. **Several pieces of evidence point toward the correlation between SEL and the academic outcomes of children.**

While our earlier programs focused only on children, now we are trying to make the program more sustainable by adding components for teachers and parents as well.

Situation in Raigarh, Chhattisgarh



Many of the children going to government schools come from disadvantaged families. As we are working in Chhattisgarh **most of the children come from tribal communities or immigrant families** (High migration because of major industries such as Jindal and Coal India).

Many of the parents are daily wage workers who after a hard day of work are unable to take care of their children.

Economic hardship, patriarchal norms and high consumption of alcohol led to an abusive environment at home. Children are emotionally stressed and face learning difficulties when they come to school.

While few teachers we know are doing a commendable job, many other teachers (who mostly come from a middle-class background) are unable to understand the needs of children, comparing them to their own children or a few children who do better in the classroom (because of a slightly better home environment, and parents caring about children's education).

Lack of empathy for these children and because of **systematic pressure**, teachers start using **fear and punishment** to make children learn. It further adds to children's misery and they stop liking the teachers and the subjects taught by them. Children further lag in the classroom, slowly stopping liking the school and then a few year's children start to **drop out**.

Many of these children also start getting exposed to **substance abuse** and suffer from **low self-esteem** and regulation of emotions continuing the **poverty cycle** without any fault of their own.

Volunteer Led Program



To solve the problem, we have created a new volunteer-led program. Through the program, we have designed the following intervention:

1. The volunteers run regular **sports sessions** for children to build their **coping mechanisms**. For eg: If a child is anxious at home because of parental fights, a coping mechanism for them is to divert their mind and think of things that make them happy.
2. The Volunteers help **raise awareness** in the community. Take help from self-help groups and gram panchayat members to deal with issues such as alcohol consumption and **neglect of children**.
3. The Volunteers activate the **school management committee** in school and take help from teachers to raise awareness among parents.
4. **Online training course for teachers**. Building empathy and critical thinking skills in teachers so that they better understand children's needs.

[Here is a report](#) of the two-day training that we conducted with the volunteers and teachers.

English Course

Most of our volunteers are **college-going students** coming from **disadvantaged** homes. They are on the verge of looking to start new careers. They want to learn English to improve their job prospects. To help with their career, we also provide our volunteers with Online sessions to improve their English. The volunteers have attended 27 sessions so far, and here is what they have to say.



Tripti Yadav

"We are learning English in interesting ways through activities, games and watching videos. I have started to like English and even started speaking a little with my friends. I also write a diary every day. "

Geetanjali

I have had a passion for learning English from the very beginning, so I found interest in joining this class. As I thought English classes are very good. In every class, we try to learn English words and sentences in a new way. It increases our interest in the class and it also improves our English.



Anjoo

English has become an important part of our lives. To learn English during the course, we played games and watched English Videos with subtitles that helped in improving my English.

The class helped to remove my hesitation. It became a platform where I could openly share my thoughts!



4.3/5 *The course is well organized.*



4.4/5 *The course environment felt like a welcoming place to express my ideas.*



4.3/5 *The instructor communicated clearly and was easy to understand.*

Global day of Play

We celebrated the global day of play in different communities spreading the importance of play in everyday lives.



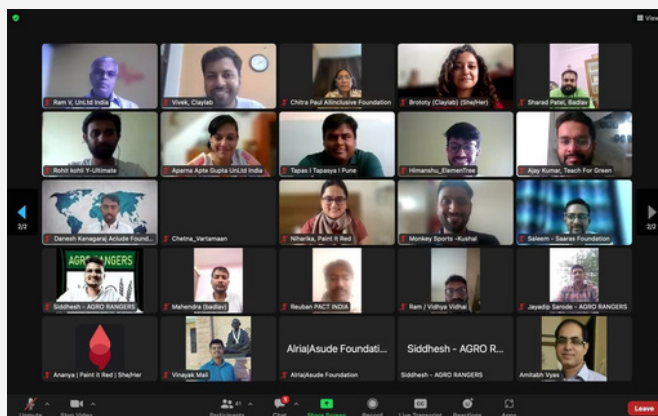
Incubation Program



We are happy to inform you that Monkey Sports has been selected for **UNLTD India's incubation program for the NGO COHORT 2022**. Through the 9 months incubation program, UNLTD India will help Monkey Sports to improve several processes of the Organization.



Amitabh who is my mentor came for a site visit to Raigarh during the workshop



Weekly online training sessions are helping us to improve our work.

Articles Published



During the PT exercise, teachers give instruction and the children standing in a straight line need to follow them. The performance of children is judged on how perfectly and how quickly they can follow the command. Can you think about what is a child learning from such an activity?

[Read More](#)

When I visit schools, teachers often say that we need to generate a little fear in children, we need to beat them a little bit because children don't know what is right and wrong.

I feel like replying back and saying that in that case, we should also let women be hit by their male partners.

[Read More](#)



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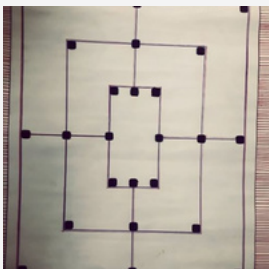
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Thank You!



We thank you for your continued support in our efforts to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals.

Special thanks to:

Ms Nitika Gupta for donating Rs. 10000 for our cause.

Mr Rajesh Vadlamani for donating Rs. 5500 for our cause.

Mr Ravindra Dubey for providing the venue free of cost to conduct our training program.



TARGET 4.1

BY 2030, ENSURE THAT ALL GIRLS AND BOYS COMPLETE FREE, EQUITABLE AND QUALITY PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION LEADING TO RELEVANT AND EFFECTIVE LEARNING OUTCOMES.

TARGET 4.7 B

BUILD AND UPGRADE EDUCATION FACILITIES THAT ARE CHILD, DISABILITY AND GENDER SENSITIVE AND PROVIDE SAFE, NON-VIOLENT, INCLUSIVE AND EFFECTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS FOR ALL

Contact

Monkey Sports

505, Laxmi Heights
Dhimrapur
Raigarh, Chattisgarh-496001
kushal.agarwal@monkeysports.in
7992470486