

Driving Impact Through Play: 21-Year Journey Annual Report for FY 2025-26

Organisational Overview

Over 21 years, TOF has reached more than **1 million children** through its Life skills play programmes and game distributions, worked with over **900 institutions and schools** across Maharashtra, and trained more than **10,000 teachers** as Play Practitioners. Our programmes span **12 districts** and continue to grow. These milestones reflect both the scale of our work and the meaningful, long-term partnerships we have built with educators, government systems, NGOs, and community organisations.

Key Highlights

- Total children reached: Over 1.6 lakh
- Number of play sessions conducted: ~ 35000
- Number of teacher training sessions: 225+
- Number of teachers trained: More than 3000
- Number of schools: 700
- Number of volunteers engaged: Over 750 volunteers engaged

Key Updates from April 2025 to March 2026

1. Capacity Building – Playworkers Unnati Workshop Series

TOF conducted structured capacity-building sessions for Outreach Play Workers (OPWs) to strengthen facilitation quality and ensure consistency in programme delivery.

Key focus areas included:

- Refresher training on playful facilitation practices
- Strengthening impact documentation and reporting
- Peer learning through field reflections and experience sharing
- Demonstration-based learning with live session walkthroughs

Outcome:

Improved facilitation quality and programme consistency across centres.



TOF's OPWs engage in targeted workshops to maximize classroom play and build essential skills.

2. On-ground Play Sessions

TOF facilitated structured play sessions across schools to create engaging and development-focused learning environments.

Key focus areas included:

- Delivery of structured play sessions using curated games
- Integration of energisers, group activities, and reflection exercises
- Focus on life skills such as communication and collaboration

Outcome:

Enhanced student engagement and life skills development through experiential learning.



Play sessions use curated board games to build essential life skills among children

3. Play Centres Strengthening & Material Replenishment

TOF ensured the effective functioning of Play Centres through regular monitoring and provision of quality play materials.

Key focus areas included:

- Stock and quality checks across centres
- Replenishment of age-appropriate games
- Strengthening play environments for smooth facilitation

Outcome:

Improved access to quality play resources across centres.



TOF's team ensures access to quality games through regular stock checks

4. Teacher Capacity Building – Power of Play Workshops

TOF conducted training sessions for Play Centre Facilitators (PCFs) to integrate play-based learning into classrooms.

Key focus areas included:

- Orientation to play-based pedagogy
- Building teachers' ability to nurture life skills
- Hands-on training on games and classroom integration

Outcome:

Improved teacher capacity and more engaging classroom environments.



Teachers engage in activities and games during cross-centre training sessions

5. School-Level Meetings & Continuous Support

Programme Officers conducted ongoing school-level engagements to strengthen implementation.

Key focus areas included:

- Teacher support through regular meetings
- Classroom observations and feedback
- Addressing implementation challenges

Outcome:

Improved programme quality through continuous feedback and support.

6. Volunteer Engagement

Volunteers supported programme delivery across TOF Play Centres.

Key focus areas included:

- Supporting play sessions alongside OPWs
- Assisting in classroom management
- Enhancing student engagement

Outcome:

Stronger classroom delivery and improved engagement levels.



Additional Activities:

1. International Day of Play Global Roundtable: “Choose Play, Everyday”:

To celebrate International Day of Play, we organised a Global Roundtable on June 11th. The Roundtable featured powerful insights from our panelists Dr. Sarah Aiono (Longworth Education), Tia Mathisen (Playworks), Ingrid Srinath (Resource Alliance) and Shweta Chari (The Opentree Foundation) where they discussed the urgent need to embed play in education systems, public policy, and community spaces, and to reframe play as a Right for every child. This roundtable, moderated by Smarinita Shetty (Indian Development Review) was attended by over 200 participants who were reminded of the importance of building a world where every child’s right to play is protected, practiced and prioritised.

[International Day of Play Global Roundtable: Choose Play, Everyday organised to discuss children’s fundamental Right to Play](#)

2. Play Summit 2025 – ‘Finding Play’

TOF convened a multi-stakeholder summit to advance dialogue on play-based learning.

Key focus areas included:

- Expert-led panels and workshops
- Cross-sector collaboration and knowledge exchange
- Advocacy for the Right to Play

Outcome:

Strengthened ecosystem engagement and thought leadership on play.

Impact Metrics:

- **No. of participants: 300+**



3. 21st Foundation Day Celebration

A milestone celebration engaging children, volunteers, and communities.

Key focus areas included:

- Volunteer-led play sessions
- Distribution of games and materials
- Community engagement

Outcome:

Expanded outreach and reinforced the culture of play.

Impact Metrics:

- **No. of children reached: 1000+**
- **No. of volunteers engaged: 100+**



4. Playpedia – Open-Source Play Resource Platform

Launched at *Play Summit 2025*, **Playpedia** playpedia.in is TOF's open-source repository of play-based ideas, designed to make playful learning accessible, adaptable, and scalable across diverse learning environments.

Key focus areas included:

- Providing a **centralised, open-access platform** for play-based resources
- Enabling **easy adoption of play practices** across classrooms and contexts
- Integration into **Power of Play workshops** as a hands-on learning tool for teachers
- Supporting **self-paced learning and continuous application** beyond training

5. National Roundtable on Advancing Play in Learning Systems

In March 2026, Shweta Chari, our Co-founder and CEO of The Opentree Foundation, was invited to present at a closed-door national roundtable convened by the LEGO Group in New Delhi. The roundtable brought together representatives from NCERT, UNICEF, and NITI Aayog, alongside leaders from philanthropy and civil society, united around a shared agenda: advancing Play within India's learning systems.

Shweta Chari presented TOF's **Conscious Play®** model, a scalable, government-compatible approach to embedding Play into everyday classroom practice through teacher transformation, contextual Play materials, and sustained institutional support. The invitation is a reflection of TOF's growing recognition as a national reference point for play-based pedagogy at scale implemented in government schools, with outcomes that are independently verified and replicable across districts.



Our Co-founder & CEO, Shweta Chari, at the roundtable.

Thought Leadership & Ecosystem Building

- Continued advocacy for play as a critical component of child development
- Engagement with educators, practitioners, and sector experts through workshops and discussions
- Strengthening partnerships for research, implementation, and scale

Recognition & Partnerships

The organisation continues to be recognised for its innovative and scalable play-based approaches. Partnerships with institutions, experts, and ecosystem stakeholders have enabled deeper impact and wider outreach.

Way Forward

As we move forward, The Opentree Foundation aims to deepen and expand its impact by:

- Scaling play-based programs across new geographies
- Strengthening measurement and evidence of life skills outcomes
- Building stronger collaborations with government and institutional partners
- Expanding volunteer and community engagement

Our goal remains to ensure that every child has access to joyful, meaningful play that builds a strong foundation for life.