

Elevate Education Program Report

The **One Billion Literates Foundation (OBLF)** is a grassroots non-profit whose mission is to create better futures for the underserved rural communities of Anekal Taluk, in the outskirts of Bangalore. OBLF focuses on enhancing English language skills among primary school children in rural, under-resourced communities in India. In Anekal Taluk, OBLF addresses teacher shortages by training local women as educators and combining digital tools with traditional teaching methods to improve proficiency in government schools.

About the Elevate Program

A program that aims at significantly accelerating student literacy outcomes in rural government schools by addressing teacher gaps, driving sustained investment in teacher capability, and advancing curriculum quality through structured educational interventions.

The Need

- **Challenges in English Education**

Government schools in India face significant challenges in teaching English, impacting student proficiency. Many teachers lack proper training and exposure to English, relying on rote learning rather than practical use. Inadequate infrastructure, such as language labs and teaching aids, further limits interactive learning. High teacher workloads and socioeconomic barriers, including low-income families' limited exposure to English, widen the learning gap. Additionally, inconsistent curricula and minimal parental support hinder language retention and proficiency.

- **Context of Anekal Block**

Anekal Taluk, with 77.7% of students enrolled in government schools and an 80.65% literacy rate, highlights the growing demand for education. Despite these advancements, challenges like a 29% digital divide and reliance on private tuition persist, limiting equitable learning opportunities. Strengthening English education can address these gaps, offering students improved career and socioeconomic prospects.

The Solution - Elevate Program

The Elevate Program addresses these issues by training semi-educated local women as English teachers, tackling educational gaps while empowering women economically. Innovative methods like gamified learning, structured lesson plans, and regular assessments have improved student proficiency by 44.5%. Comprehensive teacher training further enhances classroom effectiveness, creating a sustainable, community-based model for educational and social upliftment.

Elevate Program Updates (January to April 2025)

Continuous Professional Development (CPD):

OBLF's CPD is a structured, ongoing process focused on strengthening the teaching capacity of community educators. It builds English language proficiency—covering phonetics, grammar, reading, writing, and communication—while also training teachers in learner-centric pedagogy,

inclusive practices, classroom management, and assessments. The program is reinforced through regular on-field coaching, mentoring, and documentation of best practices to ensure consistent implementation and long-term growth.



Teaching & Syllabus Completion:

Final syllabus units were completed, followed by structured revision sessions across all grades. Teachers conducted in-school sessions consistently, aligning instruction with curriculum goals and learner needs.

Assessments & Student Learning:

End-of-year assessments were conducted for students across Grades 1–7. These included listening, reading, writing, and speaking assessments. Data collection and analysis began and will inform learning interventions. Teachers were also trained to administer student assessments effectively.



Teacher Assessments:

Classroom observations were conducted to assess pedagogical implementation. These provided valuable insights into inclusive teaching practices and were used to guide further coaching.

Socio-Emotional Learning & Gender Awareness:

Teachers participated in sessions on body autonomy, emotional well-being, and sexual health. These sessions encouraged reflection on identity and built confidence to engage students on sensitive but essential topics—promoting safe and supportive learning environments.



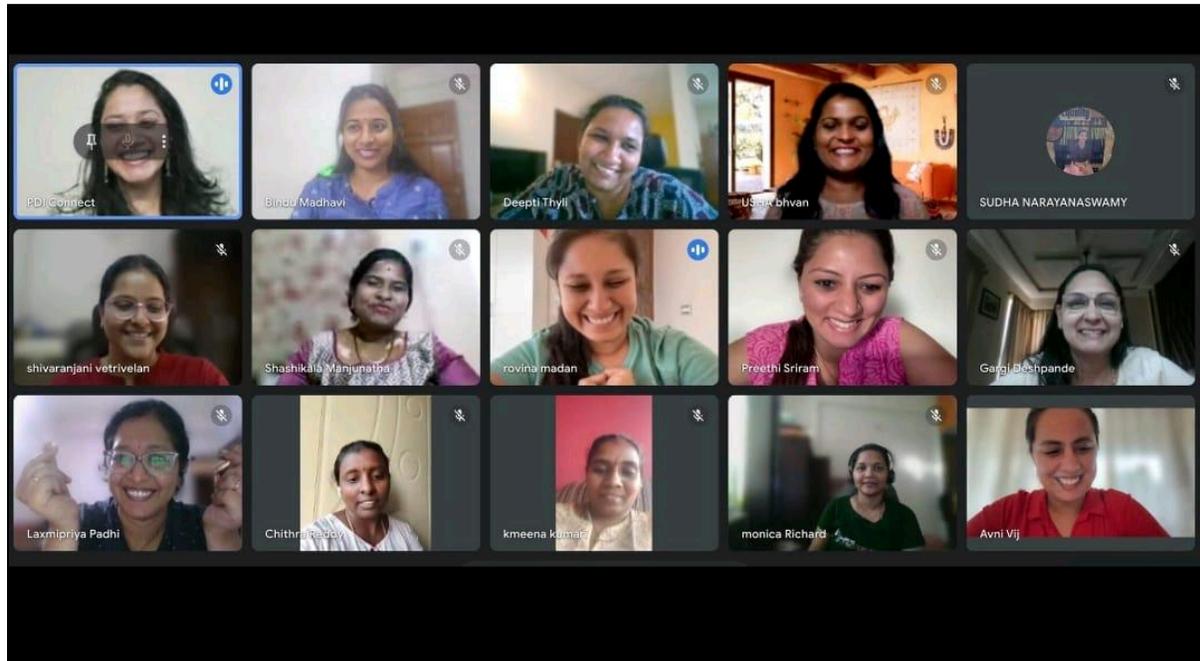
Key Event – Gender Conference:

To celebrate Women’s Day, OBLF organized a Gender Conference that brought together educators to reaffirm our commitment to equity and inclusion in schools.



Training Milestone – Teacher Recognition:

Five OBLF teachers completed the intensive "ReThink Education" course by Ekya Professional Development Institute. Their dedication to self-learning through pre-readings, live sessions, and assignments marked an important step in strengthening our teacher development approach.



CASE STORIES FROM THE GROUND

Teach a Word a Day

Inspired by OBLF's teacher training, one teacher introduced a simple yet transformative practice called "Word of the Day." Every morning, the class gathers to learn a new word, exploring its meaning, pronunciation, and usage in sentences. This activity has quickly become a favourite among students, making vocabulary learning fun and interactive. Students actively participate, eager to discover the next day's word, which has boosted their language skills, comprehension, and confidence in communication. This small but impactful initiative has turned language learning into a classroom highlight, significantly improving student engagement and creating a love for learning that extends beyond the classroom.

Menstrual Awareness at Home

After attending OBLF's menstrual health training, a teacher decided to take the lessons beyond the classroom and into her own home. She began by educating her husband and teenage son about menstruation, focusing on fostering empathy and breaking taboos. Using simple, relatable explanations, she shared her own experiences with menstrual cramps and how it affected her day-to-day life. As a result, her family started showing more understanding and support. Now, when she feels unwell during her periods, her son and husband help with household chores, prepare meals, and encourage her to rest. This newfound awareness has strengthened family bonds and created a culture of mutual respect and care at home, setting an example for the community.

Teaching Consent in the Classroom

After attending OBLF's gender awareness training, a teacher introduced the concept of consent in her classroom, starting with a discussion on "good touch and bad touch." Using age-appropriate language, she explained the importance of personal boundaries and respecting others' space. She encouraged her students to practice seeking permission through phrases like "May I ___?" in their daily interactions. Over time, this practice became second nature to the children, helping them understand the importance of communication and respect in their relationships. The classroom transformed into a safer, more aware space where students not only understood consent but also actively practised it, fostering a culture of mutual respect and trust.