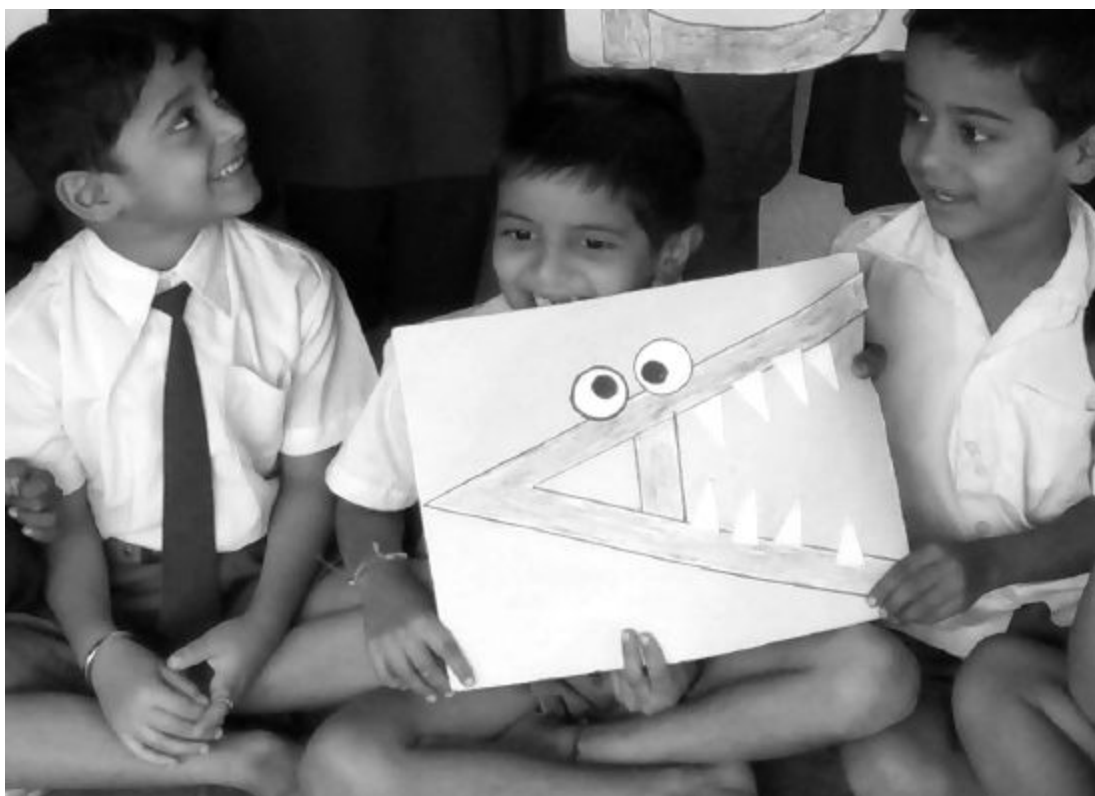


KHELGHAR PROGRAM

Encouraging curiosity and learning



KHELGHAR PROGRAM: AN OVERVIEW

The Background and the Challenge:

Akshara's Khelghar project is intended to address the challenges of poor education system in rural government schools of Mulshi in Pune. The primary educational stage is the foundation of children's knowledge, skills and behaviour. In rural Maharashtra (like other parts of rural India), the primary schools are merely a replication of urban counterparts, with no or little consideration to the rural context. Reports from Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) shows that even though the number of rural students attending schools is rising, but more than half of the students in fifth grade are unable to read a second grade textbook and are not able to solve simple mathematical problems.

Maharashtra data from ASER report 2016 shows that about a third of the students in third grade can recognize numbers up to 9 but cannot recognize numbers up to 99 or higher; and a third are not able to read simple sentences. Most of the children going to these schools are first-generation learners and have no one to help them in studies even after school.

Akshara implements Khelghar program to overcome this problem by supplementing learning in primary schools, conducting teachers' training programs and also involving the local community. Khelghar has received support from various donors for the program implementation in 6 schools, but still runs the risk of leaving two schools- Khubavali and Rawadewadi on account of no funding. We need your generous support for continuing the program in these two schools, to be able to make quality education accessible for 40 more students.

The Solution- Khelghar Program:

By bolstering a weak village schooling system, the Khelghar programme gives young learners an educational grounding that minimizes the attainment gap between urban & rural youth. Akshara is the local social-impact initiative of UWC Mahindra College providing community interventions to over 2500+ individuals in the Mulshi valley. It has been implementing Khelghar program in the primary schools in 1st to 4th grades in 6 villages in Mulshi, and reaches out to about 150 students.

Khelghar implements contextual learning activities and provides all-round support to young learners, who are going to be the first generation to move away from agriculture-based livelihoods. Our activities include contextual learning exercises where concepts are explained using fun activities like village mapping, 'understanding my family, my body, my surroundings', and outdoor activities. In this interactive and fun learning environment, students discover meaningful relationships between abstract ideas and practical applications in the context of the real world; wherein concepts are internalized through the process of discovering, reinforcing, and relating. We also conduct teachers' training to augment their skills, knowledge and pedagogical processes.

Long- Term Impact:

A child who has studied in Khelghar is ready to move on to the middle school. He/ she is set on a holistic development trajectory; and is socially and emotionally healthy, confident, and friendly. He/ she discovers meaningful relationships between concepts and practical applications in rural context. With your support, Khelghar program intends to enable students in 2 more schools to access quality contextual education, improve their learning outcomes, and empower them to make the most of their potential.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

1. Support Community Engagement:

A one-time gift of just **\$10** can fund fortnightly home visits and one parents' awareness session and **\$10 a month** can help in conducting home visits and awareness sessions for a complete year for students in 2 village schools in Khubavali and Rawadewadi. We involve the community to make a deeper impact, and that is why home visits and regular engagement is so important!



2. Gift teaching supplies for a school by making a small gift

By giving a small amount of **\$25** a month, you can buy teaching supplies to one classroom for one month! These supplies are required for day-to-day learning activities for our students.



3. Help making learning fun: Gift teaching aids and interesting toolkits

A gift of **\$75** can buy a full-set of subject-specific teaching aids for one school. Make a one-time or recurring gift of \$75 to provide two schools with these teaching aids that help the young learners in understanding concepts by using interesting tools like cutouts, posters, maps, etc.



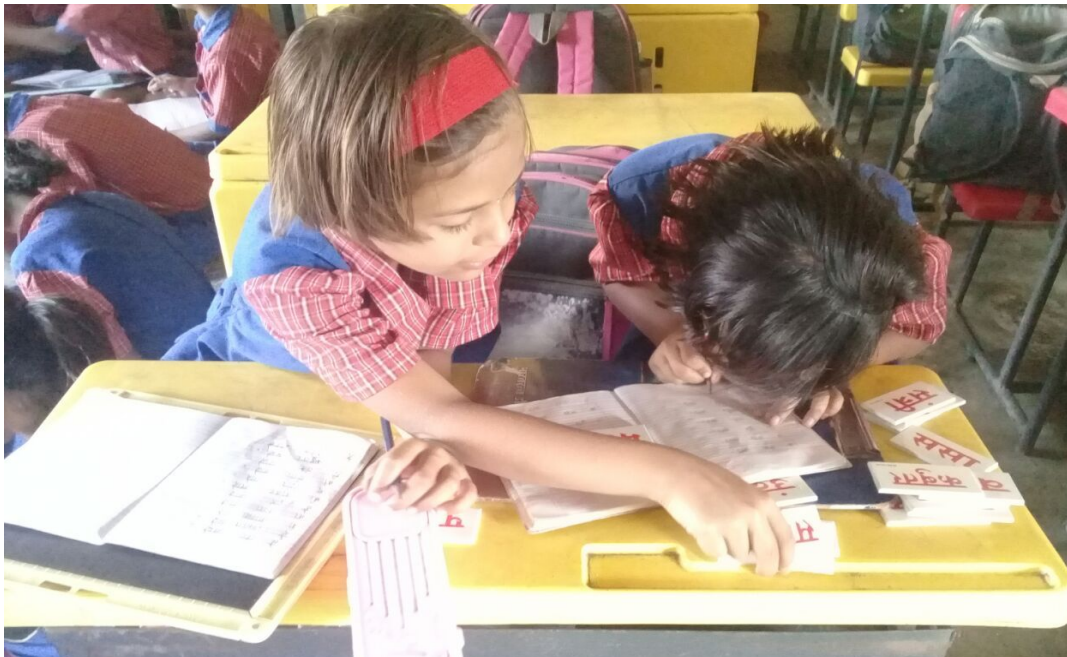
4. Empower the Teachers: Help us conduct the Teachers' Training to augment their knowledge and skills

\$100 can run one Teachers' training program for teachers in 2 rural schools. And a monthly amount of \$100 can run the teachers training program for an entire year. These monthly trainings augment the skills of teachers for more effective teaching practices and resultant impactful learning for students.



5. Promote reading: Support libraries in a rural school:

A one-time gift of **\$150** can buy new books for libraries of one rural school!



6. Sponsor Experiential Learning activities:

Just by donating **\$50**, you can fund one of our experiential learning excursions! And a small monthly gift of \$50 can support these outdoor learning activities for 40 students for an entire year! Class excursions form a major component of experiential learning activities for young learners.



7. Support our Teachers:

A gift of **\$200** supports the monthly salary of a teacher. Our dedicated teachers are the drivers of not only the Khelghar program, but also of larger social change at grassroots, playing a pivotal role in transforming the rural schools and improving lives.

