

Programmatic Update Report to Transform Learning Through the Play2Learn Programme in Maharashtra

Reporting Period: March 2026 - June 2026

Submitted to



Submitted by



Executive Summary:

During the reporting period, through **Child Action's support**, The Opentree Foundation (TOF) is delivering the Play2Learn Programme to **over 9600 children** from the **Beed district** of Maharashtra. The programme provides a conducive environment for children to learn through play by providing children easy engagement with educational board games, play materials and play-based activities, training teachers to align play-based learning to the academic curriculum. In turn, transforming children's learning experiences to be filled with curiosity, wonder and joy.

Key Activities that took place from March to June 2026:

1. On-Ground Play Sessions:

Play is the primary way in which children explore a world that is not in their control. The Opentree Foundation's (TOF) Play centres are safe spaces for children to explore and engage in developmentally-appropriate play sessions. The play sessions are typically hour-long and begin with pep-up, fun and movement-based activities and are aimed at starting the session on a joyful note. This is followed by children engaging in carefully curated and strategically chosen games and play-based materials. Our Programme Officers and Play Centre Facilitators (teachers) support children to understand the games, learn through them, work in groups, help them think independently and more. The session ends with another pep-up, in addition to children sharing what they liked the most about the day's play session and what they learned. These play sessions are conducted with children between 3 to 14 years at schools.

During March, our Programme Officers and Play Centre Facilitators conducted 465 Play Sessions



Groups of Children engage with carefully curated board games that support in building essential life skills during Play Sessions

2. School-Level meetings:

Our Programme Officers conduct periodic school-level meetings to support Play Centre Facilitators (teachers). These meetings provide a platform for teachers to ask questions about play, share ideas for integrating play into classrooms, identify challenges, and resolve them collaboratively. In addition, programme officers regularly conduct PCF observations, where they observe play sessions facilitated by teachers and offer constructive feedback and practical strategies to strengthen their play facilitation skills. Programme Officers also use these meetings and observations to revisit key topics from previous workshops and gather feedback on the games and activities being used in schools. This ongoing feedback loop enables continuous improvement in our programmes, making them even more engaging and relevant for the children we work with.

16 school-level meetings were conducted by our programme officers, in March 2026



TOFs Programme Officers conducted School Level meetings & PCF observations to help teachers improve their play facilitation

3. Play Workers Unnati Workshop Series:

From June 15 to 19, we conducted a week-long, immersive training for 23 Outreach Play Workers, 4 programme officers, along with the entire programme team. The training moved progressively from foundational thinking to field-ready practice. Beginning with the case for play and its link to NEP and school readiness, then unpacking how behaviour change happens and how our programmes are designed to drive it. Participants spent hands-on time exploring play kits and session plans, observed and practiced session delivery through demos, and were introduced to baseline assessment and the tools. The training closed with sessions on school-level orientation, data discussions, and ongoing classroom monitoring and teacher coaching - equipping facilitators not just to deliver sessions, but to sustain quality and track impact through the year.

During this period, 23 Outreach Play Workers and 4 Programme officers were trained to conduct efficient play session, ahead of the new academic year



TOF's Outreach Play Workers and Play officers spend hands-on time exploring play kits that build essential life skills

Testimonials from TOF's Outreach Play Workers on the Play Workers Unnati Workshop Series (PUWS):

"The Play Worker Unnati Series was a highly enriching and insightful training experience. It strengthened my understanding of play-based learning and helped me develop practical skills that can be directly applied in the field. The sessions on behaviour change, play facilitation, LSAS, school orientations, monitoring tools, and teacher coaching were particularly valuable. The interactive activities, discussions, and demonstrations made the learning process engaging and effective. This training has increased my confidence and equipped me with better tools to support children's holistic development. I appreciate the efforts of the trainers and organizers in creating such a meaningful learning experience." - shared TOF's Sr. Outreach Play Worker, Jamshed

"The PUWS training was very useful and easy to understand. We learned about the National Education Policy (NEP), the importance of play in children's development, and how different life skills can be developed through play. We also learned how to conduct the LSAS baseline assessment before the school sessions start. Overall, the training increased our knowledge and helped us prepare for working effectively with children." - shared TOF's Outreach Play Worker, Rohini



Outreach Play Workers get hands-on with play kits and session plans during the PUWS Training

Additional Activities:

1. 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

2. International Day of Play Global Roundtable: Declaration of 1-Hour of Play in Ahilyanagar:

To mark International Day of Play, The Opentree Foundation, in partnership with Snehalaya, convened a **district-level roundtable** titled "Protect Play, Protect Childhood" in Ahilyanagar on June 11th. The roundtable brought together key stakeholders including Shri Satyajeet Sudhir Tambe (Member, Maharashtra Legislative Council), Shri Anand Bhandari, IAS (CEO, Zilla Parishad Ahilyanagar), Ms. Rashmi Nagori (Head, ESG and CSR, Nuvama Group), and Mrs. Shraddha Rohit Deshmukh (Head, Education, Sanskrati Samvardhan Mandal), with Shri Devendra Naik (Founder, NoMoBo, and Trustee, The Opentree Foundation) as moderator.

At the roundtable, Ahilyanagar Zilla Parishad CEO Shri Anand Bhandari announced a district-wide declaration, **"Pahila Divas Shalecha, Ek Taas Khelacha"** (the first day of school, 1 hour of play), committing **more than 5,000 schools across the district's 14 talukas to open the new academic year with 1 hour of play-based learning on June 15th**. As part of the same roundtable, 7 teachers and principals from TOF's partner schools were felicitated as Ahilyanagar's first Play Leaders and Play Champions in recognition of their efforts to embed Play-based practices in classrooms.

The declaration was successfully implemented when schools reopened, with teachers across the district facilitating **one hour of structured Play on the first day of the academic year**. With this commitment, Ahilyanagar is moving towards becoming Maharashtra's first play-integrated district, offering a scalable model for embedding Play-based learning within public education systems. Discover the impact of our International Day of Play initiatives [here](#).



Ahilyanagar district leadership unveils the "Pahila Divas Shalecha, Ek Taas Khelacha" declaration



The Ahilyanagar Declaration in Action: Teachers prepare for the first day of school with one hour of play, as children begin the new academic year through play

The roundtable and declaration of, "Pahila Divas Shalecha, Ek Taas Khelacha", were covered widely across regional and district media, with outlets reporting on the district wide commitment to Play integrated learning and its importance for public education in Maharashtra.

NDTV

Maharashtra's First Play-Based Learning Roundtable Held In Ahilyanagar

Every government school in the district will begin the new academic year with one hour of play from June 15

Team NDTV | [Food News](#) | Jun 17, 2026 19:48 pm IST ⓘ

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Ahiliyanagar City



अहिल्यानगर सिटी 12-06-2026

आनंददायी शिक्षण

शाळेचा पहिला दिवस होणार आनंददायी; चर्चासत्रात घेतला महत्त्वपूर्ण निर्णय

एक तास खेळाच्या उपक्रमातून होणार विद्यार्थ्यांचे स्वागत

प्रतिनिधी | अहिल्यानगर

जिल्ह्यातील शाळा १५ जून रोजी नव्या शैक्षणिक वर्षाच्या पहिल्या दिवशी विद्यार्थ्यांचे स्वागत 'पहिला दिवस शाळेचा, एक तास खेळाचा' या संकल्पनेतून करण्यात येणार आहे, अशी माहिती जिल्हा परिषदेचे मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी आनंद भंडारी यांनी दिली. जागतिक खेळ दिनाभिमित द ओपनट्री फाउंडेशन व स्नेहालय यांच्या संयुक्त विद्यमाने आयोजित 'खेळ जपा, बालपण जपा' या महाराष्ट्रातील पहिल्या जिल्हास्तरीय चर्चासत्रात ते बोलत होते. या कार्यक्रमात आमदार सत्यजीत तांबे यांनी शिक्षण केंद्रक पाठ्यपुस्तकापुरते मर्यादित न राहता

विद्यार्थ्यांच्या सृजनशीलता, संवादकौशल्य, नेतृत्वगुण आणि व्यक्तिमत्त्व विकासाला चालना देणारे असवे, असे सांगितले. विद्यार्थ्यांकडून, अनुभवाधारित व कौशल्याधारित शिक्षण व्यवस्थेची आवश्यकता अधोरेखित करत त्यांनी हा उपक्रम जिल्ह्यातील सर्व तालुक्यांमध्ये आणि विशेषतः संगमनेर येथे लवकरात लवकर राबविण्याची इच्छा व्यक्त केली. संयुक्त राष्ट्रांच्या बालहक्क करारातील कलम ३१ नुसार खेळाळा प्रत्येक बालकाचा मूलभूत हक्क म्हणून मान्यता देण्यात आली आहे. याच पार्श्वभूमीवर आणि राष्ट्रीय शैक्षणिक धोरण २०२० मधील आनंददायी शिक्षणाच्या दृष्टिकोनाशी

सुसंगत चर्चा अहिल्यानगर जमिनांना येथे झाली. उद्घाटनार भाषणात द ओपनट्री फाउंडेशनच्या सह-संस्थापक व मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी रवेता चारी यांनी शिक्षणातून खेळ हरवल्यास मुलांच्या भविष्यावर होणाऱ्या परिणामीविषयी चिंता व्यक्त केली. स्नेहालयाचे संस्थापक डॉ. गिरीश कुलकर्णी यांनी खेळ हा मुलांपर्यंत पोहोचण्याचा सर्वोत्तम मार्ग असून त्यातून मुलांना स्वतःला व्यक्त करण्याची संधी मिळते, असे नमूद केले. नुवामा ग्रुपच्या ईएसजी व सीएसआर प्रमुख रश्मी नागोरी यांनी खेळाच्या माध्यमातून मुलांचा आत्मविश्वास व चिकित्सक विचारक्षमता वाढत असल्याचे



जिल्हा परिषदेचे मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी आनंद भंडारी यांच्या उपस्थितीत चर्चासत्र आयोजित केले होते.

सांगितले. या चर्चासत्राचे सूत्रसंचालन नोमोबोचे संस्थापक व द ओपनट्री फाउंडेशनचे विश्वस्त देवेन्द्र नाईक यांनी केले. यावेळी विविध विभागांचे अधिकारी व कर्मचारी उपस्थित होते.

आगामी काळात शाळा व शिक्षकांना प्रोत्साहन

येत्या काळात द ओपनट्री फाउंडेशन जिल्हा प्रशासनासोबत काम करून आपला उपक्रम जिल्ह्यातील सर्व १४ तालुक्यांमधील शाळांपर्यंत विस्तार करणार आहे. शाळांना क्रीडा साहित्य उपलब्ध करून देणे, शिक्षकांना प्रशिक्षण देणे असे उद्दीष्ट निश्चित करण्यात आले आहे.

Dainik Police News

पोलीस न्यूज

नव्या शैक्षणिक वर्षाचे स्वागत 'एका तासाच्या खेळा'ने

जिल्हा परिषदेचा आगळावेगळा उपक्रम; अहिल्यानगरमध्ये 'खेळ जपा, बालपण जपा' चर्चासत्रात महत्त्वपूर्ण घोषणा

अहिल्यानगर | पोलीस न्यूज नेटवर्क

जिल्ह्यातील शासकीय शाळांमध्ये १५ जून रोजी नव्या शैक्षणिक वर्षाची सुरुवात 'पहिला दिवस शाळेचा, एक तास खेळाचा' या अनोख्या संकल्पनेने होणार आहे. विद्यार्थ्यांचे स्वागत खेळातून केले जाणार असल्याची महत्त्वपूर्ण माहिती जिल्हा परिषदेचे मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी आनंद भंडारी यांनी दिली. आंतरराष्ट्रीय खेळ दिनाभिमित द ओपनट्री फाउंडेशन आणि स्नेहालय यांच्या संयुक्त विद्यमाने अहिल्यानगर जमिनांना येथे आयोजित 'खेळ जपा, बालपण जपा' या महाराष्ट्रातील पहिल्या जिल्हास्तरीय चर्चासत्रात ते बोलत होते.

यावेळी विधान परिषदेचे आमदार सत्यजीत तांबे यांनी शिक्षण केंद्रक पाठ्यपुस्तकापुरते मर्यादित



न ठेवण्याचे आवाहन केले. विद्यार्थ्यांमधील सृजनशीलता, संवादकौशल्य, नेतृत्वगुण आणि व्यक्तिमत्त्व विकासाला चालना देणारे शिक्षण आजच्या काळाची गरज असल्याचे त्यांनी स्पष्ट केले. राष्ट्रीय शैक्षणिक धोरण २०२० च्या आनंददायी शिक्षणाच्या उद्दिष्टांशी

सुसंगत अशी सखोल चर्चा या कार्यक्रमात झाली. शिक्षण प्रक्रियेतून खेळ हरवल्यास मुलांच्या भविष्यावर गंभीर परिणाम होऊ शकतात, अशी चिंता द ओपनट्री फाउंडेशनच्या सह-संस्थापक रश्मी नागोरी यांनी व्यक्त केली. तर, खेळ

हा मुलांच्या मनापर्यंत पोहोचण्याचा आणि त्यांना व्यक्त होण्याची संधी देणारा सर्वोत्तम मार्ग असल्याचे स्नेहालयाचे संस्थापक डॉ. गिरीश कुलकर्णी यांनी सांगितले. नुवामा ग्रुपच्या सीएसआर प्रमुख रश्मी नागोरी यांनीही खेळाच्या माध्यमातून मुलांचा आत्मविश्वास

व चिकित्सक विचारक्षमता वाढत असल्याचे नमूद केले.

येत्या काळात द ओपनट्री फाउंडेशन जिल्हा प्रशासनासोबत मिळून हा उपक्रम जिल्ह्यातील सर्व १४ तालुक्यांमधील शाळांपर्यंत विस्तारणार आहे. शाळांना क्रीडा साहित्य पुरवणे, शिक्षकांना प्रशिक्षण देणे आणि अहिल्यानगरला क्रीडा-एकात्मिक शिक्षणासाठी महाराष्ट्रातील आदर्श जिल्हा बनवणे हे या मोहिमेचे मुख्य उद्दिष्ट आहे.

या परिषदेला महानगरपालिकेचे शिक्षणाधिकारी जुबेर पठाण, महिला व बाल विकास समितीच्या उपाध्यक्षा वर्षा सानप, विस्तार अधिकारी पोपटराव धामणे यांच्यासह गटशिक्षणाधिकारी, मुख्याध्यापक आणि शिक्षक मोठ्या संख्येने उपस्थित होते.

3. [National Play Dialogue: "Viksit Bharat Through Learning, Creativity and Play"](#)

On June 15th, The Opentree Foundation participated in the **National Play Dialogue**, hosted by The LEGO Group at New Delhi, themed "Viksit Bharat Through Learning, Creativity and Play." TOF's CEO & Co-founder, Shweta Chari, facilitated a Children's Panel featuring Dr. Sanjay Chavan, Principal of Rajawadi Mumbai Public School CBSE; Akash, a TOF Play Worker who grew up as a government school student and now delivers play-based learning himself; and two children from TOF's partner government schools in Mumbai, Parth and Arpita, who shared first-hand accounts of learning in a play-based classroom. Along with Shri Jitin Prasada, Union Minister of State for Commerce & Industry and Electronics & Information Technology, Ms Debashree Mukherjee, Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Ms. Ira Singhal, Deputy Secretary, Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education, and leaders from across the education and development ecosystem, the dialogue **reflected a growing national consensus that play-based learning is fundamental** to preparing children for Viksit Bharat 2047.



Children from TOF's partner schools speak on the Children's Panel at the LEGO National Play Dialogue in Delhi and engage with Union Minister of State for Commerce & Industry and Electronics & Information Technology - Shri Jitin Prasada

4. [Workplace Day of Play](#)

Through June, marking International Day of Play under this year's theme "Protect Play, Protect Childhood," The Opentree Foundation hosted Workplace Day of Play sessions across the 2 offices of its corporate partners, flipping the usual dynamic so that children became the facilitators and adults the learners. **8 children from TOF's Play2Learn partner schools led 90 minute play sessions for 68 employees**, guiding them through activities designed to build creativity, collaboration, problem-solving, and joy. In doing so, the children demonstrated confidence and leadership in facilitating play for adults, while reinforcing the idea that protecting children's right to play begins with the adults who shape their environments, at home, at school, and in the workplace.



Children lead employees through a play session as part of Workplace Day of Play at a corporate partner's office

Way Forward:

In Q2 (July to September) of FY 26-27

1. Delivery of Play2Learn sessions will begin
2. Transformative 'Power of Play' workshops for teachers will be conducted
3. Delivery of play materials will happen for smooth execution of Play2Learn sessions
4. School Level Meetings will be conducted