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April 12, 2024

Celebrating Abundance in Collabaction

Empowering Children's Agency: Journey through Sambhal's Transformative Stories

In the heart of our mission at Involve lies an unwavering belief: when children are entrusted with agency, they become catalysts for remarkable change. Our journey is guided by our students' inspiring stories of change, reinforcing our commitment to empower 50 million students in India with agency within the next five years. Central to our approach to building student agency is peer-teaching—an innovative and engaging method that pairs senior Student Leaders (typically grade 4 and upwards) with younger learners (from grades 1-3) to elevate educational outcomes.

In April 2023, we launched a peer-teaching program in Sambhal, UP, as part of our efforts to scale our impact. Over the past year, we initiated a district-wide campaign, gaining support from key officials, including the District Magistrate and District Education Officer, laying the groundwork for student agency. The "NIPUN Mahotsav" in July 2023, led by Mr. Chandrashekhar, Basic Education Officer, Sambhal, brought together 1500 students from 200 schools, setting ambitious educational goals. Our Peer Learning Workshop equipped over 2500 educators with strategies to enhance language and numeracy proficiency. Additionally, we launched [Peer Learning Videos](#) and [Pocket Books](#), benefiting over 2000 teachers.

Shining a spotlight on our students, we orchestrated the NIPUN Champion Mela to showcase their accomplishments and innovative teaching approaches. Empowered as key decision-makers, our students took charge of various event elements, from hosting and performing to felicitating our distinguished guests and ensuring orderly conduct among their peers.

To date, our endeavours have touched the lives of 26,139 students, igniting a ripple effect of empowerment and transformation across communities.

We are delighted to present two captivating stories of change from Sambhal. These narratives have profoundly touched us, and we are confident they will inspire you as they have inspired us.

Nandini's Journey with the Talent Circle

Nandini, a radiant and eager first-grade learner, envisioned a world where every student felt a sense of pride in their individual talents. With this goal in mind, she embarked on a journey to create something truly special – the "Talent Circle." In this circle, classmates were invited to showcase their unique gifts, ranging from melodious singing to intricate drawing.

With infectious enthusiasm, Nandini cheered for each participant, fostering an atmosphere of unwavering support and genuine camaraderie within the circle. What began as a simple idea blossomed into a vibrant hub of encouragement and friendship.

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Nandini's initiative, the school became a beacon of positivity, where students not only discovered their own talents but also learned the invaluable lesson of uplifting others and shining together.

Ummulvara's Journey of Impact and Confidence through Peer Teaching

In this story, Ummulvara, a Student Leader, shares her experience as a Peer Teacher. Here's what she had to say: "When Ms. Javeria Tariq asked me to teach in the Peer Group, I was hesitant due to my lack of experience. However, Ms. Tariq took the time to provide me with a clear explanation of the concept of Peer Learning and offered me words of encouragement that helped motivate me.

There was a student named Sameer from class 3 who often missed class, which was a challenge. Despite the teacher's persistent attempts to contact him and encourage him, he did not attend school regularly. But I didn't give up. I talked to Sameer and motivated him to come to our study sessions. To my delight, he began to show a genuine interest in studying, and within just a week, he started attending school regularly, eventually achieving proficiency. This experience not only boosted my confidence as a peer teacher but also taught me the positive impact that individual attention and encouragement can have on a student's academic journey."

As we continue to champion the cause of student agency, we remain steadfast in our commitment to amplifying the voices of the next generation. Their stories of resilience, innovation, and transformative change inspire us to forge ahead, lighting the way towards a future where every student shines brightly.



This article is contributed by Involve. Involve is a non-profit organisation committed to empowering students across India by fostering age-appropriate agency. Their mission is to equip students for the demands of the 21st century by cultivating age-appropriate agency in students, encouraging greater engagement in learning, nurturing curiosity, honing critical thinking and problem-solving skills, and fostering active participation in decision-making processes for themselves and their peers. They have partnered with over 200,000 students and are building a world where every student has the opportunity to write their own story of success.

A Ray of Sunshine

#Spotlight Story: Majida from Gubbachi

The Community Learning Center (CLC) is designed to provide quality education to children who have no access to formal schooling due to multiple cultural and linguistic barriers. These children come from displaced migrant families from different parts of India.

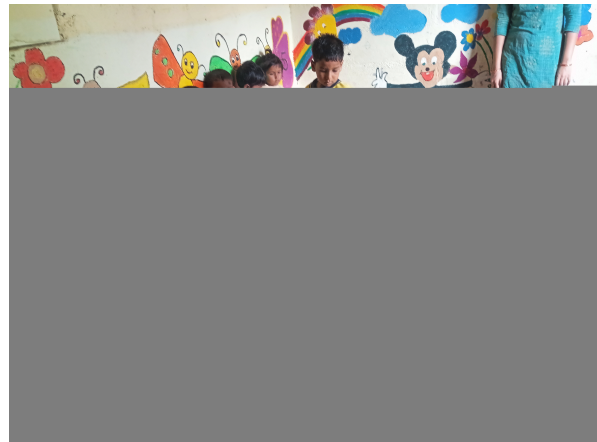
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Bengaluru. His younger daughter Majida was under 3 years of age when we enrolled her into Buds - our preschool program in the CLC at Kariyammana Agraharam, Bengaluru.

Along with around forty other 3-5 year-olds, Majida began to learn foundational skills in Kannada, Math, EVS and English. Based on the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) model, the curriculum is full of activities like singing, dancing and playing while learning the building blocks of concepts in literacy and numeracy. By the time the children turn six, they will become school ready and get mainstreamed into the nearby government school.

Her elder sister Noor (9) is enrolled in the bridge learning program ('Connect'). This program prepares children towards NIOS (National Institute of Open Schooling) certification. The children are taught by a dedicated team of hired and volunteer teachers. Weekly Dance and Sports classes are much looked forward to! Every year, all the children are taken on multiple field trips. The senior students have bi-weekly football at a nearby turf club and they attend Leadership camps as they grow into young adults.

With both parents being away at work all day, Noor is the sole care-giver for Majida during the day. During lunch breaks, she puts up with Majida's tantrums and ensures she eats her lunch. The twin programs - 'Buds' and 'Connect' are able to support families like Nadeem's - to earn and sustain their family life in the city, while the girls are safe, well cared for, and learning in school. The parents attend regular parent-teacher meetings at the school and are constantly in touch with their teachers on the WhatsApp groups where they get regular updates on the school activities. Nadeem wants his daughters to study further and 'speak English'. Like other migrants, he too hopes to return home in a few years and admit his girls into a 'big school' there.



This article is contributed by Gubbachi Learning Community. [Gubbachi](#) works towards the educational inclusion of marginalised children along with community intervention for migrant communities in Bangalore.

The Bachpan Manao Network at Play

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BENGALURU: A CITY OF LAKES
 A Sparkling Mindz Production

The lakes are warning. Are we listening?

Venue - Bangalore International Centre
Date - 20th April 2024
Time - 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Cost - Rs. 499 + GST

 Scan to book your seats at BookMyShow

coming week! The children from Sparkling Mindz are putting up a lovely production at BIC on 20th April to raise awareness about the rising water crisis in Bangalore through a culmination of theatre, dance and music. More details [here](#).

Discover Bengaluru With Sparkling Mindz!

Child In The City HERITAGE WALK 2024
 JOIN.CONNECT.BELONG.

Did you know that my creation began with the idea of creating a community?
 Don't you want to discover what more there is to see?


 Ulsoor Lake

Sparkling Mindz is also hosting their Child in the City Heritage Walk on 13th and 14th April. Hop over to their social media [here](#) for more details. You can also register for the April 13th Ulsoor heritage walk [here](#) and the April 14th Someshwara temple walk [here](#).

Sol's ARC launched PLAYBOOK: A Comprehensive Guide for Inclusive Education in collaboration with Dalberg at IncluED last week. This guidebook designed to provide educators and caregivers with practical strategies and tools for creating inclusive learning environments for children with special needs, can be found [here](#).

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ACTIVE THINKING MATH CLASSROOM

Developing Mathematical Mindsets

15th April 2024 (Monday)

5pm IST zoom

Badhte Jao Masterclass on developing mathematical mindsets! Understand elements of an ‘Active Thinking Math Classroom’ where questions, discussions, and justifications are encouraged to create an experiential learning environment for children. Join in on April 15th at 5pm online. More details [here](#) and register [here](#).



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