MAAN KI UMEED FOUNDATION

Education Initiative : Project Adoption

Location : Guwahati, Assam

Focus Area : Education

Introduction :

Project Adoption is the flagship education initiative of Maan Ki Umeed.It is designed to bridge the educational gap among children from marginalized and economically weaker communities in Assam. The project focuses on identifying out-of-school children, preparing them for mainstream education, ensuring their enrollment into formal schools, and providing long-term academic and emotional support.

The program follows a structured model that nurtures children from being completely out of the education system to becoming confident and regular school-going students.

Core Focus Areas of Project Adoption :

1. Identifying Uneducated Children from Marginalized Communities -

The first and most crucial step of Project Adoption is outreach and identification.

Process:

- Volunteers conduct regular field visits to slum areas, roadside settlements, and economically backward communities across Guwahati and nearby regions.
- Families are surveyed to identify children who:
  - Have never attended school
  - Have dropped out of school
  - Are engaged in child labor or begging
  - Do not have access to basic learning resources

Objectives:

- To locate children who are deprived of education
- To understand the social and financial background of families
- To build trust with parents and community members
- To encourage families to consider education as a priority

Community Engagement:

- Door-to-door counseling is done by volunteers
- Parents are educated about:
  - Importance of schooling
  - Long-term benefits of literacy

      ○   Government schemes and free education provisions

This phase ensures that the organization reaches the right children who need immediate educational intervention.

2. Enrolling Children into Sunday Pathshala (Incubation Period – 1 Year) -

Once children are identified, they are enrolled into **Sunday Pathshala**, the learning incubation center of Maan Ki Umeed.

Purpose of Sunday Pathshala:

Many of the identified children:

- Have never been to school
- Lack basic literacy and numeracy skills
- Do not have study habits
- Feel fearful or hesitant about formal education

Sunday Pathshala acts as a bridge between "no education" and "formal schooling."

Structure of the Program:

- Weekly classes conducted every Sunday
- Free of cost education
- Classes taken by trained student volunteers
- Safe, friendly, and non-judgmental learning environment

What Children Learn:

During this one-year incubation period, children are taught:

- Basic reading and writing skills
- Foundational mathematics
- English and Assamese language basics
- General knowledge
- Moral values and life skills
- Hygiene, discipline, and communication skills

Additional Support:

- Provision of study materials
- Nutritious food during sessions
- Counseling and motivation
- Creative and extracurricular activities

Goal of the Incubation Phase:

- To prepare children mentally and academically
- To build their confidence
- To make them school-ready
- To create a routine and discipline of learning

By the end of one year, children become capable of entering formal schools with confidence and basic academic preparedness.

3. Enrollment into Government Schools -

After completing the incubation phase at Sunday Pathshala, the next step is mainstreaming children into formal education.

Enrollment Process:

- Maan Ki Umeed coordinates with nearby government schools
- Helps in admission procedures
- Assists families with necessary documentation
- Guides parents through school formalities

Support Provided:

- School admission assistance
- Uniforms and basic stationery
- Regular follow-ups with teachers
- Academic monitoring of the child

Ensuring Continuity:

- Volunteers stay in touch with the child even after school enrollment
- Extra tuition and homework help is provided
- Parents are regularly counseled to ensure attendance

Impact:

- Children who were once completely out of the education system become regular school-going students
- Dropout rates are reduced
- Attendance and academic performance improve

This stage fulfills the main goal of Project Adoption which is bringing marginalized children into mainstream education.

4. Potential Caretakers Who Fund a Child's Education -

To ensure long-term sustainability, Project Adoption also includes a **"Caretaker Support Model."**

Concept of Caretakers:

Many children from slum communities are unable to continue education due to financial constraints.To address this, Maan Ki Umeed connects children with socially responsible individuals who act as "Caretakers" or sponsors.

Role of a Caretaker:

A caretaker may support a child by funding:

- School fees (if required)
- Uniforms
- Books and stationery
- Transportation costs
- Tuition support

<u>**How the System Works:**</u>

- Donors or well-wishers adopt a child's educational expenses
- Maan Ki Umeed ensures transparency in fund utilization
- Regular progress reports of the child are shared with the caretaker
- Sponsors are updated about:
  - Academic growth
  - Attendance
  - Overall development

<u>**Benefits of the Caretaker Model:**</u>

- Reduces financial burden on families
- Prevents children from dropping out
- Creates a personal support system for each child
- Ensures long-term continuity of education

This model makes Project Adoption financially sustainable and socially participatory.

Holistic Development Approach -

Project Adoption does not limit itself to textbooks alone.Children are also provided:

- STEM education and activity-based learning
- Health and hygiene awareness
- Moral and social values
- Confidence-building activities
- Exposure to creative arts and sports

The aim is to nurture well-rounded individuals rather than just literate students.

Overall Impact of Project Adoption -

Through this structured four-step model, Project Adoption has achieved:

- Identification of hundreds of out-of-school children
- Preparation of children through Sunday Pathshala
- Enrollment of many children into government schools
- Continuous academic support
- Increased attendance and reduced dropout rates
- Creation of a strong volunteer-driven education ecosystem

Conclusion -

Project Adoption is more than just an education program, it is a transformation journey. From a child who has never held a pencil to a confident student attending school regularly, the project ensures complete educational rehabilitation. Maan Ki Umeed believes that every child deserves the right to learn, and Project Adoption is a step toward making that belief a reality.