AltED

Annual Report 2025-26



Cognitive Resilience** through **Information Literacy

Media & Information Literacy for All

AltED is an education initiative based in Kolkata, under the DPML Learning Foundation, a non-profit organisation. Our mission is to make Media and Information Literacy (MIL) accessible to children in schools and to adults in civil society organisations. We believe that in today's world of misinformation, propaganda, scams, and online risks, it is essential to build a generation of informed and emotionally resilient citizens.



Sessions on Tradi Media at **Madurdaha Satyabriti Vidyalaya**

Problem Statement

*Our information ecosystem today faces serious challenges — **organised dis-information, online fraud, cyber-bullying, hate propaganda,** and **data theft.***

> *The 2024 World Economic Forum's Global Risk Report ranked **India #1** at risk from **misinformation & disinformation.***



Mission & Vision

*In today's dynamic information landscape—shaped by **attention-driven economics** alongside challenges such as misinformation, disinformation, hate speech, cyberbullying, trolling, and online scams—**critical media awareness is essential.***

AltED is dedicated to equipping students and young adults with robust media and information literacy skills, fostering informed citizenship and cognitive resilience. We work closely with community-based organizations and schools, with a strong focus on underserved communities, to ensure that every individual gains access to the knowledge and critical thinking tools necessary to engage with the digital world responsibly and thoughtfully.

Key Highlights 2025-26



May - July
2025

KECT & Madurdaha Satyabriti Vidyalaya

Grade-specific workshops & a month long art intervention which culminated in an exhibition and a theatre production scripted by the kids



October
2025

Oasis International Bangalore

Workshops with the students of Oasis International Bangalore. Our first venture in the city.



November
2025

Sambhaavnaa Institute of Public Policy and Politics

Our second 5 day immersive workshop with Sambhavana for the year 2025

The Sambhaavnaa Institute of Public Policy and Politics is an alternative learning and living space for those concerned with social and political change.

Our Year in Numbers

FY 2025-26

1575
individuals reached

1204
***students** across schools & colleges*

298
community leaders & young adults

73 *teachers*

AltED doubled down on growth this year!

FY 2025-26

across 672 sessions

490
*with **students** & teachers*

182
*with **community leaders** & young adults*

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751 students

128 CSO leaders

56 teachers

In FY "24-25 we reached 935 individuals

FY 2024-25 figures for reference

across 309 sessions with

209 with students & teachers

100 with young adults

January
2026

A “gender equality fair” is a community celebration with different themes in different years to promote gender equality in the society and make gender discourse a regular affair in everyday life.



Sammo Mela

AltED set up an interactive booth at a fair organised by Equidiversity Foundation



Centre for Social Justice

AltED conducted a media literacy and fact checking workshop with 40 lawyers and team members of CSJ in Ahmedabad

February
2026

CSJ is one of the first organisations of its kind in India that uses the judicial system to fight for the rights of marginalised people

March *2026*

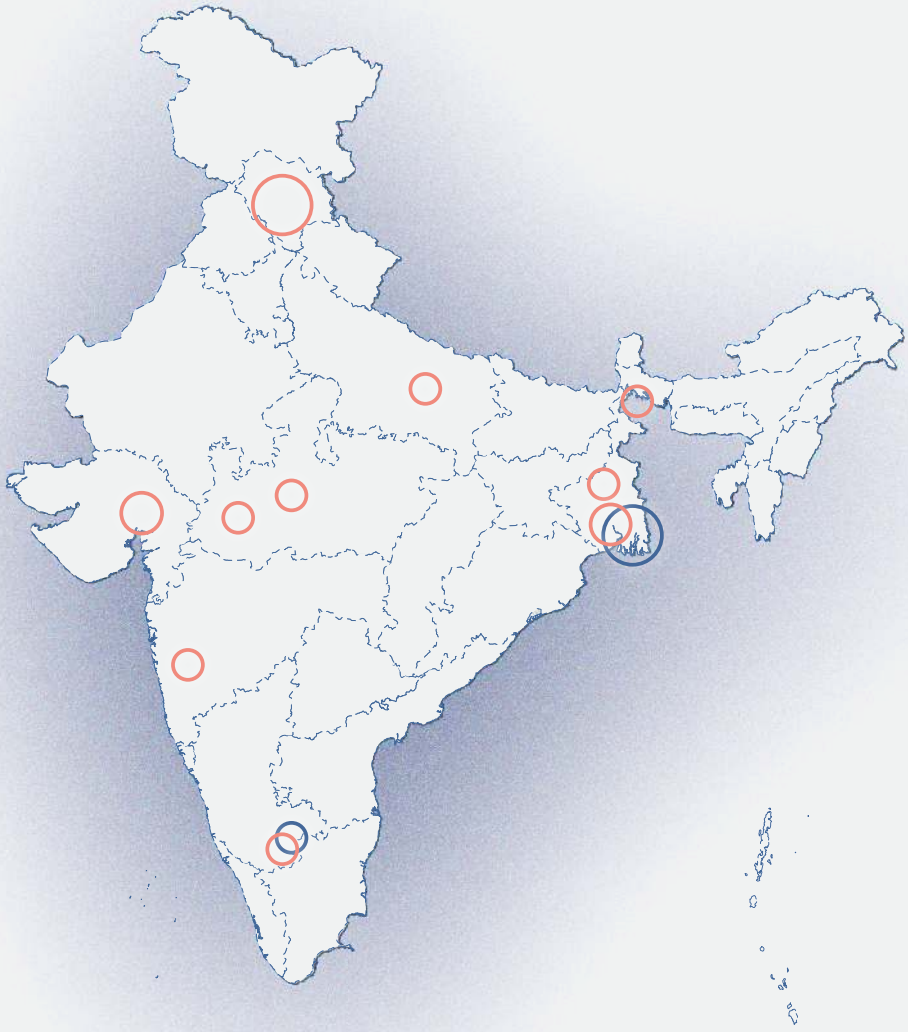
Equidiversity Foundation is a feminist, civil society organization working in three districts of South 24 Parganas, Birbhum and Purulia since 2016 and in Kolkata in recent years. They work towards gender equality (particularly in the areas of decision making and inclusive participation in governance) while promoting diversity.



Parichay

In collaboration with Equidiversity Foundation, we organised a 1.5 day inter district programme with teachers aiming to create an educators network

Mapping
AltED



1 2 3+

Sessions conducted

School Interventions

Civil Society Org Interventions

"As we get ready to launch our Bengaluru operations, we are very excited to meet people, organisations and donors who we can work with, collaborate with, partner with to take media literacy to more children and young people in Bengaluru and beyond.

India's tech capital is also a hub of many independent media initiatives and has a strong civil society space. Everyone we speak to in the city already recognise the need and are keen to work together on this. We are hiring our team, finding us an office and establishing partnerships where we can get started on media literacy with young people by May 2026."

Shaheen Shasa
Director, Bangalore Chapter

Karnataka
Bangalore (New Chapter)

Karta
APF
Oasis international

Maharashtra
Pune/Talegaon

Work for Equality

Himachal Pradesh
Palampur

Sambhaavna

Uttar Pradesh
Faizabad

SRUTI

Gujarat
Ahmedabad

Centre for Social Justice

Madhya Pradesh
Bhopal

Youngshala

Indore

Tapish Foundation

West Bengal
Kolkata

KECT
Kashipur Kishore Bharati Vidyalaya
Madurdaho Satyabriti Vidyalaya
Udaypur Haradayal Nag Adarsha Vidyalaya for Boys
Kolotan
Kheadaha High School
Bondhu Collective
Praajak
Prasanna Kumari Balika
Equidiversity Foundation
Sappho For Equality
Sodepur Vigyan Manch

Siliguri

PaschimBanga Cha Khet Majoor Samiti

Birbhum

Sammo Mela

New Chapter

2026 marks an exciting milestone for AltED as we prepare to launch our Bengaluru chapter. Expanding into India's tech capital enables us to bring media literacy to more people, while simultaneously engaging with its already present and growing civil society. Bengaluru has a vibrant youth-driven community which realises the need for a media literacy intervention.

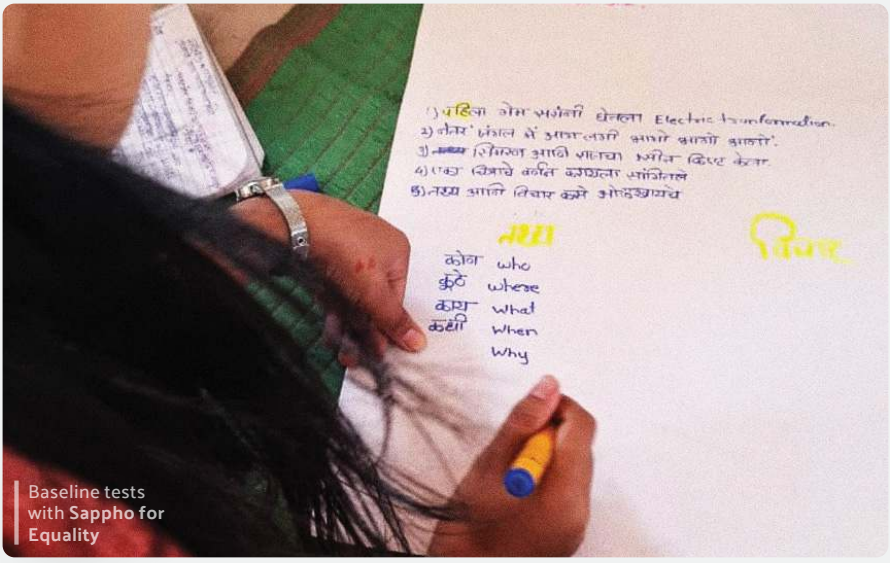
Curriculum Updates

This year new assessment tools were created.

Classroom experience surveys were conducted with 265+ students in three schools. While learning outcomes show what students have learned, assessing their classroom experience helps reveal how and why that learning did or didn't happen. That in turn offers insight into how effective the teaching methods were and what needs to be changed.

As AltED builds up its curriculum and works towards creating an effective pedagogy, these insights are very important.

Starting early 2026, a baseline survey was piloted. It has since been conducted with 165+students across various classes and sections in three schools. In the coming months endline surveys will be conducted to measure the effectiveness of the intervention.



Baseline tests with **Sappho for Equality**



Udaypur Haradayal Nag Adarsha Vidyalaya

"২০২৫ সালে Udaypur Haradayal Nag Adarsha Vidyalaya-তে অষ্টম শ্রেণির সাথে আমাদের ওয়ার্কশপ চলছিল। বিষয় ছিল— Misinformation, Disinformation ও Bias, Stereotype। আলোচনা করতে করতে Deep নামে এক ছাত্র হাত তুলে এমন একটি প্রশ্ন করল, যা আমাকে গভীরভাবে নাড়া দিয়েছিল।

সে বলল, - "ভারত-পাকিস্তান যুদ্ধের সময় টিভিতে বলা হয় পাকিস্তান মানেই সন্ত্রাসবাদী দেশ। তাহলে সেখানে যারা আমার মতো ক্লাস সেভেন-এইটে পড়ে, তারাও কি খারাপ? তারাও কি সন্ত্রাসবাদী? একটা দেশের সকল মানুষ-ই কি সন্ত্রাসবাদী হতে পারে?"

ক্লাসরুম মুহূর্তে নিস্তব্ধ হয়ে গেল। প্রশ্নটা শুধু তথ্যের ছিল না, ছিল মানবিকতার। আমি বুঝলাম, মিডিয়া লিটারেসি শুধু ভুল খবর চেনার শিক্ষা নয়, মানুষকে মানুষ হিসেবে দেখার শিক্ষা। একটি দেশের কিছু মানুষের কাজ দিয়ে পুরো দেশকে বিচার করা ঠিক নয়। সেই দিনের সেই প্রশ্ন আমাকে শিখিয়েছিল - সহানুভূতির কোনো সীমানা নেই, আর স্টেরিওটাইপ ভাঙার কাজ শুরু হয় এমন নিষ্পাপ প্রশ্ন থেকেই।"

"In 2025, we were conducting a workshop with the eighth-grade students at Udaypur Haradyal Nag Adarsha Vidyalaya. The topics under discussion were misinformation, disinformation, bias, and stereotypes. As the discussion progressed, a student named Deep raised his hand and asked a question that moved me deeply.

He asked, "During the India-Pakistan war, the television portrays Pakistan as a country synonymous with terrorism. In that case, are the children there–those who are in the seventh or eighth grade, just like me–bad people? Are they terrorists, too? Can every single person in an entire country be a terrorist?"

The classroom fell silent in an instant. The question was not merely about information; it was a question of humanity. I realized that media literacy is not simply about learning to identify fake news; it is about learning to see people as human beings. It is unfair to judge an entire nation based on the actions of a few of its citizens. That question, asked on that day, taught me a profound lesson: empathy knows no boundaries, and the work of dismantling stereotypes begins with such innocent inquiries."

Shared by

Mantu Debnath
Programme Associate

Mantu joined AltED's Satyashodhak Fellowship in early 2025. They now work full-time with AltED focusing on business development.

The Team Grows!

Shaheen
Director, Bangalore Chapter

Purba
Research & Curriculum Development

Elia
Programmes Head

Anish
Director










Mantu
Programme Associate

Niloy
Programme Associate

Snigdha
Programme Associate

Anusree, Ariza, Dalia, Kankana, Sneha & Tapashi
Junior Programme Associates

Our Partners

Rohini Nilekani
Philanthropic Initiative

Seagull Foundation for the Arts
(History for Peace)

Sambhaavnaa Institute
for Public Policy

Karta Initiative

Azim Premji Foundation

Director's Note

The year 2024–25 was focused on generating teaching–learning practices. In 2025–26, our energy was directed toward ***defining pedagogies*** *around Media and Information Literacy (MIL) and making them* ***grade specific.*** *This year also marked decentralized scale, with multiple partner organizations beginning to create space in their calendars for MIL.*



Introductory sessions with **Satyshodhak Fellows**

Our focus remained on classrooms. We conducted more than ***650 sessions*** *across adolescents, young adults,* ***and educators.*** *Through this work, we identified the need for a more holistic curriculum for adolescents, situating MIL in the context of constitutional values and gender justice.*

In the coming year, constitutional values will continue to guide our practice of informed digital citizenship in classrooms. We will remain focused on building collectives of teachers and civil society organizations to achieve precision of practice, scale, and sustainability of MIL. With six new Satyasodhak Fellows joining our team and an extended presence in Kolkata and Bengaluru, we look forward to learning more and remaining grounded in practices, connected to communities of educators committed to constitutional values, gender justice, and citizenship.

- Anish Mukherjee

Donate to AltED's mission

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