



PROGRESS REPORT ON TRANSFORMING EDUCATION IN REMOTE RURAL GOVT SCHOOLS OF SIKKIM

*A summary of activities and achievement made across the 3 adopted schools in North Sikkim -
December 2021 till date*



SMU SIKKIM
MANIPAL
UNIVERSITY

Established under Govt. of Sikkim, Act 9 of 1995, recognised under 2(f) of the UGC Act, 1956





PROJECT DETAILS

PROJECT PERIOD: July 2021 – June 2024

REPROTING PERIOD: July 2021 – June 2023

PROJECT GEOGRAPHY: 3 Govt. schools in Mangan District, Sikkim

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The project, supported by Manipal Foundation and Sikkim Manipal University, is aimed at creating access to quality and holistic learning in three adopted Govt. schools. As part of the Project, over a 3-year period, 17000ft will

- Improve infrastructure through the setup of outdoor playground to get children back to schools.
- Improve Learning Resources by setting up:
 - i. DigiLab – highly specialized offline Digital Learning Solution meant for areas with no mobile connectivity, that enables children to learn in school and at home.
 - ii. Library, with average 400 books across genres, levels and languages.
- Build capabilities of Headmasters and Teachers on implementing a Blended Learning program and an Active Library program in schools
- Improve Student Learning by implementing a Structured Library program and the DigiLab program in the 3 schools.

PROJECT PROGRESS

The first two years of the Project has been devoted to

- Setting expectations with the Department of Education
- Mobilizing and sensitizing parent and the communities
- Improving infrastructure in schools through the installation of the Playground
- Contextualizing the digital learning content for the DigiLab program
- Enhancing learning resources in schools through the setup of the DigiLab and Library
- Building capacity of HM and Teachers through annual training and periodic refresher training
- Supporting the schools through quarterly monitoring visits and calls
- Maintaining the provided hardware and troubleshooting, as required



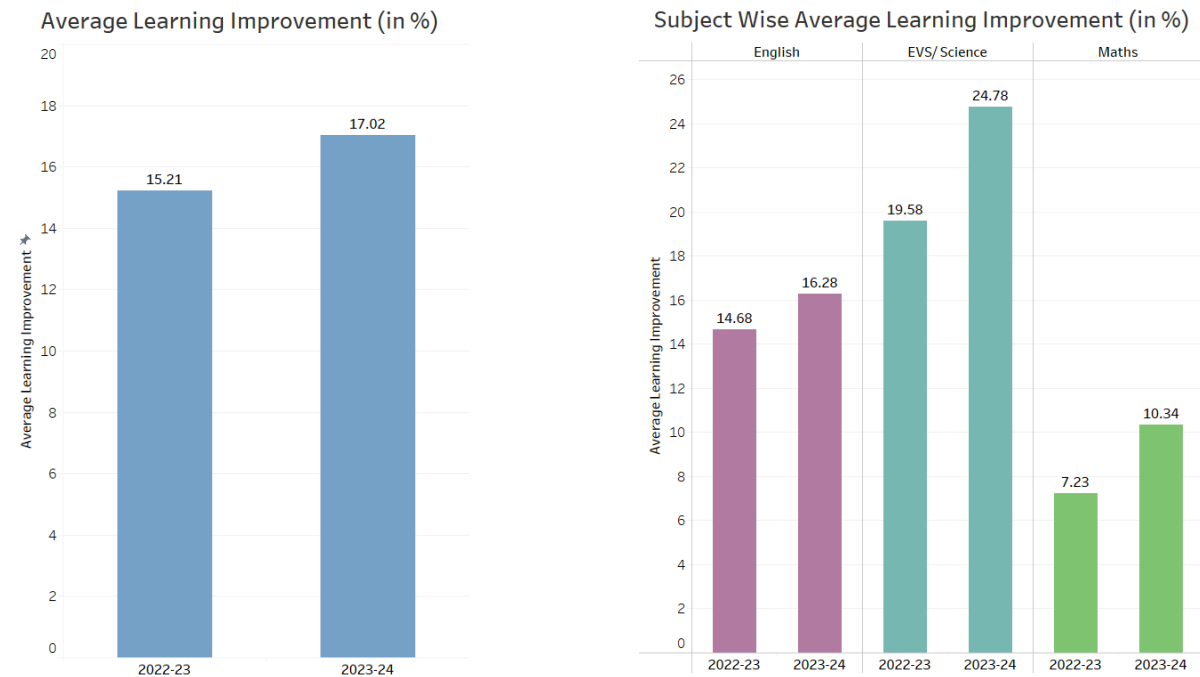


PROJECT RESULTS

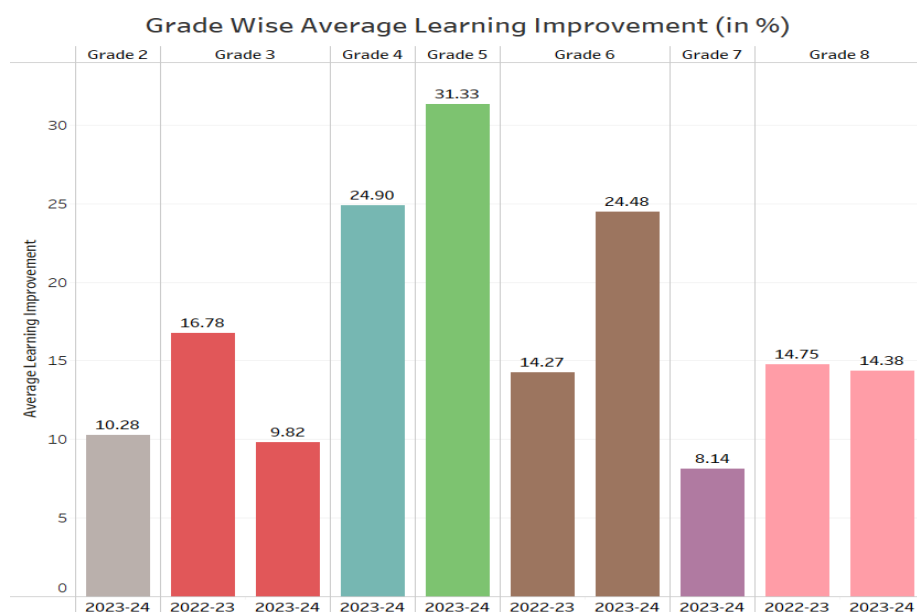
DigiLab

The overall **Average Learning Improvement (ALI)** across subjects is **16.63%**. In the current academic year, the overall ALI is higher (17.02%) as compared to the previous session (15.21%).

Children have demonstrated the highest learning improvement in EVS/ Science – 24.78% in the current academic year and 19.58% in the previous year. It is encouraging to see that in Maths, the children are displaying a higher improvement this year (10.34%) as against 7.23% displayed last year.



The Grade wise data for ALI is also extremely heartening as children across grades are demonstrating improvement in their learning. The data reveals that the highest Learning improvement has been achieved by children of Grade 5 followed by Grade 4 and Grade 6. There has been a marked increase in ALI for Grade 6 in the current session with an over 10% increase from the previous session.

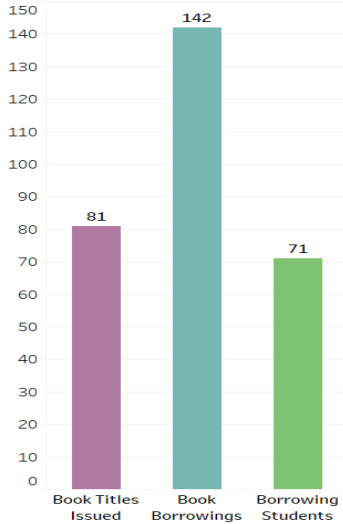




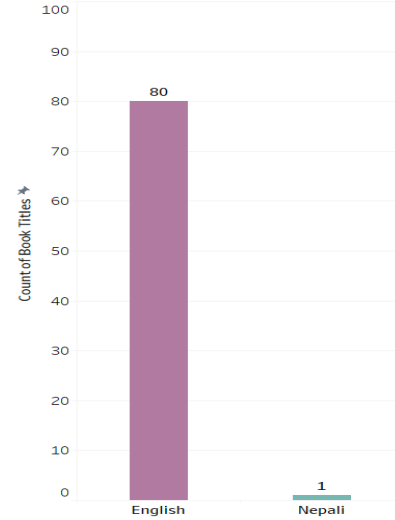
Library

It is immensely inspiring to note that children are borrowing and reading books. All the three schools have incorporated a Library period in their schedule and have allocated one period per week.

Details of Books Issued

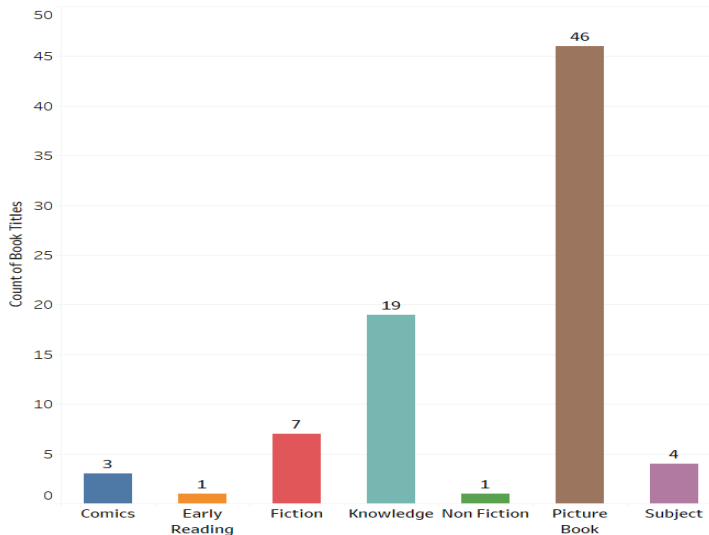


Book Titles Issued by Language

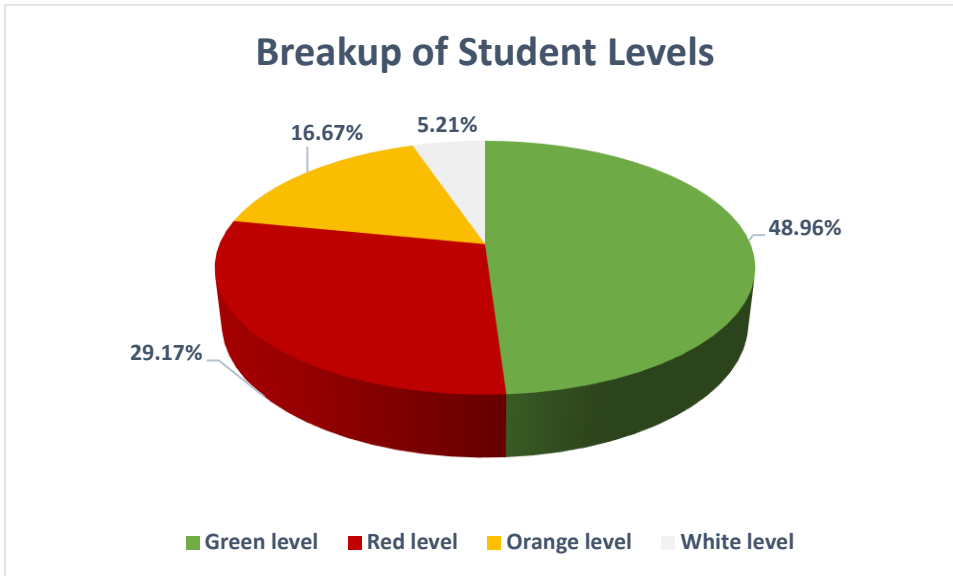


As can be seen in the above graph, a total of 81 book titles have been issued across the three schools to 71 students a total of 142 times. Almost all issued Book titles have been of English language; only 1 book in Nepali has been issued while there have no books issued in Hindi language.

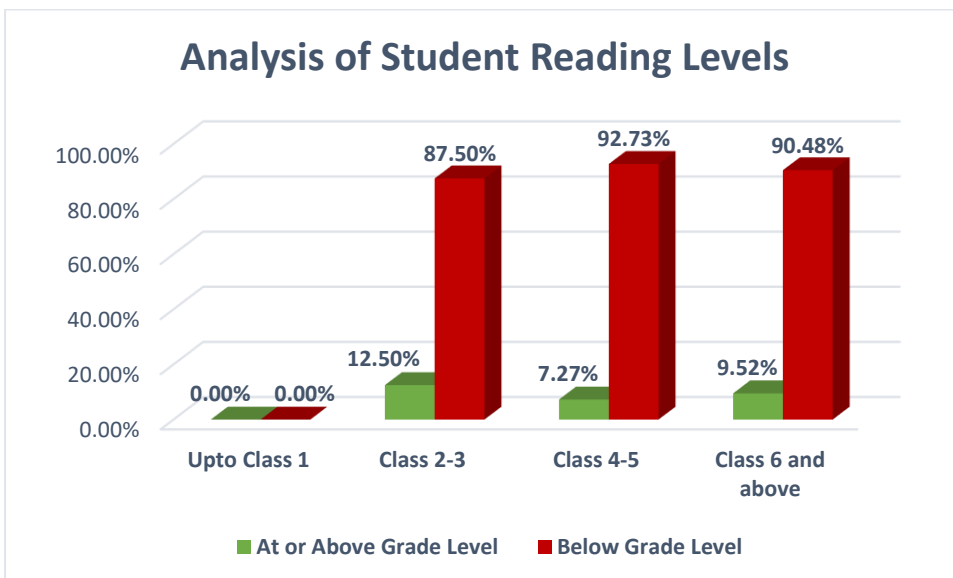
Book Titles Issued by Genre



It has been observed that majority of the books issued have been Picture Books which account for 56.8% of all book titles issued, followed by Knowledge genre books which account for 23.5% of all book titles issued. Children are being encouraged to explore other genres too.



Almost half (49%) of the students across the three schools were found to be in the basic ‘Green’ level with close to 30% in the ‘Red’ level. Just under 17% were in the ‘Orange’ level while only a little over 5% were in the most advanced level- ‘White’.



As can be seen above, the vast majority of students in the three schools are not reading at Grade level at the moment. To address this, 17000ft has conducted centralised & refresher training of HM & teachers on creating an active reading program in schools with the overall aim to inculcate a reading habit amongst children. We are confident that these measures will encourage children to read more and a larger proportion of students will start reading at Grade level.

Enrolment Updates

Even though the overall enrolment has declined in all the 3 schools, it has been observed that the overall students’ attendance across grades is over 90%.



Sl No	Name of School	Enrolment of Start of Year 1	Current Enrolment
1	UPS Lingzya	36	32
2	Ups Namprick	36	32
3	SS Tingvong	65	47

CHALLENGES FACED

Over the last two years of the Project, 17000ft has faced a few challenges which have been addressed as highlighted below:

- i. **Raspberry Pi stability issues:** A stability issue was observed in the Raspberry Pi setup in the 3 schools, as part of the DigiLab. It was noted that due to power fluctuations, when multiple devices would try to connect to the Raspberry Pi, the Pi was unable to take the load forcing the devices to drop off automatically. This caused issues in syncing data from the DigiLab sessions. To resolve this issue, 17000ft has now provided an additional 220V transformer in these schools which is converting the load from AC to DC, thus providing stability when multiple devices attempt to connect to the Pi.
- ii. **Power Supply issues:** Inconsistent power supply causing malfunctioning in the DigiLab was a major issue reported by the schools. In order to counter this, 17000ft provided Top Up boxes to stabilize power supply for the DigiLab and ensure continuous and uninterrupted power supply for all devices. This step has particularly helped increase DigiLab usage in the schools.
- iii. **Delays caused due to weather vagaries:** Due to the long monsoon season causing roads to be washed out and travel practically impossible, it was not possible make monitoring visits to the schools in each quarter; hence only 3 out of the planned 4 visits could be made. In address this challenge, 17000ft has ensured support to the schools through calls/ WhatsApp.

SUPPORT PROVIDED BY SMU

Health Camps

The Central Referral Hospital Manipal, in association with 17000ft Foundation, has organised a one-day free medical health camp for the benefit of community members at:

- Lingzya Village in Dec 2021
- Namong Arithang in July 2023

The medical camps were conducted on the grounds of the schools in the villages.

Specialist doctors from various department namely General Medicine, Paediatrics, Dental and Psychiatry conducted these camps. Both the camps were well attended by students, parents and teachers. Medical examination along with free blood pressure and blood sugar were also conducted. Few of the patients were referred by the doctors for further





treatment at Central Referral Hospital Manipal. The Central Referral Hospital also gave free medical treatment to the needy patients.



Hiring of Team

Before 17000ft started its full-fledged operations in Sikkim, the Sikkim Manipal University had provided space to the 17000ft senior team for conducting candidates' interviews for the role of Program Facilitators.

17000 ft's PRESENCE IN SIKKIM

17000ft started its operations in Sikkim in July 2021 by adopting 3 Govt. schools in collaboration with Manipal Foundation and Sikkim Manipal University. Since then, 17000ft has expanded its reach and has transformed a total of 85 Govt. schools across Mangan, Pakyong and Gangtok districts and will soon be expanding to the Soreng district.

In this journey, 17000ft has been supported by Manipal Foundation & Sikkim Manipal University, Axis Bank, HT Parekh Foundation and Cipla Foundation.

PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE GROUND



