

Ahvaan Trust



Ahvaan envisions a future where every child has access to high-quality early childhood education that sets a strong foundation for lifelong learning and success



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ABOUT AHVAAN

Established in 2010, **Ahvaan** is a pioneer in **early childhood education**, **foundational learning**, and **parent engagement** in India. The organization comprises **Ahvaan Trust (AT)**, a non profit organization and the **Ahvaan Education Foundation (AEF)**, a consulting arm- with a unified vision of creating a **strong academic** and **values-based foundation** for **young learners**.

Ahvaan's work spans **curriculum development**, **professional development for educators**, and **building state capacities**- driving access to high quality early childhood education for children from underserved communities. Over the years, Ahvaan has collaborated with state governments and partner organizations in **Delhi, Chhattisgarh, Ladakh, and Tripura**, impacting over **300,000 students** aged **3 to 8 years**. We have mentored **10,000 teachers** representing over **1200 schools** across these states. Our innovative interventions such as creation of **model Balwadis** (pre-schools) and building **functional synergies between Anganwadis and Balwadis** have created a strong proof-of-concept for the future interventions in early childhood education.

Ahvaan has been a **trusted partner to state agencies** for **policy formation** and **implementation** in the areas of **ECCE** and **FLN curriculum**. Our approach to ECCE and FLN aligns with key policies such as **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**, the **National Early Childhood Care and Education Policy 2013**, and initiatives such as **NIPUN Bharat**, focusing on skill-based, developmentally appropriate, and contextually relevant learning.

Led by a committed **board of trustees** and a dynamic **team of 30 educators**, Ahvaan is driven by the mission of **empowering teachers, parents, and children** towards developing effective knowledge, skills and values that create a foundation for lifelong learning

Building a Strong Foundation for Lifelong Success

The transformative power of quality ECCE and FLN

Global research underscores the transformative impact of investing in ECCE and FLN. Studies estimate that the return on investment (ROI) in ECCE can be as high as 7-10% per annum (Heckman, 2006). It stems from improved school readiness and academic performance, a more skilled and productive workforce, reduced social costs in health and welfare, and a ripple effect that fosters long-term economic growth and social equity.

The current ECCE landscape in India: gaps in access and quality

In India, only about half of children aged 3-6 have access to formal early childhood education. The early care and education system is distributed between Anganwadi centres (focused on care and nutrition) and Balwadis or private preschools (focused on early learning). The lack of ECCE-trained teachers and inconsistent school quality standards further widen the gap. There is also a vast scope to enhance the awareness amongst low-income parents about ECCE and learning in home environments. As an outcome, over 50% of children in India entering Grade 1 are not school-ready, impacting their chances of success in formal education. (ASER 2022)

Revised interest and policy push for quality ECCE

Recent policies like the National ECCE Policy (2013), NEP 2020, and NIPUN Bharat acknowledge these challenges and place a strong emphasis on universal, high-quality early education. NEP 2020 envisions an integrated approach to early learning, aiming to provide age-appropriate, play-based education for all children by 2025. NIPUN Bharat emphasizes universal foundational literacy and numeracy by Grade 3.

The opportunity for civil society organizations and investors

The current ECCE landscape in India offers a strategic opportunity for organizations like Ahvaan, policymakers, investors and grant-makers, to address persistent gaps in access and quality. Focusing on three key areas—evidence-based curriculum development, teacher capacity building, and strengthening state capacity—organizations can drive high-impact and scalable interventions aligned with national priorities. The potential benefits are substantial: enhancing school readiness, reducing educational disparities, and supporting India's long-term socio-economic growth.

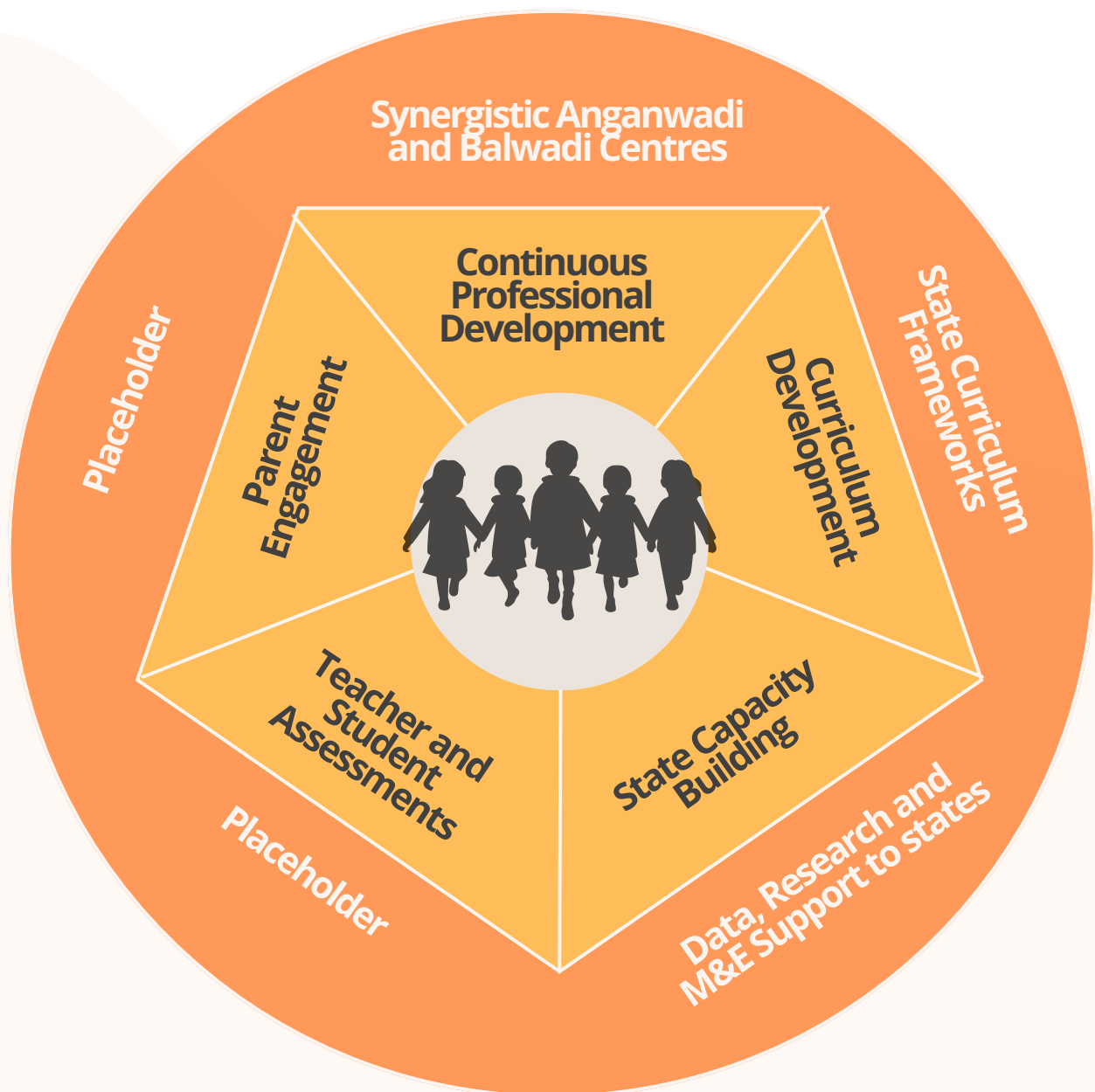
**ECCE- Early Childhood Care and Education *FLN - Foundational Literacy and Numeracy*

Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) plays a pivotal role in shaping a child's mental, physical, and socio-emotional development, forming the foundation for all future learning. Universal access to quality early childhood education must be achieved as soon as possible, ensuring that all students entering Grade 1 are school-ready.

— NEP 2020

Our approach to quality ECCE and FLN

Ahvaan's approach to Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) and Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) focuses on building a **robust early education ecosystem** that **bridges the gap** between **research, policy** and **practice**. Our work rests on three key pillars: **1. Developing quality FLN Content & Pedagogy** **2. Empowering Teachers, Mentors and Parents** **3. Building State Capacity**. We undertake proof-of-concept initiatives such as **creation of model Balwadis** (pre-schools) and building **functional synergies between Anganwadis and Balwadis** to inform the future interventions in early childhood education



Examples of our state partnerships

Delhi: Neev and Pathshala Initiatives

- Co-created ECCE curriculum with SCERT Delhi, implemented across 450 Sarvodaya and Municipal Corporation schools.
- Trained over 3,500 pre-primary teachers in delivering quality FLN content.
- Established 5 Exemplar Pre-Schools under the "Pathshala" program; supported 51 schools with in-class coaching.
- Launched the "Neev" program for continuous professional development of educators.
- Developed assessment guidelines and tools for effective evaluation of student progress.

Chhattisgarh: Strengthening 'Mor Balwadis'

- Co-created FLN curriculum with SCERT Chhattisgarh, introduced in ~10,000 Balvatikas and 15,000 Anganwadi centres across 33 districts.
- Trained over 1,500 teachers, resource persons, and state-level Master Trainers in play-based pedagogy and FLN in 4 districts in collaboration with the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), DIETs and SCERT
- Established 62 Model Balvatikas building functional synergies between Anganwadi and Balwadi centres
- Established in-class coaching and feedback mechanisms for sustained teacher development and student progress in over 687 Balwadi centres in 4 districts
- Initiated school and block level parent engagement programs to drive awareness and home-based learning support for children

Tripura: Capacity Building of Pre-primary Educators

- Set up a Foundational Learning Cell in SCERT, Tripura
- Launched dynamic, continuous pre-service and in-service blended training programs for 4,500 educators, 64 specialists and 900 principals
- Created an experiential, activity-based, and play-based curriculum aligned with NCERT standards and endorsed by SCERT Tripura
- Partnered with the GoT's Edusat Channel to launch "Vande Tripura- digital content for FLN
- Established MIS to track progress of teaching, learning, infrastructure, stakeholder competencies

Stakeholders Speak

“I have been amazed at the dedication, creativity, and persistence with which you have designed and transacted the Integrated In-service Training Daily Lesson Plan Module for Assistant Teachers of nursery. The components of Activity-Based Learning infused by you into the academic inputs will make learning a joyful experience for our young children in the primary classes. I would like to place on record my profound appreciation for all this hard work put in by you.”

—Saumya Gupta, IAS



“Ahvaan Team is helping us in our professional development. They are giving us many ideas that we can use in our teaching to improve the teaching standards”

—Shikha Saini, Teacher, Delhi



“Ahvaan has enriched the pre-primary curriculum. The activities are age appropriate for children. Teachers and children don't even come to know how children learn everything while playing games”

—Anjali, Primary School In-charge, Delhi



Future Plans

Scaling our ECCE and FLN initiatives in states

- To scale our ECCE and FLN programs to 5-6 states in India over the next 3 years ensuring last mile coverage of NEP 2020, Nipun Bharat and ECCE Policy 2013
- To scale our existing program in Chhattisgarh from 4 to 6-8 aspirational districts
- Greater integration of technology and AI into our programs spanning content development, trainings, parent engagement, M&E, and assessments
- Develop robust tracking mechanisms with states to observe student development over the years

Proof of concept pilots in quality and access to ECCE

- To launch Early Childhood Education Fellowship for women- a unique program geared towards creating a high quality early childhood workforce while empowering women from local communities
- To launch parent engagement programs in 2-3 states in the next 2 years
- To replicate 'Functional Synergies between Anganwadi and Balwadi Centres' pilot to 1-2 states in the next 2 years

Scaling our policy formation and implementation support

- To enhance our support to Delhi, Chhattisgarh and other states towards FLN content development and training of master trainers
- To scale our support in drafting state level ECCE and FLN policies and strategies to 2-3 states
- To scale our support to SCERT, Samagra Shiksha and Women & Child Welfare Departments in curriculum development and continuous professional development for ECCE and FLN

To bring our ambitious plans to life, we seek support of partners and grantmakers who share our vision for transforming ECCE and FLN landscape in India. Your support will enable us to scale our interventions, develop innovative programs, and pave the way for a brighter future for millions of children. Together, we can shape the early years that truly matter.

Ahvaan Trust is registered under the Indian Trust Act 1882, all donations made in India eligible for 50% tax exemption. Ahvaan Trust also holds valid FCRA and CSR registrations

Partners and Supporters

STATE PARTNERS

CHHATTISGARH



TRIPURA



DELHI



Government of the National
Capital Territory of Delhi

SUPPORTERS

ECHIDNA
GIVING



TSF GROUP



SHOWA ARCH
METALS



H T PAREKH
FOUNDATION



ONGC



BRAKES INDIA



TURBO ENERGY



SUNDARAM
FINANCE



ABI-
SHOWATECH



BNP PARIBAS



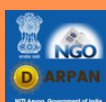
SMBC



NTTF



AFFILIATIONS AND COLLABORATIONS



Bank Details

Ahvaan Trust is registered as a public charitable trust under the Indian Trust Act 1882. All donations made in India are eligible for 50% tax exemption. Ahvaan Trust also holds valid FCRA and CSR registrations

For Indian passport holders

Bank and Account Name	ICICI Bank, Ahvaan Trust
Account Number	663001700133
Branch	82, Janpath, New Delhi-110 001
IFS Code	ICIC0006630
MICR Code	110229168
SWIFT Code	ICICINBBCTS
BSR Code	6392227

For Non-Indian passport holders

Bank and Account Name	State Bank of India, Ahvaan Trust
Account Number	39916564867 (FCRA Saving Account)
Branch	New Delhi Main Branch, 11, Sansad Marg, New Delhi-110001
Branch Code	691
IFS Code	SBIN0000691
SWIFT Code	SBININBB104

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