

# Eureka Walk 'n' Talk English Program

## Background

Affirmative Action for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Communities is defined as a voluntary commitment by Indian companies to help the Government and civil society in the national endeavor to ensure equal opportunity to members of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. However, we could still see a gap in handholding the deprived with better education, employment and entrepreneurial opportunities. CII along with Industry Members and Implementing Partners, has been working towards supporting schools, village communities and other grassroot organizations to bring about improvements in learning quality of children in Tamil, English, Math and Science, impacting the lives of nearly 2 million children.

## The Problem

In Tamilnadu, most children are enrolled in schools today, but the quality of education is an area of serious concern. Particularly, the quality of English education is very poor, with just 24.5% students in Class 5 able to read simple sentences in English. In our country, English is not just another language; the inability to read and speak fluently affects children's confidence and self-esteem. The ability to read and speak English remains the biggest dividing factor between the rich and the poor. Many poor parents aspire for their children to learn English, but most children in villages feel that they cannot. These children are first generation learners who have no academic support or exposure to English at home or at school. This disadvantage affects them throughout their education and also limits their opportunities when they seek employment.

## The Eureka Walk 'n' Talk English Program

The Eureka Walk 'n' Talk English Program is an after-school program implemented in villages that aims to improve children's fluency in English, so that they acquire confidence and the belief that they can read and speak English. The program currently impacts close to 50,000 children in 1000 villages of Tamilnadu.

In each village, a locally appointed and trained tutor takes daily classes for children from Class 3-8. English words, sentences, and ability to respond to common conversation is the goal of the program. Attractive charts, workbooks, incentive cards, stickers and small gifts are provided to each village to encourage children to learn better and faster. A speaker is also provided so that children can listen to songs and role plays and practice repeating them. Learning goals fixed for each month are tracked with the help of a Skill Chart. Children who don't acquire the month's skills are given special attention and help.

It is not enough that children learn English within the walls of a center or a classroom. To encourage them to speak more and help them lose their inhibition, the Eureka Walk 'n' Talk program is designed to get children to go around the village and talk to their parents, elders and others in English. The children are encouraged to 'teach' their parents and grandparents at home the sentences and conversations they learnt in their Eureka class. Weekly role plays and events held in the community give them an opportunity to lose their fear of English and enjoy showcasing their skills.

## Key Aspects of the Program

### Learning through Community interactions

The program has been designed to build the confidence of children with a lot of community participation. Children go around their village in groups and ask questions in English to their parents and grandparents. They also teach them the right responses and ensure that the elders learn these simple sentences. This only ensures regular practice but also builds their confidence. The entire community contributes to their children's learning process.



### Learning through Songs and Role plays

#### Easy-to-sing song

Songs set to interesting beats are loaded on speakers and given to each village. Children enjoy singing these songs and repeating after them. The children are also trained on simple role plays that they can perform in front of their parents, teachers and the whole community.



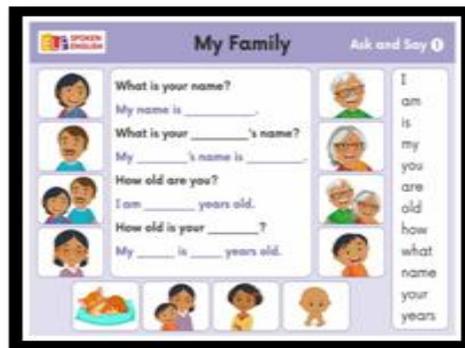
### Peer Learning

Children are divided into groups at the beginning of the term. The teachers assess the skills of the children at the end of each week. Each group leader takes the responsibility of

making sure that all the children in the group achieve their learning goals for the month and get 'tick marks' in the skill chart.



materials like colourful posters and word charts, children workbooks and charts, stickers, badges and skill tickets for children – all these make the English classes fun, enjoyable easy for children.



### Celebrating achievements through skill fests

Every small step must be celebrated to help children achieve greater success. The Eureka Skill Fest in each village is an event that showcases what children have learnt that term. Volunteers from corporates and colleges visit the Eureka villages, assess learning levels and distribute certificates and gifts to the children.



### Main Activities of the Program

- Step 1:** Identification and training of local volunteer tutors to conduct regular classes
- Step 2:** On-field (monthly) training for tutors on content, methodology, learning goals and assessment
- Step 3:** Provision of learning resources - audio content, charts, posters and per-child workbooks, diaries and skill tickets

- Step 4:** Definition of Learning goals for each term, assessment tools and skill charts to measure progress
- Step 5:** Daily classes, weekly role-play and showcase activities, and Walk 'n' talk rounds in the village to speak English in the community
- Step 6:** End-of-term Validation events and skill fests to provide certificates to children and tutors
- Step 7:** Quarterly incentives and awards to tutors who have helped children acquire the targeted skills

We look forward to your support,

Thank you for your consideration.

Best Regards

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