

# Lifelong journey through holistic literacy and non formal education in urban slums



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## IASEW's Literacy Model

- **Localized and Participatory:** Literacy classes are conducted in the learners' own neighborhoods, with flexible schedules based on their availability. Teachers are women from the same community, trained and supervised by IASEW.
- **Curriculum Tailored to Life Needs:** The curriculum goes beyond reading and writing. It includes practical life skills, reading bills, understanding wages, reading religious texts, and operating mobile phones, along with exposure to social issues like gender equity, health, financial inclusion, and rights.
- **Tech-Integrated Learning:** IASEW has incorporated **Tata Consultancy Services' CBFL (Computer-Based Functional Literacy)** program, which uses multimedia, teaching software, and visuals to accelerate learning. Classes run from 15 days to 3 months, and certification is provided upon completion.
- **Cultural and Social Empowerment:** Alongside academics, learners engage in storytelling, secular prayers, cultural events, and write life stories building identity, confidence, and community solidarity.
- **Akashganga Club and Mobile Vans:** Adolescent girls are engaged through clubs offering hygiene education, exposure visits, and life skills. Mobile vans spread awareness and education in hard-to-reach urban slums



## How We Do It in Slums - Step-by-Step Process

1. **Pre-Implementation Steps:** Identify area, conduct need assessment, community meetings, register learners (name, age, trade).
2. **Teacher Selection:** Local women aged 20-40, minimum 8th grade, trained for 2 days.
3. **Teacher's TOT (Training of Trainers):** Conduct structured TOT sessions to equip teachers with participatory methods and digital tools.
4. **Class Setup:** Classes organized locally (teacher's home, community center), for 1.5–2 hours daily for 3 months.



## How We Do It in Slums - Step-by-Step Process

- 5. Class Composition:** 15 women per class; open to learners aged 8 to 50 years.
- 6. Curriculum & Materials:** IASEW provides context-based learning content, includes reading, writing, digital skills, and life discussions.
- 7. Tools & Innovation:** CBFL software, mobile vans with AV content, secular prayers, storytelling, and life stories included.
- 8. Monitoring & Evaluation:** Ongoing evaluations, monthly reviews, and celebratory certification with group photos.
- 9. Community Integration:** Links to NIOS enrollment, health awareness, financial inclusion, leadership building



## Link to vocational Education..

*क से Computers तक...*

*The literacy program acts as a gateway to further training via **Kaushalya kendras**, which offer vocational and digital skills in tailoring, beauty, computer basics, hospitality, catering, baking, empowering women to earn from home*





## Key strengths of the model

- **Community-Owned & Accessible** : Classes run in neighborhood spaces by local women, ensuring trust and convenience.
- **Holistic Curriculum** : Combines literacy, digital skills, financial education, and life skills with cultural and social empowerment.
- **Collaboration with technical centers and workspaces**, e.g., hospitality and catering, baking and confectionery, food preservation, driving,
- **Hand holding for employability**
- **Integrated Learning Pathways** : Smooth transition from basic literacy to vocational training through Kaushalya Kendras.



## Key strengths of the model

- **Integrated Learning Pathways** : Smooth transition from basic literacy to vocational training through Kaushalya Kendras.
- **Proven Economic Impact** : Women become more likely to earn after training, with higher income and increased household savings. Skills also reduce dependency by enabling women to offer home-based services.
- **Psychosocial Benefits** : Training boosts self-worth, confidence, and independence. Centers also foster friendships, social engagement, and growing family support for women's work.
- **Certification** is a challenge, however we partner with technical centers



## Voices from the fields..

- *"I touched a computer for the first time... now I run a class." – Danishben, Teacher*
- *"I can now read bus signs and my bank passbook." – Mithiben, Student*
- *"I earned more than my brother this season." – Rushada, Beautician*





# Way ahead 2025 and beyond...

- **Vocational Digital Literacy - Tiered Approach** - Expand skill-building programs with structured **beginner, intermediate, and advanced** digital literacy
- **Skilling for the Gig Economy** - Equip women with market-ready skills for gig platforms such as delivery, home services, care work, virtual assistance, and digital freelancing through targeted practical training and onboarding support.
- **Green Jobs & Climate Resilience** - Introduce vocational trainings aligned with sustainable livelihoods such as solar panel servicing, organic kitchen gardening, waste sorting/recycling, eco-friendly packaging etc to create climate-conscious job opportunities.
- **Climate Change Awareness Integration** - Embed environmental education into literacy and vocational sessions to build climate leadership among women and girls in vulnerable urban communities.





We empower them; we give them power



We are connected and belong to something



We are vulnerable alone, but  
powerful when organised



We sit together and we think together



**Thank You**

