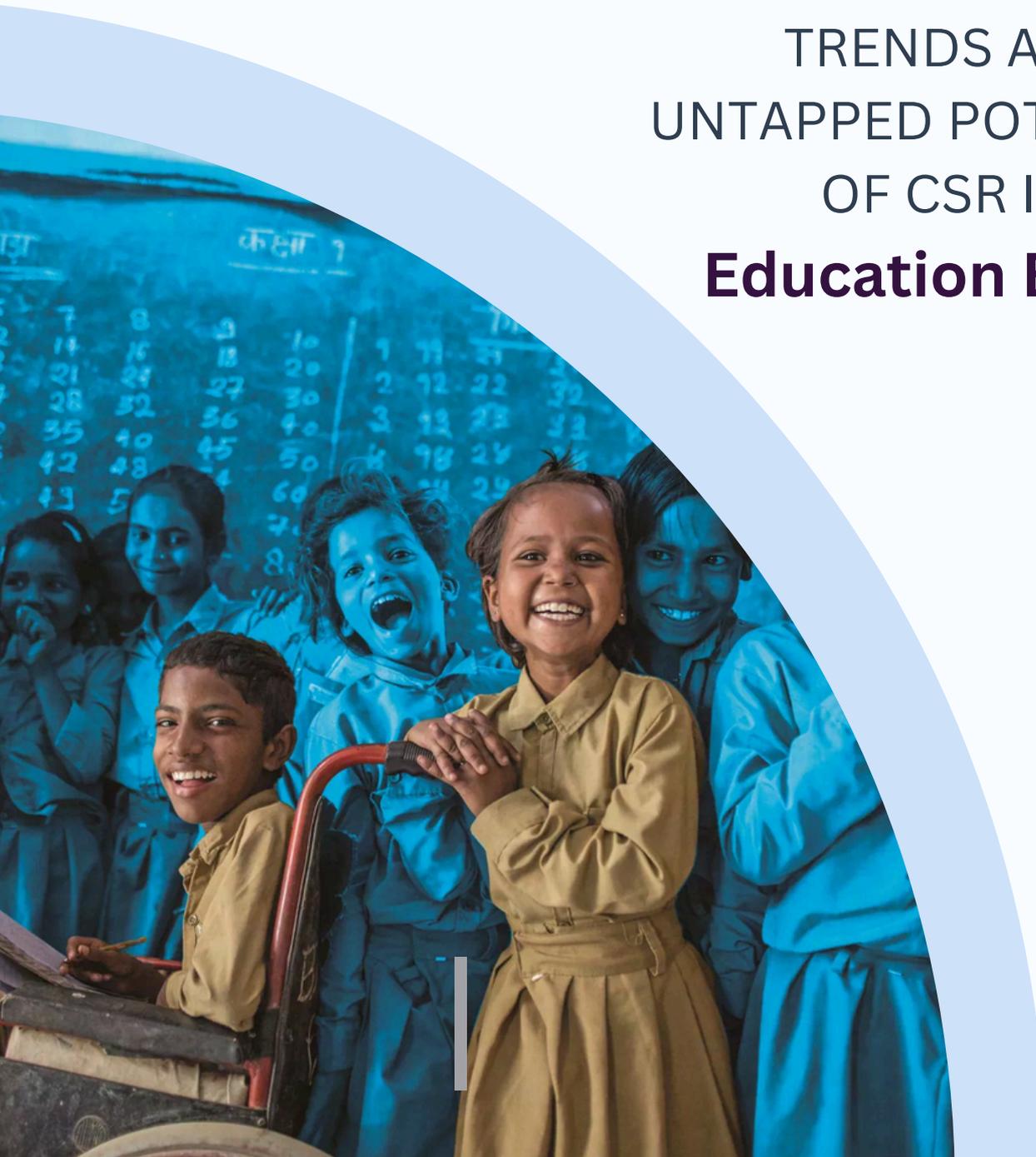**DevInsights**®
accentuating insights for social development

BEYOND PROFITS

TRENDS AND THE
UNTAPPED POTENTIAL
OF CSR IN INDIA

Education Edition

BEYOND PROFITS:

Trends and the Untapped
Potential of CSR in India
(Education Edition)

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Disclaimer

The report, "Beyond Profits: Trends and the Untapped Potential of Corporate Social Responsibility in India, Education Edition," draws upon secondary sources and data sourced from the National CSR Portal of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. DevInsights Pvt. Ltd underscores that although every attempt has been made to ensure the accuracy of the data presented, it does not provide a guarantee of its accuracy and disclaims responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of this data.

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Acknowledgement

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We are immensely thankful to the Ministry of Corporate Affairs and the National CSR Portal for providing invaluable data that forms the foundation of our analysis. Their dedication to transparency and data accessibility has greatly enriched the scope and depth of this report.

We extend our deepest appreciation to all stakeholders working tirelessly towards the betterment of India. Your dedication to making a positive impact through CSR initiatives inspires us every day.

Thank you to everyone who has been part of this journey. Together, we are shaping a brighter future for education in India.

Message from the CEO

India is witnessing a powerful shift in how businesses contribute to social change. Since the introduction of the Companies Act, 2013, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) has evolved from a compliance requirement into a catalyst for impact. Last year, in September 2024, we released the Healthcare Edition of our flagship report, which focused on healthcare data and insights.

Building on that foundation, I am delighted to present the Education Edition of Beyond Profits: Trends and the Untapped Potential of CSR in India. This edition explores education-related data and insights, highlighting how companies are shaping the education landscape through CSR by tracking spending trends, identifying underserved geographies, spotlighting top contributors, and sharing real-world stories of transformation from classrooms to communities.

At DevInsights, our commitment is to contribute meaningfully to the knowledge ecosystem by providing data-driven insights that help CSR leaders, policymakers, and nonprofits make informed decisions. Through this report, DevInsights continues to strengthen the bridge between data, policy, and impact, empowering stakeholders to make informed decisions and drive meaningful change.

What makes this report special is its forward-looking perspective. It doesn't just capture numbers; it identifies opportunities ahead. Whether in digital learning, early childhood education, teacher training, or inclusive infrastructure. These are the areas where innovation, collaboration, and strategic CSR investments can create lasting change.

" We believe that data-driven insights are essential to maximizing the impact of CSR initiatives "

We see this report as more than a publication – it's a call to action. A resource designed to guide stakeholders in scaling what works, prioritizing impact, and creating opportunities for millions of children and young people.

Together, let us harness the full potential of CSR to shape the future of education in India. The story of tomorrow's India is being written today, and each one of us has a role to play.

Paresh Kumar
CEO & Co-founder
DevInsights Private Limited

About the report

The increasing emphasis on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives in India has significantly contributed to the growth of investments in the social sector, in alignment with the mandates of the Companies Act, 2013. Over the past decade, corporations have channelled billions of rupees into various development domains, including education, health, livelihoods, and the environment, under the broad umbrella of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

DevInsights has launched a series of sector focused reports that analyze CSR spending trends and patterns across key developmental areas. The second edition in this series is dedicated to the education sector.

An initiative by DevInsights

This report offers a detailed analysis of CSR expenditure in India, with a special focus on the education sector for the financial year 2023–2024. It is designed to serve as a comprehensive resource for stakeholders seeking a nuanced understanding of how CSR investments have evolved in the education space over the years.

The intended audience includes CSR professionals, educational institutions, non-profits, policy-makers, social entrepreneurs, as well as academic researchers interested in social investment and corporate engagement in education sector.

Data for Empowered Action

Going beyond surface-level insights, the report presents a multi-dimensional analysis of CSR spending in the education sector. It captures yearly investment trends to highlight funding trajectories and shifts in priorities across time.

The state-wise breakdown for 2023–2024 offers a deeper look at regional variations in CSR investments, identifying states with significant inflows of educational CSR funds as well as areas that present opportunities for impactful interventions.

The data further distinguishes contributions made by Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and non-PSUs, analyzing their respective allocations to the education sector over the past five years. This enables a clearer understanding of the sector's share within the broader CSR frameworks of these organizations.

Learning from the Leaders

Studying the CSR strategies of leading contributors in the education sector offers valuable insights into high-impact practices. This report identifies the top 10 companies with the highest CSR expenditure in education during recent years, establishing a benchmark for other organizations aspiring to enhance their educational outreach.

Additionally, the report highlights the initiatives of the top 10 companies that are actively engaged in education-based CSR projects over the last two years. These case studies not only showcase best practices but also provide concrete examples of how CSR in education is creating real-world impact, transforming learning environments, supporting underserved communities, and strengthening educational infrastructure across India.

Collective Data for Informed Decisions

Expanding beyond the scope of individual company efforts, this report presents a comprehensive analysis of evolving trends in CSR investment within the education sector. It identifies key thematic areas such as digital learning, early childhood education, teacher training, and infrastructure development that hold significant potential for impactful future interventions.

This critical dataset serves as a valuable tool for CSR donors, implementing partners, and policymakers. It offers strategic insights that can guide the planning and execution of targeted educational initiatives, ensuring optimal use of the growing pool of CSR funds being directed toward education.

The post-pandemic context has brought renewed attention to the urgent need for accessible, equitable, and quality education across India. The insights presented in this report aim to empower organizations with data-driven strategies and support evidence based policymaking. By doing so, CSR investments in education can lead to measurable improvements in learning outcomes and help build a more inclusive and resilient educational ecosystem for millions of children and youth across the country.

This report is intended to be a valuable resource for a broad audience, including:

- **CSR professionals**
- **Education organizations**
- **Non-profit organizations and Social Enterprises**
- **Policymakers**
- **Academics and Researchers**

About DevInsights

DevInsights (DI) is one of the leading Research, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (RMEL) organizations in India. It is dedicated to supporting non-profits, CSR initiatives, governments, and various organizations in comprehending the profound impact of their social endeavors. Its primary objective is to enhance the efficiency, transparency, accountability, and responsibility of these initiatives by providing comprehensive Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning services.

Based in Noida with a head office in Delhi (NCR), our team of skilled researchers adopts a client-centric approach, prioritizing strong relationships and delivering solutions that lead to positive change. We focus on confidentiality, data ethics, and transparent reporting, enabling organizations to communicate their impact to donors and stakeholders effectively. Our services include Impact Assessment, Performance Measurement, Social Return on Investment (SROI) analysis, Customized Solutions, and Capacity Building through workshops and training courses, all geared towards enhancing evidence-based decision-making in the social development sector.

Over the past 9 years, DI has undertaken more than 150+ projects in India and across the world on wide-ranging issues and multiple thematic areas, including Education, Public Health, Nutrition, Maternal and Child Health, Livelihood, WASH, Economy, Energy, Gender and Climate Change. We have worked in 26 states in India and 6 countries worldwide.

Our extensive portfolio includes a plethora of assessment and impact evaluation studies for several reputed clients and partners, namely Child Rights & You (CRY), HT Parekh Foundation, Pehlay Akshar Foundation, Reach to Teach Foundation, ChildFund India, HDFC Bank CSR, Magic Bus India Foundation, Tata Education and Development Trust, Mahindra & Mahindra Limited, KC Mahindra Foundation, Save the Children, Van Leer Foundation, SELCO, Breakthrough, Water Aid, CARE, PATH, Aga Khan Foundation, Reliance Foundation, CAF, The Lupin Human Welfare and Research Foundation, Clinton Health Action Initiative, Centre for Policy Research, Hand in Hand, ICRIER, IRRI, Livolink Foundation, The Hans Foundation, World Resource Institute, Wash Institute, and many more.

DevInsights Worldwide Footprint
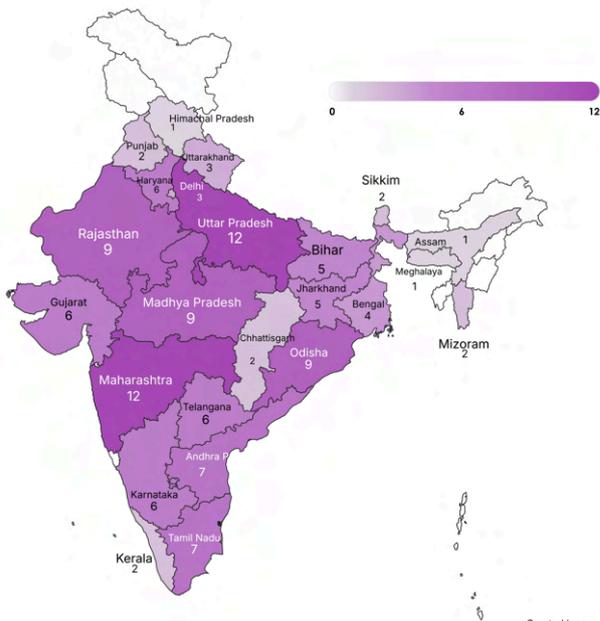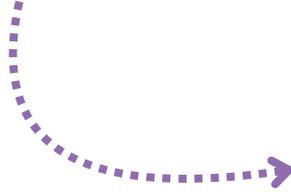
DevInsights Footprint in India

Corporate / CSR	HDFC BANK, Mahindra Dico, Reliance Foundation, LUPIN FOUNDATION, H T Parekh Foundation, TATA TRUSTS, LivoLink FOUNDATION, BAJAJ FINSERV, pahlay, MAX Healthcare, NPCI
Foundations and Not for Profits	ChildFund India, care, Bernard van Leer, Magic Bus, CAF Charities Aid Foundation, Mantra, CLINTON HEALTH ACCESS INITIATIVE, PATH, HEIFER INTERNATIONAL, breakthrough, AGA KHAN FOUNDATION, The Nature Conservancy, Don Bosco Tech, ALERT INDIA, PROJECT HOPE, PCI INDIA, Svalorna, nutriset, Save the Children, JSI, educate girls, jhpiego, HAND IN HAND INDIA, Action, hans, WaterAid, ACTION AGAINST HUNGER, UNFPA, jaldhaara, LEHS, WISH
Academia / Think Tanks	ICRIER, IRRI, WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE, CENTRE FOR POLICY RESEARCH, Cranfield

INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

Indian Institute of PUBLIC HEALTH, KAUTILYA School of Public Policy, IIHMR UNIVERSITY

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Introduction

What is Corporate Social Responsibility ?

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is broadly defined by the United Nations as a business's overall contribution to achieving sustainability. At its core, CSR entails more than just compliance with legal requirements it involves a commitment by businesses to operate ethically, minimize harm, and make a positive impact on society and the environment.

Responsible companies are expected not only to fulfill legal obligations but also to proactively consider the interests of all stakeholders, including employees, customers, communities, and shareholders. This approach balances the pursuit of profit with a dedication to social good.

CSR represents the "social" pillar of the triple bottom line, People, Planet, and Profit emphasizing the interconnectedness of social responsibility with environmental stewardship and economic success. In today's dynamic global landscape, CSR significantly influences corporate strategy and decision-making, shaping how companies engage with stakeholders and contribute to sustainable development.

Although some critics perceive CSR as a potential means for enhancing brand value or profit, there is growing consensus that CSR is a vital strategic tool one that fosters trust, strengthens reputation, and drives long-term value creation.

A Shift from Voluntary Actions to Mandated Practices in India

CSR in India has undergone a fundamental transformation. Historically, corporate giving was rooted in tradition, culture, and moral duty motivated by the philanthropic instincts of business families and industrialists who shared their wealth for the betterment of society.

These early CSR efforts, while well intentioned, were largely voluntary and lacked consistency or regulatory oversight. Companies followed individual approaches to philanthropy, with no unified framework to measure or report impact.

This changed dramatically with the introduction of the Companies Act, 2013, enacted by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. A landmark piece of legislation, the Act particularly Section 135 made CSR mandatory for qualifying companies. This provision not only formalized CSR efforts but also aligned them with India's broader developmental goals, integrating ethical responsibility into the fabric of corporate governance.

Today, CSR is no longer viewed as an optional or peripheral activity it has become a central pillar of modern business practice in India.

Mandatory CSR: A Global Milestone

India became the first country in the world to legislate mandatory CSR through the Companies Act 2013, a watershed moment in the evolution of corporate responsibility. Section 135 of the Act introduced a pioneering framework that requires qualifying companies to allocate at least 2% of their average net profits over the past three years to CSR activities.

Recently, the MCA notified an amendment to the Companies' CSR Policy. This took effect from July 14, 2025. The amendment revised e-Form CSR-1, which entities must file to register as eligible CSR implementing agencies under Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013. These stricter norms aimed to enhance transparency and prevent misuse of CSR funds by ensuring only credible and compliant entities execute CSR activities.

This transformative step elevated CSR from a discretionary endeavor to a structured, accountable practice. It also laid the foundation for stronger governance and greater impact through mechanisms such as third-party evaluations and mandatory disclosures.

Over the past decade, this legal mandate has not only increased corporate participation in social development but has also fostered innovation, collaboration, and long-term investment in sectors like education, healthcare, and livelihood development.

India's approach to CSR now stands as a globally recognized model demonstrating how regulatory frameworks can catalyze corporate contributions to nation-building and sustainable development.

Pillars of CSR and Their Strategic Significance

Social Equity (People):
This pillar emphasizes the role of CSR in fostering inclusive growth and social welfare. Activities under this domain include improving access to quality education, healthcare, skill development, gender equality, and community empowerment. By investing in people, corporations help bridge social gaps, uplift marginalized groups, and contribute to overall societal progress.

Environmental Responsibility (Planet):
Companies are increasingly expected to minimize their ecological footprint through proactive environmental management. CSR efforts in this area focus on conserving natural resources, reducing pollution, promoting renewable energy, and supporting biodiversity. Environmental stewardship within CSR ensures the protection of ecosystems while encouraging sustainable business practices.

Economic Sustainability (Profit):
Far from being at odds with profitability, CSR integrates ethical conduct with business success. This pillar promotes transparency, responsible governance, and stakeholder engagement, which are essential for building trust and long-term resilience. Strategic CSR enhances brand reputation, attracts investment, and fosters innovation, driving sustainable financial growth alongside social and environmental benefits.

Together, these pillars form a comprehensive framework that enables businesses to balance their economic objectives with social responsibility and environmental stewardship, thereby contributing to a sustainable future.

Key bodies promoting this framework include UNGC, GRI, and IIRC, which set standards for responsible business.

India's CSR Spending: A Comprehensive Snapshot

Total CSR Expenditure in last seven financial year

	Amount (Cr)	Annual Change (%)
2017-18	17,098.57	0
2018-19	20,217.65	18.2
2019-20	24,965.82	23.5
2020-21	26,210.95	5
2021-22	27,141.45	3.6
2022-23	30,932.08	14
2023-24	34,908.75	12.9
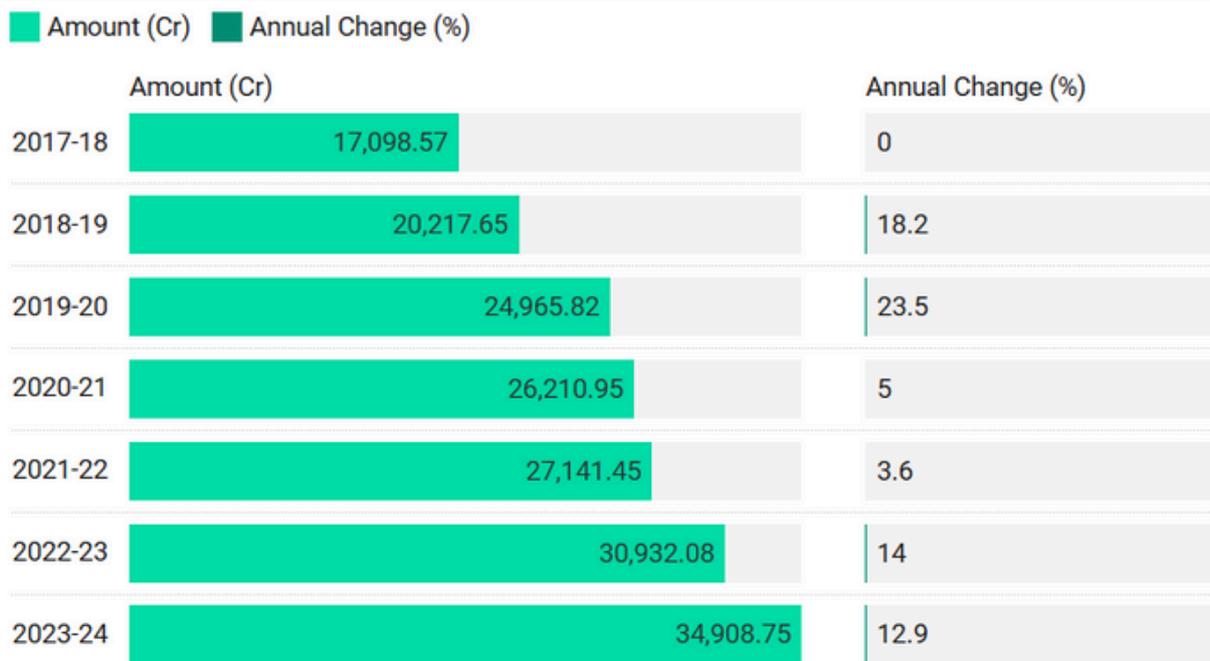
A cumulative expenditure of **INR 1,81,475.27 Crores** over the seven-year period indicates a sustained commitment to CSR initiatives.

Following substantial growth in **2018–19 (18%)** and **2019–20 (23%)**, the rate of increase in CSR expenditure moderated significantly. Following this, the impact of Covid-19 was evident, as growth slowed to **5%** in **2020–21**, followed by a marginal rise of just **3%** in **2021–22**. However, the **2022–23** period saw a strong recovery with a **14%** increase in CSR expenditure, which was sustained in **2023–24** with a **13%** rise.

Sectorwise CSR Expenditure

Fiscal Year - 2023-24

PMNRF 1.7% Any Other Fund 0.6%
Encouraging Sports 2.0%
GWOR 3.1%
Rural Development 6.9%
Enviornment Animal Welfare Conservation 9.9%
Education, Differently Abled, Livelihood 46.7%
Health & Sanitation (HA&C) 26%

16287.8 — Education, Differently Abled, Livelihood
9087.4 — Health, Eradicating Hunger, Poverty and Malnutrition, Safe Drinking Water, Sanitation
3459.1 — Environment, Animal Welfare, Conservation of Natural Resources
2408.1 — Rural Development
1092.4 — Gender Equality, Women Empowerme... Old Age Homes & Reducing Inequalities
704.0 — Heritage Art and Culture
692.1 — Encouraging Sports
589.6 — Prime Ministers' National Relief Fund
208.1 — Any Other Fund
140.1 — Swachh Bharat Kosh
70.0 — Other Sectors (Technology Incubator and benefits to Armer Forces and admin Overheads)
68.3 — Others
63.0 — Clean Ganga Fund
38.8 — Slum Development

All the amounts are in INR Crores

Sector
- Education, Differently Abled, Livelih...
- Health, Eradicating Hunger, Poverty...
- Environment, Animal Welfare, Cons...
- Rural Development
- Gender Equality, Women Empower...
- Heritage Art and Culture
- Encouraging Sports
- Prime Ministers' National Relief Fund
- Any Other Fund
- Swachh Bharat Kosh
- Other Sectors (Technology Incubato...
- Others
- Clean Ganga Fund
- Slum Development

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

The top sectors receiving the highest share of CSR allocations are education, health care, environmental sustainability, rural development, and livelihood enhancement

*All sector headings are as listed on the National CSR Portal

Trends in Sectoral CSR Expenditure
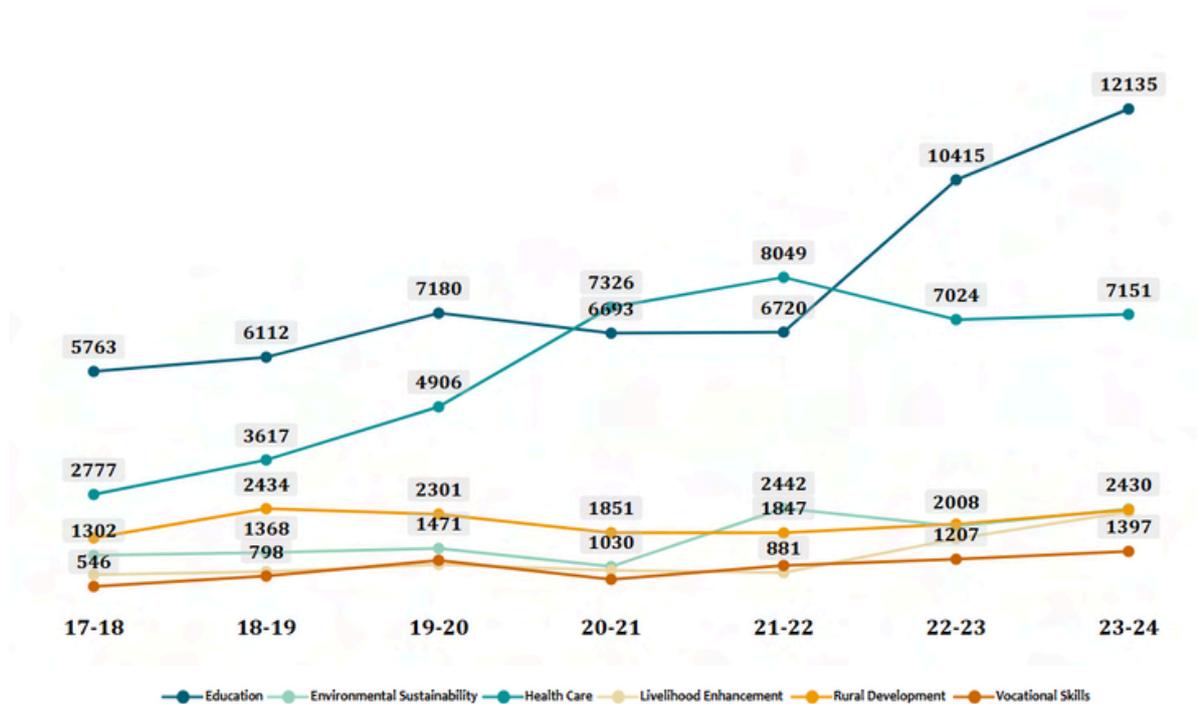
All the amounts are in INR Crores

Education experienced the highest increase in CSR allocation over the years compared to other sectors.

Education consistently received significant funding, peaking at INR 12,135 crores in 2023-2024. However, it experienced a decline in expenditure from 2020 to 2022. The increase in education expenditure from 2022 to 24, reflects its continued priority.

The education sector received the highest CSR money in the past seven years; however, during the COVID-19 pandemic, it experienced a decline. As CSR companies started contributing to the health sector. The focus on education is showing an upward trend and is expected to rise in the coming years

Vocational Skills, Livelihood enhancement, and Rural development remained relatively low, experiencing variability in terms of CSR expenditure.

Thematic Sectors

- Education
- Healthcare
- Rural Development
- Environmental Sustainability
- Vocational Skills
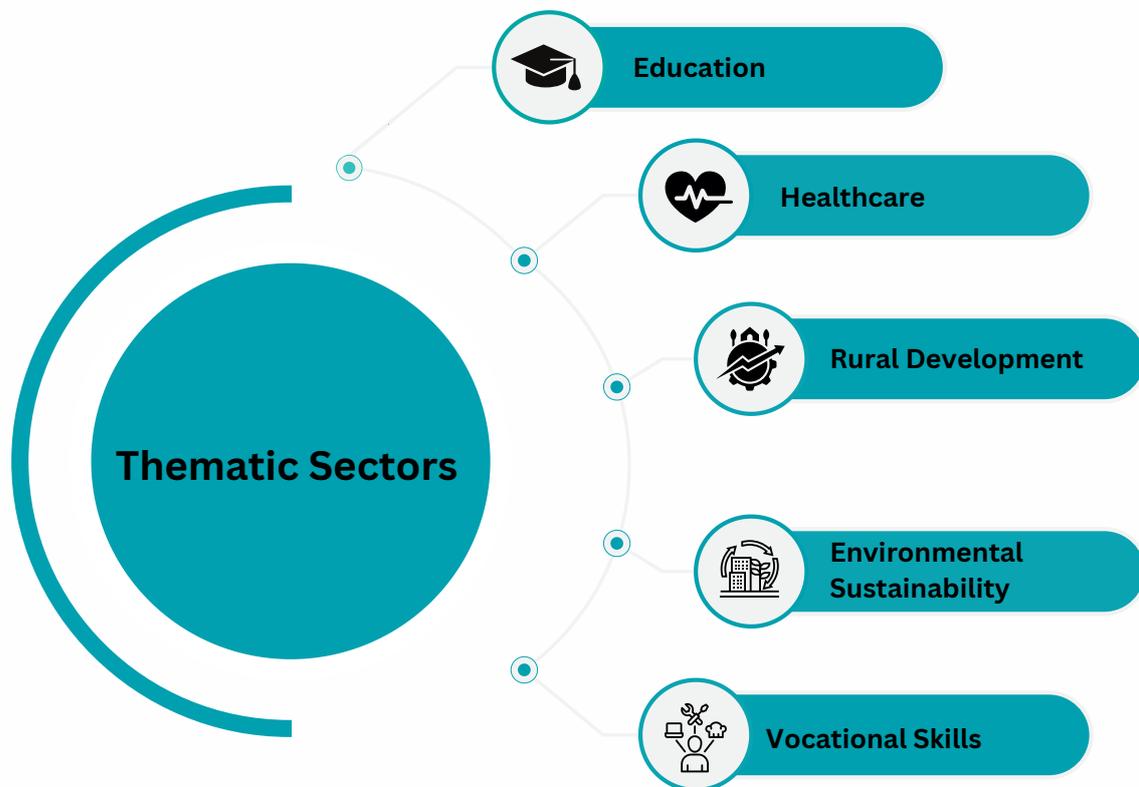
We now turn to a comprehensive analysis of the CSR landscape, focusing on six key sectors: education, healthcare, rural development, environmental sustainability, livelihood enhancement, and vocational skills. This section presents the total CSR expenditure from 2017–18 to 2023–24, offering a detailed year-wise breakdown of spending across each sector. It highlights the leading companies driving CSR initiatives in these areas and identifies the states that have prioritized investments within each industry. Through this analysis, we gain valuable insights into emerging sectoral trends and regional focus areas, providing a deeper understanding of the overall impact of CSR activities throughout India.

Interestingly, these sectors were prioritized by several states, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, and Uttar Pradesh, which prioritized CSR spending in the aforementioned sectors. Notably, some states such as Delhi, Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu have prioritized four or more leading industries.

Education

Education

Total CSR Spend (last 7 years)	₹55,017.26

CSR Spending Trends (2017-2024)

17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24
5,763	6,112	7,180	6,693	6,720	10,415	12,135

All the amounts are in INR Crores

Top 10 Funding Companies (2023-24)

Tata Consultancy Services Limited | 770.06

Reliance Industries Limited | 531.31

HDFC Bank Limited | 200.96

Infosys Limited | 166.4

Jindal Steel & Power Limited | 157.01

Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited | 137

Tata Steel Limited | 133.62

Nuclear Power Corporation Of India Limited | 131.76

Indus Towers Limited | 118.55

Bajaj Finance Limited | 110.89
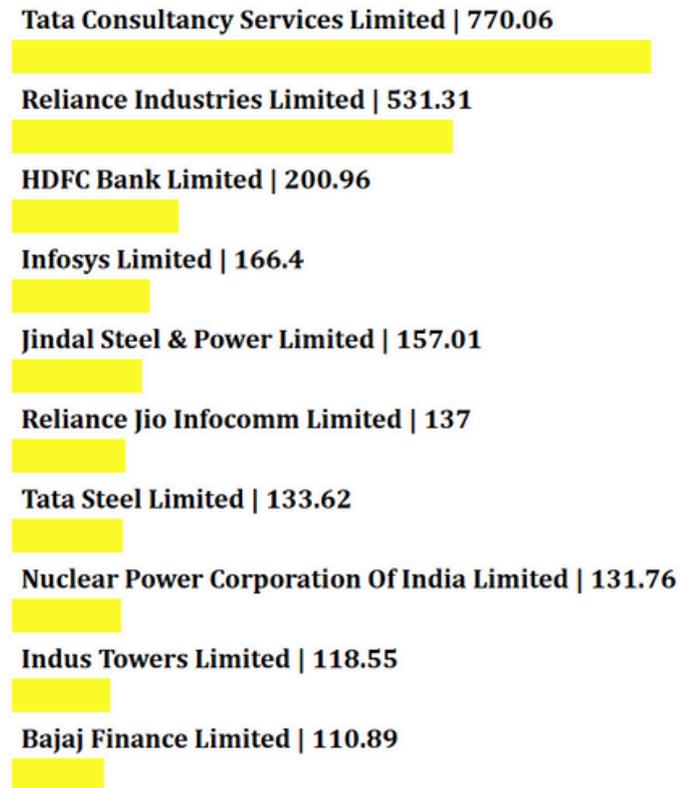
States Prioritizing Education

Delhi

Gujarat

Maharashtra

Karnataka

Tamil Nadu

The figure represents the states with the highest CSR spending on education

All the amounts are in INR Crores

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Healthcare

Healthcare

Total CSR Spend (last 7 years)	₹40,849.55

CSR Spending Trends (2017-2024)

17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24
1,302	1,368	1,471	1,030	2,442	2,008	2,430

All the amounts are in INR Crores

Top 10 Funding Companies (2023-24)

Mahanadi Coalfields Limited | 266.59

Indian Oil Corporation Limited | 208.21

Power Grid Corporation Of India Limited | 207.02

Infosys Limited | 196.02

Reliance Industries Limited | 185.54

Serum Institute Of India Private Limited | 162.57

Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited | 130.42

Tata Steel Limited | 90.66

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited | 75.32

Oil And Natural Gas Corporation Limited | 71.71

States Prioritizing Healthcare

Delhi

Gujarat

Maharashtra

Odisha

Tamil Nadu

The figure represents the states with the highest CSR spending on healthcare

All the amounts are in INR Crores

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Environmental Sustainability

Environmental Sustainability

Total CSR Spend (last 7 years)	₹12,050.75

CSR Spending Trends (2017-2024)

17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24
1,302	1,368	1,471	1,030	2,442	2,008	2,430

All the amounts are in INR Crores

Top 10 Funding Companies (2023-24)

Icici Bank Limited | 128.03

Wipro Limited | 103.73

Jsw Steel Limited | 75.69

Infosys Limited | 75.06

Zerodha Broking Limited | 70.47

HDFC Bank Limited | 67.01

Ntpc Limited | 61.5

Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited | 50.78

Hcl Technologies Limited | 48.08

Reliance Industries Limited | 46.05
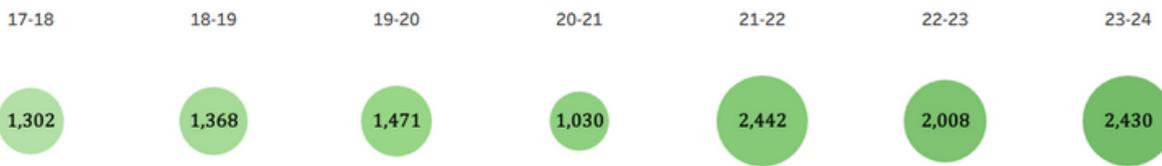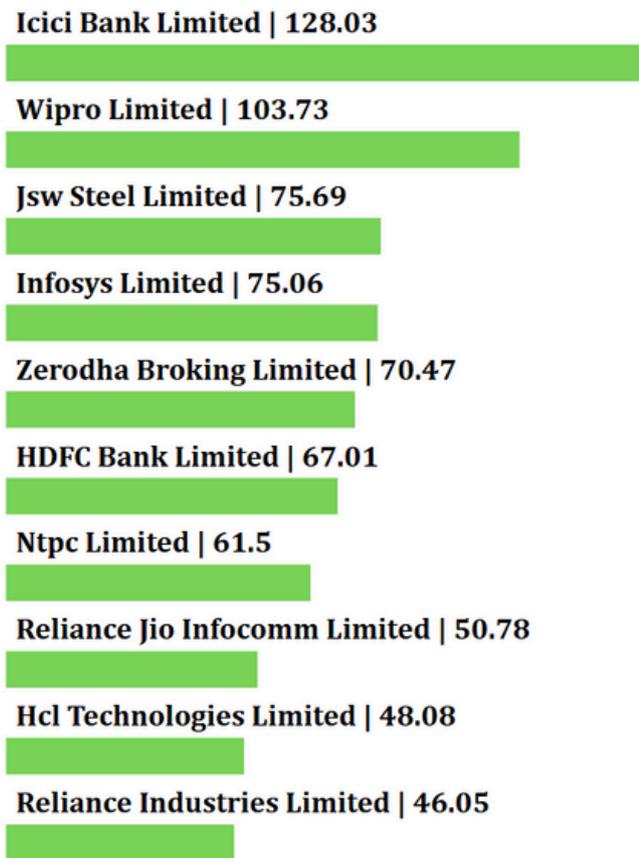
States Prioritizing
Environmental Sustainability

Uttar Pradesh

Gujarat

Maharashtra

Karnataka

Tamil Nadu

The figure represents the states with the highest CSR spending on Environmental Sustainability

All the amounts are in INR Crores

Rural Development

Rural Development

Total CSR Spend (last 7 years)	₹14,624.54

CSR Spending Trends (2017-2024)

17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24
1,724	2,434	2,301	1,851	1,847	2,059	2,408

All the amounts are in INR Crores

Top 10 Funding Companies (2023-24)

HDFC Bank Limited | 254.44

Itc Limited | 104.45

Hindustan Zinc Limited | 87.21

Icici Bank Limited | 82.24

Northern Coalfields Limited | 80.92

Indusind Bank Ltd. | 59.37

Hcl Technologies Limited | 47.72

Odisha Mining Corporation Limited | 41.52

Oil India Limited | 40.72

Tata Steel Limited | 39.19

States Prioritizing
Rural Development

Rajasthan
Uttar Pradesh
Maharashtra
Andhra Pradesh
Tamil Nadu

The figure represents the states with the highest CSR spending on Rural Development

All the amounts are in INR Crores

Livelihood Enhancement

Livelihood Enhancement

Total CSR Spend (last 7 years)	₹8,701.24

CSR Spending Trends (2017-2024)

17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24
832	908	1,078	939	881	1,704	2,360

All the amounts are in INR Crores

Top 10 Funding Companies (2023-24)

Oil And Natural Gas Corporation Limited | 374.57

Arcelormittal Nippon Steel India Limited | 252.46

HDFC Bank Limited | 224.75

Hindustan Unilever Limited | 129

Axis Bank Limited | 117.39

Accenture Solutions Private Limited | 113.67

Tata Steel Limited | 113.32

Steel Authority Of India Limited | 57.61

Hindustan Zinc Limited | 48.93

Power Grid Corporation Of India Limited | 37.02
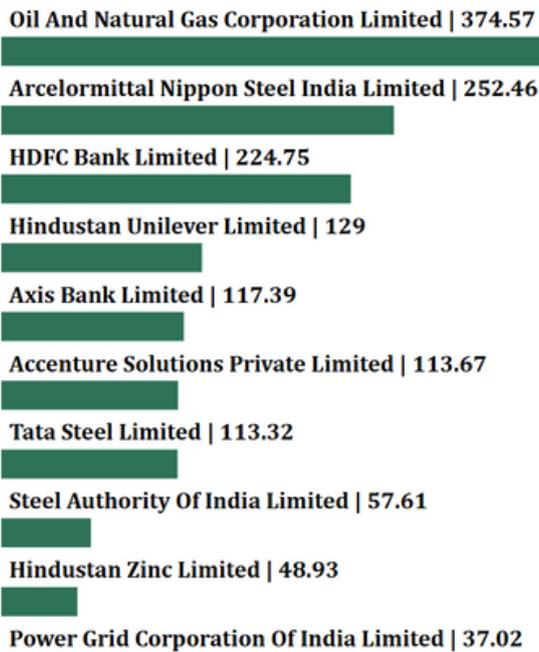
States Prioritizing Livelihood Enhancement

Delhi

Rajasthan

Gujarat

Maharashtra

Andhra Pradesh

The figure represents the states with the highest CSR spending on Livelihood Enhancement

Vocational Skills

Vocational Skills

Total CSR Spend (last 7 years)	₹6,900.8

CSR Spending Trends (2017-2024)

17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24
546.5	798.4	1,181.2	717.7	1,053.8	1,206.8	1,396.6

Top 10 Funding Companies (2023-24)

- HDFC Bank Limited | 87.55
- Maruti Suzuki India Limited | 67.67
- Tata Steel Limited | 59.29
- Asian Paints Limited | 49.74
- Hyundai Motor India Limited | 37.6
- Larsen And Toubro Limited | 34.06
- Itc Limited | 32.52
- Tech Mahindra Limited | 32.08
- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited | 30.13
- Oil India Limited | 21.12

States Prioritizing
Vocational Skills

Haryana
Delhi
Maharashtra
Karnataka
Tamil Nadu

The figure represents the states with the highest CSR spending on Vocational Skills

All the amounts are in INR Crores 35

State-wise CSR Expenditure

State-wise CSR Expenditure

Fiscal Year - 2023-24

0	2033	4067	6100

Ladakh 30.4
J&K 98.5
Himachal Pradesh 148.6
Chandigarh 113.3
Punjab 351.9
Uttarakhand 360.8
Haryana 817
Delhi 1950
Sikkim 41.9
Arunachal 39.6
Assam 488.6
Nagaland 15.4
Meghalaya 30.9
Manipur 83.2
Rajasthan 1145.7
Uttar Pradesh 1545
Bihar 260.5
Gujarat 2707.5
Madhya Pradesh 600.5
Jharkhand 414.6
Bengal 862.6
Tripura 9.5
Chhattisgarh 422.7
Odisha 1389.4
Mizoram 4.5
DNHDD 17.2
Maharashtra 6066
Telangana 1054.9
Goa 85.8
Karnataka 2254.9
Andhra Pradesh 1129.8
A&N Islands 3
Lakshadweep 0.4
Tamil Nadu 1968.8
Puducherry 32.7
Kerala 387.9

Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Delhi are the top five states with the highest CSR allocations in FY 2023–24

Two out of the top 5 states are located in South India.

Significant regional disparity in CSR spending is evident across India, with industrialized and economically advanced states receiving substantially higher allocations compared to northeastern states and smaller union territories.

State-wise Proportion of CSR Expenditure

Fiscal Year - 2023-24

| 0% | 8% | 15% | 23% |

Ladakh
0.1%

J&K
0.4%

Himachal Pradesh
0.6%

Chandigarh
0.4%

Punjab
1.3%

Uttarakhand
1.3%

Haryana
3%

Delhi
7.2%

Rajasthan
4.3%

Uttar Pradesh
5.7%

Sikkim
0.2%

Arunachal
0.1%

Bihar
1%

Assam 1.8%

Nagaland
0.1%

Meghalaya
0.1%

Gujarat
10%

Madhya Pradesh
2.2%

Jharkhand
1.5%

Bengal
3.2%

Manipur
0.3%

Tripura
0.0%

Chhattisgarh
1.6%

Odisha
5.2%

Mizoram
0.0%

DNHDD
0.1%

Maharashtra
22.5%

Telangana
3.9%

Goa
0.3%

Karnataka
8.4%

Andhra Pradesh
4.2%

A&N Islands
0.0%

Lakshadweep
0.0%

Tamil Nadu
7.3%

Puducherry
0.1%

Kerala
1.4%

Assam has the highest CSR share (1.40%) among northeastern states, while most other northeastern states received less than or equal to 0.2% of the total CSR allocation.

Maharashtra's CSR spending is more than twice the amount spent in the second-ranked state, Gujarat

State-wise Per Capita CSR Expenditure

Fiscal Year - 2023-24

| | 0 | 390 | 780 | 1170 |

Ladakh
1108.7

J&K
78.6

Himachal Pradesh
216.5

Chandigarh
1073.6

Punjab
126.8

Uttarakhand
357.7

Haryana
322.2

Delhi
1161.5

Rajasthan
167.1

Uttar Pradesh
77.3

Sikkim
685.7

Arunachal
286

Assam 156.6

Nagaland
77.9

Bihar
25

Meghalaya
104.3

Manipur
291.3

Gujarat
448

Madhya Pradesh
82.7

Jharkhand
125.7

Bengal
94.5

Tripura
25.7

Chhattisgarh
165.5

Odisha
331

Mizoram
40.8

DNHDD
501.3

Maharashtra
539.8

Telangana
301.4

Goa
588.2

Karnataka
369.1

Andhra Pradesh
133.6

A&N Islands
79.6

Lakshadweep
55.8

Tamil Nadu Puducherry
272.9   261.9

Kerala
116.1

The CSR spent on education is the lowest in Lakshadweep, and accordingly, the per capita expenditure is also the lowest among all Union Territories. Notably, Bihar stands out with the lowest state-wise per capita CSR expenditure at Rs. 25 only, indicating either less corporate investment in social initiatives in the region or underutilisation of CSR funds.

CSR in Education: An Overview

The Intersection of Education and Social Responsibility: A Catalyst for Positive Change

Education is a fundamental human right and a core Sustainable Development Goal, yet approximately 763 million adults worldwide are illiterate, and more than 483 million of them are women, according to UNESCO.

In today's interconnected world, the role of businesses extends beyond profit margins. When corporations invest in education through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives, they contribute to building a more equitable and informed society. Such investments not only bridge educational gaps but also empower individuals with the skills and knowledge necessary for personal and communal growth. This approach aligns with the principles outlined in India's National Education Policy 2020, which emphasises inclusive and equitable quality education for all.

Addressing the Root Causes: Social Determinants of Education

Educational outcomes are deeply influenced by a myriad of factors beyond classroom instruction. Socio-economic conditions, parental education levels, nutritional well-being, access to technology, and the presence of a secure and inclusive learning environment all play a critical role in shaping a child's academic journey.

For example, children from low-income families often face obstacles such as inadequate study spaces, poor health, or limited access to digital resources, which significantly hinder their learning potential. The UNESCO Global Education Monitoring Report (2022) emphasizes that addressing these social determinants is essential for achieving true educational equity.

Nutrition, mental well-being, and gender equality are foundational to a child's educational success but remain severely neglected in many regions. In India, over 35% of children under five are stunted due to malnutrition (NFHS-5), which directly impairs cognitive abilities and classroom engagement, as reported by UNICEF (2023).

Psychological factors like chronic stress from unstable environments further hinder learning by disrupting brain development, as per Harvard's Centre on the Developing Child.

Gender disparities add another layer of inequity (UNESCO, 2023) notes that 129 million girls globally remain out of school, with Indian girls more likely to drop out due to early marriage, domestic duties, and safety concerns (ASER 2023).

These issues are deeply interlinked with global goals like SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 4 (Quality Education), and SDG 5 (Gender Equality), where setbacks in one area cascade into others, reinforcing cycles of poverty and exclusion.

To break these cycles, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in education must shift from scattered efforts to comprehensive, inclusive strategies. Investments should address root causes ensuring nutrition through school meals, integrating mental health support, promoting digital learning to bridge rural-urban divides, and creating safe, gender-sensitive infrastructure.

Moving Upstream: Prioritising Early Education and Awareness

Traditional education programs in India have largely focused on addressing learning gaps after children begin formal schooling. This approach targets the earliest stages of childhood development, recognizing that building strong learning foundations before school entry is critical for long-term academic success and social well-being.

Here's why prioritizing early education is important

Early Brain Development: Research from UNICEF and the World Bank has firmly established that over 80% of brain growth happens by age eight. This period is critical for the development of language, cognitive abilities, and socio-emotional skills. Preventive education at this stage involves activities such as storytelling, play-based learning, exposure to numbers, and creative problem solving, all of which stimulate brain development and prepare children to learn effectively once they enter school.

Professional Training of Anganwadi Workers: Recognizing the pivotal role of Anganwadi workers as early educators, the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 mandates structured training and certification in Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE). Such training empowers caregivers with the skills to implement age-appropriate, play-centric curricula that foster curiosity and foundational learning. Programs in states like Odisha and Maharashtra have already shown promising results, where thousands of Anganwadi workers have completed certification courses that improve their ability to engage children and support their development.

Equity Through Early Learning: Children from marginalized communities, including rural, tribal, and economically disadvantaged backgrounds, are often the least likely to access quality early education, perpetuating cycles of inequality. Preventive education initiatives that specifically target these populations ensure equitable access to foundational learning experiences. Programs such as Maharashtra's Aadharshila have successfully introduced enriched curricula and caregiver training to thousands of Anganwadi centres, helping bridge the educational divide and giving all children an equal chance at success

Aligning with New Education Policy: CSR's Role in India

The NEP 2020 envisions a transformative overhaul of India's education system, with a special emphasis on universal access to quality Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) by 2030. CSR programs aligned with this vision can play a decisive role in accelerating progress by investing in preventive education, thus reinforcing the national framework for foundational learning.

Supporting Foundational Literacy and Numeracy

Foundational literacy and numeracy (FLN) is a cornerstone of the NEP, aiming to ensure that all children acquire basic reading and arithmetic skills by Grade 3. CSR interventions are playing a vital role in accelerating progress toward this goal, especially in underserved areas. Companies are funding early-grade reading programs, storybooks, classroom libraries, and interactive learning resources. Many initiatives also focus on digital tools such as tablets and educational apps that make early learning more engaging and effective. These targeted efforts are helping bridge critical learning gaps in the foundational years, which are essential for future academic success.

Enhancing Digital Infrastructure

The NEP strongly emphasizes integrating technology into all levels of education. In response, corporates are channeling CSR funds into improving digital infrastructure, especially in government and low-income schools. Investments are being made in setting up smart classrooms, computer labs, and providing internet connectivity.

Promoting Skill-Based and Vocational Education

In line with the NEP's focus on preparing students for the workforce, CSR initiatives are increasingly supporting vocational education and skill development programs. These include training in trades like agriculture, electronics, tailoring, digital literacy, and even advanced areas such as coding and robotics.

Many companies are establishing or supporting vocational training centers, particularly in rural and semi-urban areas, to boost employability among youth. Some initiatives also promote entrepreneurship, encouraging self-employment as a viable livelihood option. By fostering industry-relevant skills, CSR is contributing to a more capable and future-ready workforce.

Education Spending – A Year-by-Year Analysis

17.5%		**-6.8%**	**0.4%**	**55.0%**	**16.5%**
6,111.7	7,179.5	6,693.3	6,719.9	10,414.9	12,134.6
2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24

● **Amount spent in Education** ● **Annual change %**
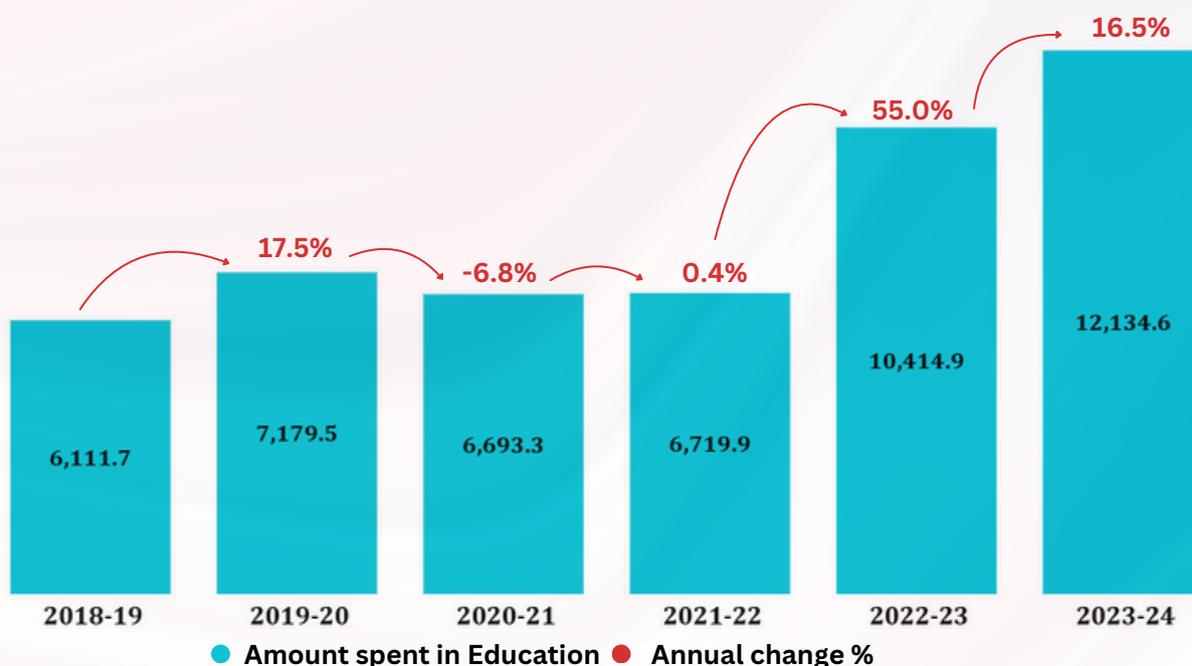
All the amounts are in INR Crores

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

CSR spending on education peaked in 2023-24, however it witnessed a sharp 55% increase in 2022-23 - the highest year-on-year growth in the observed period.

During the pandemic years, CSR spending on education declined by 6.8% in 2020-21 and marginally increased by 0.4% in 2021-22, reflecting disruptions while still maintaining education as a priority area. In 2023-24, education spending continued to grow, rising by 16.5%, indicating sustained commitment toward educational initiatives even after the peak recovery phase.

The percentage of CSR funds allocated to education shows a fluctuating trend over the years.

Annual CSR Expenditure: Education vs. Non-Education Sectors

Education
12,135 (34.8%)

2023-24

Non Education
22,774 (65.2%)

Education
10,415 (33.7%)

2022-23

Non Education
20,517 (66.3%)

Education
7,180 (28.8%)

2019-20

Non Education
17,786 (71.2%)

Education
6,693 (25.5%)

2020-21

Non Education
19,518 (74.5%)

Education
6,720 (24.8%)

2021-22

Non Education
20,422 (75.2%)
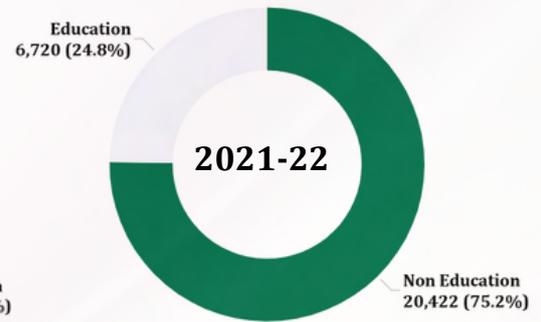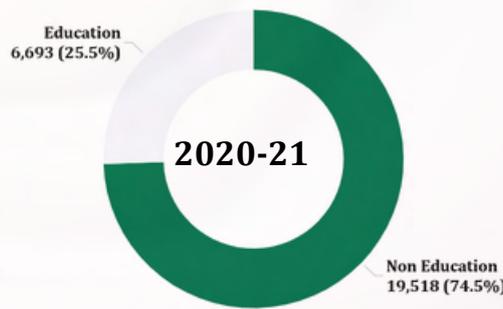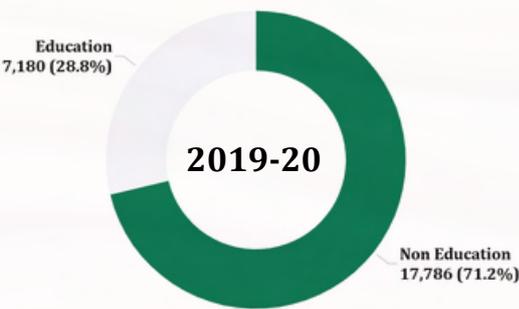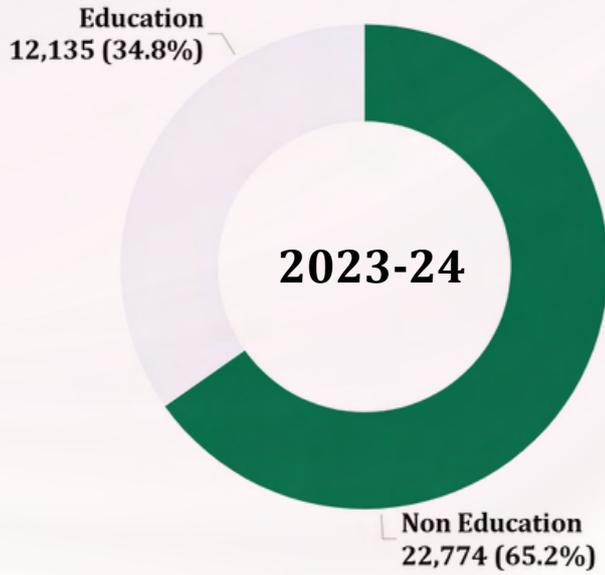
All the amounts are in INR Crores

● Non Education ● Education

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

The proportion of CSR expenditure on education has fluctuated over the years. After a steady decline from 2019-20 to 2021-22, there was a significant rebound in 2022-23, with continued growth in 2023-24.
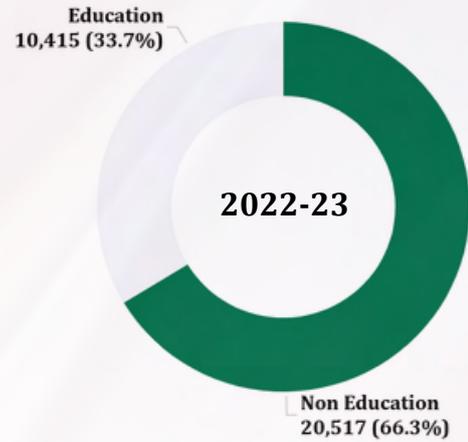
Between 2019-20 and 2023-24, CSR spending on education increased from ₹7,179.5 Cr to ₹12,135 Cr - showing a strong recovery and renewed emphasis on education initiatives.

The notable jump in education-focused CSR spending during 2022-23 and 2023-24 may be attributed to increased attention on digital learning, skill development, and strengthening human capital for long-term sustainable impact.

Disparities in Education Funding

A Regional and State-by-State Analysis

This section offers a comprehensive examination of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) spending on education across various Indian states. For the purpose of analysis, the states have been categorized into six regions: North, North East, Central, West, East, and South. Using range plots and data from the fiscal years 2022–23 to 2023–24, we explore the patterns of state-wise CSR allocations toward educational initiatives. The findings reveal considerable variations in funding levels, highlighting states where CSR contributions to education have significantly increased or declined during this period.

Conducting an inter-regional analysis of education funding is essential to ensure that CSR resources are being directed to the areas that need them the most.

This approach provides critical insights into existing disparities, enabling stakeholders to make informed decisions about where to prioritize their investments. Identifying states and regions with underfunded education sectors allows CSR efforts to be more targeted and impactful.

Such data-driven planning not only addresses funding gaps but also promotes equitable access to quality education. It supports the strategic distribution of resources, ensuring that initiatives like early childhood education, teacher training, and digital learning tools reach underserved and marginalized communities. Ultimately, this strengthens the national education landscape and helps create a more inclusive and resilient system where every child, regardless of location, has a fair opportunity to learn and succeed

North India

Leh And Ladakh	3.17 ➤ 9.45						
Chandigarh	5.03 ➤ 8.75						
Jammu And Kashmir	34.48 ➜ 51.27						
Himachal Pradesh	38.07 ◀ 39.14						
Punjab	97.19 ➜ 127.03						
Uttarakhand	96.64 ◀ 109.36						
Haryana	243.46 ➜ 273.57						
Delhi	411.93 ━━━➤ 615.92						
Uttar Pradesh	429.93 ➜ 492.36						

All the amounts are in INR Crores

Percentage change

State	%
Leh And Ladakh	198%
Chandigarh	74%
Delhi	50%
Jammu And Kashmir	49%
Punjab	31%
Uttar Pradesh	15%
Haryana	12%
Himachal Pradesh	-3%
Uttarakhand	-12%
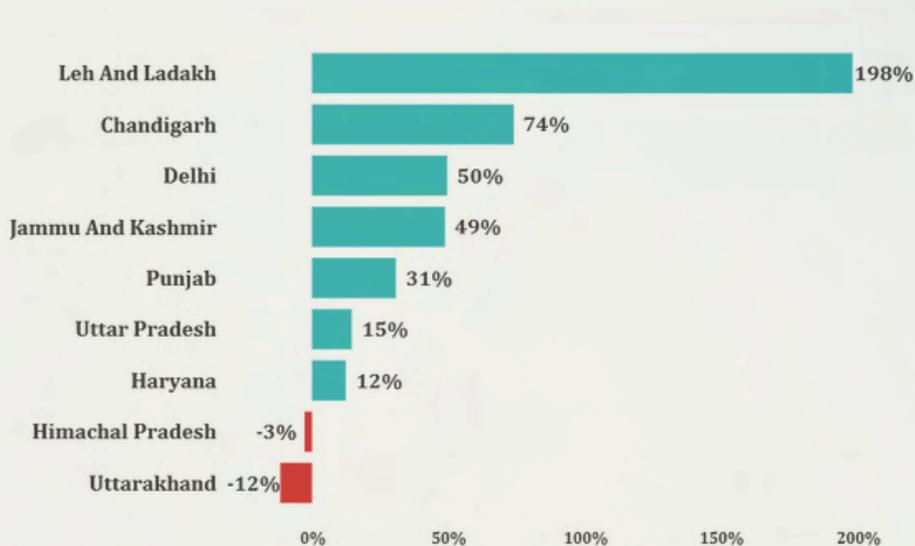
All the values are in %

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

In fiscal year 2022–24, Leh and Ladakh recorded the highest increase in CSR spending on education, with a 198% rise compared to the previous year.

Chandigarh reported a 74% increase, Delhi and Jammu & Kashmir recorded a 50% increase each, while Punjab grew by 30%. Uttar Pradesh and Haryana recorded marginal gains of 10%.
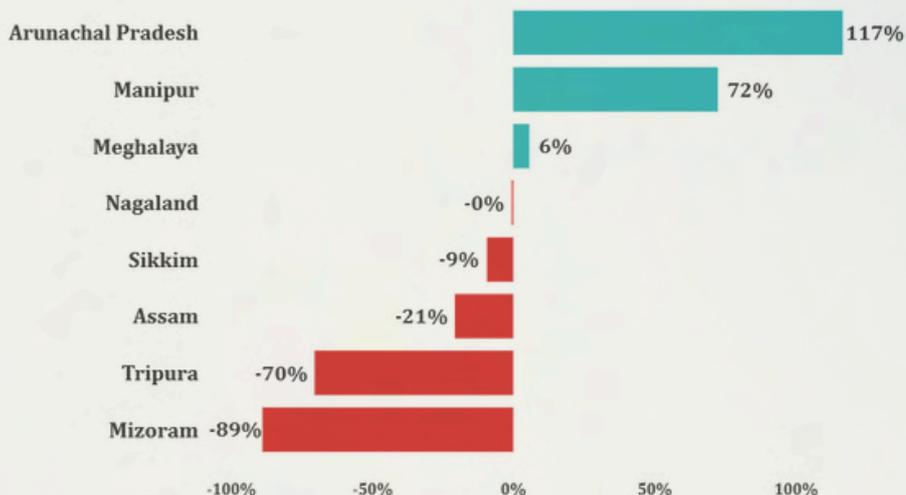
In fiscal year 2023–24, Himachal Pradesh faced a decline in CSR expenditure in the Education sector (-3.0%), while Uttarakhand experienced a significant reduction 12% in CSR expenditure on education.

North East India

State		
Nagaland	2.01	2.02
Mizoram	0.31	2.76
Arunachal Pradesh	3.91	8.47
Meghalaya	5.45	5.76
Tripura	2.24	7.54
Sikkim	14	15.43
Manipur	38.85	66.99
Assam	84.05	105.94

All the amounts are in INR Crores

Percentage change

State	Percentage
Arunachal Pradesh	117%
Manipur	72%
Meghalaya	6%
Nagaland	-0%
Sikkim	-9%
Assam	-21%
Tripura	-70%
Mizoram	-89%

All the values are in %

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Across Northeast India, there's a varied trend in the percentage change of CSR expenditure allocated towards education initiatives.

Arunachal Pradesh recorded the highest increase at 117%, followed by Manipur at 72%, and Meghalaya at 6%.

Nagaland showed no change, while Sikkim, Assam, Tripura, and Mizoram experienced a decrease in the percentage of CSR allocation, with Mizoram showing the largest decrease at 89%.

Central India

	100	150	200	250
Madhya Pradesh		171.31 ← 174.49		
Chhattisgarh	100.41 ←			277.52

All the amounts are in INR Crores

All the amounts are in INR Crores

Percentage change

Madhya Pradesh		-2%
Chhattisgarh -64%		

-60%   -50%   -40%   -30%   -20%   -10%   0%

All the values are in %

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

In contrast to the national trend of increasing CSR allocations to education, parts of Central India have witnessed a decline in education-focused CSR spending
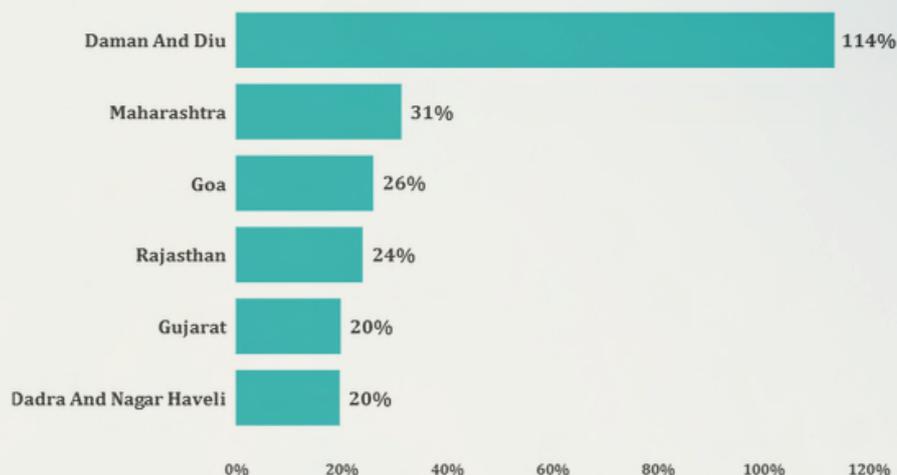
Chhattisgarh has shown a significant decline of 64% in CSR funds allocated to education between 2022–23 and 2023–24.

West India

	0	500	1,000	1,500	2,000
Daman And Diu	1.4 → 2.99				
Dadra And Nagar Haveli	7.4 → 8.86				
Goa	16.5 → 20.8				
Rajasthan	349.34 → 433.4				
Gujarat		849.21 → 1,018.29			
Maharashtra				1,730.31 → 2,274.21	

All the amounts are in INR Crores

Percentage change

Daman And Diu	114%
Maharashtra	31%
Goa	26%
Rajasthan	24%
Gujarat	20%
Dadra And Nagar Haveli	20%

All the values are in %

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Across West India, all states have reported an increase in CSR spending on education.

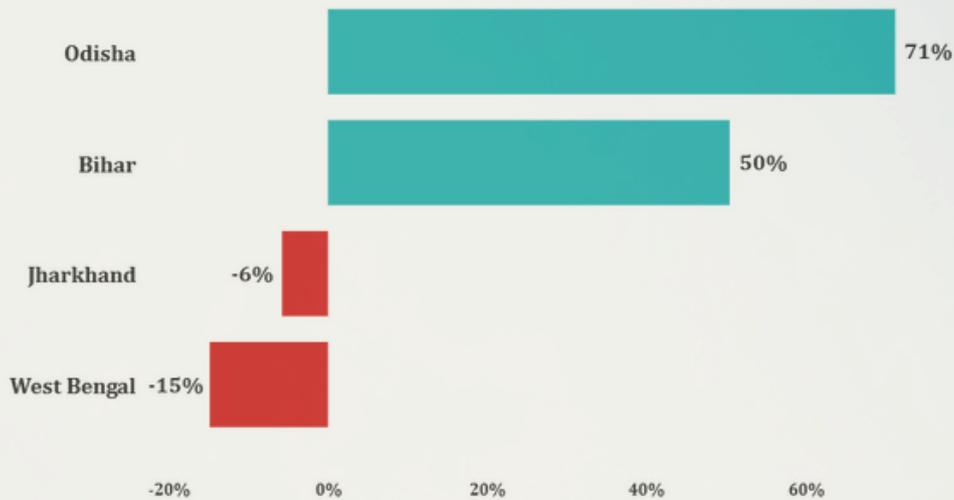Daman And Diu has shown an increase of 114% which is the highest among all the states in west india

In the fiscal year 2023–24, Dadar And Nagar Haveli showed the smallest increase in CSR spending on education among West Indian states, with growth of just 20%.

East India

	0	100	200	300	400	500
Bihar	37.71 → 56.75					
Jharkhand	83.07 ◄ 88.16					
Odisha			274 ——————————→ 469.35			
West Bengal			245.99 ◄— 288.93			

All the amounts are in INR Crores

Percentage change

Odisha	71%
Bihar	50%
Jharkhand	-6%
West Bengal	-15%

-20%   0%   20%   40%   60%

All the values are in %

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

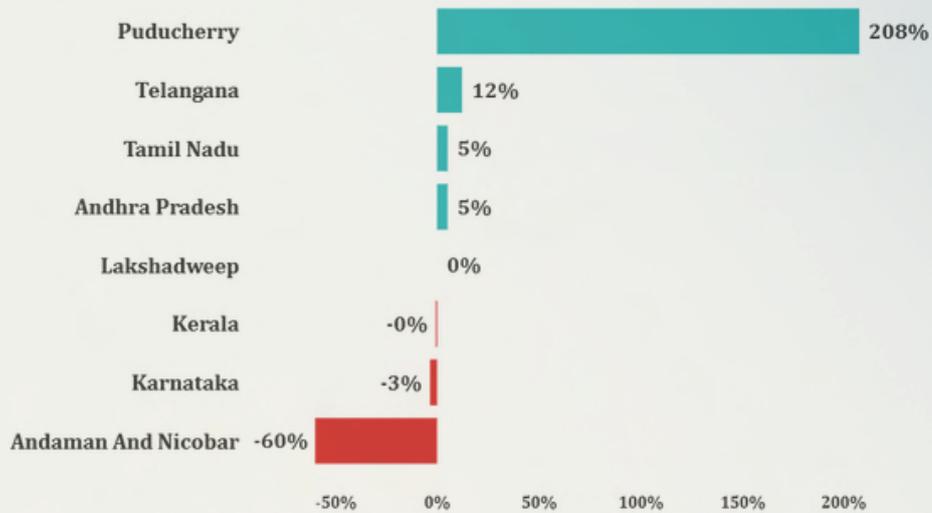**East India experienced an increase in CSR spending on education.**

Odisha demonstrated the highest increase, with a 70% rise in the allocation of CSR funds to education compared to 2022-23.

South India

	0	200	400	600	800	1,000
Lakshadweep	0 0					
Andaman And Nicobar	0.06 ← 0.15					
Puducherry	3.4 › 10.47					
Kerala	139.53 ‹ 139.71					
Andhra Pradesh	190.71 › 200.57					
Telangana		348.58 → 391.43				
Tamil Nadu				666.71 → 701.35		
Karnataka					974.07 ← 1,008.58	

All the amounts are in INR Crores

Percentage change

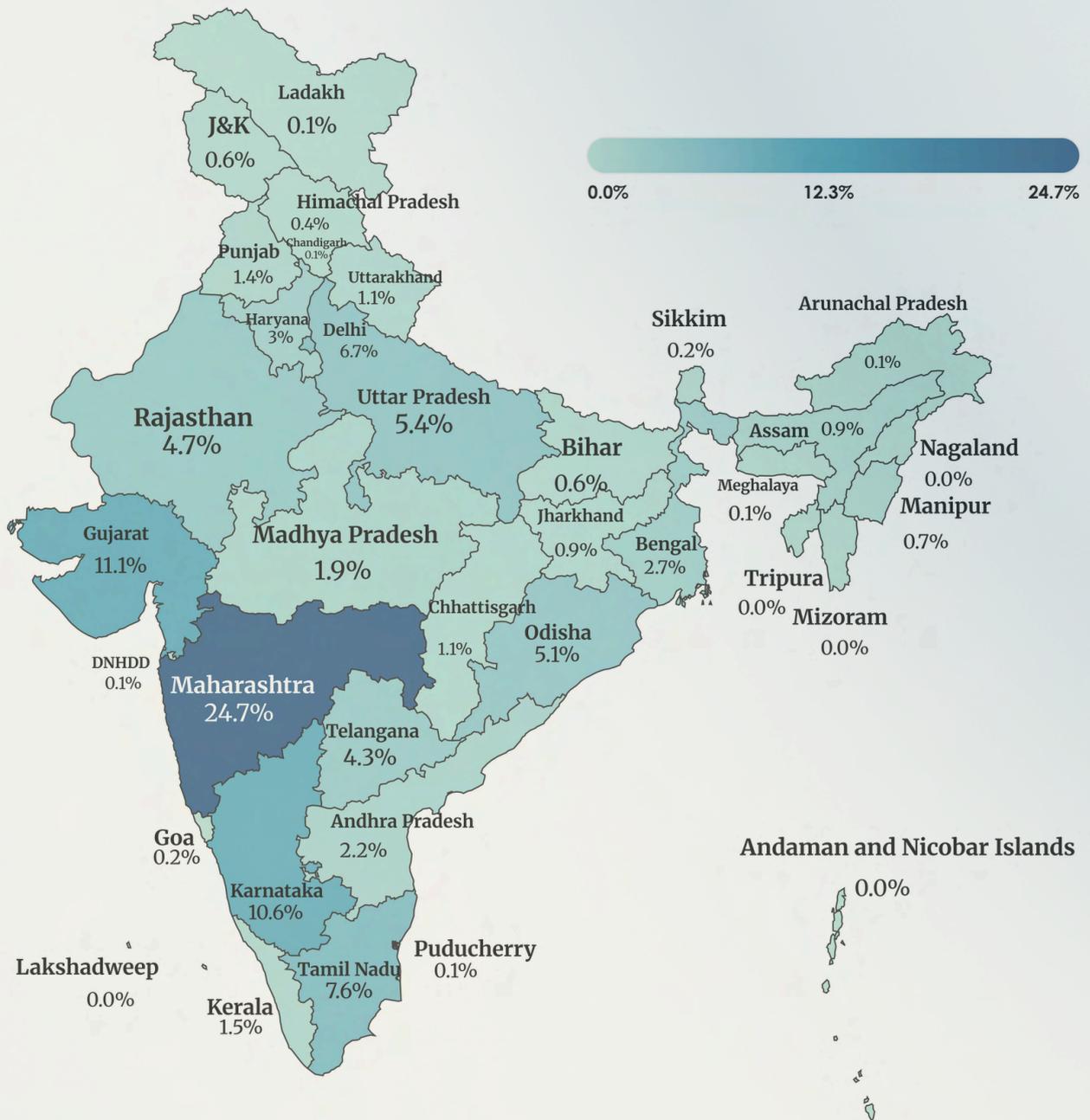|	
Puducherry	208%
Telangana	12%
Tamil Nadu	5%
Andhra Pradesh	5%
Lakshadweep	0%
Kerala	-0%
Karnataka	-3%
Andaman And Nicobar	-60%

-50% 0% 50% 100% 150% 200%

All the values are in %

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

**South India experienced a varied landscape in terms of CSR allocations to education.**

Puducherry exhibited the highest increase in CSR funding with a 208% rise, followed by Telangana with a 12% increase.

State Wise Proportion of CSR Spend on Education Sector

0.0%   12.3%   24.7%

Ladakh 0.1%

J&K 0.6%

Himachal Pradesh 0.4%

Punjab 1.4%

Chandigarh 0.1%

Uttarakhand 1.1%

Haryana 3%

Delhi 6.7%

Sikkim 0.2%

Arunachal Pradesh 0.1%

Rajasthan 4.7%

Uttar Pradesh 5.4%

Bihar 0.6%

Assam 0.9%

Nagaland 0.0%

Gujarat 11.1%

Madhya Pradesh 1.9%

Jharkhand 0.9%

Bengal 2.7%

Meghalaya 0.1%

Manipur 0.7%

Chhattisgarh 1.1%

Tripura 0.0%

Mizoram 0.0%

DNHDD 0.1%

Odisha 5.1%

Maharashtra 24.7%

Telangana 4.3%

Andhra Pradesh 2.2%

Andaman and Nicobar Islands 0.0%

Goa 0.2%

Karnataka 10.6%

Puducherry 0.1%

Lakshadweep 0.0%

Tamil Nadu 7.6%

Kerala 1.5%

Out of the total CSR expenditure in the education sector, nearly **one-fourth** of the amount was spent in **Maharashtra**. The share of **northeastern** states was **disproportionately low**, as CSR companies focus on CSR activities near their **operational bases** (primarily in industrialized states). Additionally, the NE region faces significant **operational** and **infrastructural challenges**, including regular local **tribal conflicts & disturbances**, **government laws & regulations**, and a lack of local implementing partners and awareness.

Union Budget Estimates: Education Sector
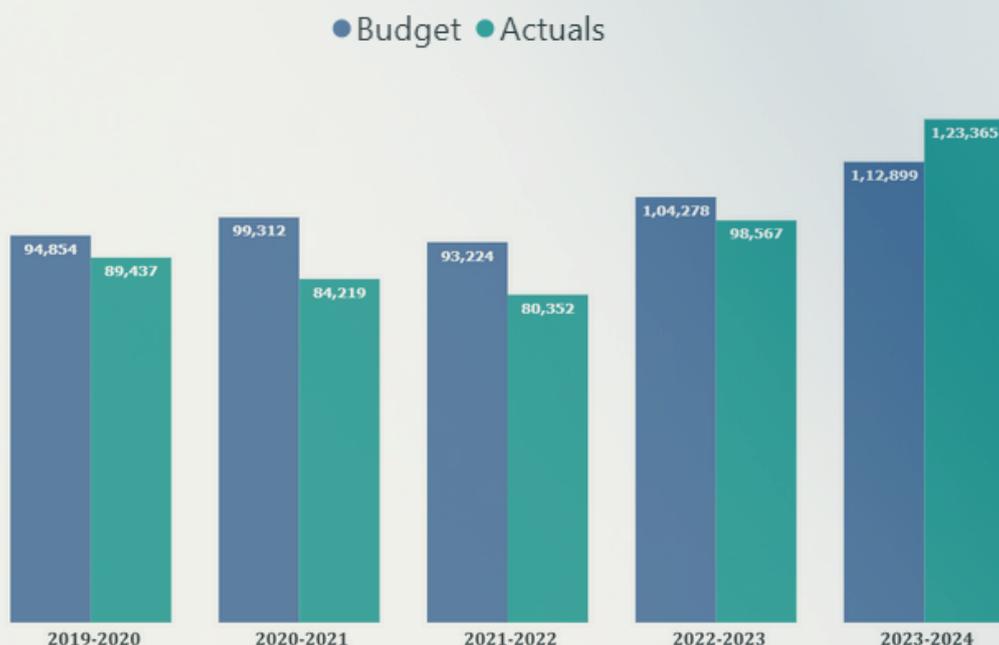
Source: GoI, Ministry of Finance, Union Budget Documents (Budget At Glance)

In the fiscal year (FY) 2023–24, the Government of India allocated INR 1,12,899 crore to the education sector, marking an 8.3% increase from the budget estimate of the previous year. Over the past five financial years, estimated expenditure on education has exhibited several key trends. While initial years saw a steady rise in estimated allocations, FY 2020–21 witnessed a 6.1% decline due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which redirected fiscal priorities toward the healthcare sector. However, in the post-pandemic period, the education budget experienced a significant rebound, with an 11.9% increase in FY 2022–23, signalling renewed government focus on human capital development.

Between 2019 and 2024, India allocated between 4.1% and 4.6% of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to education. This allocation aligns with international benchmarks set by the "Education 2030 Framework for Action," which recommends that countries devote 4–6% of their GDP to education. In comparative terms, India's education spending, both in absolute figures and as a percentage of GDP, has been higher than several neighbouring countries, and its investments have remained relatively stable. However, total expenditure has not yet met the 6% of GDP target recommended by the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

Despite budgeted increases, actual expenditures on education have often fallen short of estimates. From FY 2019 to FY 2022, actual spending declined, with reductions of 5.8% and 4.6% recorded in the immediate post-pandemic years. Encouragingly, FY 2023–24 marked a reversal in this trend. The actual expenditure exceeded not only the previous year's spending by over 25% but also surpassed the estimated budget for the year. This surge indicates a growing governmental emphasis on strengthening the education system and investing in the nation's human capital.

Public vs. Private: Analyzing PSU and Non-PSU Contributions

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives by both Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) and private sector organizations are playing an increasingly vital role in supporting India's education system. While public funding and government-led programs establish the foundation for nationwide reforms, CSR investments provide the much-needed flexibility and innovation to address emerging educational challenges. A comparative analysis of CSR expenditure over recent years reveals a stark contrast between PSU and Non-PSU contributions to education.

In FY 2023-24, Non-PSUs contributed a major share of 86% of the total CSR spending, while PSUs accounted for only 14%. This disparity has remained consistent over the past few years, with Non-PSUs steadily increasing both the amount and share of funds spend in CSR activities, ranging from 78% in 2019-20 to 86% in 2022-23. With respect to CSR expenditure in the education sector, PSU allocations witnessed minor fluctuations, ranging from 15% to 20%, with the highest spend recorded in 2019-20. After that, PSU contributions declined, with only a small increase in 2023-24.
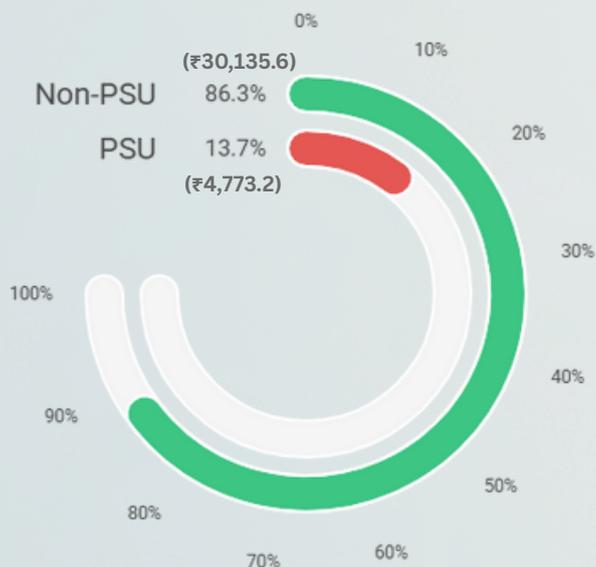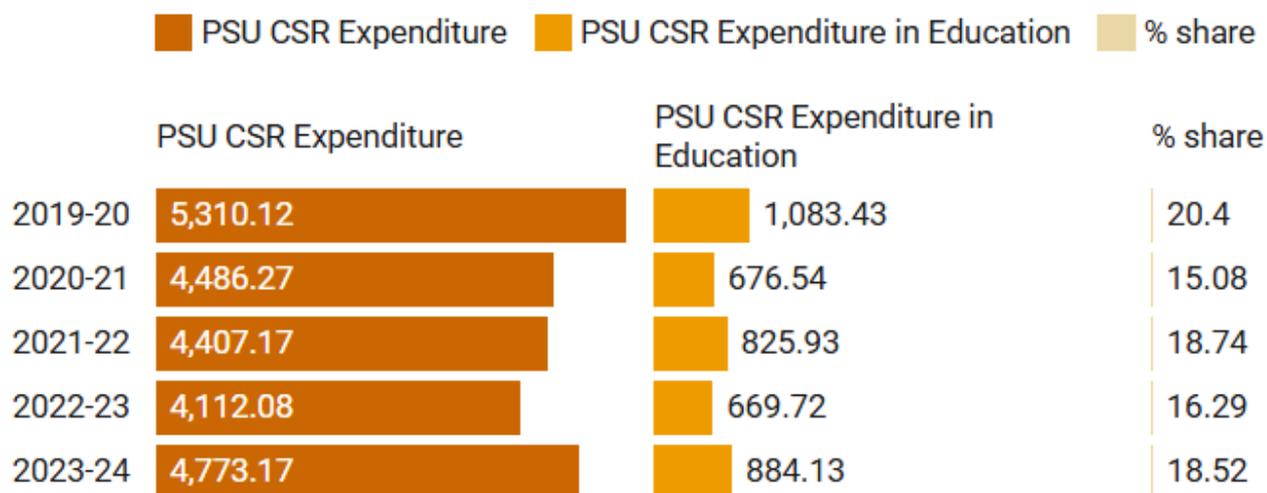
Non-PSUs have not only spent more but have also displayed a stronger focus on priority areas such as digital learning, school infrastructure, early childhood education, and vocational training. Their adaptive and innovation-driven approach allows them to respond more effectively to the changing needs of the education sector. PSUs, despite having strong community roots and alignment with government schemes, have not fully capitalized on their potential to drive meaningful educational change.

This imbalance highlights the need for a more proactive role from PSUs. A joint approach where the reach and reliability of PSUs is combined with the agility and innovation of Non-PSUs can help close gaps in funding and access. By working together, both sectors can ensure CSR in education becomes more inclusive, impactful, and far-reaching enabling every child to receive quality education, regardless of geography or background.
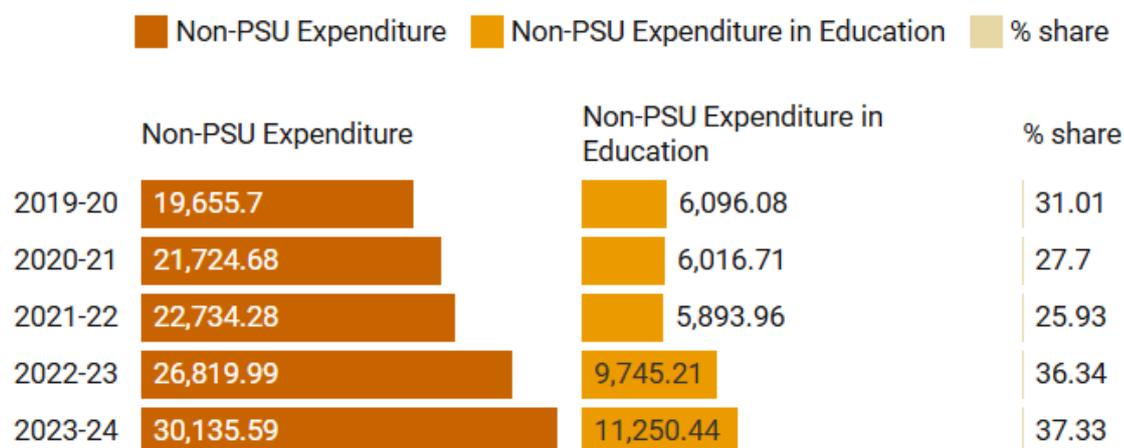
CSR spent in FY 2023-24

Non-PSU 86.3% (₹30,135.6)
PSU 13.7% (₹4,773.2)

All the amounts are in INR Crores

CSR Expenditure by Public Sector Undertakings

	PSU CSR Expenditure	PSU CSR Expenditure	PSU CSR Expenditure in Education	% share
	■ PSU CSR Expenditure	■ PSU CSR Expenditure in Education	□ % share	
2019-20	5,310.12		1,083.43	20.4
2020-21	4,486.27		676.54	15.08
2021-22	4,407.17		825.93	18.74
2022-23	4,112.08		669.72	16.29
2023-24	4,773.17		884.13	18.52

All the amounts are in INR Crores

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

The **highest CSR** spending in education sector by **PSUs** from 2019-20 to 2023-24 occurred in **2019 -20.**

The proportion of CSR funds allocated to education by PSUs fluctuated modestly, ranging between 15.08% and 20.4% from 2019–20 to 2023–24, with a slight increase to 18.52% in 2023–24.

CSR Expenditure by Non - Public Sector Undertakings

Legend: ■ Non-PSU Expenditure ■ Non-PSU Expenditure in Education ■ % share

	Non-PSU Expenditure	Non-PSU Expenditure in Education	% share
2019-20	19,655.7	6,096.08	31.01
2020-21	21,724.68	6,016.71	27.7
2021-22	22,734.28	5,893.96	25.93
2022-23	26,819.99	9,745.21	36.34
2023-24	30,135.59	11,250.44	37.33

All the amounts are in INR Crores

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

The share of CSR funds allocated to education by Non-PSUs steadily increased from 36% in 2022–23 to 37% in 2023–24.

A notable jump in education spending occurred in 2022–23, marking a shift in focus, followed by another significant rise in 2023–24.

The highest CSR expenditure in the education sector by Non-PSUs was recorded in 2023–24, amounting to INR 11,250.44 crores.

LEADING THE CHARGE: TOP EDUCATION CSR SPENDERS

Total CSR expenditure

# CSR Spent on Education

CSR Projects
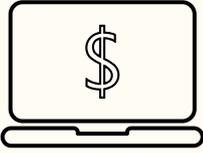
This section of the report profiles the top 10 companies that have demonstrated leadership in education-related CSR spending during the fiscal years 2023–24 and 2022-23. For each organization, the analysis presents comprehensive data, including total CSR expenditure, the portion allocated specifically to education, the percentage share of education within their overall CSR budget, and a summary of key education projects along with the states in which they were implemented and the corresponding funding amounts.
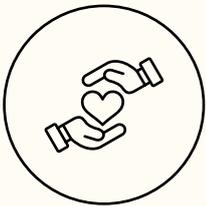
This analysis serves as both a benchmarking tool and a strategic guide. It highlights the major contributors to the education sector, providing valuable insights into the scale, geographic reach, and focus areas of their CSR initiatives. For stakeholders—including non-profits, implementing partners, and policymakers—this information facilitates informed collaboration and planning. Moreover, it encourages other corporates to evaluate and strengthen their own education CSR strategies, fostering more targeted and high-impact investments in critical areas of literacy.
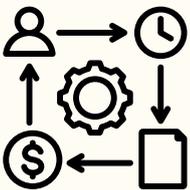
Upon examining the focus areas of these leading companies, stakeholders can also identify aspects of education that may not be receiving adequate CSR attention. This understanding can help direct future CSR initiatives towards underfunded areas, ensuring a more balanced and effective distribution of resources across the education landscape. By recognizing where the gaps exist, the broader CSR community can align efforts to address these needs and improve the overall impact on education initiatives .
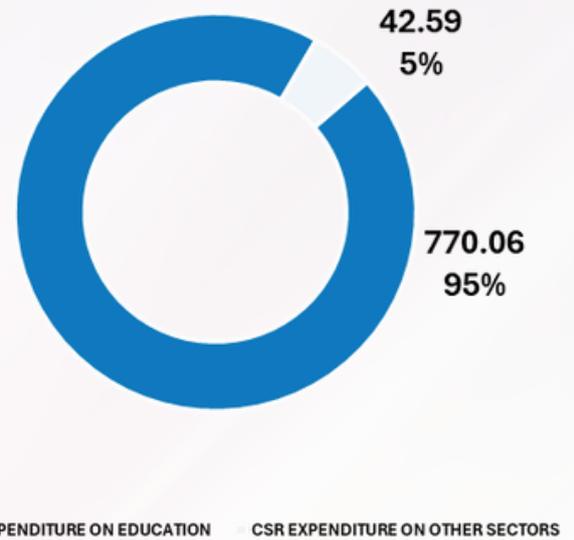
Fiscal Year

2023 - 2024

TATA CONSULTANCY SERVICES

Average Net Profit	42507
CSR Prescribed Expenditure	850.14
Total CSR Spent	812.65
CSR Spent on Education	770.06
CSR Share Spent on Education	95%

42.59
5%

770.06
95%

■ CSR EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION   CSR EXPENDITURE ON OTHER SECTORS

List of CSR Projects in Education Sector

CSR Project(s)	State	Amount Spent (INR Cr.)
Scholarship Program	Madhya Pradesh	0.06
Contribution For Schedule Vii Activities	Pan India	62.5
Contribution For Schedule Vii Activities	Pan India	187.5
Contribution For Schedule Vii Activities	Pan India	520

Reliance
Industries Limited
Growth is Life

Average Net Profit	42003.18
CSR Prescribed Expenditure	840.06
Total CSR Spent	899.07
CSR Spent on Education	531.32
CSR Share Spent on Education	59%

367.76
41%

531.31
59%

■ CSR EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION   ■ CSR EXPENDITURE ON OTHER SECTORS
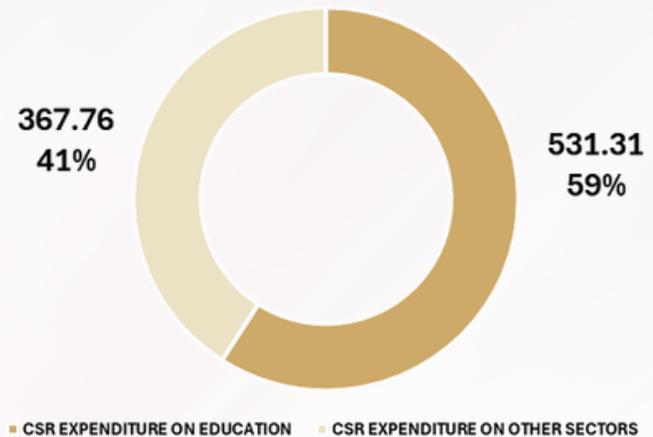
List of CSR Projects in Education Sector

CSR Project(s)	State	Amount Spent (INR Cr.)
Infrastructure Development For Primary Schools, Aanganwadi And Other Initiatives At Manufacturing Si	Dadra And Nagar Haveli	1.03
Back To School Outcomes Programme, Early Childhood And Care Programme, Reliance Foundation Schools	Gujarat	208.87
Dhirubhai Ambani Scholarship And Education Support, Other Initiatives Including Programme Partnerships, Reliance Foundation Schools, Rf Education And Sports For All, Rf Teachers Award, Promoting Institution Of Eminence - Jio Institute	Maharashtra	297.27
Infrastructure Development For Primary Schools, Aanganwadi And Other Initiatives At Manufacturing Si, Other Initiatives Including Programme Partnerships, Reliance Foundation Scholarships, Vocational Skilling And Employment	Pan India	18.79
Infrastructure Development For Primary Schools, Aanganwadi And Other Initiatives At Manufacturing Si	Uttar Pradesh	5.36

HDFC BANK

Average Net Profit	47513.87
CSR Prescribed Expenditure	950.28
Total CSR Spent	921.96
CSR Spent on Education	201
CSR Share Spent on Education	22%

200.96
22%

721.00
78%

- CSR EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION
- CSR EXPENDITURE ON OTHER SECTORS
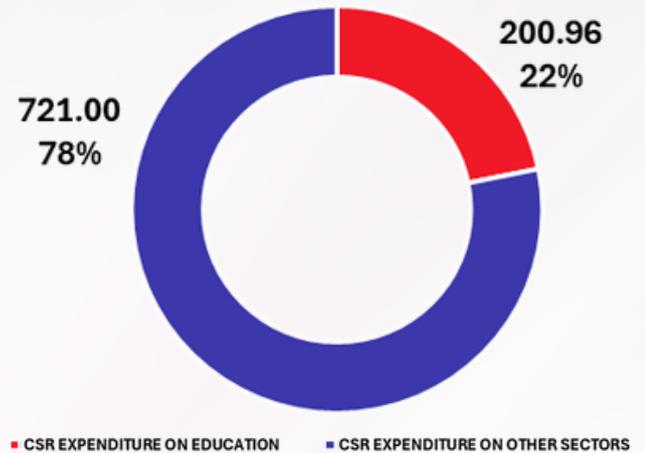
List of CSR Projects in Education Sector

CSR Project(s)	State	Amount Spent (INR Cr.)
Upgradation Of Infrastructure In Schools	Arunachal Pradesh	0.68
Setting Up Smart Classrooms ABCD	Assam	1
Smart School Project	Chhattisgarh	0.68
Smart School Project	Gujarat	1.12
Smart Classroom Project, Scholarship Support Program	Haryana	5.45
Setting Up Smart Classrooms ABCD	Jammu And Kashmir	11.13
Setting Up Computer Lab	Madhya Pradesh	0.1

CSR Project(s)	State	Amount Spent (INR Cr.)
Cyber Crime Awareness, Infrastructure Development In School, Promoting Quality Education, Scholarship Support Program, Teacher'S Training Program, Zero Investment Initiatives In Education, Agricultural Education For Students, Promotion Of Education, Smart School Project, Support For School Children, Promoting Quality Education, Smart School Project, Anando	Maharashtra	36.01
Support For School Children	Odisha	7.14
Fellowship Program, Parivartan Small Grants Program, Promoting Quality Education, Renovation Of Integrated Child Development Centres (Icds), School Refurbishment And Renovation, Setting Up Smart Classrooms, Setting Up Smart Classrooms ABCD, Smart School Project	Pan India	74.13
Robust Facilities In School And Hospital	Punjab	3.36
Scholarship Support Program, Smart School Project, School Infrastructure Development, Setting Up Smart Classrooms ABCD, School Infrastructure Development	Rajasthan	24.85
Smart School Project	Tamil Nadu	0.13
Setting Up Smart Classrooms ABCD	Telangana	1.48
Student Learning Improvement, Promoting Quality Education, Smart School Project, Promoting Quality Education, Setting Up Smart Classrooms, Ziiei Project Based Learning	Uttar Pradesh	33.74

Infosys®

Average Net Profit	24608.45
CSR Prescribed Expenditure	492.17
Total CSR Spent	450.76
CSR Spent on Education	166.40
CSR Share Spent on Education	37%

166.40
37%

284.36
63%

■ CSR EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION   CSR EXPENDITURE ON OTHER SECTORS

List of CSR Projects in Education Sector

CSR Project(s)	State	Amount Spent (INR Cr.)
Support For Education	Andhra Pradesh	0.73
Outreach Program Through Mobile Outreach Unit (Mobile Science Lab+ Lab On A Bike) And Teacher Training	Assam	3.97
Equipment For An Advanced Chemical Biology Lab Setup And Establish Ashoka University As A Central Hu, Free Engineering And Medical Test Preparation For 10000+ Govt School School Girl Students Across Var, Support For Widows And Wards Of Indian Army Personnel Who Died While In Service (Physical Casualties	Delhi	14.94

Data Sourced from - National CSR Portal and Ministry of Corporate Affairs

All the amounts are in INR Crores

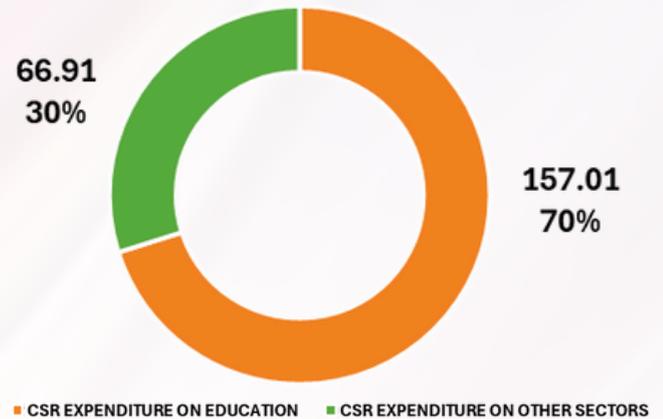| CSR Project(s)	State	Amount Spent (INR Cr.)
Eradication Of Devadasi System, To Improve The Economic Status Of The Jobless Women Who Are Engaged In Saree Manufacturing, Construction Of Multipurpose Hall Karnataka Public School, School Facility With A Separate Hostel For Girls And Boys, Convention Hall And Common Facilities, A Comprehensive Digital Literacy Program, Aid Training And Research, Align NEP Learning Interventions And Support Govt School Teachers Across Multiple States, Capacity Expansion & Rezoning Of The Narayan Rao Melgiri National Law Library, Create Excellence In Handling Cybercrime Cases And Capacity Building Of Law Enforcement, Creation Of A Five Year Plan To Produce A Strong, Robust Pipeline Of Exceptionally Talented Players, Notebook Distribution Drive To The Students Of Govt School, Pan-India Awards For Unique Solutions For Social Problems With The Goal Of Accelerating Innovation, Stem Scholarship For Girl Students Across India, Training And Placing Unemployed Literate Youth Through The Unxt Program, Support For Poor Weavers From Raichur	Karnataka	102.16
Constructing A Hostel Building For Underprivileged Girl Students, Provide Additional Source Of Livelihoods To 1000 Small & Marginal Women Farmer & Their Households, Strengthen Research Activities And Train Young Scholars In Orientology And Prepare Bibliography	Maharashtra	14.16
Quality And Free Education To Girls Hailing From Vulnerable And Poor Families	Rajasthan	0.6
Construction Of A Hostel For Girls At The Campus Of The Indian Institute Of Information Technology	Tamil Nadu	0.09
Creation Of Comprehensive Neonatal Nursing Assistants Who Can Provide A Basic Nursing Care To Babies, Stem Education Of Children From Low-Income Communities Studying In Various Govt.Schools In Telangana	Telangana	1.85
Towards Procurement Of Two Buses	Uttarakhand	0.01
Provide Scholarship, Stem Labs, Teachers' Stem Training & Access To Educational Material & Resources	West Bengal	27.91

#STEMDay
#ESGIsAnOpportunity

Power isn't bestowed. It is built.

Average Net Profit	8875.06
CSR Prescribed Expenditure	177.5
Total CSR Spent	223.92
CSR Spent on Education	157.01
CSR Share Spent on Education	70%

66.91
30%

157.01
70%

■ CSR EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION   ■ CSR EXPENDITURE ON OTHER SECTORS

List of CSR Projects in Education Sector

CSR Project(s)	State	Amount Spent (INR Cr.)
Education And Skill Development	Odisha	157.01

Reliance Jio
Infocomm Limited

Average Net Profit	20149.71
CSR Prescribed Expenditure	402.99
Total CSR Spent	402.5
CSR Spent on Education	137
CSR Share Spent on Education	34%

137.00
34%

265.50
66%

■ CSR EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION   ■ CSR EXPENDITURE ON OTHER SECTORS
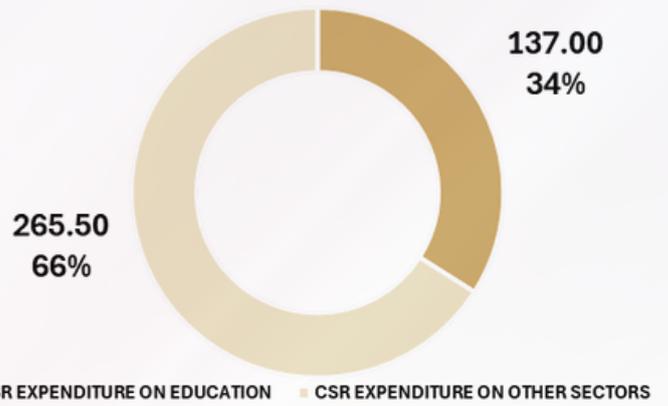
List of CSR Projects in Education Sector

CSR Project(s)	State	Amount Spent (INR Cr.)
Dhirubhai Ambani Scholarship And Education Support	Maharashtra	5
Other Initiatives Including Programme Partnerships, Reliance Foundation Scholarships, Vocational Skilling And Employment	Pan India	132

TATA STEEL LIMITED

Average Net Profit	27429.06
CSR Prescribed Expenditure	548.58
Total CSR Spent	572.74
CSR Spent on Education	133.62
CSR Share Spent on Education	23%

133.62
23%

439.12
77%

- CSR EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION
- CSR EXPENDITURE ON OTHER SECTORS

List of CSR Projects in Education Sector

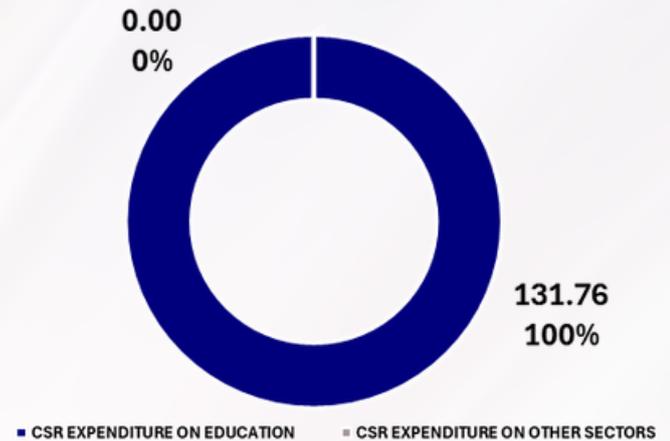| CSR Project(s)	State	Amount Spent (INR Cr.)
Capacity Building/Coaching Programmes, Running Community Centre Libraries, Support For Soft Skill Development And Education, Support To Sc/St Youths For Educational Coaching, Youth Leadership Programme	Jharkhand	2.83
Education Signature Programme, 30 Model School Project	Odisha	34.28
Child Education Support Through Primary Learning Center, Fellowship/Scholarship Programme For Students, Higher Secondary Coaching, Pre-Matric Coaching, Promoting Education For Youth, School Improvement Project (1000 Schools Project), Spoken English & Soft Skill Development, Support For Educational Programmes, Support To Drop Out Students Through Bridge Courses, Support To Sc/St Students In Education, Support To Sc/St Students In Higher Education, Support To Selected Schools	Pan India	96.51

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NPCIL

NPCIL
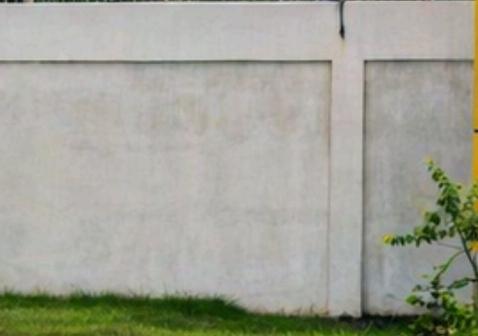
Average Net Profit	6752.85
CSR Prescribed Expenditure	135.06
Total CSR Spent	131.76
CSR Spent on Education	131.76
CSR Share Spent on Education	100%

0.00
0%

131.76
100%

■ CSR EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION   ▪ CSR EXPENDITURE ON OTHER SECTORS

List of CSR Projects in Education Sector

CSR Project(s)	State	Amount Spent (INR Cr.)
Csr*	Maharashtra	131.76

Not mentioned in the CSR Portal

India's Leading
DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE PARTNER

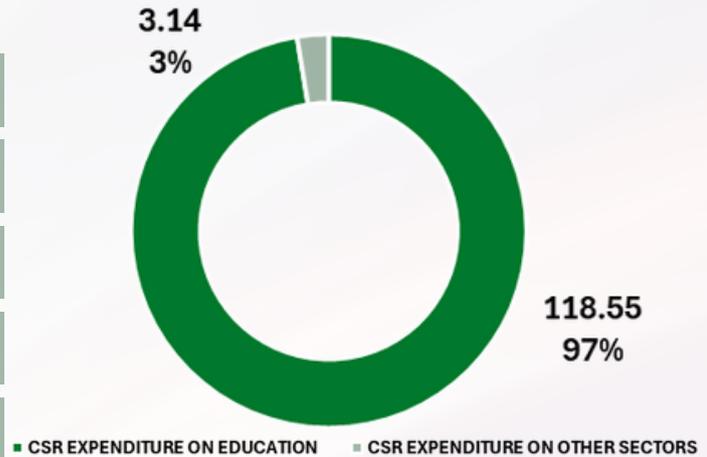Committed to innovation, transparency, and nation-building.

indus
TOWERS

#PuttingIndiaFirst

INDUS TOWERS LIMITED

Average Net Profit	6866.2
CSR Prescribed Expenditure	137.32
Total CSR Spent	121.69
CSR Spent on Education	118.56
CSR Share Spent on Education	97%

3.14
3%

118.55
97%

■ CSR EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION ■ CSR EXPENDITURE ON OTHER SECTORS

List of CSR Projects in Education Sector

CSR Project(s)	State	Amount Spent (INR Cr.)
Sanitation Program - Construction Of Girls Washroom In Govt. Schools	Assam	1.72
Digital Transformation Van Program, Girl Child Education Program, Gurushala And Smart Agri Program, Indus Towers Scholarship Program For Disabled, Monitoring Expenses For All Programs Including Ongoing Projects, Project Nurture, Satya Bharti School, Quality Support Program & Theteacher App, Scholarship Program For Higher Education, Smart Classroom Program	Pan India	92.74
Educational Infrastructure	Punjab	24
Construction Of Medical & Therapy Room For Children With Disability	Tamil Nadu	0.1

BAJAJ FINSERV

Average Net Profit	9285.24
CSR Prescribed Expenditure	185.7
Total CSR Spent	173.71
CSR Spent on Education	110.86
CSR Share Spent on Education	64%

62.82
36%

110.89
64%

■ CSR EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION   ■ CSR EXPENDITURE ON OTHER SECTORS

List of CSR Projects in Education Sector

CSR Project(s)	State	Amount Spent (INR Cr.)
Football To Eyeball Program Support For 74 Underprivileged Girls Of Rural Bihar For Education Skilling, School Of Programming	Bihar	0.77
Healthcare Skill Training For Tribal Youth	Chhattisgarh	0.09
Part 1 Gyan Shala Middle School Program In Ahmedabad Grades 4 To 7 Part 2 Extension Of Gyan Shala Mo	Gujarat	0.27
Financial Aid Support To Underprivileged Students	Haryana	1.03
Sustainable Skill Development Of Underprivileged Girls	Jharkhand	0.8
Experiential Training To Adults With Physical And Intellectual Disabilities, Experiential Training To 180 Adults With Physical And Intellectual Disabilities, Bubbles Early Intervention And Primary Education For Children With Autism And Intellectual Disorders, Short Term And Long Term Computer Training For Visually Impaired	Karnataka	1.58
Rehabilitation Of Children With Intellectual Disabilities Through Scientia Center and Virtual Reality And Therapies	Kerala	0.49

CSR Project(s)	State	Amount Spent (INR Cr.)
Football To Eyeball Program Support For 74 Underprivileged Girls Of Rural Bihar For Education Skilling, School Of Programming	Bihar	0.77
Healthcare Skill Training For Tribal Youth	Chhattisgarh	0.09
Financial Aid Support To Underprivileged Students	Haryana	1.03
Sustainable Skill Development Of Underprivileged Girls	Jharkhand	0.8
Experiential Training To Adults With Physical And Intellectual Disabilities, Experiential Training To 180 Adults With Physical And Intellectual Disabilities, Bubbles Early Intervention And Primary Education For Children With Autism And Intellectual Disorders, Short Term And Long Term Computer Training For Visually Impaired	Karnataka	1.58
Rehabilitation Of Children With Intellectual Disabilities Through Scientia Center and Virtual Reality And Therapies	Kerala	0.49
Phulwari To Strengthen And Innovate Rural Creche The Public Health Intervention To Prevent Malnutrit, Udaan Project An Initiative For Sustainable Livelihood Based Tribal Holistic Development	Madhya Pradesh	0.75
School And Community Intervention Program, Skilling And Supported Employment Program Ssep For People With Intellectual And Developmental Disabilities, Bajaj Finserv Education Program Partnership Model	Maharashtra	54.73
Project Samrudhi Livelihood Enhancement Through Water Management And Safe And Dignified Migration, Economic Empowerment Through Enhancing Employability Within Women From Rural India Eempower	Odisha	3.04
Cpbfi Employment Enhancing Vocational Skills Training, Skill Building And Enterprise Development For Rural Poor	Pan India	35.77
Targetting The Hardcore Poor By Developing Them As Entrepreneurs, Fine Fostering Inclusive Education In Middle School- Phase Ii	Rajasthan	5.7
Back To School	Telangana	0.45
Raise Right Action For Inclusive Education Phase Ii	Uttar Pradesh	0.3
Targeting The Hard Core Poor By Developing Them As Entrepreneurs, Support To Karuna Vihar Special School	Uttarakhand	2.39
Continuation Support For Non Formal Centres	West Bengal	2.7

BAJAJ FINSERV | **ACTIVATE**

The Bajaj Group's CSR arm working **towards unlocking** the true potential of the next generation.
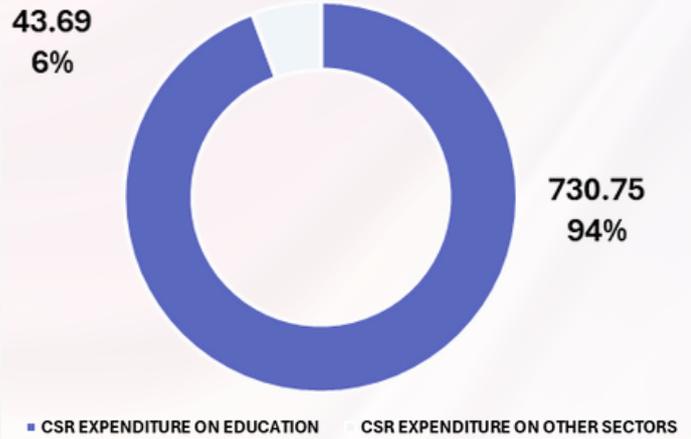
Fiscal Year

2022 - 2023

Tata Consultancy Services Limited

Average Net Profit	38661.67
CSR Prescribed Expenditure	773.23
Total CSR Spent	774.44
CSR Spent on Education	730.75
CSR Share Spent on Education	94%

43.69
6%

730.75
94%

■ CSR EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION   CSR EXPENDITURE ON OTHER SECTORS

List of CSR Projects in Education Sector

CSR Project(s)	State	Amount Spent (INR Cr.)
Scholarship Program	Madhya Pradesh	0.1
Contribution For Schedule Vii Activities	Pan India	730.65

*Not mentioned in the CSR Portal

Reliance Industries Limited
Growth is Life

Average Net Profit	36962.1
CSR Prescribed Expenditure	739.24
Total CSR Spent	743.4
CSR Spent on Education	281.12
CSR Share Spent on Education	38%

462.28
62%

281.12
38%

- CSR EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION
- CSR EXPENDITURE ON OTHER SECTORS
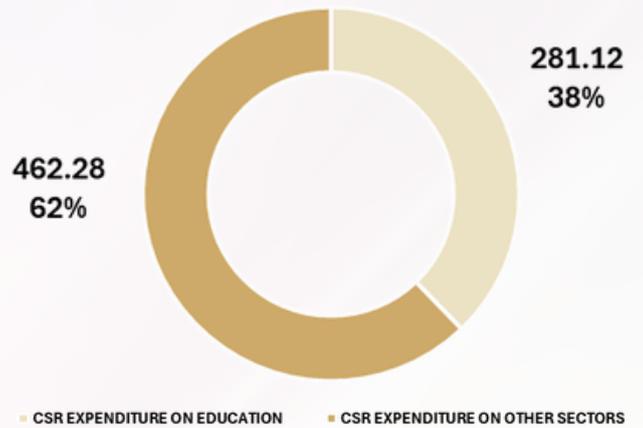
List of CSR Projects in Education Sector

CSR Project(s)	State	Amount Spent (INR Cr.)
Reliance Foundation Schools	Maharashtra	3.83
Scholarship And Education Support	Maharashtra	11.3
Promoting Institution Of Eminence - Jio Institute	Maharashtra	206.77
Infrastructure Development For Primary Schools, Aanganwadi And Other Initiatives At Manufacturing Si	Pan India	34.86
Other Initiatives Including Programme Partnerships	Pan India	24.36

Power isn't bestowed. It is built.

JINDAL

Average Net Profit	6509.26
CSR Prescribed Expenditure	130.19
Total CSR Spent	235.32
CSR Spent on Education	204.73
CSR Share Spent on Education	87%

30.59
13%

204.73
87%

- CSR EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION
- CSR EXPENDITURE ON OTHER SECTORS
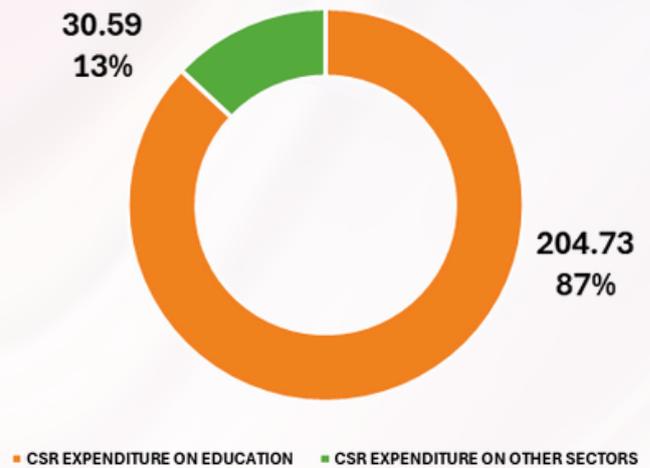
List of CSR Projects in Education Sector

CSR PROJECT(S)	STATE	AMOUNT SPENT (INR CR.)
Education & Skill Development	Chhattisgarh	204.73

एच डी एफ सी बँक

HDFC BANK

HDFC BANK

Average Net Profit	41165.02
CSR Prescribed Expenditure	823.3
Total CSR Spent	803.15
CSR Spent on Education	165.77
CSR Share Spent on Education	21%

165.77
21%

637.38
79%

- CSR EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION   - CSR EXPENDITURE ON OTHER SECTORS
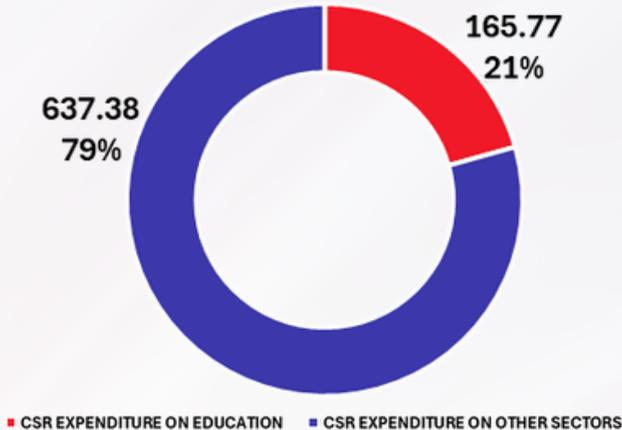
List of CSR Projects in Education Sector

CSR Project(s)	State	Amount Spent (INR Cr.)
Student Learning Improvement	Assam	4.29
Promoting Quality Education	Delhi	2.15
Smart School Project	Gujarat	12.16
Promotion Of Education, Scholarship Support Program	Haryana	3.58
Smart School Project	Himachal Pradesh	1.32
Promoting Quality Education, School Refurbishment And Renovation, Smart School Project, Digital Classroom Project, Promoting Quality Education	Jharkhand	34.97
Competency Based Learning, Digital Equalizer, Learning Improvement Program, Scholarship Support Program, Support For School Children, Zero Investment Initiatives In Education, Project Anando, Support For School Children, Anando	Maharashtra	53.35
Support For School Children, School Refurbishment And Renovation, Promoting Quality Education	Odisha	12.63

CSR Project(s)	State	Amount Spent (INR Cr.)
Har Ghar Tiranga Program, Smart School Project	Pan India	18.87
Smart School Project	Punjab	2.39
Infrastructure Development In School, Smart School Project, Support For School Children, Digital Village Program	Rajasthan	7.65
Smart School Project	Tamil Nadu	2.62
Promoting Quality Education	Uttar Pradesh	6.89
Smart School Project, Fellowship Program	West Bengal	2.9

HDFC BANK

Average Net Profit	9927.72
CSR Prescribed Expenditure	198.55
Total CSR Spent	212.4
CSR Spent on Education	131.24
CSR Share Spent on Education	62%

81.16
38%

131.24
62%

■ CSR EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION ■ CSR EXPENDITURE ON OTHER SECTORS
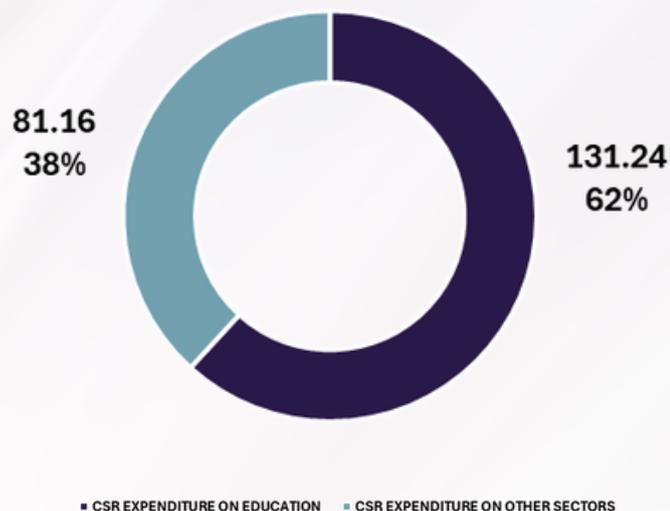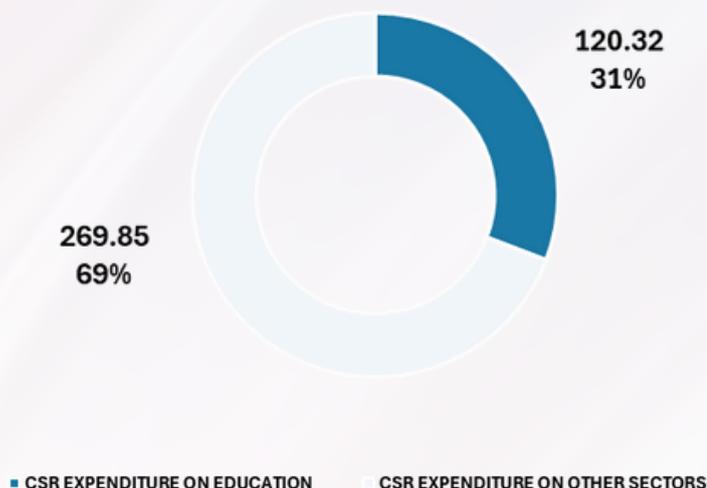
List of CSR Projects in Education Sector

CSR Project(s)	State	Amount Spent (INR Cr.)
Education For Children With Disability, Engineering Education, Higher Education For Skills Building	Karnataka	116.42
Education: Systemic Reforms	Maharashtra	12.78
Education For Underprivileged, Education For Underprivileged, Sustainability Advocacy And Research	Tamil Nadu	2.04

Infosys®

Average Net Profit	21842
CSR Prescribed Expenditure	436.84
Total CSR Spent	390.17
CSR Spent on Education	120.32
CSR Share Spent on Education	31%

120.32
31%

269.85
69%

■ CSR EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION   CSR EXPENDITURE ON OTHER SECTORS

CSR PROJECT(S)

List of CSR Projects in Education Sector

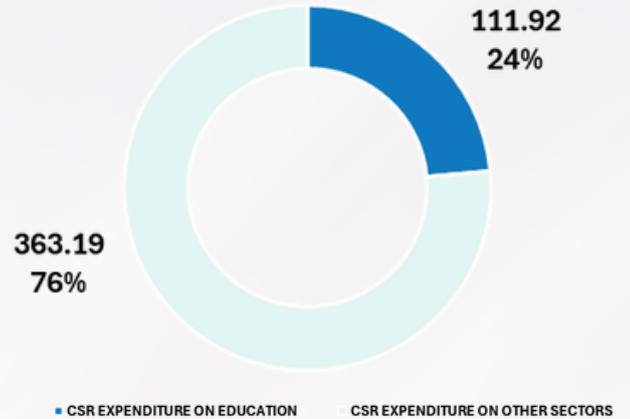| CSR Project(s)	State	Amount Spent (INR Cr.)
Towards Providing High School Underprivileged Girl Students (11-12) With Rigorous Academic Tutoring	Delhi	9.63
Creation Of Smart Classrooms, Inclusive Of Penetration Of Digital Infrastrucure In Urban Govt.School	Gujarat	5
Construction Of A School Building, Align Nep Learning Intervention, Capacity Expansion & Rezoning Of The Narayan Rao Melgiri National Law Library, Digital Literacy Program, Excellence Program, Pan-India Awards For Unique Solutions For Social Problems, Support For Training And Research, Support The Infosys Foundation, Training And Placing Unemployed Literate Youth, Construction Of Skill Development Training Center And Other Facilities	Karnataka	68.93
Outreach Programs At Agastya Internation Foundation Through Mobile Outreach Unit And Teacher Trainin	Pan India	4.94
Construction Of Stem Labs, Construction Of A Hostel For Girls	Tamil Nadu	31.8

103

TATA STEEL LIMITED

Average Net Profit	22845.91
CSR Prescribed Expenditure	456.92
Total CSR Spent	475.11
CSR Spent on Education	111.92
CSR Share Spent on Education	24%

111.92
24%

363.19
76%

■ CSR EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION   ■ CSR EXPENDITURE ON OTHER SECTORS

List of Major CSR Projects in Education Sector

CSR Project(s)	State	Amount Spent (INR Cr.)
Capacity Building/Coaching Programmes, Support To Sc/St Students In Higher Education	Jharkhand	3.1
Education Signature Programme, 30 Model School Project	Odisha	26.85
Child Education Support Through Primary Learning Center, Fellowship/Scholarship Programme For Students, Pre-Matric Coaching, School Improvement Project (1000 Schools Project), Support For Educational Programmes, Support For Schools/Institutions (Educational Infrastructure), Support To Drop Out Students Through Bridge Courses, Support To Sc/St Students In Education, Support To Sc/St Youths For Educational Coaching, Support To Selected Schools	Pan India	81.25
Promoting Education For Youth	Uttar Pradesh	0.7

105

Average Net Profit	14551.71
CSR Prescribed Expenditure	291.03
Total CSR Spent	231.09
CSR Spent on Education	105.24
CSR Share Spent on Education	46%
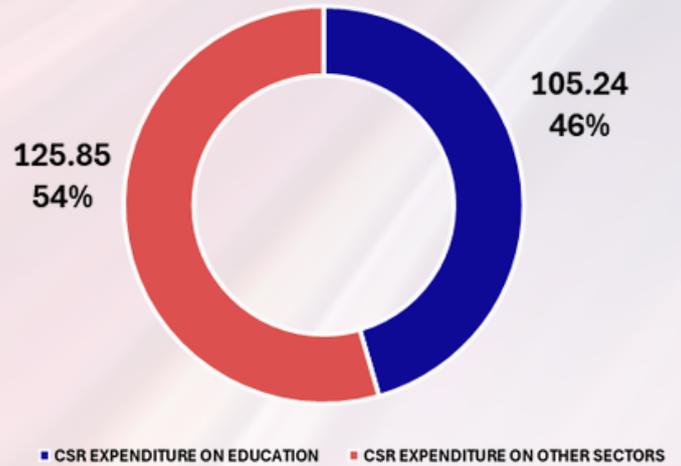
125.85
54%

105.24
46%

■ CSR EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION ■ CSR EXPENDITURE ON OTHER SECTORS

List of CSR Projects in Education Sector

CSR Project(s)	State	Amount Spent (INR Cr.)
Educational Infrastructure & Systems Strengthening	Pan India	105.24

Reliance Jio
Infocomm Limited

Average Net Profit	14442.5
CSR Prescribed Expenditure	288.85
Total CSR Spent	289.5
CSR Spent on Education	100.5
CSR Share Spent on Education	35%

100.5
35%

189
65%

- CSR EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION
- CSR EXPENDITURE ON OTHER SECTORS
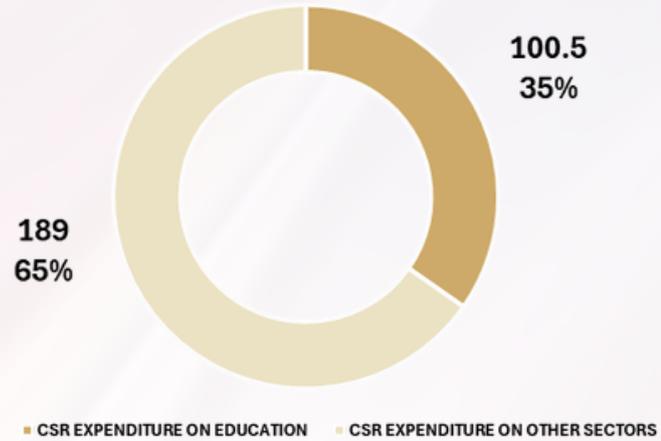
List of CSR Projects in Education Sector

CSR Project(s)	State	Amount Spent (INR Cr.)
Other Initiatives Including Programme Partnerships	Gujarat	86
Scholarship And Education Support, Vocational Skilling And Employment	Maharashtra	7.48
Vocational Skilling And Employment	Punjab	0.85
Vocational Skilling And Employment, Infrastructure Development For Primary Schools, Aanganwadi	Uttar Pradesh	6.17

Case Study:
Reliance Foundation– Transforming Education and Empowering India's Youth

Overview

Reliance Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Reliance Industries Limited, has emerged as a leading force in advancing quality education and youth empowerment across India. With a network of **14 Reliance Foundation Schools** and a scholarship ecosystem that has supported **over 12,700 meritorious students**, the Foundation has built a holistic, future-ready model for nurturing India's next generation of leaders. Its work spans early childhood education, school excellence, and higher-education scholarships, all rooted in the belief of Founder-Chairman Shri Dhirubhai Ambani that "*the best way to ensure the nation's progress is to invest in its youth*."

Challenge

India's diverse socio-economic landscape presents persistent challenges in access to high-quality education, especially for students from low-income and marginalized communities. Many young learners face barriers such as limited exposure to modern pedagogy, inadequate early childhood learning environments, and financial constraints that hinder pathways to higher education. Reliance Foundation recognized the need for an integrated strategy—one that strengthens learning ecosystems from early childhood through higher education while ensuring equitable access and opportunities for all.

Solution: A Multi-Level Educational Intervention

Reliance Foundation's approach spans three strategic pillars:

1. School Education Through Reliance Foundation Schools

Located across Jamnagar, Surat, Vadodara, Dahej, Lodhivali, Nagothane, Nagpur, and Navi Mumbai, the **14 Reliance Foundation Schools** serve around **14,500 children annually** and employ nearly **800 educators**. These schools function as models of excellence by:

- Offering a blend of curricular and co-curricular learning
- Aligning with CBSE, Gujarat State Board, and Maharashtra State Board
- Providing education from Kindergarten to Class 12
- Adopting a flexible and contemporary curriculum
- Integrating innovative pedagogical practices focused on intellectual and creative development

The schools emphasize holistic development—academics, values, creativity, and global citizenship—preparing students for lifelong learning and leadership.

Their consistent performance underscores their quality: in 2021–22 alone, the schools secured **7 international, 27 national, and 125 zonal, state, and district awards, with 38% of Class 10 and 28% of Class 12 students** scoring above 90% in CBSE board exams.

2. Higher-Education Scholarships

For more than 25 years, Reliance has supported talented students nationwide through two flagship scholarship programs:

- **Dhirubhai Ambani Scholarship (DAS)** – Established in 1996, DAS provides merit-cum-means scholarships to exceptional students from financially constrained backgrounds for undergraduate studies. To date, it has supported **12,776 students,** including **50% women** and **20% specially-abled** scholars.
- **Reliance Foundation Scholarships (RFS)** – Launched in 2020–21, RFS invests in India's brightest young minds in **AI, Computer Science, Mathematics & Computing**, **Electrical/Electronic Engineering** and related fields. Each year, **100 scholars** are selected through a rigorous merit-based process. Students receive not only financial support but also comprehensive development through expert interactions, industry exposure, and volunteering experiences that foster innovation for social good.

3. Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE)

Recognizing that early years form the foundation for lifelong learning, Reliance Foundation is actively working to strengthen ECCE systems across India. Aligned with the **National Education Policy 2020**, the Foundation collaborates with communities, educators, and subject experts to:

- Promote play-based, activity-centered learning
- Build evidence-based early learning models across diverse contexts
- Improve developmental outcomes for millions of pre-school children, especially from marginalized communities

Impact

Reliance Foundation's comprehensive educational initiatives have significantly improved access, equity, and excellence in learning. From modernizing school education to empowering vulnerable students through scholarships and investing in foundational learning, the Foundation is reshaping India's education landscape. Its programs demonstrate how targeted interventions, supported by strong pedagogy and holistic student development, can yield measurable outcomes at scale.

Conclusion

Through its integrated ecosystem of schools, scholarships, and early learning initiatives, Reliance Foundation has created a sustainable model for nurturing India's future leaders. By combining academic excellence with inclusive opportunities and future-focused learning pathways, the Foundation is not only transforming individual lives but also contributing to the nation's long-term human capital development.

Case Study:
HDFC Bank – Empowering Tribal Girls and Strengthening Early Childhood Education

Overview

HDFC Bank's commitment to social responsibility extends far beyond financial inclusion. Through targeted interventions focused on education and youth development, the Bank has created sustainable, community-led impact in some of India's most underserved regions. Two initiatives—**a sports-based empowerment program for tribal adolescent girls in Jharkhand and the revitalization of pre-primary education centers in Karnataka**—demonstrate the Bank's holistic approach to fostering human development through its CSR programs.

Challenge

In Jharkhand's West Singhbhum district, many rural tribal communities face socio-economic vulnerabilities rooted in limited agricultural knowledge, seasonal migration, and the presence of local mining industries. These pressures often force children into early labor, depriving adolescent girls of educational continuity and safe spaces for growth.

In parallel, pre-primary education infrastructure in many parts of rural Karnataka suffers from chronic neglect. Anganwadi centers—critical to early childhood learning—often lack adequate ventilation, stimulating learning materials, or safe environments. These deficiencies hinder the cognitive and socio-emotional development of young children during a crucial growth phase.

HDFC Bank recognized the need for interventions that not only addressed immediate gaps but also created environments where children—girls and young learners alike—could thrive.

Solution: Community-Driven, Inclusive Development

1. Motivating Tribal Girls Through Sports (Jharkhand)

Partnering with NGO NEEDS, HDFC Bank identified that the Ho tribal community in Jhinkpani block had a strong cultural inclination toward archery. Leveraging this traditional affinity, the Bank organized a **15-day Archery Camp in July 2018** for adolescent girls aged 11 to 18 from 15 villages.

Key actions included:

- Identifying 239 girls across the community
- Selecting 74 girls for specialized coaching
- Providing structured training anchored in local cultural strengths
- Integrating sports as a pathway to confidence, discipline, and community recognition

The impact was immediate and multi-dimensional. Teachers reported a noticeable increase in school attendance among girls who participated in the camp. The initiative also inspired non-participant girls to explore sports, instilling motivation and aspiration. Remarkably, **six girls from the camp were selected by the West Singhbhum Archery team for the State Archery Championship,** demonstrating the program's ability to unlock latent talent and create new opportunities.

2. *Creating Engaging Early Learning Environments (Karnataka)*

Under the **HDFC Bank Holistic Rural Development Programme (HRDP)**, the Bank invested in strengthening pre-primary education infrastructure by renovating **five Anganwadi centers** in Hallisalgar gram panchayat, Aland Taluka.

The intervention addressed both structural and educational gaps through:

- Major and minor repairs to buildings
- Painting and beautification
- Creation of vibrant educational walls with alphabets, numbers, animals, and motivational content
- Provision of child-friendly furniture—chairs, tables, storage units
- Supplying play materials and water purifiers

These improvements benefitted over **115 children**, transforming dilapidated spaces into stimulating learning environments. As a result, teachers observed a significant increase in attendance and enthusiasm among young children. The success prompted plans to expand similar improvements across all Anganwadis under HRDP in the district.

The local Child Development Project Officer (CDPO), Mr. Shrikanth, noted that such centers could substantially enhance early childhood development across the region if replicated widely.

Impact

Together, these interventions highlight HDFC Bank's ability to design **context-sensitive CSR programs** that blend cultural understanding, community participation, and developmental priorities. The archery initiative empowered adolescent girls with confidence, discipline, and recognition, while the Anganwadi renovations strengthened foundational learning environments for young children.

Conclusion

HDFC Bank's CSR initiatives in Jharkhand and Karnataka demonstrate a deep commitment to enabling human potential across age groups and social contexts. By investing in culturally grounded sports programs and nurturing early childhood learning infrastructure, the Bank is not only enhancing education but also fostering long-term community empowerment. These success stories reaffirm the transformative impact that thoughtful, community-centered CSR can achieve.

Unlocking Potential: Areas for Future Education CSR Initiatives

India is home to one of the largest youth populations in the world, a demographic dividend that holds immense potential. However, the key to unlocking this potential lies in ensuring inclusive, equitable, and quality education for all. The New Education Policy (NEP) 2020 has laid out a transformative vision, but bridging the systemic gaps will require coordinated efforts beyond government interventions. Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), when directed strategically, can play a crucial role in reshaping India's educational landscape.

According to the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER, 2023), while enrollment levels in elementary education remain high, foundational literacy and numeracy skills among children are still alarmingly low, particularly in rural areas. Moreover, the pandemic has exacerbated digital divides, teacher shortages, dropout rates, and infrastructure deficits. In this scenario, CSR in education must go beyond funding schools; it must foster innovation, inclusivity, and systemic change.

The Disparity in Education Access

Despite improvements in enrollment, access to quality education remains deeply unequal.

Rural-urban divides, socio-economic barriers, and gender disparities continue to affect millions of children. For example, children from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are more likely to face exclusion due to poverty, geographical isolation, or cultural stigma (UNICEF, 2022).

Infrastructure is a critical concern. Many government schools still lack basic amenities like functional toilets, libraries, and internet connectivity. In tribal belts and remote regions, the nearest school may be several kilometres away, discouraging attendance. For children with disabilities, the barriers are even more profound, with less than 25% of schools meeting accessibility standards (UNESCO, 2023).

The Urgent Need for Equitable and Quality Education

The NEP 2020 emphasizes foundational literacy and numeracy (FLN) as a priority. Without these basic skills, children are likely to fall behind in subsequent grades, leading to disengagement and dropout. The National Achievement Survey (NAS, 2021) revealed that over 50% of Grade 3 students struggle with simple arithmetic and reading comprehension.

Quality also involves the availability of trained teachers, relevant curriculum, and participatory pedagogy. India faces a shortfall of nearly 1 million trained teachers, particularly in government schools (MHRD, 2020). Furthermore, classroom methods often fail to adapt to the linguistic, cultural, and cognitive needs of diverse learners. CSR initiatives must respond to these systemic inadequacies.

The Role of CSR in Strengthening Education

Corporations have the resources, networks, and capacity to contribute meaningfully to the education sector. The Companies Act, 2013, mandates that companies meeting specific financial thresholds allocate at least 2% of their average net profits towards Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities, including those in education. However, the true impact of this mandate depends on how strategically and thoughtfully these funds are utilized.

CSR in education must go beyond the construction of classrooms or distribution of books. Effective CSR initiatives should aim for scalable, sustainable, and measurable outcomes. This includes supporting teacher training programs, investing in early childhood education, promoting STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education, especially for girls and introducing digital learning tools in underserved communities. Strengthening STEM education is particularly crucial in today's technology-driven world, where equipping students with scientific and analytical skills can significantly enhance their future career prospects.

In recent years, several corporations have taken meaningful steps to support STEM learning in India. For instance, companies like IBM and Intel have launched school-based programs focused on coding, AI, and robotics. Tech Mahindra Foundation has established STEM labs in government schools, while Tata Consultancy Services runs initiatives like Ignite My Future in School (IMFIS), which integrates computational thinking into middle school curricula. Despite these promising examples, access remains uneven, especially in rural and tribal areas where exposure to modern technology and science education is minimal.

To expand the impact, companies can invest further in mobile STEM labs, remote mentoring through digital platforms, and curriculum development in regional languages to make science education more accessible. Partnerships with grassroots NGOs and educational startups can help localize solutions and ensure long-term engagement. Encouraging project-based learning, organizing STEM fairs, and training educators in hands-on teaching methodologies can also nurture curiosity and innovation among students. Moreover, targeted interventions to encourage girls' participation in STEM, such as scholarship schemes, female scientist role model campaigns, and all-girls coding bootcamps, can address the persistent gender disparity in science and technology fields.

Utilizing Technology

Technology has the power to democratize education, but only if access is equitable. According to the National Sample Survey (NSS, 2022), only 24% of Indian households have access to internet facilities. In rural areas, the figure is even lower. CSR initiatives must invest in digital infrastructure, devices and internet connectivity to localised content and digital literacy training.

Platforms like DIKSHA (Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing) offer valuable resources, but adoption remains patchy due to lack of awareness or teacher training. CSR can bridge this gap by facilitating workshops, improving hardware availability, and promoting inclusive ed-tech solutions that cater to children with disabilities and those in vernacular language contexts.

Building Foundations: Why Education, Youth, and Livelihoods Deserve Public and CSR Investment

Investing in education is not just a developmental priority it is an economic imperative. In the Union Budget 2022–2023, the Government of India allocated ₹1.04 lakh crore to the Ministry of Education, reflecting a growing national focus on universal learning and skill development. Of this, around ₹63,449 crore was allocated to school education, while ₹40,828 crore supported higher education initiatives. Key schemes, such as Samagra Shiksha, PM SHRI Schools, and PM e-Vidya, were part of this push to improve quality and access.

Despite this substantial public investment, India's vast and diverse population of over 250 million children and youth presents challenges that require multi-sectoral collaboration. Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) has emerged as a key player in this space. In FY 2022–23, Indian companies invested over ₹1,500 crore in education-related CSR activities, making it the top priority area for CSR spending (MCA, 2023). An additional ₹500 crore was directed toward youth skilling, vocational training, and employability programs under the livelihood development category.

CSR can amplify government efforts by:
- Supporting community learning centers, digital classrooms, libraries, and mobile education units.
- Funding scholarships, digital devices, and remedial education for children in rural and low-income areas.
- Partnering with grassroots NGOs for youth skill development, apprenticeship models, and entrepreneurship training.

Proven models such as Pratham's Teaching at the Right Level, Tata STRIVE's vocational programs, and Lend-A-Hand India's school-to-work transitions demonstrate how public-private partnerships can lead to better learning outcomes and job readiness.

Education must go beyond textbooks and classrooms. When both the government and private sector invest meaningfully, we create pathways for empowered, skilled, and employable youth laying the foundation for a more equitable and resilient India.

IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION

1

Education Powers

Personal Development
Boosts confidence and communication
Builds decision-making and emotional intelligence
Shapes values, ethics, and empathy
Encourages self-awareness and lifelong growth

2

From Tradition to Modern Learning

Gurukul & chalkboards →
Smartboards & e-learning
Shift from rote learning to critical thinking
Emphasis on creativity, problem-solving, and adaptability

3

Social Impact of Education

Promotes equality and poverty reduction
Builds informed, responsible citizens
Reduces crime through awareness
Fosters unity through cultural understanding

4

Tech + Education = Future Ready

Online classes, digital libraries, AI tutors
Personalized learning experiences
VR & AR for immersive education
Global access to quality learning

5

Gateway to Career Opportunities

In-demand fields: IT, healthcare, finance, data science
Career progression through upskilling & certifications
Entrepreneurship and innovation powered by knowledge
Better job security and higher income potential

National Education Policy 2020: Emphasis on Foundational Literacy and STEM

India's National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 represents a landmark transformation in the country's education system, ushering in a new vision for holistic, inclusive, and forward-looking learning. Approved by the Union Cabinet on 29 July 2020, it replaces the 1986 education policy and aims to align India's learning outcomes with 21st-century demands. The policy is grounded in the principles of Access, Equity, Quality, Affordability, and Accountability, with an overarching ambition of transforming India into a "vibrant knowledge society" and a "global knowledge superpower."

Other major reforms include the universalization of pre-primary education, instruction in the mother tongue or regional language until at least Grade 5, integration of vocational education, and emphasis on technology use across all levels of education. In higher education, the policy envisions multidisciplinary institutions, flexible curricula, and a new National Research Foundation to boost research and increase Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) in tertiary education.


Reimagining the Educational Framework

NEP 2020 has fundamentally restructured school education. One of the most significant changes is the transition from the traditional 10+2 system to a more developmentally appropriate 5+3+3+4 curricular structure, covering children from ages 3 to 18. This structure includes foundational, preparatory, middle, and secondary stages, acknowledging the critical importance of early childhood care and education (ECCE).

Tackling the Learning Crisis: Focus on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN)

Central to NEP 2020 is its response to India's long-standing "learning crisis"—millions of children finishing primary school without mastering basic reading or arithmetic. Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) is recognized as the cornerstone for all future learning. Children unable to read or perform basic calculations by Grade 3 are at risk of falling behind permanently, resulting in stagnating learning outcomes and eventual dropouts.
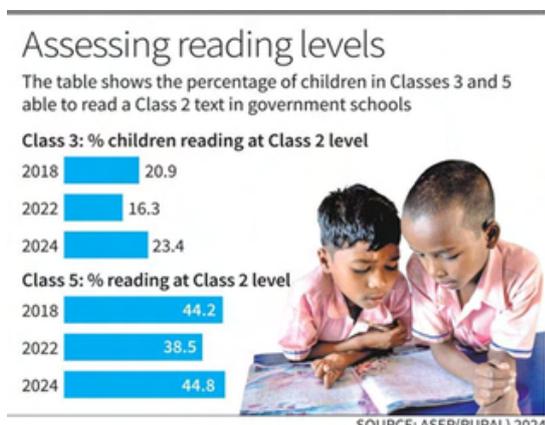
To address this, the government launched NIPUN Bharat (National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy) in July 2021. This mission sets concrete "lakshya" goals to ensure that every child in India achieves foundational literacy and numeracy by Grade 3. It provides states with defined learning outcomes across six stages (preschool to Grade 3), detailed guidelines, and implementation tools such as Vidya Pravesh (a 3-month school readiness program) and teacher training modules via DIKSHA, the national digital learning platform.

As of 2024, over 80% of government schools report receiving explicit directives to implement FLN initiatives in Grades I–III, and approximately 75% have been equipped with specialized Teaching-Learning Materials (TLMs). This widespread adoption signals a strong systemic push toward foundational learning.
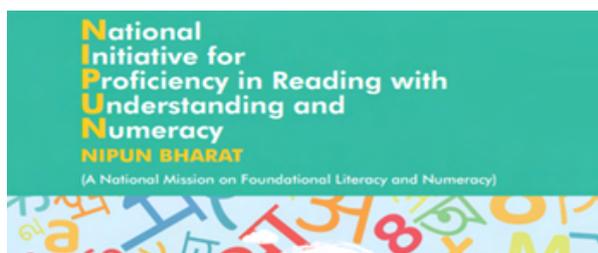
Evidence from the Ground: ASER Insights

To monitor progress, India relies heavily on data from the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) by Pratham, which evaluates basic reading and arithmetic skills among children aged 5–16.

Assessing reading levels
The table shows the percentage of children in Classes 3 and 5 able to read a Class 2 text in government schools

Class 3: % children reading at Class 2 level
2018 — 20.9
2022 — 16.3
2024 — 23.4

Class 5: % reading at Class 2 level
2018 — 44.2
2022 — 38.5
2024 — 44.8

SOURCE: ASER(RURAL) 2024

Pandemic Setback (2020–2022):
ASER 2022 revealed a significant decline in foundational learning due to COVID-19 school closures. For example, only 20.5% of Class 3 students could read a Grade 2 level text in 2022, down from 27.3% in 2018. Arithmetic skills also declined, and overall reading levels regressed to pre-2012 levels, effectively undoing a decade of progress.

Recovery and Gains (2023–2024):
Encouragingly, ASER 2024 reports signs of strong recovery. Class 3 reading proficiency rebounded to 23.4%, surpassing the pre-pandemic 2018 level of 20.9%. Similarly, subtraction skills improved to 33.7% (from 28.2% in 2018). Notably, government schools saw the most progress—reading scores rose from 16.3% in 2022 to 23.4% in 2024. Analysts attribute these gains to NIPUN Bharat interventions, remedial classes, and improved teacher presence post-pandemic.

Wider Shifts:
ASER data also show positive long-term trends: enrolment rates among 6–14-year-olds are now over 98%, and pre-primary enrolment of 3- and 4-year-olds has significantly increased since 2018. After a pandemic-driven surge in government school enrolment, rural private school enrolment is now gradually returning to pre-COVID levels.

Overall, the ASER findings suggest that India is not just recovering but improving, with foundational literacy and numeracy showing meaningful gains due to policy-driven efforts.

Strengthening STEM Education and Innovation

In parallel with FLN, NEP 2020 emphasizes STEM education (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) as essential for preparing students for the future workforce. It calls for experiential, application-based learning, cross-disciplinary integration, and the nurturing of computational thinking and problem-solving skills from an early age.

Key STEM Initiatives:

- Coding Curriculum: Since 2021, CBSE has introduced a 12-hour coding module for Grades VI–VIII, aimed at building logical reasoning and digital fluency through block-based coding and basic algorithms—laying the foundation for AI, robotics, and data science.
- Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs): Established by the Atal Innovation Mission (NITI Aayog), ATLs are maker-spaces in schools equipped with 3D printers, robotics kits, and IoT tools. Budget 2025 has allocated funds to set up 50,000 additional ATLs in government schools over five years.
- Innovation Labs and Maker Spaces: Many schools now host labs where students design prototypes, conduct experiments, and work on real-world challenges—promoting creativity and applied science.
- EdTech Platforms: Platforms like DIKSHA and Khan Academy are widely used to provide digital content, assessment tools, and teacher training. Smart classrooms with projectors and internet access are becoming the norm.
- New Pedagogies: NEP encourages project-based learning, flipped classrooms, and STEAM (STEM + Arts) approaches. Many schools now use competency-based assessments and ensure at least one FLN-trained teacher in early grades.

Impact: ATL school surveys show that 74.4% of students are now interested in STEM careers, signalling increased engagement and aspiration among learners.

Global Comparisons and Strategic Alignment

India's dual focus on FLN and STEM aligns with global education priorities. Top-performing systems like Singapore and Finland stress inquiry-based science and early exposure to coding and robotics. UNESCO's learning goals and international assessments such as PISA and TIMSS consistently show that strong early literacy and numeracy translate into better long-term academic and innovation performance.

India's expanding STEM ecosystem, through ATLs, DIKSHA, and coding curricula, echoes the World Bank's "3i" strategy (Investment, Infusion, Innovation) for overcoming the middle-income trap. While Western models often emphasize individual creative expression, India's approach emphasizes community-centric problem-solving and inclusive innovation, tailored to its own socio-economic landscape.

Despite progress, India still lags on global benchmarks—PISA 2009 results were low, and India has since opted out of recent rounds. However, NEP 2020 sets out an ambitious roadmap to close these gaps by embedding FLN and STEM from the grassroots level.

Five years into implementation, NEP 2020 is clearly shaping the future of Indian education. Its strong emphasis on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) and STEM innovation is evident across policy actions, infrastructure investment, and emerging learning outcomes. Programs like NIPUN Bharat, Vidya Pravesh, and ATLs, along with tools like DIKSHA, are ensuring that both basic and advanced skills are prioritized in the classroom.

While challenges persist—particularly in rural infrastructure, teacher capacity, and monitoring—early data from ASER and other evaluations are promising. India is aligning itself with international best practices while leveraging homegrown solutions like vernacular instruction and local makerspaces. As the NEP envisions, achieving "literacy for all" and "STEM innovation for the future" will depend on collective and sustained implementation, but the foundations are firmly being laid.

India's education system stands at a critical crossroads marked by both inspiring innovation and persistent inequities. While digital technologies, progressive policies, and grassroots experimentation are reshaping how children and youth learn, the country still grapples with significant challenges around learning outcomes, equity, and access.

According to UNESCO and the World Bank, nearly 73% of children in developing countries are unable to read a simple text by age 10. In India, this learning crisis is equally alarming: about 56% of children in late primary school lack basic reading proficiency. The Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2023 reinforces these concerns—revealing that 25% of rural youth aged 14–18 cannot fluently read a Grade 2-level text, and fewer than half can perform simple arithmetic tasks like division. These figures highlight the depth of the learning poverty crisis and the urgency for systemic change.

Digital Transformation and Technological Innovations

India's response has been multi-pronged and forward-looking. A key component of its education reform has been the rapid integration of digital technology. Launched in 2017, the DIKSHA platform (Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing) has emerged as a flagship initiative to support school education. Offering content in 36 languages, DIKSHA provides QR-coded textbooks, interactive lessons, assessment tools, and teacher training modules. By 2024, the platform had recorded over 182 million enrollments and 145 million course completions, with students and educators spending over 60 billion minutes on the platform.

Complementing DIKSHA are platforms like SWAYAM, e-Pathshala, and the National Repository of Open Educational Resources (NROER), which offer free and accessible digital content to millions. These digital public goods not only democratize access to quality resources but also serve as the backbone for hybrid and remote learning models that proved vital during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In parallel, India's EdTech ecosystem is thriving. Startups such as Embibe, TagHive, Learning Matters, and Jungroo are leveraging artificial intelligence to personalize learning experiences. For instance, TagHive's ClassSaathi uses AI-powered quizzes and Bluetooth clickers to boost classroom engagement, while Embibe employs machine learning to identify individual learning gaps and recommend tailored learning paths.

State-led Innovation and Inclusive Models

Several states have taken the lead in localizing and scaling digital education. Kerala, for example, is a trailblazer with its Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education (KITE) initiative. The state has distributed over 29,000 robotics kits in public schools, integrated AI and robotics into the Class 10 curriculum, and is building its own AI engine for school education. These innovations are supported by CSR partnerships with organizations like Indian Oil and Canara Bank.

Yet, despite these strides, digital exclusion remains a formidable barrier. As of 2024, around 665 million Indians—almost 45% of the population—still lacked access to the internet. This digital divide disproportionately affects rural areas, girls, lower-income households, and tribal communities. Without targeted interventions, the very technologies meant to bridge learning gaps risk deepening them.

Policy Reforms: NEP 2020 and Systemic Overhaul

India's National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 lays the groundwork for comprehensive transformation. It emphasizes foundational literacy and numeracy through the NIPUN Bharat Mission, competency-based learning, critical thinking, and multilingual instruction. States are aligning their curricula accordingly—Kerala, for example, now teaches AI fundamentals and robotics in schools.

The NEP also promotes experiential and arts-integrated learning, in line with UNESCO's vision for culturally enriched education. Initiatives like community science gardens, Bal Bhavans, and robotics camps are fostering creativity and practical skills among students.

Teacher capacity-building forms another cornerstone of reform. Programs like NISHTHA (National Initiative for School Heads and Teachers' Holistic Advancement) and SWAYAM offer robust digital training for educators. Progressive schools are shifting away from rote assessments toward project-based evaluations and digital portfolios. IIT-linked institutions, for example, encourage students to maintain ongoing portfolios as part of a continuous assessment model.

Bridging the Skill Gap: Vocational and Hybrid Learning

India is also making strides in aligning education with employability. Vocational education, promoted through Skill India and Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), introduces students to trades and technical skills early on. Collaborations with NIIT, Khan Academy, and others have brought financial literacy, coding, and problem-solving modules into mainstream schooling.

Hybrid learning - blending in-person teaching with digital resources - has emerged as a standard model post-pandemic. It increases education system resilience and ensures continuity, particularly in emergencies. Platforms like PM eVIDYA, which delivers educational content through TV, radio, and online media, have extended the reach of learning even to remote households.

Public-Private Partnerships: Scaling Innovation

Corporate and philanthropic foundations have significantly contributed to advancing educational equity and innovation across India through diverse, high-impact initiatives. The Infosys Foundation's Education for Employment programme, launched in 2024, committed INR 38 crore to establish ten Centres of Excellence in top engineering colleges. These centers, equipped with digital labs and maker spaces, have already trained over 2,000 faculty members in project-based and AI-integrated pedagogy. The initiative also organizes a national hackathon engaging over 10,000 students in solving real-world engineering challenges. Similarly, the Reliance Foundation's Future Ready Skills Initiative, launched in 2025 in partnership with the NSDC, seeks to skill five lakh students across 700 institutions in Madhya Pradesh in emerging fields such as AI, cybersecurity, and EdTech. This initiative integrates AI-proctored assessments, industry-academia conclaves, and scholarships for 5,000 underprivileged students each year, making skilling accessible and inclusive.

Other foundations have focused on marginalized communities and holistic development. HCL Foundation's Touch, Learn and Shine model supports visually impaired children in 38,000 villages, enabling access to education through raised-line maps, tactile diagrams, and mobile resource labs. Backed by a ₹5 crore grant to Raised Lines Foundation, the program reaches 8,000 students monthly and has trained 1,500 teachers in multisensory pedagogy. Tata Trusts, through its Eastern UP Education Initiative, has impacted 58,000 children by improving school infrastructure, enhancing teacher training, and promoting digital literacy. Its collaboration with CBSE on experiential learning in science and math has strengthened conceptual understanding for marginalized students. Meanwhile, the Wipro Foundation supports 160 partner organizations across 25 states, addressing foundational literacy, arts education, digital skills, and inclusive education. Its flagship disability education program, which reached 24,000 children in 11 states last year, aims to expand to 250,000 by 2030 through early intervention and community-led models.
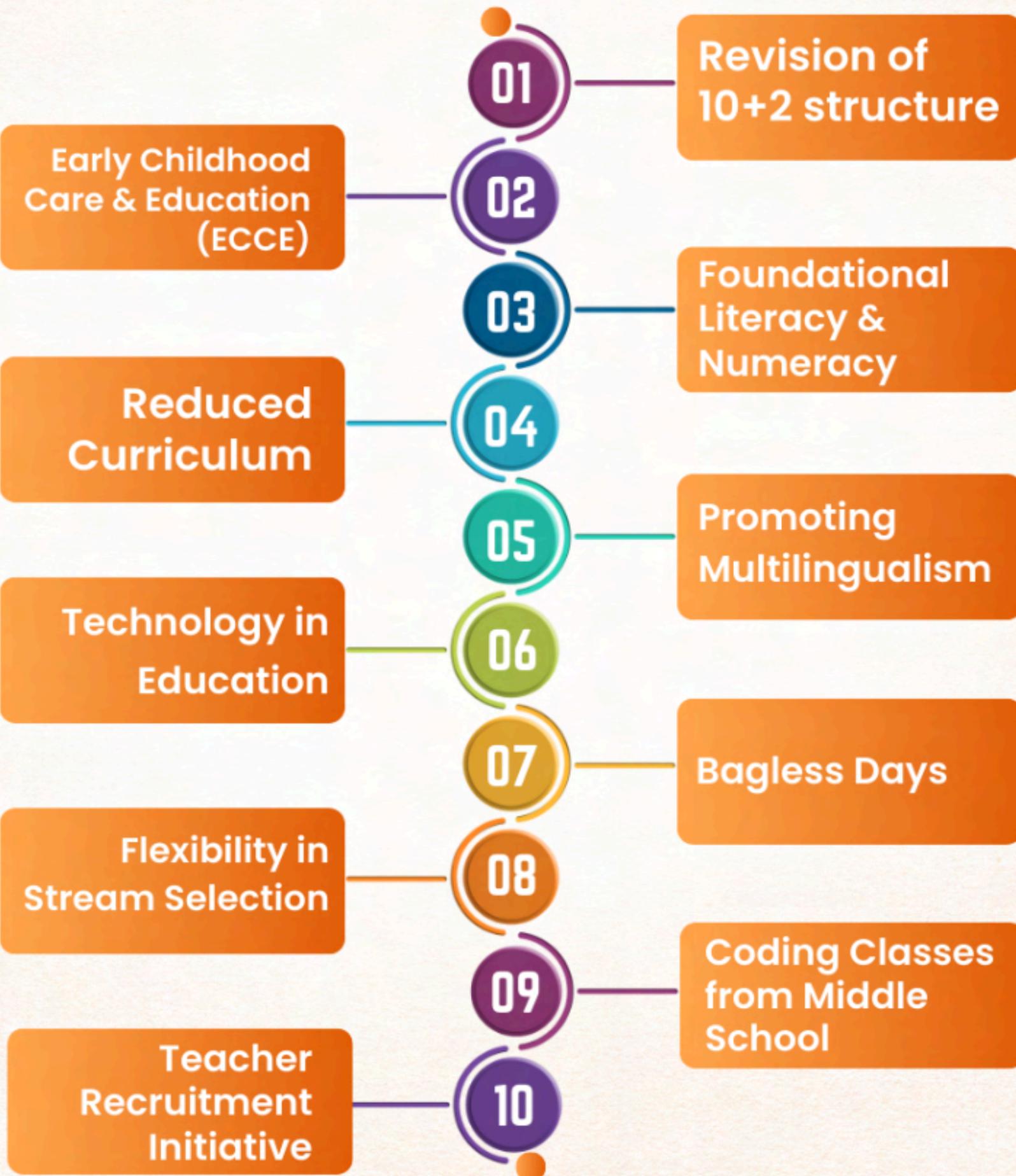
Global Engagement and the Road Ahead

India is actively engaging in global educational dialogues, including UNESCO's Education 2030 agenda and the G20 Education Working Group. Its emphasis on open-source digital infrastructure and Digital Public Goods like DIKSHA has been highlighted as a model in international forums. Simultaneously, India continues to learn from successful global practices—such as Finland's teacher autonomy and Singapore's professional development systems.

India's education journey is defined by a complex interplay of innovation and inequality. While platforms like DIKSHA, AI-powered EdTech tools, arts-integrated pedagogy, and hybrid classrooms represent a bold new direction, the country must tackle foundational issues: learning poverty, digital exclusion, and teacher preparedness especially in under-resourced regions.

As UNESCO emphasizes, "digital learning must be inclusive, contextual, and empowering." India's challenge now is to scale what works, deepen its investment in foundational skills, and ensure that every child - not just the digitally connected - could learn, grow, and thrive.

FEATURES OF NEW NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY 2020 OF INDIA

01 Revision of 10+2 structure

02 Early Childhood Care & Education (ECCE)

03 Foundational Literacy & Numeracy

04 Reduced Curriculum

05 Promoting Multilingualism

06 Technology in Education

07 Bagless Days

08 Flexibility in Stream Selection

09 Coding Classes from Middle School

10 Teacher Recruitment Initiative

Building Futures: How Education-Centered CSR Can Drive Multiple SDGs

Breaking the Cycle of Poverty (SDG 1)

Access to quality education and vocational skills empowers individuals to secure stable jobs and improve their income levels. CSR-funded skill training programs like Tata STRIVE, Infosys Springboard, and HCL Samuday help youth from low-income communities enter the workforce, breaking intergenerational poverty. Education acts as an economic equalizer, enabling people to access better opportunities and financial independence.

Tackling Malnutrition Through School-Based Interventions (SDG 2)

CSR efforts in education often overlap with nutrition, especially in rural and marginalized communities. Programs that support mid-day meals, nutrition awareness, and school kitchen gardens not only improve children's health but also boost attendance and learning outcomes. Companies like Akshaya Patra Foundation, supported by several corporates under CSR, have served millions of nutritious meals, addressing both hunger and classroom engagement.

Advancing Gender Equality (SDG 5)

Girls often face barriers like child marriage, household responsibilities, and lack of menstrual hygiene facilities, which affect their school attendance. CSR programs that invest in girls' education, safe transport, gender-sensitive infrastructure, and menstrual health awareness play a pivotal role in keeping girls in school. Initiatives like Project Nanhi Kali (supported by Mahindra Group) provide academic support, dignity kits, and community outreach, reducing dropout rates among adolescent girls.

Fostering Decent Work and Economic Growth (SDG 8)

CSR contributions to vocational education, apprenticeships, and entrepreneurship training are essential for a future-ready workforce. Programs like Lend-A-Hand India, NSDC partnerships, and CSR-backed rural skill centers prepare youth for jobs in manufacturing, digital services, hospitality, and agriculture. By bridging the education-to-employment gap, CSR is directly contributing to national productivity and GDP growth.
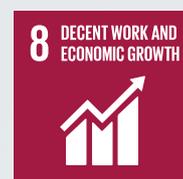
Reducing Inequality (SDG 10)

Marginalized groups such as Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, children with disabilities, and migrant communities face disproportionate barriers in accessing education. Inclusive CSR models focus on community-specific learning content, local language resources, special educators, and digital inclusion. Companies like Wipro, Microsoft, and Dell have CSR programs promoting tech-enabled learning to ensure no child is left behind.

Challenges in CSR for Education: Barriers to Impact and Sustainability

FRAGMENTATION OF EFFORTS

Many CSR education projects are short-term and disconnected from community realities or national frameworks like the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. This fragmentation leads to scattered outcomes and limited scalability. A 2023 CSIP report highlights that such isolated interventions often fail to integrate with existing education systems.

WEAK MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Only about 30% of CSR education projects include rigorous impact assessments, according to a 2024 TISS study. Without strong monitoring and data-driven evaluation, it's difficult to track effectiveness, replicate successful models, or make evidence-based improvements.

DUPLICATION AND RESOURCE WASTE

In the absence of coordination, companies often fund similar programs in the same areas, leading to duplication and inefficiency. The World Economic Forum (2023) stresses the need for shared platforms to ensure strategic planning, minimize redundancy, and align efforts with local needs.

LACK OF LONG-TERM COMMITMENT

Many CSR projects lose momentum once initial funding ends. Short-lived interventions offer minimal long-term benefit. Sustainability requires multi-year planning, community ownership, and integration with government programs, as emphasized by ICRIER.

NEED FOR SYSTEMIC COLLABORATION

Transforming CSR in education requires collaborative platforms that unite corporates, NGOs, researchers, and government bodies. Initiatives like CSR Box and India Education Collective show how coordinated action can boost transparency, reduce overlap, and enable larger-scale impact.

FROM CHARITY TO STRATEGIC IMPACT

To create real change, CSR must move beyond one-off donations and aim for systemic transformation. This involves aligning with national goals, building local capacities, and ensuring every rupee spent contributes to sustainable, inclusive education for all.

Conclusion: Shaping India's Learning Future Through Strategic CSR

Over the past seven years, India has witnessed a remarkable evolution in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), transforming from a compliance mandate to a powerful mechanism for social impact. With a cumulative CSR expenditure of **₹1,81,475 crore**, education alone has emerged as the top priority, receiving **₹12,135 crore in FY 2023–24,** its highest allocation to date. This growth is not only financial but structural, reflecting the alignment of corporate priorities with national reforms such as the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, NIPUN Bharat,** and India's expanding STEM ecosystem.

The report highlights how education funding has strengthened, even amid disruptions like COVID-19. After a dip of **−6.8% in 2020–21**, education CSR rebounded sharply with a **55% increase in 2022–23** and **16.5% growth in 2023–24**. Non-PSU companies contributed overwhelmingly, **86% of total CSR in FY 2023–24**, demonstrating stronger agility, innovation, and responsiveness. Leading contributors such as **TCS (₹770 crore), Reliance Industries (₹531 crore), HDFC Bank (₹201 crore)**, and **Infosys (₹166 crore)** continue to shape large-scale interventions across digital infrastructure, teacher training, scholarships, foundational learning, and vocational skills.

The analysis of state-wise spending uncovers stark regional disparities. **Maharashtra alone received more CSR than the next top two states combined,** while states like **Bihar recorded only ₹25 per capita CSR,** the lowest in India. Regions like **Leh–Ladakh (198% increase)** and **Arunachal Pradesh (117% increase)** showed extraordinary growth in education CSR, whereas states such as **Chhattisgarh (−64%)** and **Mizoram (−89%)** saw sharp declines. These geographical patterns underline the urgent need for more equitable distribution and targeted investments.

The broader education ecosystem, early childhood education, foundational literacy, STEM learning, digital skilling, and teacher development, is undergoing transformation. NEP implementation is visible on the ground, supported by CSR efforts in **50,000+ Atal Tinkering Labs**, coding modules, robotics labs, and digital learning tools. With **75% of government schools implementing FLN directives** and platforms like **DIKSHA registering 182 million enrolments,** India is steadily building a technology-enabled education ecosystem.

Yet, challenges remain. Only **30% of CSR education projects** undergo rigorous evaluation; efforts remain fragmented, short-term, and duplicated across regions. Digital divides persist; **45% of Indians still lack internet access**, primarily in rural and tribal areas. Without long-term CSR commitments, systemic linkages, and multi-stakeholder collaboration, the potential impact remains under-realized.

As India continues its journey toward becoming a knowledge society, CSR must evolve from isolated interventions to integrated, strategic, and sustainable investments. Education-focused CSR has the power to drive multiple SDGs, ending learning poverty, increasing gender equity, strengthening livelihoods, accelerating digital inclusion, and enabling economic mobility.

The evidence presented throughout this report makes one message clear: **CSR in education is not charity, it is nation-building**. When companies invest in early childhood care, digital classrooms, inclusive learning, youth skilling, STEM innovation, and teacher capacity, they shape not just classrooms, but futures. The coming decade presents a defining opportunity for India to harness CSR as a transformative force, bridging disparities, elevating learning outcomes, empowering youth, and building an equitable, knowledge-driven India.

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