



Unsung Heroes
Ventures For Humanity

Unsung Heroes - Global Education Mentorship Programme

#ConnectForGlobalChange

UNsung HEROES • GEMP

Global Education Mentorship Programme

Foundational Literacy & Numeracy
in Early Childhood



India

Tech Startup

Education



Dofinansowane przez
Unię Europejską



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Polski

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GROUP 1

Who we are

COUNTRY

India 

TYPE OF PROJECT

Tech Startup

MAIN FOCUS

Education





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GROUP 1

Our Team

TEAM LEADER

Suman Matcha — Founder & CEO, OAKS Solutions · India

MEMBERS

Pavan Kumar Thota

Product Manager · India

Mani Sankar Nakkala

Founder's Office · India

Magdalena Kojdecka

Member · Poland

Anna Kulhawik

Member · Poland

5 members across 2 countries · 🇮🇳 India · 🇵🇱 Poland



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MAP OF UNDERSTANDING

The Map of Understanding includes:

1

A description of the selected global challenge - Why Early Childhood Education Matters ?

2

A description of the selected global challenge - The Global Learning Gap

3

European vs Global South Perspective

4

Differences, similarities & stereotypes

5

Conclusions on global interdependencies and the importance of global education



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| AGES 2-8

“The first eight years of life build the foundation for everything that follows.”

An invisible global challenge is shaping every child's future — and the decisions we make today will determine whether that foundation is strong enough to carry them forward.



A description of the selected global challenge

The first eight years are the most important period of learning and development. During this window, children build the foundations that shape everything that follows — literacy, numeracy, language, cognitive skills, and social-emotional development.

1M+

Neural Connections

form every second during early childhood

90%

Brain Development

occurs before age 5

8

Critical Years

of foundational development



Key insight

Strong foundations built early create lifelong advantages. Weak foundations create learning gaps that become progressively harder to close over time. **Source: UNICEF**

A description of the selected global challenge

Despite the overwhelming evidence for early childhood investment, millions of children lack access to quality early learning. The gap is not just about enrollment — it is about meaningful learning experiences during the years that matter most.

175 Million

children worldwide are not enrolled in pre-primary education.

1 in 5

children in low-income countries attends pre-primary education.

Source: UNICEF

Who is most affected?



Children from low-income families and rural communities



Children in multilingual households and refugee populations



Children in under-resourced schools and early learning centers

European vs Global South Perspective

While the global challenge is universal, specific priorities differ across regions. Understanding these perspectives is essential for designing solutions that work in diverse contexts.

European Perspective

- Personalization of learning pathways
- Digital competencies and EdTech integration
- Social-emotional development
- Inclusion and equity

Example: EU Digital Education Action Plan 2021–2027

Global South Perspective

- Expanding pre-primary enrollment
- School readiness and foundational literacy
- Teacher training and support
- Affordable, scalable solutions

Example: India's NEP 2020 & NIPUN Bharat Mission

Shared Goal

Every child deserves the opportunity to develop strong foundations for lifelong learning — regardless of geography, language, or socioeconomic background.

UNDERSTANDING THE GAP

Learning inequality is a global challenge that appears differently across contexts. Recognizing what we share — and what we misunderstand — is the first step toward effective solutions.

What We Share

- ✓ Parents everywhere want their children to succeed
- ✓ Strong literacy and numeracy foundations matter globally
- ✓ Early childhood is recognized as a critical developmental period

Common Misconceptions

"Children will naturally catch up later."

Gaps widen without intervention.

"Technology is always harmful for young children."

Quality, purposeful EdTech supports development.

"Learning challenges only exist in poorer countries."

Inequality is universal.

Conclusions on global interdependencies

Learning inequality affects more than individual children. When foundational learning fails, entire societies pay the price. When children thrive, everyone benefits.

Today's children will become tomorrow's teachers, scientists, entrepreneurs, healthcare workers, and leaders. Investing in early childhood education is not only a national responsibility — it is a **global one**.

When Children Fall Behind

Learning poverty



Lower lifetime income



Weaker economies



Less resilient communities

When Children Thrive

Strong foundations



Productive citizens



Stronger economies



Thriving societies