

PRESCHOOL (NON-FORMAL EDUCATION)

Learning Begins at Birth



In January 2015, the Rural Reconstruction Foundation (RRF) launched a pioneering community-based pre-school program under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative, aimed at delivering quality early childhood education to children in the Jashore district. Recognizing the importance of a nurturing, stimulating environment for young learners, RRF’s pre-school program focuses on holistic child development, including physical, social, emotional, and cognitive growth for children aged three to four. The educational framework is designed to be adaptable, providing children in rural communities with a foundational education that promotes lifelong learning, well-being, and community connection. Through continuous assessment and improvements, RRF’s framework reflects its commitment to early childhood education and community development.

FACT & FIGURE

Sl.	Fact	Figure
1	Name of the program	Pre-School (Non-Formal Education)
2	Duration	From 2015 till to date
3	Supported By	Rural Reconstruction Foundation
4	No. of Students in FY:2023-24	285 (boys – 131, girls– 154)
5	No. of staff	24 Teachers
6	Number of Pre school	24
7	Working Location	Jashore District (Sadar, Sharsha, Jhikargacha upazilla)

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The Rural Reconstruction Foundation (RRF) established its community-based pre-school program with the following key objectives:

1. **Promote Holistic Child Development:** Support the comprehensive growth of children aged three to four, emphasizing physical, social, emotional, and cognitive development to create a balanced foundation for lifelong learning.
2. **Enhance Access to Early Childhood Education:** Provide affordable, community-based pre-schools within rural areas to ensure that children from underserved communities have access to quality early education close to home.
3. **Foster Parental and Community Engagement:** Actively involve parents and community members in the educational process to create a support network that reinforces the value of early childhood education and encourages consistent attendance.
4. **Cultivate Social and Cultural Awareness:** Celebrate national and cultural events to build cultural pride, social awareness, and community values in young learners.
5. **Encourage Health and Hygiene Practices:** Instill healthy hygiene habits and practices to promote long-term well-being, including activities like regular handwashing and personal care routines.
6. **Empower Local Educators:** Employ and train local female teachers, contributing to community development, creating employment, and fostering a supportive, familiar environment for students.



EDUCATIONAL FRAMEWORK

The RRF CSR-funded community-based pre-school program offers a well-rounded approach to early childhood education, incorporating:

1. **Structured Curriculum:**
 - The program includes tutorials, moral education, and co-curricular activities that lay the foundation for lifelong learning.
 - Learning with materials, interactive activities, and multimedia-based e-learning engages children actively and enhances their cognitive abilities.
2. **Community-Centered Approach:** Located within the community, the school is easily accessible for local families. Female teachers from the community further build trust, ensuring that children learn in a safe and familiar environment.
3. **Engaging Classroom Environment:**



- Classrooms are thoughtfully decorated with educational charts and pictures to create a visually stimulating space conducive to early learning.
 - The use of learning materials and action-based activities encourages hands-on engagement, promoting both physical coordination and critical thinking.
4. **Observation of Special Days and Co-Curricular Activities:**
 - Special days such as International Mother Language Day, Victory Day, Independence Day, and Global Handwashing Day are celebrated to instill cultural awareness and healthy habits.
 - Art and handwriting competitions, a fruit festival, and hygiene activities encourage creativity, physical health, and social interaction.
 5. **Regular Activities:** Emphasis on oral practice, the use of diverse learning materials, and a relaxed approach to education reduce the formal pressure on young learners and foster an enjoyable learning experience

SPECIAL FEATURES

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2. **Annual Sports:** The Annual Sports event at RRF's community-based pre-schools fosters physical fitness and teamwork among children. This lively day includes a variety of games and activities tailored to young learners, encouraging them to engage in healthy competition while developing essential motor skills. Parents and community members are invited to cheer for the children, promoting a sense of community spirit and celebration of physical activity.
3. **Fruit Festival & Pitha Festival:** The Fruit Festival celebration at all RRF pre-schools is a vibrant event designed to educate children about healthy eating habits while having fun. Children participate in activities such as fruit tasting, art projects, and games centered around different fruits. This engaging event not only introduces children to the importance of nutrition but also fosters creativity and teamwork, making healthy choices enjoyable and memorable.
4. **Parental Meetings and Workshops:** Regular parent-teacher interactions promote collaboration, with workshops encouraging parents to engage in their children's educational journey.
5. **Community-Based Teachers:** Local female educators ensure a familiar and supportive learning environment, building trust and accessibility for families.

IMPACT AND COMMUNITY RESPONSE

The program has made a significant positive impact on the community, enhancing early education and development:

- **Child Development:** Through its comprehensive curriculum, the program has improved children's physical coordination, social skills, emotional understanding, and language abilities, equipping them for future academic success.
- **Parental Involvement:** Regular meetings with parents foster a collaborative environment, where parents are encouraged to actively participate in their children's education.
- **Health and Hygiene Awareness:** The inclusion of hygiene practices, such as Global Handwashing Day, promotes health awareness that benefits both the children and the broader community.



CHALLENGES

While the program has been successful, it faces certain challenges that impact its scope and potential:

- **Resource Constraints:** Limited CSR funding restricts the availability of advanced learning materials and multimedia tools, which are crucial for a dynamic early education experience.
- **Ongoing Teacher Development:** The evolving landscape of early childhood education necessitates regular training for teachers, which requires additional resources.
- **Varying Levels of Parental Engagement:** Socio-economic factors limit some parents' ability to participate fully in school activities, affecting their understanding of early education's long-term benefits.

PARENTS REFLECTION

Rik Mondal, a 3.5-year-old child from attends the RRF Kholadanga-2 community pre-school, where his mother, Chandana Dhor, shares her positive experiences. "The community school has made it easy for me to bring my child," she explains. "I can manage my household chores while ensuring Rik receives a quality education. Attending pre-school allows him to learn and socialize with other children, which is essential for his development." Chandana expresses her happiness, stating, "I am grateful that Rik is being prepared for his future educational journey with joy and excitement. He no longer fears studying; instead, he understands that learning can be fun and engaging due to the curriculum." This community initiative has not only enhanced Rik's educational experience but has also supported Chandana in balancing her responsibilities at home.



Student Name: Rik Mondal
Mothers Name: Chandana Dhor
Father's Name: Nayan Mondal
Address: Kholadanga, Sujolpur