

Annual Report 2024-25



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Value-based Education (VbE)

Assam Development Initiative (ADI)
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1. About ADI Trust: Assam Development Initiative (ADI) is an independent trust, registered in Guwahati, Assam (Reg. No. 3440), founded by Mr. Hiren Sarma together with his friend Mr. Biswadip Barooah in 2009. The Trust was registered in Guwahati in 2016 (Registered No. 3440). Until 2017/2018. The primary objective of ADI is to foster the development of youth in Assam and the Northeast through a 'holistic' learning approach that integrates education at home and school, emphasizing core values, life skills, and personal growth. ADI is committed to empowering underprivileged children by ensuring access to basic education, both in rural and urban areas, through various programs, scholarships, and community-driven initiatives. The trust collaborates with educators, volunteers, and organizations to create a supportive learning environment that nurtures talent, instils moral values, and enhances employability skills. Beyond education, ADI also focuses on skill development, mentorship, and awareness programs aimed at uplifting marginalized communities. By fostering inclusive education and holistic development, ADI strives to build a brighter future for the youth of Assam and the Northeast, enabling them to contribute meaningfully to society.

2. Vision and Mission: ADI envisions a brighter future for the children of rural Assam, where every child has the opportunity to grow, learn, and develop the skills needed to lead a successful and fulfilling life. By empowering them with knowledge, values, and essential resources, ADI aims to help these children contribute meaningfully to their communities, the state, the country, and the world. To achieve this vision, ADI is dedicated to supporting and nurturing as many children and young people in Assam as possible. Its flagship project, "Value based Education (VbE) and Child Development," focuses on providing quality education rooted in strong moral values. The initiative works in collaboration with Government and Non Government Organizations, with active participation from volunteers, donors, and sponsors. Through these collective efforts, ADI strives to create an inclusive, supportive, and impactful learning environment that enables children to unlock their full potential.

3.

ASSAM DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

2024-2025 ADI Supported Rural School Report

Assam Development Initiative (ADI) proceeded with the management and operation of the Basistha School throughout the year 2024 with financial support from ASHA for education, USA

As projected in the 2023-2024 Report, ADI President, Upasha B. Phukan insisted on home visits for increased enrolment and to garner support from parents to actively participate in the development of their children. Just before the commencement of the new session from the 1st of April '24, the teachers of Basistha School undertook an enrolment drive by visiting the homes of several students in the Kargil Hill area. Strength of students in the year 2023 was 40 and in the 2024-25 session is at 50.

The month of March '23 which focused on academics unfolded good results as all three class VIII students successfully secured admission in Beltola Bongaon Government Higher Secondary School. Their preparation for the entrance exam was under the tutelage of Ms. Shabnam Neog and Ms. Sangeeta Kakati who provided dedicated service throughout.

The school year saw various initiatives aimed at student welfare and holistic development. On the occasion of World Environment Day, a plantation scheme was organized where the children actively participated. 2nd June saw the children celebrating International Yoga Day. A yoga session was organized and students as well as teachers/staff were introduced to the basics of yoga by Ms. Champa, a certified yoga trainer from SSA. Noticing the children's display of enthusiasm and skill, ADI President and Managing Trustee requested Ms. Champa to hold regular yoga sessions for the well being of the children. She assured the yoga trainer of a monthly remuneration to hold yoga lessons and also take up science and math lessons for classes VI, VII and VIII in lieu of Ms. Sangeeta Kakati, the Science Teacher who abruptly left the school during the 1st week of November. Champa was found to be capable of teaching and imparting lessons in Science and Math at the middle school level and hence the offer was made till such time when a full time science teacher could be appointed.



Teachers Day was celebrated in the school on the 5th of September. Like previous years, the children enthusiastically and fondly put up a show for their teachers. Unfortunately President, ADI could not be present as she was out of station. She usually takes the opportunity on such an occasion to honor the teachers with a small token of appreciation to keep them motivated and inspired.

Repeated effort by ADI to disburse salary on time is not 100% effective so far. The regular norm at present is 3 months salary together. For eg; on 10th September, teachers received their salaries for the months of June, July and August. On 6th of December, they received salaries for the months of September, October and November.

On Children's Day, the 14th of November, Upasha B. Phukan visited the school to greet and engage with the children, participate in the activities and meet up with the teachers. The sight of 39 children dressed in neat uniforms, heads down, engrossed in the drawing activity was a delight. President ADI lit the ceremonial



lamp to mark the occasion and met up with Hem Bhai, Babajee and other invited guests who joined in. She addressed the children and distributed drawing kits and notebooks as personal gifts which brought much joy to the children. Hem Bhai from SSA addressed the children and enlightened them with interesting stories that captured their attention.



After the term exams being held in December, the school had a short winter break reopening in January. In the beginning of March, soon after the Annual exams, the teachers undertook home visit in the Bijoy Nagar and Basistha neighbourhood.

Request from ABET:

The request for funding from ASHA by ABET for the two rural schools at Khetri is still under consideration and discussion is on between ASHA and ADI towards a suitable financial transaction which should be agreeable to ABET.

ADI's Breast Cancer Awareness Programme:

Engaged in promoting awareness and implementation of Value based lifestyles among the students, teachers and parents of several Government schools of Assam for many years through its ongoing Value based Education Project, ADI, a non-profit Trust in Guwahati with support from Dr. Bhubaneswar Borooah Cancer Institute (BBCI) organized a two day program on Breast Cancer

Awareness and Management on the 19th and 20th of December. Seizing the opportunity of a leading Breast Surgical Oncologist, Dr. Deba Sarma being present in the city from the prestigious Levine Cancer Institute & Atrium Health, North Carolina USA, ADI arranged for a public discussion with the distinguished Oncologist on the 20th December 2024 at the BBCI auditorium. Starting with a scientific discussion with the doctors from BBCI, the public discussion on Current Trends in Breast Cancer Management followed which was moderated meticulously by Dr. Pompei Daimari Buragohain. Dr.Sarma spoke on the surgical evolution of breast cancer management and highlighted the medical and radiation advancements over the decade which contributed to the changes in surgical guidelines. BBCI Director, Dr. Bibhuti Bhushan Borthakur lauded ADI's efforts in organizing and effectively holding discussions and screening camps to create Breast Cancer awareness and educating the general public on early detection and prevention.



While ADI Chairperson Hiren Sarma and ADI President & Managing Trustee Upasha Boruah Phukan spoke about ADI's overall objectives, they also took the opportunity to acknowledge and felicitate their well wishers, the distinguished principals of the VbE engaged schools, and ADI's remarkable VbE team. VbE project director, Archana Borthakur very successfully coordinated the event. A delectable high tea was served to all present which was very kindly sponsored by Mrs. Sushila Devi Bajaj, a Cancer Survivor.

As part of the programme, on 19th December, Dr. Deba Sarma and the BCCI Doctor explained and responded to queries on symptoms, potential causes and self detections of Breast and Cervical Cancer to the senior girl students, mothers and teachers of Guwahati Refinery Higher Secondary Jalukbari Higher Secondary and Pandu Higher Secondary Schools at the Guwahati Refinery School premises. These schools have been engaged in implementing ADI's Value based Education and Child Development project over a few years.

Screenings for breast and cervical cancer were carried out by the team of doctors from BCCI and Dr. Deba Sarma herself took the lead in carrying out the screening process. Altogether a total no of 69 screenings had been done with Breast screening of 56 and Cervical screening of 13 numbers. ADI made arrangements to provide packed lunch to all present. ADI is grateful to Star Cements for providing transport facilities to the teachers, students, mothers of Jalukbari and Pandu schools to Guwahati Refinery Higher Secondary School, Noonmati where the Screening Camp was held. One of ADI's effective collaboration, the initiative was very successful which helped achieved the desired result of reaching out to girls and women in creating awareness about breast and cervical cancer.



ADI's Projected Report for the year 2025:

Administer and execute the revised Teacher's salaries and regulate disbursement of salaries at Basistha School.

7 | Page Manage the Distribution of Books and Stationary to the students of Basistha School.

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Aiming to organise Health Camps (Dental & Eye) for the Students as well as staff in the ADI managed rural school and also for the three Kamrup Metro Schools where ADI is presently engaged in executing its VbE project.

Working out ways with the VbE team to increase the pace of the VbE project in implementing the concerned values across the schools of Kamrup Metro and Golaghat District

The Measurement process, conceived and designed by VbE Project Director is effective. To actively enforce the process after the completion of each practiced value is aimed at.

Organizing and structuring the Mindfulness programme which has been in practice in the schools for better impact and desired results.

An ambitious and effective Counselling programme at the VbE engaged schools is considered and stronger steps to be taken up for its implementation. Student Profile Forms created by VbE Sr.Consultant in deliberation with ADI President is a handful document which should maintain all updated records and will be a reference at subsequent sessions. This is worked at to be beneficial to both the Counsellor and the Counsellor.

To conduct Motivational workshops for teachers, staff and students (the entire school community) in the line of those being held at the Jalukbari and Pandu schools on Team Building & Ethical Leadership during the years 2023 and 2024.

4. **About ADI's Flagship Project** : Value based Education (VbE) and Child

Development (Project Director's report)

The Value based Education (VbE) and Child Development project is the flagship initiative of Assam Development Initiative (ADI), designed to provide a well-rounded education that goes beyond academics. This program emphasizes holistic learning by integrating moral values, life skills, and personal development, ensuring that children not only gain knowledge but also grow into responsible, compassionate, and capable individuals.

The project focuses on three key areas-

1. **Quality Education**- Providing children with access to basic and advanced education, especially in rural and underprivileged areas, ensuring they receive proper guidance, mentorship, and opportunities to excel.

2. **Moral and Ethical Development**- Instilling strong moral values such as honesty, empathy, responsibility, and discipline to help children become ethical and socially conscious individuals.

3. **Skill and Personality Development**- Encouraging creative thinking, problem-solving, leadership, and communication skills, preparing children for future challenges and career opportunities. ADI works closely with schools, teachers, parents, and community leaders, along with Government and Non Government Organizations, to implement the program effectively. With active involvement from volunteers, donors, and sponsors, the initiative aims to create a supportive learning environment where children can thrive both academically and personally. Through Value based Education and Child Development, ADI envisions a generation of empowered, self reliant, and socially responsible youth, ready to contribute to their communities and the world at large. The project value base education has been implemented in the following schools-

1. Guwahati Refinery Higher Secondary School (Kamrup Metro)

2. Pandu Adarsha High School (Kamrup Metro)

3. Jalukbari Higher Secondary School (Kamrup Metro)

4. Dergaon Girl's Higher Secondary School, Dergaon

5. Numaligarh Higher Secondary School, Numaligarh

Below is a brief description of the work done by ADI in these specific five schools in 2023/2024 through Value based Education and child development project-

5. Value Implementation:

Since 2021, we have been implementing Value-based Education (VbE) Project at foster the holistic development of students. This initiative aims to go beyond traditional academics by shaping young minds with strong moral and ethical values that will guide them throughout their lives. Our objective is to instil ten core values that serve as pillars of character development-

1. Honesty
2. Discipline
3. Responsibility
4. Coordination
5. Cleanliness
6. Empathy
7. Respect
8. Kindness
9. Courage and
10. Resilience.

These values are carefully integrated into the school's curriculum and co curricular activities to enhance students' social interactions, decision making abilities, and emotional intelligence, ultimately equipping them with essential life skills that

contribute to their personal and professional growth. As part of our step-by-step implementation strategy, we have successfully introduced and completed the Responsibility module, helping students understand the importance of responsibility, integrity, and ethical behaviour in their daily lives. Through storytelling, real-life examples, and interactive sessions, students have been encouraged to practice Responsibility both in and outside the classroom. We then implemented the Discipline value in all the schools in 2023-24 by engaging students in structured activities, mentorship programs, and behavioural assessments, we aim to instil the habit of self-discipline, ensuring that they develop the resilience and dedication necessary to excel in life. Our approach is progressive and immersive, ensuring that each value is deeply understood and applied before moving on to the next. By reinforcing these principles through continuous engagement, reflection sessions, and teacher-student discussions, we strive to create a positive school culture where students learn, grow, and evolve into responsible and compassionate citizens who contribute meaningfully to society. Through the Value-Based Education Project, we are committed to shaping a generation of young individuals who uphold moral integrity, exhibit leadership qualities, and embrace the values that define a strong and ethical society.

6. Mindfulness Meditation:



This year (2025), there has been even more focus on mindfulness meditation than in previous years. The program has become stronger and more active. It helps students feel calm, happy, and ready to learn. The coordinators of ADI's Values-based Education (VbE) project have worked hard to support this. They lead daily meditation sessions with students and help make it a regular part of school life.

These sessions are done with help from trained experts. The activities are fun, simple, and made for both students and teachers. The sessions include breathing exercises, guided meditation, and easy mindfulness practices. The goal is to keep students interested and excited to join.

Because of this program, many students and teachers have said they feel better. They can focus more, feel less stressed, and manage their emotions more easily. This has helped make the school a calmer, happier, and friendlier place, and it has improved the learning experience for everyone.

8. Counselling for Teachers, Students, Parents, and Guardians :



This year, compared to previous years, a special counselling initiative was strengthened under ADI's Value based Education and Child Development Project. This programme is designed to support students who face challenges in academics, personal growth, or behavior. Group counselling sessions for parents have also been added.

Managing Trustee, Upasha Barooah Phukan, has shown special involvement and personal commitment to ensuring the success of this initiative across all schools under ADI. Her active engagement has helped make the counselling program more effective and far reaching.

Our resource person, Palash Kalita, Psychologist, has taken the lead in conducting the actual counselling sessions. Several sessions have already been held with students, and regular follow ups continue to make sure students get the help they need and keep making progress.

Counselling is very important for creating a safe, happy, and supportive school environment. Since the beginning of the project, ADI has been offering counselling services in all its schools. ADI understands that students, teachers, parents, and guardians all face different kinds of problems. That's why they've created a clear plan to help with emotional, social, and mental health issues in the school community.

Teenage years can be confusing and difficult. Many students go through emotional ups and downs. They might feel pressure from school, friends, or even themselves. Some may struggle with self doubt, stress, or personal problems. Counselling helps students understand these feelings, especially during puberty, and supports them through this important time in life.

To support mental health, ADI organizes special counselling sessions with trained psychologists. These experts help students deal with anxiety, low self-esteem, stress, and other challenges. Many students have been able to let go of negative thoughts, focus better, and work toward their school and life goals.

By offering this support, ADI is helping students become stronger, more confident, and ready for the future with a positive mindset.

Family Counseling Sessions:

As part of the Value based Education and Child Development Project, ADI has launched a unique and impactful initiative of Family Counseling Sessions. This program focuses on providing holistic support to families, recognizing that a child's growth and development are deeply connected to their home environment. The goal

is to strengthen the emotional and social foundation of students by engaging directly with their families.

These sessions aim to address not only the challenges faced by the students, but also the dynamics within the family that may influence their behavior, academics, and overall well being. By working with parents and guardians alongside the student, the sessions help to build understanding, encourage positive communication, and promote healthy relationships at home.

One of the key strategies of this initiative has been conducting home visits across all schools under the ADI project. These visits allow counsellors to observe the child's environment firsthand, engage in open conversations with family members, and offer personalized advice tailored to each household's needs. So far, these home visits have been met with positive responses and impactful outcomes, helping families create more supportive atmospheres for their children.

Follow up sessions are also a critical part of the process. These ensure that the guidance offered during the initial visit is not just a one-time effort, but part of an ongoing journey of support and improvement. Continuous check-ins help monitor progress, address new challenges, and reinforce healthy habits and communication patterns.

This initiative has been led with dedication and care by Mr. Palash Kalita, Psychologist, our experienced resource person. His compassionate approach, deep understanding of child psychology and ability to connect with families has been central to the success of the program. His efforts have not only benefited individual students but have also helped to create stronger, more understanding family units.

Through this initiative, ADI continues to show its commitment to supporting every aspect of a child's development, which is not just in the classroom, but at home as well.

9. Value measurement:

The VbE team conducted a survey to evaluate the effectiveness of the value implementation measurement under the VbE project, as well as to understand the perceptions and experiences of both students and teachers. They also wanted to get a real sense of what both students and teachers thought about the whole thing, like what was working, what wasn't, and how everyone felt overall. The program was

carried out at Dergaon Girls' Higher Secondary School and Numaligarh Higher Secondary School.

10. Team Building and Ethical Leadership Workshop:



As part of the Valuebased Education and Child Development Project (ADI), a dedicated workshop on Team Building and Ethical Leadership was organized exclusively for the teachers of Pandu Adarsha High School. The session aimed to enhance collaboration, personal growth, and leadership among educators, thereby contributing to a more positive, values driven school environment. The workshop was led by the esteemed Inspector of Schools, Ms. Deepika Choudhury, who delivered an inspiring and impactful address that resonated deeply with all attendees. Her insights on leadership, responsibility, and ethical conduct in the teaching profession left a lasting impression on the participants.

The event was honored by the presence of several key figures from the project. Ms. Upasha Baruah Phukan, Trustee and President, delivered a powerful message

underscoring the importance of values in education. Ms. Archana Barthakur, Project Head, along with Mr. Palash Kalita, Psychologist, also addressed the gathering, offering motivational guidance and support. Their words reinforced the vision and mission of the initiative, encouraging teachers to embrace their roles not just as educators, but as mentors and change makers.

The workshop also saw active participation and support from Mr. Kinkar Borah, Coordinator Head, and Ms. Rashmirekha Sharma, Field Coordinator, who played a vital role in facilitating the session and ensuring its smooth execution.

Overall, the workshop served as a meaningful platform for teachers to reflect, reconnect, and re-energize their commitment to ethical leadership and teamwork, with the ultimate goal of creating a nurturing and empowering environment for students.

10. Cleanliness Drive under the Value based Education and Child Development Project:



As part of the Value based Education and Child Development Project, a flagship initiative of the Assam Development Initiative (ADI), a Cleanliness Drive was organized to promote hygiene, responsibility, and environmental consciousness among students. The primary aim of the drive was to foster a clean and healthy school environment while instilling the values of teamwork, discipline, and civic sense in young minds.

The activity was thoughtfully structured, involving students from Classes 1 to 10, with different groups participating on a rotational basis each day. This approach ensured that every student got a chance to contribute meaningfully to the cause while learning the importance of maintaining personal and public spaces.

The initiative was further strengthened by the active support of the school's union body, whose involvement played a key role in ensuring smooth coordination and maximum impact. Teachers and staff members also played a guiding role, supervising the activities and encouraging students throughout the process.

Thanks to the collective efforts of students, staff, and the supporting bodies, the school premises were consistently kept neat, clean, and well maintained. More than just a routine clean up, the drive became a platform to reinforce value based learning through real life action.

Overall, this initiative stood out as a thoughtful and successful effort by the VbE team, translating educational values into everyday practice and leaving a lasting impression on the school community.

11. Breast and Cervical Cancer Awareness Program:



In December 2024, a powerful and deeply impactful Breast Cancer Awareness Program was held at Refinery Higher Secondary School as a part of the Value based Education Project initiated by ADI. The core objective of the event was to raise awareness among female students, teachers, and parents about the importance of early detection, prevention, and education regarding breast cancer, a topic often surrounded by silence and stigma.

The event saw active participation from girls across all three Guwahati-based schools under the project, along with numerous teachers and mothers, reflecting a strong community engagement. The program was made possible with the generous collaboration and medical expertise of Dr. B. Borooah Cancer Hospital, whose contribution added credibility, depth, and authenticity to the discussions.

To broaden the health awareness initiative, a Cervical Cancer Awareness and Screening Program was also conducted alongside the main event. Qualified doctors

were present to provide not just valuable information, but also initial screenings and consultations, creating an opportunity for early detection and prevention, especially for those who may not have easy access to healthcare services.

This dual program aimed not only to inform, but also to empower women with knowledge, encouraging them to take charge of their health and break the cultural hesitations around discussing these critical issues. By fostering open dialogue and providing professional guidance, the initiative made a significant step forward in promoting women's health and well being within the school communities.

12. Proposed plan for 2025-26:

The activities that we have decided to implement under the Value Based Education project for the year 2024-25 are briefly mentioned below.

12.1- Comprehensive Workshops:

We plan to conduct workshops on various topics for the overall development of students in 2025/2026. These include personality development , leadership, public speaking, economic literacy and so on. In addition, we have seen a lot of problems in speaking and writing Assamese among the students in two schools in particular. Therefore, it is planned to provide special training by experts in this field so that all students can speak Assamese language correctly.

12.2- Documentary:

As part of its ongoing efforts under the Value based Education and Child Development Project, the Assam Development Initiative (ADI) is planning to produce a comprehensive documentary that captures the essence of its work both what has been accomplished so far and the vision that lies ahead. This documentary aims not only to inform but to inspire, offering a deeper look into the transformative power of value based education in shaping young minds and nurturing compassionate, responsible citizens.

By showcasing real stories, community engagement, and the tangible outcomes of the project, this initiative seeks to spark renewed interest and belief in a value driven lifestyle among the wider public. In a time when fast paced modern living often overshadows core human values, this documentary will serve as a reminder that character, ethics, and empathy are still the true foundations of meaningful development both personal and societal.

Through this visual journey, ADI hopes to ignite a broader dialogue on the importance of values in education and to encourage individuals, schools, and communities to reflect on what truly matters in the growth of our children and the future of our society.

12.3- Staging Streetplays:

As part of the Value based Education and Child Development Project, there are plans to organize a series of street plays performed by students from the schools included in the project. These plays will be staged in various public spaces, with the goal of spreading awareness about the importance of value based education in an engaging and relatable way.

This initiative is not just about performance but about empowering students to become messengers of positive change in their communities. By using theater as a tool for education and advocacy, the project aims to spark meaningful conversations around values such as empathy, honesty, respect, and responsibility.

Through these students led street plays, the message of value based living will reach diverse audiences, from local communities and market goers to passersby and parents thus creating moments of reflection in everyday settings. It is hoped that these performances will resonate deeply with viewers, inspiring them to embrace ethical values in their own lives and reinforcing the belief that education is not just about academics, but about building character.

This creative and community driven approach brings value education out of the classroom and into the real world where values are tested, shaped, and lived.

- THANK YOU -