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educoco

educating children out of poverty

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education sustainability  
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**educoco**

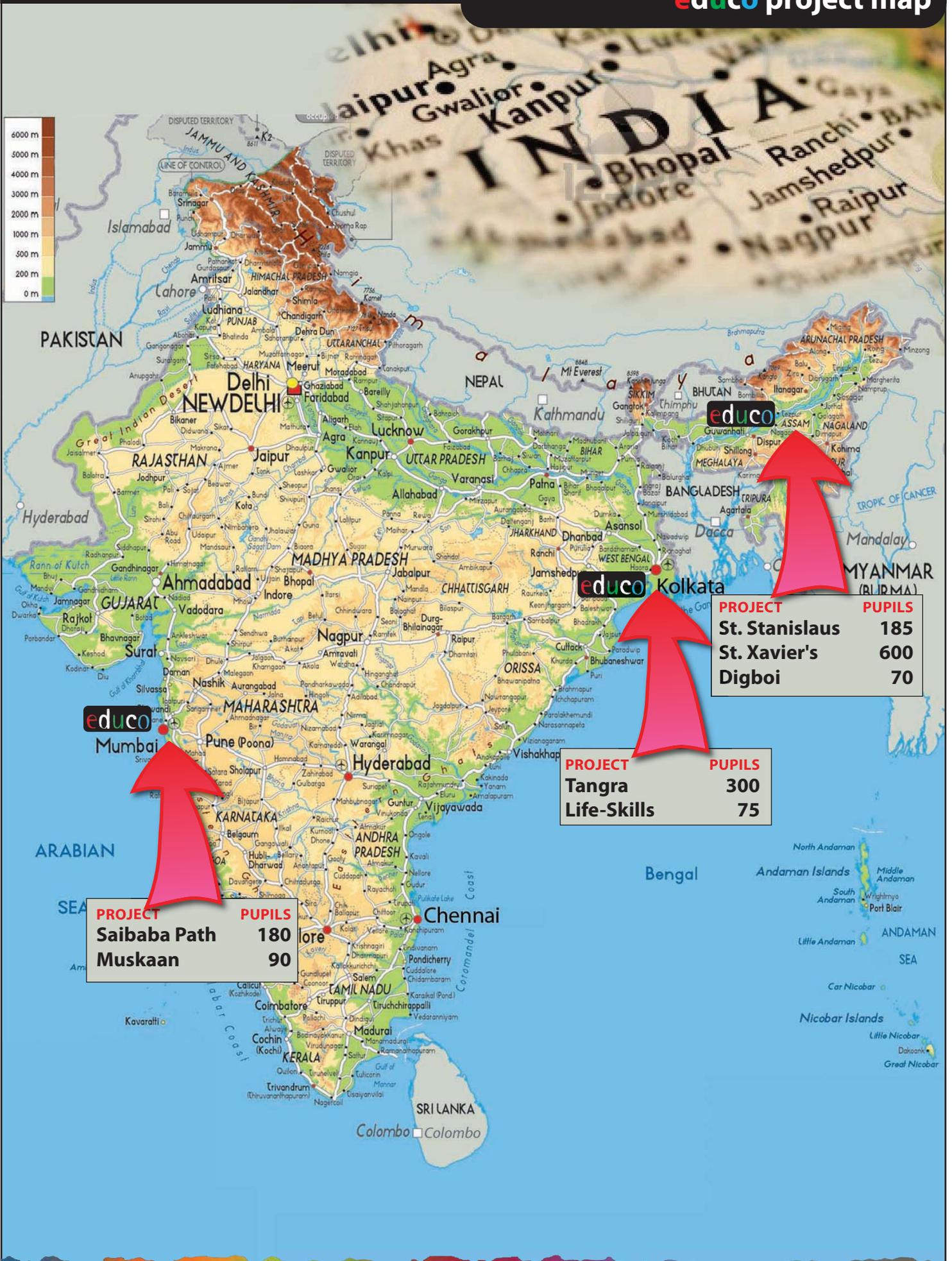
educating children out of poverty

educoco is a charity founded in Ireland in 2006 with the aim of educating children in India out of poverty. A fully registered charitable trust in India since 2009, educoco India is run by volunteers who oversee seven programmes throughout the country, which in total provide education for some 1,500 underprivileged children.

Even though literacy figures have increased in recent years, India still has the largest number of uneducated children of any country in the world - two-thirds of whom are girls. Just under 40% of the country is illiterate with 37% of all primary school children dropping out before Standard 5. Government reports indicate that some 60 million children between the ages of 6-14 do not attend school at all.

#### **educoco's 4 Key Pillars:**

- 1) Education is given through **English** – providing the students with the best chance for economic and social mobility.
- 2) educoco puts great emphasis on keeping girls in full-time education – helping to redress the **female education** gender imbalance – proven to be the most important factor in a country's economic development.
- 3) educoco undertakes the **training of teachers** from the areas local to its schools, thus providing direct investment back into the local community.
- 4) **Computer training** is actively promoted – ensuring the most underprivileged children are given the skills necessary for modern employment environments.



PROJECT	PUPILS
Saibaba Path	180
Muskaan	90

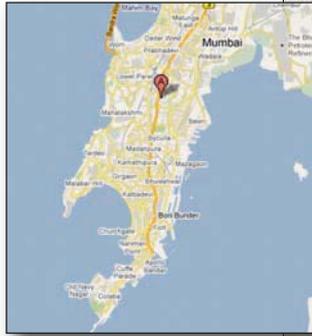
PROJECT	PUPILS
Tangra	300
Life-Skills	75

PROJECT	PUPILS
St. Stanislaus	185
St. Xavier's	600
Digboi	70

# Saibaba Path, Central Mumbai



**Leader:**  
**Ms Meenal Srinivasan**



- Location:** Saibaba Path Mumbai Public School, Lalbaug, Central Mumbai
- Started:** June 2009
- Teachers:** 12
- Pupils:** 180 [Junior & Senior Kindergarten, Standards 1 & 2]

Saibaba Path Mumbai Public School is located in a large but somewhat underutilised school building in Lalbaug, owned by the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (formerly the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation or BMC). The BMC, under a public private partnership, has permitted educo to run an English medium school, in which we are currently educating 180 pupils in four classrooms, from Junior Kindergarten to Standard 2.

educoco has extensively renovated and furnished the classrooms provided by the BMC, including laying new floors and painting colourful murals on the walls. We also provide additional teaching materials and class supplies, including books, games and musical instruments. Our aim is to expand our school by one classroom each year as the children progress all the way to Standard 10.



educoco fully manages and funds the running of the school while the basic infrastructure is provided by the BMC. Our teachers are recruited from the local slum areas and we provide them with an intensive year's teacher training, in partnership with the Muktangan organisation. Central to the Muktangan method is the impressive teacher-pupil ratio – one teacher for every 10 -15 pupils, which encourages one-to-one tuition and remedial education to the children who need it.



Saibaba Path Mumbai Public School is located in Lalbaug, an area with one of the highest slum habitation percentages and lowest literacy rates in all of Mumbai. Lalbaug also has especially high rates of unemployment due to the closure of the local textile mills on which the local community depended for work. The children attending the school all come from the local slum areas. We employ a fulltime Community Liaison Officer who works closely with the local community to identify new children to join the school and to ensure the parents of those children are fully committed to the education of their children. Our CLO also ensures that children attend school regularly and will work to resolve any issues that arise within the home which are preventing the child from coming to school.

In addition to these four junior classes, educoco also saw the need to supplement the education of the older pupils attending the BMC run school, in the same building. For this reason, educoco now runs free English and Computer classes all year round for the 600 or so pupils who attend the BMC school. The Computer classes are run from our own two renovated computer labs, which house some 40 computers in total, and are given through the medium of English. The aim of these classes is to improve the English language skills of these pupils, as well as to give the older pupils the computer skills now necessary in modern employment environments.



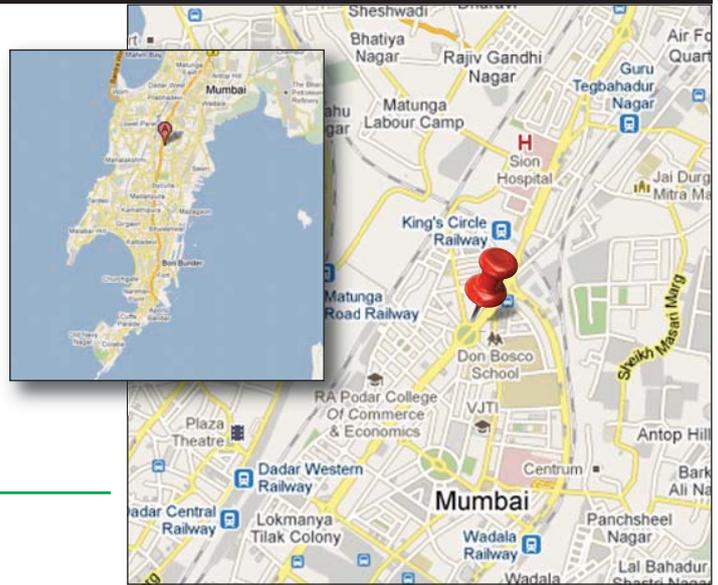
## Goals: -

*Saibaba Path has huge potential for growth and continued support from the local community & we aim to keep expanding our school into the available space to meet the need for a good quality free English medium school for local underprivileged children.*

# Muskaan School, Central Mumbai



**Leaders:**  
Chris Way &  
Krishna Pujari



**Location:** Muskaan, Kumbharwada, Dharavi,  
Central Mumbai

**Started:** June 2009

**Teachers:** 8

**Pupils:** 90 [Junior & Senior Kindergarten]

**Partner:** Reality Gives

educo runs a Kindergarten school jointly with the NGO Reality Gives in Dharavi, the largest slum in Asia and one of the most deprived areas of Mumbai. The school is run out of a building provided by the local community, who recognise the need for a quality Kindergarten in their area.



We use the Mukhtangan method of teaching in this school, which encourages children to think for themselves - teachers facilitate rather than teach. Central to the Mukhtangan method is the low teacher- pupil ratio: typically there is 1 teacher for every 15 pupils, thus encouraging an excellent level of tuition. The teachers all come from the local community, we facilitate their training with the Mukhtangan centre and are committed to maintaining the high standards of teaching within the school. As well as this quality teaching, we provide the children with a nutritious meal every day.

When the children graduate from the Muskaan school, we plan for them to join our school run out of the Kala Kila school, which is located on the nearby Mahim Sion Link Road, Dharavi. educo and Reality Gives plan to recreate the model of the Saibaba Path school in nearby Lalbaug, which has proven so successful. This involves engagement with the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (formerly the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation or BMC) to allow us to use classrooms in their under-utilised Kala Kila school. We already have a good relationship with the management of the school where our teachers from Muskaan assist the BMC teachers with their English classes. We plan to have our first class of Standard 1 ready to start in Kala Kila by June 2012.

## Goals:-

- 1) To continue to engage with the BMC authority at the Kala Kila school to ensure the use of classrooms to start our own English-medium school, starting at Standard 1.
- 2) To expand the Kala Kila school by one class every year, up to Standard 10, always providing education in English and using the proven Mukhtangan teaching method.

# St. Stanislaus School, North East Assam



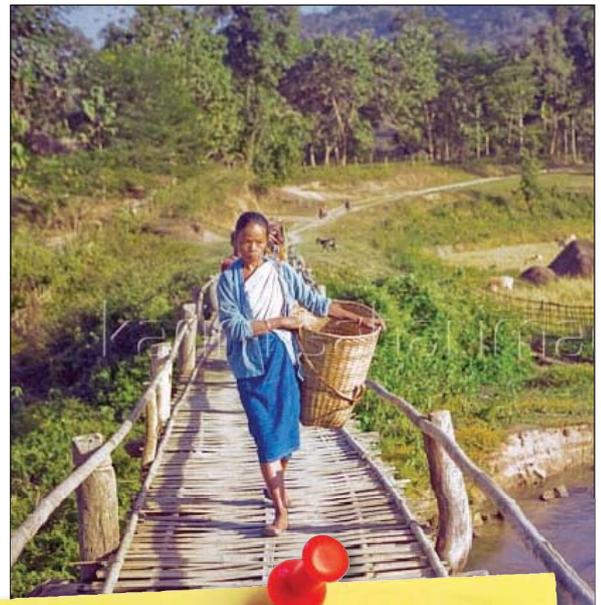
**Leader:**  
Fr. Xavier Lakra



**Location:** St. Stanislaus School, Konapathar, North East Assam  
**Started:** January 2007  
**Teachers:** 9  
**Pupils:** 180 [Standards 1-7]  
**Partner:** Jesuit Order

educo partners with the Jesuit order to run this English-medium school for the children of the impoverished local tea pickers. St. Stanislaus is a primary school which acts as the feeder school for the secondary St. Xavier's school in neighbouring Pengaree (18km away). It is in a very remote village in North East Assam - there is no town nearby and children come from many miles away to attend the school.

educo and the Jesuit priests saw the great need to found a school in this area to educate the children living in the local community. Most of the parents of these children are illiterate tea-pickers, whose priority is to satisfy their basic everyday needs of having food, shelter etc. There are no government-run schools available to these children in this remote area of Assam, leaving these children with no other means to lift themselves out of this poverty.



## Goals:-

Our goal is to work closely with the Jesuits and teachers to ensure the parents of the students are committed to the education of their children and that attendance figures continue to improve. Once we are satisfied that progress is being made, we will consider expanding the school to include Kindergarten classes and to accommodate a further 500 children from the local area up to Standard 7.



# St. Xavier's School, North East Assam



**Leader:**  
Fr. Telesphore Lakra



**Location:** St. Xavier's School, Pengaree, North East Assam  
**Started:** January 2003 in mud building; 2007 in new building  
**Teachers:** 16  
**Pupils:** 617 [Kindergarten - Standard 10]  
**Partner:** Jesuit Order

As with the St. Stanislaus School in nearby Konapathar, educo partners with the Jesuit order to run this English-medium secondary school for the children of the impoverished local tea-pickers.

In this very remote part of North East Assam, educo funded the building of a large brand new school with a capacity for 1,500 to educate local children up to Standard 10. educo recognised the need to build this school after witnessing the success of the original Jesuit school which was run out of a mud building.

The children who attend this school come from families of originally migrant workers from other states in India or from Nepal or Bhutan. As such, they have minimal rights in Assam because they are neither Assamese nor a recognised minority. This means they are excluded from state-run schools, and local private schools are too expensive for the parents of these children who typically only earn 1,500RS per month.

The Jesuit order has a long proven track record of providing high quality education in India, and in all three (non-denominational) schools we jointly run in Assam, they fully share our commitment to teaching through English, equipping the students with computer skills, and ensuring female students stay to complete their education.



## Goals:-

- 1) To grow the school to its capacity of 1,500
- 2) To ensure some students go on to graduate from college, to provide much needed role models for the children
- 3) To fully develop the sports facilities - the school is on a 4-acre plot & has many underused playing fields



# Digboi School, North East Assam



**Leader:**  
Fr. Philip Purty



**Location:** Bogapano, Digboi, (near Dibrugarh), North East Assam  
**Started:** June 2011  
**Teachers:** 3  
**Pupils:** Currently 70 [Standard 1], Potential for 1,000 [Standard 1-10]  
**Partner:** Jesuit Order

educo is currently working with the Jesuit mission on building a large new school on land donated by the community and one of the local tea companies, in the midst of tea gardens. The school will be laid out over 4 acres and will be built in 3 phases over 3 years, with the aim of accommodating 1,000 pupils up to Standard 10.

Currently educo has funded a temporary English-medium school on the site until such time as building work on the new school can commence, which is planned for later in 2011. At the moment, this temporary school has 70 pupils. The building work for the new school is being managed by Fr. Philip and Fr. Telesphore, the latter priest successfully managed the build of St. Xavier's School, some 30kms away in Pengaree.

There is great demand for this new English-medium school amongst the local Community, with children in the Digboi area currently having to travel for an hour to get to other schools.



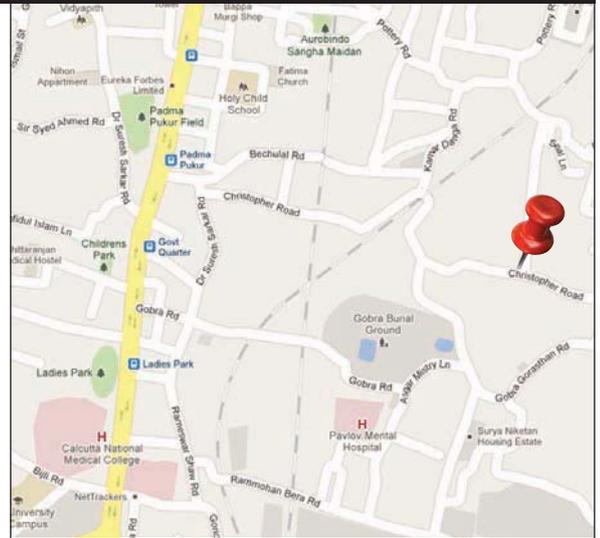
## Goals:-

- 1) Complete the legal transfer of the land
- 2) Get 3 competitive bids from builders to build the school in 3 phases over 3 years
- 3) To transfer funds and commence building work

# Tangra, East Kolkata



**Leader:**  
Ms. Shazia  
Khatoon



**Location:** Christopher Road, Tangra, East Kolkata  
**Started:** August 2010  
**Teachers:** 10  
**Pupils:** 300 [Crèche, Junior & Senior Kindergarten, Remedial, Teenage & Adult Education Classes]  
**Partner:** Mr. Arvind Sinha [Documentary Film Director]

This project is born from a comment Shazia made when Arvind filmed her for a documentary about living in the slums of Tangra. Shazia, then 17, said she dreamed of one day running a school. educo partnered with Arvind to make that dream a reality and now 8 years later, the school in Tangra educates 300 pupils.



Tangra, a predominantly Muslim slum in East Kolkata, is an area with one of the lowest literacy rates in Kolkata. Our school is non-denominational, and whilst most of the pupils are Muslim, there are also Hindu and Christian children enrolled. The pupils come from families earning a combined monthly income of between 2,500RS - 4,000RS, with parents working as auto & manual rickshaw drivers, shoe-makers and cleaners etc. Most children in this slum area generally do not get the opportunity to go to school and certainly most don't get the opportunity to be educated in English and computer skills, so there has been a huge impact so far on the local

community from our school. Shazia, our Head Teacher, and all the other teachers and helpers come from the local community and therefore understand the issues the pupils and their families face on a daily basis.

educos has funded the rental of the school building for 3 years, until such time as we are able to buy or build a more permanent structure in the area to be able to accommodate Standards 1-10. In the long term, our aim is to make this school self-sustaining by charging parents a nominal fee of 100RS per month per child. Currently the school includes a crèche, Kindergarten classes (which use the Montessori teaching method), and remedial classes for children aged 5-6 who are finding it difficult to get admitted into Standard 1 in local schools. Additionally the school offers teenage and adult education classes, in English, Computer Skills and Tailoring.

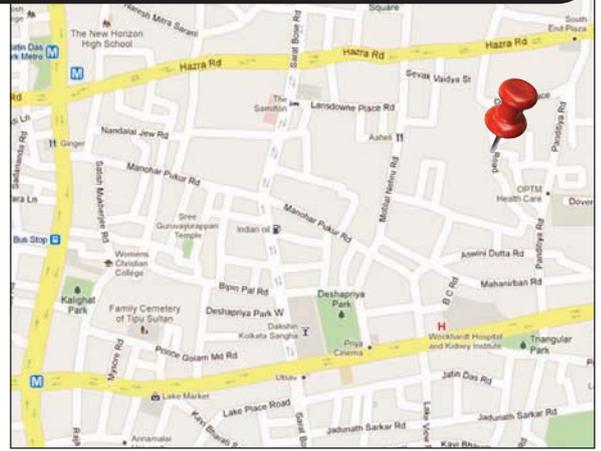
## Goals: -

- 1) To locate a nearby building to buy or plot of land where we can build a larger school to accommodate the demand for Standard 1-10
- 2) To actively encourage the enrolment of girls to redress the lack of female education in the area
- 3) To encourage more adults from the local community to avail of our adult life-skills education programme, with English, computer and tailoring classes

# Life-Skills Training Centre, East Kolkata



**Leader:**  
Geeta Venkadakrishnan



**Location:** Panditya Road, East Kolkata

**Started:** August 2008

**Teachers:** 4

**Pupils:** 65

**Partner:** The Hope Foundation

educo partners with the NGO The Hope Foundation to run this life-skills training centre in Kolkata, the aim of which is to provide quality and professionally designed vocational training to adolescent and adult males and females, who are living below the poverty line and are unable to access vocational training from state-run institutes.

The majority of workers in the informal sector in India have had limited formal education and typically have never received vocational training. Current state-run skills training courses, because of their educational entry requirements, exclude the underprivileged. The main objective of this project therefore is to enable trainees to become more employable and to therefore break the cycle of poverty in which they have found themselves.

The majority of the trainees come from the slum areas local to this part of East Kolkata. The centre consists of three training units (Food & Beverage, Pattern Making & Garment Construction, Computer Training) which allow the students to learn various life-skill activities, all through the medium of English. Such skills include culinary and waitressing, craft-making and garment construction, as well as of course the English language itself and computer skills.

After completing their training, the students (under professional supervision) run each production unit, which includes a restaurant and clothing shop. The production units secure orders from the market and are also responsible for the delivery of goods. In the long term, the goal is for each production unit to be self-sustainable and to be run as a cooperative.



## Goals:-

- 1) To continue to develop contacts between the centre and local businesses to generate a higher level of income for the goods and services produced by the Production Units.
- 2) To continue to provide the necessary training to underprivileged girls allowing them to generate a decent level of income when they leave the programme.





education once given



can never be taken away

## educo india



Meenal Srinivasan, Iain McDonald, Bina Malhotra, Claire Nugent, Greg Heffernan, Vibhakar Kelkar & Preeti Chaudhry

## founders



educo was founded by Grattan Boylan, Declan O'Donnell & Juerg von Geitz in 2006

## educo elders



educo Elders  
Jim Boylan & Mary Boylan

## educo france



educo France: Ann Mesnard, Xavier Mesnard,  
Louisa Mesnard and Théau Mesnard



*"If you think in terms of a year, plant a seed;  
If in terms of 10 years, plant a tree;  
If in terms of 100 years, educate people"*

*Confucius*

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