

Project Press Releases

August 2025: Centre for Public Policy signs a Letter of Understanding with ChildFund India



The Centre for Public Policy at IIM Bangalore, under its Saksham Initiative, signed a Letter of Understanding with ChildFund India to develop focused capacity-building initiatives for students and teachers in the schools that it works with. The programs discussed were

1. Capacity Building for Anganwadi Staff – Train-the-Trainer (ToT) sessions to empower facilitators in innovative, experiential teaching methods and the effective use of child-engaging learning materials.
2. Value Education for Primary Students – Facilitate programs that instil core moral and ethical values among primary school children.
3. Comprehensive Sex & Reproductive Health Education – Deliver age-appropriate sexual and reproductive health awareness sessions for higher primary and high school students.
4. Career Counselling for High School Students – Guide students in exploring educational and vocational pathways to make informed career choices.

The Centre for Public Policy was represented by its Chairperson, Prof Gopal Naik and ChildFund India was represented by Dr Shrabanti Sen, Program Director, Dr Manjunatha HT, Senior Specialist, Livelihood, Aman Kumar Singh, Senior Manager, Program and Partnership, and Ms Shaini Jacob, Expert, Program & Partnership.

July 2025: Renovation of the Government High School, Marsur, Anekal



The Government High School in Marsur GP, set up in 1991, has 185 students enrolled in Grades 8 to 10. Despite Marsur being notified as a model panchayat for the Taluka, the School was in a dilapidated condition.

The walls in the building had developed significant cracks making it unsafe for the students and staff, the roof had water leakage issues, there was no kitchen making it difficult to store and serve food received under the mid-day meal program from the Akshaya Patra Foundation, the washroom doors and windows were badly damaged, the furniture was unusable and all students attended the classes sitting on the floor. There was also a stagnant open drain just outside the school, making it extremely unsafe. These infrastructure issues had also gained significant media attention.

Through the *Saksham* initiative, IIM Bangalore, with financial support of ₹ 13L from IMI Process Automation, under their CSR initiative and Hoovinahole Foundation as the implementation partner, worked on rejuvenating the school.. The entire school was painted, damaged windows were replaced, a separate kitchen room was constructed, and rooftop waterproofing was done. We've repaired the damaged compound walls, repainted them, and added terracotta designs to improve the overall look of the school. A new gate has been installed, and the school signage has also been updated. The washrooms are repaired with new doors and windows, and unusable furniture was replaced with 30 new pieces of desks and benches. The sewage system outside the school was also refurbished to make the surroundings safer and more hygienic.

The School and the Community organised a felicitation ceremony for the donors, development partners and knowledge partners, which was attended by the Honourable Member of Legislative Assembly for Anekal, Shri B Shivanna, the Block Education Officer for Anekal, Shri Venkatesh N, Gram Panchayat Members and other well-wishers, parents and community members.

Project Coordinator - Anukirthana G, Centre for Public Policy, IIM Bangalore

July 2025: Renovation of the Government Higher Primary School, Hosanagara, Belur



Under Saksham, the School Development Initiatives of IIM Bangalore, two new blocks - Anekal and Belur, in addition to the blocks of Tiptur and Madhugir, adopted as part of the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, are areas of focus for the Centre.

In response to the request by the Block Education Officer who highlighted the unusable conditions of the school classrooms owing to severe seepage of rainwater in the GHPS at Hosanagara, site visits were organised by the Field Team of UBA, inviting Development Partners - Hoovinahole Foundation and Twin Glacier Foundation to assess and comment on the renovations needed.

With philanthropic input from Avakaasha Foundation, a sum of ₹5.2 lakh was outlayed for repairs and work was carried out by local contractors suggested by the Gram Panchayat.

For the first building that housed the classrooms, the old tiled roof and wooden joists were removed and replaced with metal sheets and angles. Both exterior and interior painting were completed, and new flooring was installed to replace the cemented surface.

For the second, sheet roofing was added atop the RCC building to prevent further water seepage. This also created additional usable space for classes or out-of-class activities. An external metal staircase was also provided for access.

This initiative has restored learning spaces and improved school infrastructure, ensuring a better and safer environment for students and teachers.

Project Coordinator - Amshrutha Rudresh, Centre for Public Policy, IIM Bangalore

June 2025: Green Student and Society Initiative - A project under the Saksham Initiative of the Centre for Public Policy, IIM Bangalore



In the first week of June, under the Green Student and Society Initiative, the Centre for Public Policy at IIM Bangalore, in association with the Environmental Management and Policy Research Institute (EMPRI), Government of Karnataka, conducted a unique experiential learning program for the schools adopted under the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan.

The student members of the ECO-Clubs were engaged in activities such as essay writing, poster making, and tree guard making prior to the event impressed upon them the importance of environmental protection and conservation. The students were encouraged to hold discussions with their peers, teachers, parents, and community members to identify the most suitable areas to plant fruit-bearing and shade-giving trees in and around the community and the school. The plantation drive took place at 10 schools, where the students also had a session and a Q&A with conservationists and officials from the Forest Department.

Saplings such as wild indian gooseberry, wild almond, mulberry, *neem*, hongamia, rose apple, and Java plum that grow fast, provide good shade, and give nutritious fruits. The students pledged to take care of the plants year-round as part of their Eco Club Activities.

A total of 1000 students across the 10 schools took part in planting 80 saplings in all the schools. They were also joined by teachers, parents, SDMC Members, Gram Panchayat Members, Officials from the Forest Department and others from the community.

This program was a testament to enacting social change through community action and participation that Saksham has committed itself to doing through schools in rural Karnataka.

Project Coordinators - Amshrutha Rudresh, Anukirthana G, Darshan M S, Navaneeth Ganesh, Ranjith Kumar, Centre for Public Policy, IIM Bangalore

April 2025: Empowering Early Childhood Care and Education - A project under the Saksham Initiative of the Centre for Public Policy, IIM Bangalore



In most of India's rural and semi-urban landscapes, Anganawadis, which literally translate to Courtyard Shelters, can be seen. Established as part of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) program in 1975, these centres function as crucial hubs for early childhood care for children and mothers, offering services like supplementary nutrition, immunisation, health check-ups, support for pregnant and lactating women, and non-formal preschool education to children under the age of six.

In the gram panchayats that IIM Bangalore works with under the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, a needs assessment survey was conducted by the UBA Field Staff in all the 44 Anganawadis. By November 2024, information on staff, number of students, drinking water supply, toilet facilities, condition of the building, books, bags and other teaching-learning materials, play materials, and essential kitchenware was collected from the D V Halli, Chinnakavajra, Hunaseghatta, Dasarighatta, and Nonavinakere Blocks.

The intervention targeted for this is 3-fold. The Centre for Public Policy communicates with the Gram Panchayat, Zilla Panchayat and other line Departments concerned with this to nudge them to take development action. Capital-intensive work such as building construction, repair and renovation, setting up of toilets and drinking water facilities generally comes under this. The Centre also mobilises funds through philanthropy and identifies development partners to deliver soft infrastructure such as almirahs, education kits, kitchen needs and others. Thirdly, the Centre identifies organisations that deliver quality capacity-building programs for Anganawadi Staff to better serve the community.

The Centre has begun its work by donating 10 almirahs to various Anganwadis in Tiptur. These will be used to store the toys, materials, and other items safely and

prevent their theft. The Centre is now working on identifying partners for Capacity building and assembling an educational toolkit for Children at the foundational Stage of learning to be donated to the Anganwadis.

Project Coordinators - Amshrutha Rudresh, Darshan M S, Navaneeth Ganesh, Ranjith Kumar, Centre for Public Policy, IIM Bangalore

April 2025: Inauguration of Rural Computer Centre in Indlawadi Panchayat of Anekal Block in Bengaluru



Digital skills are increasingly vital in everyday life. They enable individuals to access information, avail government services, connect with others, and make informed decisions. For small businesses and local entrepreneurs, digital literacy can be transformative, helping improve efficiency, expand markets, and adopt innovations such as digital payments and online promotion.

As part of the Rural Development Initiatives of the Centre for Public Policy, IIM Bangalore, a Rural Computer Centre was established and inaugurated at the *Parivarthana Campus* in Indlawadi Panchayat, Anekal Taluk in April 2025. This Centre, established through a collaboration between the Centre for Public Policy at IIM Bangalore, ERIN Foundation, and with financial support from Volvo Construction Equipment, will offer free basic computer training to the nearby Government School children and Members of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) from nearby villages.

This initiative aims to bring technology within the reach of rural communities, ensuring children and women are equipped to succeed in education and employment in a rapidly digitising world.

The inauguration was done by Prof Gopal Naik, Chairperson of the Centre for Public Policy at IIMB, Mr Sai Prakash, Head of Erin Foundation, and Mr Dimitrov Krishnan, Managing Director of Volvo Construction Equipment.

By bridging the digital gap, the Rural Computer Centre empowers rural youth and women not only to access new economic and educational opportunities but also to confidently navigate the future.

Project Coordinator - Anukirthana G, Centre for Public Policy, IIM Bangalore

March 2025: Saksham: School Development Initiatives Stakeholders' Meet



The **Centre for Public Policy** (CPP) at IIM Bangalore has marked a pivotal step in rural education reform with the launch of Saksham, the school development initiatives stakeholders' meet, held on 15 February 2025. The event, which served as a collaborative platform to align schools with implementation partners and funding opportunities, convened educators, policymakers, and CSR leaders to decipher systemic challenges that deter high-impact interventions in government schools.

Inaugurated by Prakash Koliwad, MLA, Ranebennur; Dr. Rajeev Gowda, Former MP, Rajya Sabha & Vice-Chairman, Karnataka Planning Commission; and Prof. **Gopal Naik**, Chairperson, CPP, the discussion brought to light the critical role of teacher training in enabling government school students to compete with their private school counterparts.

MLA Koliwad called for action on the "4 E's" of education: Expansion, Equity, Excellence and Employability. He urged the need for trained teachers and dedicated reading spaces, suggesting that every school allocate a room for a library to enhance learning outcomes.

Dr. Rajeev Gowda highlighted Saksham's focus on long-term behavioural change, with a strong push for environmental education. Revisiting his research on Climate Change awareness published in '97, he reaffirmed the integration of sustainability and pollution awareness into school curricula.

The first panel discussion on 'Challenges of Quality Education in Rural Schools and the Need for External Assistance', convened by Suresh G M, Member, SDMC; Suresha S R, Headmaster, KPS Nonavinakere; and Prof. Gopal Naik as the moderator.

The next panel titled, 'How do we provide cost-effective support to rural schools?', brought together Gopinath KN, Executive Director-Dhwani Foundation; Madhvarao Kamath, Manager, OSAAT; Nandi J Hoovinahole, Founder, Hoovinahole Foundation; Brinda Poornapragna, CEO, eVidyaloka and IIMB faculty Prof. **Manaswini Bhalla**, Economics area.

The final session of the event on 'The necessary conditions for CSR and Philanthropy in rural school development', featured Geeta Krishnamurthy, Hanasoge Charitable Trust; Shreepad Kuthyar, Avakaasha Foundation; Praveen Gupta, Moneyboxx Finance Ltd; and IIMB faculty Prof. **Haritha Saranga**, Chairperson, Sustainability Taskforce, Production & Operations Management area.

IIMB also introduced a digital platform designed to bridge gaps between schools, funders, and implementation partners. The initiative seeks to centralise school challenges, connect them with credible partners, and streamline funding through CSR, community-driven action and philanthropic channels.

February 2025: Field Visit by PGPPM Students to Anekal



As part of the experiential learning component of the Post Graduate Programme in Public Policy and Management (PGPPM), a field visit was organised by the UBA Field Team Centre for Public Policy (CPP), IIM Bangalore. This initiative, supervised by Professor Gopal Naik (Chairperson, CPP) and Professor Arnab Mukherjee (Chairperson, PGPPM), aimed to provide the PGPPM 2024–25 batch with direct exposure to rural education systems.

An Orientation into the Education System in India was provided by Prof Gopal Naik, highlighting the Policy, Practice and Possibilities for Rural School Education in India. This was followed by a visit to the Government Primary and High Schools and the Anganawadi Centre in Anekal.

The group interacted with headmasters, teachers, and students, engaging in discussions that highlighted key aspects such as infrastructure, teaching quality, learning environments, mid-day meal schemes, and student performance. Through these interactions, students could observe both the strengths and existing challenges within rural schools.

The afternoon session was held at IIMB's Jigani Campus, where participants held one-on-one discussions with Mr Venkatesh, Block Education Officer (BEO) and Ms

Kavitha, Child Development Project Officer (CDPO) of Anekal, discussing challenges at the grassroots.

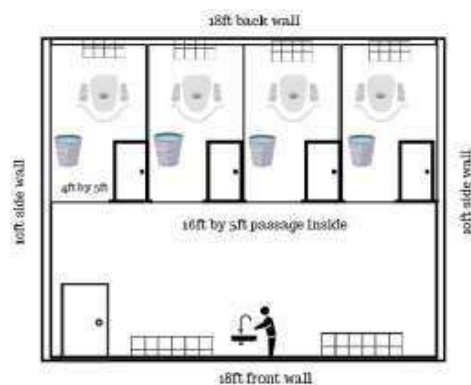
These interactions offered insights into policy implementation and administrative hurdles faced at ground level in both schools and early childhood centres and contributed greatly to sensitising policy practitioners to the realities and nuances of rural education. It reinforced the need for context-driven approaches in public policy design and highlighted the importance of practical understanding for effective governance and development.

Project Coordinator - Anukirthana G, Navaneeth Ganesh, Centre for Public Policy, IIM Bangalore

February 2025: Construction of New Girls Toilet Block for KPS Nonavinakere (High School Section)



A good school infrastructure with enough space and proper facilities motivates the children to come to school, which leads to less absenteeism and more student development. The infrastructure of a school should focus on child-friendly ambience as well as value-based learning.



Schematic of the Toilet Block constructed at Nonavinakere at a cost of ₹ 4L

The Karnataka Public School at Nonavinakere (High School Section) had a dearth of sufficient toilet blocks for girls. The existing infrastructure was insufficient and of poor construction. Given the increasing enrolment, there was a dire need for the same. With the support of the IIMB Alumni (Batch of 1998) the Centre, facilitated the construction of a new girls toilet block at an outlay cost of ₹ 4L with Hoovinahole Foundation as the development partner.

The project will help the 270 adolescent girl students, a majority in the 336 strong School access safe and hygienic facilities reducing absenteeism and increasing the holistic learning outcomes in the school.

January 2025: Digital Classroom Program at GHPS Belur



Under the Saksham Project, the Centre for Public Policy set up a Digital Classroom in partnership with eVidyaloka as the implementation partner. This project was funded with the generous contribution of IIM Bangalore Alumni (Batch of 1998). The program plans to deliver 43 sessions led by Volunteer teachers engaged by eVidyaloka, delivering sessions in English, Mathematics, and Science (bilingually or in Kannada)

The program will deliver 1686 learning hours to 131 students, running quarterly. The inauguration on 23 January 2025 featured a ribbon-cutting by Prof. Gopal Naik (IIM Bangalore), a live session demo by volunteer teacher Archana, and felicitations for the CRP (Government), Brinda (CEO, eVidyaloka), Sri Prasanna (SDMC President), and Smt. B. R. Parvathi (Head Mistress), and Sri H. S. Natraj (HCT President), with alumni also in attendance.

May 2024: Augmenting School Infrastructure through Sustainable Upcycling of Plastic Waste



IIM Bangalore's commitment to social responsibility is demonstrated through targeted initiatives that intersect education, sustainability, and community upliftment. These programs go beyond academic outreach, actively integrating environmental and social equity into tangible outcomes for underserved communities across Karnataka.

A total of 273 pieces of furniture - including 88 eco-friendly benches, 50 computer tables, 93 study desks, 100 chairs, and others have been donated across 40 schools in Tiptur and Madhugiri to augment their existing infrastructure. These have been made from Post-consumer multi-layer plastic waste (MLP) processed into durable furniture using proprietary upcycling technology and procured from Saahas - Zero Waste, an sustainability focussed NGO specialising in waste recycling and upcycling. This is also part of the Sustainability Initiatives of IIMB and has been featured in [Responsible Roots, Sustainable Progress](#), the IIMB Sustainability Report 2025.

Through this initiative, a total of 3,200 kg of plastic has been diverted from landfills, 23.2 tons of CO₂ emissions have been avoided, 240,079 MJ of energy saved, 87.47 m³ of water conserved, 20+ livelihoods supported through production and logistics.

This initiative exemplifies IIMB's ability to embed sustainability within social outreach, reducing deforestation and plastic pollution while enhancing public education infrastructure.

School Kitchen Garden - Collective Action for Holistic Development in Schools



A joint report by the Central and State Governments highlighted significant nutritional deficiencies in the mid-day meals provided at schools. The Centre conducted its own analysis during the baseline survey of the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan in mid-2022, based on the ICMR recommendations, and confirmed that the standardised menu lacks several essential nutrients, which can adversely impact the mental and physical development of children.

To address these gaps, a nutrition garden initiative was launched in partnership with the Indian Institute of Horticulture Research (IIHR), Hesaraghatta. By supplementing the mid-day meal with freshly grown vegetables from these gardens, improved

nutritional content and increased satisfaction among both teachers and students were observed.

In April 2023, the Centre, through NavSahyog Foundation, conducted training on setting up and taking care of the School Nutrition Garden for the students and the Coordinators at the Schools in Tiptur and Madhugiri.

A total of nine nutrition gardens have been established—three in Tiptur taluk and six in Madhugiri taluk schools—growing vegetables such as beans, radish, brinjal, greens, tomatoes, and chilli. Akshayakalpa, a dairy company with its plant in Tiptur, has supported the Nonavinakere School's garden with manure and technical expertise. NavSahyog Foundation supports the efforts to develop nutrition gardens and engage the students in sports and activities to build strong life skills programs in 20 villages in Tiptur.

This activity has been scaled up to 15 schools in both blocks as of July 2025, with more schools interested in adopting the model. This model demonstrates that activity-based learning through school nutrition gardens can effectively address deficiencies in the mid-day meal scheme, build life skills in young students and can be scaled as a replicable solution across more schools.

Project Coordinators - Darshan M S, Ranjith Kumar, Centre for Public Policy, IIM Bangalore

Strengthening Digital Education through Technology Partnerships



To enhance access to quality education at the village level, the Centre has partnered with Gumbi, an education technology company, to deliver tele-education classes to students in Karnataka Public School, Nonavinakere (Tiptur Taluk).

Gumbi is a longtime partner of the Centre, also being one of the key collaborators in the Centre's award-winning Satellite & Advanced Multimedia Interactive Education (SAMIE) Project piloted with the Government of Karnataka.

The school has been equipped with computers, projectors, and other necessary technology to facilitate regular online classes. Teachers based in Bangalore conduct sessions using animated content, currently covering Science, Mathematics, and Spoken English.

Recognising the underutilization of available computer infrastructure in many rural schools and colleges, the Centre's efforts have focused on building the technological capabilities of staff and students. Gumbi has conducted a basic computer training course for 8th and 9th-standard students at KPS Nonavinakere, benefitting 25 students between April and September 2022.

Students who completed this course undertook an objective test in December 2022, and successful participants will soon receive certificates from Gumbi. Encouraged by the positive response, the program has now been extended to six schools, including

practical lab sessions, with plans for further scaling. Many schools possess desktop computers that are rarely used or are not functional.

To address this, the Centre has initiated a drive to encourage companies to donate used laptops, which offer the added flexibility of mobility, reliability during power cuts, and better security. So far, Consero Global has donated 20 laptops, which have been distributed among five schools. These resources have greatly facilitated both tele-education and computer literacy training. These initiatives collectively aim to bridge the digital divide, enhance teacher and student proficiency with technology, and improve educational outcomes in rural schools.

Project Coordinator - Darshan M S, Centre for Public Policy, IIM Bangalore