



ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022



Message from our founders!



The year 2021-22 was another tumultuous year with the surge in COVID cases and two lockdowns. Our team however continued to work relentlessly to overcome the challenge and we are happy to share our work through this edition of our Annual Report. We extend our deep appreciation and gratitude to our team and all our partners, donors and well wishers for their support during the critical time.

The second wave and subsequent lockdown led to the closure of educational institutions, yet again. To maintain the education engagement of our students our teachers sent worksheets online. However, for 70 grade VII students we launched the Alternate Delivery Model, a pilot project with a purpose to enable students to have access to education through internet enabled tablets. Mothers and community Leaders were an integral part in delivering, collecting and monitoring the tablets.

During the lockdown, parents expressed their anxiety and were worried regarding the safety of their girl children as most parents would be away on work and the children were left on their own. Moreover some children were faced with domestic violence. We shortlisted 30 children- the most needy, and opened a Day Care Centre where these children were provided with online education, nutritious meals, co-curricular activities and other development and recreation opportunities.

We gradually reopened the Learning Centre in a staggered manner and a summative assessment was conducted in August 2021 to assess learning loss levels. The results were a concern as they reflected a huge learning loss. This led to a need for intensive remedial support to bridge the gap. The remedial program was implemented along with regular grade sessions to help students learn foundational concepts and skills while regular grade sessions would help a child stay informed about grade-level concepts and skills.

The highlight of the year was the launch of our mascot Tara and, publications of two books on COVID 19 and Climate Change to generate awareness among young minds. We distributed these books across the country through 70 partners.

Yet another achievement was the initiation of the Library Project, "The Story Hub" aptly named by the children. It is now a vibrant space for story narration, elocution, reading workshops and host of varied activities.

During the year we successfully transitioned our Grade 7 girls to a leading school in the city. We have also enrolled children in our L1 section after a gap of almost two years.

We deeply appreciate and are grateful to our partners, donors and well-wishers for providing our children the opportunities to nurture and showcase their talent and building their capacities and confidence.

We at Ek Tara look forward to another fruitful year with your continued support for our future endeavors.

**VINITA
SARAF**

**NAMRATA
SUREKA**

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Who we are

A group of women from diverse backgrounds with a common goal to elevate the position of marginalized girls and women, by providing access to quality education and skill building.

What we do

Enable girls to:

- Break the cycle of poverty and patriarchy.
- Make informed choices and decisions.
- Lead dignified and empowered lives.

Areas we work in

Migrant Unskilled Workers

Migrant communities living in Eastern India's largest slums.

Unskilled and seasonal daily wage earners with average monthly income of \$70.

Boys over girls

Boys get priority in education, girls are ignored and have no voice. Deep-rooted patriarchal mindsets.

High Crime rate

Only a small number of youth complete class 10 and the rest are trapped in the cycle of poverty, unemployment, substance abuse and trafficking.

Poor living conditions

An average of 7 members live in a 120 sq. room with no water supply, and toilets shared between 12-15 families.

Learning loss due to Covid-19

School closure due to the pandemic also led to complete disconnect from education for the vast majority of children coming from our community.

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Our Approach



FOCUS POINTS OF EK TARA

1

HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT

The curricula covered at Ek Tara is not restricted to just academics. There are a wide range of Extra Curricular Activities for children to support their overall growth.

2

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR MOTHERS AND COMMUNITY MEMBER

To combat poverty and have a voice in the family- 60% of our staff are community members who have joined us as supervisors, project assistants, attendants, cooks and cleaners.

3

FACILITATE SCHOOL COMPLETION

School drop outs are encouraged and given support to complete school and further their education.

4

EMPOWER WOMEN AND CHILDREN

All beneficiaries of Ek Tara are engaged and empowered by giving them access to quality learning, information and knowledge.

Ek Tara Learning Centre (ELC)

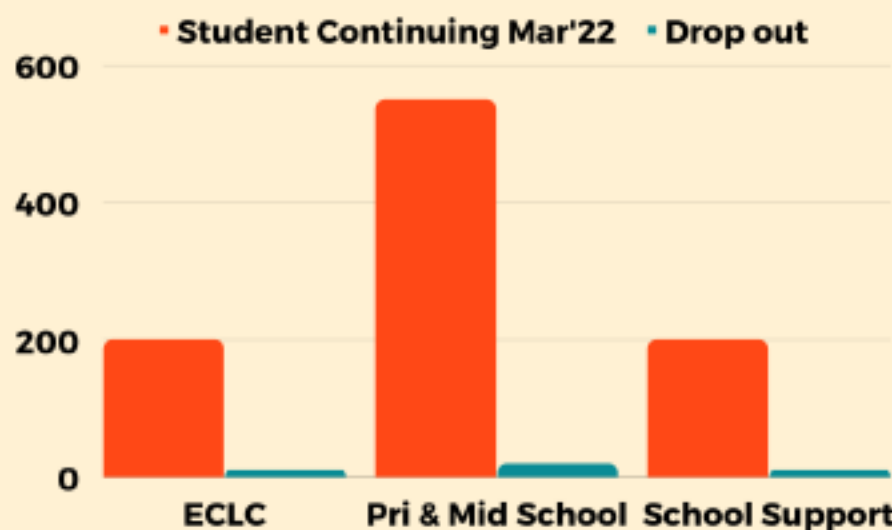
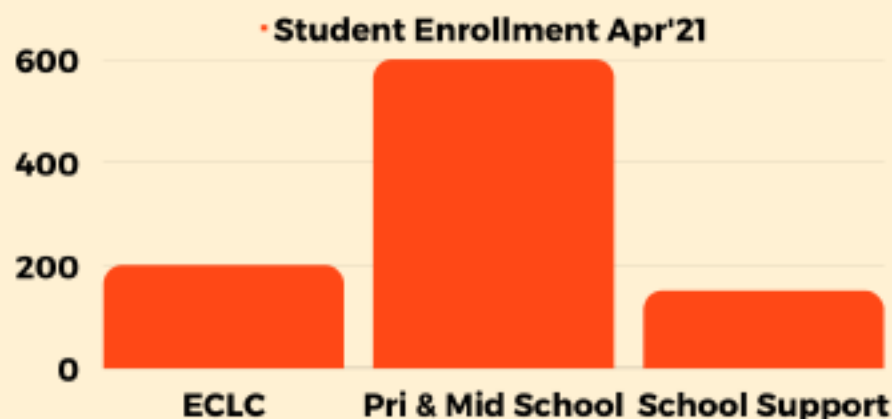
The Ek Tara Learning Centre (ELC) was launched in 2021 to house all of Ek Tara's Education and Child Development programmes. It provides access to high quality learning resources to 950 students. This state-of-the-art facility which is spread across 3 floors and an open terrace has 22 large classrooms, an integrated Science and Math (STEAM) lab, an art room, a music room, a library, a multipurpose hall, an indoor game room, and a sick room.

We cater the following programs for the centre:

- Early Childhood Learning Centre (ECLC)
- Primary and Middle School (Pri & Mid School)
- School Support Project
- Child Welfare and Parental Engagement (CWPE)
- Mentorship
- Digital Literacy
- Co-curricular Activities (CCA)
- Health, Hygiene and Nutrition



There are 17 SDG's and 169 targets in total. While they are all important and interrelated, Ek Tara works actively on the above goals.



Early Childhood Learning Centre (ECLC)

The center reaches out to over 200 children aged three to six years. Its aim is to develop a strong foundation in literacy, numeracy and other development indices for young girls – supporting the overall development of the child so they are ready for primary school.

Primary and Middle School (Pri & Mid School)

The primary school encompasses classes 1-4. Together with the middle school, it reaches out to over 500 students. Apart from regular classes our children partake in various co-curricular activities. There is also a robust Remedial Project designed for children who are unable to cope academically in their classes. This post school remedial project involves trained teachers equipped to handle remediation for classrooms which have children with mixed abilities and capabilities.

School Support

Over 250 students are part of this project, who are enrolled in various schools across the city. All children graduating out of the Primary and Middle School projects are enrolled across 7 partner schools covering 3 major boards. All their school related expenses are borne by Ek Tara in addition to looking after all their academic and other developmental needs.

Health, Hygiene and Nutrition (HHN)

The aim of this project is to ensure good health and hygiene practices among all Ek Tara children and their families. Nutritious hot meals and snacks are cooked and distributed daily to address the problem of poor diet. In addition, children and staff have access to health workers and hospitals when needed. During the Covid-19 pandemic, this project also provided relief material to over 30,000 individuals and families across the community who were in need of food and medical supplies.

Co-curricular Activities (CCA)

In addition to covering all academic support for all children enrolled in Ek Tara's care, we offer a range of activities as part of our curricula for all students. At the primary level we offer a minimum of 3 activities to all our children for them to explore their interests and talents. Over 700 students were part in these activities, held throughout the last year. Our children had the option of choosing from a wide variety of activities such as dance, music, drama, art & craft, swimming to name a few.

Digital Literacy

For all students of Ek Tara there are digital classes to support their academic development. These classes include the use of smart boards, laptop based classes, computer practicals and tablet based learning. These classes enable children to use technology in everyday life.

Mentorship

Ek Tara has developed a unique mentorship program wherein children enrolled in the school support project are enrolled as mentees under various specialised mentors. These mentors come from different walks of life and are accomplished in their own fields. The interactions with the mentors allow children a wealth of information which goes into shaping them. Mentors oversee not just their academic growth but their overall development and facilitate access to career counseling, life skills among other activities.

Child Welfare and Parental Engagement (CWPE)

Ek Tara focusses a great deal on building capacities of the families of the children and women it works with. Under the CWPE vertical the wellbeing of each child is looked into in a manner that extends beyond the classroom. This includes home visits, focus group discussions with parents, implementation of the robust Child Protection Policy to name a few. Various information sharing workshops and training are offered to parents so that they are able to provide the support their children need to continue in school and eventually be prepared for college and be job ready.





Highlights of ELC

ELC highlights with a renewed commitment to continue working on making the SDGs attainable by 2030.



National Education Policy

Session on building awareness about the National Education Policy- breaking down the components and analyzing implications for early childhood, primary and secondary education.



Rubaroo

A teachers training programme was conducted by Rubaroo, Mumbai- on awareness on Child Sexual Abuse, empathy building, gender sensitization and sensitivity while handling disclosures.



Jamlo Walks

Book discussion 'Jamlo Walks'- A session conducted by the library team for teachers and community leaders, to learn how to critically analyze and discuss children's literature.



Kolkata Lit Meet

Selected children attended the Kolkata Literary Meet (Kalam) - the city's annual date with books and ideas.

This outing was fruitful because they heard some prominent speakers from all over India who widened their views and perspective on life, literacy, politics, society etc.

Sabista one of our students also won an award for her drawing on "The Common Indian Man"

In the month of March, 65 new books were procured for the Library. We were selected to be part of Parag Honour List (PHL) Book Box 2021 and received 14 books.



Let's Talk Climate!

The Let's Talk Climate campaign was designed to lead up to the COP 26 summit, held in Copenhagen in 2021. For a month, 20 students-formed the climate change focus group-and worked on activities that ranged from learning to reduce, recycle and reuse to understanding the impact of climate change on habitats and food security.



Workshop by Goethe Institute

A number of experiments based on basic concepts of science were performed by two demonstrators for teachers and educators to encourage students to conduct such experiments for better understanding of the concepts. The teachers also got a link to films and documentaries based on environment issues, to be shown to the students as per requirement.



MyStemZone

This workshop was conducted for the science teachers to familiarize them with the MyStem Zone science kits for the STEAM Lab.



Zero Waste Workshop

This workshop was facilitated by Her Future Coalition. A short talk and demonstration, this session was conducted by resource person and Zero Waste influencer- Lata Bhatia, on waste reduction, natural cleaning supplies, composting and climate change.

Computational Thinking Workshop

Teachers participated in the Computational Thinking in Schools webinar. It was organized by ACM India and CS Pathshala community. The aim was to bring teachers, educators and researchers to discuss issues of curriculum, pedagogy, policy and implementation related to bringing computational thinking to schools.



Phonics and Whole word reading

Session conducted for language teachers, to enable implementation of the technique for all students.

Health, Hygiene and Nutrition Highlights

- After a general health screening at Ek Tara 30 children got free vitamin supplements.
- Free medication was provided to 50 students.
- 35 mothers participated in an awareness session on the benefits of a balanced nutritional diet.

When asked about the three wishes Alisha would make to a genie, she quoted, “I want to erase my mother’s past memories.”

This is the story of Alisha Khatoon and her parents’ struggle to overcome the hindrances they had to face in getting their children educated.

Clichéd as it may sound, even in today’s context, many girls face discrimination, when they exercise their basic rights to be educated and Alisha’s case is no exception.

Alisha Khatoon lives with her family that includes her parents and a sibling. The family juggles urban and rural life to keep pace with the children educational requirements. They have a house in the countryside, but reside mostly in the city, in a ramshackle compound. Their room is a small dilapidated enclosure and they share a common toilet space with 30 other people.

Alisha’s father repairs bicycles and her mother works as a maid. Collectively, they earn a meagre salary of Rs. 8000/- Alisha’s mother has been facing domestic abuse by her in-laws since her marriage. This information was brought to our notice by Alisha. Alisha’s mother is determined to give her children a better life which encourages Alisha to keep pushing herself.

Both her parents are extremely supportive of their children education and are active participants in contributing to their education. They don’t allow any obstruction in their way, even if that involves resistance from their relatives.

Alisha’s mother aspired to be a painter but her dream was cut short due to an early marriage.

Alisha’s academic performance is good and she excels in all her subjects. Lately, she has taken to creative writing which she enjoys a lot. She writes with depth and insight. She plays an active role in discussions and has enhanced group discussions. She has won certificates for elocution, dance, and music. She is extremely communicative and enthusiastic about opportunities that come her way.

At home she mentors her elder sister too. She teaches garbage segregation to her family and puts to practice everything she learns at Ek Tara.

She aspires to be a Chartered Accountant and when enquired if she has any plan B, she confidently said, “There is no plan B.”

She looks up to her father for inspiration and spoke highly of how her father disregarded the typical disapproval of their relatives when she and her sister were born.

Alisha seems wise beyond her years.

“Is there anything you want to change about society?” we asked
“Society needs to change, the discrimination needs to go.”
She answered.

Alisha's Story





Library project

The Library project at Ek Tara was consolidated as a space for reading, exploration and expression. The name for the library 'The Story Hub' was decided by the primary stakeholders—the children at the Learning Centre. The space also went through physical transformation-making the books more accessible to children, attractive, child friendly shelves, book wall hangings and art work.

Day Care Centre

During the lockdown, Ek Tara identified girls who would come under the category of 'at risk', bringing them into the centre everyday. Apart from receiving regular health check-ups and meals, the students had regular computer classes, an assessment conducted by We Can, reflection circles and remedial classes.

STEAM LAB

Equipped with basic laboratory instruments and sets of experiments, the activities under each of these components are integrated—one supporting the other.



Science

Understanding the natural and man-made phenomenon



Technology

Repetitive processes



Engineering

Structural sustenance



Art

Visual flow of various processes



Maths

Computational/analytical flow

What's New at ELC

Remedial Project

The COVID-19 pandemic meant that with each lockdown, the students from Ek Tara were studying at home, with worksheets and online classes. While everything was done to ensure that each child was given an educational input, the lack of an in-person engagement led to a definite learning loss, a phenomenon that has been observed and recorded all over the world with the closure of educational institutions.

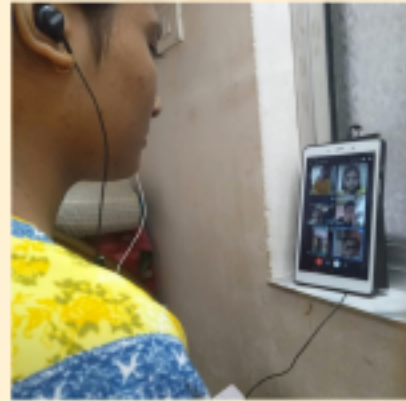
In order to address this loss and bring those children back towards the expected level of learning, Ek Tara initiated a comprehensive and individual focused remediation program.



Partnerships

We always believe in making the most of any opportunity that is presented to us and last year too we ensured that our team participated in various talks, workshops, training courses to spread word about our work and also to upskill ourselves across all levels. Some key partnerships include:

- Partnership with Prospero World, UK to offer benefits to donors in the UK.
- Participated at the Global Youth Summit where Ms. Shamima Khatoun – one of Ek Tara's community leaders got the opportunity to talk about the importance of partnerships in the development sector.
- Each one Teach two was a partnership programme with Indus Valley World School. It was an online remedial support programme run by the students of Indus Valley.
- WeCan conducted classes in English and Maths for children at the Day Care Centre.
- WhiteHatJr conducted coding classes for our children.
- Partnership with the Behavioral and Discussion Making department of the London Business School as case studies.
- Participation of management team members in capacity development courses offered by the prestigious "India Leaders for Social Sector."





Meri Haq Meri Zimmedari

To increase the ability of communities and to recognize inequitable situations and realise the importance of addressing unjust situations, BCI Enriche team trained Community Leaders and Partner Organizations from 9 states to increase awareness and action on issues related to domestic violence and equality. Ek Tara was proud to be part of this initiative.



barefoot college
INTERNATIONAL
COVID19 Awareness Collaboration

WE WORKED WITH THEIR TEAM TO TRANSLATE COVID19 AWARENESS MATERIALS(AUDIO AND VIDEO) TO URDU.



100 Cameras

The 100 Cameras project involved eight students from classes IX and X. The project included 8 class room instructions through lesson plans. The students learnt the process of storytelling through photography in a way that impacts how they view themselves and their role in their community. Each class ended with an assessment and Photo Walk, organized both within ELC and North Kolkata.

Bhumi volunteers work with our students to cater to digital literacy under their Kanini project.





Millipede

National Theatre of Scotland and ThinkArts (based in Kolkata) presented MILLIPEDE in partnership with Indian artists, scientists and climate change organizations.

The aim was to generate ideas and shape artistic responses to carbon footprints in the face of Climate Change. 7 students from Grade VII participated in creating Fantasy Footwear and an opportunity to tell their own story by showcasing their finished pieces within the website in the hope of engaging and inspiring others. The students were awarded with certificates.

Teach for India

Teach for India, a pan India organization, began its innings in West Bengal at Ek Tara, with three fellows joining our team in January 2022. The fellows took up classes in Grades 2 and 3, moving up with the students to Grades 3 and 4 respectively. We look forward to more fellows joining us in the next academic year.

Talk To A Scientist

Six students from the Learning Centre participated in this science webinar for children between 6 to 16 years. Scientists from across the country held sessions on different science topics and engaged with the students. It provided a platform and an opportunity for the students to interact with the scientists.

CSpathshala

CSpathshala is an Association for Computing Machinery India (ACM India) initiative to bring a modern computing curriculum to Indian schools. Ek Tara worked with their curriculum to conduct demo sessions on computational thinking with grades 2, 3, 4 and 6.



- **Lions Club International:** Organized an eye screening and blood group typing camp. The students were given free eyeglasses post screening.
- **Turnstone Global:** Children from ECLC participated in an eyesight testing camp.
- **Rotary Urbana:** Organized an eye camp with Disha Eye care from school support programme. Free eyeglasses were distributed after the screening.

Amidst contemporary stories of sorrow, grief, disasters and losses causing hopelessness, Mahenoor is the silver lining, an epitome of light and hope. A girl who is unapologetically brave and unbelievably ambitious.

Mahenoor in Urdu means 'light', and she has indeed been an epitome of light. She has been consistent with her hard work like sunlight, making life possible on Earth.

She aspires to become a chartered accountant, and is working hard to realize her dream. She was introduced to us in the year 2006 when she was merely six years old. With no formal education or experience of attending school, we made her start from scratch.

A year later, she was enrolled to Jyotirmoy Public School wherein she studied till grade fifth, and was then enrolled to Indira Academy. She took her board examination through the same school and fared extremely well. This was one of the most important milestones in her life because she was the first from her family to have reached that level. Even her older siblings had to drop out given the financial constraint that loomed large in her growing years.

Following that, in the same year, she was enrolled to Khalsa High English School. This was another turning point in her life. The many challenges like poverty, lack of space and environment did not diminish possibilities of success in boards. Not even obligations towards household chores for she diligently burned the midnight oil and achieved 84%.

Her moment of success and joy was cut short by realities associated with age and gender. The demand to marry grew louder but she wouldn't give in. Her academic credentials enabled her admission to B.Com at the prestigious AJC College. At present, she is in fourth semester, doing what she does best- hard work and lots of hard work!

Utilizing the system designed to up skill and empower women, Mahenoor partially finances her B.Com curriculum at AJC College with employment provided by Ek Tara.

A wanting socioeconomic background, demise of her father, the sole breadwinner at a tender age, the food insecurities at home, inconsistent nature of partly financial support coming from brother's odd jobs and obligations towards household chores would not obscure the possibilities of realizing the dream because she is strong and supported by the Ek Tara system.

Coming from a vulnerable socioeconomic background and aspiring to be a chartered accountant will be called a tall order by most, while we at Ek Tara call it the story of hope and resistance.



Mahenoor's Story

TARA Publications



Ek Tara is proud to present to you Tara- our very special mascot who is a champion for Girls Education! Tara represents the millions of girls in India who come from low-income homes and miss out on basic development opportunities such as access to good education, health and child rights! By way of conversations and publications Tara aims to reach out to such children across the country on myriad issues which directly impact their well being.

Tara's first initiative of a Covid-19 children book has reached out to 40,000 children through 75 partners across India!



Ek Tara sent the COVID 19 booklets for children to Ms. Vandana Chavan, MP, Rajya Sabha. She also presented a book to the Hon'able Vice President of India Mr Venkaiah Naidu.

The impact of the COVID Booklet was also covered in the local press.

“If there is anything that has been consistent in my life, It's the misfortune.”

Soma Sardar has been an indispensable part of Ek Tara ever since its inception. Her life has involved profound struggles, and yet her face doesn't give away the pain that life inflicts on her on an everyday basis. Soma's destitution goes back to the time when she was merely four. Her father took to drinking and inevitably, subjected them to the vices that come with it. Needless to say, he did not contribute to their upbringing, monetarily and emotionally.



Soma's Story

Soma and her siblings lived on the income of their grandfather and with the meager support that she received, she managed to go to school but, as luck would have it, her grandfather died and she had to drop out of school the same year. Her dream of getting an academic degree was cut short. Soon after, she was married off. Her age at the time of marriage was 16 years.

Few months into the marriage, she discovered that her husband was an alcoholic. Subsequently, she had to endure domestic violence for years. He did not even spare their daughter and would beat her endlessly. To her, it was all a sense of déjà vu!

The only difference here was that this time she put her foot down and decided not to succumb to the ill fate.

She acquired a home loan and with her savings through the years, she managed to get her own space which she says is her safe haven.

Every month she paid a substantial part of her salary to the bank and she could barely manage to make the ends meet. To add to the dismay, she was diagnosed with a tumor in her uterus and had to be operated upon immediately. However, she smiled through it all.

She attributes her survival to her daughter of 18 years. She has her hopes and dreams pinned on her and her drive to work relentlessly comes from there. She wants her daughter to stand up for herself and be vocal in life.

Her daughter too is extremely focussed on bringing her mother out of the clutches of misery. She aspires to be a teacher and is working rigorously to fulfill her dream. The only obstacle is the lack of money to pursue a Computer course. She wants to also enroll herself in the Spoken English classes, but is unable to do so.

Currently she works in our community kitchen "Annam" as a cook and also helps out in the social enterprise "Ek Tara Creates."

As for Soma, she continues to fight with the same zeal. She has been inspirational to many, and a lot of us look up to her for the unflinching courage and determination she has shown.

A year with unique challenges

Ek Tara's Community Engagement programme through the year focused on strengthening its engagement with stakeholders in the community that include, parents, youth, local clubs, ward offices among other agencies. The project worked on offering capacity building activities, vocational trainings, and creating safety networks within the community. We also conducted awareness camps on various themes including child safety, delivered play based education to children and provided relief services.

The beginning of 2021 was largely focused on dealing with challenges around COVID-19 such as loss of employment, school dropouts, early marriage among girls, increase in child labour, addressing stigma around vaccination etc. Our engagement therefore, ensured continued learning among children and their families.

Through the remaining part of the year Ek Tara also rolled out opportunities for youth from the community through theatre camps, tailoring and computer trainings and soft skills development. As 60 % of the workforce at Ek Tara are members of the community we continue to build their capacities in various spheres. These members are engaged in multiple roles ranging from leading verticals on health and nutrition and providing support to education and extra -curricular activities. Through this engagement model, Ek Tara equips stakeholders from the community and has been successful in developing and strengthening its understanding of the community members.

The programme has also engaged actively with government and local agencies to scale its work.

With a sharp focus on rebuilding the losses caused by the pandemic, the programme has reworked its strategy and re-defined its focus for the future.

Community Engagement

Partnerships

- **KMCP schools** - This includes delivery of the Chakke Pe Kaksha programme for 4 Kolkata Municipal Primary schools in the area. The project is locally referred to as "ananda gari".
- **The Mobile School** : A Belgian organisation that has created a movable educational tool that engages with children and is focused on developing self-esteem among street connected children. Ek Tara is their first partners in Asia and has been implementing the project for over 6 years across different areas in the city.
- **The Alliance for Resilience city** : Non profits working in the city have come together to form an alliance to share learnings , and build a common platform that helps address the larger challenges .

Highlights

- Vocational training for 35 girls and women.
- Training of staff and parents on Child Protection.
- Online and offline outreach with families to help mitigate challenges due to COVID-19.
- Partnership with 4 Kolkata Municipal Schools.

Ek Tara Community Centre (ECC)

The Ek Tara Community Centre (ECC) is a 10,000 sq ft facility that is dedicated to programmes geared towards economic empowerment and social mobility of women. ECC houses the vocational training unit, income generation unit for women and creation of resources that help further Ek Tara's mission.

Ek Tara's social enterprise- Creative Ek Tara Foundation enables employment opportunities for women trained at Ek Tara thereby making them financially independent. The enterprise currently runs two projects in ECC:

"Ek Tara Creates"

"Ek Tara Creates" is an income generation platform for women trained on tailoring and hand embroidery under the vocational training programme at Ek Tara. The unit works with mothers and older siblings of girls at Ek Tara. The items created here focus on repurposing fabric that lies in excess in factories and boutiques. This model encourages up cycling of materials. Women create handmade products that are sold through various online and offline platforms across the country. The enterprise over the year participated in 5 exhibitions across the city and sold items through popular retail stores in addition to creating Jute items for large corporate events.

"Annam "

Annam is our community kitchen that engages with mothers of children at Ek Tara. The kitchen provides for nutritious , hygienic vegetarian cooked meals and snacks for children studying at Ek Tara. In addition to this , the unit also delivers cooked "Dabba" for factory workers around the area. It is a 6 member team that produces over 1300 meals on a daily basis. During the COVID -19 period, the kitchen was engaged in catering over 800 cooked meals on a daily basis for over 45 days.

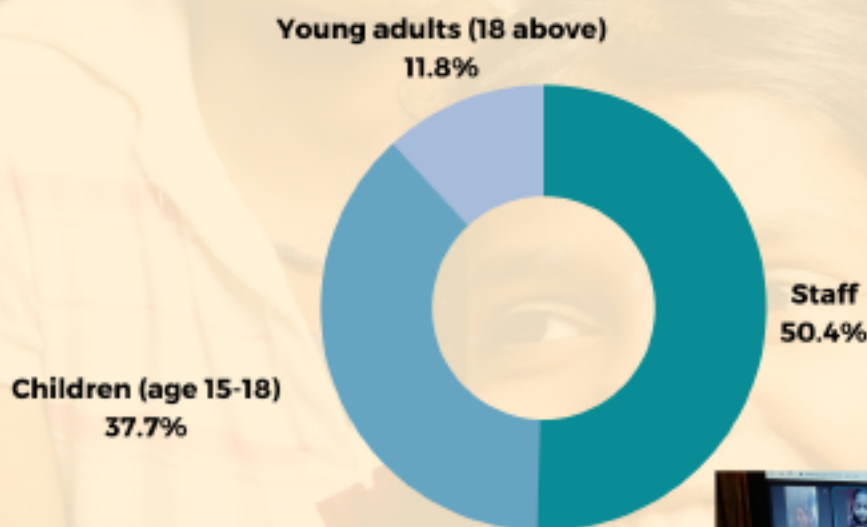


Impact Report

- Since its inception Ek Tara has educated over 1500 children.
- Children moving from Ek Tara to other educational institutions continue to secure 1st division in their higher examinations.
- 60% increase in women seeking skill building opportunities.

Undertakings during the pandemic

During the pandemic we facilitated the vaccination process for all our staff. In addition to this we also encouraged and financed a vaccination drive for children aged 15 and above.



Vaccination status for Covid-19

Relief distribution details:

During the pandemic we reached out to people with essential supplies of ration and safety kits and prioritized education and safety of all the girls we work with.

30,000 COOKED MEALS DISTRIBUTED

20,000 RELIEF KITS DISTRIBUTED



- Ek Tara's Community kitchen "Annam" - led by women provided meals to families of people affected by the pandemic.
- Ek Tara distributed ration kits to 800 children and their families. The kits include rice / pulses/ flour, soaps, and masks.
- Most children did not have adequate resources for growth and development. Malnutrition, a leading cause for low immunity among our children was addressed by distributing health and nutritional supplements.

300

The remedial programme was started to address the learning loss that came about due to the pandemic. Over 300 students were a part of the programme in the first year.

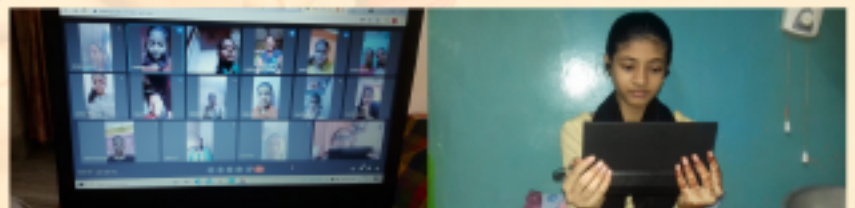
191

To curb dropouts our community outreach team conducted 191 in person home visits.

Alternative Delivery Model (ADM)

During the second wave most of our children found it difficult to cope with their education online due to inaccessibility to smart devices and internet. But we were quick with our response and devised our Alternative Delivery Model (ADM) for the children.

ADM enabled our children to continue their classes online using tablets and internet. This ensured that our children were engaged and continued with their learning process. We piloted this project with senior children and eventually rolled it out to most of our children.



Students continuing in school since Ek Tara's inception!

Our Supporters



Financials



DIPANKAR NANDI & ASSOCIATES

Chartered Accountants

INDRAPRASTHA APARTMENT-II

2, HARIMOHAN PATTADAR LANE,

P.O. - HINDMOTOR, DIST-HOOGHLY, PIN-712233

CA PALLAB MUKHERJEE

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28/2C, HARAY KRISTO SETT LANE, KOLKATA-700050

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To
The Trustees
Ek Tara ("Trust")
31/1, Topsia Road (South)
Kolkata 700 046

1. Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of **Ek Tara** ("Trust") which comprise the balance sheet as at March 31st 2022, Income and Expenditure account, for the year then ended and Receipts and Payment account along with notes to the financial statements, including a summary of the significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the entity as at March 31, 2022, and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the Accounting Standards issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI).

2. Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with the Standards on Auditing (SAs) issued by ICAI. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the entity in accordance with the Code of Ethics issued by ICAI and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code of Ethics. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

3. Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of these financial statements that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs, results of operations and cash flows of the entity in accordance with the accounting principles generally accepted in India. This responsibility includes the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and presentation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view and are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going



Financials

concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the entity's financial reporting process.

4. Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with SAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Place : Kolkata

Date : 05.09.2022

For **DIPANKAR NANDI & ASSOCIATES**

Chartered Accountants

Firm's Registration No.: 324207E



Pallab Mukherjee

CA Pallab Mukherjee

Partner

Membership No.: 063037

UDIN:22063037-ATDLJO 7264

Financials

EK TARA

31/1, TOPSIA ROAD (SOUTH), KOLKATA - 700006

Balance Sheet As At 31.03.2022

Liabilities	Note	AS ON 31.03.2022	AS ON 31.03.2021	Assets	Note	AS ON 31.03.2022	AS ON 31.03.2021
		₹	₹			₹	₹
Trust Fund				Fixed Assets (At WDV)	3.5	4,839,541	4,517,355
Corpus	3.3	720,000	720,000				
Trust Other Fund		11,233,120	11,233,120	Current Assets			
Project Funds		628,702	1,500,536	Loans & Advances	3.6	1,852,236	850,454
Specified Purpose Fund for expenditure u/s 11(2)		1,008,274	3,759,564				
Reserves & Surplus		27,939,523	18,429,602	Cash & Bank Balances	3.7		
		36,529,619	35,642,822	Cash in Hand		48,227	38,542
Current Liabilities & Provisions	3.4	9,514,332	7,882,423	Balances with banks in Current / Savings a/c		14,432,118	29,741,170
				Balances in Term Deposits in banks (including accrued interest)		24,871,829	8,377,724
Total		46,043,951	43,525,245	Total		46,043,951	43,525,245

Significant Accounting Policies and Notes to the Financial 1 - 3.32

The Notes form an integral part of the Balance Sheet

In terms of our report of even date
For, Dipankar Nandi & Associates
Chartered Accountants
Firm Reg. No: 324207E

Pallab Mukherjee
Partner
Membership number 063037

Place : Kolkata
Date : 5th September, 2022



For Ek Tara

EK TARA
Namrata Sureka
Trustee

EK TARA
Vinita Saraf
Trustee

UDIN: 22 063037 ATDLJO 7264

Financials

EK TARA
31/3, TOPRA ROAD (SOUTH), KOLKATA - 700006
Income And Expenditure Account For The Year Ended 31st March 2022

EXPENDITURE	Year ended on 31.03.2022		Year ended on 31.03.2021		INCOME	Note	Year ended on 31.03.2022		Year ended on 31.03.2021	
	₹	₹	₹	₹			₹	₹	₹	₹
To Charitable Program Expenses [refer Note 3.9]					By Donations Received	3.8		25,693,900		22,430,340
Health Program expenses:	1,846,651		1,508,177		By Other Receipts from					3,060
Covid 19 / Amgan Flood Relief	2,136,118		8,118,585		Vocational activities /					
Projects					Exhibitions)					
Education Program expenses	15,366,674		6,386,066		By Recovery of costs		348,800		12,156	
Vocational Training Program	-				By Liabilities written back		767		171	
Community Engagement Programs	782,798		343,545							
		20,135,259		16,156,303	By Income from Bank					
To Administrative and Other					Interest on					
Expenses					Savings Account		948,251		428,336	1,006,576
Bank Charges		11,872		12,173	Fixed Deposits		1,180,938	1,521,649	603,652	4,348
Interest on delayed payments		60		67	By Interest on Income Tax			8,144		3,881
Salaries, Stipend and Trainee		1,380,949		3,127,351	Refund					
Allowances		54,316		169,517	By Interest On Security					
Provident Fund and Other Welfare					Deposits					
expenses										
Professional & Consultancy Charges		405,188		982,816						
Electricity charges		194,829		85,368						
Postage & Courier Charges		890		177						
Rent		1,852,900		-						
Municipal Tax for Bunked Premises		88,585		11,296						
Printing & Stationery Expenses		118,041		57,685						
Travelling & Conveyance-										
Car Running Expenses	216,385		215,909							
Travelling Expenses	22,886									
Conveyance	4,812	248,364	33,252	283,905						
Office Expenses (Includes Kitchen		40,929		194,996						
utensils, etc. - ₹ 1,06,838)										
Repairs, Maintenance and upkeep:										
Repair & Maintenance Charges	416,768		132,132							
Maintenance of Electrical	44,585	471,293	87,376	199,508						
equipment/Airconditioners										
Fund Raising Expenses		144,345								
Audit fees		47,190		23,880						
Building and Furniture Renovation		211,053		506,396						
and maintenance										
Seminars/Conferences/Training										
Expense				140,880						
Taxes & Other fees		2,300		5,080						
Telephone & Internet		288,196		113,149						
Miscellaneous Expense		-								
Web Development, Maintenance &		51,871		158,215						
IT Services		27,300								
Computer Maintenance Charges		75,481								
Event Expenses		-		3,091						
Balances Written off				848,768						
To Depreciation		1,134,180		7,490,960						
To Excess of Income Over Expenditure		386,798								
Total		28,775,123		30,470,449	Total		28,775,123		28,481,785	

Significant Accounting Policies and Notes to the Financial Statements - 1 - 6.11

The Notes form an integral part of the Income & Expenditure Account.

In terms of our report of even date

For, Dipankar Mondal & Associates

Chartered Accountants

Firm Reg. No: 324207E

Pallab Mukherjee

Pallab Mukherjee

FAT/01

Membership number 861037

Place : Kolkata

Date : 5th September , 2022



For Ek Tara

EK TARA

Harvata Sunda

Harvata Sunda

Trustee

EK TARA

Vinita Saraf

Vinita Saraf

Trustee

Trustee

Financials

EK TARA
31/1 TOPSIA ROAD (SOUTH) KOLKATA-700046

Notes forming part of the financial statements as at 31.03.2022

1 Overview of the Trust's Operations

A registered Trust, Ek Tara began its journey in 2011 with the mission for providing high-quality holistic education to children and women of impoverished families to enable community transformation. As a part of its programme and projects, all beneficiaries, including those in the vocational training unit, have access to support programmes on health, hygiene, nutrition and skill building opportunities.

Its aim is also to enable future generations of impoverished people to break out of the poverty enforced lack of education.

2 Accounting Policy

2.1 Grant / Donations Accounting

All grants are accounted on receipt and expenditure and liabilities are accounted /recognised on accrual basis. Grants / donations received towards the year end and not possible to be expended within the financial year, are treated as Advance donations and necessary applications as required under the Income Tax rules for deferment of expenditure to the next financial year are made by the Trust.

2.2 Grant/ Donation Accounting on specified projects

Grants /donations accepted / received towards implementation of various programmes for carrying out specific purposes are spent according to the direction of the donor agencies and unspent balances, if any, are dealt with in accordance with the instructions/arrangement with the donor agencies. Normally the donations are received to be spent within the financial years and so they are treated as income of the year when they are received, unless they are received at the year end and treated as "Advance donation".

2.3 Interest on Deposits

Interest income is accounted on accrual basis.

2.4 Corpus Fund

Donations specifically received towards Corpus are added to the Trust fund and are separately disclosed.

2.5 Fixed assets are stated at cost of acquisition.

Assets created out of a Project Grant are stated at cost of acquisition to the Trust.

2.6 Depreciation

Depreciation on fixed assets are provided on written down value method at rates provided in the Income Tax Act, 1961. Depreciation on the Assets created out of Project funds are adjusted against the Capital Fund.

2.7 Disclosure and classification of expenditure

All expenditure incurred directly towards the charitable programmes of the Trust are disclosed as "Charitable Programme Expenses" and all other expenditure providing support to the programmes are disclosed under Administrative and Other expenses.

All expenses are accounted for on accrual basis.

2.8 Employee benefits

Cost of short term employee benefits are recognised on accrual basis on the terms of the employment contract and other relevant compensation policies followed by the Trust. Leave is not accumulated and are allowed to be encashed within the financial year.



Financials

3 Additional disclosures

3.1 EkTara is a Charitable Trust registered under section 12AA of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

3.2 There are no contingent liability as on the date of the Balance Sheet as at 31.03.2022

3.3 Trust Fund

Particulars		Amount (₹) 31.03.2022	Amount (₹) 31.03.2021
(a) Corpus			
Balance as at beginning of year		720,000.00	100,000.00
Add: Corpus donations received		-	620,000
Balance as at close of year	A	720,000	720,000
(b) Trust Other Fund			
Balance as at beginning of year		11,233,120	11,233,120
Balance as at close of year	B	11,233,120	11,233,120
(c) Project Funds (amounts unspent at the year end)			
FCRA Funds		628,702	1,427,865
Non FCRA		-	72,671
	C	628,702	1,500,536
(d) Specified Purpose Fund for expenditure u/s 11(2)			
Balance at Beginning of the year		3,759,564	634,475
Transfer from General Fund		-	3,125,089
		3,759,564	3,759,564
Less: Utilised during the year		2,751,289	-
Balance as at close of year	D	1,008,275	3,759,564
(e) General Fund			
Balance as at beginning of year		18,429,602	14,413,118
Add: Excess of Income over Expenditure for the		886,738	7,499,969
		19,316,400	21,913,087
Add: Amount unspent at the beginning of the year		1,500,536	1,142,140
Less: Unspent Project Fund Surplus transferred to Project Fund		628,702	1,500,536
Less: Transfer to Specified Purpose Fund u/s 11(2)		-	3,125,089
Add: Amount adjusted against expenditure from Specified fund u/s 11(2)		2,751,289	-
	E	22,939,523	18,429,602
Total Trust Fund	A+B+C+D+E	39,280,908	35,642,872

3.4 Current Liabilities

Particulars		Amount (₹) 31.03.2022	Amount (₹) 31.03.2021
Liabilities for expenses		177,600	27,139
Statutory dues payable		120,335	75,794
Audit fees Payable		23,600	23,600
Sundry Creditors		81,359	437,304
Caution Deposits on Education activities *		534,800	574,800
Advance Donations - (including donation received towards CSR Activities of ₹ 47,30,000/-; pr ₹ 38,25,000/-)*		8,536,738	5,715,250
Donation Refundable		-	1,028,536
Total		9,514,332	7,882,423

* In case of drop outs, the amounts received are treated as donations and not refunded. Such deposits are normally to be refunded at the end of Class X examination (SSC). The Trust is in the process of reviewing the cases of dropouts and amounts, will be transferred to donation income accordingly.

** Advance donations received towards the end of the financial year, ₹ 85,36,738 (Pr-₹ 57,15,250) and expenses will be incurred in the financial year 2022-23 and for which necessary application of the Income Tax Act, 1961 and applicable Rules, would be made.



Financials

3.5 Fixed Assets

Assets Description *	Rate	Written down value as at 1st April 2021	Additions during the year (more than 180 days)	Additions during the year (less than 180 days)	Disposal / Adjustment during the year	Total as at 31.3.2022	Depreciation for the year (Refer Note below)	Written down value as at March 31 2022
		Amount (₹)	Amount (₹)	Amount (₹)	Amount (₹)	Amount (₹)	Amount (₹)	Amount (₹)
Sewing Machine	15%	66,336	-	-	-	66,336	9,950	56,386
Aqua guard	15%	3,250	-	-	-	3,250	488	2,762
Office Equipment	15%	61,853	-	-	-	61,853	9,279	52,574
Air Conditioners	15%	101,971	-	-	-	101,971	15,297	86,674
CCTV Camera	15%	163,060	10,266	26,394	-	199,720	27,979	171,741
Wall Fan	15%	189,694	-	-	-	189,694	28,454	161,240
Bicycle	15%	1,975	-	-	-	1,975	296	1,679
Cycle Van	15%	29,750	-	-	-	29,750	4,463	25,287
Micro oven	15%	15,637	-	-	-	15,637	2,346	13,291
Vehicles	15%	1,051,391	-	-	-	1,051,391	157,709	893,682
Mobile Phone	15%	76,497	808,200	-	-	884,697	132,705	751,992
Television	15%	114,237	-	-	-	114,237	17,136	97,101
Refrigerator	15%	22,385	-	-	-	22,385	3,358	19,027
Computers, Hardware & Software Licenses ²	40%	788,668	498,400	-	-	1,287,068	514,829	772,239
Furniture & Fixtures	10%	1,804,519	-	-	-	1,804,519	180,451	1,624,068
Fire Extinguisher	10%	26,132	46,256	47,000	-	119,388	9,590	109,798
		4,517,355	1,363,122	73,394	-	5,953,871	1,114,330	4,839,541

Note: * Depreciation is provided on written down value method at rates as per the Income Tax Act 1961.

² Includes software WDV ₹ 10,195 (FY ₹ 16,992); depreciation for the year thereon ₹ 6,797 (FY- 8,496).

3.6 Loans & Advances

Particulars	Amount (₹) 31.03.2022	Amount (₹) 31.03.2021
Security Deposits	298,876	49,402
Other Advances recoverable in cash or kind	95,134	87,233
School session fees paid in advance	205,550	-
Prepaid Expenses	246,035	41,300
Income tax Deducted at Source	162,412	116,716
Current account with Creative EkTara Foundation	844,229	555,803
Total	1,852,236	850,454

3.7 Cash and Bank Balance

Particulars	Amount (₹) 31.03.2022	Amount (₹) 31.03.2021
Cash in Hand	48,227	38,542
<u>Balances with Scheduled Banks</u>		
In Savings account	12,336,105	23,091,459
In Current account	2,096,013	6,649,711
In Term Deposits (refer note (a) below)	24,783,848	8,083,752
Add: Interest accrued	87,981	293,971
Total	29,262,174	38,157,435

(a) Term Deposits includes Rs.40,00,000/- earmarked for deferment of expenditure under section 11(2) in FY 2019-20 for which necessary application under Income Tax Act, 1961 and applicable Rules, would be made.



Financials

3.8 Donations Received

FCRA Donations -in cash
FCRA Donations -in kind (at estimated cost)
Non FCRA Donations *

Amount (₹)	Amount (₹)
31.03.2022	31.03.2021
11,494,058	11,951,245
-	475,105
15,401,845	17,004,598
26,895,903	29,430,949
* Includes CSR Donations	6,373,323
	6,489,605

3.9 Charitable Programme expenses of the years 2021-22 and 2020-21 include the following expenses, being directly relating to the Programmes undertaken.

	2021-22	2020-21
	Amount (₹)	Amount (₹)
Salaries, Stipend and Trainee Allowances	10,355,742	4,611,851
Professionals/Consultant's charges	2,062,747	702,315
Repairs and Renovation	-	318,995
Printing & Stationery	73,804	82,477
Conveyance and car running expenses	31,634	27,616
Telephone & Internet charges	4,152	10,437
	12,528,079	5,753,691

3.10 The Trust has complied with the provisions of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, (FCRA) 2010 and the Trust has a valid registration.

3.11 The Projects under implementation during the year and carried over to next financial year (2022-23) being the unutilised balances of ₹ 628,702 under specified Donations are claimed for deferment under form 9A with the I.T Authorities. The deposit is continued for the unutilised balances of donations deferred as on 31.3.2022

3.12 Figures of the previous year has been regrouped and/or reclassified to conform to current year grouping and classification.

In terms of our report of even date

In terms of our report of even date

For, Dipankar Mandi & Associates

Chartered Accountants

Firm Reg. No: 324207E

Pallab Mukherjee

Pallab Mukherjee

Partner

Membership number 063037



EK TARA

Namrata Sureka

Namrata Sureka

Trustee

Vinita Saraf

Vinita Saraf

Trustee

Place : Kolkata

Date : 5th September , 2022



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Please note that all
contributions made are eligible
for tax exemption under section
80G of the Income Tax Act.



**We thank you for your continued
support.**

Contact

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EK TARA
ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022

Ek★Tara

Her Abilities. Endless Possibilities.