# Help Us Keep the Promise

## Community Steps Up to Support Education in Remote Chhattisgarh — But More Help is Urgently Needed

In the remote tribal villages of Pondi Uproda, Chhattisgarh, 130 children are living and learning in ASPIRE's Residential Bridge Course (RBC) Centres — a second chance at education for children who had dropped out due to poverty, migration, or lack of access.These are not just classrooms. They are lifelines — safe spaces where children receive education, care, and the foundation to rejoin formal schools.










### But today, these centres face an uncertain future.

Despite strong community ownership, our funding to run the two RBCs is running out.

### The Community Responds: A Powerful Moment of Ownership

On 22nd June 2025, something remarkable happened. At the Block-Level PRI meeting at Girls' RBC Centre in Rampur, 46 PRI members, 118 volunteers, and community leaders including the District President, Janpad Members, and Sarpanches from all 77 Gram Panchayats gathered — not just to review progress, but to act.

Together, they pledged to keep the centres running through :

🟢 Monthly contributions of 15–20 kg of rice from each Panchayat
🟢 20 Sarpanches and 6 social workers 'adopting' 26 children, pledging ,500/month per child
🟢 A symbolic and heartfelt beginning, with Rs 10,000 raised on the spot






"We cannot let our children slip back into darkness after coming so far," said one PRI member.

This is what community-driven education transformation looks like. But local contributions — while inspiring — cannot cover **Rs 39,72,000** needed annually to run both centres.

### Why This Matters More Than Ever

If we cannot bridge this funding gap now:

- 130 children risk losing not just a year, but their future

- Years of progress could be undone
- A model of community-led education reform may stall

**We've shown what's possible. The community has shown up.**

**Now we're asking you to stand with them.**

## About the Jan Pahal Program

Launched in December 2022, Jan Pahal is ASPIRE's flagship education program in the remote and forested Pondi Uproda block of Korba, Chhattisgarh—one of India's officially identified Aspirational Districts.

Our goal is to enable all children (6–14 years) to receive equitable and quality education through a revitalized public delivery system that prepares them to realize their full potential.



The program aims to create a district saturation model aligned with SDG 4, ensuring that:

- All children complete free, equitable, and quality elementary education.

- Schools are effectively managed with empowered teachers and communities.
- Children build foundational and transversal skills to succeed in life and emerging careers.

The intervention is deeply rooted in local culture and language, with 99% of staff and volunteers drawn from local communities and 72% from Scheduled Tribes (who make up 72.94% of the block population).

## How We Work

Jan Pahal's multi-layered approach focuses on:

✅ **Reintegrating Out-of-School Children through Residential Bridge Course (RBC) Centres**
Our RBCs offer intensive residential learning for long-term out-of-school children, helping them catch up and transition into mainstream schools. These centres provide not just education, but also care, emotional support, and holistic development.



✅ **Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN)**
Supporting children in Grades 1–5 with core reading, writing, and math skills through trained local volunteers and classroom strategies.

✅ **Learning Enrichment Programs (LEP)**
Targeted interventions for children in Grades 3–5 to strengthen foundational competencies using joyful, contextual materials.

✅ **Library & Digital Access in Schools**
Establishing libraries and digital learning environments to promote reading habits and enhance digital literacy across schools.

✅ **Community Empowerment through PRI & SMC Engagement**
Building capacity and ownership among local governance bodies to improve school functioning and ensure every child stays in school.



## Our Impact So Far

📍 2,755 out-of-school children identified through mobile-based door-to-door surveys
✅ 1,750 children re-enrolled in schools via RBCs and direct enrollment
📘 6,911 children supported with foundational learning across 150 schools
📚 365 schools now have libraries and storybooks
💻 2,199 children using digital learning tools in Bridge Course Centres
👩‍🏫 181 government teachers trained in foundational pedagogy

🏫 4,566 PRI & SMC members oriented; 7,541 meetings held with over 78,000 participants
📈 30% improvement in language and 42% in numeracy
🏗️ Government recognition: A new primary school sanctioned for Ranai Pahad and an existing school upgraded to middle school

### Daily Life at RBC Centres

- Morning yoga, prayers, and breakfast
- Academic classes using storybooks, rhymes, and games
- Post-lunch enrichment: music, play, library time
- Evening reflections, snacks, and quiet reading



More than just classrooms, these centres are safe spaces where children grow emotionally, learn essential life skills, and experience holistic development rooted in care and hope.

## Funding Need: Help Us Keep the Doors Open

To operate the two centres for another year, we require a total of ₱39,72,000.

While our community has stepped forward in inspiring ways, the funding gap is still wide. Without timely support, 130 vulnerable children face the risk of dropping out again—undoing years of effort.

## Why Your Support Matters

This appeal isn't just about two centres. It's about:

- Keeping children in school, safe and learning
- Sustaining a proven grassroots model for education
- Realizing the vision of SDG 4 and Aspirational District transformation
- Empowering tribal communities to lead and own change

## Join Us in This Journey

We invite CSR partners, philanthropic organisations, and individuals to support the continuation of this critical intervention.

Your contribution helps us bridge the gap—and in doing so, bridge a child's future to possibility, confidence, and hope.

📽️ Watch the Reel to see how Jan Pahal is transforming lives in Chhattisgarh.