



30 Facts About Akanksha for our 30th Anniversary

What is Akanksha ...

1. Akanksha Foundation is a nonprofit in India with a mission is to provide equitable access to a high-quality education. Akanksha in Hindi means 'to aspire'.
2. Akanksha Education Fund is a separate nonprofit in the U.S. serving as a fundraising and advocacy entity for the Akanksha Foundation.
3. Fundraising from the U.S. Fund currently contributes to approximately 25% of the Foundation's budget.
4. Akanksha Foundation is one of the largest public-private partnerships of its kind in India - adopting government schools and bringing our model to improve learning outcomes and student performance
5. The buildings are provided by municipal governments but the teachers, pedagogy, learning methods are all Akanksha!

How we started...

6. Akanksha Foundation started in 1991 as a single after school center with 1 teacher serving 15 underprivileged children in Mumbai. By 2007 we had 60 afterschool centers serving 3,000 children.
7. We started our first school in Mumbai in 2007 with the Mumbai Municipal Government
8. There are now 21 K-10 English-medium Akanksha schools in Mumbai and Pune serving 10,000 students, and over 3,500 alumni that are spread across the globe.
9. Children are admitted into Akanksha through a lottery system; we ensure an equal ratio of girls and boys in each school.

How we do it...

10. Our school team consists of a school leader, a social worker, counselor and a team of teachers
11. ~~Rote Learning~~. Skills based instruction to master core academic skills, with an equal focus on socio-emotional development
12. The Whole Child. We prioritize supporting students not just in their academic learning, but also by creating a supportive community environment and offering art, sports, music, debate and theater clubs.
13. Akanksha spends lesser than the government per child annually and we achieve stellar academic results - 99% of our students complete Grade 10 with flying colors.
14. Our students achieve foundational literacy and numeracy by grade 3 (50% of the children in India do not reach that by Grade 5)

Our work in the U.S.

15. We create awareness and raise funds for Akanksha's work in India .
16. We support Akanksha alumni studying in the U.S. with mentorship, a support network and more
17. We engage companies and employees to support Akanksha's work by donating to the Fund.
18. Students from the U.S. schools have worked at Akanksha schools in India as part of a summer volunteer program.
19. All donations made to the Akanksha Education Fund are tax deductible under U.S. law.

Supporting our students beyond school...

20. 97 % of our alumni continue on to grade 11 after graduating from an Akanksha school. and 77% go on to continue undergraduate education.
21. Akanksha's first batch of students graduated from one of the schools in Pune in 2013.
22. We offer financial support and career counseling to the Akanksha alumni, and many have gone on to universities across the world. 11 of them are in colleges in America.
23. Two of Akanksha's alumni are also on the Board of the Akanksha Foundation, bringing their first hand perspective to help set the direction for Akanksha.

Our model affects more than our students...

24. Parents are a part of Akanksha as partners in learning and as members of School Management Committees. Parents also receive literacy and job training, and can volunteer in community programs.
25. During the COVID-19 pandemic we supported our parents with skills training and job placement assistance. We also distributed humanitarian aid to our families in need during the pandemic.
26. Municipal schools in Maharashtra use Akanksha's Art curriculum for their students and our Art curriculum is available nationwide in India through the central government's *Dikhsha* App

Our plans for the future...

27. We have plans to grow into new cities in Maharashtra this year including Nagpur and Nasik.
28. Akanksha's long term vision is to reach 1 million children in India.
29. Akanksha Education Fund is looking to increase awareness of Akanksha's mission in the U.S. in areas like Texas and California.
30. **YOU** can help Akanksha reach 1 million students in India by supporting the Akanksha Education Fund with a meaningful gift.

