



Learning by Locals

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About Learning by Locals

Learning by Locals is an NGO that aims to educate and empower today's youth by helping them develop personal and professional skills and providing students with the right opportunities and guidance to achieve their goals. Registered in September 2017, the NGO is situated in a low-income community (Sanjay Colony slum) in New Delhi's industrial area, Okhla. The work of the NGO stems from the idea that teenage years can often feel incredibly confusing for young people. The pressure to make decisions and take actions with long-lasting consequences makes the right guidance and support extremely critical in determining their future. LBL aims to provide direction, exposure and a safe space for the youth to discover their goals and aspirations. LBL offered after-school English and computer classes. We aim to **create a safe**

space in every community where an individual can learn and share to make the world a happy place

New Initiatives:

As a new initiative this year, we organized a **Summer Camp** for our students filled with joy, creativity, and meaningful learning. The camp included a variety of engaging sessions such as cooking, well-being, and theatre. Through these activities, students not only had fun but also developed important life skills like teamwork, communication, and self-expression. The cooking sessions allowed them to try simple recipes together, while the theatre workshops helped them open up and build confidence. Our well-being sessions introduced students to the basics of self-care and mindfulness. It was truly heartwarming to see the students take initiative, support one another, and enjoy this new kind of learning. One student shared, "I loved the cooking class! We laughed, learned, and I even tried making the dish at home for my family." This Summer camp was a refreshing experience.





Summer camp

Emerge Fellowship



Our Current Batch of Emerge Fellows

"As women achieve power, the barriers will fall. As society sees what women can do, as women see what women can do, there will be more women out there doing things, and we'll all be better off for it." — Sandra Day O'Connor

Given the socio-cultural biases that women face, a lot of young girls in the Sanjay Colony area are not allowed to complete their education, are married off early and are not able to achieve success up to their full potential. To address this issue, we started the Emerge Fellowship program. The Emerge Fellowship is geared towards empowering these women with employability skills and enabling them to achieve financial independence. It is a six-month program that provides the fellows a stipend along with a professional training in basic English, computers and mathematics. Moreover, the fellowship equips the women with the exposure and confidence required to step out of their homes and find jobs - be it using Google maps, writing emails or travelling to new places outside the city. Most importantly, the fellowship not only empowers the women themselves but also gives their families the confidence that these women are capable of achieving so much more, thereby opening access to far more opportunities for the women, their families and their society.

This year, we proudly completed the **seventh batch of the Emerge Fellowship**, with a **67% completion rate**. Many fellows have moved ahead — some have found jobs, while others chose to continue their education. Even with limited funding, the impact of this program inspired us to begin our **eighth and largest batch yet**, with **10 new fellows**. These young individuals are full of hope and dreams. In fact, one fellow from the new batch has already started living her dream — she has begun her journey to become an **air hostess**!

Hunarbaaz

We recently established a platform for Learning by Locals and Neev students to showcase their diverse talents. Our students exhibit a myriad of skills, including but not limited to, fashion shows, music performances, dance routines, paintings, theatrical performances, poetry recitations, and various other talents. The platform provides an opportunity for these individuals to express their creativity and skills, fostering an environment that celebrates the rich diversity of talents within our community. It also provides them the exposure and confidence to go up on a big stage and perform. We have done 8 Hunarbaaz sessions so far and have learnt how it is an important enabler for our students. For many of them, it is the first time that they have gone up on a stage in front of an audience. It is after working through their nervousness that some of our brightest students have gone ahead and had the confidence to achieve their goals. We are planning to organise a big event in which our students will be able to perform in front of about 500 students in November 2025.

Here is the Youtube video link of our Hunarbaaz - 8

<https://youtu.be/SNgnniY4D5o>



Hunarbaaz -8 (Talent show)

Team Retreat

This quarter, we took a pause from our daily work and came together for a refreshing **Team Retreat**. As an organization, it was a special time to **revisit our goals**, reflect on our journey, and remind ourselves why our work matters. We had meaningful conversations about our purpose, challenges, and the impact we want to create. The retreat also gave us a chance to **connect with each other on a personal level**, build stronger bonds, and simply enjoy being together outside of our usual roles. It was a powerful reminder that behind all the work, we are a team with shared dreams and a common mission.



Our Team of Learning by Locals

YUVAAJ: A Celebration of Youth Voices

On **13th July 2025**, our students had the incredible opportunity to participate in **YUVAAJ** — a vibrant showcase of youth expression and empowerment, organized by our partner organization, **Manzil Media Lab**. Held at the **Lotus Temple Auditorium in New Delhi**, the event brought together around **500 people**, all gathered to celebrate “**Yuva ki Awaaz**” — the **voice of youth**.

Our **Dance and Theatre class students** performed on stage, and for many of them, it was their **first time performing in front of such a big audience**. Despite the nerves, they shined with confidence and passion. It was a proud and emotional moment to see their **parents in the audience**, witnessing their children perform with joy and strength.

The energy of the students, the support from the community, and the platform to express themselves made **YUVAAJ** a truly powerful experience. We are grateful to Manzil Media Lab for creating this space and for reminding us how important it is to listen to and celebrate young voices.



YUVAAJ - YUVA KI AAVAJ

Habitat Learning Centre (HLC)

The Habitat Learning Centre at the India Habitat Centre provides courses on computers, photography and skill development, among others. The India Habitat Centre is our official partner and Learning by Locals sends its students to HLC every year to benefit from their comprehensive IT education. 6 of our students just completed the advanced computer course and there are now 14 new students who are in the process of joining the advanced computer course.

Aside from the course curriculum, learning at HLC is an exciting experience for the students as it gives them the chance to interact with students from other NGOs, explore a new part of Delhi, attend various cultural events at the India Habitat Centre. This not only leads to their professional but also their personal growth.



Our Students receiving completion certificates from HLC

Frisbee Tournament

Frisbee is a learning-filled sport that teaches the importance of **team bonding**, **communication**, and **gender equality**. At **Learning by Locals**, we launched our **Frisbee Club** in January 2023, and since then, it has grown into a vibrant and passionate community of over **40 players**.

This year, 2025, has been a big one for our Frisbee community!

Our team, now proudly called **Flying Wolf (LBL's official team)**, successfully organized the **LBL League 2.0**, bringing together young players for a fun-filled and energetic tournament. The event was a celebration of teamwork, effort, and the spirit of the game.

Beyond our own league, our students have been actively participating in matches and tournaments across Delhi, planned by **Y-Ultimate**, giving them exposure, confidence, and the thrill of competition.

At LBL, Frisbee isn't just a sport — **it's a powerful tool for youth development and community building**.



Gandhi Fellowship : A Journey of Change and Leadership

The **Gandhi Fellowship** is a two-year program that supports young individuals who want to bring change at the grassroots level in India. Fellows work closely with government schools, focusing on improving education, health, and leadership in rural areas. It's not just a job — it's a journey of learning, service, and growth. This year two of our students became part of the Gandhi Fellowship 2025 batch.

Richa's Journey: From Student to Change-Maker



Richa joined *Learning by Locals* in August 2022 as a student in Computer and English classes. Her transformation was truly inspiring. While she was still learning, she became an Upcoming Computer Teacher because of her dedication and quick learning. By the end of 2022, she officially became a Computer Teacher at Learning by Locals and continued to teach full-time. In July 2025, Richa began a new and exciting journey as a Gandhi Fellow, where she will be working in rural Gujarat, supporting students' education and health. We're proud to see her grow and give back to the community in a bigger way.

Nandini's Story: A Spirit Full of Learning and Purpose



Nandini became a part of *Learning by Locals* in December 2022 as a learner in English and Computer classes. Her passion and energy stood out from the beginning. In November 2023, she became an Upcoming English Teacher, and soon after, her consistent efforts and growth led her to become a full-time English Teacher in 2024. She served with heart and dedication until March 2025. Now, in July 2025, Nandini is starting a new chapter as a Gandhi Fellow in Bihar, where she will be working with schools to improve education and health in rural communities.

Students Transformations:

At Learning by Locals, we believe that true success is when our students become confident enough to teach and lead others. This year, we're proud to celebrate the journeys of **Dolly**, **Muskan**, and **Anchal**, who started as learners in our classrooms and are now teaching and inspiring others in their own ways.



Dolly

She is an 18-year-old student who joined LBL a year ago to improve her computer skills and English skills. With hard work and focus, she not only completed her course successfully but also became a **Computer Teacher** and worked full time as Teacher. Her consistent performance and growth even helped her score **first division** in her school exams. Dolly says, *"Staying calm, improving skills, and building friendships through teamwork made a big difference."*



Muskan,

She is also 18, is known for her dedication and eagerness to learn. She completed her **basic computer course** from Learning by Locals and soon after, joined another organization as a **Computer Teacher**. With gratitude in her heart, she shared, *"I am very thankful to LBL for giving me the opportunity to learn, and now I am able to teach."*



Anchal,

She joined *Learning by Locals* in **2023** to improve her **English and Computer skills**, but her journey turned out to be much more. Along with gaining knowledge, she learned the value of **time, communication, and responsibility**. Her dedication stood out, and in **April 2025**, she took a big step by starting her journey as a **full-time English Teacher**. Today, she continues to grow — building her confidence, sharpening her teaching skills, and inspiring others.

Rajni's Journey from Student to Theatre Artist



Rajni joined Learning by Locals in 2021 as a student in English and Theatre. From the start, she stood out for her deep love for theatre and her dream of becoming a theatre artist.

In 2025, Rajni joined one of our partner organizations, Manzil DrameBaaz, which uses theatre to create social change among adolescents and youth. Seeing her step into a space that aligns so closely with her passion is a proud moment for us.

She also contributed to LBL by teaching theatre to our young learners and supporting them in performing during talent shows like Hunarbaaz. Her story reminds us of the power of dreams, dedication, and the right community support.



Sangeeta – A Journey of Learning, Leading, and Giving Back

Sangeeta joined **Learning by Locals** in 2021 as an **English student**, driven by a strong desire to grow and improve. Her consistent efforts helped her become an **English Teacher**, and soon she stepped into the role of **English Coordinator**, where she led and supported the English program for **two years**.

In **2024**, she was selected for the prestigious **Community College Initiative Program (CCIP)**, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State. She spent one year in the **United States**,

studying **Organizational Leadership** at **Fox Valley Technical College** in **Appleton, Wisconsin**.

After completing the program, Sangeeta returned to India in **May 2025** and rejoined **Learning by Locals** as an **HR Coordinator**. With a heart full of gratitude and a mind enriched by global learning, she is now focused on **giving back to her community** and building her skills in human resources and leadership.

To our supporters

What you see above are some of the key highlights of our work. There are numerous other activities that we undertake and opportunities that we provide to our students and teachers such as trips outside Delhi, teachers' training, attending various events and organizing movie clubs, among others.

All of our work is possible because of your love and support. Without it we would not have been able to impact the lives of so many students. Thank you so much for helping our students to achieve their dreams and for trusting us.

Please let us know if you wish to volunteer/support us.

Our email id learningbylocals@gmail.com Please follow us on [instagram](#) for update