

## **Zero Investment Innovations for Education Initiatives (ZII EI)**

*A Platform for the Teachers, by the Teachers, to Improve the Quality and Reach of Education in India*

Sri Aurobindo Society, collaboration with Basic Education launched ZII EI (Zero Investment Innovations for Education Initiatives) as a larger state-wide education initiative transformation program, called Rupantar. This is a multi-dimensional umbrella program comprising of several innovative projects, targeting the highest impact areas and encompassing all stakeholders of education.

Sri Aurobindo Society has launched ZII EI program in across all 75 districts of Uttar Pradesh in October 2015. As reported by organization that till August 31, 2016, the program has trained more than 1,000 education officers, 1 lakh principals, and oriented 5 lakh teachers of Basic and Secondary Education on solution-focused zero-investment ideas, and their systematic documentation. Every year, similar trainings are planned, and the top ideas shared by teachers will be implemented in schools through a collaborative effort of the teachers themselves. In turn, the educators as well as innovation-friendly schools will win recognition of the education community and the State Government.

It is estimated by Sri Aurobindo Society that that up to 50,000 schools in the state of Uttar Pradesh would be motivated to share different kind of innovations every year. These innovations would have Long term impact on improvement of quality and reach of education in 1.7lakhschools of the state and approx. 2crore students would be benefited, in which over 70 percent are from rural areas. The specific development impacts in focus of ZII EI, identified in line with the Central and StateGovernment programs, are:

- Improve learning outcomes and decrease learning gaps
- Enhance focus on girl education
- Inclusion of children with special needs in mainstream schools
- Creation of enquiry-led self-learning environment
- Increase involvement of parents in their child's education
- Improve student enrolment and reduce drop-out rate
- Inculcate the deeper human values in teaching and learning Improve motivation levels among teachers
- Motivate community to contribute towards the development of an ideal society

**Work done so far:**

**Trial Run of Orientation Session:** As reported by organization, On January 18, 2016, a trial run of the teacher orientation was started with Secondary Education teachers. By February 14, Approx.20,000 teachers were reached out and received an overwhelmingly positive response.

**Distribution of Guidelines:** In the last week of January, 3,000 guideline booklets has been provided per district for basic education schools to ensure that at least one booklet reached every basic education school. This was to ensure some preliminary awareness of the program among teachers, and was logistically made possible through a distribution drive by the Basic ShikshaAdhikaris (BSAs).

**Following process has been followed while teachers' orientation:**

- Teachers understand that zero-investment innovation in education is the need of the hour, and how each one of them can improve the quality of education through their **individual efforts**.
- Acknowledgement and appreciation for teachers' concerns for the current status of education in Uttar Pradesh, and explain how ZIIEI platform can finally **bring their thoughts into action**.
- **Open forum** where we bring teachers to the dais and enable them to speak out their constructive positive ideas
- **Presence of Education Officers**, such as the local Additional Director, BSA, Additional BSA, or Basic Education Officer (BEO) at the sessions. The teachers are formally introduced to the officers to enable better coordination among them, and the officers encourage and recognize teachers to share their ideas during the session.