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Memorandum of Understanding

MoU as on 21/10/2023, between Department of Elementary Education, Government of Himachal Pradesh, or his representative hereinafter, referred to as "**DEE HP**" which expression shall, unless excluded by or repugnant to the context herein, be deemed to include its successors & permitted assigns of the **First Party**;

And DEVI Sansthan (Dignity, Education, Vision International), a registered charitable society, with registration No. 250/1992-93, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India, hereinafter referred to as "**DEVI**" working in the field of curriculum and policy development in education in India and globally, which expression shall, unless excluded by or repugnant to the context, be deemed to include its successors & assigns of the **Second Party**.

DEE HP, and DEVI are collectively referred to as "parties" and individually as a "party" agree to the following:

1. Project Rationale and Approach

DEVI has developed after 22 years of research Fast-Track Accelerating Learning for All (ALfA) pedagogy and Sampoorn Nai Shiksha. Besides a holistic and broader education as per NEP 200 and NCF 2023, this is also an effective and rapid way to make children capable of Foundational Literacy and Numeracy as per goals of NIPUN Bharat Mission. The primary modality of learning is in pairs by which children learn not just the FLN Competencies but also the 4C Skills of Collaboration, Communication, Critical Thinking, and Creativity, along with the 4C Traits/Qualties of Character, Citizenship, Climate Consciousness and Connectedness (social-emotional-mental well-being).

2. Statement of Purpose

a. **DEE HP** and **DEVI** hereby agree to enter into a non-financial MoU for a period of 3 years including the remainder of this academic year 2022-23, to implement the vision of Himachal PATH NIPUN: Pioneering Academic Transformative and Holistic NIPUN to achieve the goals of universal NIPUN Bharat Mission and to simultaneously provide a holistic new education (Sampoorn Nai Shiksha) for the children of Himachal Pradesh in Grades 1 through 5.

b. This will be accomplished through a Swift and Measurable Foundational Literacy and Numeracy program called Accelerating Learning for All (ALfA) by DEVI that fosters student engagement, collaboration, critical thinking, and other traits while enhances the overall learning experience by reducing teacher burden while making learning a joyful experience for both the children and the teacher, with faster learning and visible results.

c. This agreement is aimed at making HP a pioneer in leading change and spearheading universal excellence in Foundational Literacy and Numeracy in India and beyond. It is further aimed at making HP achieve these goals ahead of the NIPUN Bharat Mission's deadline of 2026/27, and further showcase distinction in the education of children in the primary grades as measured by the National Achievement Survey (NAS) each year.

3. Nature and Details of the Agreement

a. This MoU between DEE HP and DEVI is non-financial with the provision that teacher training venue and other training arrangements will be borne by DEE HP/SPD(SS).
b. This agreement acknowledges that the ALfA Program will be treated as the government's own program as HP PATH NIPUN. DEVI will act as a knowledge partner, and will attend regular meetings and updates on Zoom and in the physical form from time to time.
c. This includes:
    i. Clear expectations from DEE HP, conveyed to all the schools about the collaboration and about focused implementation of the program with regular orders and reminders as and when required; conveying this as their own program supported by DEVI, and other aspects as may be required from time to time.
    ii. DEE HP logo will be used in all printed study materials and in all communications along with DEVI and NIPUN Bharat.
d. A PATH NIPUN Coordinator (referred to as NIPUN Coordinator) at the State Level and a NIPUN Facilitator at the District Level to work as a coordinator between DEVI and DEE HP, empowered with the ability to make quick decisions in consultation with DEE HP and the District Level Officials, and as the coordinator for all trainings, supervision staff their coordination, government orders, and calling of all meetings with the approval of and on behalf of DEE HP. The NIPUN Coordinator will be the sole contact point between DEVI and DEE HP. Likewise, DEVI will appoint one DEVI Liaison Program Officer at the State Level and a NIPUN Liaison Officer at the District Level.

4. Implementation

The implementation of HP PATH NIPUN will take place in stages from a pilot to the districts or state-wide. The implementation of the ALfA Program by DEVI will be in three phases as outlined below:

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span of time. The thin ALfA booklets take 25 days in an FLN intensive (Option A) in which the entire focus of the day is on FLN (no other subjects are taught) and FLN is taught exclusively from ALfA. ALfA may also be implemented as a 45 days program (Option B) in which at least 1 hour per day is given for literacy, and 1.5 hours per day for numeracy learning through ALfA. The other subjects may also be taught. The rationale for Option A is also that once the children acquire the skill to read, they can learn all their subjects more swiftly and with greater understanding, especially when they continue to work with the ALfA process of paired learning which they learn in this PHASE 1.

b. PHASE 2: In the second phase that immediately follows the completion of the ALfA Toolkits, the schools now focus on the completion of the prescribed textbooks and workbooks (or the remaining portions when the program begins in the middle of a session). The ability to read, write and do basic arithmetic developed in PHASE 1, along with paired learning processes, enable far quicker completion of the prescribed textbooks and workbooks.
c. PHASE 3: Time is often left after PHASE 2 for revision and consolidation of concepts, broader goals, and the practice of test papers in PHASE 3 of the year. DEVI provides test papers for formative testing of children and for gap filling. These are useful for all classes but in particular for the preparation of NAS for Grades 3 and 5.

5. The Pilot Stage

a. To achieve the vision of HP PATH NIPUN, DEVI will implement its ALfA program first as a pilot in Solan, followed by implementation and capacity building in other districts including Shimla, and system-wide integration at the State level. For all these developments, DEVI will be associated as the knowledge partner and the DEE HP as implementation partner to mainstream the ALfA curriculum, build longer-term capacity, and for policy developments in HP.
b. Given the exigency of time, pilot for Solan will commence as Option A (Intensive) from November 6, or as soon as possible. PHASE 1 will be preceded by a pre-test in a small sample of schools and one-day training of all teachers of schools of Solan whose academic term ends in March 2024. The district-wide implementation of ALfA will start with 476 schools of Solan that have annual exams in March (Summer Schools). This will be followed by taking up schools that begin their new academic session in February (Winter Schools).

6. The Implementation

The implementation of the ALfA Program will include:

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a. Randomized Control Trial: A Pre-Test will be conducted for a small sample of schools in Solan aiming for an RCT design for a proper research-based analysis and reports. This will be done by first making a list of all primary schools that have an enrollment of at least 70 children across Grades 1 through 5, then selecting a small sample from both Summer (as Treatment) and Winter Schools (as Control) for now. The random selection will be made under the purview of DIET Solan and with their involvement, or a third-party.

b. Benchmark Tests: Benchmark tests will be conducted at the end of each PHASE. A Pre-test as Benchmark 1 will be conducted at the randomly selected schools (as above) before commencing implementation, and at the end of PHASE 1 after the ALfA Toolkits are completed as Benchmark 2 / Post-test for PHASE 1.

c. Capacity Building: Training and empowerment of principals, teachers and middle-level managers (MLMs) such as SRGs, DCs, ARPs, Sankuls, BEOs and others will take place before the beginning of teaching. One day training of principals, teachers and MLMs will be undertaken with half the teachers of each school attending on one day, and the remaining half on a second day such that all schools remain functional, or as possible. Refresher and additional training will be provided as necessary.

d. Implementation: Start implementation in Solan in November as a target date for the 476 Summer Schools (after the upcoming NAS on November 3rd). Roll out implementation in Shimla in February as a target date with details to be decided in collaboration with the DEE HP. The schools will receive during the training itself their ALfA Toolkits for Literacy and Numeracy. This will include all the hands-on learning materials, posters, cards, etc., as required for the implementation of ALfA. The teachers will also receive question booklets for the preparation of children, and the consolidation of learning in other PHASES, and for the formative testing of children.

e. Empowerment of Supervisory Staff: The supervisory staff of the government (referred to as xxxx) will be trained to carry out supervision functions at the schools under PATH NIPUN. They will be trained in the use of the ALfA App and Google Form for Supervision. They will take responsibility for the supervision of the ALfA program and share videos and pictures and regular updates from the visits, including any corrective actions to be made. The calling of the meetings will be done by the NIPUN Coordinator in consultation with the DEVI Liaison Officer.

f. Empowerment of Training Staff: The Trainers of the government (referred to as yyyy) will also be trained to become ALfA experts in the training and capacity building of teachers. They will be empowered with videos, Trainer Guides, and PPTs. They will train and re-train teachers at each level of their responsibility. The DEVI Liaison Officer will ensure the Trainers are trained and re-trained by the DEVI Trainers and remain at the cutting-edge of these new practices to build longer-term capacity of the government.

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g. Reports: Reports from time to time will be prepared by DEVI under purview of DIET Solan in the pilot phase (and other agencies as needed), and share these with DEE HP.

h. Honoring: An honoring ceremony will be held to celebrate the progress and to honor all those involved at the end of each PHASE, or as possible, from time to time.

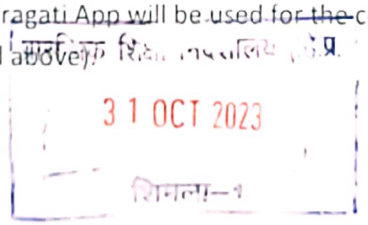
7. Supervision and Support

Additionally, to ensure effective implementation, the following steps will be taken:

a. WhatsApp groups will be formed of teachers and MLMs and with presence of appointed coordinators of government and DEVI, and the presence of government authorities, whereby teachers will regularly post their pictures and videos of the ALfA implementation throughout the period of this MoU. The NIPUN Coordinator will post regular reminders on the group. DEVI Trainers will also post their appreciation to motivate the teachers. DEVI Trainers will separately guide teachers individually or arrange for a refresher training with the help of the Government Trainers in the district, or online training by the DEVI Trainers.

b. Periodic review meetings with the principals, teachers and MLMs will be held online on Zoom and occasionally in person as required. In the pilot phase, weekly meetings will be held online.

c. In cases where schools have access to multimedia devices, DEE HP HP will employ the iProgress App for use in digitally empowered classes by the teachers, and at home by the children to reinforce learning where mobile and other devices exist. ALfA Way App will be provided for supervision support and the Pragati App for instant data collection and real-time reports during field visits and for large-scale data collection. Pragati App will be used for the collection of data in all Benchmark Tests (mentioned above).



8. **Limitation of Liability**

Neither party shall be liable to the other or any third party for indirect, speculative, special, or consequential damages.

9. **Alteration**

Any changes or modifications to the MoU must be mutually agreed upon, put into writing, and executed by authorized representatives of both parties.

10. **Intellectual Property Rights**

All intellectual property and related materials developed during the collaboration will be the sole property of DEVI. DEE HP is prohibited from using the intellectual property for any purpose other than what is contracted for in the MoU, without obtaining prior written consent from DEVI. However, should DEE HP decide to continue the program as part of its system of education in the future, the copyrights may be given to DEE HP for use of its materials and apps through a separate written agreement. Both parties can also utilize the project's report data for research and social media, publishing and promotional purposes.

11. **Termination**

The agreement may be terminated by either party with three months' advance written notice to the other party. Immediate termination may occur in the case of a deviation or violation of the terms and obligations outlined in the MoU.

12. **Force Majeure**

Should there be occurrence of events beyond the control of either party, such as riots, natural disasters, or war, neither party shall be held liable for problems or costs arising from their inability to fulfill their obligations under the MOU. If a force majeure event persists for three months, the MoU will automatically terminate. The party experiencing a force majeure event must provide written notice to the other party within thirty days of its occurrence.

13. **Governing Law and Jurisdiction**

The MoU will be governed by the laws of India, and any disputes arising from it will be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts in Lucknow or Shimla, based on the district of arising.

14. **Notice**

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this agreement in Himachal Pradesh or caused this agreement to execute in Himachal Pradesh by a duly authorized officer, effective as of date below.

	First Party Department of Elementary Education to the Government of Himachal Pradesh	Second Party On behalf of DEVI Sansthan	Witnesses
Name	Shri Ghanshyam Chand HP AS	Dr. Sunita Gandhi	
Designation	Director, Elementary Education, Himachal Pradesh	Founder, CEO	
Signature			
Date	31/10/23		

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Quality Education Vision International
DEVI SANSTHAN LUCKNOW