

2018

Annual Report 2017-18



SOCIAL INCLUSION
THROUGH DIGITAL INCLUSION
EMPOWERING THROUGH EDUCATION

Abheda Foundation

80A Vivekananda Road
Kolkata – 700006
Contact - +919830423540
Email – abhedaf@gmail.com
Website - www.abhedafoundation.org

Annual Report presented by the Trustees of Abheda Foundation at its 6th Annual General body Meeting at 3 pm on 29/05/2018 at the premises of Abheda Foundation, Kolkata.

1. Introduction

Trustees and Members,

It is with immense pleasure and proud privilege that I am presenting this **6th Annual Report** on the various activities of Abheda Foundation for the year 2017-18. I thank all the donors, sponsors, members, staff and well-wishers for taking this trust to a greater height. With the hope of more vigorous help and support in future, I conclude this brief introduction and would like to outline all the activities with facts and figures in the following sections for your consideration and approval.

2. Abheda Foundation – Basic Information

Abheda Foundation, a charitable Trust registered under West Bengal Registration Rules 1962 was established on 20th March, 2012 with an objective to offer all development of common people and minorities with respect to education, health, socio-economy and culture. Since then the Trust has been providing such services as improving the life of the underprivileged in terms of basic living and education.

Registration details of the Trust

Type of Registration	Authorizing Body	Registration No.	Valid for
Trust Registration	W B Registration Rules 1962	02853/2012	Permanently valid
PAN	Income Tax Department	AADTA4977H	Permanently valid
80G	Income Tax Department	NA	Permanently valid
12AA	Income Tax Department	NA	Permanently valid

The Trust has its registered office at **80A, Vivekananda Road, Kolkata – 700006**. It is located at the heart of Kolkata in the state of West Bengal.

Vision

Social Inclusion through Digital Inclusion

Mission

To impart quality education to underprivileged children using technology resources of the digital world, fostering guided and self-organised interactive learning processes.

Governance:

Governance of the Trust is entrusted upon two bodies, namely Board of Trustees and General Body. Its Board of Trustees comprises the individuals as follows:

Name	Professional Involvement	Position	Work
Biswajit Mitra	Retired	Managing Trustee	Administrator and visionary
Naresh Baid	Branch Manager, Kotak Bank	Trustee	Treasurer
Pushan Deb	Senior Information Technology Architect, IBM	Trustee	Administrator and Event Organiser
Sudip Bej	Senior Information Technology Architect, IBM	Trustee	Administrator
Dr. Surojit Mookherjee	Retired from IT	Trustee	Administrator

3. Report on activities and Projects

English CourseTutor Launched

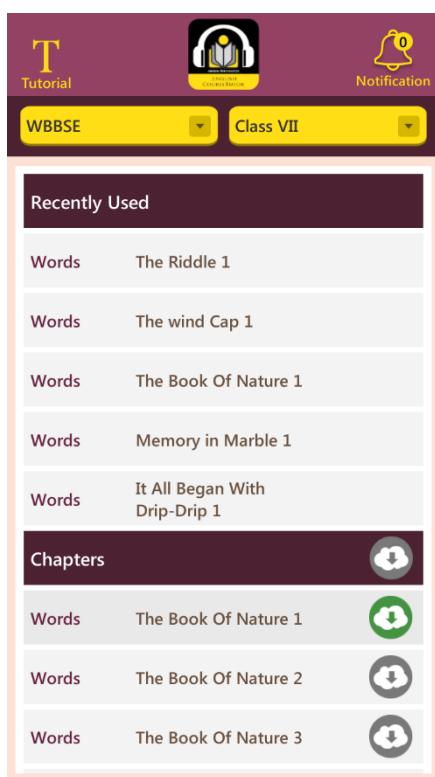
On 27th November, 2017 Abheda Foundation released its free application **English CourseTutor** on Google Play Store. The first version of the app was later supplemented with version 2 on 20th March, 2018 (7th birthday of Abheda Foundation), which enhances the user experience to a good extent. The free app, also available on Windows, offers a new service to the underprivileged students for learning Spoken English through their own syllabus. Teachers can also reap benefit from this app as they may teach the English syllabus of vernacular boards through English CourseTutor in a classroom or at a coaching centre. Presently, the whole English syllabus contents of **West Bengal and Tripura Boards (class I-X)** are included in the app. The features of the app are as follows:



1. Listen to the contents of a chapter of English syllabus as the highlighted text is pronounced (Text-To-Speech) at varying speeds, sentence by sentence or word by word and on magnification
2. Speak, record and listen to a user's own pronunciation of a text
3. Compare user version with that of the software (Speech-To-Text)
4. Know the meaning of a word in English and translate any word in the text into Bengali

For general information and installing the Windows version of English CourseTutor please visit the [products section of Abheda Foundation's website](#), while for the Android version, the reader may visit Google Play Store.

For regular updates, it is advisable to visit the [Facebook page English CourseTutor](#).



Recently Used

- Words The Riddle 1
- Words The wind Cap 1
- Words The Book Of Nature 1
- Words Memory in Marble 1
- Words It All Began With Drip-Drip 1

Chapters

- Words The Book Of Nature 1
- Words The Book Of Nature 2
- Words The Book Of Nature 3



Lesson 2

The Riddle

Let's Start:

Akbar was one of the greatest emperors of India. He belonged to the Mughal dynasty. He had in his court the "Nine Gems", his nine advisors. One of these gems was Birbal, known for his wit and wisdom.



18

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18

Let's read:

The king of Kings, Emperor Akbar, who ruled



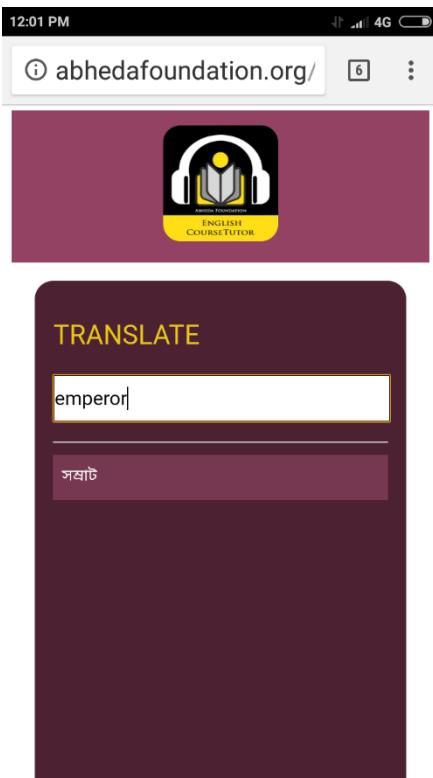
DICTIONARY

emperor

The sovereign or supreme monarch of an empire; a title of dignity superior to that of king; as, the emperor of Germany or of Austria; the emperor or Czar of Russia.

LET'S READ

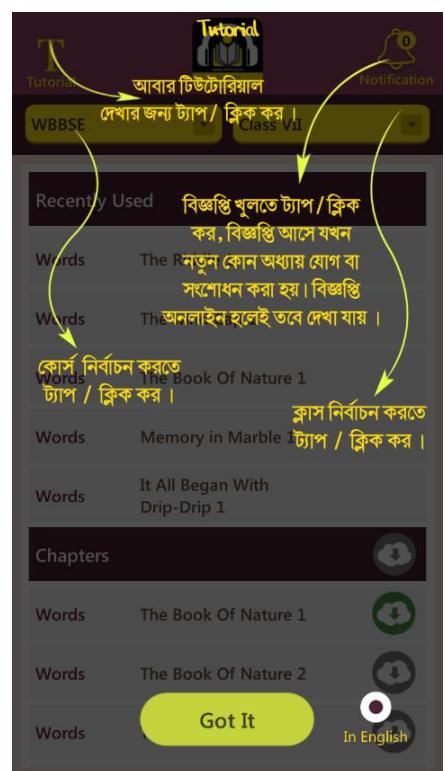
The king of Kings, Emperor Akbar, who ruled



TRANSLATE

emperor

সম্রাট



Tutorial

আবার চিউটেরিয়াল

WBBSE দেখার জন্য ট্যাপ / ক্লিক কর।

Recently Used

বিজ্ঞপ্তি খুলতে ট্যাপ / ক্লিক কর, বিজ্ঞপ্তি আসে যখন সশ্বাধন করা হয়। বিজ্ঞপ্তি থেকে নির্বাচন করতে ট্যাপ / ক্লিক কর।

Words The Riddle 1 ট্যাপ / ক্লিক কর।

Words Memory in Marble 1 ট্যাপ / ক্লিক কর।

Words It All Began With Drip-Drip 1 ট্যাপ / ক্লিক কর।

Chapters

Words The Book Of Nature 1

Words The Book Of Nature 2

Words Got It In English

Let's read:

The king of Kings, Emperor Akbar, who ruled

Swami Vivekananda Scholarship Augmented

The success of **Swami Vivekananda Scholarship Program** inspired Abheda Foundation to enhance the program with more student members. This year our initiatives at Canning in South 24 Parganas and Jhargram, a new venue, resulted into **inclusion of 45 financially challenged yet meritorious students of class VII**. Through examinations held in February 2017 and a subsequent scrutiny on financial conditions, the students have been inducted as new members of the scholarship program. Among the new students, we selected 5 financially challenged Adivasi students from a remote location in Jhargram district without any exam. At a function organised on 8th April, 2018 at Canning, Abheda felicitated the Canning students, presenting them with a certificate, a memento, a tablet with Abheda English, English CourseTutor, interesting videos and thought-provoking games loaded onto it and a cap with Abheda's logo printed on it.

Two milestone additions to the ongoing program this year are the following:

1. **ONGC (CSR) is sponsoring** the Scholarship Program for this year's students
2. **Paid monitors** (college goers) are engaged for monitoring the family members

This way we have increased the **scholarship holders' count to 95**. The student members, ranging from class VII to Bachelor Degree 1st year, are from Canning (South 24 Parganas), Jalangi (Murshidabad) and Jhargram (West Medinipur). We provide them the opportunity to undergo **uninterrupted education** (through scholarship), improve on **English knowledge** (through self-learning of English CourseTutor and Abheda English), develop **computer operations** skill (through workshops and training), learn **science and Mathematics** in an exciting way (through special classes), maintain right **health conditions** (through medical camps and individual treatments), lead to an appropriate **career path** (through career counselling) and of course, engage in a **family-like bonding**. The model is that of **Life Skill Building**, and our final objective is to **make our family members stand in life and become responsible socially-aware Indian citizens**.

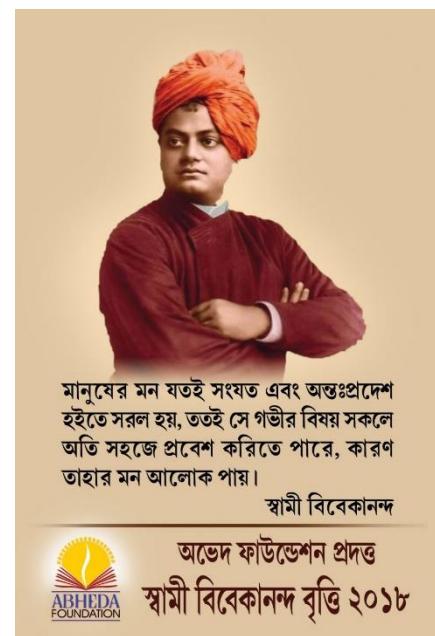
The progress of the family members of last year's scholarship program in English has been more than satisfactory. About 70% of the students passed the Beginner's Course with distinction (>80%). They are pursuing the Intermediate Course at present.

We have initiated a new program titled **A Statistical Study on Abheda's Scholarship Holders**. The study aims at collecting demographic and performance data of our students over the years of scholarship and analyse them to arrive at insightful conclusions. Not only that process fine-tuning of our future scholarship programs will be fostered by this study, the students can be better served with the outcomes of the study being conducted.

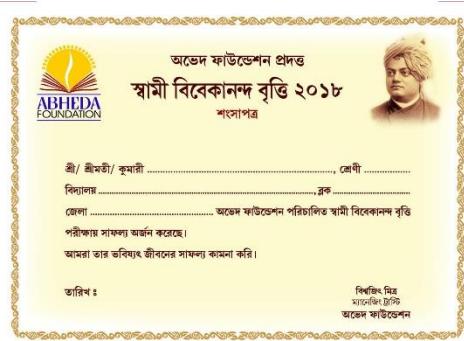
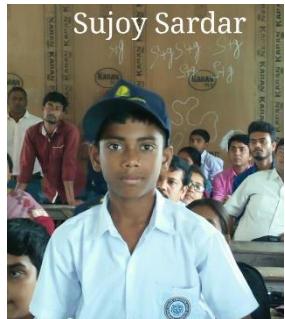
The reader may visit [the Facebook page Extend Your Family](#) for regular updates on the program.

Digital Education Program for Meritorious Students Initiated

ONGC (CSR) has sponsored and Abheda has launched a new program for meritorious students of Kolkata schools (class VII). In this program, 50 best students from 25 Bengali and Hindi medium schools of Kolkata will be offered tablets with the contents and apps as above. They will not be given a scholarship, but will be monitored and assessed as in the case of scholarship students. Their demographic and performance data will be collected and used in the Statistical Study.



ଆବେଦ ଫାଉଡେଶନ ପ୍ରଦତ୍ତ
ସ୍ଵାମୀ ବିବେକାନନ୍ଦ ବୃତ୍ତି ୨୦୧୮



Journey with Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Programs Begins

Abheda proudly joins the **Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) CSR Program** on 27th April 2018 as on that day an agreement on the scope and mode of work was signed between the sponsors ONGC and implementers Abheda to mark the beginning of the Scholarship Program 2018. A significant cost of the whole program will be borne by ONGC for one year, while Abheda will execute the program with vigour and rigor. This endeavour is a milestone event in the life of Abheda Foundation.

Abheda are also in **talks on CSR initiatives of two more corporations**.

If they materialise, we would be fortunate to open two more Abheda eSchools – one at Jhargram and the other at Raidighi, Sundarbans. A separate [Website page CSR](#) is now in operation, addressing all the CSR activities of different companies with respect to Abheda.



Enhancement of English CourseTutor Contents Started

While English CourseTutor addresses the Spoken English aspect of the language adequately, in our continuous endeavour to enhance the contents, we are working towards including **common conversations** in English CourseTutor. A group of English teachers are given responsibility to interpose contextual conversational talks within the question-answer content that they create for each chapter. The presentation of the conversations will need a software version update. Once the conversations are implemented, common students will be vastly benefitted.

Support for Abheda eSchool at Jalangi, Murshidabad Continued

Abheda eSchool at Jalangi, being run by a franchise Raypara Milan Sangha, is now one and half years old. It has produced some **students proficient in English**. Computer operations and painting training along with tuitions on subjects in school syllabus are being carried out by local teachers. The eSchool also partakes in training other local students of Jalangi Block. Abheda Foundation issues certificates upon assessment of their performance.

Campaign for the Apps and Website Triggered

To improve on the traffic to our websites and downloads of the apps, we have embarked upon a three-way campaign, which involves i) **Poster and Banner presentations** in Kolkata, ii) **Advertisement on Google AdWords and SEO** and iii) **Institutional campaigning for using the apps**. We hope that this campaign will pay dividends and initial planning and work is being done too, although the necessary resources – manpower, money and knowhow – are much wanting. And we look for ideas as well. Assistance of experts is warranted.

Other Support

The sympathizers for Abheda's causes have a very active WhatsApp group, which raised ₹50,000 in just 2 days so that **Protistha Pramanik**, a young talented gymnast from West Bengal, could represent India in Junior Artistic Gymnastics Asian Championship at Jakarta held in April, 2018. She participated in the vaults event and could reach the finals. It is quite a feat achieved by Protistha.



For more than 4 years, Abheda has been supporting a very poor girl named **Aneeta** who comes from the mountains of Uttarakhand. She passed the class X board exam satisfactorily and now has appeared for the class XII board exam. Now she is slated to study Polytechnic at a nearby Engineering college. Abheda pledges to stand by her education as long as she continues to study.

For some very much deserving student members Abheda has been extending a **special service** by making them stay at Abheda premise and continue their education in Kolkata schools and colleges. Abheda thus inspires its sympathizers to adopt this social model effectively.

We are sending **newsletters** to sympathizers of Abheda Foundation from time to time so that all are in the know about latest happenings.

4. Human Resources

Abheda has two employees for office work, content development and content delivery. Apart from the involvement of the trustees Abheda Foundation has been lucky to have received voluntary contributions in terms of effort and money from different sources. Special thanks are reserved on our behalf for social worker **Mr. Manoj Ray of Jalangi**, without whom Abheda eSchool would not have been running successfully. We hereby also thank **innumerable donors** for one time and regular contributions. Contribution from each of them had been acknowledged in the form of money receipts given to them. Among the prolific donors, the names of **Mr. Sujit Guha**, **Mr. Probal Chatterjee** and **Mr. Angshuman Hajra** need a special mention. Mr. Hajra needs to be specially given accolade for taking up the role of newsletter manager. **Mr. Mridul Das**, **Mr. Badal Das** and **Mr. Chandan Maity** must be commended for every effort they put in towards arranging exams, award functions or accommodating scholarship holders of Canning in every way. **Mr. Sankar Das** put in unrelenting efforts towards including Jhargram as a destination for our scholarship program. We are happy that **Dr. Jyotirmoy Dey** has been kind enough to extend his valuable consultancy in regard to the statistical analysis project. And lastly, no word of praise is enough for our trusted development partner **Zabingo** for continuous support on Abheda English, English CourseTutor and the website. We have been helped by many other people in this year. We are sorry that not everybody's name could be mentioned here.

5. Success Story

Two major success stories beckon in this year for Abheda Foundation.

Firstly, **English CourseTutor** has been earning accolade for its comprehensive contents and easy-to-use yet colourful interface. Our student family members have expressed generally that:

- My own syllabus is what is read out
- It reads ever so slowly for my liking
- I can easily learn the pronunciations now (a major lacuna of rural students)
- If I pronounce wrongly, the text is not going to be written correctly
- The meaning of any word is available at the fingertips – in English, in Bengali

However, the best recognition has been received from an anonymous user. Here is what he writes:



A Google user

★★★★★ 29 November 2017



6

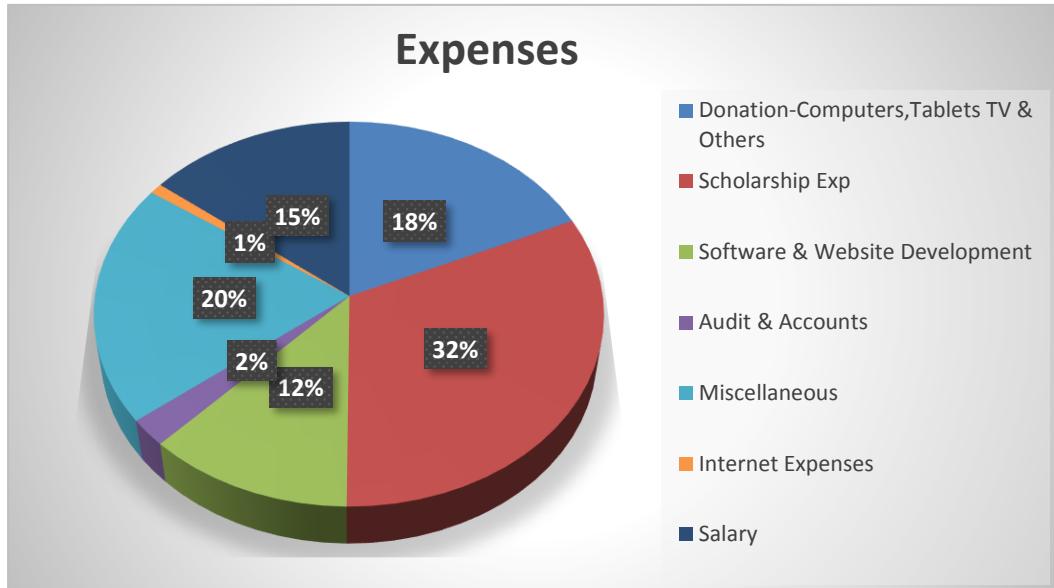
Another bomb has been exploded by ABHEDA! The rest will burn through the hit of splinter. Easy-to-use software, enough to win the minds of the students. Tutor is now at hand. Time will not be wasted; by sitting at home solution for the English Course has been found. What do you want more!! Yeah, want to recommend the app to my friends. Now just click the app, choose your class, select the topic then...read, read and read on. Absolutely "social inclusion through digital inclusion"! Awaiting the next steps...

Secondly, Abheda getting into **CSR initiative** of a major government organisation (ONGC) is a momentous milestone achieved for the organisation. Not only that we would not be overly dependent on individual sponsors anymore for funding, but serving the most deserved ones will become smoother.

6. Financial Report

Financial stability is very important for an NGO with a fairly substantial number of activities. We are happy that we have been able to achieve and maintain this all through. The Financial report of the Treasurer for the FY 2017-18 is enclosed for perusal. In a nutshell, the Trust has received donation ₹ **20,60,684** as income and disbursed ₹ **13,04,812** as expenditure with a net surplus of ₹ **7,55,872**.

Activity based financial analysis off expenses in a graphical representation is as follows:



Abridged Income and Expenditure Statement

Income	Amount	Expenses	Amount
Donation	2054482	Donation-Computers, Tablets TV & Others	238742
Interest Received	6202	Scholarship Exp	415690
		Software & Website Development	156737
		Audit & Accounts	30000
		Miscellaneous	263739
		Internet Expenses	11654
		Salary	188250

Abridged Balance Sheet

Liabilities	as on 31-Mar-2017		Assets	as on 31-Mar-2017	
Capital Account			Fixed Assets		2525354.00
As per Last Accounts	1430536.06		Computer	32335.00	
Add: Net Surplus	755872.83	2186408.89	Television	37385.00	
			Investment for School Building at Jalangi	2455634.00	
			Current Assets		786871.89
			Cash-in-hand	4503.50	
Current Liabilities		1125817.00	Bank Accounts	782368.39	
Outstanding Liabilities	1125817.00				
Total		3312225.89	Total		3312225.89

7. Future Plan

Reaching out for students of Abheda English and English CourseTutor

Although English CourseTutor and Abheda English have been well received by students, who were exposed to it, we have not made much effort to publicise the app. Now that its efficacy is proven to ourselves, we need to reach out for students who can benefit from it. Some plans mentioned above are chalked out.

Making Abheda English (Santhali) a reality

In spite of our best efforts, we have not been able to make the Santhali version a reality. Many educated people from Santhal community were contacted and budget was discussed, but we could not initiate its development (translation process). More effort will be put in to find right people, who would make things happen.

Establishing one or more Abheda eSchools

Abheda eSchool at Jalangi is a lucrative proposition for entrepreneurs. Abheda wishes that they take up building such schools in franchise model, and run it commercially for the sake of smooth operations and quality imparting of education. Abheda will not have any stake however, as it is a non-profit organisation. We have submitted proposals to two companies – CSR again – for opening Abheda eSchools at Jhargram and Raidighi, Sundarbans.

Enhancing English CourseTutor contents

Conversations in the mould of question-answers pertaining to different chapters will be included. Reputed English teachers have been commissioned to create the contents. English CourseTutor will undergo two changes for this inclusion, i) a different presentation of the conversational talks and ii) an actual talk with the user.

Continuing with existing projects and programs

The Vivekananda Scholarship program and Abheda eSchool at Jalangi will be supported.

8. Conclusion

Friends, I am fortunate to be able to present the report of a Trust which is rendering humanitarian service for the children who need the most. **Digital education** has been our main means to deliver this service as existing teachers and teaching learning materials are found wanting in terms of quality and effectiveness (more so for first generation learners) in most cases. This renders a wide discrimination in quality of education as received by different strata of the society. This inequality will turn even more skewed in not-so-distant future in view of hugely aggravated enrolment of students and scarcity of teachers. So digital education is possibly the only solution, we reckon.

English being the major pain area of the underprivileged, we have been able to deliver two software products for learning English for free. And we are in constant endeavour to upgrade the contents and enlarge the ambit of students by adding different Indian languages to learn English through. English CourseTutor, like Abheda English, will play an equally important role as a

language is better learnt by listening. All the more, when the students find their syllabus contents being pronounced and discussed on, they will be even more interested.

Our equal focus would remain on content delivery as the underprivileged class is unlikely to access digital contents – although free – on their own. Building more Abheda eSchools and publicising the products adequately through other means will settle this issue, we suppose.

Finally let me thank each and every one for giving me this envious opportunity to present the 6th Annual Report of Abheda Foundation.



Biswajit Mitra
Managing Trustee
Abheda Foundation