

One LEAP, countless transformations

At Narwade High School, most teachers had an infamous opinion about 8th grader Manish - *“Do not waste effort on him. Nothing will come out of it – he is good for nothing except sleeping in class.”*

When the Learning Enhancement and Practice (LEAP) program was introduced in the school, Manish seemed like the ideal candidate to benefit from the remedial intervention. However, he had no motivation to work on his personality, and cared little about the perception others had of him. Teachers regularly turned him out of the classroom for his rude behaviour as he seemed incorrigible. However, seven months later, Manish was a completely different person. He is now an active participant in all class events, his grades have improved, and even enjoys an excellent rapport with the teachers. So what changed?

In these seven months, the LEAP program, with its game-based activities, group learning and worksheets made learning exciting, and brought about the gradual transformation in Manish. This was evident from his pitiable score of 15 in the Baseline, to 50 in the Endline! The resource persons made a conscious effort to involve Manish in different activities, never giving up on his potential, and boosted his self-esteem at every instance despite his obstinate nature. Manish has determinedly been showing improvement and takes extra effort to participate in all school events. At the Acting Talent Hunt; Manish pleasantly surprised everyone by role-playing as Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar in his skit - one that was thoroughly loved and appreciated by everyone.

Manish confesses, *“Had it not been for LEAP program and the RPs, I would have not been transformed for the better.”*

