



The Joy of Learning

Loka inspires me as an educator because it is a vivid example how school can be a place of joy and beauty. Step into the grounds of Loka and you immediately feel the presence of active, lively minds and warm hearts -in staff as well as students. The curriculum is thoughtfully designed, intellectually challenging, and responsive to students' needs and interests. Loka is a beacon of what locally grown, globally inspired learning can look like. ~Shari Tishman, Senior Research Associate at Harvard Project Zero, Lecturer at Harvard Graduate School of Education and Co-director Out of Eden Learn.

A SMALL SCHOOL called Loka in a fairytale setting tucked away along the bank of the Punpun river in Bihar, explores new ways of learning. Students aged 4-15 (Pre-primary-grade 10) follow a curriculum for which National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) books form a

guideline. The school distinguishes itself in several ways. Children from all backgrounds and with different learning abilities study together. Comparison and competition are replaced by authenticity and compassion. The school is kept small and learning personalised. *Learning at Loka is connected to the whole movement of life.*

A BIG DREAM of Loka is to be an inspiring example of an education that is shaped to the natural ways of children's minds and hearts and relevant for both its local context and today's world. Rather than being a model or alternative, Loka aims to build a bridge between *what is* and *what could be* and set an example for **unique schools everywhere.**

LOKA UPDATE Loka's school has been irregularly opened since since March 2020 during which Loka's team continuously reached

What? Loka is a small school with big dreams at the entrance of a village along the Punpun river in Bihar, India. **Why?** Loka explores (new) ways of learning for a Beautiful, Just and Sustainable World. **Who?** Loka's 100 students aged 4-15, from nursery to grade 10, receive a complete education of Head, Heart & Hand. **How?** At Loka students are equipped to create their livelihoods, empowered to uplift their surroundings and enriched with a sense of purpose.

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out, especially to older students. In rural areas children have less/no access to internet and electronic devices. The school being closed means their formal education stops and the risk for girls to get married and boys to start work at far too young ages increases. In October the school opened again for all age groups and right now 100 children light up Loka's space every day! There have also been visits from Loka's friends. Lila Foundation founder and Writer/Poet Rizio Yohannan & team visited and explored with everyone at Loka how to create livelihoods in a rural setting so that students after completing their studies do not feel compelled to move to cities. Artreach India Director Ita Mehrotra gave a workshop during which children explored their relationship with trees. She also worked with pre-primary students and teachers to create structure and joyful learning journeys. // // //





Loka's plans for 2021-2025

A Small School growing a little towards realising big dreams

Loka's 2,4 lush green campus that now includes a school, study centre, office, playground, sport field, flower gardens and organic farm will be enhanced in the coming years by:

- > Providing space for Loka's growing group of students and meeting government regulations for secondary education through an extra storey on Loka's school. New class rooms include: an eco-science lab, an art, drama & music hall, a computer space and a teacher room.
- > Shelters for outdoor classes where concrete walls are replaced by a fresh breeze and views of colourful flower gardens and trees.
- > An outdoor Sport Court for badminton, volleyball and other games.
- > Creating a community of learners of all ages by constructing four new rooms with attached bathrooms for (guest) teachers and retreats.
- > A Maker space designed & created with students which could include: a Loka Cafe using fresh produce from the farm, an upcycling studio, an Internet of Things Lab, a bamboo workshop & much more.
- > Creating a Framework for Unique Schools Everywhere and initiating a worldwide Conversation on Education.

Join Hands with Loka for a Bright & Beautiful World

Loka's Inspiring & Innovative School is located in a remote area where many people struggle to survive. The school depends on the kindness of people and organisations who wish to support an education that keeps our interconnectedness at the core of everything. Ways to create Miles of Smiles: Plant 2 trees for € 5 or donate € 15 to provide 100 children with fruit for a day. A donation of € 30 supports the education of one child for a month, € 360 for a year and € 3.600 educates an entire class (10 children) for a year. Building a new classroom costs: € 10.000. For 2022 the school still needs to raise € 47.500 to cover running costs and investments (total € 112.500).

Thank you for your kindness



Village Footprint

Loka students recently participated in Millipede: an online shoe shop that doesn't cost the earth. Millipede is unlike any other shoe-shop you might have visited before and instead of money it just costs some of your time! On this website Loka students have presented planet friendly footwear created under guidance of Ita Mehrotra/Artreach India. The project was commissioned by the British Council as part of the Open Call for Creative Commissions for COP 26. [Millipede.shop](https://millipede.shop)

Founders & Boards

Founders

Sanat Kumar, Charlotte Leech
Loka India (Sarvodaya)
 Nityanand Sharma, Lakshmi Saripalli, Uma Prajapati
Loka NL (Stichting Loka)
 Sander Tideman, Alain Hubers
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Collaborations & Support

Artreach India
 Art1st
Cornelisse Foundation
 Jacoba van Wassenaer Fonds
 Lila Foundation
 Out of Eden Learn
Resourcement Foundation
 Triodos Foundation
The TypeCraft Initiative
 Triple Value Foundation
Van Kesteren Foundation