



What? Loka is a small school with big dreams. **Where?** 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 4-16, 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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Learning at Loka

At Loka children from a remote and rural village receive a complete education of Head, Heart and Hand. Play and activities are at the heart of the learning journey of Loka's smallest ones and until grade 2 all students have caring Mother Teachers. NCERT books form a guideline to Loka's education for middle & senior school students and their teachers are carefully selected to create an atmosphere where children can learn in freedom and discipline. Every child receives one hour 'homework class' a day and can choose between art, poetry, music and dance classes. Workshops and Masterclasses by partner organisations add to the holistic education provided.

Loka students have access to a broad and deep education that is sensitive towards their local situation and approaches each child as a unique being filled with possibilities.



Student Reflection

Loka's Lions aged 16-17

Shilpi: Loka is not just for intelligent and rich children. Loka is for everyone. **Shankar:** We are doing experiments and from that we learn a lot of things. **Madhu:** My mind is like a half moon. By being at Loka, it becomes a full moon. **Sanatan:** We are being educated for more than just passing exams and finding a job. We are here to find our purpose. Once we have found it, we are educated. **Dinesh:** Loka is different from other schools. The thoughts of students are being valued. We are having conversations, understanding more. Our surroundings are connected to the learning. Loka prepares us not just to think about our own futures, but also about the future of our community and the world. **Sandeep:** What we see and hear is not just Loka. What we create is Loka. It depends on us, the students, what we make of our time here. Our learning is connected to our village and the world. To exist our village requires a healthy world and we can make this world more healthy by caring for our village.

Inspiring Collaborations

Loka has collaborations with inspiring organisations providing unique programmes, sensitive to the school's location and vision. Artreach India is a long standing partner that gives Masterclasses throughout the year, such as: printmaking, Japanese book-making and handmade paper art. Art1st provides a 3 year course to mother teachers and senior students to equip them in teaching art as a subject to Loka's smallest ones. Chennai Photo Biennale offers photography workshops and possibilities for students to get their photos published. Shreeja India sends professional sport instructors to Loka who teach football to boost the fitness and confidence of students and enable them to shine in their true potential. **Loka is grateful to have exceptional partners enriching students with their expertise!**





From Education to Entrepreneurship

As Loka's students are growing up, the school is taking a leap into the future by empowering them with useful skills and exploring how they may create their livelihoods and enrich their surroundings.

After grade 8 students leave their formal education at Loka and receive classes elsewhere to prepare for their exams. Part of the day they continue spending at Loka and follow a special programme: *From Education to Entrepreneurship*. Sanatan (17) manages Loka's farm and is assisted by grade 9 students. He is learning about the transition from conventional to organic farming. Shankar (16) is engaged in an experimental garden where he researches growing plants otherwise not found in the local region, saving seeds and creating a nursery. Dinesh (17), Shilpi (16) and Madhu (16) are setting up a Design Studio where they explore waste issues in their village and find ways to address them, for example by replacing plastic bags with alternatives. Sandeep (16) wants to be an artist and teaches art to younger students, is involved in community art projects and creates beautiful gifts for Loka's guests and supporters. To enhance students' skills and open their minds to new possibilities, every summer internships in organic farming and social entrepreneurship are offered at International Township Auroville (South India). On Loka's campus future plans include a Maker Space, Loka Cafe and Loka (online) Shop. One day this kind of holistic and applied way of learning may transform the village into a small scale sustainable business hub where less people move away to cities in search of work.

Loka's school envisions a future village where people, culture, nature, farming and architecture are in harmony, allowing for a progress that is more conscious than generally is the case.

A Holistic Education for Everyone

Thanks to kind support Loka's school is growing and thriving.

Loka is grateful to announce its first Indian CSR partner: IT company **Synechron** founded by entrepreneur Faisal Husain, who himself originates from a family of educators. Thanks to Synechron Loka completed a new storey on the school which includes an art room, eco-science lab, library, teacher room and multipurpose hall. Loka also thanks: **Van Kesteren Foundation, Triodos Foundation, Anneke Teulings Foundation, Hofsteestichting** and all individual donators. Special thanks to Reingard Braun who celebrated her 80th birthday by raising funds to equip Loka's new art room! And Gaurav Tiwari for arranging sport activities at Loka! Thanks to your kind support, children living in a remote part of the world have access to a best possible education and in a small way a big aim is being realised: to keep learning always, everywhere and from everyone at the core of our lives. **Join hands with Loka and support a beautiful, just and sustainable world through education. More information: see details below or contact lokafoundation@gmail.com**



Donations

European (Dutch) Bank Account
IBAN NL04 TRIO 0254 4577 38
(Stichting Loka) BIC:TRIONL2U

Donations within India

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Bank of Baroda in name of
Sarvodaya Society
IFS: BARBORAMNBS
MICR: 221012023

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