Inqui-Lab Foundation

Empowering children and youth.

ANNUAL REPORT 2023 – 24

contents

Message from Co-founders

Eshwar Bandi | **Sahithya Anumolu** | **Vivek Piddempally**

At Inqui-Lab, our goal has been to restore the true meaning of education: to help students unleash their creative potential. We challenge the norms and methods of a regressive environment, aiming to move students away from passive consumption and towards active contribution. This kind of education gives them a sense of purpose and values their engagement with society–not as a distant dream of the future, but in the here and now! Witnessing their ideas and solutions firsthand reinforces our belief that they are more than capable–capable of challenging our present and being present for our challenges.

This year, we collaborated with governments, schools, and other non-profits to help students from across India engage with challenges around them: discovering their potential through engagement, exposure, and exploration. At Inqui-Lab, we feel tremendously privileged that students allowed us to accompany them on their journey of discovery. Our impact study: a major milestone for us this year has given us hope that our programs are delivering what was expected of them. As a learning organization, we continue to explore new ways and better methods to help more students, and learn from our experiments along the way.

As the philosopher Jiddu Krishnamurti once said:

"To hold doubt intelligently on a leash is to inquire, but to doubt everything has no meaning."

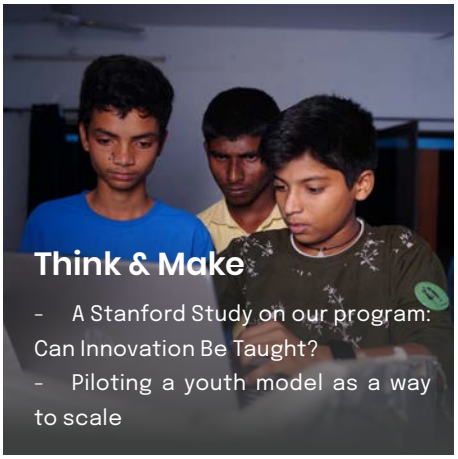
This resonates deeply with us, as our inquiries in this journey are slowly but steadily clearing one doubt at a time, putting us on the cusp of developing something truly meaningful and holistic; something that can empower thousands of students.

UMBRELLA TOILET

A modified umbrella opens up to create a privacy space to urinate or change sanitary napkins whenever clean toilets are difficult to find.

I Rithika, K Kirthana, Spurthi, Nandini, all 13y/os

Snapshot of Biggest Wins



Think & Make

- A Stanford Study on our program: Can Innovation Be Taught?
- Piloting a youth model as a way to scale

Advisory Board formalisation and first meet at Inqui-Lab's Makerspace

Idea Book launch

Srishti 2024

Maya Bazaar

- Inqui-Lab's Makerspace

New partners onboarded

Jigyasa Club

- Implemented in about 8000 government high schools in Odisha

UNISOLVE

- **1.9 lakh students, 11,800 teachers,** and **46,676 student ideas** engaged through the **Atal Innovation Mission's ATL Marathon** rollout across Indian states.
- **500+ students** selected for the **Student Internship and Student Entrepreneurship Program** by Atal Innovation Mission.
- **Policy-level adoption in Tamil Nadu:** The **SIDP Tamil Nadu** announced dedicated **funding and mentorship support** (in partnership with EDII-TN) for top-performing student teams.
- **International Pilots Launched:** UNISOLVE is being **piloted in Bhutan and Maldives** in collaboration with their **Ministries of Education**, with training and program support from Inqui-Lab.
- **National Curriculum Recognition:** The **UNISOLVE curriculum has been approved by NCERT's Vocational Education Division** for inclusion on the **DIKSHA digital platform**, enhancing national access.

Theory of Change

In today's fast-changing world, students need strong problem-solving skills, which many schools currently don't focus on. Today's world demands strong problem-solving skills, but most schools don't prioritize them. By training teachers and involving parents, school leaders, and the education system, we can create classrooms where students build confidence, creativity, resilience, and teamwork. With the right support, students can apply these skills to solve real-world problems. Bringing problem-solving into the regular school curriculum will help reach even more students at scale. With proper guidance, students can apply these skills to tackle real-world issues like developing policies or creating products. Integrating problem-solving into the school curriculum would further expand these benefits, reaching more students on a larger scale.

INTERVENE, ADVOCATE AND CAPACITY BUILD

Exposure to real world problems + Engage with projects and opportunities

PRACTICE TARGET SKILLS AND ATTITUDES

Empathy
Creativity
Critical Thinking
Collaboration

A FUTURE READY WORKFORCE

Innovators
Entreprenuers
Changemakers

By empowering students with these essential skills, we not only prepare them for the challenges of today but also enable them to become innovative leaders and problem-solvers who can shape a better future for their communities and the world.

Programs

Think & Make

In the Academic Year 2023-24, we added newer types of schools to test our program in different settings. While there was an increase in the total footprint (4840 students), what stood out for us the most were the engagement levels in the classrooms. 97% of the students said they liked the program and wanted more of it in the subsequent years.

In addition to working with Social and Tribal Welfare dept, we continued facilitator and volunteer led models in government schools in Hyderabad and Medak districts in TS.

Thinking:
the talking of the soul with itself.

PLATO

BRINGING LEARNING TO LIFE:

We introduced creative materials like a **"Curiosity Box"** and **postcards** instead of standard workbooks to make learning feel exciting and personal.

- Students enjoyed diving into **challenging topics**, especially when lessons were packed with **fun, hands-on activities** that encouraged them to explore and think for themselves.
- This approach helped turn every session into an **experience**, not just a classroom task.

Jigyasa Club

Curiosity drives all learning, from language acquisition in children to scientific discoveries. As the 21st century brings increasingly complex challenges like climate change, it's crucial to nurture this innate curiosity. The Jigyasa Club aims to bridge the gap between classroom knowledge and real-world application. By presenting content beyond the academic syllabus and fostering action-oriented discussions, the club ignites curiosity in students. It encourages the development of 21st-century skills like critical thinking and problem-solving while also cultivating a scientific mindset, preparing students to tackle contemporary global issues effectively.

The Jigyasa Club seeks to achieve the following;

1. Foster curiosity and lifelong learning.
2. Connect classroom learning to real world relevance.
3. Develop critical thinking and research skills.
4. Enhance communication and collaboration skills.
5. Address real-world problems contextually.

Free the child's potential, and you will transform the world.

MARIA MONTESSORI

DISABLED-FRIENDLY SWIVEL CAR SEAT

The modified car seat swivels by 90 degrees to face the side of the car, making it easier for people with disability to shift move from car seat to wheel-chair and vice-versa.

Chethan Suhas, age 10

Project DESI

Project DESI (Discover and Empower Student Innovators) is Inqui-Lab Foundation's initiative to identify and mentor students from under-resourced communities who show potential to create real impact in their neighborhoods.
With expert guidance of volunteers from **Bosch Global Software Technologies**, **mentors and external industry professionals**, students turn their ideas into working, community-focused solutions.

The program unfolds in three structured phases:

- **Phase 1: Learning the Basics**
  Students explore **user research, budgeting, and prototyping**, leading up to their first **pitch presentations.**
- **Phase 2: Building & Testing**
  They refine their ideas, **conduct deeper research, develop prototypes,** and start **field testing** – even looking at partnerships and legal aspects.
- **Phase 3: Scaling Impact**
  Top student teams receive support to **scale and implement** their solutions in real-world settings.

THIS YEAR'S TOP INNOVATIONS:

- **Suraksha:** A personal safety device
- **Intravenous Fluid Indicator:** For safer medical care
- **Vanta Mitra:** A tool to carry the heavy mid-day meal vessels
- **Tick Check Tuck:** A two-wheeler safety belt
- **Umbrella Toilet:** For safer, more hygienic sanitation access

UniSolve (SIC)

(Multiple States - Middle-High School)

Unisolve is a blended learning program created by UNICEF's Office of Innovation, YuWaah, and Inqui-Lab Foundation, designed to promote the culture of design thinking and innovation. Built around the UPSHIFT curriculum, the platform has reached over 250,000 students across four Indian states, the Maldives, and Bhutan, enabling young minds to tackle real-world problems with creative solutions.

In collaboration with the Telangana State Innovation Cell (TSIC), Y-HUB, and the governments of Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh, Unisolve hosts the annual School Innovation Challenge (SIC). The challenge inspires students to use a simplified design thinking process to innovate and solve problems in their communities. Participants complete an online, hands-on animated course on problem-solving, accessible via web and mobile. The top 25 ideas are then selected for in-person prototyping sessions and boot camps, where students bring their solutions to life.

Unisolve and the SIC provide a unique opportunity for students to transform ideas into action, fostering a generation of problem solvers and innovators.

ECO-FRIENDLY MEDICINE REMINDER BAG

This cloth bag stores medicines in separate pockets that indicate the time of medicine consumption through visual and braille script.

Thamanna and Shivani, 14 y/o

Maya bazaar

Maya Bazaar is a fully-equipped makerspace that gives students the freedom, tools, and support they need to bring their ideas to life. Thanks to the support of our sponsors, Arcesium and SVP India, the space is packed with 3D printer, laser machine, powered tools like drilling machine, cutting machine, etc, and non powered tools like handsaw, screw-driver, etc. We also have a soldering station, electronics lot, and art and craft materials.

Using a human centered design, students work on understanding and solving real-world problems. This process encourages them to think outside the box, test out ideas, and tweak them until they've got a workable solution. Along the way, they pick up essential skills like problem-solving, brainstorming, and prototyping.

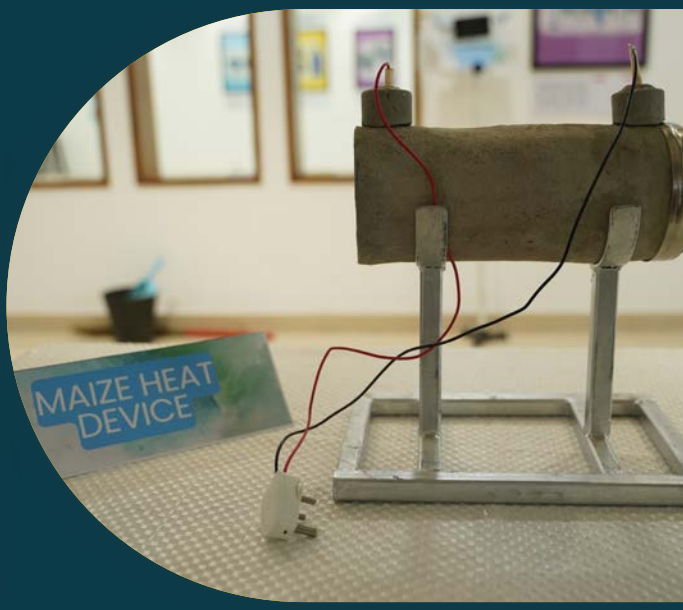
With expert mentorship and access to professional -grade tools, students move from ideas to actual prototypes, taking concepts well beyond the planning stage. This practical, hands-on learning not only fuels their creativity but also gives them a taste of tackling real-life challenges.

Maya Bazaar bridges the gap between classroom learning and practical know-how, giving young people a space to experiment, create, and turn their ideas into something real. It's a place where they can push boundaries, collaborate, and start shaping their future.

Srishti 2024

Srishti was a unique event that offered an exciting opportunity to explore the incredible work of young creators. This gallery-style exhibition showcased the creativity, innovation, and problem-solving abilities of children, with projects spanning diverse fields such as technology and the arts.

As guests walked through the exhibition, they were immersed in the projects developed by children who had the freedom to explore, experiment, and think critically.



Imagination is more important than knowledge. Knowledge is limited; imagination encircles the world.

ALBERT EINSTEIN

The event featured a wide range of projects, from technology to the arts, all highlighting the remarkable potential of the next generation. Each display served as a testament to the ingenuity and forward-thinking of these young creators, offering a glimpse into their world of exploration and hands-on learning.

More than just an exhibition, Srishti celebrated the boundless creativity of children, providing them with the opportunity to share their groundbreaking ideas with the community. Our commitment to fostering an environment that encourages curiosity and innovation was evident throughout the event, empowering young people to become the change-makers of tomorrow.

Key Government Partnerships

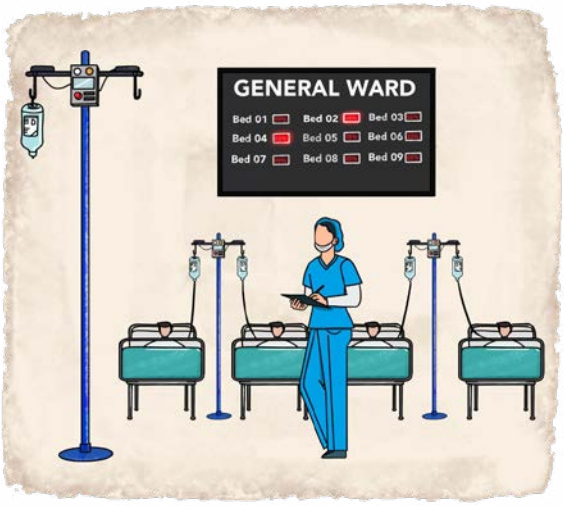
Tell me and I forget.
Teach me and I remember.
Involve me and I learn.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

SURAKSHA - REDEFINING SECURITY SYSTEMS

This smart safety jacket tracks coal miners' positions & health vitals. It also tracks the level of harmful gases and triggers communication when it detects a threat. This helps in reducing the reaction time for rescue operations.

Y Grahya, Vignya Reddy, Deepika Karlapudi, Pravali Bura [21 year olds]



INTRAVENOUS FLUID INDICATOR

A device attached to IV fluid stands indicates the level of fluid for each patient bed on a common screen. In case of a level drop, the device sends an alert for specific patient beds. Assigned hospital staff monitoring the screen will be notified and can take appropriate action.

Soham, Naman, Sanvi, Debansh - all 13 year olds

The Pulse of Inqui-Lab

I joined Inqui-Lab drawn by the joy of helping students turn ideas into prototypes. **Every challenge, from designing kits to mentoring bootcamps, has kept me curious and growing.** Watching students gain confidence as their ideas take shape has been deeply fulfilling. Inqui-Lab has changed how I think, work, and connect with others. It has given me both purpose and a place where I feel truly at home.

Shiva Kumar
FINANCE & ACCOUNTS

When I first joined Inqui-Lab as a volunteer, I was just curious about how young minds worked and what made their ideas tick. I didn't expect their questions, their grit, and their imagination to move me the way they did. Slowly, I found myself growing too. Designing, facilitating, learning with them every step of the way. **This journey has made me more thoughtful, more hopeful. Because at Inqui-Lab, we don't just build innovation, we nurture the people behind it.**

Shiva Kumar
FINANCE & ACCOUNTS

Six years ago, I joined Inqui-Lab when we were working with just three schools. Today, we run multiple projects, reaching many more students and communities. **Watching students create real solutions to problems around them is incredibly fulfilling. What I enjoy most is our team's camaraderie; we learn, laugh, and grow together.**

Shravan Ganesh
OPERATIONS

Partnerships & Collaborations

If we teach today's students as we taught yesterday's, we rob them of tomorrow.

JOHN DEWEY

SEED SOWING SHOE FOR FARMER

With this modified shoe, farmers can sow seeds in the soil just by walking! It helps save valuable time and expenditure on labour and minimises back pain caused by bending during sowing

CH Pallavi, P Bhavani, both 14 year olds

Hear From the Experts

MEKIN MAHESHWARI
Founder, Udhayam Learning Foundation

Young people are great at solving problems and seeing the world with fresh new eyes. They are fearless - they don't know what can not be done. Enabling them with belief and confidence that they can solve problems and tools & mentorship to support their journey can help us evolve into a much better world!

AJIT RANGNEKAR
Director General, Research and Innovation Circle of Hyderabad (RICH)

Students see the world from a very different perspective and have better practical solutions to problems around them. This ability to observe, empathize and innovate needs to be nurtured from a very young age.

SHAHEEN MISTRY
Founder, Teach For India

Over 30 years, I've seen one thing to be true. When children engage with real world problems, not in the future but today, they learn and grow in their leadership in profound ways.
If we came to school not just to pass exams but to solve the world's problems, learning would be both meaningful and be the powerful tool it can be to build a more peaceful, equitable world for all of us.

MS. SHILPA DEODHAR
CSR Head, Bosch Global Software Technologies Pvt. Ltd.

Fostering Innovation and Problem Solving abilities in students at a young age is very important as we prepare them for jobs of the future. We are excited to see the solutions devised by students come to life and solve real world problems.

MICHAEL HORN,
Author of Disrupting Class

Students' creative minds for disruptive solutions - that make things simpler and more affordable - are engines to be harnessed and cultivated.

RACHES ELLA,
Chief Development Officer, Bharat Biotech

Innovation thrives on effective communication of challenges and solutions. **Embrace curiosity, fearlessly ask questions, even if they seem imperfect.**

SHOBU YARLAGADDA
CEO, Arka Mediaworks

Creativity, problem-solving, and adaptability are crucial skills for navigating an ever-evolving world. Fostering these in our classrooms is a fundamental need to develop a future generation of innovators.

Financials

Revenues and Expenses

TOTAL INFLOW	FY 2020-21	FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23	FY 2023-24
Grants & Contributions	₹ 70,79,279	₹ 2,12,20,000	₹ 5,28,47,676	₹ 4,65,48,156

TOTAL EXPENDITURE	FY 2020-21	FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23	FY 2023-24
Program Design & Curriculum Development	₹ 26,63,510	₹ 10,87,200	₹ 83,79,800	₹ 71,17,594
Program Implementation & Monitoring	₹ 27,83,333	₹ 1,68,04,200	₹ 2,20,93,581	₹ 2,28,39,274
Learning Material, Technology & Innovation Kits	₹ 7,47,729	₹ 18,89,000	₹ 1,60,82,940	₹ 85,58,771
Training & Program Showcase	₹ 9,94,895	₹ 9,33,400	₹ 6,66,316	₹ 9,21,516
Office & Admin Expenses	₹ 2,62,741	₹ 9,46,000	₹ 12,02,321	₹ 9,62,118
Team Development and Capacity Building	-	₹ 68,000	₹ 16,69,232	₹ 22,84,269
Program Travel	₹ 26,560	₹ 3,47,000	₹ 6,78,004	₹ 15,26,001
TOTAL	**₹ 2,74,78,768**	**₹ 2,20,74,800**	**₹ 5,07,72,194**	**₹ 4,42,09,545**

A child's curiosity is the heartbeat of innovation.

E-PRINTING OF DOCTOR'S PRESCRIPTION

This mobile application eliminates the hassle of under- standing manual prescriptions by patients and phar- macists. The application records infor- mation that can easily be printed.

A.Aniketh, P.Revanth Reddy, R.Varun , L.Gouthami [14 year olds]

Inqui-Lab Foundation

The best way to predict the future is to invent it.

ALAN KAY

Contact Details

E. +91 7702898487
info@inqui-lab.org | inquilabfoundation.org
M. +91 8668581143

Address

6-3-903, 1st Floor, Raj Bhavan Road, Suryanagar, Somajiguda, Hyderabad - 500082.

Social Media Handles

inqui_lab
InquiLabFoundation
Inqui-LabFoundation
inqui_lab
inqui_lab