

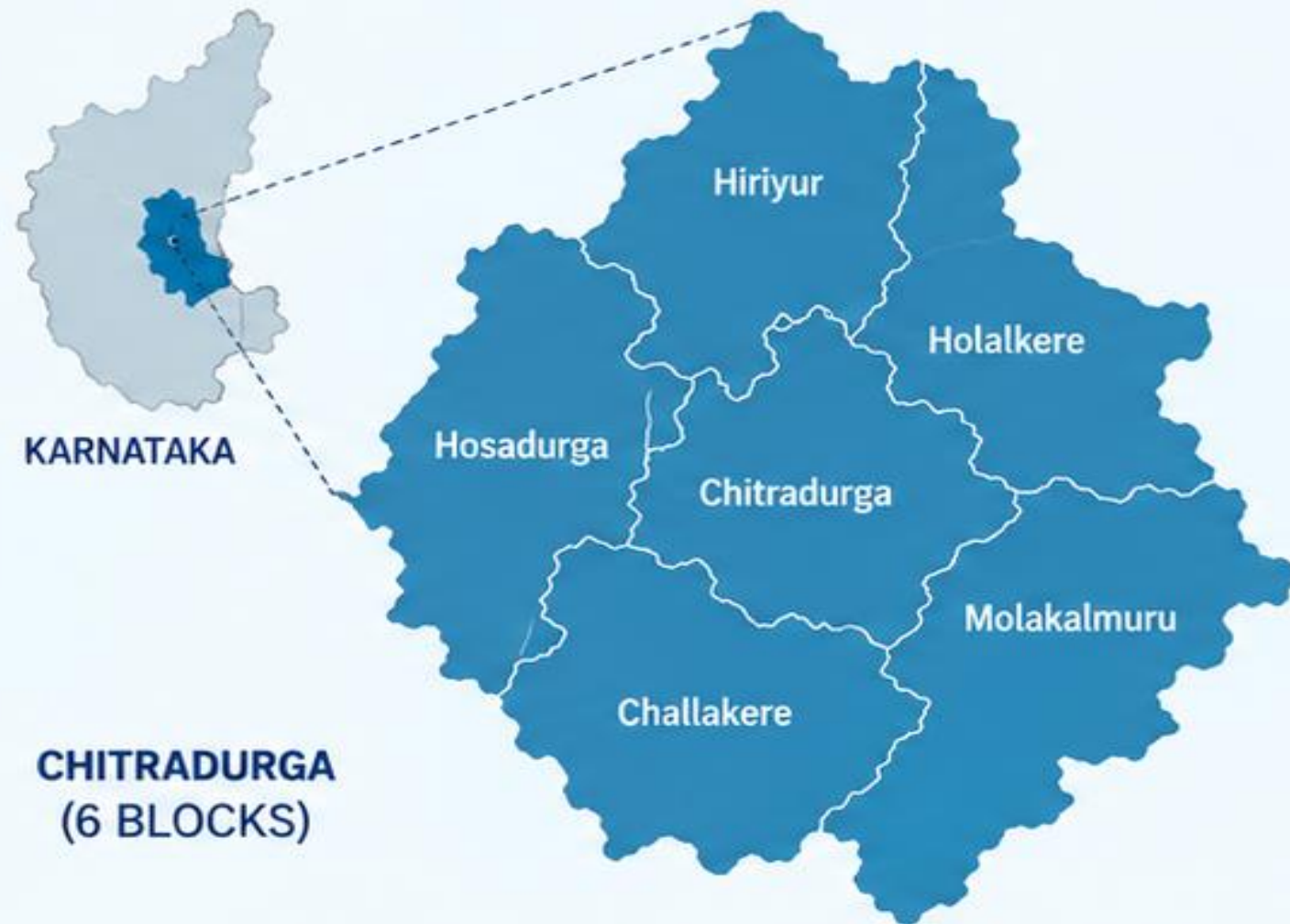
Data, Discipline, and Delivery

A decentralised mechanism to improve learning outcomes across Chitradurga
District

Ed Lab Chitradurga

Government of Karnataka

CHITRADURGA IN KARNATAKA



CHITRADURGA
(6 BLOCKS)



~18 lakh
Population



Primarily
agrarian economy



6
blocks



1,734
schools

LEARNING OUTCOMES: WHERE DO WE STAND?



Only
48.8%

of students in Grades 6–8
can read a Grade 2 level text
(ASER 2025)



Only
36.5%

of students in Grades 6–8
can do two-digit
mathematics
(ASER 2025)



Weak foundational
learning is a key reason
for poor performance
in Grade 10 and 12
board examinations

KEY CHALLENGES



Low foundational
literacy and
numeracy levels



High proportion
of SC/ST students
requiring equity-
focused interventions



Teacher vacancies
(~14%) and
administrative burden



Large geographical
spread (1,734 schools
across 6 blocks)

THE OPPORTUNITY



A focused, data-driven, and inclusive approach can transform learning outcomes and create equitable opportunities for all children in Chitradurga.



PEOPLE



EVIDENCE



COLLABORATION



ACTION



IMPACT

**STRONGER SCHOOLS
BRIGHTER FUTURES**

CHITRADURGA

The "3D" Framework



Data

Institutionalising analytics through the new district-level Education Evidence Lab (Ed Lab). Utilizing diagnostic data to identify gaps and target interventions precisely.



Discipline

Creating rigorous, structured routines for monitoring and support. Shifting the middle tier's focus from mere compliance to active capability building.



Delivery

Ensuring implementation fidelity of evidence-based programmes at scale. Focusing on consistent, high-quality execution in every rural classroom.

AUGUST 2025

1. DIAGNOSIS

Understanding the challenge



- System-wide data collection and analysis
- Identified Bottom-100 schools (82% of SSLC failures) and Bottom-10 PU colleges (75% of PUC failures)
- Analysed ASER data and set FLN targets (75% reading, 60% numeracy in 2 years)



100 schools
82% of SSLC failures

10 PU colleges
75% of PUC failures

SEPTEMBER 2025

2. EXPERIMENTATION

Testing solutions on the ground



- Trained **84** CTE volunteers for a six-week Ganita Ganaka cycle across all blocks
- Launched intensive implementation of Odu Karnataka
- Conducted a time-use survey (validated by J-PAL) – found 200–250 instructional sessions lost annually to non-academic tasks
- Proposed NREGA workers as Data Entry Operators



84
CTE volunteers trained

200–250
sessions lost annually
(to non-academic work)

OCTOBER 2025

3. FORMALISATION

Building the team and systems



- Constituted core Ed-Lab team with DIET faculty
- Onboarded knowledge partners (Pratham, Youth Impact, JSW-KMSPP)
- Institutionalised bi-weekly review meetings
- Learnings from CCLE conference and global Ed-Lab networks (e.g., A/B testing) integrated into design



1
district team,
multiple partners,
shared vision

NOVEMBER 2025

4. EXPANSION

Scaling what works



- Scaled Ganita Ganaka to **1,700+** primary schools
- Trained Cluster Resource Persons (CRPs) for 60-day Odu Karnataka intervention
- Surveyed **201** Gram Panchayat libraries (with ILP, Shikshana Foundation, Room to Read) to strengthen reading ecosystem



1,700+
primary schools

201
GP libraries surveyed

DECEMBER 2025

5. REMEDIATION

Reaching the missed cohort



- Launched a curated 30-session Marusinchana programme (with Transform Schools) for Grades 6–8
- Targeted **7,800** middle-school students with learning gaps
- FLN programmes continued at full pace in primary grades



7,800
middle-school students
(Grades 6–8)

JANUARY 2026

6. INSTITUTIONALISATION

A home for the future



- Established dedicated Ed-Lab space within DIET campus
- Expanded focus to pre-primary and Nali-Kali (Grades 1–3) (with KEF and APF support)
- Chitradurga became the only district in Karnataka to implement all three MOU-based FLN programmes at full scale



1
dedicated Ed-Lab office
at DIET campus

Only district
in Karnataka
with all three FLN
programmes at full scale

Key Program Outcomes (2025-26): One Year Journey



Measurable Progress at Scale

Foundational Literacy (Odu Karnataka): A 24-percentage point increase in children able to read Grade 2 level text. The proportion of non-readers declined from 49% to 26%.

Foundational Numeracy (Ganitha Ganaka): Piloted an AI Assessment Bot for the tutoring program, saving significant teacher time and achieving 95% assessment accuracy, paving the way for scalable, objective monitoring.

24% Gain in Odu Karnataka (Reading)

20% Teacher Time Saved (Ganitha Ganaka)

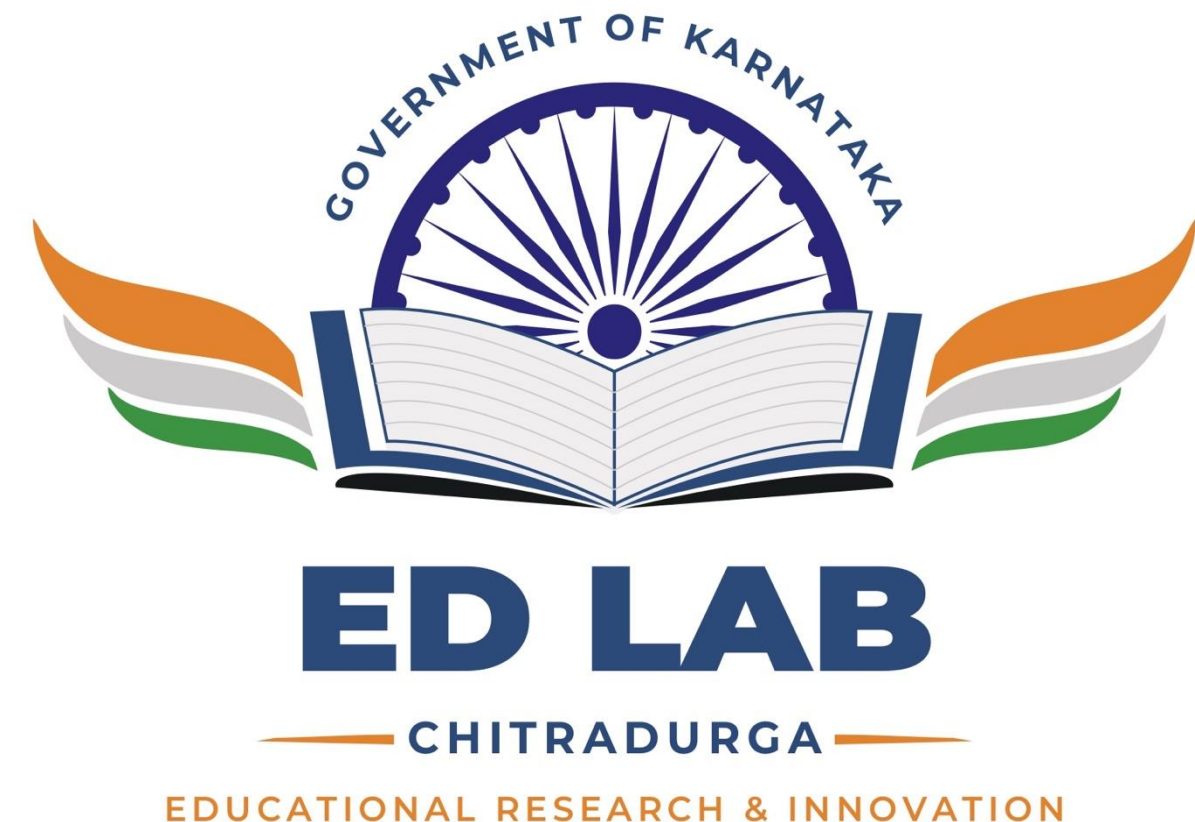
Middle School (Marusinchana): Baseline data indicated 84% of children in grades 6-8 were below Grade 3 levels; targeted instruction has yielded a 14 percentage point improvement in grade-level competency.



Thank You

Questions & Discussion

Ed Lab Chitradurga
Government of Karnataka



C'durga climbs into top tier of state in SSLC, PUC results

Focused monitoring lifts dist among most improved in state

CHITRADURGA, DHNS

Often viewed as a backward district due to environmental, agricultural and socio-economic challenges, Chitradurga has scripted a remarkable academic turnaround this year. The district has significantly improved its pass percentages in both SSLC and second PUC examinations, ranking third and fifth respectively among states' most improved districts.

Publication Date
08/05/2026

The turnaround has been credited to a focused, data-driven initiative led by Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Akash S.

Explaining the strategy, Akash said the district leveraged Ed Lab Chitradurga- India's first district-level education evidence lab focused on evidence-based decision-making and systemic adoption to implement precise, data-driven interventions that drove significant improvement in both

high school and pre-university outcomes.

Using the Pareto Principle, officials identified that a majority of failures stemmed from specific institutional bottlenecks rather than an overall systemic decline.

Data analysis revealed that out of 7,902 student failures in SSLC last year, 6,531 (82.64%) were from government and aided schools.

Of these, 4,025 failures were concentrated in just 100 persistently underperforming schools, around 20% of the total.

"These bottom 100 schools were placed under continuous monitoring throughout the year," Akash said.

AKASH S
Zilla Panchayat CEO



“Data-driven methodologies made it possible to achieve such transforming results. Ed Lab Chitradurga, with its focus on evidence use and uptake, made all the difference.”

Dramatic results

The intervention yielded dramatic results. Pass percentages in these schools surged from 47.47% to 88.43%, pushing the district's overall SSLC pass rate from 70.45% to 92.25%, a jump of 21.8 percentage points.

Across the state, Yadgiri topped the list of most improved districts, with its pass percentage surging from 62.08% to 91.89%, while Kalaburagi secured the second spot, improving from 56.89% to 85.06%.

A parallel, highly surgical approach was implemented in the pre-university sector, yielding equally staggering results. Data showed that of the 5,383 student failures recorded in the previous year, 4,661 (86.58%) were from government and aided colleges.

Of these, as many as 2,577 failures were concentrated in just 10 underperforming PU colleges, barely 12% of the district's institutions.

Dedicated nodal officers were assigned to these institutions, resulting in pass percentages rising from 38.31% to 66.12% in the targeted colleges.

This led to a significant increase in the district's overall PUC pass rate— from 59.87% to 79.12%, a gain of 19.25 percentage points.

The improvement has placed Chitradurga fifth among the state's most improved districts in PUC performance.

Akash credited the success to sustained monitoring, evidence-based interventions, and the co-operation of teachers, lecturers, students and parents.