

## Sparking Dreams in the Dirt: A Journey of Learning and Imagination

At amrita, the management is building a new set of hostels as the intake has increased exponentially and so, a lot of construction work is going on here. The labourers are given accommodation in a nearby hostel where their children also live.

One day, I went to the construction site and I started conversing with the group of children playing about at the site. I thought they should have to school by now as it was mid-day and so, I asked them what they were doing there. One of the labourers said that they didn't have enough money to send them to school. I was broken. Seeing those kids play about in the dirt without a future they can rely on.

So, I sat down with them, pulled out a book and some paper, and we started an impromptu lesson.

But this wasn't just me teaching them. As I tried to explain basic math using rocks and sticks, I realized how education doesn't always need to fit into rigid formats. The kids were more interested in stories and counting the birds that flew overhead than in any formula I could write down. We shifted gears, turning math into a story, and their faces lit up when the numbers started to make sense.

It was in that moment that I saw the power of imagination in learning, and it sparked something deeper in me. I realized my dream isn't just about providing education; it's about making learning an adventure. I want to create spaces where children, no matter where they come from, can discover the magic of knowledge in ways that feel alive to them. A place where a storybook can be as powerful as a textbook, and where kids don't just learn—they dream too.

I may not have all the answers or a grand plan yet, but this interaction reminded me that change often starts with small, genuine moments. Today, it was counting stones and reading stories under the sky. Tomorrow, who knows? Maybe one of these kids will be the next great storyteller, teacher, or leader. That's my dream—to inspire that spark in others and watch it grow into something unstoppable.

## MY DREAM

My dream is to lift the people at the bottom of the pyramid, which consists of our nation's labour force with innovative techniques such as Micro-Credit for Cooperative Entrepreneurship where we enable groups of labourers to pool in resources to start small businesses allowing them to take initiative. Although at this state of current affairs, complete uplifting of this class is near impossible, it helps give our people a new perspective on how life can be. This is a long a slow process, but it is achievable.

### **EMPOWERING THE HANDS THAT BUILD OUR NATION: A VISION FOR UPLIFTING THE LABOR FORCE**



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