

ACCELERATED LEARNING CAMP

COMPONENT
1



MY VILLAGE: A LEARNING VILLAGE IN NEPAL

Empowering Communities to
Improve Foundational Literacy
and Numeracy of Children



What is My Village Project?

The My Village: A Learning Village project is a citizen-led action initiative supported by the PAL Network and implemented by **Galli Galli / ASER Nepal**. It focuses on improving foundational literacy and numeracy among children aged 5-17 years through **four major components**:



Accelerated Learning Camps (ALC)



Community Libraries (Book Bags)



Life-Skills (Socio-emotional learning) Sessions for Youth



Weekly SMS & Phone Support

This brochure explains the first component, **Accelerated Learning Camps (ALC)**, which plays a pivotal role in bridging learning gaps for children in underserved communities.

What is Accelerated Learning Camp (ALC)?

The Accelerated Learning Camp (ALC) is a key component of the My Village: A Learning Village initiative, focusing on accelerating foundational literacy and numeracy skills for children who need extra support. These camps provide an engaging, inclusive environment where children learn through structured activities that balance interactive lessons with fun methods.

Key Features of ALC:

- **Target Group:** Children aged 6-17 years, including both school-going and out-of-school children.
- **Class Size:** Each camp accommodates 40-50 children, with two volunteer teachers ensuring a 20-25 student-to-teacher ratio.
- **Location:** Camp locations are chosen through community meetings and may include school premises, community buildings, or private homes.
- **Medium of Instruction:** Nepali,
- **Mode:** In-person sessions which included embodied games, pen and paper activities with data recorded using a specially designed paper-based data record sheet before entry into the SurveyCTO application.

The ALC empowers children to build a strong academic foundation and fosters a love for learning in a supportive community setting.

What Kind of Villages Are Selected?

Villages for the ALC are chosen based on the following criteria:

- 1. Location:** Within the designated district, municipality, and ward as per project guidelines.
- 2. Population:** At least 150-200 children (ages 5-16) for adequate participation.
- 3. Volunteers:** Availability of 2-3 dedicated local volunteers with basic skills and motivation.
- 4. Suitable Venue:** A year-round accessible location such as a community hall, school, or private space provided free of cost by the community.
- 5. Proximity:** Within 30 minutes of the designated supervisor for easy coordination.
- 6. Coordination Support:** A local focal person, such as a ward chair or social worker, must be present to facilitate activities.

Who are the Volunteers and District Team?

The success of the ALC program depends on its volunteers and district teams.

Volunteers

Volunteers are dedicated community members or local youth passionate about improving children's literacy and numeracy skills and living in the same village where the citizen-led actions are happening. Volunteers are selected through a local recruitment process, including application screening, interviews to assess commitment. The ASER Nepal project team trains them to equip with teaching skills.

Selection Criteria for volunteers:

1. Ability to read, write, and use Foundational Literacy Assessment tools (ASER Nepal or ICAN/ ICARe).
2. Minimum education of Grade 11 or higher.
3. A minimum GPA of 2 or above result performance in their previous grades in school
4. At least 18 years old.
5. Resident of the same community / preference for volunteers from marginalized communities or female volunteers.
6. Proven examples of involvement of volunteers in other community or social services
7. Proficiency in the local language.
8. Android phone and internet access for communication and updates.
9. Strong leadership and interpersonal skills.
10. Any special skills or knowledge that could benefit the project such as teaching experience / social mobilizer / community volunteers/ internships experiences.

(Note: Volunteers must meet at least 8 criteria for selection.)

District Team

The district team ensures the smooth operation of the program, with:

- A Coordinator overseeing activities.
- Supervisors providing regular guidance and monitoring.

Volunteers and district team members undergo training to equip them with the necessary skills and knowledge for effective program implementation.

How does the ALC Work?

The ALC follows a simple yet structured process:

1. Initial Assessment:

- » Assess all children using simple tools (one-on-one oral assessments).
- » Literacy: Letter recognition, reading words, sentences and stories.
- » Numeracy: Numbers, shapes, addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, and word problems.

2. Grouping:

Children are grouped based on proficiency:

- » **Group 1 (Beginner):** Needs foundational support in letters and numbers.
- » **Group 2 (Intermediate):** Developing reading fluency, writing, and basic math skills.
- » **Group 3 (Advanced):** Ready for complex reading and math tasks.

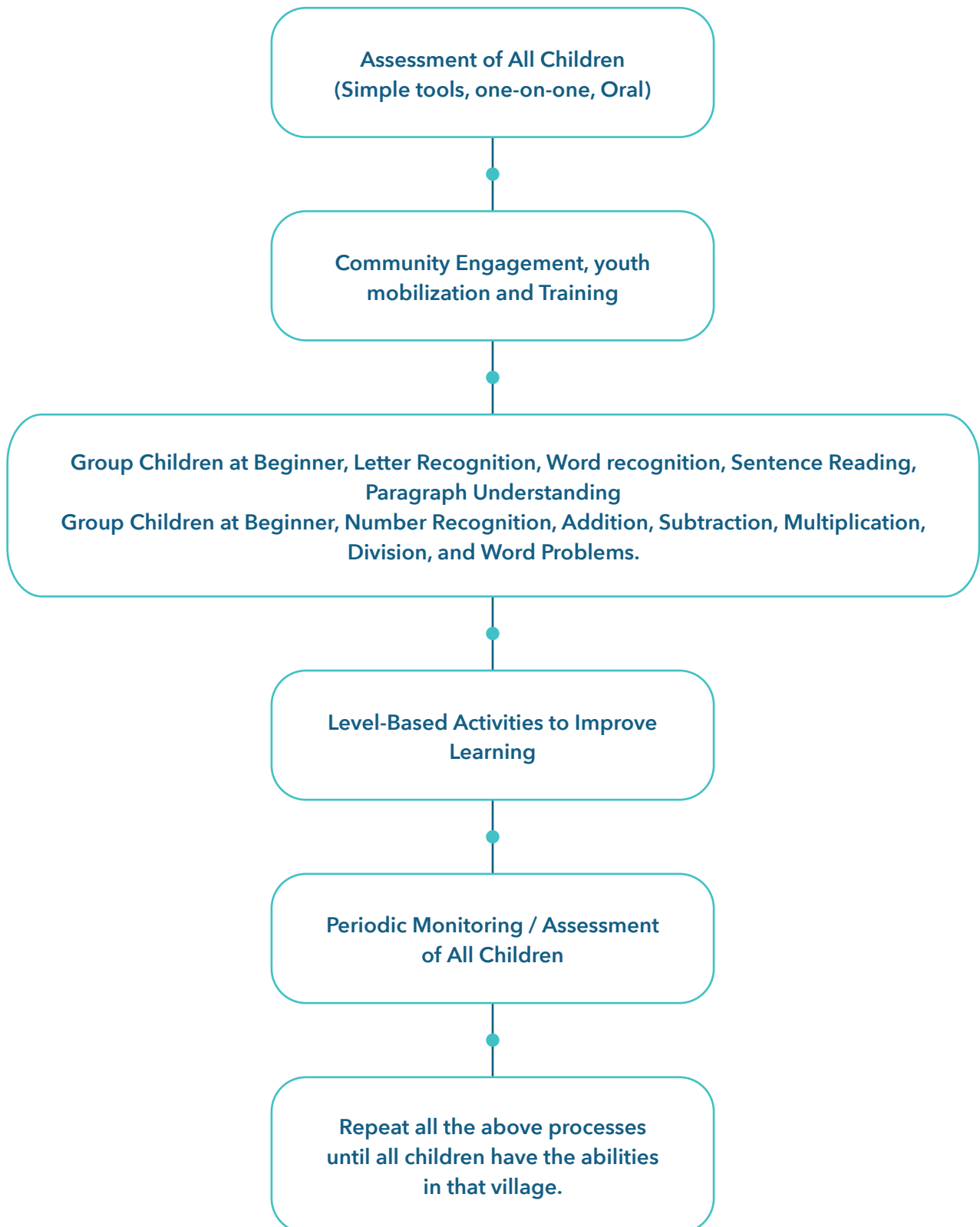
3. 60 working-days Learning Activities:

- » Level-based activities to improve literacy and numeracy skills for 60 specific days.
- » Each day a 2 hour sessions.

4. Monitoring and Assessment:

- » Periodic monitoring and assessments through learning assessment every 15 days.
- » Regroup children based on progress until foundational skills are achieved.

My Village Accelerated Learning Camp Processes



Daily Schedule

Each ALC session operates for 2 hours daily, Sunday to Thursday.

Timetable:

- **5 mins:** Greetings and refreshments.
- **5 mins:** Attendance and group seating.
- 45 mins: Literacy sessions (Based on levels and workbook for reading letters, words, paragraphs, stories).
- **20 mins:** Interactive games and activities.
- **45 mins:** Numeracy sessions (Based on levels and workbook for counting, addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, word problems).

Learning Techniques in ALC

1. **Active Learning:** Hands-on activities like games and problem-solving tasks.
2. **Play-Based Learning:** Educational games promote creativity and socialization.
3. **Storytelling:** Local folklore and interactive stories build language skills.
4. **Visual Learning:** Flashcards, charts, and videos whereas possible enhance understanding.
5. **Peer Learning:** Group work fosters collaboration and shared problem-solving.
6. **Scaffolding:** Gradual support builds confidence and independence.
7. **Formative Assessment:** Continuous evaluation (in every 15 days) using ASER tool and timely feedback ensure lessons are designed to individual needs, keeping students on track.

Resources and Materials

1. **Books and Workbooks:** Volunteer manuals and My Workbook guide learning activities.
2. **Teaching Aids:** Locally available materials make learning interactive.
3. **Monitoring Tools:** Data record sheets and attendance registers track progress.



Monitoring and Evaluation

1. **District-Level Supervision:** Weekly visits by supervisors to monitor activities.
2. **Central-Level Support:** Biweekly check-ins and Zoom sessions to address challenges and guide planning.

Community Involvement

1. **Parental Engagement:** Regular updates on children's progress and at-home activity suggestions.
2. **Local Partnerships:** Collaboration with local leaders and elected representatives and other community based organizations ensures sustainability.

CONTACT

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