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# SCHOOLS

## toolkit

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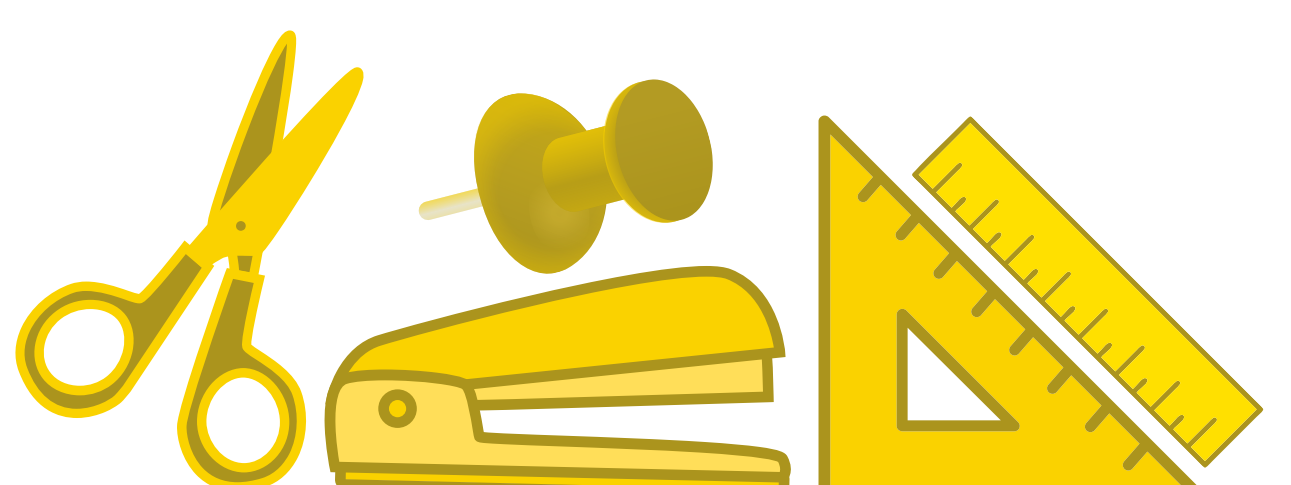
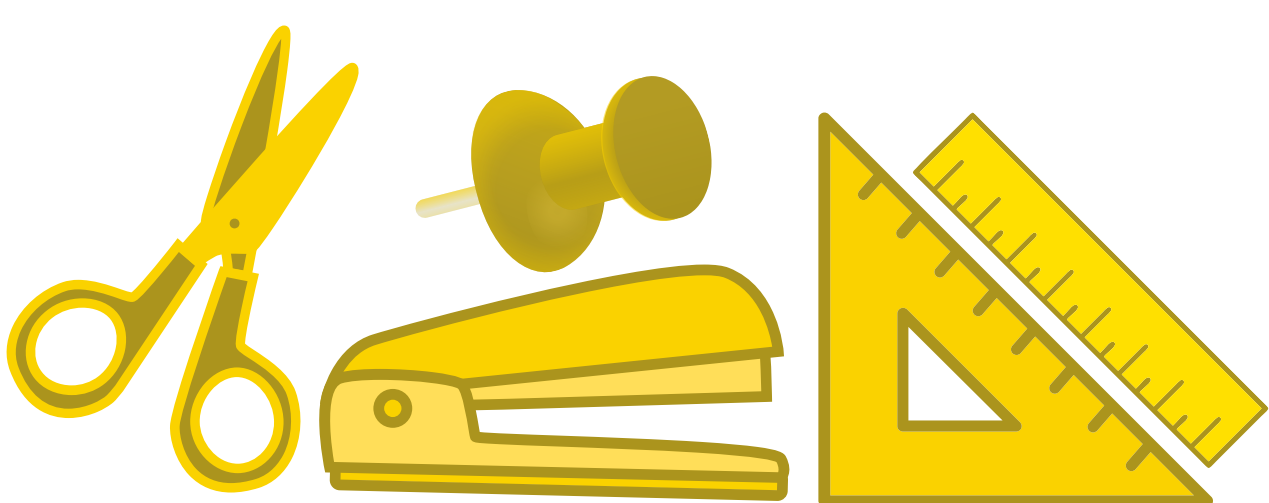




# WHY CELEBRATE #daanutsav?

Every leader in the world will agree that empathy and socio-emotional intelligence are the most important skills for the 21st century. Smart schools are recognising this and leveraging #DaanUtsav to incorporate these learnings into their curricular and extra-curricular processes.

Use this toolkit to get started with planning your #DaanUtsav event.





# SCHOOLS ideas

## **Be A Solve Ninja**

Each student solve a social problem- like potholes or garbage collected or lack of lighting or dividers on streets, etc.

## **DfC**

Design For Change is a contest where students use the FIDS framework to design solutions to issues they care about.

## **Gift Compassion**

In paired schools (e.g., a private and govt school), students from one school handcraft a gift to be given to children in another school.

## **Paper bag making**

Children make paper bags and donate them to nearby shops to use.

## **Khari Kamai- Earn & Give**

Students "earn" through everyday chores like washing cars and bikes, running errands, etc. and donate their earnings to a charity.

## **Fistful of joy**

Schools, colleges, offices, apartments, clubs encourage students, employees & members to donate a fistful of grain/ sugar which is collected and given to an NGO of their choice.

## **Clean up drive**

Organise an event to clean up public spaces like beaches, lakes, bus stands, stations, parks, govt hospitals, etc.

## **Gandhi For Gram**

Identify a village nearby and get students/employees/members to visit and volunteer there for a day, to promote greater understanding of the challenges of rural life in modern times.

## **MKG 150 festival**

Organise a festival in your school, college, office, club, group, association or apartment to celebrate Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary. The festival can include debates, essay contests, Khadi shows, films and other activities that represent Gandhi's values. Audience/ participants donate to take part and the proceeds go to Gandhian charities.

## **DaanDe March**

Organise a march/walk involving your students/employees/members and also other organisations near your institution, raising awareness about causes and inviting the public to contribute in cash and kind.

## **Run/Walk for a cause**

A walk/ run for a cause, where participants donate and fundraise to support the chosen cause.

## **Beautification Drive**

Organise an event to beautify public spaces like compound walls, bus stands, stations, parks and gardens, govt schools & hospitals, shelter homes, etc.

## **Plog Run**

Get participants to go on a run and collect all the plastic they encounter on the run, from the streets. The collected plastic is given to a recycler.

## **Collection Drive**

A drive to collect and donate new or old books, toys, bags, stationery, uniform, newspapers, shoes, clothes and other stuff and donate them to NGOs.

## **Tree plantation**

Carry out tree plantation campaigns in nearby school/college campuses and grounds, parks, office campuses or in nearby plantation areas identified by environmental NGOs. Plantation can also be done in nearby rural areas.

## **Seva Mela- NGO stalls**

In a school, college, corporate, club or large apartment complex, NGOs put up stalls showcasing their cause and selling their products.

## **Charity Raffle / Housie**

A raffle, housie or “tambola” where members donate items as prizes (spare new phones, crockery, travel accessories, bags, watches, etc.), and everyone buys tickets with the proceeds going to charity.

## **Card Carrying Membership**

Poker, rummy, bridge or other card games where everyone “buys in” and nominates a charity, money goes to the winners’ nominated charities.

## **Visits to NGOs**

Visits to nearby shelter, old age home, orphanage, special needs org, etc.

## **MasterChef Kaun?**

in schools, offices, clubs, apartments, a Masterchef contest, where each participant creates, others “buy” food coupons, proceeds go to charity. The winner’s charity gets a special prize. Can focus on men cooking to change stereotypes.

## **Date Auction**

In colleges, offices, clubs, gyms, a lunch or safe dinner date with the popular members is auctioned and proceeds go to the charity of their choice.

## **Kuch Achha Karao-ke**

Sing for a cause on karaoke, the audience buys tickets to listen, proceeds go to charity.

## **Food drive**

Preparing, collecting and distributing food to those in need on the streets or at shelter and care homes, or even to auto drivers at a stand, etc.

## **Seva Sandwich**

Individuals in a group contribute various ingredients of a sandwich, get together and make sandwiches and distribute them to those in need.

## **Kindness Fridge**

Set up a "kindness fridge" in a public place like an apartment, school, college, hospital and create groups of people who will ensure the fridge is stocked.

## **Thank'Em**

Thank class 4 staff of school, college, corp, club, apt, etc. - serve them, have fun WITH them, treat them as equals.

## **Record Audio Books**

Everyone records an audio book for the blind.

## **Change Festival**

In colleges, clubs, theatres, large corporates, large apartments, a TEDx/ Litfest type format featuring social enterprises, ticket donations to charity.





# SCHOOLS ideas

## **Bake Sale/ Art Sale**

People exhibit their talents in baking/ other arts and sell their products, proceeds go to charity.

## **Adopt an Institution**

Help a govt school, bus shelter, night shelter, newspaper stand, park get a complete makeover and take care of it through the year.

## **The Tiny Flea Garage Sale**

Flea market within school, college, corp, apartment, club etc. where members bring items and others buy them, all proceeds go to charity.

## **Cycle/ Bike/Car Rally for a cause**

A rally for a cause, where participants donate and fundraise to support the chosen cause.

## **7 Days 7 Givings**

Pick 7 different acts of giving, 1 for each day of the #DaanUtsav week and get students/residents/employees/members to contribute. The 7 acts could simply be 7 different items to be given (books on 1 day, clothes on another, etc.) or 7 types of activities (money, material, time, blood, skills, etc.).

## **Wish Tree**

Set up a "Wish Tree" and allow members to fulfill wishes sourced from a local nonprofit that you wish to support.



# SCHOOLS ideas

## **Blood donation camps**

In association with nearby blood banks and hospitals or groups like Lions that conduct such camps.

## **Seva Mela- Fun for a Cause**

In a school, college, corporate, club or large apartment complex, NGOs put up stalls with food and games, and all proceeds go to charity.

## **Street Store**

Organise a collection drive for items in good condition, clean, mend and pack the donated items nicely and set up a “store” on a street nearby. Offer “coupons” to potential beneficiaries which they can use to “buy” the items that THEY choose from the street store, instead of being handed over something that someone else chose for them.

## **#DaanUtsav Booths**

Pop-up #DaanUtsav booths in public spaces provide opportunities to donate for a particular NGO/cause.



# SCHOOL faqs

## **Why should schools celebrate #DaanUtsav?**

In one of the most popular books.. named given and take by Adam Grand he makes a very interesting point that some of the most successful people in the world much to his than everybody else's surprise, people who are very generous givers who often help other people without bothering how it would help them back.

Every corporate today tells you that emotional intelligence is much more important than pure intelligence quotient and empathy is a very critical skill that every leader needs to have in a society. But then when you eventually work in a school or a college or a corporate or in politics or as a lawyer or any other profession.

Therefore, building empathy in our children is a very vital requirement for schools. #DaanUtsav is a very wonderful opportunity for schools to give chance to showcase skills.

Not just of problem solving, of managing or trying difficult things out, organising activities, etc. but, more importantly of learning how to care for someone else, learning how to think about someone else before you and learning how to differ your own need to gratification and these things are going to help the kids grow some extremely wonderful citizens.

# SCHOOL faqs

## **What kind of events work for schools?**

A range of events have worked for schools. Starting from things as simple as collection drive where they bring in toys, clothes, books, uniforms, etc. To simple wish trees to organising more complex events like taking part in the design for change contest or becoming solve ninjas or you know various other activities like that.

Sometimes school come up with ideas that involve them in going out and reaching out to the community as well and often they also involve the parents in such activities including- Fun fairs and Seva Melas in the school campus.

## **What can schools do if there are exams or vacations during #DaanUtsav?**

A whole bunch of schools have come up with very interesting ideas of what to do when they have their exams during #DaanUtsav. One of those is to give children simple holiday homework exercises where in each day of the week from 2-8th of October, the kids have to do one small act of kindness back in their homes. Not only does this help to develop phenomenal reflection and thinking skills in the child but also gives them the chance to experience empathy every single day during their holidays.

When it comes to exams you know the easiest thing for schools often is to organise simple collection drives. The collection drives are planned at least a month before the exams. Information is sent to parents way ahead etc.



# SCHOOL faqs

And even if there are exams during #DaanUtsav, all the kids are doing is when they come for exams – they are bringing along the toys or stationary or rice or any other material that they wish to donate. So it actually doesn't distract children from their studies at all. The actual distribution of what is collected is done after the exams get over and that is the time when children can get involved into it.

## **How can schools get all of their students, teachers and staff members to participate in their #DaanUtsav event?**

The easiest way to get strong participation support is when the principal of the school or the director of the school decides that this is something that we would like to see or our children would do. When it starts from there. The principal or the director talk to the staff and the teachers in the meeting, explain why this is important. Get it scheduled into the academic calendar. It kind of becomes the part of the curriculum so to say. And then you reach out to parents through a simple circular or a note in the dairy.

Our experience is parents are extremely happy to take part in events like #DaanUtsav. Most schools that have celebrated #DaanUtsav replied saying that parents have given more positive feedback about it. And therefore once you have both the parents and the teachers on it, it becomes very easy for the children to enthusiastically take part.



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## **What are some of the objections/questions raised in regards with celebrating #DaanUtsav?**

So some schools are not very comfortable asking parents for money because increasing that is something schools don't like doing. There are other schools which struggle a little bit with the fact that there are exams or vacations. There are two questions that actually come.

One is, there are a lot of schools are that very uncomfortable asking for money and the simple answer to that challenge is schools do not have to conduct any activities that require parents to contribute money. There collection drives can be of material or kind such as toys, books, stationary, old uniforms, bags, water bottles, shoes, etc. the other challenge that sometimes come ups is that there are parents who sometimes feel that we have been compelled to give and that's again something that the school can get over.

So the easiest thing to do here is to make everything voluntary. So every child does have to participate. It shouldn't be that they have to but they should want to. And once you make it voluntary then generally people don't generally have objections.

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## **How can schools get parents to support their efforts?**

So many schools do a bunch of things. For eg. Euro Kids. It gets the parents to become the active participant in the #DaanUtsav. Parents actually volunteer with the school team to design their activities, plan them. Euro kids organises Tricyclothons where they have the little 3yrs olds doing cyclothon riding their tricycle and dressing various costumes and organizing such similar stuffs. Or they have often gone and visited Aanganvadis with the kids from the Euro kids pre school going there.

In most of these initiatives parents are the important volunteer. The parents with the teachers and organising team volunteer and take part.

## **What care needs to be taken when working with schoolchildren?**

Most importantly something that needs to be taken care of is that to ensure that the safety of the kids is to be given paramount importance. Especially if there is any event that is been planned outside the school premises like a walk or a run or something like that then ensuring there is an adequate staff to child ratio. So that there is no safety risk to the child.

This is particularly when you are working with younger children. Who are under 8 or 10 years old. The older children are less worried about these activities.

# SCHOOL faqs

When there are activities where the kids are going really far away and participating in events organised by other organisations, you know ensuring that you have got their proper permission in place and taking due precaution to ensure with the safety of the kid. Kids ensuring that the teachers are accompanying them. To make sure that everything is going fine. These are the main things school needs to do to take care of off.

## **How much time does it take to plan an event?**

It entirely varies upon the kind of event you want to do for something as simple as a toy collection drive. It can take simply three days to decide that yes we want to do a toy collection drive. You know, teachers write on their board, students write in the dairies saying that we have a collection drive in our school day after tomorrow, please send toys through your children. And, then you just have the boxes in place and the toys come.

So it's as simple as a 2 day to 3 day event that takes just an hour of planning to get going. But, at the same if want to do something more elaborate for example if the school wants to organise an awareness walk in the community, sometimes those activities might require 2 months or 3 months of planning. You create groups of senior students.





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Typically from class 9th and 11th who actually take the responsibility and form a committee of students. They sit together, work with a couple of teachers guiding them about the plan, how are they going to go out into the community and market the idea. Get more people to support them and flesh out the whole event and execute it.

## **How do #DaanUtsav volunteers support in planning and/or executing events?**

One of the ways they typically help is when a school is say organising a collection drive , they often don't know where to give the material. So you collected materials like - toys or shoes or clothes but you don't know where to give it to? So that's where the volunteers are very useful.

They are able to find local organisations, orphanages or also large scale organisations like Goonj, etc.who would be willing to accept the contribution from the school. So they reach the people and meet. Very often they are also useful in helping school through giving innovative ideas.

Because, a lot of schools that have been participating for 8-10 years now want to do different things and the volunteers have brilliant ways in helping school brain storm with innovative ideas. Sometimes a school wants a partner to work with, which may not be an NGO, for example, a sports organisation. So the #DaanUtsav volunteers helped the private schools connect with government schools and work with them as well.

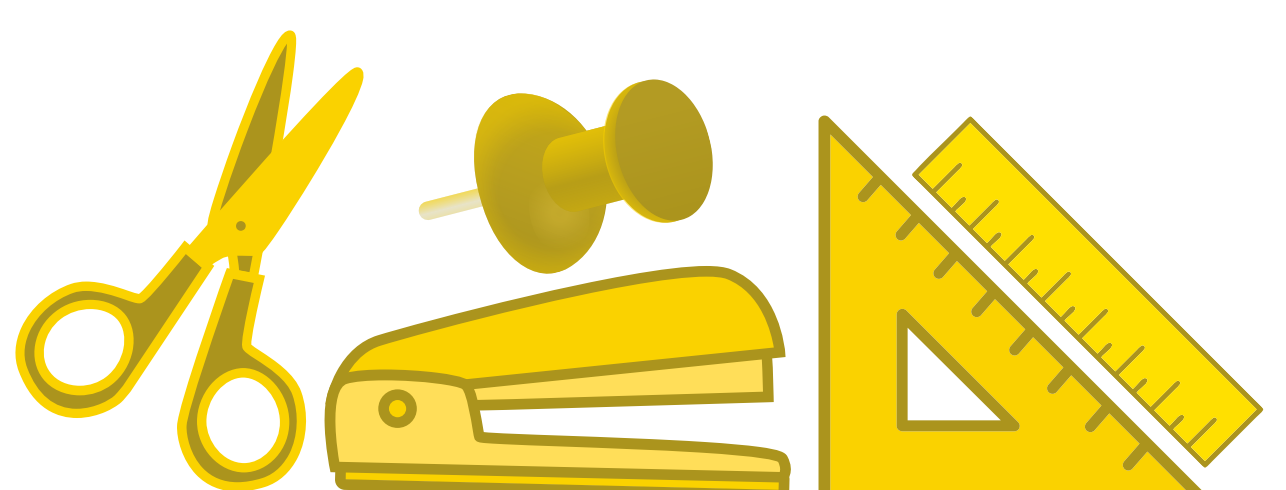
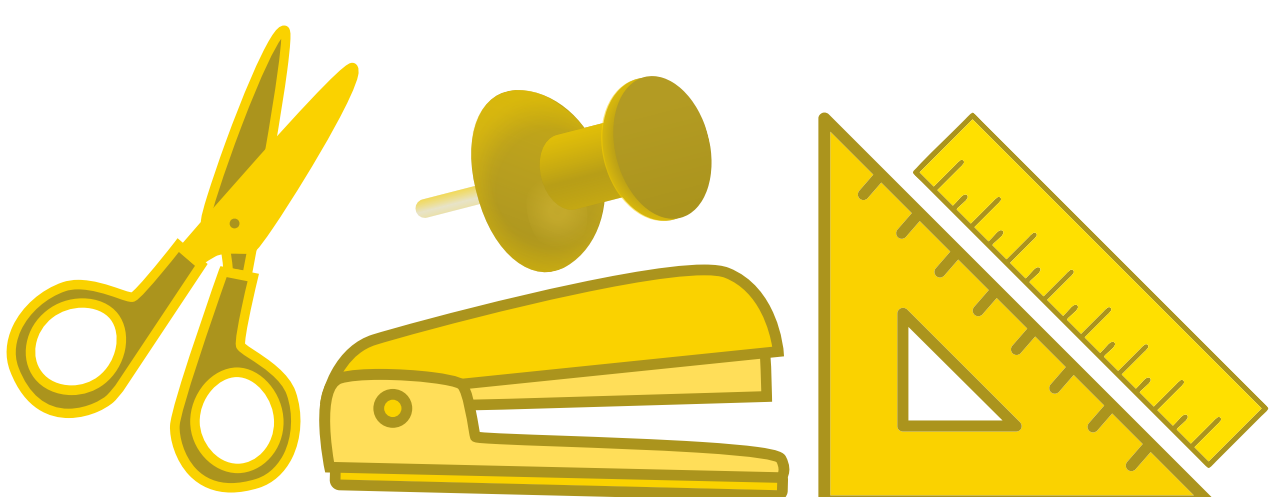


# SCHOOL faqs

## **What are some others tips/suggestions on celebrating #DaanUtsav in schools?**

The best tip would be to get #DaanUtsav in your school academic calendar. Many schools have done it already. More and more schools are adding it in their calendar each year.

So, it kind of helps you build empathy as a key part of your curriculum, it helps you start planning in advance. Very often in May you are actually making your academic year plans, etc. so teachers can make plans about how they can leverage #DaanUtsav as a platform. That's one of the most important things schools can do.





# SCHOOLS contact

To know more, write to [daanutsav@gmail.com](mailto:daanutsav@gmail.com), or visit [www.daanutsav.org](http://www.daanutsav.org)

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