



Varthana Partners with Opportunity EduFinance to Train School Leaders and Teachers of Affordable Private Schools in Tamil Nadu

- *Three-year professional development program priced exclusively at ₹10,000 per year for participating schools*
- *To train school leaders and teachers from 120-150 schools from Chennai, Madurai, and Coimbatore*

Bengaluru, May 24, 2023: Varthana, India's largest school financing-focused Non-Banking Finance Company (NBFC), and Opportunity EduFinance, an international NGO that supports local affordable private schools, today partnered to launch EduQuality, a program providing low-cost, quality professional development training to affordable private schools in Tamil Nadu.

Varthana clients from Chennai, Madurai, and Coimbatore will benefit from this partnership through access to EduQuality, a three-year holistic school development program of Opportunity EduFinance which seeks to improve the quality of education for learners and support the growth of sustainable school businesses. Through Varthana's investment in their client's growth and success, they have committed to cost-sharing 10% of the total cost of the program. Opportunity EduFinance will subsidize 80% of the program cost as aligned with their mission of supporting affordable private education across India. The remaining 10% (₹10,000 per year) will be the only cost born to participating schools.

The EduQuality program will bring together 120-150 affordable private schools to deliver the following intervention:

- **School Leadership Professional Development:** Professional development training delivered to senior school leaders with a focus on **instructional leadership** and **business and financial management** to support the growth of sustainable school businesses.
- **Teacher Mentor Professional Development:** In-service professional development delivered to teacher mentors with a focus on foundational teacher training, i.e., **pedagogy, literacy, and classroom management**. Teacher mentors then deliver professional development to their teaching staff at their respective schools.
- **Pathways to Excellence:** Strategic school improvement planning which begins with a **School Self-Assessment** where the school owner diagnoses the quality of education at their school using measurable indicators of school quality and then develops a **School Development Plan** to improve upon areas of greatest need.



A recent KPMG India study commissioned by Opportunity EduFinance found only 44% of schools in Tamil Nadu conduct teacher training. The study highlighted a greater need for training that focuses on classroom management, overcoming learning loss, improving learning outcomes, and lesson planning. This EduQuality program delivered through the Varthana and Opportunity EduFinance partnership will directly address these identified needs, providing critical professional development training access to equip senior school leaders and teachers of affordable private schools with skills and tools necessary to invest in holistic school quality improvements that can be sustained beyond the life of the program.

Mr. Steve Hardgrave, CEO and Co-founder, Varthana, said, *“We feel ecstatic announcing this partnership with Opportunity EduFinance. With affordable private schools growing in the country, and today’s generation thriving on use of technology we see a huge need for upskilling of School leaders and teachers to deliver more result-oriented teaching experience. Through this tie-up we are striving to provide quality education to all affordable private schools that we are associated with in the state of Tamil Nadu.”*

Mr. Andrew Mccusker, Head of Education Finance at Opportunity International said, *“Varthana is known for building strong relationships with owners of affordable private schools across the country. These relationships help enable schools to develop not just strong infrastructure but also provide academic support via digital learning tools and teaching methods. It is for this reason that we chose to partner with Varthana and develop robust smart schools by empowering teachers with all necessary tools. Our experienced trainers will provide a blended training - digital & in-person - approach delivered in the local language of the respective cities.”*

ABOUT VARTHANA

Varthana, a pioneer in the affordable education sector headquartered in Bengaluru, is the largest school financing focused Non-Banking Finance Company (NBFC) in India. Started in 2013, the organization has a presence in 15 states, through 41 branches and 150 spokes. Varthana aims to transform affordable education in India. It caters to the needs of Affordable Private Schools by providing them with financial assistance and academic support. It is strongly committed to serve domestic students attending college, technical training/short-term courses, and postgraduate studies by providing them with loans. Varthana aims to make education accessible to over 10 million students by 2025.

ABOUT OPPORTUNITY INTERNATIONAL EDUFINANCE

Opportunity International EduFinance is a global non-profit organization which partners with financial institutions around the world to help them develop, launch, and grow sustainable education lending portfolios, primarily focusing on two flagship products: School Improvement Loans and School Fee Loans. The EduQuality Program at Opportunity EduFinance offers school borrowers capacity building and training to run sustainable, quality schools. EduFinance has 148 financial institution partners in 31 countries, who have collectively disbursed 602k education loans benefiting an estimated 11.5 million children globally since



the start of the program. (Discover more at www.edufinance.org or join the conversation on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), or [LinkedIn](#)).

Media Contact:

Concept Public Relations

Swarnali Dutta: | swarnali@conceptpr.com (+91 9875565700)

Ayan Dutta | ayan@conceptpr.com (+91-9820885653)