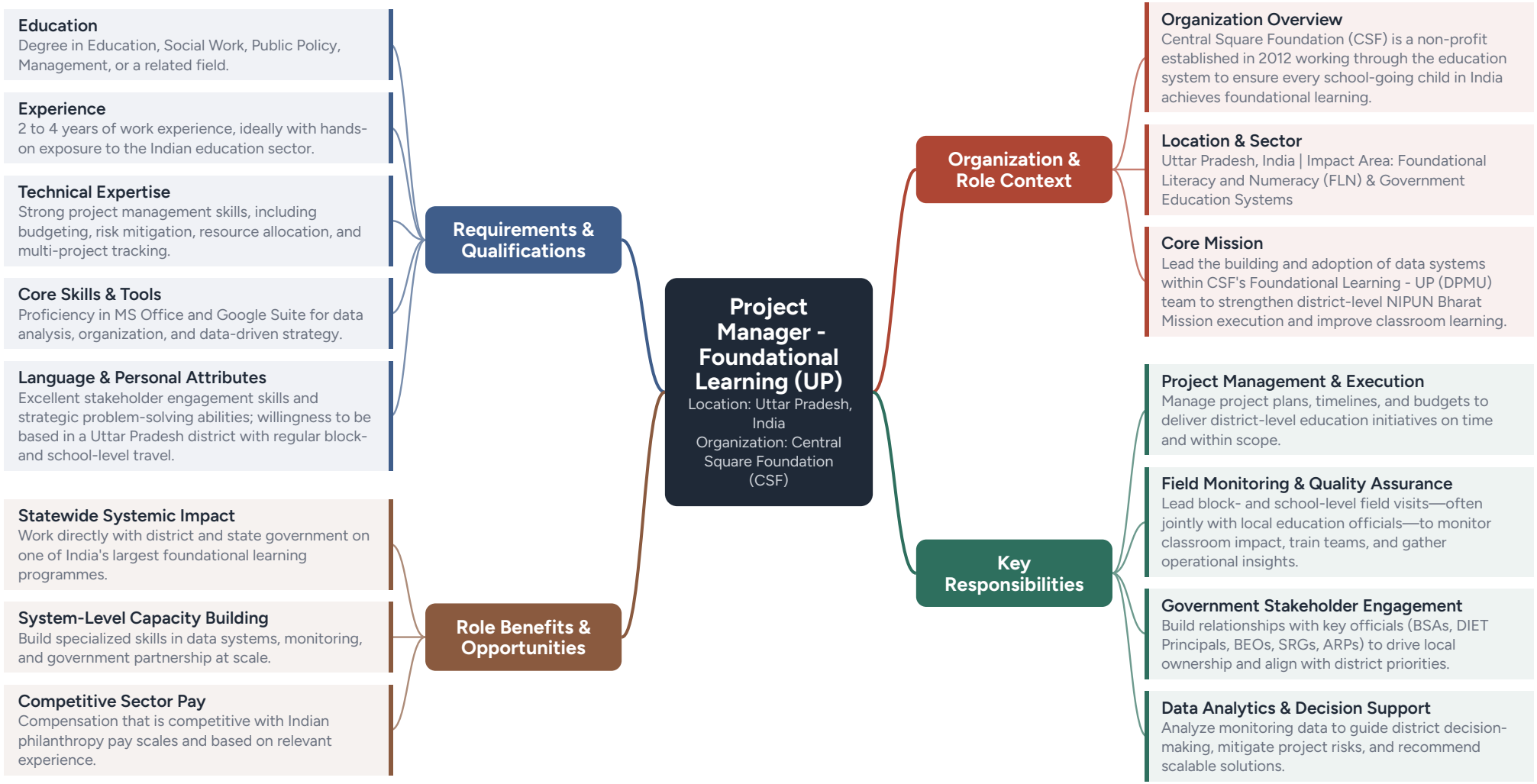
Central Square Foundation

Project Manager – Foundational Learning in Uttar Pradesh | Central Square Foundation

Uttar Pradesh · full-time · mid level · Competitive

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Skills this role needs

- Project planning and budgeting
- Stakeholder management with government officials
- Data analysis in Microsoft Office / Google Suite
- Risk management
- Field monitoring and capacity building

Job description

Central Square Foundation

Central Square Foundation (CSF) is a non-profit set up in 2012 to improve how much every school-going child in India learns. It works through the education system itself, from new ideas and policy through to what happens in the classroom, so that gains reach children at scale. Its main focus is Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN), and it partners with 11 state governments to design and run statewide FLN Missions. CSF also works on EdTech for learning in class and at home, on Early Childhood Education, and on School Governance across government and private schools. This role sits within CSF's Foundational Learning - UP (DPMU) team, which helps districts in Uttar Pradesh put the NIPUN Bharat Mission into practice, linking district planning to classroom teaching so children learn to read and count.

Role

The Project Manager will lead the building and uptake of data systems that strengthen how the district monitors its foundational learning work. You will plan and run project activities, visit schools and blocks to see what is working, and build strong working relationships with district and block education officials. The aim is a clear chain from district plans to classroom practice, so that teachers get the support they need and children's learning improves.

Responsibilities

- Manage project plans, timelines, and budgets to deliver district-level education initiatives on time and within scope.
- Lead block- and school-level field visits—often jointly with local education officials—to monitor classroom impact, train teams, and gather operational insights.
- Build relationships with key officials (BSAs, DIET Principals, BEOs, SRGs, ARPs) to drive local ownership and align with district priorities.
- Analyze monitoring data to guide district decision-making, mitigate project risks, and recommend scalable solutions.

Requirements

- 2 to 4 years of work experience, ideally with hands-on exposure to the Indian education sector.
- Strong project management skills, including budgeting, risk mitigation, resource allocation, and multi-project tracking.
- Proficiency in MS Office and Google Suite for data analysis, organization, and data-driven strategy.
- Excellent stakeholder engagement skills, strategic problem-solving abilities, and willingness to be based in a Uttar Pradesh district with regular block- and school-level travel.

Benefits

- Work directly with district and state government on one of India's largest foundational learning programmes.
- Build skills in data systems, monitoring and government partnership at scale.
- Join a team focused on measurable learning outcomes for children.
- Pay that is competitive with Indian philanthropy pay scales and based on experience.

Apply

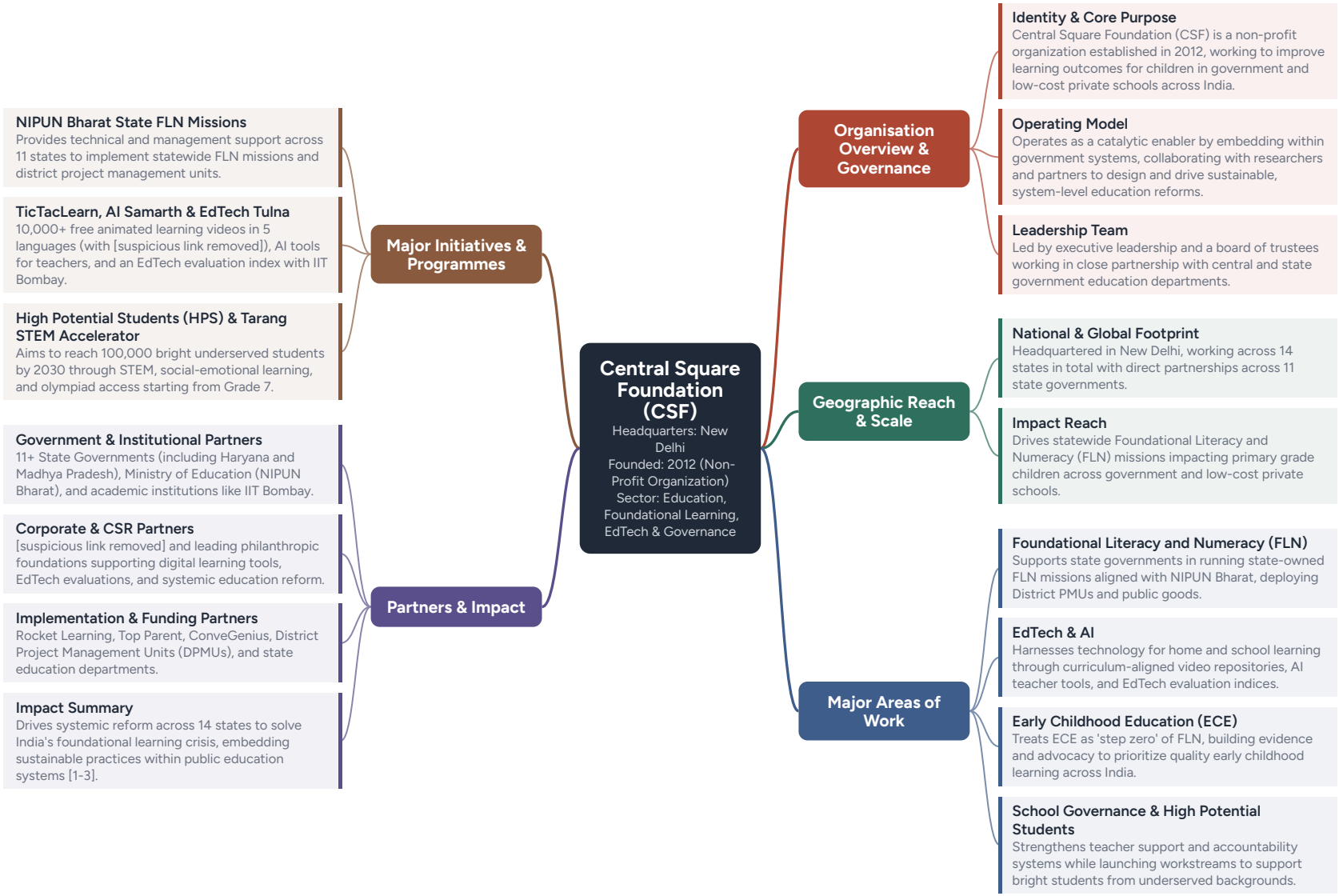
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About the organisation

Central Square Foundation

centralsquarefoundation.org ↗
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About Central Square Foundation

Central Square Foundation

YouTube Video

Central Square Foundation (CSF) is a non-profit organization established in 2012, headquartered in New Delhi. It works to improve learning outcomes for children in government and low-cost private schools across India, with a focus on children from low-income backgrounds. CSF operates as a catalytic enabler not running schools directly, but working with governments, researchers, and the education ecosystem to design and drive system-level reforms that last.

Over 13 years, CSF has become one of India's most influential education policy and practice organizations, collaborating with 11 state governments on statewide Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) missions and working across 14 states in total.

India has a foundational learning crisis. According to ASER 2024, 79% of Grade 3 students in rural government schools cannot read Grade 2 text, and 72.9% cannot do Grade 2 level arithmetic. Children who miss these basics by Grade 3 rarely catch up and risk dropping out altogether. CSF believes solving this FLN by Grade 3 for every child is the single most important lever for long-term equity and growth.

What CSF Does

- Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN): CSF's flagship area. It supports state governments in designing and running state-owned FLN missions aligned with the national NIPUN Bharat initiative. CSF sets direction at the national level, provides technical and management support to state teams, creates public goods (tools, frameworks, resources) freely available to all practitioners, and drives district-level implementation through District Project Management Units (DPMUs). CSF has worked with 11 state governments on this.
- EdTech & AI: CSF works to harness technology for student learning, both at home and in school. Key initiatives include: TicTacLearn (10,000+ free curriculum-aligned animated videos in 5 Indian languages, created with Google.org, adopted by 10 states); AI Samarth (AI-powered tools for teachers and students); Bharat Survey for EdTech (BaSE) (a national survey to understand EdTech usage and effectiveness); EdTech Tulna (an evaluation index for EdTech solutions, built with IIT Bombay); and support to government EdTech procurement in Haryana and Madhya Pradesh. CSF also supports at-home learning tools like Rocket Learning, Top Parent, and ConveGenius.
- Early Childhood Education (ECE): CSF treats ECE as "step zero" of FLN the foundation before formal schooling. It builds evidence and advocacy for prioritizing quality, evidence-based approaches to early learning across India.
- School Governance: CSF works to build an enabling environment in both government and private schools supporting better school management, teacher support systems, and accountability structures that allow learning outcomes to improve sustainably.
- High Potential Students (HPS): Launched in 2025, this is a new workstream focused on identifying and supporting bright students from underserved backgrounds before they are left behind. India's school system has ~25 crore children, many of whom are high-potential but lack access to the right support, opportunities, or identification before Grade 10. CSF aims to reach 1,00,000 such students by 2030 through STEM and social-emotional learning programs starting from Grade 7, partnerships with model schools and states, and access to olympiads and high-growth career pathways. Tarang STEM Accelerator is a key initiative under this program.

CSF's work is evidence-led and system-focused. Every intervention is grounded in rigorous research and aims to build government ownership so that improvements outlast CSF's involvement. Rather than parallel delivery systems, CSF embeds itself within government structures and works to change how the system itself functions from curriculum design and teacher training to assessment and district management.

CSF actively hires people passionate about education reform prior education sector experience is not required. Roles span policy, research, program management, EdTech, communications, and more.

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