

## **Excellence in Education**

### **Vandemataram Foundation**

Today's education system is focusing more on knowledge and is imparting little wisdom. So with poor wisdom today's educated are using this tremendous knowledge for their individual benefit at the cost of society. Ego, greed and jealousy are spoiling our rich social fabric. Our core societal values of love, care and service are being diluted. Here lies the need for value education and this should be imparted right at the primary school level.

Many of the students attending government school are first generation students from their family. And it is obvious that only those children who cannot afford studies in private schools join government schools. Perhaps, such children may not get any guidance either from the parents or from any other source. We need to fill these lacunae by way of extending a helping hand to the poor children.

During this time, Ravindra, (Graduate, Warangal dist) realised the need of empowerment of government schools, due to which he started Vandemataram Foundation in 2005. Since then he has been working relentlessly towards strengthening government schools. And dedicated his life to the cause of nationalism and inculcating patriotism and culture among the youth in villages.

Vandemataram Foundation (VMF) was founded as an NGO established with an objective to build character, inculcate right values in the formative stage of a child in the under resourced schools in the rural and backward regions. It was on the eve of centenary year (2005) of Vandemataram Movement that the foundation was launched.

Each year Vandemataram foundation continues to advance its mission of strengthening the government schools in rural area to impart quality and moral education for student's overall development. Making a village school the nodal point, the Foundation builds teams consisting of village elders, youth and alumni of the school. These teams working in tandem with the parents and teachers of the school actively involve the students in various constructive and creative activities.

As we all are aware that only poor students whose parents are illiterate and do not have much awareness about the schooling and the importance of education go to government schools. As compared to private schools, government school children are deprived of proper encouragement and guidance. And VMF has been at the forefront of child rights and school empowerment with gross roots level interaction and right to information campaigns.

### **The following are some of the highlights of our intervention:**

- ❖ **Enrolments (Aksharabyasam):** From the year 2006 to 2016 total 193500 students have been inducted into Governments schools of Warangal and Mahabubnagar districts.
- ❖ **Rakshabandhan:** School students tie 48.2 lakh rakhis to their elders in the villages to assure not to employ any school aged children in work and contribute to development of Government schools.
- ❖ **Examination Preparation Camp:** The foundation has been organising residential study camps with all the facilities for focused over study. Total 3928

students are take part in the camps. About 680 students have been selected for IIITs and over 1500 have got free seats in corporate colleges.

- ❖ **Vatsalyapurna – Bala Chaitanyam:** Education material and Psychological support has been provided with the help of willing donors to 1265 orphans and 5400 needy children of poor single parent families so as to enable them to continue their schooling.
- ❖ **Kishori Vidya Vikasam – Sri Sharada Bala Samskara Kendra:** A large number of girl students are discontinuing studies due to financial problems and are being forced into child marriages, foundation has launched KVV programme which aims at extending financial support to enable such girls continue education. Since 2007 over 4848 girls have been given financial benefit so far. An important factor of this programme is that these girls after their college hours run study centres (SSBSK) for the students of government primary schools as a result of which over 69800 students.
- ❖ **Prathiba Awards:** Since last eight years Vandemataram Foundation has been felicitating the 10<sup>th</sup> Class toppers of Government schools from each district along with their parents and concerned Headmasters. The event is aimed at boosting the morale of Government school children and their parents/teachers who carry high hopes about the carrier of their words.

As a part of felicitation to those brilliant but very poor students of Government Schools, who topped in the SSC exam, will have "Free flight trip" every year. The Students, who could not think even to see and board the plane even in their wild dreams, were put in a Chartered Flight and given a rid of Hyderabad. The Vande Mataram Foundation feels proud of these Students who touched the sky in "both the ways." Most of these students are from poor families and for some of them Education is a "nightmare" and to some it is a "distant dream." It proves that nothing can stop them if they have encouragement, proper guidance and inspiration, then they can prove their talent and they will reach the "heights of success."

- ❖ **Kalam 100:** Kalam 100 is a highly ambitious educational program . 100 students are selected from the Government schools of Telangana state through entrance test and Under this initiative, poor students are coached free of cost to crack IIT, Medicine and other Competative examinations. Students are intensively trained from 6<sup>th</sup> class. During the eight years of program students are provided absolutely free coaching, lodging and food at Aksharavanam.
- ❖ **Rudrama - Home for Girls; Pragnadhamam – Home for Boys:** A famous saying in English states 'When you educate a man, you educate only an individual. When you educate a woman you educate the whole family'. A large number of college going girls in Telangana State., discontinue education due to financial constraints. Majority of them belong to very poor families. Again, as per the age-old belief system of the male progeny and male inheritance, female child receives least or no attention.

'Rudrama' – Home for girls aimed to support children of Single parent and orphans to impart educational support . The hostel is located at Indira Seva Sadan (I.S.Sadan), Sagar Road, Hyderabad supporting 56 girls who are now enrolled in Intermediate with arts and science subjects. This is self-managed hostel by the inmates.

To support orphans and single-parent children to continue higher education, in 2007 the birth of 'Pragnadhamam' a hostel to support such children took

Place. The hostel is located at B.N.Reddy nagar, Sagar Road, Hyderabad supporting 46 Boys who are now enrolled in various courses.

- ❖ **LLL - (Language, Logic & Life Skills)**: As the educational attainment of the children in the school situation is poor. We realized that most of this has got to do with poor linguistic and mathematical abilities of the students, which are shown (through ASER surveys by PRATHAM) to be disproportionately low compared to the class in which they are studying. Hence we have been adopting the "LLL Method" over the past two years in schools across the Mahabubnagar and Warangal districts to overcome this problem.

The VMF volunteer helps the children in forming groups each consisting of children not exceeding five in which the better learner shall take the lead in motivating the academically challenged learners to acquire the basic competencies in language, logic (Mathematics) and Life Skills (Bala Sabha). Recently, Telangana Government had adopted our concept of Balasabha, and included in the annual academic calendar.

- ❖ **Aksharavanam**: Vandemataram Foundation constructed "Akshara Vanam"-training cum educational research center for Government School students to train them intensively in teaching methodologies and languages while guiding them to imbibe good values and character, they would serve the society as good teachers. This in turn will have a multiplying effect in turning out good students in the next generation. And for the benefit of upright sports persons as well to identify raw talent of the rural area, foundation constructed sports academy adjacent to the Aksharavanam to emphasize on studies and sports, as well as culture and community service with a vision to develop home-grown leaders who possess a strong sense of ethics and civic responsibility, and who will contribute to their country's future. Apart from these, In the premises of Aksharavanam, we are committed to expand further to enable more school children to participate in this life-changing programmes through our Sports Academy, Cultural Academy, Little Leaders Academy and Agricultural Academy With the object of making children truly literate and skillful - to develop leadership skills and other social, physical and intellectual skills. They also learn about team building, working in groups and interacting with others in a different environment. And also, VMF organizes school and community programs and some professional development programs for teachers.

"Development of a child should be a 'shared vision' of his/her family, teachers and community. With this idea all our activities are designed to involve and collaborate with all the stakeholders and build a synergy. With sustained efforts we could see a visible attitudinal change in the teachers and the community. The amount of satisfaction in this journey is priceless and we are happy to see 680 of our students in IIIT, 18 in MBBS and 286 pursuing their polytechnic. Our student Sharath got selected as a scientist in ISRO, he moved us to tears of joy with his interview. Their success is a big motivation for us.

Today with the support of like minded socially conscious donors and the tireless efforts of our selfless and dedicated volunteers Vandemataram Foundation is able to reach out to students of around 250 government schools in interior villages of Telangana State. Only quality education with proper skills can give a

hope to the children, we are doing our best to reach out to as many as possible and we request all the well-off individuals to reach out to as many needy students as possible in their respective native place. We feel giving back to the society should be a part of our life. It will enrich our lives in many ways, the amount of satisfaction we receive is priceless.

Government School children may not get any guidance either from the parents or from any other source. Vandemataram Foundation undertakes a number of activities in this direction which not only sharpen the students sensibilities and but also promotes a sense of belonging amongst them and promote educational uplift to the economically deprived and deserving sections.

VMF is currently in the process of rolling out all its activities in all the districts of Telangana State for child rights through the schools for a better India. Recently, Telangana Government had adopted our concept of Balasabha, and included in the annual academic calendar to implement in all the Govt. Schools and approached to implement and train all the teachers of all Govt. Schools & Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya's (KGBV) of Telangana State.

"A developed India by 2020 is possible only through people's participation and children are the nucleus of this transformation." - Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam

Vandemataram Jai Hind!