

TECH MAHINDRA FOUNDATION



The 'Sunrise School' blind team, Anandwan – prefers to put the setting sun behind their backs!

MONTHLY REPORT

September 2011

TMF MONTHLY REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2011

September saw the Team TMF and M-Sat Foundation moving further towards a collaborative approach. The month also witnessed some important activities across regions – Yuva Task Force meeting; participation in NGO events; explorations for new partnerships; submission of strategy papers on Scholarships, Vocational Training & TMF-MSF Joint Action Plan; TMF-MSF collaborative volunteering efforts on the ground; preparations for the SSA Awards event as well as the 2 Day Session to set up the proposed National Programme for Empowerment of the VI (Visually Impaired) in October 2011; a visit to Baba Amte’s Anandwan etc. There was active collaboration with Josh volunteers as regards participation in the Airtel Delhi Half Marathon 2011. Spark The Rise initiative of M&M was actively supported.

Some of our partner NGOs have been sharing with us their work that we are keen to present in this report.

SCORE FOUNDATION – EYEWAY RADIO PROGRAMME

Our partner SCORE, led by George Abraham, runs a radio programme for the visually challenged. This year it is targeting 20 episodes to be aired on 30 stations of Vivid Bharti. Some highlights ---



- 14th September show: - An interview with Mayank Sharma and Rinku Shikhawat, two visually impaired freshers in Delhi University, who had studied in mainstream schools; A short profile on a blind Bhartanatyam dancer; A short play featuring society’s attitude towards the blind
- 21st September show – An interview with Charudutta Jhadhav – the General Secretary of All India Chess Federation for the Blind, who spoke about chess and the value it adds to the lives of the blind; A short telephonic chat with Kishen Gangoli of Bangalore who is travelling to Greece to participate in the World Junior Chess Championship
- 28th September show -- A drama on the Government of India’s poverty alleviation scheme –NREGA, with special focus on opportunities for the blind. It also featured the profile of a blind student studying at IIM Kolkata.

This year, the broadcast on Vivid Bharti includes the radio programs in Oriya with broadcasts from 5 stations in Orissa. In December SCORE plans to start programs in Bengali that would be broadcast from West Bengal. Episodes of the radio programmes are uploaded on Thursdays following the airing of the program on Wednesday. The same program also gets uploaded on the Inclusive Planet website, which is a social networking site for the visually impaired people (www.inclusiveplanet.com).

Prasar Bharati has given a 25% discount for this initiative on direct intervention by our Principal Consultant Vinod C Khanna & George Abraham, who had met Ms. Ambika Soni, Minister, I&B, GoI earlier in the year.

PUNE – ‘PART SCHOOL’

TMF is glad to share the news of the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) agreeing to start 17 ‘Part Schools’ for children at construction sites. This has been made possible through collective efforts by TMF and the Action for the Rights of the Child (ARC), a network of NGOs supported by TMF. A total of 400 children will be covered through this scheme - government will take full responsibility for providing education aid to children at sites; they will register their names in nearby school, make an arrangement to get these children into school or send a teacher there and also monitor the classes officially. This has been a major breakthrough for within the purview of RTE, an NGO is not allowed to run an NFE/alternative school, but at the same time no alternative arrangement was being proposed by the government. We stressed on the point and worked proactively with PMC and finally got a solution under the RTE framework itself.

A VISIT TO ANANDWAN



TMF partners Baba Amte’s Sunshine Home for Blind, Deaf, Mute Children at Anandwan for school maintenance of 70 children, better health through a nutritious breakfast for all 237 children and Audio Book Reader and Recorder (ABRAR) facility for the Visually Impaired children. Extra support is also provided for co-curricular activities like music through

instruments like tabla and harmonium and sports like cricket, chess and discus for the blind children.

The children at Anandwan are a treat to watch! They not only have smiles on their face but their cheerfulness and zest for life is an eye opener to anyone who visits. A cricket match with the blind children saw TMF on the losing side. Every shot that the children played and each ball that the bowlers bowled displayed a totally different dimension of ‘human vision.’ Refer cover snap.

The power of the mind to win over any situation in life is amply displayed by not only these children but also the leper inmates of this ‘heaven on earth.’ TMF looks forward to furthering its partnership with Anandwan in coming years.



YUVA ENGLISH

Yuva Academy started its classes regularly from 5th September within the TechM premises in Pune. With 21 students and 2 teachers teaching 12 modules per week, this Yuva Academy aims for the gold standard of Yuva English. It is closely monitored by our partner CLR. Yuva BPO has finished trialling the 1st batch with good results. All of them have shown a marked improvement in their English speaking skills and 2 of them were absorbed into the international BPO thanks to this training. The Yuva Task Force (TF) met on 28th September and deliberated on the way forward. In FY12-13 it is proposed to set up Yuva Academies across 5-7 TechM & MSat locations as centres for further scaling of Yuva. MSat team lead by Hari T will be partnering us in the branding and scaling exercise – another example of our collaborative approach!



FLOOD RELIEF PROJECT

The Flood Relief Project started in September 2010 with generous funds from TechM associates. It targets to achieve complete resettlement of Kotyal village in Bijapur District with over 500 families. We partnered with Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement to implement a sustainable development project. A detailed needs assessment was done and the capacity of villagers was enhanced to be part of reconstruction of their village. This has had a major effect in sensitizing the community for resettlement. The District Collector was instrumental in allocating 23 acres of land about 2 kms from the existing village. So far the basic construction of 477 houses along with separate bathroom and toilets has been completed, and tree saplings have been planted around the houses. The roads, drainage, water supply and electrification work has been fully completed. One overhead tank with a capacity of over 1 lakh litres is nearing completion.



STUDY CIRCLE

A Study Circle was organised in Delhi for the Shikshak Samman Awardees (SSA) of last three batches on 10th September 2011. The agenda was to deal with the pedagogy of Maths and understand the ideology behind the writing of NCERT text-books being used in the MCD Schools. Prof. Farida Khan from Jamia Millia Islamia and Prof. Amitabh Mukherjee, from Delhi University who are experts in the field of



teaching Mathematics to school children were invited to guide and interact with the awardees.

TMF VOLUNTEERING PROGRAMME WITH PARTNER NGOS

We saw some dedicated volunteers across different locations. In Bangalore, Cross-Volunteering activities were organised with MSat Foundation at MSat facility in Electronic City, Bangalore on 23rd September. Out of the 18 associates who attended, 10 expressed their interest to become part of the volunteering group. The team from Parikrma Humanity Foundation gave a presentation on their ‘Circle of Life Program’ to expose their school kids to Art, Music, Dance, Theatre, Sports etc.



Another session was conducted by Catalyst on 30th September at MSat, Bangalore, which was attended by 53 MSat Associates. Catalyst works in the area of providing financial and other assistance to meritorious girl students hailing from lower socio economic background in pursuing professional courses such as B.Tech, MBBS, BDS and Architecture. The session made an impact on the participants, with many of them wanting to be agents of change by becoming a mentor.



In Pune, the associates have formed groups and are visiting TMF partners to volunteer for different initiatives. Sadanand, Rupesh, Manjari and Deepa go to teach computers to the staff at Swadhar for 2 hours every Saturday. There are 10 associates who volunteer at India Sponsorship Committee which works with the children of brick kiln workers and teach the



ISC teachers basic English and help them in preparing the study material for their school. The groups also interact and share best practices of volunteering with each other. Volunteers have started visiting Door Step School to volunteer for their projects. We also had the BSG groups visiting the children’s home at Sarvesham.

MSat associates have been visiting Pune Blind School to volunteer. TMF and MSF had a detailed meeting at MSat office to chalk out a strategy for implementing the joint POA. This is being followed up.

PARTICIPATION IN EVENTS

Our executives actively participated in some very useful events organised by our partners. The Xavier's Resource Center for the Visually Challenged (XRCVC), Mumbai organised '**Antarchakshu**' to sensitize people about the challenges faced by the visually challenged on an everyday basis. This awareness was put across through not-so-serious fun activities while being blindfolded like playing football, watching 'PeepLi Live' and going shopping after having crossed a lot of physical hurdles on the way. There was an exhibition of the various technologies available for the visually challenged in India and a photography exhibition by some budding photographers at XRCVC.



A two day conference on the theme '**Transformation in Education**' was organized by Akanksha Foundation, Mumbai, which saw eminent speakers like Mr. Madhav Chavan, Pratham; Norman Atkins, Relay Graduate School of Education; Steven Farr, Teach for America; Katy Rustom, Center for Environmental Research and Education. Several interesting sessions were conducted like 'The Science of teaching and learning', 'Moving from a teacher-centered to a student-centered classroom' and 'Leadership and Management in Education'. Akanksha Foundation also organized a TEDx event with esteemed speakers taking on the theme '**Inequity in Education**' and how we have to ensure that the quality of education a child receives should not depend on the child's family's financial status.

Another TMF partner in Mumbai, Aseema, organized an **Art Exhibition** with paintings by their young artists. The paintings were on varied themes like Mosaics, Australian Aboriginal Art, Glass Painting and Japanese Art. Seventeen year old Rajesh (in the picture) proudly displayed his 10 pieces of art. He has been studying at Municipal School adopted by Aseema and learning to paint since the age of eight.



Bombay Community Public Trust (BCPT), Mumbai, conducted a teacher's training program on '**E-learning**' for 45 English Teachers from various Municipal Schools with support from the Education Department. BCPT has developed DVDs to teach English to the kids from the First Standard in a fun manner. These DVDs cover their entire English curriculum have a lot of animation, songs and music along with a teacher's guide. BCPT is now working on similar DVDs to teach English to Class II, III and IV.

In Bangalore, we were very happy to be a part of the **Convocation Ceremony** at Unnati, a TMF partner. 158 students were felicitated out of which 150 have already been placed with different organizations. These students have completed their vocational training in courses like BPO, retail and sales, Guest Care, Industrial painting, driving and industrial garments.

TMF has been partnering Josh to promote participation in the **Airtel Delhi Half Marathon 2011** to be held on 27 November 2011 at New Delhi. In this regard series of sessions were organised with our partners Score Foundation and Vidya & Child to encourage Associates to run for a cause.



In Delhi a function was organized by **NAB (National Association for the Blind)** on 27th Sep 2011. This was the NAB-Sarojini-Trilok Nath National Level Award Presentation for outstanding service in the field of Blindness. Ms. Poonam Natrajan (Chairperson, National Trust) was the chief guest.

In Pune an **Affirmative Action Forum** meeting was organized by CII. It had 35 companies from different sectors. The main objective was to discuss the strategy to reach to underprivileged especially to the SC/STs.

As Team TMF signs off for the month we assure all our stakeholders that our efforts shall continue in coming months --- with the same unwavering intensity, integrity and compassion.

We look forward to feedbacks from our well wishers. Feel free to mail us at tmf@techmahindra.com

Compiled by Team TMF
Dated – 15 October 2011