

TECH MAHINDRA FOUNDATION



A leap towards financial independence and self reliance...

MONTHLY REPORT

FEBRUARY 2012

February was the time to assess the work done by TMF Executives and our partners across different locations. The month started with a TMF associates' meet to welcome Mrs. Loveleen Kacker, the new CEO of TMF who takes over from Mr Vinod C. Khanna in March 2012, and organizing a VFI (Vision For India) conference with partners working in the field of visually challenged.

The team meet set the ball rolling for an eventful month ahead.....the highlights are as follows...

Vision for India (VFI) Conference- A two day national level conference for the Visually Impaired (VI) was organized at TechM Noida on 2-3 February 2012. VFI seeks to realize personal independence, economic self reliance and social inclusion for the visually challenged in India. During the conference Mr. Vinod C Khanna, Head TMF launched the VFI Wiki – www.visionforindia.wikidot.com. He urged all partners to work together for a better life for the VI. Each NGO presented its work, outcomes and the project they would be carrying out in FY12-13 alongwith TMF support in the VFI Verticals of Education, Awareness & Advocacy, Technology and Economic Independence. All teams were encouraged to share and collaborate so that the projects could yield better results. New concept proposals as well as a VFI structure were also discussed. TMF's VI partner NGOs were present - Sarthak, Score Foundation, National Association for the Blind, Saksham-Daksh & Lifeline Care Organisation from Delhi-Noida, Enable India from Bangalore, Jagriti from Pune, Anandwan from Nagpur, XRCVC from Mumbai and LV Prasad from Hyderabad. MSat Foundation also took part in the deliberations.

Mr. Vineet Nayyar, MD TechMahindra gave out TechM appointment letters to six deserving candidates from TMF funded NGO Sarthak. This was a first for TechM (as well as MSat) where visually challenged candidates were given an 'equal opportunity' to be part of an 'inclusive workplace.' Mr Nayyar said that the company would pro-actively support and encourage such interventions.



TMF Associates Meet, 1 February 2012 Delhi - to share their work and highlight the projects in respective locations. There was a lot of learning and discussions on project planning, monitoring, assessment and reporting. Other areas discussed were Yuva English, VFI, Shikshak Samman Awards and Volunteering. We also welcomed Mrs. Loveleen Kacker, a 1979 batch IAS



officer from the Madhya Pradesh cadre who takes over from Mr Khanna on 1 March 2012.

Muktangan, Mumbai celebrated its Annual Project Day where the children (Pre-Nursery to IVth standard) displayed their projects, enacted plays and participated in many fun activities. This annual event enables everyone to see the teaching methodology being practiced at Muktangan - activity/project based learning. One could sense the pride with which parents listened to their children talking about their project/activity. The very young pre-nursery children were dressed up as milkman,



vegetable seller, doctor, nurse etc and shyly talked about their 'profession'. The older kids had worked on different group projects. One group explained all about the traffic rules using the model they had made. Another group explained the use of prepositions by moving a soft toy 'on' the chair, 'under' the chair, 'behind' the chair and so on... while others performed a skit on water and noise pollution.

Vanasthali, Pune conducted a Teachers' Training for 30 teachers from rural areas around Pune. The focus was on pedagogy, strengthening of teaching skills and improving the reading and writing skills of teachers. These teachers conduct hobby classes in the rural schools and keep the child's interest alive with the activities that they take up in class. Vanasthali gives literate village women a feeling of independence and a chance to widen their horizons.



Shikshak Samman Awards, Delhi- At the end of a rigorous process 30 MCD school teachers were shortlisted in January 2012. In February 2012 we started the process of Classroom Observation of these 30 teachers. The thorough observation was done in the following areas:-

- Knowledge while transacting lessons,
- Rapport with the children and interacting style
- Classroom/ school atmosphere
- Students' ability to read and comprehend
- Copy checking of students
- Impact of candidates work on school and rapport with school staff members

Nirmala Niketan, Mumbai - The students from the Diploma course in Social Work at Nirmala Niketan gave a presentation on their learnings from field projects. TMF is supporting 10 of them through a scholarship program. The students had gone to different NGOs across the city working for women, education and



community related issues. They spoke about the organizations, the work they did and shared lots of stories from the field. Many of the girls spoke about their initial inhibitions about traveling to far off places and talking to people in the community and how this project has helped them overcome those and made them more confident. In the photograph are the girls sharing stories from 'Prerana', an NGO for rescuing Sex workers.

Shashwat, Pune - Vanadevi Vidya Mandir School at Aghane is a boarding school for children who are 1st generation learners from tribal communities. The school arranged an art workshop to encourage these children to have a fun day and paint to their heart's content. There was also a painting competition which encouraged them to express creatively through their art and showcase their talent.



Score Foundation, Delhi – **Radio Show** (FY07-08 onwards) – 15mins show being broadcast across 30 cities in India on AIR. Has impacted the lives of 100s of blind people through info & knowledge on life with blindness; **Website** – www.eyeway.org (FY08-09 onwards) – gets average 7500 hits/month since Oct 2009. Has helped position the blind as potential human resource for economic development of India.



Vidya & Child, Noida (FY07-08 onwards): has so far impacted 1558 children in Non Formal Education - NFE (Class I – V), 389 children in After School Support Programme (Class VI – X), and 765 children in Arts & Performing Arts. It has helped 140 children to be mainstreamed. Content & curriculum development for school children with TMF support has resulted in improved teaching-learning outcomes/quality of learning for underprivileged children – an essential mandate under RTE Act.

Yuva English - A Work Group meeting was held at Centre for Learning Resources, Pune to discuss the insights shared by the external validation report of Yuva English and the subsequent incorporation of its relevant and appropriate recommendations. TMF will now decide on modalities of the way forward through branding, scaling and embed technological advances to the project with the help of in-house TechM expertise. The programme was presented to the TMF Board at Mumbai on 29 February 2012, which gave its approval to take it forward as a flagship TMF initiative

Dhwani Educational Resource Centre, Bangalore - Dhwani's vision is to develop and work



towards education that is integrated with life and is beyond just schooling, through enabling Indian language medium education (especially Kannada medium) to be of high quality. This has created an environment of confidence, trust, learning and joy for teachers, children and parents. Dhwani works to strengthen teachers' self-confidence to explore and learn on their own,

get subject matter knowledge, develop new teaching learning approaches, methods and resources. Its projects are spread over 11 districts of Karnataka and reaches 1250 teachers and about 35,000 children!



Other TMF activities and Case Studies – An official Farewell was given to Mr Vinod C Khanna



on 3 February 2012 at the TechM Guest House, Noida. The occasion was graced by senior leaders from TechM, TMF and MSF. Mr Vineet Nayyar handed over a TMF memento to Mr Khanna as a gesture of acknowledging his contribution to TMF since inception. All TMF executives fondly shared their experiences with Mr Khanna.

TMF was invited by CII to felicitate students who had attended a CII course at the **Government Polytechnic, Pune**. Here we were requested to help them develop a basic IT course for the technical students which will add to their technical skills by making them computer literate. For this we will use the e-handbook resource developed through the TMF Volunteering Programme that is uploaded at - <http://tmfpartners.wikidot.com/ehandbook-it-training-for-ngos> . TMF is also looking at starting the Yuva English course for the 2nd year students of this polytechnic.

Ops Committee meetings for 2012-13, Delhi chaired by Mr. Vineet Nayyar, evaluated and finalized the partners and projects which will be on board TMF for the year 2012-13. Decisions regarding the funds disbursement were also discussed and finalized. TMF supports around 60 projects and impact the lives of more than 50,000 lives.

TMF Board Meeting, Mumbai - TMF Board Chaired by Mr Keshubh Mahindra met at Mumbai to review last five years of our work since inception in 2007. Board members Mr Anand Mahindra & Mr Vineet Nayyar were present. TMF team led by Mr Vinod C Khanna (Sr Principal Consultant), Mrs Loveleen Kacker (new CEO designate, TMF), Mr Milind Kulkarni (SVP) and Nikhil Pant (Principal Consultant) took part. The Board deliberated on TMF work and made its recommendations for the future. Mr Khanna's outstanding work was applauded and put on record. Mrs Kacker was welcomed and encouraged to take TMF to the next level with her vast experience as a Civil Servant.

Case Study - Human Capital for the Third Sector – KATALYST, Bangalore - Shabnam is a final year student from Electronics and Communication stream of BE. She comes from a conventional Muslim family. She lives in a slum dominated by Muslim population where children dropout of school before Class X. She is the first one from this locality to enter an Engineering College. Surprisingly, her father supports her higher education. He is a driver whose annual income is around Rs 48,000 per annum. Shabnam is ambitious and had scored 90% in her Pre University Exam. Through her campus interview, she has in hand 2 offer letters - one from Tata Consultancy Services with a CTC of Rs.3.16L p.a and another from Mind Tree with 3.2 L p.a. With Katalyst help she has excelled in hard skills like C, C++, Java, Data Structure and soft skills like public speaking, language skills, corporate etiquette and dressing sense. She wants to join the right job which will enable her grow both in career and her studies. She would like to be an ambassador in her community for children to continue their studies. TMF is proud of her progress and wishes her well!!



Cummins College of Engineering for girls, Pune invited TMF representative as a Role model to interact with 3rd year engineering students and discuss the contribution of women in her workplace, balancing her personal and professional life and the relevance of CSR activities in the corporate world. The 2-hour session saw 75 girls discussing and understanding many issues that they may face in their future workplace while also showing a keen interest to address and help out with social activities.

Volunteering and Cross Volunteering - Volunteering continues across TechM regions. Many TechM volunteers sustain their association through teaching at various NGOs - India Sponsorship Committee, Door Step school and Swadhar in Pune are actively involved. Cross volunteering has encouraged many volunteers to come forward and be a part of many partner initiatives too. M7 team (Tech M and MSat) volunteers conduct sessions on computers regularly for Class IX at the **Smt Shantabai Balkrishna High School, Pune**. 7 volunteers are regularly visiting one of the **Akanksha Schools – Matoshri, Pune**. They assist the children in studies with the help of their teachers.

Overall, we can say that volunteering is catalyzing TechM and MSat associates to connect with each other for a meaningful cause.

Do mail us your feedbacks and suggestions at tmf@techmahindra.com

Team TMF
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