

TECH MAHINDRA FOUNDATION



"This smile will take me a mile!" Learning By Doing shows the way

MONTHLY REPORT

JANUARY 2012

Through the month of January 2012 TMF executives went for field visits, assessed NGO programmes of FY11-12 and made recommendations to the Ops Committee as regards renewals and new NGO proposals. This is an annual exercise undertaken by TMF and is one of the most important aspect of its work through NGOs. The choice of an NGO partner and the community initiative it proposes to deliver through TMF support is meticulously assessed on a case by case basis. We keep in mind the NGOs capacity to deliver; its team members’ expertise, experience, integrity & commitment and how these are in congruence with community needs and aspirations. Numerous field visits and discussions are undertaken prior to accepting a proposal.

This report will showcase some of this work along with cross volunteering that took place....

Some highlights ---

TMF partners received Padma Shree and Amazing Indian (Times Now) Awards – Ms. Geeta Dharmarajan from the NGO Katha, Delhi and Dr Uma Tuli from the NGO Amar Jyoti, Delhi were awarded the prestigious Padma Shree Awards. Their names were announced on Republic Day – 26 January 2012. Ms. Shanti Raghavan from the NGO Enable India, Bangalore won the Times Now ‘Amazing Indian – Global Indian of the Year 2011’ – Award. TMF wishes all of them heartiest congratulations. The awards further strengthen our belief in their work.

Raza English School, Bangalore reached out to the religious minority and working children by educating 650 children annually, eradicating child labor in 1 slum and working towards achieving that in the other 3 slums.



Raza vocational training center, Bangalore

learners were exposed to outside work culture. Young married Muslim women have started earning so their children can go to school thus preventing child labor in these slums.



Bombay Community Public Trust (BCPT), Mumbai is running an e-learning English module for vernacular medium schools in Mumbai and the surrounding areas. The children from these schools never get to learn to speak English which becomes a major barrier when they start looking for jobs. The idea of this module is to catch the children early, starting from class 1st to the 4th class, when their ability to learn a new language is high. We visited some Zila Parishad Schools in the tribal belt of Wada in Thane district. The children love being taught English with the help of DVDs which contain a lot of animation, cartoons, songs and poems. The children are very attentive and full of enthusiasm to recite poems.





Like previous years, the Foundation initiated the process of identifying candidates for the **Shikshak Samman Awards**. A large number of applications were received from the regular outstanding teachers of MCD Schools. A Screening Committee constituted by the Foundation assessed the application forms and short listed 53 candidates including 9 Nursery, 2 Music and 1 Physical Education teachers for interview by a panel of eminent educationists - Prof. Talat Aziz, ex Dean Faculty of Education Jamia Millia Islamia, Dr. Amita Govinda, an expert of NUEPA and NCERT, Dr. Savitri Singh from IIT, and Prof. Manish Jain of Dr. Ambedkar University Delhi. Interviews were conducted at the office of Tech Mahindra, Noida. Before the interview all participants were required to answer on paper one new question given to them on the spot. Out of 53 candidates the panel short listed 30 teachers for Classroom Observations. The Foundation team will initiate the process of classroom observation in February 2012.

Saksham Daksh, Noida helps 6 VI (Visually Impaired) students from Classes V – XI studying in best of Public Schools in Noida as part of inclusive education. This will eliminate need of rehabilitative assistance to them after schooling for rest of their lives as they get fully adjusted while in school. This is a life changing intervention that TMF has been supporting.



The **Muktangan, Mumbai** model incorporates different aspects of quality education: the classroom environment, the curriculum and content, the teacher as a facilitator and the student as an active learner. There is emphasis on socio-emotional development, developmentally-appropriate physical education, art and music programs with free access to library and computer center. A student-teacher ratio of 15:1 is maintained and children learn through discovery and exploration as active and natural learners.

TMF is supporting the inclusive education of 100 children at **Amar Jyoti, Delhi**. The language lab has been instrumental in introducing English medium from Nursery to Class IV. In addition children are able to converse with each other in English with confidence. It has also encouraged the parents at home who are first generation learners. Over 430 children with and without disability are able to communicate in English. The lab has been of benefit to 180 Teacher Trainees as well.



22 students of the **Deep Griha IT school, Pune** were given certificates for successfully passing out of the 19th batch of the programme. 10 students have been placed in different firms earning an average of Rs. 4000 to 4500 while others continue to study further.

Exhibition by XRCVC on Louis Braille’s 150th Birth Anniversary

Under a colourful canopy on the grounds of the Ali Yaver Jung National Institute for the Hearing Handicapped, many visually challenged students walked around hearing about fantastic technologies that could make their lives better. The occasion was the World Braille Day and the students of Xavier’s Research Centre for the Visually Challenged (XRCVC) had put up an exhibition of gadgets and technologies that would help the visually impaired in their education. An online Braille Library was also launched during the event by Shri Mukul Wasnik, Hon’ble Union Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment.



Yuva Academy Batch 2 started at Sharda Centre, Pune



Yuva Academy at Sharda Centre reaches out and assists under privileged students acquire proficiency in English language using Yuva English - a programme developed by TMF in partnership with CLR, a Pune-based NGO. The course not only helps them improve their English speaking skills but instills confidence in them while enhancing their employment opportunities. 25 students have joined this course.

Volunteering & Cross-Volunteering

The 'Bal Dhamaal' which is the annual sports day was organized by **ISC (India Sponsorship Committee), Pune** supported by TMF with volunteers from MSat and Tech M. The volunteers have been involved right from planning to the execution of the event along with ISC. They were part of the planning meetings and ground marking along with the final event. The torch runner was 11 year old Gopal Nagmote an exemplary student from the brick kilns. Guests



included seniors from TechM & MSat.

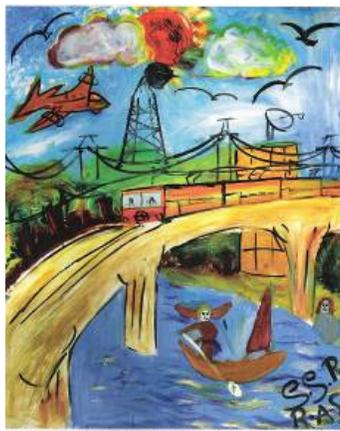


Children of partner NGOs visit TechM at Sharda and Hinjewadi - 50 children from partner **NGOs Swadhar and Badhir Mookh Vidyalaya** visited TechM premises at Hinjewadi and Sharda centre as part of the Ekatvam celebrations at TechM. The initiative was organised by the enterprising HR team of Vindhyaas, with the theme “Save Earth”. The children were thrilled and interacted with many associates. They were told stories, were part of a drawing competition and were

given gifts too. An amount of Rs 8,000 which was collected through various HR activities was also given to Badhir Mookh Vidyalaya, a school for underprivileged children who are hearing and speech impaired.

....a couple of happy stories to share...

Surjeet, a young artist from NGO Vidya & Child, Noida is an extremely creative child and yet on the other hand very hyper, easily distracted and not focused. It is very difficult for him to do well in his academics despite having the aptitude. The classroom binds him and blurs his mind. Books do not excite him and his sharp and creative mind does not get enthused when made to focus on their content. Yet when given the opportunity to paint, dance or work with electrical goods his dull eyes brighten up. They suddenly focus and concentrate on the work at hand. Playing with colours on the canvas unleashes his creative energy and makes him concentrate. This in turn helps him understand the need to pay attention to his academics and has helped him through school so far. TMF Vidya & Child helps every child discover his/her true potential by encouraging such talent in them



We met a young confident woman at NGO **Unnati in Bangalore** called Lata. Looking at Lata now it is hard to believe that she wasn't always so. She dropped out after the 7th standard and was married off and had a baby girl but was soon deserted by her husband. She then joined Unnati to learn retail skills. She was a good student who was always eager to learn. Lata got placed at Kati Zone, a retail food outlet, as a Cashier at Rs. 6100/- a month. Confidently Lata says, "I am now scared of no one and have enough confidence to give my daughter a good future." She says Unnati has given her a second life.



As always we look forward to your feedbacks. Do write to us at tmf@techmahindra.com

Team TMF

Dated 20 February 2012