



January –March 2015

PROGRAMMES AT MEWAT AND IN HARYANA

SRF Foundation at “Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao,” Campaign Launch

The “Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao,” campaign, which seeks to address gender imbalance and discrimination against the girl child, was launched by Mr. Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India, on Jan 22, 2015, at Panipat in Haryana. At this occasion, SRF Foundation exhibited, in collaboration with Haryana Education Department, its intervention’s efforts under Mewat Rural Education Programme (MREP), at a stall, which was observed by Chief Minister of Haryana, Mr. M. L. Khattar, and other government’s education officials. Moreover, at this event, Ms. Maneka Gandhi, the Minister for Women & Child Development, bestowed Wasima Khan, who is the ambassador of, “Bal Swatch Abhiyan,” Haryana, and a student of Foundation’s collaborative initiative with Care India, “Udaan,”—a residential learning programme for girls, who are school dropouts.



Support My School’s (SMS) Dedication Ceremony honoured by President & Global CEO of Tetra Pak

On 25th of February, 2015, President & Global CEO of Tetra Pak, Mr. Dennis Jönsson, the President of Coca-Cola India and South-West Asia, Mr. Venkatesh Kini, and the MD of Tetra Pak-South Asia markets, Mr. Kandarp Singh, visited the government middle school Rehna—a school in the heart of one of the most backward districts of India, Mewat, Haryana—for the dedication ceremony, where they were welcomed by the Director SRF Foundation, Dr. Suresh Reddy, the School Management Committee, the Head Master of the school. The dedication ceremony was to commemorate the completion of drinking water facility, sports facility, separate toilet facilities for girls and boys, and library, under the Support My School (SMS) campaign—at present in its third season— whose partners are Coca-Cola, Tetra Pak, and Enrich Agro Ltd.



Science Champion Trainers' Exposure Visit to Birla Institute of Technology and Science

On 12th of February, 2015, 84 Science Champion Trainers and 21 District Science Specialist (DSS) of Haryana, were taken to Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS), Pilani, Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan, for the second exposure visit under Techniques of Teaching Science to Middle Schools (TTS-MS) programme, initiated jointly by SRF Foundation, IBM, and Govt. of Haryana. With the conclusion of the visit, a commitment was made by the champion trainers to establish mini museums in every district of Haryana under the guidance of Bits Pilani. With regard to the visit, Mr. Manoj Kaushik, Training Coordinator, SCERT, said that it was a good step to promote science education and to build the perspectives on innovative science and technology as it gave a new ideas to our Science champion trainers to promote science education in their respective districts.



Quality Education through Academic Competitions

To alleviate the dismal academic performance and lack of competitiveness among the government schools of Mewat, academic competitions have been organizing monthly since October 2015. The competitions in the months of January–March 2015, were organized at the Government Schools of Kanwarsika, S. P Nangli and Binwa Villages, respectively. Each competition saw the attendance of 200 children from 47 middle schools of the Mewat region and delegates such as the District Elementary Education Officer, Mr. V. C. Majhoka; Block Education Officer, Mr. Anoop Singh; and Mr. Balwan Singh Rana, SSP, Mewat. In the March event, the best practices of the teachers with respect to the tangible change in school and pedagogical methodologies were recognized to exemplify the best practices and extend those to other school in the pursuit of model school.



Udaan—Community Orientation Programme

To strengthen the community support for SRF Foundation's collaborative initiative, "Udaan,"—a residential learning programme for adolescents girls, who either are school dropouts or have never enrolled in school—Foundation with its partners, Care India and Alwar Mewat Institute of Education and Development (AMIED), organised an orientation programme on December 31, 2014, where 170 community members, Deputy Education Officer, Mr. Gajendra Singh, including others elected members of village organization participated. The event was an effort to create awareness regarding the importance of education for the girls and to garner support from the society, which has been a bit hesitant to thoroughly accept the idea of girls' education because of the influence of conservative values and culture, by presenting the educational achievements of the girls who have been enrolled in the "Udaan," programme.



Exposure Visit of MREP Students to Concentrix Daksh

SRF Foundation facilitated participation of Mewat’s government school children at the CSR activity event of Concentrix Daksh, an IT company formerly known as IBM Daksh which had been our partner in bringing educational change in the rural schools, on March 12, 2015, where 25 students from three government schools of Mewat—Salamba, Kherla, and Chandeni—that are under Mewat Rural Education Program (MREP) of Foundation, performed and exhibited models. It was an exposure visit where the top management of Concentrix Daksh, along with other guests were present. The students exhibited and explained models that captured the rural life of the Mewat region, such as hand pushed cart for children, embroidered fabric, hand-woven artifacts, as well as there were science models, such as igloo, modern housing and electricity production methods.



Participation of MREP Students at State level Sports Competition

Mewat Rural Education Programme’s (MREP)—SRF Foundation’s umbrella programme for Mewat to bring holistic change in the government schools—students, boys and girls, from various schools, in the December 2014, participated at under 16 block level sports competition. At the event, in total 17 students won their respective sprint competitions and qualified for District and State level competition. A girls team of Hand Ball and “Kabaddi” excelled and beat the other contenders at the block, and set the precedent as girls team from Mewat had never participated at the state competitions.



Overall Champions at Inter NGO Meet consecutively for Third Time

On February 14, 2015, two teams, each of 20 individuals, of SRF Mewat Rural Educational Programme (MREP) participated in the Inter Ngo sports day held at Air Force sports complex Palam, and won 19 medals in total and made a hat trick of winning the overall Championship,. The event was an initiative of Concern India Foundation, organized by Secure Giving. About 700 underprivileged children from 24 different NGOs participated from NCR. The objective was to provide the children an

opportunity to participate in a sports event along the lines of the inter school athletic meets held in regular school; the meet promoted sportsmanship, leadership and camaraderie among participants, who largely were underprivileged.



CSR AT PLANT LOCATIONS

Setting up IBM KidSmart Centres

To expand the KidSmart Programme—a computer aided learning initiative for primary school children—12 new centres have been set up at Gwalior (Government Girls Primary School, Shiksha Nagar), Indore (Sagore and Mandlavada), Viralmalai (Government Middle Schools, Mellapatty, Nambampatty and Vellur), Gummidipoondi (KLK Primary Government School), and Bharuch District, Gujarat in the schools. The programme is in collaboration with IBM and Education Departments of various states; in the initiative the elementary school children are exposed to computer based education; on an average, 8 Young Explorers Units (YEU) are provided to a school with the infrastructural support to house it and to run them. Special training is also provided to the teachers by SRF Foundation, so that the machines could be used optimally; the initiative has proved to be a state-of-the-art teaching methodology, attracting students and the teachers, which ultimately is affecting enrolment for good.



School Education Programme at SRF Pantnagar

With an endeavour to provide quality education and infrastructure to support it, SRF Pantnagar, under its “Holistic School Transformation, ” programme has constructed a safe drinking facility and has refurbished a computer class room, at Government Girls Inter College, Phazlipur, Mehraula. The facility will cater to 800 students, who belong to socially and economically disadvantaged group, SC/ST, and have been inherently devoid of basic amenities, that had made them subject of chronic health problems, which eventually had effected the attendance and the learning ability.



Education Transformation Programme at Kashipur

Under the education transformation programme, SRF Kashipur has installed play equipments and completed the construction of the boys and girls toilet facilities, at the government school of Rampura, Kachal Gazi, and Kumaon Colony to promote healthy practices of sanitation among the students. The new facilities built provide service to 723 students; it is visioned that promotion of the health and hygiene through our intervention will increase the attendance and marginalize the retrogressive effects of the diseases, at the school level, and also provide a qualitative and inclusive environment for the holistic development of the children.



Spoken English Programme and Construction of Toilets at Indore

To resolve the issues of employability at Dhar, a tribal region of Indore, where the majority of the population comprises of Schedule Tribes and Castes, SRF Indore has commenced the second batch of the Spoken English Classes for 10th and 12th pass outs—a class of 30. To facilitate the program, help of the existing partners has been taken to develop curriculum and the study material, and for the communication and mobilization of the community with regard to the course, local elected bodies are involved. Moreover, SRF Indore took up the construction of Safe Drinking Water Facility and renovation of libraries at the government school of Sagorel catering 400 students.



Infrastructure Construction at SRF Gwalior—Toilets, Drinking Water

To plug the gap in the Right to Education act—where there is no provision of sanitation facilities for girls and boys at the elementary level, which is essential for the retention of the girls at the school—SRF Gwalior took up responsibility and completed the construction of toilets for girls and boys, renovation of library, safe drinking water facility, and levelling of ground, at the KLK Primary and middle school in Shiksha Nagar. The intervention has provided encouraging results as the enrolment has gone up by 40 to 75 and dropout rate of girls has gone down steeply.

Holistic Transformation in three government Schools at Viralimalai

The SRF Viralimalai has identified the infrastructural and academic deficiencies, at the governments' schools and has designed interventions to overcome these deficiencies, such as computer education, the provision of water for drinking and toilet utilities, play equipments, wall pictorial presentations for active learning, and others. Respective computer classes for girls and boys at Viralimalai High school have started; moreover, there are special tuition classes in the evening for slow learners. In Melapatty, Nambapatti, and Vellur, schools are made print rich and play equipments are installed.



Vocational and Educational Programme at Manali



SRF Manali has commenced JCB and Forklift operating training, under its vocational programme, to feed the high demand of trained operators, and tailoring, Spoken English and computer classes for women, under its women empowerment programme. And under its educational promotion program, infrastructural updates have been made in the government schools that provide service to 1000 children; in Kossapur government school, toilets are constructed and ground is levelled for playing; in Vadakarai government school, toilets are renovated and library is constructed, as well as special tuition classes are being run.

Women Empowerment and Educational Programme at Gummidipoondi

With an approach to empower women and to develop skill in Gummidipoondi, Foundation has initiated an advance beautician course, and driving and cement ring casting trainings for women, from where 20 women, under each trade, have been trained. Under the educational promotion programme, separate special tuition classes for boys and girls have been launched where slow learners will have chance to hone their academic performance.



Preventive Health Initiatives at Dahej

As the part of Community and Workplace Intervention programme on HIV/AIDS, regular awareness session has been organized with the employees, contract workers, truckers and the neighbouring communities. World AIDS DAY was also observed with the active participation of the employees. Moreover, in the school education programme, six IBM KidSmart centres have been set up and will be inaugurated soon.



Natural Resource Management at Bhiwadi



The National Resource Management (NRM) Project at Bhiwadi has achieved its target of current the financial year, under which 12 new earthen check dams are constructed, 288 Ha of waste land levelled and put under agricultural use; 55300 fruit and fodder trees were planted with 70-80% survival rate. The project benefitted 810 new families in 38 project villages. Moreover, the Project Shiksha, an intervention to strengthen the Primary Education, has led to an increase in average school attendance, especially of girls. Dropout rate has also drastically reduced from 53% to just 6% now. Under the vocational programme at Bhiwadi, an stitching & tailoring programme is being implemented at Bhiwadi with 6 months customised course with focus on SC and Meo-Muslim community. During the reporting year, 38 girls successfully completed the training and they were awarded with the certificates.

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info@srf-foundation.org