



August to November 2011

MEWAT RURAL EDUCATION PROGRAMME (MREP)

Jazba-E-Taleem

Jazba-E-Taleem, initiated by SRF Foundation and supported by the Department of Elementary Education in Haryana, is a year-long program that aims to unite all stake holders concerned with the school's development. Implemented at the village level, members can come together and campaign for; increased enrolment, school beautification, plantation, ground leveling, play equipment fixation, etc. Launched on 7th July 2011, the program received tremendous support from District and Block-level Officers, Panchayats, Sarpanches, Head Masters, and MREP's School Management Committee Chairpersons. Monthly achievement reviews have been conducted to ensure that activities are in line with improving school's infrastructure and quality of education.



HMs meeting on Jazba-E-Taleem



Rallies as part of Jazba-E-Taleem for increased enrolment



Village meeting in Rehna

Launch of Civic Education Program

Civic education program was launched during a workshop for middle school Social Science teachers on the 6th, 7th and 8th of September 2011, at Nuh. The purpose was to familiarize teachers with Project Citizen India, and help them understand the need for being active citizens. Two primary concerns, 'Dropout of girls from schools at middle school level' and 'Unhygienic conditions of the surroundings' were selected as topics for teachers to work on during their three days of practical training. Teachers will carry forward the project in their schools and work together with students in Class VIII. Students will take up Public Policy issues and try to solve them by working with the government machinery.



Workshop on Civic Education, about Project Citizen India



Explaining to teachers the importance of being active citizens



The two primary concern topics were presented using a portfolio

Dastak-E-Taleem

Initiated by the Government of Haryana, and SRF Foundation playing a lead role in bringing together NGOs working in Mewat, Dastak-E- Taleem aims to get all children in school through individualized house visits to motivate families and children to be involved in the program. After a block level meeting, attended by all involved NGO's, SMC and SHG members, religious leaders, political leaders, teachers, students of DIET Firozpur Namak and villagers, it was launched on 9th October 2011. Still at its initial stages, the program will provide training to SMC members and villagers on Right to Education Act, functioning of SMC, and activities that schools and villagers can do to ensure 0% out-of-school children.



Teachers enrolling students at the doorsteps of the families



Village meetings with HMs, SMCs, Panchayat and volunteers for Dastak-e-Taleem



SRF Foundation staff and volunteers enrolling students at the doorsteps of the families

Science Exposure Visit

On 30th September 2011, SRF Foundation organized an 'Exposure to Enhance Enquiry' visit to the National Science Centre for all MREP Government Middle School Science Teachers. During the visit, teachers got a chance to learn and experience various scientific developmental issues, in both theoretical and practical manner. Some of the galleries visited were; Science and Technology Heritage gallery, Human Biology gallery, and IT gallery.



Peculiar way to enter the Taramandal show



Science activity done by government teachers



Teachers exploring zodiac signs

Launch of Udaan Program

SRF Foundation, in collaboration with CARE India, launched Udaan a residential learning program specifically designed to help never enrolled or out-of-school girls aged 11 to 14, complete primary level schooling in 11 months. Deputy Commissioner of Mewat, Mr. Balraj Singh IAS was the guest-of-honor who unveiled the Udaan Mewat signboard in presence of CARE India and SRF officials, Sarpanches, and community members. Towards the end of the launch, after touring the premises and hearing the views of community members on Udaan, Mr Balraj stressed on the importance of making Udaan a successful camp in order to contribute towards the future of girls in Mewat.



Udaan residential premises



Deputy Commissioner, Mr. Balraj Singh IAS unveiling the Udaan signboard



Hearing the views and concerns of community members about Udaan program

Vigyan Prachar (Radio Science)

In an effort to reach out and educate children who are deprived of formal education due to parental occupational work or other household activities, SRF Foundation has initiated Vigyan Prachar; a monthly radio science program. Broadcasted on Mewat's community radio station for a period of 45 minutes, the program aims to hold general discussion on daily life issues that are related to science. During its first recording on 13th September 2011, key issues such as food and nutrition were discussed with the children.

ENHANCING EARLY EDUCATION PROGRAMME (3EP)

8th Batch of 3EP Trainees

On 8th November 2011, 3EP welcomed their eighth batch of trainees. 17 participants joined the program and underwent two days of orientation. During the program, trainees will learn about child development, curriculum and skill development, educational thought, etc. Already more than a month into the programme, trainees are now undergoing their first phase of two weeks internship. During this period, they will be sent to various schools in Gurgaon for observation of teaching practices



Handprints made by the trainees during orientation day



Interactive session with the trainees



Story-telling session helps to hone trainees' confidence

THE SHRI RAM SCHOOL (TSRS)

Best Day School Recognition

The Shri Ram Schools (TSRS) regained number one position in the annual survey of day schools conducted by Education World Magazine. Due to its innovative child-centric methodologies and strong performance of 480 staff under the guidance of Chairperson, Mrs Manju Bharat Ram, TSRS has now held the number one position across the country, for 3 out of the last 4 years. Out of 14 parameters, TSRS scored first in the country in four areas; Competence of faculty, Teacher welfare and development, Individual attention to students and Parental involvement.



TSRS leadership team with children



Innovative child-centric methodologies and strong staff performance are main proponents of TSRS



Mr. Mark Parkinson, Director of TSRS (middle) with Ms. Manika Sharma, Principal of TSRS Junior School (left), and Ms. Komal Sood, Principal of TSRS Senior School (right)

Tree Plantation Drive

In an attempt to involve children in 'Greening the Environment', The Shri Ram Police Public School, the newest member of TSRS, organised a Tree Plantation Drive on Sunday, 25th September 2011, in association with lamGurgaon; an NGO responsible for the 'Plant a Million Trees' campaign. Over 150 saplings of trees, shrubs and bushes that are native to the region were planted by the students, their friends and family. Children also got an opportunity to explore their creative abilities through art competition and clay modeling.



Over 150 saplings were planted during the tree plantation drive



Students, friends and families coming together to conserve the environment



Children trying their hands at clay modeling

MEWAT RURAL VOCATIONAL PROGRAM (MRVP)

TEACH India Launch

In coordination with Times of India, SRF Foundation recently launched the second batch of TEACH India Program. Held over a period of three months, 75 youths from Nuh attended the English Spoken Course, catered for 10th and 12th pass youths from marginalized sections of society. At the end of the program, participants will be offered entry level positions in the hospitality sector. Those in the program have begun classes on 11th October 2011.



Focused group discussion was conducted to understand youth's vocational demand better



One of the youth meetings held, sharing information on English Spoken Course



Candidates at SRF Foundation's field office, preparing to go through the screening process

SCHNEIDER Partnership – New Initiative for male youths

The youth assessment study done in all 19 villages suggested the need of Electrical Trade training for male youths in Mewat. Based on this, SRF Foundation initiated a discussion with SCHNEIDER Electric India Foundation for a partnership on electrical trade joint training, and placement. The draft MoU has been shared by both parties for review. The program aims at starting two training centers, one in Nuh and the other in Hermathala, targeting male dropouts from class VIII or X.

Production Centers – New Initiative for female youths

In order to ensure that the dormant skill set of female youths become productive, SRF Foundation has initiated village based production centers for those aged 16 to 30. Groups consisting of 15 to 20 females each, are provided with raw materials to start the production of crochet, knitting and patch work. SRF Foundation plans to provide market linkage to these centers as well as opportunities for skills upgrading, in the near future. As of now, there are six production centers. The Foundation plans to operate 19 village based production centers in all its operational villages.



Hand-knit woolen crochet



Hand-knit woolen socks



Hand-knit woolen shawls

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Joy of Giving Campaign

SRF celebrates 'Joy of Giving' for seven weeks, from 2nd October to 18th November 2011. In its first two weeks, SRFites all across have provided aid and support to the victims of Sikkim earthquake and Orissa floods by donating items and giving cash contributions. Following weeks after, each plant location have embarked on their own initiatives. Some have chosen to provide deserving students with scholarship awards, conduct plant visit for students, give gifts to orphans, contribute money to improve orphanage infrastructure, etc.



TTBT-Trichi gave to the 'Balagurukulam' orphanage by contributing useful gifts and cupboards for proper storage of children's items.



TTB-Manali flagging off their relief material to Goonj office



HO collected 15 boxes of donated items and 3 sacks of grains at the end of two weeks

Great Delhi Run

On 27th November 2011, 106 SRFites from Head Office and Bhiwadi participated in the Great Delhi Run. Covering a distance of 6km, they were all running in support of girls' education, particularly MREP's newly launched Udaan program. In collaboration with CARE India, Udaan is a residential learning program specifically designed to help never enrolled or out-of-school girls aged 11 to 14 complete primary level schooling in 11 months.



On stage, sharing with everyone about MREP and Udaan program



Starting the 6km run with much enthusiasm and energy



106 SRFites united as one, running together in support of female education

World AIDS Day

On 1st December 2011, SRFites all across participated in World AIDS Day. Everyone took this opportunity to unite in the fight against HIV, show support for people living with HIV, and to commemorate people who have died. Various awareness campaigns, activities, pledge undertaking and other activities were conducted by plant locations in support of this year's theme; Getting to Zero – Zero New HIV Infections, Zero Discrimination, and Zero AIDS Related Deaths.



SRFites in South Africa had an AIDS poster competition as part of their campaign



Manali plant organized health and blood check-ups for truck driver, cleaners and the public



Malanpur plant conducted an awareness session, at the factory gate, for all their truck drivers

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