



SRF FOUNDATION

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help us transform how they learn

SRF Foundation Annual Report 2010-11

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Chairman's Message



I am pleased to present to you the inaugural Annual Report of SRF Foundation for the Financial Year 2010-11.

Setting up a Foundation was significant to SRF Ltd. because enhancing our involvement with the community has always been our philosophy. We believe it is important that we share our knowledge and experiences with others so that together we can grow to a more successful society. Achieving growth alone is not enough – we must ensure that it is inclusive, reaching out to touch the lives of the underprivileged among us.

At SRF Foundation, we focus on education and vocational training. We believe that education is the key to achieving inclusive growth. We believe that education has the power to bridge the social gap that exists between the rich and the poor, giving everyone an equal opportunity in life. More specifically, we are concerned with the education of young people because they are our most valuable resource. As the future of our country, they must receive good quality education, in order to be well endowed to solve the challenges of their time.

SRF Foundation, together with the government, other NGOs, academic institutions, the industry, and the community have been working towards building a sustainable structure in education, for the different sections of the society. I am happy to share that our flagship initiative, the Mewat Rural Education Programme (MREP), has achieved many things within its first year of inception. These include an increased number of enrolled children in the government schools we work with, improvements in these schools' infrastructure, and introduction of computers courtesy of IBM. I am also elated to share that The Shri Ram Schools (TSRS), set up by the Foundation, was named the "Best Day School" by Education World's countrywide school survey in 2008 and 2009. The Hindustan Times also recognized TSRS as the Number One schools in Gurgaon and Southwest Delhi recently.

As we move ahead in our journey to develop a better community, I would like to thank my fellow Board Members for their wisdom in charting the direction in which the Foundation should head into. I also thank all our partners and donors, whose support is very valuable to us. My sincerest gratitude also goes out to the SRF Foundation team, who work tirelessly to turn our vision into a reality.

Our work as a Foundation could just be a drop in the ocean, but with the collective efforts of other members of our society, I am certain that inclusive growth will someday become the reality that transforms India into a force to be reckoned with.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Arun Bharat Ram'. The signature is stylized and fluid.

Arun Bharat Ram
Chairman, SRF Foundation

Director's Message



As we conclude the financial year 2010-11, we proudly reflect upon the achievements of SRF Foundation. It has been a period of expanding our efforts in the areas we work in, building more partnerships to ensure bigger capacity, and connecting the unconnected by creating opportunities for them. It is now my pleasure to highlight some of our biggest achievements in the last year.

SRF Foundation dedicates itself to transforming education in India. Under our new Mewat Rural Education Programme (MREP), we established a strong partnership with the Government of Haryana to bridge the gaps in 40 government schools in Mewat. Aiming for holistic school and child development, we started developing a model school complex. Some of our efforts include launching the IBM KidSmart Programme, setting up bridge schools, and promoting sports and games among the students.

The Foundation also initiated collaborations with the Haryana Education Board as well as the Police Department of Haryana, where we will support them in setting up new schools, by leveraging on The Shri Ram Schools' (TSRS) renowned expertise in providing quality education.

Apart from education, the Foundation is proud to support our business plants' efforts in practicing corporate social responsibility (CSR). They have actively promoted HIV/AIDS awareness among workers and communities; taken affirmative action towards the SC/ST community; launched education initiatives; successfully run a natural resources management (NRM) project; imparted vocational skills to women; and conducted health camps that provided check-ups to the community.

We also take pride in having built our organisation's capability, through the expansion of our team to include roles in human resource, finance, and communications; and partnerships with other organisations that share our vision. We will constantly develop our processes, to create a stronger institution as a Foundation.

For the year ahead, we will continue carving our niche in providing solutions to the less privileged. We strive to build more partnerships with like-minded institutions and individuals, so that together we can make a bigger difference in the community. We remain dedicated in enhancing the corporate citizenship of SRF Limited, through efforts that care for our people and community.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our partners and donors for their support in helping us transform education and promoting quality education. My deepest gratitude goes out to my dedicated team, whose commitment and hard work have led the Foundation to leave a positive impact on the people we work with. There is no ending to the sustainable development we hope to provide.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. Suresh Reddy". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Suresh Reddy
Director, SRF Foundation

Board of Directors



Arun Bharat Ram is the Chairman of SRF Ltd and SRF Foundation. Popularly known as ABR, he is the principal architect of SRF Ltd's growth over the years, and a leader in the plastics industry. He is also a member of the Governing body of SPIC-Macay, The Doon School, Dehradun and the Lady Shri Ram College (LSR). ABR is a member of the CII World Economic Summit - India Advisory Council and has been appointed by the Government to be the Co-Chairman of Indo-German Consultative Group. He was the President of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the current President of the CII Education Council.



Manju Bharat Ram is the Founder and Chairperson of The Shri Ram Schools, SRF Vidyalaya and Enhancing Early Education. She is also a Founder Member of Charities Aid Foundation - India (CAF) and Pratham; Trustee and Honorary General Secretary of the Blind Relief Association. She is also part of the Board of Governors for Kendriya Vidyalaya, Bharathi Foundation, Save the Children - India, and Lady Irwin College, New Delhi.



Justice R.S. Sodhi enrolled as an Advocate in 1972 in the High Court of Delhi. He practised in constitutional, civil, criminal, land revenue, and excise matters in the Supreme Court of India for 25 years. In Punjab, he has served as the Advocate-on-Record and the Additional Advocate General in the Supreme Court of India. In 1999, Justice Sodhi was appointed as the Judge of the Delhi High Court. In his 8 years as the judge, he has handled prominent public cases, while upholding his belief in the Fundamental Rights of every individual.



Pratap Bhanu Mehta is the President of the Center for Policy Research in New Delhi. He is also part of NYU Law School's Global Faculty. He was Associate Professor of Government and of Social Studies at Harvard, and Professor of Philosophy and of Law and Governance at Jawaharlal Nehru University. He was Member-Convenor of the Prime Minister of India's National Knowledge Commission; Member of the Supreme Court appointed Lyngdoh Committee on Indian Universities. He is on the Board of Governors of IDRC and is a member of the World Economic Forum's Council on Global Governance.



Lalit Nirula is the person who introduced the concept of the fast food business in India, after studying hotel management at Cornell University. NIRULA'S is the premier indigenous fast food brand in India. Many Indian entrepreneurs have tried to clone the NIRULA'S concept all over the country, and multi-national companies who come to India are benchmarked against NIRULA's for their performance.



Sushil Ramola is a social entrepreneur, and has launched an initiative called B-ABLE (Basix Academy for Building Lifelong Employability) to serve those who couldn't complete their education. He has 30 years of work experience, out of which 24 years were with SRF Limited; bringing in experience of engaging with the society, the Government, and NGOs on sustainable development. He is an active member on the boards of several well known NGOs, and has held several senior positions in SRF Limited such as President and CEO of many businesses and Corporate Head of HR, IT and Strategy. He was a member of the Board of Directors of Essilor India till recently.



Vasvi Bharat Ram is the Chairperson of Young FICCI Ladies Organisation. She is also a member of the Executive Committee of The Shri Ram Schools and Shri Educare Ltd. Both these entities set up and run quality education institutions in India and abroad. After various stints with established fashion houses in England, Vasvi returned to India and started her own business in wrought iron furniture. In a short period she grew the business into a successful enterprise. She spends her time equally between her academic interests and in bringing up her two daughters.



Radhika Bharat Ram is a member of the Executive Committee of The Shri Ram Schools and of Shri Educare Ltd. Both these entities set up and run quality education institutions in India and abroad. Radhika is also a member of FLO (FICCI Ladies Organization) and contributes her time to the Craft Council of India. She is keen in studio pottery as an art form and has presented her works in various exhibitions. She is the mother of two children and enjoys spending as much time with them as possible.



T. N. Ninan is the Chairman and Editorial Director of Business Standard Limited. With Masters in Economics from Madras University, he is one of India's most respected economic editors. Earlier, he was the editor of the Economic Times, editor of Business World magazine, and executive editor of India Today. He is a familiar figure on national television, as a commentator on economic issues. He is a recipient of the B. D. Goenka Award for excellence in journalism (1992) and serves on several non-profit boards and committees.



Pierre Avanzo is a partner at McKinsey & Company in India, where he leads the Organization Practice. Five years ago, he settled down in India after having accomplished 10 years of consulting experience across Europe and the US. In his consulting career, Pierre is involved in civil society issues, such as disaster relief and preparedness. His clients include the Red Cross organisation, and Tafren, the post-tsunami reconstruction agency in Sri Lanka. More recently, he has guided clients on the setting up of tertiary education institutions in India.

About SRF Foundation

MISSION

Promoting quality education and training that inspires children and youth from all sections of society to achieve individual aspirations and building a better society for tomorrow, through the knowledge, skills and values acquired.

ABOUT

In 1982, the SRF Foundation (formerly known as the Society for Education and Welfare) was set up as the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) wing of SRF Limited, a leading multi-business entity engaged in textiles, chemicals, packaging films, and engineering plastics, with locations in India, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, and South Africa.

The founding Chairman, Mr. Arun Bharat Ram, had wanted to keep up with the traditions of his family heritage, the late Sir Shri Ram and the late Dr Bharat Ram who both believed in contributing to society through education. Hence, the Foundation set up the renowned 'The Shri Ram Schools' and 'SRF Vidyalaya' initially under the vision of Mrs. Manju Bharat Ram.

Today, the Foundation primarily advocates quality education for all, engages in capacity building and community mobilisation in underprivileged areas, as well as social engagement with the workers and communities in and around SRF Limited's business plants.

Its main programmes include promoting the holistic development of government schools in the rural areas of Mewat, running The Shri Ram Schools (TSRS) and Enhancing Early Education (3EP) teacher training institute, providing academic services to schools and partner organisations who work with disadvantaged children, and promoting vocational skills.

In February 2011, it was awarded the 5th Indy's Award for "Best in CSR Practice", which was presented jointly by My FM & Stars of the Industry Platform.

With a team strength of 13, its head office is located in Gurgaon, Haryana in India. There are also more than 450 staff employed under The Shri Ram Schools. The Foundation also advises the corporate citizenship councils at each of the 13 plant locations.

The Foundation is registered under the Societies Registration Act (XXI of 1860).





Mewat Rural Education Programme



All children between the ages of 6 and 14 shall have the right to free and compulsory elementary education at a neighbourhood school.

Right to Education Act, 2009

BACKGROUND

Mewat, a district in Haryana, scores poorly in the Human Development Index (HDI). It poses a challenge for the government and its development partners in bringing positive change. The general literacy rate is 44%, and the female literacy rate is 24%. Both statistics are below the national average.

Although government agencies such as Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA) Haryana and the Mewat Development Agency (MDA) have developed the infrastructure and facilities in the schools, there remains a wide resource gap. By the time students reach Class VIII, drop out rates are high at 67%, and there are many other children who have never enrolled in a school, despite the Right to Education Act in 2009.

INTRODUCTION

Following SRF Limited's philosophy of delivering quality and facing challenges in stride, SRF Foundation formed the Mewat Rural Education Programme (MREP) after considering the challenging situation in Mewat, and its own motto to reach out to the needy in remote areas. It runs the MREP in partnership with the Department of the Elementary Education of the Government of Haryana, and focuses its efforts in the Nuh block of the Mewat district.

MREP officially began in December 2009 in 19 villages, working with 25 primary schools and 15 middle schools. It covers 12,500 children enrolled in schools, and 3,000 others who are not.

HOW WE HELP

To meet its overall objective of the holistic development of the schools, the MREP classifies its interventions into five major components:

- Upgrading the infrastructure through government and corporate partners
- Empowering headmasters through leadership training, and building the capacity of teachers through subject training and better teaching-learning processes
- Improving school-community relationships, and community participation in school development
- Attending to out-of-school children, by bridging their learning gaps and mainstreaming them into the regular schools
- Promoting extra-curricular activities, such as sports and art and craft

PARTNERS

To effectively achieve its goals, the SRF Foundation has formed alliances with like-minded organisations to tap on synergies and shared resources.

Mewat Development Agency (MDA) supports the Foundation's efforts to enhance the schools by funding new furniture and sports equipment, and the engagement of Vidya Volunteers who run the IBM KidSmart centers.

Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA) Haryana works with the Foundation to improve the infrastructure of the schools, especially the classrooms, toilets, and drinking water facilities.

GE Capital joined hands with the Foundation and came forward to bear the partial expenses of the holistic development of one of the school complexes – Salambha.

SRF Chemical Business, Bhiwadi, also offered and agreed to bear the expenses of the holistic development of five village school complexes: Roj Ka Meo, Khor Basai, Kanwarsika, Rehna, and Tapkan. The development will be carried out in phases.

IBM funded the set up of 18 KidSmart centers, for the benefit of children aged 3-8 years old. The IBM support includes 130 child-friendly computers with specially designed Little Tike furniture, power back ups, and built-in educational Edmark software.



Besides these alliances, many other corporate and organisational friends are talking to the Foundation to discuss ways to join hands in this noble mission.

OUR EFFORTS

In the last year since its inception, the Foundation has undertaken various initiatives under MREP to improve the quality of education in Mewat, and to provide more learning opportunities for the children.

Infrastructural Upgrades

With the support of GE Capital, SSA Haryana, and MDA, the Foundation coordinated the provision of new classrooms, furniture, drinking water facilities, toilet facilities, an anganwadi center, a new gate, a new boundary wall, and pathways to Salambha. This will be the Center of Excellence's model village school complex.

Launch of IBM KidSmart Programme

The construction and renovation of all 18 IBM KidSmart Centers were completed. The Foundation also hired villagers to help run these centers, and organised training workshops for IT skills, physical education, art and craft, and language skills to prepare them for their facilitator roles.

Leadership Training

Two meetings were organised for Headmasters in December 2009 and February 2010; which introduced them to MREP, and exposed them to The Shri Ram Schools (TSRS) in Gurgaon.

In December 2010, it organised a Leadership and Visioning Workshop for Headmasters and Sarpanches from all 40 schools within the 19 villages. The workshop encouraged positive vision for the schools; stressed the importance of cordial school-panchayat relations; and discussed effective leadership qualities.

In March 2011, a follow-up workshop was organised, to monitor the progress of these leaders since then. It also reinforced more leadership and motivational lessons.

Exposure Visits

In November 2010, teachers and students from Mewat schools visited a Science Exhibition organised at TSRS, which exposed them to the world of colours, magnets, electricity, motor mechanics, etc. It was an excellent opportunity for both teachers and students to interact with their peers, and the exhibition opened up the horizons of the students.



THE WAY FORWARD

More activities have been planned for the coming few months. These include:

- Inculcating a culture of sports and games among the schools
- Applying technology to enhance the teaching-learning methods and administrative processes
- Developing model schools, starting with school site planning for all 40 schools
- Promoting female education in Mewat
- Improving the academic performance
- Engaging the community through the school management committee (SMC) and youth volunteers

Community Mobilisation

From October to December 2010, the Foundation facilitated village-level meetings with the Village Education Committee for all 19 villages.

The Foundation also conducted a village resource mapping exercise for eight villages, where it identified the key influential people, youth volunteers, public servants, ex-service men, and local service providers among them.



In March 2011, it engaged Steps for Change who organised *Nukkad Natak* (street theatre) at both school and community levels, to raise awareness about the importance of education, and students' hygiene. This was carried out in seven villages.

'Design for Change'

In the 'Design for Change' challenge, Khor Basai Government Primary School was listed in the top 100 among 3,000 schools, with some assistance from the Foundation. In their entry, they presented the problem of vandalism by the villagers, and their solutions which included organising a *morcha* (street campaign) to raise awareness in their community, and whitewashing the school.

Bridge Schools

Throughout the year, the Foundation launched the Bridge School Programme for 430 out-of-school children in eight villages: Tapkan, Rehna, Salambha, SP Nagli, Kherla, Kawarsika, Rojka Meo, and Khor Basai. These schools aim to bridge the learning gaps of the registered children through a condensed curriculum, and will subsequently enrol them into a government school once they are ready for a new learning environment.

'Khel Khel Mein' Sports Meet

SRF Foundation organised students from three villages – Salaheri, F.P Namak, and Badwa – to participate in a Sports Meet jointly organised by the Concern India Foundation and the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) in February 2011.

TSRS Teachers spent their Saturdays training the athletes, and their efforts proved worthwhile. The contingent bagged 14 awards: 12 event medals, the "Best Athlete" award, and the "Best Organisation" award.



Extra-Curricular Activities

The Foundation engaged teachers from TSRS to spend their Saturdays in Kanwarsika and Rojka Meo to promote sports, art and craft, yoga, and story telling, as extra-curricular activities for the children.

Raising Awareness

In November 2010, the Foundation organised a 70-member team from SRF Limited to participate in the Airtel Delhi Half Marathon. The team ran to promote quality rural education in Mewat, as well as a sense of social responsibility among the SRF employees.



The Shri Ram Schools

INTRODUCTION

The Shri Ram Schools (TSRS) were set up in 1988 as part of SRF Foundation, under the aegis and vision of Mrs. Manju Bharat Ram. The school has since spread across 3 campuses in New Delhi and Gurgaon. The schools are progressive, inclusive, secular, child-centric, and co-educational – committed to providing quality education.

TSRS has a commitment to provide inclusion of children with special needs, and create an ever-growing learning environment with excellent teacher-student ratio and active participation of parents and teachers in the school.

It was named the “Best Day School” by Education World’s countrywide school survey in 2008 and 2009. In 2010, The Hindustan Times recognised TSRS as the Number One schools in Gurgaon and Southwest Delhi.



Students at TSRS are encouraged to develop sound ethical values: pride in one’s heritage, integrity, sensitivity, and pursuit of excellence.

MISSION

The mission of TSRS is to provide each student a diverse education in a safe, supportive environment that promotes sound values, self-discipline, motivation and excellence in learning. The School joins with parents and the community to assist the students in developing skills to become independent and self-sufficient adults who will succeed and contribute to a global community.

SCHOOLS

2 schools, 3 sites, 13.5 acres
3886 students enrolled, 350 teachers
Teacher-student ratio: 1:11

TSRS – Vasant Vihar, New Delhi
(Nursery to Class V; 3+ to 10 years)
TSRS – Mousari, Gurgaon
(Class VI to Class XII; 10+ to 18 years)
TSRS – Aravali, Gurgaon
(KG1 to Class XII; 3+ to 18 years)

SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS: INCLUSION

Special Education is a response to the needs of children with learning disabilities. TSRS acknowledges the needs of these children and endeavours to provide opportunities for inclusive education and vocational orientation for children who have difficulty in coping with the regular curriculum but do not require the facilities of a special school.

The school has 101 students aged 4-15 years under the Inclusion programme and 43 students aged 15-18 years, in its National Open Schooling programme.

MISSION JULLEY

In September 2010, The Shri community embarked on Mission Julley to raise funds for relief efforts after Leh was stricken by flash floods that killed 150 people, with hundreds missing. 21 students went to Leh to help distribute warm clothes, stationery, toys, etc to the communities, and adopted three schools that had been destroyed by the floods.



For their fundraising efforts, the school organised a cricket match, rock concert, cycle ride, knit fest, bake sale, and art auctions etc. Altogether, it raised close to Rs 10,00,000 for the cause.

SHARING THE EXPERTISE

Bhiwani Model School, Bhondsi School & The Sanskaar Valley School

TSRS, through its parent body SRF Foundation, made an understanding with the Haryana Education Board and the Police Department of Haryana to collaborate on the setting up of the Dr. S. Radhakrishnan Model School in Bhiwani and co-run a new school in Bhondsi respectively. In addition, TSRS will also providing academic services to the The Sanskaar Valley School in Bhopal.

Support to the Mewat Rural Education Programme (MREP)

TSRS teachers have been spending their Saturdays in Mewat, sharing their non-academic expertise in sports, art and craft, and story telling. From January to February 2011, their athletic training to the students paid off when the students won 12 medals at the 'Khel Khel Mein' sports event, organised by Concern India Foundation.

Shri Sahas

For young adults who would benefit from a vocational programme and for pre-schoolers, the school is developing programmes under the banner of 'Shri Sahas' (Teacher Assistant Programme and Early Intervention Services). These new initiatives involve 7 trainee teachers and 25 children.



Enhancing Early Education Programme

INTRODUCTION

The Enhancing Early Education Programme (3EP) was set up by the Foundation in 2007. Its objective was to encapsulate the methodology and philosophy of The Shri Ram Schools (TSRS) and impart it to potential teachers, through a six-month course with two internships: one in TSRS, and the other in a leading school in Delhi/Gurgaon.

The programme has trained over 105 people in the last four years, most of whom are now teaching in many prominent schools in Delhi and Gurgaon.

MISSION

The mission of 3EP is to:

- Assist individuals in developing skills to become creative, passionate, knowledgeable, and sensitive educators who will contribute responsibly to the global community
- Create professionals who can engage innovatively and effectively with children aged 2 to 6 years. Since this is the most important foundational stage of a child's development, they would be able to maximise the nascent potential of each child.

CONTENT

The six-month programme offers trainees the tools, strategies, knowledge, and practice that an educator will need to foster an exciting environment of joy, fun, learning, and development.

The core curriculum includes:

- Educational thought
- Child development
- Curriculum and skill development
- Classroom management
- Developing teaching-learning materials (TLMs) and exposure to global perspectives in education
- Internships and practice teaching sessions

IN-SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAMMES

Apart from training pre-service trainee teachers, 3EP also trains in-service teachers.

Mission Julley

Under the 3EP, SRF Foundation also conducted a 5-week in-service programme to train 6 teachers from the Lamdon School in Leh from January to February 2011. The teachers spent their mornings observing the teaching methods in TSRS, and their afternoons having theory sessions. Under the intensive training, they covered modules such as child development, classroom management, curriculum and skill development, IT skills, and lesson and curriculum planning.

Read India

3EP also lent its services to the Read India programme, which trained five community workers who had no teaching background but were involved in education. Over five days, it exposed participants to topics such as child psychology, gender harmony, and lesson and curriculum planning. It also covered hands-on activities such as creating age-appropriate teaching-learning materials (TLMs). Instead of the usual English, the medium of instruction this time was Hindi.

Shri Shiksha

The Foundation also supported Shri Shiksha, a programme run by TSRS Aravali that targeted migrant children. 3EP instructors trained the teachers involved in the programme, who were all community workers with no prior teaching background.





Shri Sambandh

INTRODUCTION

Shri Sambandh is an academic outreach programme that offers a comprehensive range of services to NGOs, Foundations, and government departments who run education programmes.

The services provided are:

- Leadership training
- Designing of curriculum
- Conducting learning camps
- Needs-based teacher training
- Evaluation of academic performance
- Designing of co-curricular programmes
- Teaching Learning Material (TLM) preparations

Since 2008, the programme has impacted the lives of 5,000 children and 200 teachers in government schools all over India.

Some of the agencies and programme locations are:

Agency	Programme Location
Aga Khan Development Network	Uri, J & K
Aga Khan Foundation	Nizamuddin Basti, New Delhi
Mewat Development Agency	Nuh & Nagina -Mewat district Haryana
SRF Chemical Business Plant	Banban School, Bhiwadi,Rajasthan

OUR SERVICES

Aga Khan Development Network

A teacher-training project within the schools of Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN), Uri Education Project, was initiated in 2009 and has since been completed.

The aim of the project was to:

- Train teachers on the use of child-centric teaching methodologies
- Strengthen teacher's ability to teach Math, Science, and English language.

A total of 147 teachers were trained through a series of seven training programmes. They were given a spoken English bridge course for Class V children and teachers, taught teaching-learning methods for math and science for Classes VI-X, and shown how to develop teaching-learning materials (TLMs) using rhymes and games.

Aga Khan Foundation

In collaboration with the Aga Khan Foundation, Project Armaan was implemented in three phases from May 2009 to June 2010. It reached out to 500 children, six government teachers, and seven community teachers at the Nizamuddin Basti Municipal Corporation Pratibha Vidyalaya.

Each project focused on enhancing the learning ability of students especially in Math, Science, and Hindi, using different strategies such as demonstrations, creative TLMs, discussions, and role-playing. Today, the project is still ongoing, and it continues to benefit more children and teachers.

Since October 2010, the Foundation has been channeling its resources and efforts to the fourth phase of Project Armaan. This time, the project includes teacher capacity-building through classroom supervision and monthly workshops, focusing on curriculum development, classroom management, and various teaching models. It is expected to be completed in March 2012.



Mewat Development Agency (MDA) Projects

In collaboration with MDA, two outreach projects Ahsaas 1 and Ahsaas 2 were implemented, benefiting 90 teachers and 3,000 children. Six Mewat Model Schools from Nuh, Punhana, Jhirka, Nagina, Tauru and Hathin villages participated in this programme.

Ahsaas 1 focused on classroom practices, English language, and TLM development through workshops, classroom observations, and exposure visits to The Shri Ram Schools (TSRS).

Ahsaas 2 was conducted for 38 teachers from the Mewat Model School in Nagina village. They were taught to use English as a medium of instruction.

SRF Chemical Business (CB) Limited Project

SRF CB adopted Banban Government Primary School with the support of SARD, one of our partner NGOs in 2008. Its primary aim was to provide educational and pedagogical support for the children and teachers, through SRF Foundation. The project benefited 130 children age 3-12 years, two government teachers, and nine SARD teachers.

Project Banban also focused on providing better infrastructure, by installing a school gate, whitewashing the school building, planning play areas, etc.



Community Projects

INTRODUCTION

To achieve its objective of being a conscientious corporate citizen, all 13 of SRF Limited's business plants are involved in four areas of social engagement: health, affirmative action, education, and natural resource management; in and around their locations.

HEALTH INITIATIVES

SRF continues its regular HIV/AIDS awareness programme since its launch in 2005. With the support of master trainers who were trained by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and local NGO partners, 20,000 people including employees, contract labours, truckers, and communities residing in the nearby villages have been educated on this issue annually.

In addition, corporate and plant locations organised health talks; blood donation drives; check up camps for eyes, diabetes, and arthritis; and actively participated in seven-week long Joy of Giving effort.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

As signatory of CII Code of Conduct, SRF launched an affirmative action in support of the SC/ST Community across all its Indian business plant locations. Following the 4E Principles – Education, Employability, Employment, and Entrepreneurship – SRF has been providing development/engagement opportunities to communities since 2007.

NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (NRM)

The Natural Resource Management (NRM) project is aimed at enhancing livelihoods of the poorest of the poor by harnessing underutilised land and water resources in Alwar district, Rajasthan. Launched by the SRF Chemical Business (CB) in 2006-07, it is implemented by partner NGOs, Pradhan and Sir Syed Trust (SST).

In the past four years, the project managed to build more than 147 earthen check dams, leveled 704 hectares of land, and planted more than 139,349 fruit/timber/fodder trees and plants; helping more than 3,409 families directly and indirectly in 32 villages.

To assess the progress of NRM, SRF partnered with NGO-SPACE to assess the impact of groundwater recharge, the growth and bio-physical impacts of tree plantations, as well as the socioeconomic impact on the community.

In the near future, NRM aims to achieve the following:

- Reach out to a total of 6,500 families, and raise their incomes by Rs.10,000/- annually
- Enhance productivity of wastelands owned by poor families through improvements in rain water harvesting and crop interventions
- Empower and equip villagers with the necessary knowledge on market dynamics and resource mobilisation, allowing them to obtain optimum gains through linkages with government agencies for their produce
- Involve community leaders and youths in the expansion of project activities.

EDUCATION INITIATIVES

Project Shiksha is one of the initiatives of SRF Chemical Business, launched with the help of partner NGO SARD. It aims to improve the quality of education in Banban School, that was adopted by SRF in the Tijara Block village of Rajasthan. Teachers were trained to improve their teaching methodologies and learn new skills that will come in useful in classrooms.

Vocational Training Centers were launched by SRF Chemical Business, with the help and support of partner NGO, SARD. In total, three centers have been built, reaching out to 125 women. The vocational training covered basic education, sewing, and business start-up skills. As the center provided placement services for employment in local businesses, many women managed to find employment at nearby garment factories, proudly contributing to their family income.

SRF Vidyalaya is run and managed for the past 20 years by the SRF Technical Textiles Business in Manali, Chennai for the children of plant employees and the less fortunate. It is a testimony of SRF's commitment to the society, and receives academic support from The Shri Ram Schools (TSRS).



SRF Vidyalaya

BACKGROUND

SRF Vidyalaya, an initiative of SRF Technical Textiles Business (TTB), is located in Manali, Chennai. It is dedicated to delivering quality education to the unfortunate through professionally managed systems.

DIVINITY, SANCTITY AND QUALITY

Vidyalaya in Sanskrit means the divine abode of learning and education. As such, divinity, sanctity, and quality are visible in the personnel and premises of SRF Vidyalaya. Designed by renowned architect, Laurie Baker, who is known for his innovative oriental designs, SRF Vidyalaya ensures that neither ambience nor amenities are compromised on its grounds.

As quality is the underlying principle of all its operations and plans, established professional systems of Total Quality Management such as the Edward Deming's quality principles have been applied to ensure perfection in its operations and optimum results from its targets.

GROWTH SINCE 1991

In 1991, the school started with a small class of 34 students, and has since grown to 520 students in 2011. Although the student numbers are not big for a suburban school in Chennai with subsidised school fees, the class size has been carefully monitored to adhere strictly to a teacher-pupil ratio of 1:25 in order to ensure quality.

A UNIQUE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Due to teachers' participation in designing the curriculum, student evaluations, problem-based learning and parental feedback, there is a culture of joyful learning and nurturing of responsible children. Due to this learning environment, children of SRF Vidyalaya are resilient, striving for success and willing to learn from their failures.

INSPIRATION FOR ALL

SRF Vidyalaya has a lot of laurels to its credit, transforming it into an inspiration for all other educational institutions. With future plans of expanding its infrastructure and programmes, SRF Vidyalaya will soon have a sister vocational education representative to cater to the needs of the unemployed youth in the country.

Vocational Skills Training

INTRODUCTION

The vocational skills initiative was born out of the need to connect unemployed members of the community to industry employers. There is a high demand in industries for skilled manpower, yet many youths are deprived of the opportunities because they lack the relevant training.

SRF Foundation saw the opportunity to satisfy the needs of both ends, by creating a customised programme to upgrade the skills of the unemployed aged 18 to 30 years, while fulfilling the Foundation's mission.

VISION

Through outreach programmes and the setting up of a vocational skills training center, there exists a platform to build skilled manpower for the country.

LOCATIONS

Nuh, Mewat

The Foundation partnered the Times Group to run a spoken English course for the first batch of 60 participants aged 18-30 years old in the rural area of Nuh, Mewat. Training for the second batch will start in April 2011.

Manali, Chennai

A dedicated vocational training center in Manali, Chennai is in the pipeline. It will offer a six months course to two batches of 150 students each, both males and females, to prepare them for jobs in the textile and petrochemical industry. It is set to be completed by July 2011.

The training will include:

- Technical skills
- Spoken English skills
- Soft skills and teamwork
- IT skills

FACILITIES

With a target of 150 trainees, the programme ensures that the following facilities are available:

- Training facilities, with experienced trainers
- Accommodation
- Meals
- Uniform
- Safety gear (i.e. shoes, helmet, belt, etc.)
- Tools and machines for practical training
- All other required training materials



Isometric view of the training facility.



The SRF Foundation Team



Whether it's in the office, out in the field in Mewat, or in the training rooms of our 3EP sessions, the team puts in their best each and everyday to make sure that their work continues to inspire and touch the lives of people around them.

Therefore, the Foundation would like to acknowledge and express its gratitude to everyone who has been in the team at some point or another in the past year: Dr. Suresh Reddy, Prakash Dutt, Anil Jha, Suman Chawla, Faiq Alvi, Raman Jha, Kamaleshwer Mishra, Nisha Juneja, A. Rakesh, Sonia Kullar, Anita Maitra, Joysina Chawla, Dipannita Bose, Priya Srivastava, Rekha Singhal, Sneha Datta, Raj Singh, Subhajit Aluni, Vijay Gupta, Savita, P. K. Gupta, Ravi Kant Tiwari, and P. S. Chauhan.

Thank you.

The Shri Ram Schools Management Team



The Shri Ram Schools have achieved so much to deliver the Foundation's promise to quality education. Apart from being the best schools in the country, they also share their expertise by supporting many of the Foundation's initiatives in improving education among the underprivileged.

This would not be possible without the management team, as well as the teachers that they lead. They work hard inside and outside their schools, and their efforts make a difference to the children that they meet.

The Foundation would like to extend its appreciation to the management and staff of The Shri Ram Schools.

Thank you.





and the journey continues...