

FOUNDATION UPDATE

A. Education Management

- 1) Capacity building among education functionaries in Karnataka state: The Foundation has been engaged in developing managerial skills of education functionaries for the past few months. The training of Master Resource Person's (MRP) continued with Canara Bank School of Management Studies (CBSMS). During the month, 58 Master Resource Persons (MRPs) went through second and third phases of training with Canara Bank School of Management Sciences.

Azim Premji Foundation and Education Department of Government of Karnataka discussed re-structuring of Policy Planning Unit and enlargement of its work scope. Based on the suggestions received, a draft of Memorandum of Understanding of Education Management Unit has been put together.

- 2) Namma Shaale (My School): The project team started collecting secondary level data at village, Grama Panchayat and cluster level available with village accountant's Grama Panchayats', Anganwadi and health workers, prior to house hold survey.

B. Assessment Led Classroom Reforms

- 1) In Rajasthan, a 3-day teacher orientation program for the head teachers of participating schools in Tonk and Sirohi, was held in partnership with SSA



- 2) In Uttarakhand, the analysis of 2007 results was completed while only one school qualifies as Learning Guarantee Programme schools (compared to nil earlier), two-thirds of the schools have shown improvement over last year. Average class-wise improvement in scores is of the order of 10 percentage points.
- 3) Workbook Development for Rajasthan - The initial phase of work books for primary and upper primary were to be completed and ready by end May 07. The first lot of print ready master set of workbooks for Classes 1 to 8 for the specified subjects were prepared

and submitted to the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan office. Work on the second phase is getting underway. It has been a very satisfying learning experience for all members involved in the project.

- 4) In Madhya Pradesh, the results of the baseline vs. end line performance in the 15 Action Research Programme experimental schools are very encouraging there is a significant improvement in both reading and arithmetic skills of children.

C. Computer Aided Learning

- 1) With a view to develop the Computer Aided Learning Program (CALP) team in interacting with the teachers under the new program in a much more meaningful way, the CALP team completed the CD positioning and lesson plan workshop for 19 CD's in which teachers from Tamil Nadu and Karnataka also participated.
- 2) A detailed proposal for a demonstration model for Computer Aided Learning was sent to the 14 existing states with whom we are engaged. Several states have expressed interest Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Punjab and Orissa.
- 3) An orientation for the staff of BRAC, Bangladesh was conducted in Dhaka on e-learning content creation, deployment and monitoring strategy. A three member team from the Foundation also visited ICT Agency of Sri Lanka and provided orientation to their 26 member team on creation and deployment of e-learning content in their rural knowledge centre.

D. Technology for Education

- 1) Academics & Pedagogy team assisted with the feedback collected in the workshop of teachers held in Shorapur, Gulbarga on Digital learning material (to be used in a class room in projector mode) and further steps of evaluation have been initiated. The analysis of feedback from teachers of Gulbarga Workshop on teacher centric Digital Learning Material has also been completed.
- 2) The audio content of an NGO Adanya Chethana -



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was evaluated by our team and was found useful for Azim Premji Foundation.

- 3) The concept of multi mice technology for single monitor/terminal was developed jointly by UC Berkeley, Microsoft Research and Azim Premji Foundation. On an experimental basis the multi mice technology with its different versions of collaborative learning, competition mode and turn taking mode was successfully integrated with one our titles 'Friendly Animals'.



E. Content Development

1. New Initiatives: The second mobile Computer Aided Learning bus design was completed and project review was carried out at IIT-Bombay with external consultants. IIT Mumbai received an award for this unique design.
2. Content creation: A CD title on Africa was also completed. On last count, the Foundation has 115 MasterCD titles in 18 languages.

F. Research and documentation

- 1) Andhra Pradesh Randomized Evaluation Study-School Choice study : The research project has been launched in 32 villages of West Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh. A detailed discussion was held with the District Education Officers and the Mandal Education Officers of the district to brief them about the research. The parents of randomly identified parents were contacted and the scheme of scholarship was explained to them. A majority of the parents have agreed to participate and have also enrolled their children in private schools.
- 2) The analysis of the achievement status of the 214

indicators of Child Friendly School Initiative (CFSI) Shorapur for December 2006 has been completed and the report is ready.

G. Education for the Migrant labour children

- 1) One more school has started operation at another site. Learnings from the first site have been put to effective use in this school. It is encouraging to see the progress being made with children, but the challenges of regular attendance of children and teacher stability remain.
- 2) More interest is being shown by other builders who have expressed a desire in starting similar initiatives on their sites. We are also interacting with NGOs working in alternative education for children of a different profile, such as Mobile Creches (Mumbai and Pune) and Saranga Trust in Bangalore.



H. Child Friendly School, Shorapur

- 1) Workshop to develop self learning material for classes 3 & 4 was continued in May. A 13 member team from Jharkhand also joined the workshop.

I. Advocacy

- 1) Third National Learning Conference on the theme of "Equitable education for Equitable Society" was organized from May 24-26, 2007, in Bangalore. This conference was held in collaboration with the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India. Currently, documentation of the conference proceedings is on.

