

ANNUAL REPORT 2013-14

President's Message

This year turned out to be quite eventful as we launched into a number of new activities besides the usual ones. 35 Std X appeared students were certified under Employability Skills 13 for mobile repairing, 13 for the Beautician course and 9 for Spoken English. It has been heartening to hear that some of them have begun earning around Rs. 4,000/- pm as free lancers. They say they feel proud that they can support their college education and also lend a helping hand to their families. We all begin like this earning a small amount initially and then rise in life through hard work and effort. These students too have become a constructive force in society. Instead of wasting their free time loitering aimlessly they repair mobiles and take orders for bridal and other make up from customers.



Successful Students of Employability Skills 2013-14

In July 2013 GREAT Foundation took an important step . It started weekly Science practicals in Mahadji Shinde High School for 421 students from Stds. V to IX. The project was sponsored by leading corporate house iGATE. Bhagini Nivedita Pratishtan volunteers were contracted to conduct the experiments. The year long project saw the children who had hitherto studied Science theoretically, now begin to see the experiments performed in the Science Lab. The activity culminated in 150 Science projects being exhibited and presented by students on 7th February, 2014. This was a first in the history of the school and all the students and their teachers were very excited. The activity has resulted in greater involvement by the Science teachers and an average increase of 20% marks in the students understanding of Science. In the light of its success, iGATE has decided to sponsor the project in two Pune Cantonment Board schools in 2014 -15. It will provide for two new Science Labs with Scientific models, consultation and workshops for teachers in how to teach Science in an experiential way and engage the students more actively.



Students in Science Lab at
Mahadji Shinde High School 2013-14



Stationery was distributed to 2240 students of 9 schools. Workbooks, crayons, drawing books were also given to students of Mahadji Shinde Primary school. Text books were distributed to Std. X students of one school, "Likely Question" sets to Std. X students of Ghorpadi Village High

School. Computers were donated to Mahadji Shinde Primary schools, Dr. Ambedkar Memorial Primary School, Rabindranath English School. Komal Lawand, an Electronics student and Tanaji Kolekar, a final year engineering student continued to be supported in their studies with higher education Scholarships. Remedial teaching was conducted by GREAT Foundation volunteers.

Soft Skills training was given to 100 students Ghorpadi High School. Besides, 421 Students were trained in Leadership Skills and a competition held to choose the best leaders. The significant feature of this activity was that the Leaders and their teams choose to use their skills to train themselves to be punctual, regular and neat to school. Officials from Trent Ltd. a Tata enterprise – spoke to the children about careers they could aspire to in the present market and how to train for them.



Soft Skills Session by Trent Ltd 2013-14

Students in Leadership Activity Creating Awareness Through Skits 2013-14

For the first time, SPIC MACAY was invited to orient PCB students in Hindustani Vocal music and listen to famous classical singers Ruchira Kedar and Aparna Phanshikar. These events were held in Ghorpadi High School and Ravindranath Tagore English Medium School. For PCB schools such exposure was novel and the response was awe inspiring.



Ruchira Kedar performing for school children in known Spic Macay programme on Hindustani Vocal 2013-14



Students singing in Spic Macay programme with well Hindustani Vocal artist Aparna Phansikar

Also for the first time, Aptitude Testing and Career Counselling were organized in Rabindranath Tagore English Medium School. Such sessions will be held in all the High Schools in the coming year because it will give a direction to the students' future goals.



Career Counselling with students and their parents by MSCERT 2013-14

In our 12th year of existence what has crystallized is a plan for deepening interventions by GREAT Foundation to provide quality education to less privileged school children along with systematic guidance to them and their teachers to help them forge professional careers in the years to come.

Eaton Information Technology Centre partnered with GREAT Foundation to send volunteers once a week to teach Maths and Computers in Rabindranath Tagore School. Their



contribution improved the grasp of the students over the subjects as revealed in their final exams.



Eaton Volunteers Teaching Computers 2013-14

All these initiatives have been possible because of the unconditional support we have received from our donors, our Advisory Board, Mr. K. V. Nagi Reddy the CEO of the PCB, the school Principals, teachers and volunteers. With every passing year newer dimensions to our relationship are forged.

Vision: To ignite the future of a less privileged child through quality education.

Mission: To help low income community school children become professionals through quality education, material support, training and development.

The Objectives are two fold:

1. To ensure that less privileged schools children get
 - i. Get all the material help they need to study effectively
 - ii. Trained through the latest teaching- learning techniques
 - iii. Supported through remedial teaching
 - iv. Career counseling to enable them to choose proper career paths.
 - v. College scholarships to see them through the years of professional education.

2. To regularly train teachers in the latest teaching techniques, skills and methods of promoting quality education.

Corporate Partners in 2013-14:

1. iGATE
2. TRENT (I) Pvt. Ltd.
3. Eaton Information Technology Centre (EITC)
4. GS LAB
5. Jones Lang La Salle (JLL)



NGO Partner in 2013-14

Bhagini Nivedita Pratisthan

A. Strengths

1. Our NGO has earned credibility among all its stakeholders – the PCB, students, Teachers, Principals, Donors and its interventions are valued.
2. Our method of working is to go on adding new initiatives without sacrificing any major earlier activity. This calls for hard work but we are happy to put it in.

B. Weakness

1. We need to build a core team to carry the vision of GREAT Foundation through the years
2. We need to raise a corpus to be able to do all that we want to do to take quality education to government schools in a holistic way.

C. Expectations for 2014-15

1. We plan to recruit some of the best teachers to send to different PCB schools to teach Science, Math, Computers
2. We plan to conduct workshops for the teachers in different areas and empower them to deliver quality education
3. We plan to give scholarships to bright PCB students in college and see them become professionals
4. We hope to raise funds to the tune of Rs. 1 Crore to fulfill our objectives.