

# Final Report on Teach to Reach

## History

Project 'Teach to Reach' was launched in Ravindranath Tagore English Medium School(RTEMS), an unaided English school was started experimentally by the Pune Cantonment Board (PCB) in 2013-14 to test if the concept of an English school in the midst of only Marathi medium schools(PCB) for less privileged students would work. Teachers in RTEMS were appointed by PCB on contractual basis and on very low salaries. GREAT Foundation first brought 'Teach for India' fellows to RTEMS to teach pupils in Std 2 upwards. Then as the need for trained and experienced teachers to teach Science and Math was expressed by the Head Mistress, we decided to start Project 'Teach to Reach' in the school.

## Problem

Quality education is every child's right. Under Project **Teach to Reach**, GREAT Foundation has been working on providing quality education for the children who face household poverty and work part time to earn wages for their families. These problems keep less privileged children away from completing school. Besides coping with these problems children studying in government schools, also have to put up with negative teacher behaviour and their traditional methods of teaching such as forcing them to mug up concepts without understanding. This only worsens their school experience, due to which they start missing school and losing interest in studies.

## Solution

To prevent this situation, GREAT Foundation decided to provide two highly qualified and experienced teachers to teach Science and Math to the students of Stds 8 to 10, in RTEMS. The goal was to build the students' interest in these subjects. Our teachers tried to create a learner centric environment and used active, participatory and child centred methods of teaching, along with videos. **This project was supported by GS Lab (2013- 15) and Synechron(2015-18).** Every quarter we have been

taking student feedback. The students' feedback has been very positive about our teachers and the way they have taught them.

### **Difficulties Faced by Teachers**

Our teachers faced many problems while teaching in the school. To name a few:

- (i) Low student attendance, (ii) lack of command over lower grade concepts, (iii) lack of motivation to study, (iv) children in mental trauma because of problems at home. Notwithstanding these challenges our teachers tried to rid the students of the fear of Science and Math and develop their interest in these subjects. They overcame the barriers by planning their classes better and clarifying their objectives, praising the students on good performance, setting group activities, organising their classroom work more effectively and creating more interactive experiences for the students. Their effort has been seen in the results of the students and student feedback.

**“Smita Miss teach us Math subject, She give us lots of ideas. She explain us very nicely. She give us very good explain that we understand. She help in Maths.”**

**(Student, Standard 9)**

**“Sangeeta Miss teach very nice and Miss explain very nice that we can understand all what teacher is teaching. I like Sangeeta Miss. Teacher revise and explain each and every meanings.”**

**(Student, Standard 8)**

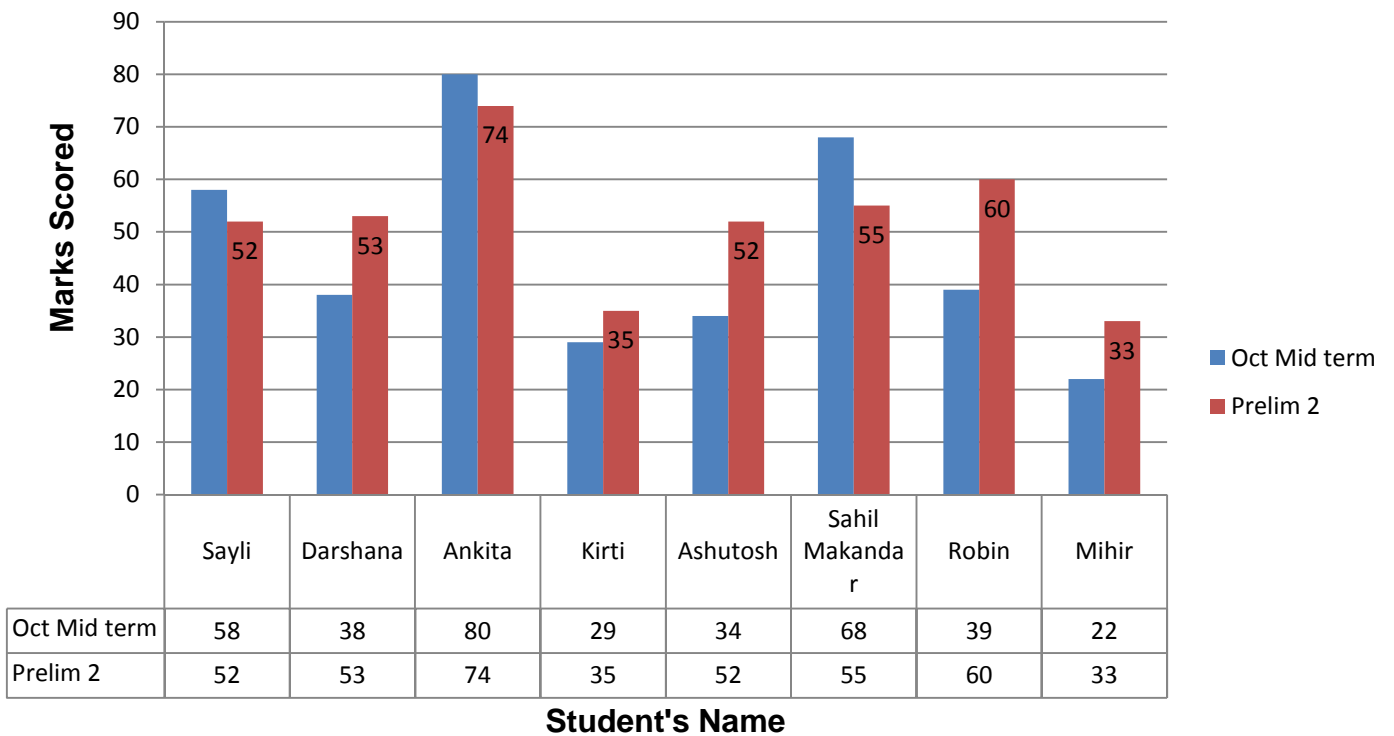


**Sangeeta Vishwakarma's Science classes were full of active learning**



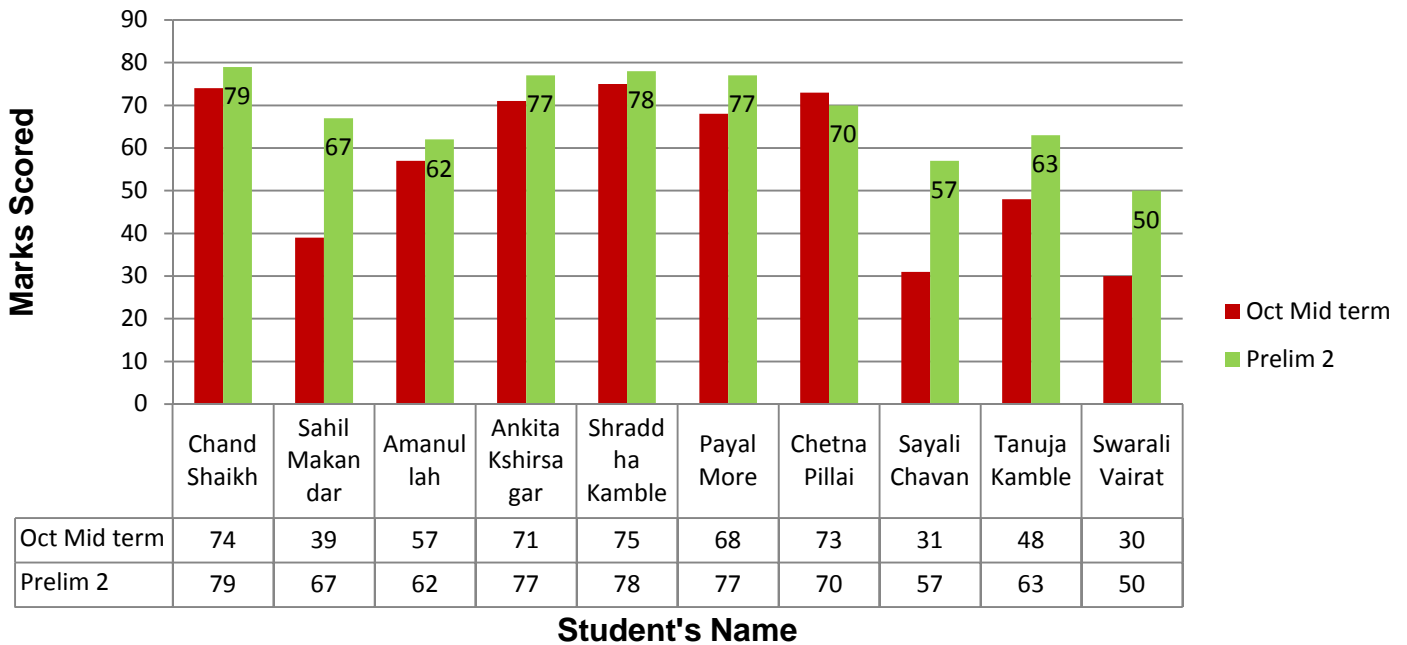
Smita Nege helped students of Higher Math (L) and General Math(R) learn concepts

### Science Prelim report of Std 10



There has been a 22% improvement in the scores.

## Math Prelim report of Std 10



**There has been a 29% improvement in the scores.**

### **Conclusion:**

The project came to an end on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2018. The Pune Cantonment Board will be appointing its own teachers hereafter. Since the school has successfully sent four batches of Std 10 students to face the SSC exam and proved (with help from GREAT Foundation) that it can stand on its own, this is a laudable step.

We thank GS Lab(2013-15) and Synchron(2015-18) for the support they have given us since 2013 in offering Project **Teach to Reach** in Ravindranath Tagore English Medium School. The project impacted minimum 200 students studying General and Higher Math, and Science in Stds 8, 9 and 10 every year. It is a huge achievement that a total of 1000 students learnt these hard subjects correctly. We also thank the Head Mistress and the Pune Cantonment Board for supporting us in this project.

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