

“Siri” foundation – Supporting education at the grassroots level”



Background



“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world” - Nelson Mandela

Education in any form or manner has been considered to be an illumination. It is education that helps instill tolerance among people, awaken them socially and help them play a better role towards serving humanity. Education equals awareness, awareness equals change and change equals progress, a progress that is much needed in a country that is garbed with so much poverty and “quality of education” which in itself is considered a basic requisite towards a socio-economic change.



While there is so much to be said about the rich culture and heritage of India and claiming it to be the largest democracy, it is a sad reality that the general masses of India are still covered under ignorance and illiteracy and such educational deprivation that it is a blemish on its own face.



“Education at grassroots level”

“Education equals awareness, awareness equals change and change equals progress” - Unknown

Addressing education at grassroots level is even more critical to the long term sustainability of a socio-economic change. The problem of school education and the quality thereof in rural areas is much different than that of the urban areas in question.

Children who have never been to any kind of schooling or who give up schooling as their parents do not believe in them going to school, or kids dropping out of school as it fails to create a curriculum that inculcates interest, or the school facilities that are so un kept and filthy that they fall short of creating a constructive ambiance, or a lunch menu that is poorly prepared and has malnutrition written all over, or resources (teachers) that fail to engage the kids in creating the inquisitiveness, a fuel for awakening the little minds.





“See it, own it, solve it, do it”



“It takes a village to raise a child”

“It takes a village to raise a child” is a popular adage with a very clear cut message and has even been used in the past by some of the leaders in the US for massive political campaigns. This is both interesting and appropriate as it pertains to making the entire community/village to play a critical role in the growth and development of its young people and their minds. The community that is referred to here is both internal and external.



How do we get a community to be more responsible towards getting “their” kids educated, how do we ensure that the community has vested interest in the quality of education that is being offered, how do we create the need for the community to be responsible for the sustainability of the school itself, how do we instigate that they have to be a part of the “solution”? All good questions but if we do not find time towards establishing a school-family-community partnership, the efforts to address quality education may prove futile. So, where do we go with this?



“The spirit of Volunteerism”

“Whatever you do may seem insignificant, but it is very important that you do it” – Mahatma Gandhi

In order to make an effectual impact, a project must be chosen that is small enough yet fits the profile of a small village, a community that can be influenced and a school that needs a helping hand towards making it a viable solution for the local kids.

The other important aspect is to choose issues that can be resolved with some leadership, some funds, a new foundation that believes in owning it and solving it and the backing and commitment of a reputable organization towards funding sustainable long term solutions.





“The Project” – Adoption of Lingapuram School



The School



The Playground



The Kitchen

“The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you”- B.B.King

The project addresses some of the basic objectives towards giving the indispensable requirements of quality education to a local school in a small village of Andhra Pradesh.

Lingapuram, a small village like many others has its charm. Green fields, clean air, laid back lifestyle and a population of farmers often referred to as “Anna daatas”- the givers of food. Besides lacking many basic amenities that may be considered essential or minimum requirements in other parts of the world, the one thing that sticks out like a sore thumb is its one and only elementary educational facility and its amenities and the quality of education..

The project consists of completely adopting the school from a basic renovation of the facility to creating a library system to encourage kids to explore and adventure. Some of the things planned in the next 12 month calendar year are as follows:

- ***Renovation of the building***
- ***Clean up and restoration of the playground***
- ***Creating and funding the uniform system***
- ***Building a kitchen***
- ***Providing teaching aids to the school***
- ***Creation of the library***
- ***Providing books and other aids to the library***
- ***School supplies***
- ***Creating and funding afterschool programs***
- ***Creating and funding a scholarship structure***



“The team – Redefining Volunteerism”

“Volunteering is an act of heroism on a grand scale. And it matters profoundly. It does more than help people beat the odds; it changes the odds”.

- President Bill Clinton

“Siri” foundation named after the brightest star in the sky “Sirius”, founded by Srinivas and Dr.Lakshmi Chintala with the help of like minded friends in USA and India who passionately believe in making a difference in someone else’s life. They believe in giving something back to the less fortunate, to the community that gave them the roots to their success.

The Siri team - they preach and practice a belief of Mahatma Gandhi "Whatever you do may seem insignificant, but it is very important that you do it"

They were also able to nominate a team of young teachers in the village as volunteers while building the “Siri” foundation at the grassroots level and doing the necessary preparations towards the advancement and promotion of charitable activities.

Siri Foundation is a registered Charity organization in india with ID: 38/2010.



The Team on Ground



The founders of “Siri” foundation – Srinivas and Dr. Lakshmi Chintala

City Office:
C/O Y.V.V. Satyanarayana . C.A
Flat 305, JYOTHI ENCLAVE
RAM NAGAR, VISHAKHAPATNAM, A.P 530003
INDIA

Registered Office:
Contact Name: Mr. L.V.N. Rao
D.No 1-114/7, F-3, Sri Simhadri Residency
Purushottamapuram Colony
Sujatha Nagar, Visakhapatnam, A.P



Endorsed by the one and only “Asha for Education”

“Bringing Hope through Education”

The project, its focused objectives and the team is so committed that they have been endorsed and underwritten by one of the most respected charity organizations in the world called “Asha for Education” Kansas City chapter.

Asha for Education is a global volunteer-run action group dedicated to radical change in India by focusing on basic education, in the belief that education is a critical requisite for socio-economic change. It is a not-for-profit voluntary organization that topped Charity Navigator's lists of 10 Slam Dunk Charities.

Together, Asha and Siri will work hand in hand towards achieving the objectives set forth.



Lingapuram School Project		
	One time Cost	Recurring Cost up to 3 years
School Building Enhancements	50,000.00	
New Kitchen & Supplies	50,000.00	
Library Enhancement	10,000.00	5,000.00
Uniforms		60,000.00
Books & Supplies		10,000.00
Teaching Aids	5,000.00	5,000.00
Achievement Awards		5,000.00
Higher Education and Scholarships		25,000.00
Total INR	115,000.00	110,000.00
Total USD	\$ 2,556	\$ 2,444

Total for the year 2011 \$ 5,000