



The logo for SVYM (Sri Venkateswara Youth Movement) is circular, featuring a central emblem with a book and a lamp, surrounded by text in Kannada and English. To the right of the logo, the letters "SVYM" are written in a large, white, sans-serif font. Below the logo and text, the website address "www.svym.org" is written in a smaller white font.



Swami Vivekananda Youth Movement

Proposal 2023 - 2024

Submitted to

Asha for Education, Boston Chapter

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Viveka Tribal Centre for Learning

Introduction

In 2020, after a gap of nearly four decades, a revised education policy was adopted by the country. The policy recognises education to be a great leveller and is the best tool for achieving economic and social mobility, inclusion, and equality. *The purpose of the education system is to develop good human beings capable of rational thought and action, possessing compassion and empathy, courage and resilience, scientific temper and creative imagination, with sound ethical moorings and values. It aims at producing engaged, productive, and contributing citizens for building an equitable, inclusive, and plural society as envisaged by our Constitution.*

The National Education Policy (NEP 2020) further recommends that *in all stages, experiential learning will be adopted, including hands-on learning, arts-integrated and sports-integrated education, and story-telling-based pedagogy, among others, as standard pedagogy within each subject, and with explorations of relations among different subjects. To close the gap in the achievement of learning outcomes, classroom transactions will shift, toward competency-based learning and education. The assessment tools (including assessment “as”, “of”, and “for” learning) will also be aligned with the learning outcomes, capabilities, and dispositions as specified for each subject of a given class.*

While it is accepted that the aspirations of the NEP 2020 are to create a more inclusive and equitable educational environment with a focus on flexibility and achievement of learning outcomes are great, we don't have many “comprehensive models” to learn from or replicate their successes in tribal areas.

VTCL and VTTRC have aspired to create a more inclusive and equitable educational model by positively discriminating in favour of the students from the indigenous communities and creating a learning environment resembling their villages.

With the support of Asha for Education and Oracle India, SVYM documented the stories and songs of the tribal communities along with their relevance. This resource was then used by the teachers in the foundational years as a learning resource in contextualising the curriculum to the local communities. Additionally, a Pictionary using equivalent words in Kannada and the tribal languages of Jenu Nudi and Kadu Nudi was incorporated into the Nali Kali methodology in the Ashrama Schools.

The Introduction to Basic Technology (IBT) and community projects of the students have provided an opportunity to introduce skilling to the students from the 6th grade and demonstrate the link between formal school education and the ability to earn a livelihood. The curriculum focused on the skills relevant to the local economy and the small land-owning tribal families.

These efforts have helped increase the admission, retention and attendance of students. The learning outcomes and the results in SSLC examinations have consistently improved over the years. Parental participation in the student's learning has been improving. However, we believe there is greater scope for the integration of Arts and Sports into the curriculum as recommended by the NEP 2020. It has been observed that the students from the indigenous communities are naturally gifted in Arts and Sports. Today, there are limited opportunities for students to excel at the school level and pursue careers in these fields.

Proposal 1 - Transform VTCL into a NEP 2020 Demonstration School

VTCL was started in 1988 to provide access to school education in the tribal areas. The school has grown in size and now supports the education of over 500 students. However, the school's goal to provide access is less relevant now as the Government has started multiple day-scholar schools in the tribal communities under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, and Ashrama residential schools exclusively for the indigenous communities. The aspirations of the tribal communities are also changing with more parents today asking for quality education and the students' learning leading to employment.

We intend to transform VTCL into a school that acts as a springboard for the aspirations of the students from the tribal communities along the lines of the recommendations of NEP 2020. Learning from similar schools or organisations across the country, we intend to focus on the key themes of equity, inclusion, flexibility and contextually relevant education for each age group of students.

We request the support of ASHA for Education in developing and implementing 3 pilot projects -

1. Integration of Arts in the Curriculum
2. Integration of Skills in the Curriculum

3. Talent Nurture Program

The Talent Nurture Program intends to identify gifted students and create opportunities for these students to get exposure and participate in capacity-building programs, and exposure visits along with weekly sessions to introduce the students in the lower grades to various hobbies and skills.

The school has started the Arts and Crafts Club which is working on paintings, and wooden and clay sculptures. We are hopeful of introducing diverse art forms including digital art to the students in the coming semesters.

Though the Government of Karnataka has discarded the implementation of the NEP 2020, the vision and goals of the NEP 2020 stay relevant to the aspirations of the tribal communities and therefore VTCL. We intend to continue to build on the initiatives from the last year. A few successes from the last year include -

1. Wall painting as a backdrop for the school's annual day
2. Wall painting in the mini-amphitheatre to depict the tribal culture
3. Paintings by students given to guests and resource persons across the institutions
4. Participation in events organized by various organizations and the Departments of Government including the Forest Department

The budget for the proposed initiatives at the school is given below.

VTCL as a Demonstration School Project Budget 2023 - 2024			
S No	Particulars	Amount	Remarks
1	Program Cost	Rs 97,000	
1.1	Learning Materials	Rs 30,000	Stationery and learning materials required for the talent nurture program.
1.2	Community Projects	Rs 22,000	Fortnightly community projects undertaken by the students. Primarily, the cost of raw materials for the projects.
1.3	Exposure Visits & Special Sessions	Rs 35,000	Exposure visits and special sessions for students identified

			under the Talent Nurture Program. Additional weekly sessions for interested students of all age groups.
1.4	Raw Materials - IBT	Rs 10,000	Raw materials for the mechanical and electrical workshops of IBT.
2	Personnel Cost	Rs 384,000	
2.1	Facilitators	Rs 16,000 per month * 2 facilitators * 12 months Rs 384,000	2 facilitators for the skills-based curriculum (i.e. tailoring, mechanical, electrical, agriculture) and the arts curriculum. The salary indicated here is the partial cost.
Proposed Project Budget		Rs 481,000	

Over the next 3 years, the school shall carry out pilot projects and document the learnings in the process. The same shall be compiled half-yearly as a progress report of the school. The school has already started developing the necessary infrastructure required to support such a model school. In the longer run, we also intend to institute scholarships to assist students pursuing higher education in the fields of performing and visual arts, and sports.

Vijnana Vahini - Mobile Science Labs in Kodagu

Promoting scientific temperament among high school students

Introduction

The Vijnana Vahini - Mobile Science Lab project was launched in the Kodagu district with the support of Rotary International, Asha for Education and McAfee India in December 2017. Through 3 mobile science labs in each of the taluks of Virajpet, Madikeri and Somwarpet, the project was able to reach 13,000 students annually in the 96 Govt and Grant-in-Aid schools in the Kodagu district.

The project aimed to develop the scientific temper among the students through a hands-on learning experience in science classes (8th - 10th std).

During a mobile science lab visit, each student gets an opportunity to set up experiments to answer their questions based on the concepts they learn in the regular school curriculum. These experiments help the students observe and develop their inferences leading to better conceptual understanding along with developing the spirit of inquiry among the students.

Over one academic year, the mobile science lab visits each school at least 4 times i.e., 4 sessions for each of 8th - 9th std¹. Each session (1.5 - 2 hours) for the students is customised based on the inputs of the respective teachers and is also an opportunity to demonstrate activity-based classes to the teachers.

Inter-school events and community-based programs are also organised to promote awareness about science in daily living. Sessions in schools for students and parents about career opportunities in science are also organised to help the students make informed career choices and provide linkages to the admissions to colleges and scholarship programs.

By the end of the project period of 3 - 5 years, it is aimed at building the capacities of the teachers to continue the hands-on classes along with equipping the schools with the necessary equipment.

The project was shut down abruptly during the March 2020 lockdown. With the subsequent closure of schools for an extended period, the mobile science labs weren't resumed. The project was also earlier interrupted by the floods and landslides in Kodagu in August - September 2019.

The project was resumed in November 2022 in 2 taluks (Madikeri and Virajpet) reaching over 50 schools with the support of Asha for Education. With partial funding support from Rotary Clubs, the funding was sufficient to cover all project expenses till September 2023.

SVYM aims to continue the mobile science labs in all the three taluks till the end of this academic year. This shall complete one project cycle of the mobile science

¹ The mobile science lab is planned to visit each school 6 times a year. The schools in Kodagu have a lower strength per class which reduces the time required for each activity. Thus, the number of visits has been reduced to 4 visits a year also giving an opportunity to reach more schools with each mobile science lab.

labs albeit with disruptions. During this period, we intend to complete the following components -

1. Demonstration of opportunities and learning outcomes through the hands-on learning sessions
2. Capacity building programs of teachers to ensure rapport building as well as hand-holding support to take forward the project activities
3. Assessment of the requirement of the mobile science lab and implementation plan for the future
4. Assessment of the support required for the setting up of science labs in selected schools

Proposal 2 - Continuing the Mobile Science Labs in Kodagu

The budget for the proposed project for a period of 5 months November 2023 - March 2024 is given below. The proposed project also doesn't include any inter-school and community-based events.

Vijnana Vahini - Mobile Science Lab Project Budget (November 2023 - March 2024)			
S No	Particulars	Amount	Remarks
1	Equipment Cost	Rs 55,000	
1.1	Lab Equipment & Consumables	Rs 20,000	Most of the equipment for the 3rd mobile science lab are available. The projection is only for the consumables.
1.2	UPS	Rs 35,000	Existing UPS system in the vehicle needs a replacement.
2	Running Cost	Rs 538,000	
2.1	Vehicle running cost & maintenance	Rs 10 per km * 5000 km * 5 months Rs 250,000	Estimated distance of 5000 km per month for 5 months; Rs 10 per km for the fuel and maintenance cost. The increase in the maintenance cost is towards the additional expenditure towards insurance and annual maintenance.

2.2	Vehicle driver	Rs 800 per day * 24 days * 5 months * 3 vehicles Rs 288,000	Estimated 24 working days per month for 5 months; Rs 800 per day for the part-time driver cost
3	Personnel Cost	Rs 337,500	
3.1	Facilitators	Rs 22,500 per month * 1 facilitators * 5 months * 3 location Rs 337,500	Currently, each mobile science lab is running with one facilitator. Rs 22,500 per month per facilitator. The cost includes the capacity-building cost.
4	Project Admin Cost	Rs 125,000	
4.1	Office & Storage Rent	Rs 15,000 per month * 5 months Rs 75,000	Office rent of Rs 15,000 per month (estimated) for 5 months across all the locations
4.2	Program Manager	Rs 10,000 per month * 5 months Rs 50,000	Part-time program manager with a salary of Rs 10,000 per month for 5 months
Project Cost (Sub-Total)		Rs 1,055,500	Sum of project components (1 + 2 + 3 + 4)
Organisational Overheads		Rs 73,885	Organisational overheads for accounts, HR management, auditing, etc. 7% overheads of the project cost.
Proposed Project Budget (3 Mobile science labs)		Rs 1,129,385	The proposed project cost for three mobile science labs reaching 96 schools i.e. 12,000 students.
Proposed Project Budget (Continuing 2 Mobile Science Labs)		Rs 733,442	The cost of running the existing two mobile labs in Madikeri and Virajpet. The equipment cost is not included.
Proposed Project Budget (Resuming 1 Mobile Science Lab)		Rs 395,943	The cost of resuming the operations of the mobile lab in Somwarpet.

The consolidated budgets for 3 proposals are as follows -

S No	Project Name	Amount
1	Transform VTCL into a NEP 2020 Demonstration School - Arts & Skills-Integrated Education	Rs 481,000
2	Continuing the Mobile Science Lab in Kodagu - Virajpet and Madikeri taluks	Rs 733,442
3	Resuming the Mobile Science Lab in Kodagu - Somwarpet taluk	Rs 395,943
	Total	Rs 1,610,385

SVYM commits to undertake documentation and reporting every quarter.

The collaboration of SVYM with a socially conscious organization like yours would help us to facilitate and develop processes that improve the quality of life of people. We are sure an organization like yours with a history of supporting worthy social causes will recognize this just cause and continue to assist us financially. We would be glad to furnish any further information you may seek.

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