Site visit conducted by: Sudhi Gulur (project steward)

Site visit date: Sep 21st, 2022

Project partner: Sikshana Foundation

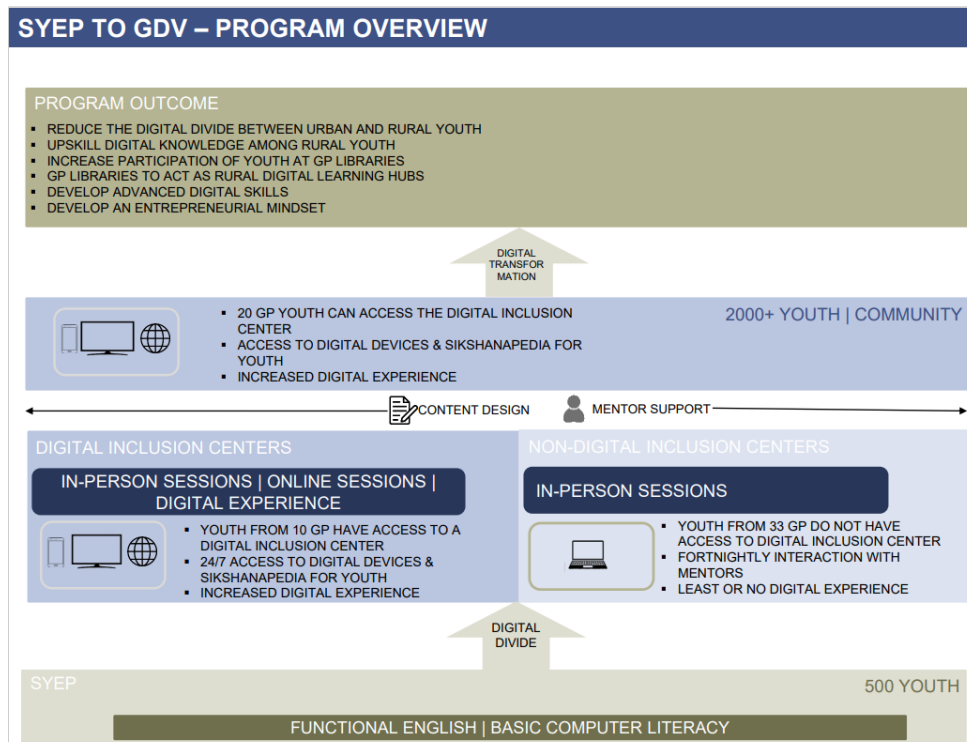**Program:** Grama Digivikasana

Contents

Program overview:

Sikshana Foundation, with support from Asha for Education, Seattle chapter is bridging the digital divide in India by turning Grama Panchayat (GP) libraries into rural digital learning hubs by equipping the libraries with smart TV's and Android mobile devices.
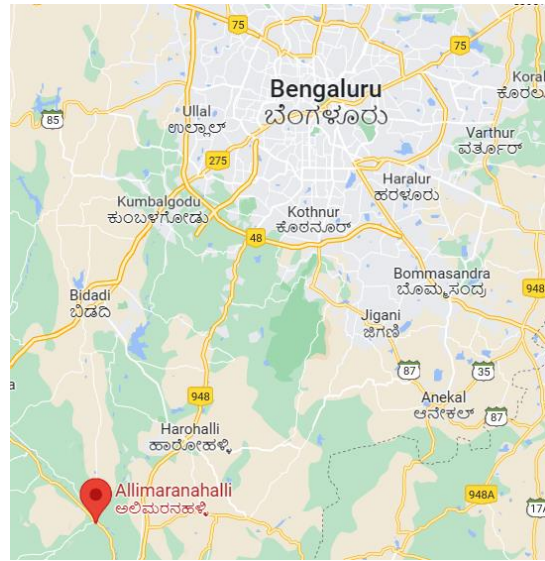

The program was officially launched on May 7th, 2022, with virtual participation from Binay Pathak, former president of Asha for Education, Dr. Sandeep Krishnamurthy (former Dean of the business school- University of Washington Bothell campus) and Sudhi Gulur (project steward) along with local dignitaries attending in person.

Asha for Education, Seattle chapter was funding the effort to serve 2150 school children across 18 Grama Panchayat's.

Details of site visit:

Naveen Chikkanna, the director of partnerships at Sikshana Foundation, coordinated a site visit to one of the Grama Panchayat libraries at Allimaranahalli situated in the outskirts of Bengaluru.

We were greeted by the mentors from Sikshana Foundation along with the Grama Panchayat librarian.

Mentors are the face of Sikshana Foundation and play a key role in monitoring and delivering the program in the community.

The library had a large poster on the wall providing an overview of the program and acknowledged Sikshana Foundation's partnership with the Government of Karnataka and Asha for Education to deliver the program.
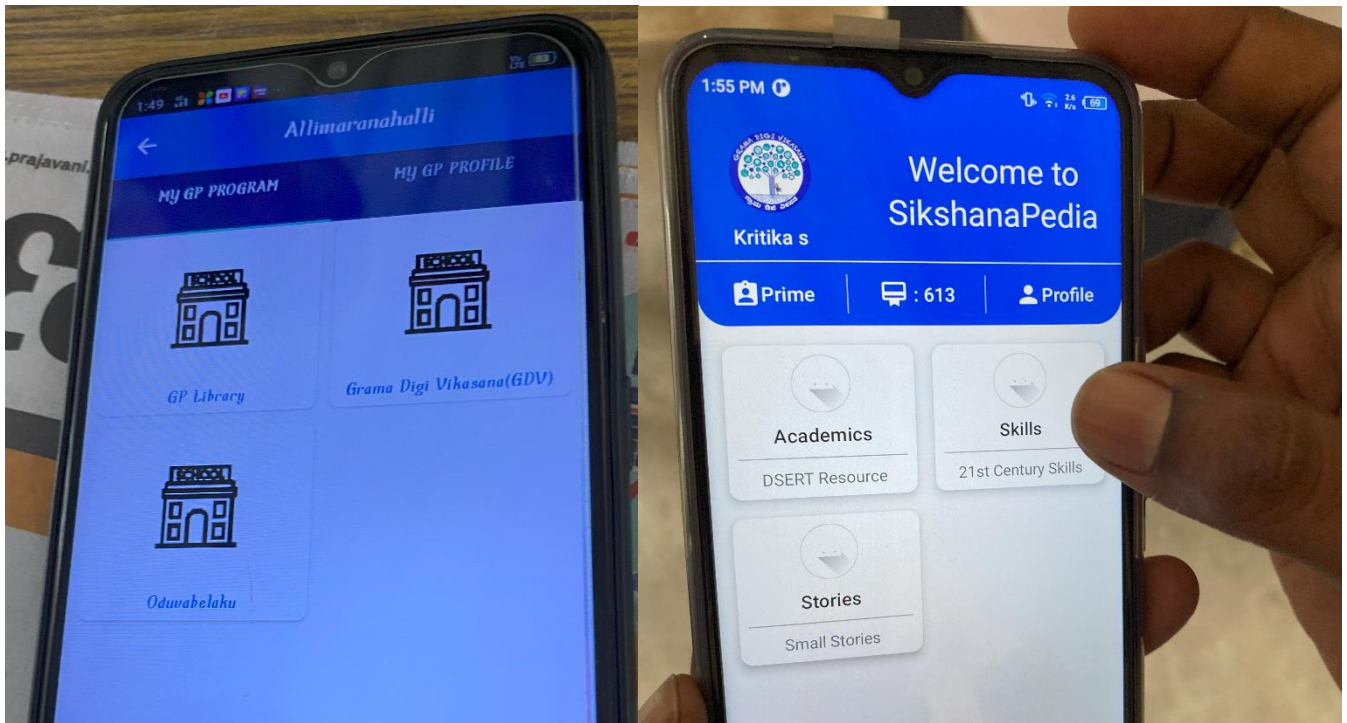

The mentors showed us the setup of smart TV and how the content on the TV is served from SikshanaPedia, a Wikipedia-like content site developed and maintained by Sikshana Foundation team.
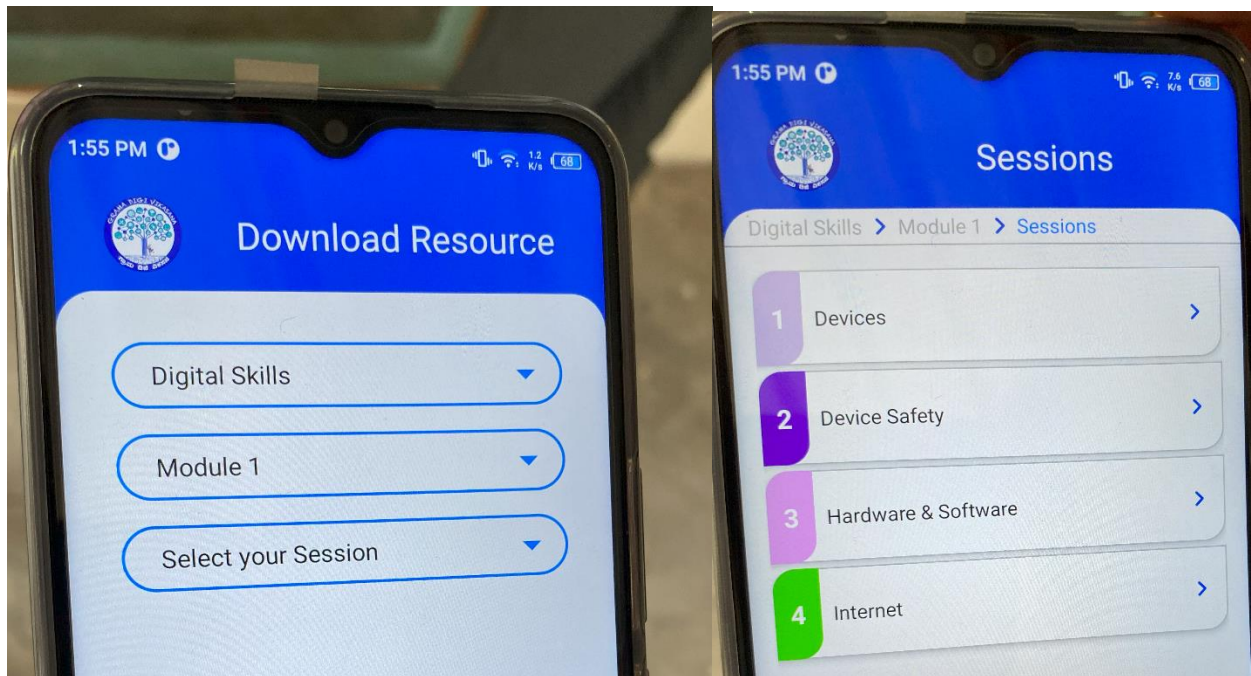
The mentors also showed us the Android mobile phone that students can check out if they have a library account to access the SikshanaPedia content.

Students can access digital resources via SikshanaPedia relating to academics as well as 21st century skills.

The mentors then introduced Naveen and I to the students who had assembled in the library.

Naveen and I interacted with the students who were studying arts and commerce in the local college.

We had a good discussion learning about what they intended to do after college and how they use the digital devices and SikshanaPedia content provided at the library to access and even discussed how they could create content that would be beneficial.

Program impact:

Sikshana Foundation has enabled 1400+ students across 18 Grama Panchayat libraries in Ramanagara District in Karnataka to develop digital knowledge and skills.

Grama Digi Vikasana

1 Location	18 Grama Panchayat Libraries	1400+ Youths	5000+ Community Members	

PROGRAM IMPACT

85% of youth have acquired basic computer skills

70% of youth have acquired knowledge on internet safety

60% of youth have acquired knowledge on online transactions

70% of youth have acquired knowledge on search engine

Self-help groups, farmers and police department and other groups have also been using the infrastructure to educate the community.

Sikshana mentors conducting sessions for youth

Self-help group at GP libraries

Farmers at the GP library

Awareness Sessions from Police Dept

Testimonials:

WE GREATLY APPRECIATE THE SUPPORT FROM ASHA FOR EDUCATION IN TRANSFORMING 10 GP LIBRARIES IN KANAKAPURA. THE SUPPORT FROM MENTORS IN IMPARTING THE SESSION HAS HELPED YOUTH GAIN DIGITAL SKILLS AND BY ACCESSING THE DIGITAL DEVICES YOUTH ARE ABLE TO TAKE DIGITAL EXPERIENCE.

THE DISTRICT LIBRARIAN – RAMANAGARA DISTRICT

DISTRICT LIBRARIAN, RAMANAGAR DIST

BEING A STUDENT, THE NEED FOR ENHANCING SKILLS IS ESSENTIAL AND WE ARE FORTUNATE TO HAVE DIGITAL INCLUSION CENTERS WHICH IS HELPING US GAIN DIGITAL SKILLS. THANKS TO SIKSHANA FOUNDATION FOR PROVIDING THIS EXPERIENCE

STUDENT, KANAKAPURA

BENEFICIARY YOUTH, KANAKAPURA

THE DIGITAL INCLUSION CENTERS HAS TRANSFORMED THE RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE, PERIODIC SESSION FROM SIKSHANA ON KEY DIGITAL TOPICS ARE HELPING YOUTH GAIN DIGITAL SKILLS. THANKS TO SIKSHANA FOR SETTING UP GRAMA DIGI VIKASANA CENTERS

PANCHAYAT DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, KANAKAPURA

PANCHYAT DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, KANAKAPURA