

REWARD Trust

November 2012 Update

Overview

REWARD Trust continues working towards their mission. Updates in this presentation include:

- Teacher Training Activities
- TN Teacher Eligibility Tests HIGH Success Rate
- REWARD petition to CM Cell
- QED Evaluating Learning Outcomes
- Jun 2012-May 2013 Budget update
- Fundraising & Planning for 2013-14 academic year
- Finding a Grant Writing Resource person

Teacher Training

- Monthly Mandatory teacher training sessions – REWARD Trustees provide teaching concepts for Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Maths & English
- Some sessions include external tutors/participants
- Engaging group learning approach, not just lectures
- 2011-2012 Activity Report 12 monthly sessions

https://docs.google.com/document/pub?id=1KZrwbozgtasRWPRA7lwkPYgKGrC3sK4KO4MInvu_0vQ

- 2012-2013 Activity Report to date

<https://docs.google.com/document/pub?id=1rfCkdo552792pJrKPgiBYP55YHsdh5q7SQ7v1DC3P44>

Teacher Eligibility Tests (TNTET)

- Conducted by TN State Govt. to recruit teachers
- Over 6.7 lakh candidates in TN took the test
- TN set 60% passing marks as recruitment requirement
- 3% total candidates have passed TET
- 5 REWARD Teachers passed TET out of 25 candidates
- Notice of one rural organization has shown 20% success rate when state average is 3%
- REWARD Teachers felt QED SMART Tests were more probing
- 3-5 Teachers to get hired and leave REWARD Trust
- If relaxed to 50% marks, then 10 more teachers will pass TET
- No guarantee that these teachers will be placed locally

CM cell

Mr. Sridhar has written to CM Cell urging them to reconsider 60% pass marks if % eligibility is low.

- TET only fills vacancies for 1:40. At this rate, difficult to achieve 1:30
- Suggest recruiting 50% pass on a probation basis with basic pay
- Key arguments:
 - All professional courses have kept only 50% as pass marks
 - Scoring high marks in an exam that tests info retention is not correlated with the teaching ability
 - Putting them on probation gives them an opportunity to improve themselves in situ.
 - Basic + Grade pay would be more than Rs 10 K per month and this is better than what we pay.
 - At least the children will have teachers to teach them, instead of being left abandoned

QED SMART Tests

- Tests in 5 subjects designed to make test-taker think laterally and apply learnt concepts rather than respond from memory
- 2012 Asha grant \$1200 used for 2011-12 tests
- 2013 installment \$1200 to cover 2012-13 tests
- Students and teachers take same series of tests
- Intra & Inter school prizes for encouragement
- Lot of participation during discussion of answers afterwards
- Project Partner's Observations

<https://docs.google.com/document/pub?id=1kWvnmFyQCllLeBn6uglHcbC3ueKwC81AJ5adqstxHN4>

Update on Proposed Budget

Jun '12 – May '13

Est. Funding Gap as of Jun 1, '12: apprx. INR 31 lakhs

Funds received:

Asha SV 1st installment: INR 10.5 lakhs

Asha Hyderabad: INR 1.5 lakhs

Asha Stanford 1st installment: INR 3.4 lakhs

Stanford 2nd installment (approved): INR 3.4 lakhs

Total = INR 18.8 lakhs

Requesting 2nd installment from SV = INR 12.2 lakhs

Planning for Jun 2013-May 2014

- Total Expenses expected around INR 45 lakhs
- REWARD Trust self-fundraising (non-Asha):
 - ~60 Individual donors: INR 9.0 lakhs
 - Monodipa Perisetty Foundation INR 50,000
- Continue fundraising efforts at all levels
 - local & foreign; individuals & agency
 - grant opportunities

Funding Requests to Other Agencies

- Monodipa Perisetty Foundation sponsored INR 50,000
- Following up on fundraising opportunities at
 - Infosys, Mahindras, TATA, Integra
 - Agaram Foundation, Sakthi Masala, etc
 - Mr. Balaji at AID India
 - Mr. Rajkumar Sourirajan, and other contacts
 - J-PAL (Poverty Action Lab)
- Use Grant writing resource to identify and pursue more leads
- Use website as a tool for information for potential donors and as a direct donation mechanism
- Pursue creating base of individual donors who will pledge recurring contributions of INR 5000 per year.

Grant-writing resource person

- Reached out to 2 people that did not work out
- Reaching out to some Asha volunteers interested in the area of Govt. Schools.
- Making progress with one potential resource:
 - Niece of a REWARD Trustee who
 - Is a graduate of Tata Institute of Social Studies
 - Co-Founder of an NGO that works on Women's Empowerment
 - Based in New Delhi
 - Has history of working with Ministry of Human Resource Development
 - Has verbally agreed

www.reward-trust.org

Website under development will provide information and progress updates targeted towards a wider audience interested in their work, and will complement existing project page on Asha website for Asha donors.

The screenshot displays the REWARD Trust website. At the top right, there is a navigation menu with links for Home, Donation, Gallery, and Follow Us. Below this is a search bar. A dark red navigation bar contains links for Home, Rural Education, Resource Development, Achievements, Contact, About Us, and Gallery. The main heading is "Our Direction". Below this, a breadcrumb trail reads "You are here: Home » Our Direction". The content is organized into three sections: Focus, Vision, and Mission, each with a descriptive paragraph.

REWARD Trust
Rural Education, Welfare And Resource Development Trust

Home | Donation | Gallery | Follow Us

Home | Rural Education | Resource Development | Achievements | Contact | About Us | Gallery

Our Direction

You are here: [Home](#) » [Our Direction](#)

Focus

The primary focus of REWARD Trust is the rural, marginalized, first generation children around 30 km radius of Kalpakkam / Anupuram. The Trust is run on a ZERO OVERHEAD basis. What we receive for a purpose is completely spent for the purpose.

Vision

Since these children have only the rural government schools as their gateway for liberation, REWARD by conscious choice works only with these schools in coordination with the Parents Teachers Association (PTA), the Head Master / Mistress, and the Panchayat President. These children lack domestic demagogic space, are robbed of peers by the rapacious private schools and get almost zero personal attention at school. For these children, in academics, what they learn in school is all that they can learn. So the compelling need felt by REWARD to enhance the educational ambience in these schools

Mission

While the government norm for the teacher student ratio is 1 isto 40, REWARD Trust's ideal is 1:10, 1:20 and 1:30 at the Primary, Middle and Higher School levels. The operative strategy is to first appoint teachers where there is a deficiency in the 1:40 norm, second to appoint subject specific teacher where there is a need and then gradually reach the ideal. The functioning strategy is to avoid all forms of ego ranking issues with government servants. We have found that this allows our teachers to work smoothly and in cooperation with government appointed teachers.

Thank you

Questions?